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Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2014-15

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Session No. : 8

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DEVB(W)265	6331	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
DEVB(W)266	4319	CHAN Yuen-han	194	(3) Customer Services
DEVB(W)267	6637	CHEUNG Kwok-che	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
DEVB(W)268	5877	FAN Kwok-wai, Gary	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
DEVB(W)269	5640	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
DEVB(W)270	6341	KWOK Ka-ki	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
DEVB(W)271	5499	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
DEVB(W)272	5885	TANG Ka-piu	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
DEVB(W)273	4737	WONG Kwok-hing	194	(-) Not Specified
DEVB(W)274	4738	WONG Kwok-hing	194	(-) Not Specified
DEVB(W)275	4739	WONG Kwok-hing	194	(-) Not Specified
DEVB(W)276	5297	WONG Yuk-man	194	(-) Not Specified
DEVB(W)277	5022	WU Chi-wai	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
DEVB(W)278	5052	WU Chi-wai	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
DEVB(W)279	5111	WU Chi-wai	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
				Distribution
DEVB(W)280	5112	WU Chi-wai	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
DEVB(W)281	5113	WU Chi-wai	194	(1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)001

(Question Serial No. 1279)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 1):

It is stated in paragraph 53 of the Budget Speech that the Government has reserved a site for the construction of a desalination plant, which is expected to commence operation in 2020. Will the Administration provide a breakdown of the project's expenditures on study and investigation up to now? What is the estimated expenditure of the entire project? Has the Administration assessed the impact of the construction of the desalination plant on water tariffs?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

The estimated expenditure for the planning and investigation study of the desalination plant up to 31 March 2014 is about \$5 million of which \$3.5 million is for consultants' study and \$1.5 million for site investigation work. The latest estimated cost for the entire study is \$26 million.

As the study has not yet been completed, it is premature to estimate at this stage the cost of the desalination plant and its impact on the water production cost. In the review of water charges, in addition to the water production cost, we will consider a number of factors including affordability, the financial performance of waterworks operation, the prevailing economic situation, and views of the Legislative Council members.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)002

(Question Serial No. 1694)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 65):

The Government has stated that it will endeavour to increase the supply of fresh water from local sources and has reserved a site for the construction of a desalination plant. Does the Administration believe that the construction of the plant is cost-effective as far as the costs and water production capacity are concerned? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the precise reasons for constructing the plant? In addition, it is stated in paragraph 53 of the Budget Speech that seawater desalination can serve as an important water source in the long run as technology advances. Does the Administration plan to allocate resources for the scientific research on seawater desalination? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

Given the rising demand for fresh water in Guangdong Province and the challenge due to climate change, the Government shall endeavour to increase the supply of fresh water from local sources and a site at Tseung Kwan O has been reserved for the construction of a desalination plant. The Water Supplies Department (WSD) engaged a consultant to carry out a planning and investigation study for the setting up of the seawater desalination plant. The scope of the study includes detailed assessment on cost effectiveness, formulation of implementation strategy and programme, and various technical impact assessments for construction of the desalination plant. The estimated construction and operation cost of the desalination plant will be determined in the study. The study is expected to be completed in early 2015. We will scrutinise the findings to ensure that the desalination project is technically feasible and financially viable before proceeding to the design and construction stage.

WSD has previously completed a pilot study and the results confirmed that desalination by reverse osmosis is technically feasible in Hong Kong. The abovementioned planning and investigation study will further establish the technical feasibility of setting up a desalination plant at the selected site.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)003

(Question Serial No.1723)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 28):

Regarding the fresh water resources in Hong Kong, please provide the following information:

- (a) It is stated in the Budget that the Government has reserved a site for the construction of a desalination plant, which is expected to commence operation in 2020. Please set out in tabular form the plan and details of the construction of the desalination plant, including the works for each phase of the project, the expected commencement date and completion date, the expenditure involved, as well as the number of operational phases involved and the water production capacity in each phase.
- (b) The Government studied the use of reverse osmosis technology for seawater desalination between 2003 and 2007. What was the expenditure involved? If the technology is adopted by the desalination plant to be constructed in Hong Kong, what will be the unit water price?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- (a) The Water Supplies Department (WSD) has engaged a consultant to carry out a planning and investigation study for the setting up of a seawater desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O with fresh water production capacity of around 50 million cubic metre (mcm) per annum for initial commissioning around 2020, and expandable to 90 mcm per annum. The scope of the study covers detailed assessment on cost effectiveness, formulation of implementation strategy and programme, and various technical impact assessments for construction of the desalination plant. The study is expected to be completed in early 2015. The estimated expenditure for the study in 2014-15 is \$15.7 million. Information on the cost and detailed implementation strategy for the construction of the desalination plant will be worked out in the above-mentioned study.

- (b) WSD had previously conducted a pilot study on desalination technology and the expenditure incurred on that consultancy study was \$3.2 million. Based on the study, the unit cost of fresh water to be produced from desalination was broadly estimated to be around \$12 per cubic metre at 2012-13 price level.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)004****(Question Serial No. 2365)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 43):

The financial provision for Programme (1) Water Supply for 2014-15 is 3.6% less than the original estimate for 2013-14. However, there were frequent water main bursts and temporary suspension of water supply in certain areas in the past year. Is the current provision enough for the effective implementation of the Replacement and Rehabilitation Programme for Water Mains? Please set out the areas where water mains will have to be replaced in 2014-15 by district.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

Head 159 Programme (1) Water supply covers the expenditure of Development Bureau (Works Branch) in formulating water supply policies as well as overseeing the activities and works of the Water Supplies Department. The funding for the Replacement and Rehabilitation (R&R) of water mains is provided under Head 709 of the Capital Works Reserve Fund. In the 2014-15 draft estimate, the amount allocated for the R&R programme is \$2,409 million and is adequate for the scheduled replacement or rehabilitation of 355 km of water mains. As at end January 2014, the remaining length of water mains scheduled to be replaced or rehabilitated till the planned completion of the entire R&R programme by the end of 2015 in individual districts is as follows :

	District	Total remaining length to be replaced or rehabilitated (km)
Hong Kong	Central & Western	57
	Wan Chai	57
	Eastern	55
	Southern	23
Kowloon	Kwun Tong	49
	Wong Tai Sin	15
	Kowloon City	61

	Yau Tsim Mong	58
	Sham Shui Po	39
New Territories	Sai Kung	11
	Sha Tin	19
	Tai Po	9
	North	15
	Yuen Long	29
	Tuen Mun	42
	Tsuen Wan	34
	Kwai Tsing	50
	Islands	41
	Total	664

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)005

(Question Serial No.2366)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 44):

As mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15, the Government will promote the integrated landscape design framework with a view to enhancing design quality and design coherence. Does it mean that from 2014-15 onwards the urban landscape design will be very different from the past? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

The Integrated Landscape Design Framework (ILDF) would serve as a reference guideline in developing, designing, managing and maintaining public landscape works. The main objectives of the ILDF would be to achieve design excellence and coherence across greening elements of various projects undertaken by different departments so as to bring out an overall coordinated landscape design. The promulgation of the ILDF will hence further improve the quality of urban landscape design.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)006

(Question Serial No. 2750)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 45):

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Administration will continue to promote a wider adoption of roof greening and vertical greening in both public and private sector projects. Does the Government plan to take the lead in implementing these initiatives in government buildings across the territory first? If yes, given the old age of certain government buildings, and the obstruction of some of the space on the roofs by air-conditioning systems (e.g. Sha Tin Town Hall), what are the Government's plans to overcome these technical difficulties? What are the estimated expenditures on roof greening and vertical greening?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

The Government has been taking the lead in implementing wider adoption of roof greening and vertical greening in government buildings to achieve sustainable development of a quality and greener environment.

Since 2001, government departments have, where practicable, incorporated roof greening and vertical greening in the design of new buildings and structures taking into account factors such as loading capacity, structure, space, access and safety conditions. As for existing buildings, we have been taking advantage of the potential opportunities presented by roof refurbishment works to rearrange facilities with a view to accommodating roof greening as far as practicable. As at February 2014, around 340 government buildings maintained by the works departments have green roofs and around 110 government projects have vertical greening, including both new and retrofitting ones. In addition, the works departments are currently planning/implementing over 40 roof greening works and 28 vertical greening works, including those in new buildings and buildings under refurbishment.

For the promotion of wider application of roof greening and vertical greening in both public and private sectors, the Greening and Landscape Office (GLO) of the Development Bureau has set up a special webpage on "Skyrise Greenery" in the "Greening" website

(www.greening.gov.hk) so as to disseminate useful information and knowledge on skyrise greenery and lower the technical thresholds of these greening techniques. Besides, the GLO has organised a series of talks and seminars for professionals, practitioners and property managers to share knowledge and experience in overcoming the common technical difficulties. In addition, the GLO organises the Skyrise Greenery Awards to promote skyrise greening as an integral part of design projects for achieving quality landscape and built environment and fostering public's appreciation on the exemplary skyrise greenery projects. In December 2013, the GLO promulgated the "Pictorial Guide to Plant Resources for Skyrise Greenery in Hong Kong" to facilitate proper plant selection for roof greening and vertical greening. Various government departments have also conducted research studies to enhance the knowledge and application of skyrise greenery.

The estimated expenditures on roof greening and vertical greening in government projects under planning and implementation are approximately \$92 million and \$57 million respectively in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)007

(Question Serial No. 0977)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 24):

Will the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (1) the funding earmarked and the staff assigned by the Development Bureau to provide support for the Lantau Development Advisory Committee in the next three years; and
- (2) the purposes of the earmarked funding mentioned above, including the funding for overseas duty visits, etc.?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Han-pan

Reply:

(1) We plan to seek approval from the Establishment Subcommittee/Finance Committee to create a supernumerary Principal Assistant Secretary (PAS) post in the Works Branch of the Development Bureau from 2014-15 to 2018-19 to steer the implementation of infrastructure works arising from new initiatives in relation to land supply. The PAS will also provide initial secretariat support to the newly established Lantau Development Advisory Committee (LanDAC) on a part-time basis. We will consider the need for additional technical and secretarial support when the work plan of the LanDAC has been drawn up.

(2) No funding has so far been earmarked for LanDAC. Funding for overseas duty visits, if required, is expected to be relatively small and will be charged to the operating expenses of the Development Bureau.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)008****(Question Serial No. 0982)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 40):

According to the Estimates, the Development Bureau will lead the studies on increasing land supply by reclamation and rock cavern development. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (1) the funding and staff deployed by the Government to conduct feasibility study on rock caverns and public consultations in each of the past 3 years and the next 3 years; and
- (2) the funding earmarked and staff assigned by the Government to carry out works for cavern projects in the next 5 years, as well as the timetable and progress of the related works?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Han-pan

Reply:

- (1) Key information on conducting feasibility studies and public consultation for rock cavern development is summarised below:

Project	Project cost (\$ million)	Expenditure in past 3 years (\$ million)			Estimated expenditure in 2014-15*	Staff involved/ department
		2011-12	2012-2013	2013-14 (estimate)		
Feasibility study on relocation of Sha Tin sewage treatment works to caverns	57.9	0	12.9	30.9	5.0	1 Chief Engineer (part-time) 1 Senior Engineer (part-time) 1 Engineer (part-time) 4 Professional-grade (time-limited) /Drainage Services Department (DSD)
Study on long-term	40.4	0	3.2	11.4	16.2	1 Chief

Project	Project cost (\$ million)	Expenditure in past 3 years (\$ million)			Estimated expenditure in 2014-15*	Staff involved/ department
		2011-12	2012-2013	2013-14 (estimate)		
strategy for cavern development						Geotechnical Engineer (part-time) 1 Senior Geotechnical Engineer 2 Geotechnical Engineer /Civil Engineering and Development Department
Feasibility study on relocation of Sham Tseng sewage treatment works to caverns	39.2 [#]	0	0	0	2.1	1 Chief Engineer (part-time) 1 Senior Engineer (part-time) 1 Engineer (part-time)
Feasibility study on relocation of Sai Kung sewage treatment works to caverns	40.6 [#]	0	0	0	2.1	1 Professional-grade (time-limited) /DSD
Feasibility study on relocation of Diamond Hill fresh water and salt water service reservoirs to caverns	46.0 [#]	0	0	0	5.3	1 Chief Engineer (part-time) 1 Senior Engineer (part-time) 1 Professional-grade (time-limited) /Water Supplies Department

* Estimated expenditure beyond 2014-15 is not available at this stage.

Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee.

- (2) Regarding construction works for cavern projects, the implementation timetables are not yet determined and hence the information on funding and staffing to be deployed is not available. Nonetheless, to prepare for the construction works, DSD plans to commence an investigation and design study and associated site investigation works in the second half of 2014 for relocating the Sha Tin sewage treatment works to caverns, subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee. The study will be completed in stages by end 2022.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)009

(Question Serial No.1010)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 43):

According to the Estimates, the Development Bureau will review the public works procurement system and oversee the implementation of the enhancement measures. Given that many large-scale projects are underway in Hong Kong recently and various types of drilling machines are used, will the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (1) the public works projects that used drilling machines in the past 5 years, as well as the types, numbers and rental costs of the drilling machines; and
- (2) the public works projects that will use drilling machines in the next 3 years, as well as the types, numbers and estimated rental costs of the drilling machines?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Han-pan

Reply:

- (1) & (2) There are many types of drilling machines in the market which are used for different kinds of construction operations. The rental costs of these drilling machines and their time of use would vary significantly from project to project. We have not collected the relevant statistics and the requested information is thus not available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)010

(Question Serial No.1753)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 27):

It is stated in the Budget Speech that the Administration will conduct public consultation and a pilot study this year on the development of urban underground space in four strategic districts, namely Causeway Bay, Happy Valley, Admiralty/Wan Chai and Tsim Sha Tsui West. Has the Administration carried out preliminary studies on the feasibility of the development of urban underground space before implementing the relevant measures? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons? What are the estimated expenditure, establishment and specific details of the pilot study proposed by the Administration? What are the detailed timetables for the pilot study and the public consultation?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kin-por

Reply:

The Government has previously carried out a number of studies which involved the use of underground space with a view to improving local pedestrian circulation. From these studies, the potential of developing urban underground space in some of the strategic districts was identified. Therefore, a pilot study is proposed, which aims at exploring the potential of developing underground space in the four selected strategic urban districts, with a view to enhancing the use of underground space more systematically at the district level to meet the needs of the community.

The estimated overall cost of the proposed pilot study is about \$69 million in money-of-the-day prices, which includes consultancy fee, ground investigation works, environmental studies and public consultation.

The Civil Engineering and Development Department will manage the study through a Chief Geotechnical Engineer on a part-time basis with the support from a Senior Geotechnical Engineer and a Geotechnical Engineer.

Subject to funding approval of Finance Committee, we plan to commence the study in the second half of 2014 for completion in about 30 months. The programme of public consultation will be worked out with the consultants upon commencement of the study

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)011

(Question Serial No. 0247)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 2):

Regarding the indicators for the planting of trees, shrubs and seasonal flowers under this Programme, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (1) the numbers of trees, shrubs and seasonal flowers planted in 2013 that were native species; and
- (2) the estimated numbers of native trees, shrubs and seasonal flowers to be planted in 2014?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

- (1) In 2013, 695 000 numbers of native trees were planted. Major species of these native trees include *Schima superba*, *Polyspora axillaris* and *Syzygium hancei*. We do not maintain figure on the native species for shrubs and seasonal flowers.
- (2) As the planting works for works projects in 2014 are either in progress or under planning, the number of native tree species to be planted this year cannot be accurately made available at this stage. We have been promoting the use of native plant species in public works projects through a guideline and plant lists for designers' reference.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)012

(Question Serial No. 0278)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 35):

Will the Government inform this Committee of the operating expenses, establishment and estimated expenditure on salaries involved in Programme (4) Energizing Kowloon East in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

In 2014-15, provision for Programme (4) Energizing Kowloon East is \$30.9 million comprising personal emoluments (\$15.9 million), personnel related expenses (\$0.6 million) and departmental expenses (\$14.4 million). The establishment as at 31 March 2015 is 18.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)013

(Question Serial No. 0279)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 36):

What are the operating expenses, establishment and estimated expenditure on salaries in relation to Programme (5) Intra-Governmental Services in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

In 2014-15, provision for Programme (5) Intra-Governmental Services is \$305.9 million comprising personal emoluments (\$122.2 million), personnel related expenses (\$1.4 million), departmental expenses (\$96.4 million), other charges for maintenance of government slopes (\$2 million) and non-recurrent expenditure on Investing in Construction Manpower (\$83.9 million). The establishment as at 31 March 2015 is 156.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)014

(Question Serial No. 0164)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 18):

Under Programme (4), the financial provision for 2013-14 has decreased from the original estimate of \$36.2 million to \$26.5 million, representing a decrease of 26.8%, while the estimated financial provision for the coming year will increase by 16.6% to \$30.9 million. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. What are the reasons for the reduction of financial provision for this year? What department projects or initiatives have been scrapped by the Administration to make such revision?
2. The Administration will explore opportunities to support the arts, culture and creative industries in Kowloon East in the coming year. What are the manpower and expenditure involved? Apart from optimising the use of the remaining plots of flyover sites and exploring the possibility of incorporating space for cultural and art uses into existing and new premises, does the Administration have other new initiatives to support the arts, culture and creative industries? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
3. How many workshops were organised by the Energizing Kowloon East Office this year to keep contact with the arts and cultural sectors? What were the manpower and expenditure involved? What were the themes and numbers of participants of these workshops? Will more contact be made with the arts and cultural sectors in the coming year? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

1. The 2013-14 revised estimate was reduced by 26.8% as compared with the original estimate. This is mainly due to the change of funding source of some scheduled planning and pedestrian studies from Head 159 to Capital Works Reserve Fund Subhead 7100CX "New towns and urban area works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme" after a review of the study

nature and scope, saving in staff cost arising from temporary vacancies in non-civil service contract staff posts and reduced operating expenses. No project or initiative has been scrapped due to the revision.

2. To support the development of arts, culture and creative industries so that Kowloon East will be transformed into a business area with special character, the Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO) will explore opportunities to provide suitable space for artists, art groups and creative designers in Kowloon East. The manpower and operational expenses involved are absorbed within existing resources of EKEO.

Apart from the two initiatives mentioned in the question, EKEO will explore opportunities to provide space for the arts and cultural community and creative industries in the two Action Areas of Kowloon East.

3. Since the setting up of the EKEO, EKEO have been in active engagement with different stakeholders, including the creativity, arts and cultural sectors, in facilitating the transformation of Kowloon East. In year 2013-14, EKEO organized more than 75 fora/workshops/conferences/exhibitions/briefings/visits with about 2 900 participants. In addition, EKEO organized or supported a total of 35 local and international community events in 2013-14 covering a wide spectrum of activities, including music, dancing, sports, painting, photography, bazaar, architecture exhibition and cultural heritage tour with professional institutions, universities, school bodies, social enterprises and community groups. About 90 000 people have participated in these activities. For example the “2013 Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture” lasting from December 2013 to February 2014 attracted about 70 000 participants and more than 8 000 participants for the “AXA Hong Kong Streetathon 10km@Kowloon East 2014” in March 2014. The expenditure to support and facilitate the above events in 2013-14 is about \$2.5 million. Our manpower involved for the events is absorbed within the existing establishment of EKEO. For the coming year, EKEO will continue to engage the community and identify every opportunity to keep close contact with different stakeholders including the creativity, arts and cultural sectors.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)015

(Question Serial No.0167)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No.7):

As indicated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15 under Programme (5), the Administration will, in the coming year, continue to monitor the progress of the various initiatives and enhance them for strengthening the training and trade testing, and uplifting the image of the construction industry to enhance local construction manpower. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. What is the growth rate of construction manpower in the past 2 years? What is the average age of newcomers to the construction industry in the past 2 years? Which trades of the construction industry are facing manpower shortage? Will the Administration take measures or organise courses to address manpower shortage in certain trades of the construction industry? If yes, what are the details? What are the expenditure and manpower involved? If no, what are the reasons?
2. What are the details of the initiatives for strengthening the training and trade testing, and uplifting the image of the construction industry? What are the manpower and expenditure involved in each of the initiatives for this year?
3. With the commencement of various major infrastructure projects in recent years, manpower supply is tight in the construction industry. Will the Administration take measures to address the situation in the coming year? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

According to information provided by the Construction Industry Council (CIC), since the launch of the "Build Up Publicity Campaign" in mid 2011 to late 2013, the number of registered construction workers has increased by about 18%. While the average age of registered construction workers is about 46, the newly registered construction workers were about 40 and 38 in 2012 and 2013 respectively, reflecting that more younger people have been attracted to join the industry.

In anticipation of the increased manpower demand arising from heavy infrastructure development and to address the manpower challenges of ageing and skills mismatch, we have deployed a series of measures since 2008-09. These measures include obtaining a total of \$320 million from the Legislative Council in 2010 and 2012 to support the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to strengthen its role in training of local construction personnel and to enhance promotion and publicity activities to attract more people to join the industry, especially for young people.

CIC has implemented various training initiatives and conducted training courses to help address manpower demand. Amongst others, we collaborate with CIC to launch the “Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS)” under the aforementioned \$320 million funding commitment to provide enhanced training allowances for training about 6 000 semi-skilled workers by end 2014, targeting trades with projected labour shortage, acute ageing or recruitment difficulties. CIC will suitably review and adjust the trades under the ECMTS to better meet the market needs.

Taking into account the relevant manpower study, surveys and training schemes including ECMTS, and having consulted the relevant trade associations and labour unions, CIC has identified 26 trades with projected labour shortage including bar bender and fixer, carpenter (formwork), concreter, metal formwork erector, leveller, metal scaffolder, metal worker, plumber, etc. CIC will conduct regular review of the list of shortage trades to reflect the latest market situation.

Further, DEVB has provided subsidies for fees of trade tests, specified training course and skills enhancement courses to encourage and assist the in-service construction workers to be registered as skilled workers, and has provided subsidy to the senior construction workers to assist them to advance to the frontline supervisors / management level.

We will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach to attract more new entrants to join the industry. We collaborate with CIC to launch the “Build Up Publicity Campaign” to uplift the image of the industry. Major initiatives include producing TV drama on the industry (“Dreams Come True”), introducing the Build Up Ambassadors, displaying of selected trade and industry posters, etc. Further, various initiatives have been taken to enhance the caring and safety culture in the industry, including measures to improve site tidiness, provide additional welfare facilities on site, step up safety training for workers, and enhance promotion and publicity of site safety.

In addition to CIC’s resources and the existing set-up of DEVB, DEVB will continue to employ an officer on non-civil service contract terms to assist in implementing promotion and publicity activities. In 2014-15, the estimated expenditure is about \$200,000.

In the long term, we will continue to strive to meet the manpower demand by local training, re-training and attracting more new entrants to the industry. However, taking into account the limitations of training and other factors, we project that there would be labour shortage in coming four years. With due regard to the principle of not affecting the employment and reasonable income levels of local construction workers, we need to make full use of the “Supplementary Labour Scheme (SLS)” to import skilled labour in a timely manner. This will not only help meet the manpower demand of the construction works, but also relieve the pressure on the local in-service skilled workers so that there is

room for the semi-skilled workers to enhance their skills to achieve the productivity of skilled workers through in-service training. To meet the specific needs of the industry, we have made a proposal to the Labour Advisory Board (LAB) to better prepare for SLS applications related to public sector works with a target to completing the processing for the SLS applications within 6 months. LAB accepted the proposal at its meeting on 26 March 2014.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)016

(Question Serial No.0168)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No.17):

As indicated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15 under Programme 3, the Administration will continue to oversee the effective implementation of the tree risk management arrangement within the Government and the development of a database of problematic trees. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. Has there been any change in the number of trees included in the database of problematic trees in the past 3 years? What are the expenditure and manpower involved in the management of the database in the coming year?
2. What is the current number of departmental staff responsible for the caring and treating of problematic trees? Has the work been contracted out? If yes, what are the amount involved and the number of staff employed by the contractors?
3. How many trees were treated and received special care last year? How many of them have recovered after treatment and how many were removed?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

1. The numbers of trees included in the database of Tree Register by end of 2011, 2012 and 2013 were 1 058, 1 021 and 983 respectively. The management work of the database will be undertaken by existing manpower staff and no additional expenditure will be incurred in 2014-15.
2. Caring and treating of problematic trees are part and parcel of the daily duties of tree management staff. We therefore cannot provide statistics on staff dedicated to treating problematic trees only. Similarly, although some departments have outsourced the tree management work including the treatment of problematic trees through the

maintenance contracts, statistics on the cost and manpower dedicated to treating problematic trees only are not available.

3. In 2013, after detailed inspection, tree management departments undertook about 22 000 mitigation measures, including pruning, removing dead branches, controlling pests and diseases, and cabling and propping as support to trees. About 4 860 trees were removed due to public safety considerations after tree risk assessment. Another 115 were included in the Tree Register after treatment for continued monitoring.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)017

(Question Serial No. 0170)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 25):

Under Programme (2), the Administration organised promotional activities for different community groups in 2013 to enhance their interest in and knowledge of heritage conservation, including the “New Life @ Heritage” roving exhibition, “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme” roving exhibition, King Yin Lei Open Days, “Heritage Fiesta 2013” cum photo exhibition, and International Conference on Heritage Conservation 2013. In this connection, will the Government provide the following information:

1. How many people participated in the promotional activities this year? What were the expenditure and manpower involved in each event?
2. How many activities have been planned for the coming year? What are the details? What is the estimated number of participants? What are the expenditure and manpower involved? Does the Administration plan to organise more guided cultural activities in collaboration with other organisations? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

1. In 2013-14, the Commissioner for Heritage's Office of the Development Bureau organised a variety of activities to enhance public awareness on heritage conservation and their appreciation of historic buildings. The table below illustrates the activities organised, number of participants and expenditures for each activity during 2013-14. The workload of organising these activities was mainly absorbed by the staff of the Commissioner for Heritage's Office.

Activities	No. of Participants	Actual Expenditure
“Revitalisation of Historic Buildings and Cultural Inheritance” Workshop for school teachers	25	Nil ^{Note 1}
King Yin Lei Open Days	24 283	\$597,427
“New Life @ Heritage” Exhibition	161 480	\$1,168,001
Roving Exhibition on Batch I of the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme”	75 887	\$1,097,300
“Heritage Fiesta 2013”	48 000	\$1,418,930
“International Conference on Heritage Conservation 2013 - Latest Movements in Heritage Conservation: Global Vision and Local Outlook”	302	\$474,737

Note 1: The workshop was co-organised with the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) and the Education Bureau. All the costs were absorbed by the AMO.

2. In 2014-15, we will continue to organise promotional and educational activities for the public, including open days, guided tours and roving exhibitions. The estimated budget is approximately \$5.9 million. These activities will mainly be organised by staff of the Commissioner for Heritage’s Office. We will continue to collaborate with different organisations in organising exhibitions to promote Hong Kong’s built heritage. We will also work with the management parties of selected monuments/graded historic buildings in organising open days and guided tours.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)018

(Question Serial No. 0240)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 12):

Under Programme (5) Intra-Governmental Services, the financial provision for 2013-14 has decreased from the original estimate of \$319.8 million to the revised estimate of \$259.2 million, representing a decrease of 18.9%, while the estimated financial provision for the coming year will increase by 18% to \$305.9 million. In this connection, please provide the following information:

1. What are the reasons for the reduction of financial provision for this year? What department projects or initiatives have been scrapped by the Administration to make such revision?
2. The Administration led the public engagement exercise on increasing land supply by reclamation and rock cavern development this year. How many roving exhibitions and public forums were conducted by the Administration? What was the number of participants in each of the roving exhibitions and public forums? How many submissions on reclamation and rock cavern development have been received by the Administration? What were the respective percentages of the submissions that were in favour of and against reclamation and rock cavern development? What were the manpower and expenditure involved in the activities?
3. How many roving exhibitions and public forums on reclamation and rock cavern development will be conducted by the Administration next year? What are the manpower and expenditure involved in the activities?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

1. The revised estimate for 2013-14 has been reduced by 18.9% (\$60.6 million) as compared with the original estimate. The reduction is mainly due to decreased cash flow requirement for the general non-recurrent item on "Investing in Construction Manpower" (\$40.4million), reduced spending on minor consultancies and operating

expenses (\$11.1 million) and less expenditure on Graduate Training Scheme (\$9.1 million). No project or initiative has been scrapped due to the revision.

2. The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) conducted 14 roving exhibitions and two public forums during the Stage 2 Public Engagement (PE2) on “Enhancing Land Supply Strategy: Reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and Rock Cavern Development” (ELSS) from 21 March 2013 to 21 June 2013. The roving exhibitions and the two public forums received a total of 7 330 visitors and 341 participants respectively. About 38 000 submissions were received during the PE2. Since the PE2 was mainly to seek the public’s views on possible land uses for potential reclamation and rock cavern development sites as well as areas of concern to be addressed in future technical studies, the exercise did not draw conclusion on the percentage of submissions that were in favour of or against reclamation and rock cavern development.

CEDD employed consultants to organise the PE2 activities. The total expenditure incurred (including the related consultancy fees) was \$2.3 million.

3. As the two-stage PE exercise has been completed, there is no plan to arrange further roving exhibition or public forum on the ELSS. Nevertheless, public consultations will be arranged for individual reclamation and rock cavern development projects, where necessary during their implementation.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)019

(Question Serial No.1100)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 33):

It is stated in the 2014-15 Policy Address that “the Government has commenced a study to identify districts with potential for developing urban underground space, with a view to increasing usable space and enhancing connectivity in the urban areas. Meanwhile, we are preparing a pilot study covering four selected strategic districts, namely Tsim Sha Tsui West, Causeway Bay, Happy Valley and Admiralty/Wan Chai”. In addition, the 2014-15 Budget reveals that the Government will “conduct public consultation and a pilot study this year on the development of urban underground space in four strategic districts, namely Causeway Bay, Happy Valley, Admiralty/Wan Chai and Tsim Sha Tsui West”. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the establishment and related expenditures involved in the pilot study on the development of urban underground space, as well as the details and expenditures of any overseas duty visits;
- (2) the establishment and expenditure involved in this year's public consultation, as well as the format and completion date of the consultation; and
- (3) the estimated target time for the implementation of the first urban underground space development project.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

- (1) The total estimated cost of the pilot study is about \$69 million in money-of-the-day prices, which includes consultancy fee, ground investigation works, environmental studies and public consultation. Under the steer of the Development Bureau, the Civil Engineering and Development Department will manage the study through a Chief Geotechnical Engineer on a part-time basis and the support from a Senior Geotechnical Engineer and a Geotechnical Engineer. There is no planned overseas duty visit under the study.

- (2) The establishment and expenditure involved in the public consultation will be covered under the pilot study. The format and programme of public consultation will be worked out with the consultants upon commencement of the study.
- (3) Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence the study in the second half of 2014 for completion in about 30 months. We will identify priority projects suitable for early implementation based on findings of the study and the outcome of the public consultation.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)020

(Question Serial No.2081)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 17):

The problem of an ageing workforce in the construction industry is getting more serious in recent years. With various projects under planning, the construction industry is in urgent need of more fresh blood. In recent years, the industry has strived to attract ethnic minorities to join the industry. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Please provide a breakdown of the statistical figures for the construction workforce in 2013-14 by age group, race, gender, trade and average monthly salary.
- (b) Has the Administration studied measures to attract ethnic minorities to join the construction industry?

Asked by: Hon. CHIANG Lai-wan

Reply:

- (a) There are currently 99 trades for the construction industry categorised under the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance. According to the Construction Industry Council (CIC), there were about 322 000 registered construction workers as at end 2013. The numbers of registered skilled/semi-skilled workers in individual trades and general workers are available on CIC's website: <http://cwr.hkcic.org/information/ctotal.asp>. Amongst them, over 40% were aged over 50 whereas about 6% was below the age of 25. About 90% of the registered workers are male. In terms of skill levels, about 35% have registered as skilled workers. With reference to the General Household Survey conducted by the Census and Statistics Department, the median monthly earning of construction workers in September to November 2013 was about \$12,000. According to the information collected by DEVB in 2012, there were about 5 000 ethnic minorities working under public works contracts.
- (b) CIC has been implementing various initiatives to attract ethnic minorities to join the construction industry and enhance their skills. The initiatives include enhancing promotion of the industry through social groups of ethnic minorities, labour unions

and related non-government organizations, placing advertisements in newspapers with ethnic minority readership and conducting Family Days for the ethnic minorities; conducting job fairs at various districts to provide job opportunities for the ethnic minorities; and arranging site visits to encourage ethnic minority workers to attend training courses organized by CIC, etc. CIC has also introduced the Build Up Ambassadors to promote the image of the industry through participating in publicity activities and sharing their personal stories. One of the ambassadors is an ethnic minority.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)021

(Question Serial No. 1123)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 38):

There has been a constant surge in the costs of government infrastructure projects awarded through open tender exercises in recent years. The construction costs of a number of government projects have increased substantially over the original estimate, which required additional funding from the Government on a temporary basis. Examples include the new Broadcasting House of Radio Television Hong Kong widely reported recently, the West Kowloon Cultural District project, the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point project, etc. Has the Administration conducted detailed studies and investigations into the causes of the substantial increase in the construction costs of these government projects? If yes, what are the details?

In view of this, to prevent substantial overrun of project costs, will the Government practise more prudent public finance management in future tender exercises for other projects by requiring simplicity in the design, capping the consultancy fees, as well as ensuring the openness and transparency of the tender exercises?

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher

Reply:

The Government has been implementing the policy of investing in infrastructure to promote economic growth. Since 2007, the Government has been delivering an infrastructure development programme, comprising the Ten Major Infrastructure Projects and other public works projects of varying scales. The annual capital works expenditure gradually increased from \$45.3 billion in 2009-10 to about \$62.4 billion in 2012-13 and is estimated to reach the level of \$70 (excluding the one-off grant of \$13 billion to Hospital Authority) billion in 2013-14. Since 2009, as a result of loose monetary policy adopted by major economies after the financial tsunami and high demand on construction services from both the private sector as well as the public sector, we have been experiencing a surge in construction cost. As from 2009, labour wages and major material costs have increased by more than 30% and the Building Works Tender Price Index has also escalated by about 60%. In face of the global swings in the economic environment, notwithstanding the best endeavour Government have been exercising in estimating project costs, some projects may need to

increase cost estimation as a result of unforeseen circumstances, such as changes in user requirements and project scope, the inflationary economic situation, higher-than-expected tender prices resulting from the tendering strategy, etc. While cost increase is difficult to avoid under the above mentioned unforeseen circumstances, Government had also explained in detail the specific reasons giving rise to and the justifications for the required increase in the estimated cost of the projects in question when the relevant LegCo Panels were consulted and funding approvals from PWSC were sought.

We will continue with an open and transparent tendering method for works contracts and consultancies to provide all necessary tender information to potential tenderers for them to submit the most competitive and cost-effective tenders. With the existing method, consultancies are usually tendered and awarded on a fixed lump sum basis and variations are allowed only when fully justified. During the course of consultancies for projects each exceeding \$200 million, value management studies are usually conducted to optimise user requirements, project design, procurement strategy, project costs and resources. Recently, we have also issued guidelines to works departments on design and construction practices, including simplification of design, to further enhance the construction productivity.

Moreover, we have been reviewing the procurement system for public works projects to update the existing procedures to tie in with the changing market conditions. For example, In 2013, we have updated the rules for admission and management of the List of Approved Contractors for Public Works. Under the revised rules, we have raised the tender limits for the various groups of listed contractors which would help enhance the tendering opportunity for medium to small sized contractors. In addition, we now accept the relevant experience in both government and selected non-government works contracts executed in Hong Kong for those probationary contractors seeking a confirmed status on the List. We also assess the capability of probationary contractors seeking confirmation based on their relevant experience without prescribing a 24-month minimum probationary period. These measures aim at building up industry capacity, enabling market access and enhancing competition for a quality and cost effective delivery of government infrastructure projects.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)022****(Question Serial No. 2587)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply, (2) Heritage Conservation, (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management, (4) Energizing Kowloon East, (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 42):

Regarding the records management work of the Bureau and its departments over the past 3 years:

1. Please provide information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform such work. If there is no officer designated for such work, please provide information on the number of officers and the hours of work involved in records management duties, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management;
2. Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by the GRS	Are they confidential documents

3. Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to the GRS for retention:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to the GRS	Retention period approved by the GRS	Are they confidential documents

4. Please list in the table below information on records which have been approved for destruction by the GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to the GRS	Retention period approved by the GRS	Are they confidential documents

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

1. The Government attaches great importance to records management. The Works Branch (WB) of the Development Bureau and its departments have designated their Departmental Records Managers to oversee the creation/disposal of records. In addition, clear departmental records management policies have been drawn up for staff to follow. The number and rank of staff undertaking departmental records management work in WB and its departments over the past three years (up to 2013-14) are provided below –

Bureau/ Departments	Number and rank of designated officers:
Works Branch (WB)	There are two Confidential Assistants designated to perform records management work. A number of other officers of different grades including executive, clerical and secretarial are also involved in these duties. However, as records management is only part of their overall duties, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower spent solely on the work.
Architectural Services Department (ArchSD)	While no officer is designated solely to perform records management work, a number of officers of different grades including executive, clerical and secretarial are involved in these duties. However, as records management is only part of their overall duties, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower spent solely on the work.
Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)	There is one Confidential Assistant designated to perform records management work. A number of other officers of different grades including executive, clerical and secretarial are also involved in these duties. However, as records management is only part of their overall duties, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower spent solely on the work.
Drainage Services Department (DSD)	There are 13 officers (one Clerical Officer, six Assistant Clerical Officers, five Clerical Assistants and one Confidential Assistant) designated to perform records management work. A number of other officers of different grades including executive, clerical and secretarial are also involved in these duties. However, as records management is only part of their overall duties, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower spent solely on the work.

Bureau/ Departments	Number and rank of designated officers:
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD)	There are four Confidential Assistants designated to perform records management work. A number of other officers of different grades including executive, clerical and secretarial are also involved in the duties. However, as records management is only part of their overall duties, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower spent solely on the work.
Water Supplies Department (WSD)	There is one Confidential Assistant designated to perform records management work. A number of other officers of different grades including executive, clerical and secretarial are also involved in these duties. However, as records management is only part of their overall duties, a breakdown of the manpower spent solely on the work is not available.

2. Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal:

Bureau/ Departments	Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by the GRS	Are they confidential documents
WB	Programme Records	1985 to 2014	No.: 1 782 (89.1 linear metres)	7 to 25 years after the records have become inactive	130 out of 1 782 records are confidential records
	Administrative Records	2003 to 2014	No.: 50 (2.5 linear metres)	3 to 5 years after action completed	33 out of 50 records are confidential records
ArchSD	Programme Records	1957 to 2011	No.: 13 049 +300 boxes ¹ (889.39 linear metres)	3 to 15 years after the records have become inactive or action completed	53 out of 13 049 records and 300 boxes of records are confidential records
	Administrative Records	1954 to 2010	No.: 837 (29.08 linear metres)	2 to 7 years after the records have become inactive or action	No

¹ : These records have been transferred to GRS by boxes in batch numbers, instead of by no. of records.

Bureau/ Departments	Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by the GRS	Are they confidential documents
				completed	
CEDD	Programme records	1972 to 2013	No.: 1 360 (60 linear metres)	5 to 15 years after the records have become inactive	223 out of 1 360 records are confidential records
	Administrative records	1946 to 2012	No.: 3 444 (172 linear metres)	1 to 7 years after action completed	212 out of 3 444 records are confidential records
DSD	Programme records	1986 to 2014	No.: 9 038 (451.9 linear metres)	4 years after action completed or permanent retention	480 out of 9 038 records are confidential records
	Administrative records	1963 to 2014	No.: 2 294 (114.7 linear metres)	1 to 7 years after action completed	270 out of 2 294 records are confidential records
EMSD	Programme records	1994 to 2014	No.: 304 (16.28 linear metres)	8 years after the records have become inactive	No
	Administrative records	1992 to 2014	No. :183 (8.4 linear metres)	5 to 7 years after action completed	No
WSD	Programme records	1992 to 2013	No.: 5 883 (170 linear metres)	Pending GRS's approval to the retention period	No
WSD	Administrative records	1996 to 2013	No.:2 259	2 to 7 years after action	No

Bureau/ Departments	Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by the GRS	Are they confidential documents
			(76 linear metres)	completed	

3. Information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Bureau/ Departments	Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
WB	Programme Records	1992 to 2010	No.: 3 512 (215 linear metres)	2013-14	6 years after the records have become inactive	No
	Administrative Records	1957 to 2003	No.: 36 (1.8 linear metres)	2011-12 and 2012-13	3 to 5 years after action completed	No
ArchSD	Programme Records	1964 to 2010	No.: 7 025 + 4 050 boxes ¹ (1 879.95 linear metres)	2011-12 and 2012-13	12 to 15 years after the records have become inactive or action completed	No
CEDD	Programme records	1964 to 2013	No.: 6 760 (379 linear metres)	2011-12 and 2012-13	9 to 13 years after the records have become inactive	No
CEDD	Administrative records	1981 to 2011	No.: 562 (36	2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14	2 to 11 years after action	52 out of 562 records are

Bureau/ Departments	Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
			linear metres)		completed	confidential records
DSD	Administrative records	1952 to 1996	No.: 135 (0.05 linear metres)	2013	7 years after action completed	No
EMSD	-	-	-	-	-	-
WSD	Programme records	1992 to 2012	No.: 969 (42 linear metres)	2012	10 years after records have become inactive	No

4. Information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Bureau/ Departments	Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
WB	Programme Records	1966 to 2009	No.: 2 499 (124.95 linear metres)	2011-12	1 to 17 years after the records have become inactive	2 out of 2 499 records are confidential records
WB	Administrative Records	1946 to 2011	No.: 1 826 (92.64	2011-12	1 to 7 years after action	206 out of 1 826 records are confidential

Bureau/ Departments	Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
			linear metres)		completed	records
ArchSD	Programme Records	1965 to 1998	No.: 7 753 + 658 boxes ¹ (613.61 linear metres)	2013-14	12 years after the records have become inactive or action completed	No
	Administrative Records	1982 to 2010	No.: 2 988 (179.75 linear metres)	2012-13	2 to 7 years after the records have become inactive or action completed	4 out of 2 988 records are confidential records
CEDD	Programme records	1958 to 2010	No.: 23 875 (1 256 linear metres)	2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14	7 to 13 years after the records have become inactive	109 out of 23 875 records are confidential records
	Administrative records	1972 to 2012	No.: 930 (43 linear metres)	2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14	2 to 5 years after action completed	47 out of 930 records are confidential records
DSD	Programme records	1976 to 2002	No.: 934 (46.7 linear metres)	The records have been kept by the department until	4 to 12 years after action completed	95 out of 934 records are confidential records

Bureau/ Departments	Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
				destruction		
	Administrative records	1961 to 2009	No.: 3 179 (158.95 linear metres)	The records have been kept by the department until destruction	1 to 7 years after action completed	63 out of 3 179 records are confidential records
EMSD	Programme records	1992 to 2008	No.: 14 074 (340 linear metres)	The records have been kept by the department until destruction	3 years after the records have become inactive	No
WSD	Programme records	1981 to 2012	No.: 1 357 (77 linear metres)	2012	3 to 20 years after the records have become inactive	No
	Administrative records	1969 to 2010	No.: 1 693 (26 linear metres)	The records have been kept by the department until destruction	2 to 7 years after the records have become inactive	No

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)023****(Question Serial No. 2742)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply, (2) Heritage Conservation, (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management, (4) Energizing Kowloon East, (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Not Specified

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 58):

1. Regarding the expenses on entertainment and gifts of your bureau and the departments under its purview over the past 3 years, please provide details using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/ department and year	Estimated expenses on entertainment and gifts in the year	Actual expenses on entertainment and gifts in the year	Cap on entertainment expenses (including beverages) per head for the year	Cap on gift expenses per guest for the year	Number of receptions held and total number of guests received in the year

2. Regarding the expenses on entertainment and gifts of your bureau and the departments under its purview in 2013-14, please provide details using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/ department	Date of reception (day/ month/ year)	Departments/ organisations and titles of the guests received (to list out by department/ organisation and the number of guests)	Food expenses incurred in the reception	Beverage expenses incurred in the reception	Gift expenses incurred in the reception	Venue of the reception (department office/ restaurant in government facilities/ private restaurant/ others (please specify))

3. Please provide the estimated expenses on entertainment and gifts for 2014-15 using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/ department	Estimated provision for expenses on entertainment and gifts	Cap on entertainment expenses per guest	Cap on gift expenses per guest

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

As a general rule, all politically appointed officials and civil servants should observe the same principles and act in accordance with the relevant regulations and administrative guidelines when providing official entertainment in the form of meals. Government officers are required to exercise prudent judgement and economy when entertaining guest(s) for official purposes in order to avoid any public perception of extravagance. According to the existing general guidelines, the expenditure limits on official meals should not exceed \$450 per person for lunch or \$600 per person for dinner, inclusive of all expenses incurred on food and beverages consumed on the occasion, service charges and tips. In 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 (up to February 2014), the actual expenses on official entertainment incurred by the Works Branch of the Development Bureau and the departments under its purview are \$0.48 million, \$0.72 million and \$0.42 million respectively. The estimated expenditure for 2014-15 is \$0.55 million.

In line with the Government's green policy, public officers should as far as possible refrain from bestowing gifts/souvenirs to others during the conduct of official activities. According to the existing guidelines, where bestowal of gifts/souvenirs is necessary or unavoidable due to operational, protocol or other reasons, the gift/souvenir items should not be lavish or extravagant and the number should be kept to a minimum. Also, the exchange of gifts/souvenirs should only be made from organisation to organisation. As we do not maintain separate accounts for the expenses on the procurement of gifts and souvenirs, we do not have the relevant statistics.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)024

(Question Serial No. 2344)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 26):

According to paragraph 118(g) of the Budget Speech, the Government plans to conduct public consultation and a pilot study this year on the development of urban underground space in four strategic districts, namely Causeway Bay, Happy Valley, Admiralty/Wan Chai and Tsim Sha Tsui West. What are the details of the plan? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

Under the steer of the Development Bureau, the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) plans to conduct a pilot study, which aims at formulating a master plan for underground space development in each of the four strategic urban districts and identifying potential priority projects for early implementation to meet the community needs for sustainable development.

The CEDD plans to engage consultants to carry out the study. The total estimated cost of the study is about \$69 million in money-of-the-day prices, which includes consultancy fee, ground investigation works, environmental studies and public consultation. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, the CEDD plans to commence the study in the second half of 2014 for completion in about 30 months. The programme of public consultation will be worked out with the consultants upon commencement of the study.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)025

(Question Serial No.2747)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 51):

The Development Bureau (Works Branch) is responsible for monitoring the delivery of major public works projects according to schedule and within budget. Does the Administration expect any delays or cost overruns in major public works projects in 2014-15 which require a revision of the estimate? If yes, please set out in tabular form the major public works projects which were delayed or ran over budget in the past 3 years, the lengths of delays and the expenditures involved.

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply:

At this stage, we do not expect any substantial delays or cost overruns in major public works projects in 2014-15 which require a revision of the Approved Project Estimates (APE). However, during the implementation stage, there may still be delays, cost overruns, additional works, etc. due to unforeseen circumstances which may necessitate increase in the APE of individual projects. Nevertheless, works departments would continue making their best endeavours in producing realistic estimates, controlling costs and ensuring timely completion of public works projects.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)026

(Question Serial No. 0235)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 10):

Regarding the design and construction of the Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO), please inform this Committee of the following:

1. what is the design fee and construction cost for the EKEO?
2. what is the estimated annual maintenance cost for the EKEO?
3. will there be any similar construction projects under flyovers in 2014-15? If yes, what is the number of projects that will be designed by the Architectural Services Department? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

1. The total design fee and construction cost for the EKEO is about \$20 million.
2. The estimated maintenance cost for the EKEO is around \$0.4 million per annum.
3. The EKEO has identified three sites, namely Site 1, 2 and 3, located along Hoi Bun Road underneath the Kwun Tong Bypass for creativity, arts and cultural use. Site 1 has already been transformed into a multi-purpose performance and exhibition venue and opened for public use since January 2013. The other two sites are vacant government land. The EKEO intends to engage a non-profit-making organisation in 2014-15 to manage and operate these three sites. The architectural design and building work for Sites 2 and 3 will be undertaken by the Architectural Services Department based on the selected operator's preliminary design proposal. The design and construction cost is estimated at approximately \$20 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)027

(Question Serial No.1513)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 37):

Regarding the Energizing Kowloon East initiative, please provide the following information:

- (a) The revised financial provision for 2013-14 is \$26.5 million, which is 26.8% less than the original estimate. Why is there so large a discrepancy?
- (b) What is the government expenditure on the Kai Tak Fantasy design competition?
- (c) Has the Government worked out a specific timetable for the Kai Tak Fantasy project? Which part of Kowloon East will be chosen by the Government to adopt the concepts of the winning entries in the Kai Tak Fantasy international idea competition?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

- (a) The 2013-14 revised estimate was reduced by 26.8% as compared with the original estimate. This is mainly due to the change of funding source of some scheduled planning and pedestrian studies from Head 159 to Capital Works Reserve Fund Subhead 7100CX after a review of the study nature and scope, saving in staff cost arising from temporary vacancies in non-civil service contract staff posts and reduced operating expenses.
- (b) The estimated cost for conducting the Kai Tak Fantasy international idea competition is about \$5 million including the prize money for the winner and shortlisted submissions..
- (c) Kai Tak Fantasy (KTF) comprises the Kai Tak Runway, the Kwun Tong Waterfront Action Area and the enclosed waterbody between the runway and Kwun Tong waterfront, with a total area of about 90 hectares. The design ideas and concepts of the winning or shortlisted entries will be adopted for further development under a planning and engineering study for the area of KTF. Its detailed implementation programme will also be examined in the planning and engineering study. The development in KTF is expected to be progressively implemented from around 2021 onwards, following the original timeframe of Kai Tak Development.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)028****(Question Serial No.2028)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 35):

What are the Government's annual capital works expenditures since 2008-09? What are the capital works expenditures for various policy area groups including economic, housing, social welfare, support, education, health, community and external affairs, security, environment and food and infrastructure, as well as their percentages out of the public expenditure respectively?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The annual capital works expenditures from 2008-09 to 2013-14, their respective expenditures for various policy area groups including economic, housing, social welfare, support, education, health, community and external affairs, security, environment and food and infrastructure, as well as their percentages of the public expenditure are shown in the table below: -

Policy Area Groups	2008-09 (Actual expenditure) [@]		2009-10 (Actual expenditure)		2010-11 (Actual expenditure)		2011-12 (Actual expenditure)	
	(\$M)	%*	(\$M)	%*	(\$M)	%*	(\$M)	%*
Economic	8	0.002	236	0.077	1,480	0.462	2,515	0.652
Housing	4	0.001	3	0.001	8	0.002	23	0.006
Social Welfare	18	0.006	22	0.007	47	0.015	64	0.017
Support	641	0.194	853	0.278	2,232	0.696	1,504	0.390
Education	2,701	0.816	3,831	1.247	4,131	1.289	5,691	1.476
Health	1,024	0.309	1,841	0.599	1,948	0.608	2,676	0.694
Community and External Affairs	24,125	7.289	2,822	0.919	3,185	0.994	3,559	0.923
Security	1,369	0.413	1,927	0.627	1,344	0.419	1,159	0.301
Environment and Food	1,571	0.475	2,970	0.967	4,877	1.521	6,266	1.625
Infrastructure	13,549	4.094	30,823	10.034	30,528	9.523	34,899	9.049
Total:	45,010	13.599	45,327	14.755	49,780	15.529	58,356	15.132

Policy Area Groups	2012-13 (Actual expenditure)		2013-14 (Revised estimate) [#]		2014-15 (Estimate)	
	(\$M)	%*	(\$M)	%*	(\$M)	%*
Economic	2,804	0.701	1,058	0.229	933	0.212
Housing	12	0.003	34	0.007	80	0.018
Social Welfare	76	0.019	108	0.023	148	0.034
Support	57	0.014	33	0.007	141	0.032
Education	4,280	1.070	2,459	0.533	2,054	0.467
Health	2,118	0.529	15,868	3.439	2,535	0.576
Community and External Affairs	3,729	0.932	2,555	0.554	1,999	0.454
Security	1,296	0.324	1,594	0.345	2,399	0.545
Environment and Food	6,382	1.595	6,276	1.360	5,244	1.192
Infrastructure	41,618	10.400	53,072	11.501	55,231	12.551
Total:	62,372	15.586	83,056	17.999	70,764	16.081

Note:

* : Percentages of the public expenditure

@: Including an upfront endowment of \$21.6 billion to the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

#: Including a one-off grant of \$13 billion to the Hospital Authority

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)029****(Question Serial No. 2029)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 41):

Since the announcement by the Government of the 10 major infrastructure projects in the 2007-08 Policy Address, what are the capital works expenditures for the following 10 major infrastructure projects each year? What are their percentages out of the total capital works expenditure each year?

- (1) South Island Line;
- (2) The Sha Tin to Central Link;
- (3) The Tuen Mun Western Bypass and Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link;
- (4) The Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link;
- (5) Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge;
- (6) Hong Kong-Shenzhen Airport Co-operation: rail connection between the Chek Lap Kok Airport and Shenzhen Airport;
- (7) Hong Kong-Shenzhen Joint Development of the Lok Ma Chau Loop: Lok Ma Chau Loop;
- (8) West Kowloon Cultural District;
- (9) Kai Tak Development Plan; and
- (10) New Development Areas:
 - (a) Kwu Tung North;
 - (b) Fanling North;
 - (c) Ping Che and Ta Kwu Ling; and
 - (d) Hung Shui Kiu.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The annual capital works expenditures for the ten major infrastructure projects and their percentages to the total capital works expenditure from 2007-08 to 2013-14 are shown in the following table: -

	Annual Capital Works Expenditures for the Ten Major Infrastructure Projects (\$B)						
	2007- 08	2008- 09	2009- 10	2010- 11	2011- 12	2012- 13	2013- 14 (Note 1)
(1) South Island Line	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.3
(2) The Sha Tin to Central Link	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.9	2.1	3.6	8.7
(3) The Tuen Mun Western Bypass and Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.6
(4) The Guangzhou-Shenzhen- Hong Kong Express Rail Link	0.0	0.4	1.2	9.2	11.1	11.9	12.5
(5) Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.9	1.6	5.0	8.3
(6) Hong Kong-Shenzhen Airport Co-operation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(7) Hong Kong-Shenzhen Joint Development of the Lok Ma Chau Loop	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(8) West Kowloon Cultural District	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(9) Kai Tak Development Plan	0.0	0.1	0.4	1.8	3.2	4.9	3.5
(10) New Development Areas (NDAs)							
- North East New Territories (Kwu Tung North, Fanling North and Ping Che / Ta Kwu Ling) NDAs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- Hung Shui Kiu NDA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total expenditure for ten major infrastructure projects:	0.0	0.7	2.3	12.8	18.2	26.0	34.9
Total Capital Works expenditure:	20.5	23.4 (Note 2)	45.3	49.8	58.4	62.4	70.1 (Note 3)
Estimated % to total Capital Works expenditure:	0%	3%	5%	26%	31%	42%	50%

Note 1: Estimated Figure only.

Note 2: Excluding the upfront endowment of \$21.6B to the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority in 2008-09.

Note 3: Excluding the one-off grant of \$13B to the Hospital Authority for minor works projects.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)030

(Question Serial No. 2052)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 1.06):

1. What are the measures, effectiveness and targets regarding the current initiatives to encourage water conservation, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved?
2. What are the progress of the review on the water tariff structure and the relevant work plans?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG, Kenneth

Reply:

1. The Water Supplies Department (“WSD”) has been implementing various measures to promote water conservation in both domestic and non-domestic sectors. WSD has been implementing the Voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme since 2009 to advise consumers of the water efficiency of common types of plumbing fixtures and water-consuming appliances in order to help consumers choose water efficient products for water conservation. The Scheme has been implemented in phases for different groups of plumbing fixtures and appliances, and there have already been 202 showers for bathing, 150 water taps, 213 washing machines and 28 pieces of urinal equipment registered under the Scheme. WSD targets to extend the Scheme to cover flow controllers for showers for bathing and water taps later this year.

In regard to domestic consumption, our water conservation promotion work starts at the younger generation through school education. Since 2009, WSD has launched a host of programmes such as school roadshows, school water audits and the Water Conservation Ambassadors Selection Scheme. As at February 2014, a total of 136 400 students have participated in the above activities and about 1 600 of them have become Water Conservation Ambassadors. In December 2012, a Water Resources Education Centre (“the Centre”) was set up to enhance the younger generation’s knowledge of water conservation through exhibits, live demonstrations and interactive games. The Centre received about 6 000 visitors (mostly students) in 2013 and we target to receive about 7 000 visitors each year starting from 2014 onwards.

Since 2013, WSD has extended the promotion on water conservation from schools to the community by roving and mobile showroom exhibitions at shopping malls and housing estates. Up to February 2014, WSD has organised 98 such exhibitions.

WSD has recently launched a large scale campaign, namely “Let’s Save 10L Water” on the World Water Day scheduled for 22 March 2014. The public are encouraged to sign a commitment certificate on-line to pledge their support for using water wisely and save 10 litres water consumption per day. WSD is planning to provide participating households (tentatively 30 000) each with a pair of complimentary flow controllers for water taps to help them conserve water.

In regard to non-domestic consumption, WSD has been carrying out water efficiency audits and developing the best practice guidelines for selected government facilities and commercial trades such as hotels, restaurants, laundries, etc. In addition, WSD plans to commence a programme this year to install about 100 000 flow controllers at schools and Government buildings.

The estimated expenditure of the above-mentioned measures is about **\$7.9 million** in 2013-14 and will be increased to about **\$12.6 million** in 2014-15. In regard to the manpower resources, the work related to the promotion on water conservation is administered mainly by a team of 7 staff members.

2. Water charges have not been revised for 19 years. We aim at completing a review on water charges this year. The review will cover water charges for domestic and non-domestic supplies. We will take into consideration in the review a number of factors including the affordability, the financial performance of waterworks operation, the prevailing economic situation, and views of the Legislative Council members.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)031

(Question Serial No. 2372)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 15):

It is mentioned in paragraph 105 of the Budget Speech that labour shortage in the construction sector would affect the delivery of infrastructure projects. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee:

1. What was the amount of resources allocated by the Administration in the past 3 years for the publicity and promotion activities to uplift the image of the construction industry and encourage young people to join the industry? Please provide a detailed breakdown of the expenditures involved.
2. Has the Administration assessed the effectiveness of the promotion work? If yes, what are the results? If no, what are the reasons?
3. Will the Administration consider renaming the construction industry "urban beauty" profession to further uplift its image and encourage more young people to join the industry? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply:

1. To cope with the manpower challenges, we have deployed a series of measures including obtaining a total of \$320 million from the Legislative Council in 2010 and 2012 to support the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to strengthen its role in training of local construction personnel and to enhance promotion and publicity activities to attract more people to join the industry, especially for young people.

With about \$20 million to be used for promotion and publicity under the aforementioned funding commitment, we launched the "Build Up Publicity Campaign" aiming to uplift the image of the industry in May 2011. Under the Campaign, the expenditure for the past 3 years [from 2011-12 to 2013-14(*up to end February 2014*)] was about \$17.4 million with breakdown as follows:-

Items	Expenditure (\$ M)
Seed Money for the Construction Industry Resource Centre	6.0
Promotion and publicity activities, including TV drama on the industry (“Dreams Come True”), introducing the Build Up Ambassadors, displaying of selected trade and industry posters, organizing roving exhibitions, etc.	10.5
Staff Cost on non-civil service contract terms	0.9
Total:	17.4

2. Recent image tracking surveys revealed that the percentage of young people interviewed who are willing to join the industry has increased significantly to more than 20%, as compared with that of only 7.9% before launching of the campaign. As at end December 2013, the number of registered construction workers has also increased by about 18% since the launch of the campaign. The average age of the newly registered construction workers in 2013 was 38 (versus 46 for all registered workers in late 2013). These reflect the effectiveness of the promotional effort to attract more younger people to join the industry.

3. CIC has implemented initiatives to uplift the image and training courses to encourage more young people to join the industry. As regards the suggestion of renaming the construction industry as “urban beauty” profession, it will be dependent on whether CIC and the construction industry as a whole are prepared to adopt the new title.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)032

(Question Serial No. 0596)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 23):

Regarding the indicator for the planting of shrubs, the estimated number for 2014 is 4.9 million, a decrease of 1.2 million from the 6.1 million in 2013. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply:

The decrease in the estimated number of shrubs to be planted in 2014 was mainly attributed to the completion of a few major planting works including Cruise Terminal Building and Ancillary Facilities for the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal Development; Town Park, Indoor Velodrome-cum-sports Centre in Area 45, Tseung Kwan O; and River Improvement Works in Upper Lam Tsuen River, She Shan River and Upper Tai Po River in 2013 which involved a large quantity of shrubs.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)033

(Question Serial No.0597)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 24):

What are the reasons for the Bureau to create 5 posts under Programme (5)? What are the ranks and emoluments of these posts?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply:

The Development Bureau will create four time-limited posts (viz. one Government Engineer (D2), one Senior Engineer, one Senior Geotechnical Engineer and one Personal Secretary I) to coordinate and oversee the implementation of projects for the multi-pronged strategy of increasing land supply. The total expenditure in terms of notional annual mid-point salary for the four posts are about \$4.4 million in 2014-15.

Besides, one time-limited Senior Executive Officer post will be created to provide the necessary executive and administrative support on matters relating to the Economic Development Commission's Working Group on Professional Services (WGPS) and interfaces between WGPS' works and the Mainland/Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement as well as other market liberalisation measures in the Mainland and overseas. The expenditure in terms of notional annual mid-point salary for this post is about \$0.85 million in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)034

(Question Serial No. 0511)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 25):

To help property owners maintain and repair their lifts, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department issued the Guidelines on Modernising Existing Lifts in December 2011. In addition to technical support, the Administration offers financial assistance to help lift owners in need carry out lift maintenance works. Will the Government inform this Committee of the amount of resources allocated to provide training for the electrical and mechanical trade of the construction industry in 2013-14? What is the estimated amount of resources to be allocated in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) has implemented various training initiatives to help address the manpower demands of the Electrical and Mechanical (E&M) trades of the construction industry. CIC has collaborated with contractors to launch "Contractor Cooperative Training Scheme" to train workers of E&M trades including lift mechanics and escalator mechanics, which contractors hire trainees first and then train them on-site with CIC's subsidies. It facilitates trainees to acquire early on-site experience. Further, CIC provides a monthly subsidy of \$2,800 for 11 months to students who are committed to join the E&M apprenticeship scheme including lift mechanics and escalator mechanics after completing the basic craft certificates in Vocational Training Council with a view to enhancing the manpower resource for E&M trades.

According to CIC, the training expenses for the above training initiatives were about \$3.4 million in 2013 and the estimated training expenses in 2014 are \$38 million

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)035****(Question Serial No. 1352)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 38):

Regarding the conservation of historic buildings,

1. How many buildings have been declared monuments so far? How many of them are privately owned and government owned respectively?
2. How many buildings have been classified as Grade 1, Grade 2 and Grade 3 historic buildings respectively so far? How many of them are privately owned and government owned respectively?
3. What is the estimated expenditure on the Commissioner for Heritage's Office in 2014-15? How does it compare with the figure for 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

1. At present, there are 105 declared monuments in Hong Kong. 59 of which are government-owned while the remaining 46 are privately-owned.
2. The breakdown of the number of graded historic buildings as at 4.3.2014 is listed below –

Grading	Total Number	Number of Government-owned	Number of non-Government-owned ^{note}
Grade 1	168	66	102
Grade 2	344	95	249
Grade 3	475	65	410

Note: Including privately-owned buildings (including those owned by a company or an individual) and those owned by religious groups, educational institutions, clans or other organisations.

3. The estimated operating expenditure on heritage conservation under Head 159 in 2014-15 is \$54.4 million. A breakdown is as follows –
- (1) personal emoluments - \$19.4 million for civil service staff involved in discharging duties related to heritage conservation;
 - (2) departmental expenses - \$25.5 million comprising mainly expenditure for salaries of non-civil service contract staff, review of policy on the conservation of built heritage, public engagement, educational and publicity activities; and
 - (3) general non-recurrent expenditure - \$9.5 million for implementation of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme.

There will be a decrease in expenditure in 2014-15 by \$1 million mainly due to the decrease in cash flow for the general non-recurrent item on “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme”.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)036

(Question Serial No.1353)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 39):

The Efficiency Unit launched the mobile application “Tell me@1823” in April 2011 for the public to report problematic trees. Will the Government inform this Committee of the numbers of reports received on problematic trees and the follow-up cases since the application was launched? What promotional activities have been organised to let more people know about the application and use it to monitor trees?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

A total of 1 351 tree cases has been received via “Tell me@1823” App from April 2011 to December 2013. “Tell me@1823” has provided a useful channel to aid the collection of tree information since GPS references, photos and voice messages can be used to facilitate prompt follow-up actions by relevant departments. This App to report problematic trees has been publicised and promoted through websites, leaflets, advertorials in newspapers, publications such as the “Greening” Newsletter and the Tree Care Book as well as talks to District Councils, schools, professional institutes and the general public.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)037

(Question Serial No. 0355)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 29):

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15, the Branch says it will continue to advocate and further develop the continuously evolving Conceptual Master Plan for Energizing Kowloon East (EKE). Given that one role of EKE Office is to provide one-stop support to land development proposals that are conducive to private sector development for transforming Kowloon East, will the Administration inform this Committee:

- a) the number of land development proposals it has undertaken so far (please provide a detailed breakdown.)
- b) its plan and targets for 2014-15 in facilitating private sector development for transforming Kowloon East; and
- c) its provision for 2014-15 in performing this role compared with that for the years since the setting up of EKE Office?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

- a) Since the setting up of the Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO), we have been providing advisory and co-ordination service for both public and private sectors land development proposals to facilitate the transformation of Kowloon East. We have provided such services for three government land sale sites, (NKIL 6311, NKIL 6312 and KTIL 761) which were sold in 2012-13 and 2013-14, providing over 140 000 square metres of commercial floor area. We are also examining relocation and rationalization of existing government facilities in the two Action Areas of Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong waterfront with a view to enabling early release of their development potential. In addition, we have entertained more than 30 requests from the private sector for assistance to facilitate their development proposals.
- b) In 2014-15, EKEO will continue to provide advisory and co-ordination service to facilitate public and private sector development proposals. We have identified suitable

government sites within the action areas for early release in 2014-15, providing over 120 000 square metres of commercial floor area. Since many of the private sector development proposals that we have rendered assistance are on-going projects, we will continue providing such service to them, as well as entertaining new requests on demand basis. As such, there is not a fixed benchmark set for this service by EKEO in 2014-15.

- c) The manpower and operational expenses involved in performing this role are absorbed within the resources allocated to EKEO. The provision under Head 159 for EKEO is \$30.9 million (estimate), \$26.5 million (revised estimate) and \$20.2 million (actual) for 2014-15, 2013-14 and 2012-13 respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)038

(Question Serial No. 0357)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 31):

Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention" in 2014-15, the Branch says that it will continue to monitor closely the delivery of the Public Works Programme to ensure timely completion of projects and keep its underspending, if any, to below five per cent. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee its plan to achieve this goal by way of:

- a) the wider use of mechanization and prefabricated components;
- b) ensuring the steady supply of skilled construction workers in various construction trades;
- c) optimizing design and management fees of consultants; and
- d) optimizing site supervision cost of resident site staff?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

- a) To enhance construction productivity, we have issued guidelines to works departments on design and construction practices to achieve more efficient works execution. We have also enhanced the public works procurement procedures recently to assign more emphasis to construction productivity aspects in the evaluation of tenders and performance management for public works consultancies and contracts.

We have also planned to let out a piece of land for setting up an automated and mechanized prefabrication yard by an operator to cut, bend and supply steel reinforcement to local construction projects.

- b) We have deployed a series of measures, including obtaining a total of about \$320 million from the Legislative Council in 2010 and 2012 to support the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to strengthen its role in training of local

construction personnel and to enhance promotion and publicity activities to attract more people to join the industry, especially for young people.

CIC has implemented various training initiatives and conducted training courses to help address manpower demand. To target trades with projected labour shortage, acute ageing or recruitment difficulties, we collaborate with CIC to launch the “Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme” with enhanced training allowances under the aforementioned \$320 million funding commitment to train a target of about 6 000 semi-skilled workers by end 2014.

In the long term, we will continue to strive to meet the manpower demand by local training, re-training and attracting more new entrants to the industry. However, taking into account the limitations of training (e.g. lead time for semi-skilled workers to become skilled workers, etc.) and other factors, we project that there would be labour shortage in the coming four years. With due regard to the principle of not affecting the employment and reasonable income levels of local construction workers, we need to make full use of the “Supplementary Labour Scheme” to import skilled labour in a timely manner. This will not only help meet the manpower demand of the construction works, but also relieve the pressure on the local in-service skilled workers so that there is room for the semi-skilled workers to enhance their skills to achieve the productivity of skilled workers through in-service training.

- c) We have implemented a structured approach for consultancy tender assessment with a new criterion to measure the reasonableness of fee bids from consultants. We have also recently reviewed and promulgated the revised guidelines on preparation of the consultant selection criteria in the technical aspect with more emphasis placed on essential quality design elements and cost optimization. We will continue with the current tendering method for consultant selection by adopting a weighted approach in evaluating the bidders’ technical and fee proposals with an aim to securing the most cost-effective tender bid for award.
- d) To ensure quality supervision of public works, we will continue with the current arrangement in determining the optimized establishment of resident site staff (RSS) having regard to the nature and complexities of the works. Under the system, we reimburse to the consultants the direct expenditure incurred on the employment of RSS. The system is well-proven and ensures the employment of suitably qualified and experienced RSS without subjecting this part of expenditure to the cost-competitive tendering process.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)039****(Question Serial No. 0403)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 35):

Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15", the Branch says it will continue to "monitor the progress of the various initiatives and enhance them where necessary for strengthening the training and trade testing, and uplifting the image of the construction industry to enhance local construction manpower". In this light, will the Administration inform this Committee:

- a) out of 310 000 registered construction workers, the number of workers who are unemployed or underemployed, and the number of registered persons who are not currently working in the industry;
- b) whether the Administration has conducted any analyses about these two groups of workers, including the reasons for their quitting the work force, the number of skilled workers, and the skills they possess; and
- c) the efforts and resources spent for 2013-14 and to be spent for 2014-15 to mobilize these two groups of workers to address the looming labour shortage problem?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

According to the Construction Industry Council (CIC), there were about 322 000 registered construction workers as at end 2013. Based on surveys conducted by CIC, we estimated that about 70 000 of them were not currently working in the construction industry ("industry leavers"). Most of the industry leavers were registered general workers and the remaining were registered skilled/ semi-skilled workers. According to the survey results, the reasons provided for leaving the industry include retirement, demanding nature of construction work, switching to other industries, difficult to find jobs, unattractive wages, etc.

We estimate that there were about 10 000 unemployed workers and about 17 000 underemployed workers in late 2013 based on the General Household Survey by the Census and Statistics Department.

To cope with the manpower challenges, we have deployed a series of measures including obtaining a total of \$320 million from the Legislative Council (LegCo) in 2010 and 2012 to support CIC to strengthen its role in training of local construction personnel and to enhance promotion and publicity activities to attract more people to join the industry including the industry leavers.

CIC has conducted training courses to enhance the skill levels of in-service construction workers with a view to enhancing their employability. For this purpose, we have provided subsidies for fees of trade tests, specified training course and skills enhancement courses under the aforementioned \$320 million funding commitment. Further, CIC has implemented measures to enhance job matching including organizing job fairs with contractors and launching a free online employment platform “JobsNet” to enhance job opportunities for construction workers. Also, CIC has implemented a series of promotion and publicity initiatives to promote the construction industry. Besides, CIC is exploring measures to attract the industry leavers to re-join the industry. In addition to CIC resources, our estimated expenditure for the above subsidies and promotion and publicity in 2013-14 and 2014-15 are \$5.8 million and \$2.4 million respectively. The expenditure is part of the funding commitment of \$320 million approved by the LegCo.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)040

(Question Serial No. 0415)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 32):

Referring to the Administration's response to my written question raised at the LegCo meeting of 12 February 2014, the Administration projected that the industry will need over 30 000 additional construction workers, including over 20 000 skilled workers, in the years to come. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee:

- a) its plan and provision for 2014-15 to help the semi-skilled workers to attain the productivity of skilled workers;
- b) a breakdown of identified construction trades with shortage of skilled workers and resources spent for 2013-14 and to be spent for 2014-15 to enhance the training of skilled workers for these trades; and
- c) the timetable for adopting the Supplementary Labour Scheme to import skilled labour?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

To cope with the construction manpower challenges, we have deployed a series of measures including obtaining a total of \$320 million from the Legislative Council in 2010 and 2012 to support the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to strengthen its role in training of local construction personnel and to enhance promotion and publicity activities to attract more people to join the industry, especially for young people.

In collaboration with CIC, we have launched the "Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS)" under the aforementioned \$320 million funding commitment to provide enhanced training allowances for training about 6 000 semi-skilled workers by end 2014, targeting trades with projected labour shortage, acute ageing or recruitment difficulties which include bar bender and fixer, carpenter (formwork), concreter, metal formwork erector, leveller, metal scaffolder, metal worker and plumber. CIC will suitably review and adjust the trades under the ECMTS to better meet the changing market needs. In addition to CIC's resources, our estimated expenditure for ECMTS under the

aforementioned funding commitment in 2013-14 and 2014-15 are about \$54 million and \$76 million respectively.

To help semi-skilled workers become skilled workers, CIC has implemented various initiatives including providing skill enhancement training courses and has provided subsidies under the aforementioned funding commitment for fees of such courses, trade tests and specified training courses for in-service workers. Further, in mid 2013, CIC launched the On-The-Job Training Scheme to provide on-the-job training subsidy to support contractors to enhance the productivity of ECMTS trainees after graduation.

Having regard to the manpower forecast study recently conducted by CIC and taking account of the forecast construction output, the number of in-service registered workers, retirement of workers, local workers going to work outside Hong Kong, training (with its limitations) and better utilization of the potential workforce of the construction industry, we project that from now till 2017, the industry will need nearly 10 000 to more than 10 000 additional skilled workers.

In the long term, we will continue to strive to meet the manpower demand by local training, re-training and attracting more new entrants to the industry. However, taking into account the limitations of training and other factors, we project that there would be labour shortage in the coming four years. With due regard to the principle of not affecting the employment and reasonable income levels of local construction workers, we need to make full use of the “Supplementary Labour Scheme” to import skilled labour in a timely manner. This will not only help meet the manpower demand of the construction works, but also relieve the pressure on the local in-service skilled workers so that there is room for the semi-skilled workers to enhance their skills to achieve the productivity of skilled workers through in-service training. To meet the specific needs of the industry, we have made a proposal to the Labour Advisory Board (LAB) to better prepare for SLS applications related to public sector works with a target to completing the processing for the SLS applications within 6 months. LAB accepted the proposal at its meeting on 26 March 2014.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)041

(Question Serial No. 1775)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 64):

Regarding the support for the Construction Industry Council (CIC)'s labour training, will the Administration inform this Committee of the operating expenses of the CIC in the past three years? Will additional provision be allocated to provide further support for CIC's labour training in 2014-15? What measures will be taken by the Administration to encourage young people to enrol in CIC's courses and join the construction industry?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

Established under the Construction Industry Council Ordinance (Cap 587) ("the Ordinance"), the Construction Industry Council (CIC) deploys the collected levies to implement various measures to support the development of the industry, including nurturing manpower and enhancing the skill levels of construction personnel. To cope with the increasing construction manpower demand in recent years, CIC has invested substantially in training local construction personnel. According to the information provided by CIC, the operating expenses of CIC on training have been increased from about \$230 million in 2011 to about \$350 million in 2013. We understand that CIC has earmarked additional provision for training in 2014 to meet the needs of the industry.

To cope with the manpower challenges, we have deployed a series of measures including obtaining a total of \$320 million from the Legislative Council in 2010 and 2012 to support CIC to strengthen its role in training of local construction personnel and to enhance promotion and publicity activities to attract more people to join the industry, especially for young people.

CIC has implemented various training initiatives and conducted training courses to help address the manpower demand. Amongst them, to target trades with projected labour shortage, acute ageing or recruitment difficulties, we collaborate with CIC to launch the "Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS)" under the aforementioned \$320 million funding commitment to provide enhanced training allowances for training about 6 000 semi-skilled workers by end 2014. Up to January 2014, about 4 600 trainees

have joined ECMTS and about 55% of them aged below 35 versus the average age of registered construction workers of about 46. Most of the ECMTS graduates were new entrants. About 3 700 ECMTS trainees have graduated.

In 2014-15, we will continue to collaborate with CIC to conduct the “Build Up Publicity Campaign” to uplift the image of the industry. Major initiatives include producing next series of TV drama on the industry (“Dreams Come True”), introducing the Build Up Ambassadors, displaying of selected trade and industry posters, outreaching to schools, arranging visits to the Construction Industry Resource Centre and organising roving exhibitions, etc. Further, to attract more new blood to the industry, we have endeavored to improve the working conditions in construction sites. Various initiatives will continue to be taken to enhance the caring and safety culture in the industry, including measures to improve site tidiness, provide additional welfare facilities on site, step up safety training for workers, and enhance promotion and publicity of site safety.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)042****(Question Serial No.0557)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 9):

One of the responsibilities of the Works Branch is to monitor the delivery of major public works projects according to schedule and within budget. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) What was the annual expenditure on infrastructure projects in each of the past 10 years?
- (2) Which of the projects ran over budget? What were the amounts involved? What are the reasons?
- (3) Which of the projects were completed beyond the anticipated completion dates? How long were they delayed? What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

- (1) The capital works expenditure in the past 10 years are as follows:-

Financial Year	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09*	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Expenditure (\$B)	31.4	31.4	26.5	21.7	20.5	23.4	45.3	49.8	58.4	62.4

*: Excluding an upfront endowment of \$21.6 billion to the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

- (2) In the past 10 LegCo sessions, out of the 600 submissions, the Finance Committee approved a total of 34 submissions comprising 63 capital works projects, for increasing the Approved Project Estimates (APE). In general, the main reasons for the increase in APE include:
- (i) increase in provision for price adjustment to cover escalation in labour and material costs;
 - (ii) higher-than-expected tender returns; and
 - (iii) increase in project contingency (and its associated provision for price adjustment) to account for unforeseen circumstances, such as worse-than-expected ground conditions and extra works to meet local concerns.

Details of these submissions are shown in the table below: -

LegCo Session	Sub-Head	Approved Projects	Increase in APE (\$ million)	Reasons for increase in APE (Note 1)
2003-04	8056MM	Enhancement of infection control facilities in the public hospital system (Batch A)	68.1	(ii)
2003-04	6718TH	Improvement to Tung Chung Road between Lung Tseng Tau and Cheung Sha	58.7	(ii)+(iii)
2004-05	B564CL	Development near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley	230.0	(iii)
2005-06	3242RS	Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground	59.2	(ii)
2005-06	4061DR	Northeast New Territories village sewerage, phase 2	38.0	(i)+(ii)+(iii)
2006-07	6582TH	Central Kowloon Route – consultants' design fees and site investigations	93.3	(iii)
2006-07	6718TH	Improvement to Tung Chung Road between Lung Tseng Tau and Cheung Sha	143.5	(i)+(iii)
2008-09	-	Increase in Approved Project Estimates for 25 Category A projects under construction	2,084.5	(i)
2008-09	-	Increase in Approved Project Estimates for ten Category A projects	741.5	(i)+(ii)
2008-09	7343CL	Central reclamation phase III – engineering works	2,200.0	(i)+(iii)
2008-09	6746TH	Reconstruction and Improvement of Tuen Mun Road	2,183.8	(i)+(ii)+(iii)
2008-09	3419RO	Aldrich Bay Park	19.6	(i)+(ii)+(iii)
2008-09	7070CD	Yuen Long bypass floodway	40.8	(i)+(iii)

2008-09	3265ES	Extension of Lai Chack Middle School at Scout Path, Kowloon	19.3	(i)+(ii)
2009-10	3063KA	Tamar Development Project	359.8	(i)+(iii)
2009-10	3261ES	Secondary school at Aberdeen Reservoir Road, Aberdeen	27.3	(i)+(ii)+(iii)
2009-10	4359DS	North District sewerage, stage 1 phase 2B	55.0	(i)+(ii)+(iii)
2009-10	4234DS	Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 1 phase 2 – Sok Kwu Wan sewage collection, treatment and disposal facilities	97.3	(i)+(ii)+(iii)
2009-10	4230DS	Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 1 phase 1 part 2 – Yung Shue Wan sewerage, sewage treatment works and outfall	59.2	(i)+(ii)+(iii)
2009-10	9076WC	Improvement to Hong Kong Central mid-level and high level areas water supply – remaining works	100.5	(i)+(iii)
2009-10	4329DS	Upgrading of Pillar Point sewage treatment works	559.6	(i)+(iii)
2010-11	B645TH	Sai Sha Road widening between Kam Ying Road and future Trunk Road T7 junction	8.9	(i)+(iii)
2010-11	5045CG	District Cooling System at the Kai Tak Development	190.8	(i)+(iii)
2010-11	8008MA	Redevelopment of Caritas Medical Centre, phase 2	501.5	(i)+(iii)
2011-12	4103CD	Drainage improvement in Northern Hong Kong Island –Hong Kong West drainage tunnel	336.6	(i)
2011-12	4111CD	Drainage improvement in Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi – Tsuen Wan drainage tunnel	226.5	(i)
2011-12	4148CD	Drainage improvement works in Ping Kong, Kau Lung Hang, Yuen Leng, Nam Wa Po and Tai Hang areas	97.9	(i)+(iii)

2011-12	4152CD	Drainage improvement works in upper Lam Tsuen River, She Shan River, upper Tai Po River, Ping Long and Kwun Hang	141.9	(i)+(iii)
2011-12	6844TH	Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge—Hong Kong Link Road	8,857.3	(i)+(ii)+(iii)
2011-12	8002QW	Revitalisation Scheme - Revitalisation of the Former Lai Chi Kok Hospital into Jao Tsung-I Academy/The Hong Kong Cultural Heritage	35.00	(i)+(iii)
2012-13	4382DS	Sewerage at Clear Water Bay Road, Pik Shui Sun Tsuen and west of Sai Kung town	68.4	(i)+(ii)
2012-13	6819TH	Traffic Improvements to Tuen Mun Road Town Centre Section	153.5	(i)+(ii)
2012-13	6076TI	Bus-bus interchanges on Tuen Mun Road	43.0	(i)+(iii)
2012-13	5045CG	District Cooling System at the Kai Tak Development	1,284.1	(i)+(iii)

Note 1:

(i): increase in provision for price adjustment to cover escalation in labour and material costs.

(ii): higher-than-expected tender returns.

(iii): increase in project contingency (and its associated provision for price adjustment) to account for unforeseen circumstances, such as worse-than-expected ground conditions and extra works to meet local concerns.

- (3) Among the 600 capital works projects approved in the past 10 LegCo sessions, 139 public works projects were completed beyond the completion dates previously marked in the PWSC submissions. In general, late project completions were caused by lengthened public consultations, delayed site possession, additional works, utilities obstructions, inclement weather, contractor delay, etc.

A summary on these projects is shown in the table below: -

Length of Project Delay	No. of Projects
less than 6 months	62
6 to 12 months	27
more than 12 months	50
Total:	139

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)043

(Question Serial No. 0558)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 10):

In 2013, the Works Branch collaborated with the Construction Industry Council and key stakeholders to monitor the manpower situation in the construction industry and to implement measures to meet the manpower demand for the implementation of upcoming infrastructure projects. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (1) the progress and outcome of the work last year, as well as the expenditure involved; and
- (2) the estimated number of additional construction workers needed to cope with the works in the next 4 years (i.e. from 2014-15 to 2017-18) with the imminent commencement of a number of major infrastructure projects, and the measures to be taken to encourage more people, particularly young people, to join the construction industry?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

- (1) To cope with construction manpower challenges, we have deployed a series of measures including obtaining a total of \$320 million from the Legislative Council in 2010 and 2012 to support the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to strengthen its role in training of local construction personnel and to enhance promotion and publicity activities to attract more people to join the industry, especially for young people.

CIC has implemented various training initiatives and conducted training courses to help address the manpower demand. Amongst them, to target trades with projected labour shortage, acute ageing or recruitment difficulties, we collaborate with CIC to launch the "Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS)" under the aforementioned \$320 million funding commitment to provide enhanced training allowances for training about 6 000 semi-skilled workers by end 2014. Up to January 2014, about 4 600 trainees have joined ECMTS and about 55% of them were aged below 35 (versus the average age of registered construction workers of about 46).

Most of the ECMTS graduates were new entrants. About 3 700 ECMTS trainees have graduated, in which about 1 600 trainees graduated in 2013.

CIC has implemented various initiatives including providing skill enhancement training courses and has provided subsidies under the aforementioned funding commitment for fees of such courses, specified training courses, advanced training course for senior construction workers and trade tests for in-service workers. According to the information provided by CIC, up to end January 2014, there were about 8 500 in-service workers who have applied for the above subsidies, in which about 3 700 in-service workers applied for the subsidies in 2013.

In addition to CIC's resources, the estimated expenditure for 2013-14 under the aforementioned funding commitment is \$62 million.

- (2) Having regard to the manpower forecast study recently conducted by CIC and taking account of the forecast construction output, the number of in-service registered workers, retirement of workers, local workers going to work outside Hong Kong, training (with its limitations) and better utilization of the potential workforce of the construction industry, we project that from now till 2017, the industry will need nearly 10 000 to more than 10 000 additional skilled workers.

In 2014-15, we will continue to collaborate with CIC to conduct the "Build Up Publicity Campaign" to uplift the image of the industry. Major initiatives include producing next series of TV drama on the industry ("Dreams Come True"), introducing the Build Up Ambassadors, displaying of selected trade and industry posters, outreaching to schools, arranging visits to the Construction Industry Resource Centre and organising roving exhibitions, etc. Further, to attract more new blood to the industry, we have endeavored to improve the working conditions in construction sites. Various initiatives will continue to be taken to enhance the caring and safety culture in the industry, including measures to improve site tidiness, provide additional welfare facilities on site, step up safety training for workers, and enhance promotion and publicity of site safety.

In the long term, we will continue to strive to meet the manpower demand by local training, re-training and attracting more new entrants to the industry. However, taking into account the limitations of training and other factors, we project that there would be labour shortage in the coming four years. With due regard to the principle of not affecting the employment and reasonable income levels of local construction workers, we need to make full use of the "Supplementary Labour Scheme (SLS)" to import skilled labour in a timely manner. This will not only help meet the manpower demand of the construction works, but also relieve the pressure on the local in-service skilled workers so that there is room for the semi-skilled workers to enhance their skills to achieve the productivity of skilled workers through in-service training. To meet the specific needs of the industry, we have made a proposal to the Labour Advisory Board (LAB) to better prepare for SLS applications related to public sector works with a target to completing the processing for the SLS applications within 6 months. LAB accepted the proposal at its meeting on 26 March 2014.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)044

(Question Serial No. 0559)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 11):

In 2014-15, the Works Branch will continue to monitor the progress of the various initiatives and enhance them where necessary for strengthening the training and trade testing, and uplifting the image of the construction industry to enhance local construction manpower. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the specific measures to be taken for the work, the estimated expenditure involved and the relevant timetable?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

We obtained a total of \$320 million from the Legislative Council in 2010 and 2012 to support the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to strengthen its role in training of local construction personnel and to enhance promotion and publicity activities to attract more people to join the industry, especially for young people.

To target trades with projected labour shortage, acute ageing or recruitment difficulties, we collaborate with CIC to launch the “Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme” under the aforementioned \$320 million funding commitment to provide enhanced training allowances for training about 6 000 semi-skilled workers by end 2014. In 2014, we will continue to work closely with CIC to ensure this target will be met.

CIC has been implementing various initiatives including providing skill enhancement training courses and will continue to provide subsidies under the aforementioned funding commitment for fees of such courses, specified training courses, advanced training course for senior construction workers and trade tests for in-service workers.

In 2014-15, we will continue to collaborate with CIC to conduct the “Build Up Publicity Campaign” to uplift the image of the industry. Major initiatives include producing next series of TV drama on the industry (“Dreams Come True”), introducing the Build Up Ambassadors, displaying of selected trade and industry posters, outreaching to schools, arranging visits to the Construction Industry Resource Centre and organising roving

exhibitions, etc. Further, to attract more new blood to the industry, we have endeavored to improve the working conditions in construction sites. Various initiatives will continue to be taken to enhance the caring and safety culture in the industry, including measures to improve site tidiness, provide additional welfare facilities on site, step up safety training for workers, and enhance promotion and publicity of site safety.

In addition to CIC's resources, our estimated expenditure for the above measures in 2014-15 under the aforementioned funding commitment is \$84 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)045

(Question Serial No.0560)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 12):

The Works Branch will continue to promote the construction and related professional services and to pursue further market access in the Mainland with focus on extending the existing scope of the professional services and effective implementation of pilot schemes for construction and related engineering professionals to register to practise and set up enterprises in the Guangdong Province. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the specific measures and the estimated expenditure involved? Has the Government worked out target timetables for the relevant work?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

Under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), the Works Branch works closely with the Mainland authorities to promote the construction and related professional services and to pursue further market access in the Mainland. Among the measures, we will strive to extend mutual recognition of professional qualifications to more professional disciplines including electrical engineering and building services engineering.

In addition, capitalising the opportunities of Qianhai development, we signed a cooperation agreement with the Qianhai Authority in September 2013 with a view to exploring more special liberalisation measures to enable Hong Kong professionals and enterprises to provide services directly there. We have already set up an expert task force with the Qianhai Authority. The task force is currently exploring the expansion of service scope of Hong Kong's construction consultants and recognition of their qualifications and experience for direct entry to Qianhai through trial works projects.

Three staff members of the Works Branch are tasked to mainly deal with the services promotion to Mainland including CEPA and the Qianhai cooperation agreement. The involved expenditure is estimated to be \$2.8 million in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)046

(Question Serial No.0573)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 24):

It is mentioned by the Financial Secretary in paragraph 105 of the 2014-15 Budget Speech that labour shortage in the construction sector would affect the delivery of infrastructure projects. Apart from encouraging young people to join the industry, admitting from abroad talent and workers not available in Hong Kong will also help maintain our competitiveness. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) Whether it has assessed the current labour shortage rates for various trades in the construction sector?
- (2) What specific measures will be taken by the Government to address the problem in 2014-15? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

- (1) According to the Construction Industry Council (CIC), there is a shortage of about 10 000 workers in the construction industry in early 2014.
- (2) We have deployed a series of measures including obtaining a total of \$320 million from the Legislative Council in 2010 and 2012 to support the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to strengthen its role in training of local construction personnel and to enhance promotion and publicity activities to attract more people to join the industry, especially for young people.

CIC has implemented various training initiatives and conducted training courses to help address manpower demand. Amongst them, to target trades with projected labour shortage, acute ageing or recruitment difficulties, we collaborate with CIC to launch the "Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme" under the aforementioned \$320 million funding commitment to provide enhanced training allowances for training about 6 000 semi-skilled workers by end 2014. In addition to CIC's resources,

the estimated expenditure for 2014-15 under the aforementioned funding commitment is \$84 million.

In the long term, we will continue to strive to meet the manpower demand by local training, re-training and attracting more new entrants to the industry. However, taking into account the limitations of training (e.g. lead time for semi-skilled workers to become skilled workers, etc.) and other factors, we project that there would be labour shortage in the coming four years. With due regard to the principle of not affecting the employment and reasonable income levels of local construction workers, we need to make full use of the “Supplementary Labour Scheme” to import skilled labour in a timely manner. This will not only help meet the manpower demand of the construction works, but also relieve the pressure on the local in-service skilled workers so that there is room for the semi-skilled workers to enhance their skills to achieve the productivity of skilled workers through in-service training.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)047

(Question Serial No. 0776)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 26):

As mentioned in paragraph 33 of the Budget Speech, the Government's financial commitment in capital works has reached a high of \$340 billion, which has yet to include our investments in mega projects, such as a new airport runway, new development areas, and reclamations. Will the Administration inform this Committee of:

1. the works projects covered by the total financial commitment of \$340 billion, the estimated expenditure on each works project, the construction manpower required and the expected completion date (set out in tabular form); and
2. the works projects included in the afore-mentioned mega projects, the estimated expenditure on each works project, the construction manpower required and the expected completion date (set out in tabular form)?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

1. By late March 2014, the Government's total commitments for capital projects are expected to be over \$340 billion, this is the total capital works expenditure of all Category A projects from 2014-15 and onwards. The Approved Project Estimates, the number of job opportunities, and the expected completion dates of the major Category A projects which constitute about 80 percent of the total commitments are listed below.

Sub-head (code)	Approved projects	Approved Project Estimate (\$M)	Job Opportunities (man-months)	Anticipated Completion (Note 1)
6061TR	Shatin to Central Link — construction of railway works — remaining works	65,433.3	475 100	Late 2020
6053TR	Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link — construction of railway works	55,017.5	377 800	Late 2015
6057TR	Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link — construction of non-railway works	11,800.0		Late 2015
6857TH	Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link — construction works	44,798.4	373 390	Late 2018
6579TH	Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link	36,038.9	425 500	Late 2017
6845TH	Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge — Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities - reclamation and superstructures	30,433.9	291 020	Late 2016
6844TH	Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge — Hong Kong Link Road	25,047.2	174 100	Late 2016
5019GB	Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and associated works-site formation and infrastructure works	16,253.2	141 461	Mid 2018
8076MM	Establishment of Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics	12,985.5	97 630	Mid 2017
4369DS	Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, stage 2A — construction of the sewage conveyance system and advance works for upgrading of Stonecutters Island sewage treatment works	9,286.5	83 000	Late 2014
4341DS	Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, stage 2A — upgrading of Stonecutters Island sewage treatment works and preliminary treatment works	7,913.4	59 600	Late 2014
6746TH	Reconstruction and improvement of Tuen Mun Road	6,804.3	86 165	Late 2014

Sub-head (code)	Approved projects	Approved Project Estimate (\$M)	Job Opportunities (man-months)	Anticipated Completion (Note 1)
9191WC	Replacement and rehabilitation of water mains, stage 4 phase 1	6,262.4	7 800	Late 2015
6063TR	Shatin to Central Link — construction of railway works — advance works	6,254.9	21 400	Late 2015
9334WF	Expansion of Tai Po water treatment works and ancillary raw water and fresh water transfer facilities — part 2 works	6,176.7	56 000	Mid 2017
6062TR	Shatin to Central Link — construction of non-railway works — remaining works	5,983.1	17 700	Late 2020
5233DS	Sludge treatment facilities	5,154.4	18 700	Late 2016
7677CL	Wan Chai Development phase 2 — engineering works	4,642.7	60 080	Mid 2017
9189WC	Replacement and rehabilitation of water mains, stage 4 phase 2	4,510.3	50 670	Late 2015
6843TH	Widening of Tolo Highway between Island House Interchange and Tai Hang	4,486.9	77 900	Late 2014
6720TH	Widening of Tolo Highway/Fanling Highway between Island House Interchange and Fanling — stage 2	4,320.0	56 190	Late 2018

Note 1: anticipated completion as indicated in PWSC submissions.

The content and cost breakdown details of all Category A projects with spending in 2014-15 are published in the Capital Works Reserve Fund section under Heads 702-707, 708(Capital Subventions), 709 and 711 of Volume II – Fund Account of the 2014-15 Estimates.

- As the mega projects mentioned (viz a new airport runway, new development areas and reclamations) are at preliminary stage and subject to further planning, engineering studies and consultation, their estimated costs, construction manpower required and completion dates will be determined at later stages.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)048

(Question Serial No. 1419)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 1):

How does the Administration step up promotional efforts to attract ethnic minorities to join the construction industry? What are the details of the plan and the budget? Will the Government strengthen the recruitment of ethnic minority workers in the construction industry at the district level? If yes, what are the details of the plan and the budget? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) has been implementing various initiatives to attract ethnic minorities to join the construction industry and enhance their skills. The initiatives include enhancing promotion of the industry through social groups of ethnic minorities, labour unions and related non-government organisations, placing advertisements in newspapers with ethnic minority readership and conducting Family Days for the ethnic minorities; conducting job fairs at various districts to provide job opportunities for the ethnic minorities; and arranging site visits to encourage ethnic minority workers to attend training courses organised by CIC, etc. CIC has also introduced the Build Up Ambassadors to promote the image of the industry through participating in publicity activities and sharing their personal stories. One of the ambassadors is an ethnic minority. According to CIC, the estimated expenditure for CIC for the above promotion activities in 2014-15 will be about \$360,000.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)049****(Question Serial No.1420)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 2):

What are the current numbers of construction workers in different trades of the industry? What are the average age and average retirement age of workers in each of these trades? What are the numbers of workers out of the total in the industry who are 20 to 30 years old, 30 to 40 years old, 40 to 50 years old and 50 to 60 years old? What measures will be taken by the Administration to encourage more young people to join the construction industry? What change is expected in the number of construction workers in the next 5 years?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

There are currently 99 trades for the construction industry categorized under the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance. According to the Construction Industry Council (CIC), there were about 322 000 registered construction workers as at end 2013 (versus about 225 000 registered workers in late 2007). The number of construction workers is increasing, and we hope that the increasing trend can be sustained in the coming five years. The numbers of registered skilled/semi-skilled workers in individual trades and general workers are available on CIC's website <http://cwr.hkcic.org/information/ctotal.asp>. The numbers and average ages for the ten trades with more registered skilled workers are as follows : -

Trades	Number of skilled/semi-skilled workers	Average age (approx.)
Electrical fitter	25 839	48
General welder	5 853	53
Painter and decorator	4 251	48
Plant and Equipment Operator (Excavator)	4 091	50
Lift mechanic	3 920	46
Bar bender and fixer	3 758	49

Trades	Number of skilled/semi-skilled workers	Average age (approx.)
Plumber	3 398	48
Leveller	3 344	42
Carpenter (Formwork - Building Construction)	3 118	53
Plasterer	2 375	53

At present, more than 10% of the registered construction workers are aged 60 or above. Albeit there is no specified retirement age for construction workers, most of them will probably retire in the coming 10 years.

The age distribution of construction workers is listed below :-

Age group	Number of registered construction workers (approx.)
20-29	42 000
30-39	58 000
40-49	80 000
50-59	101 000

To cope with the manpower challenges, we have deployed a series of measures including obtaining a total of \$320 million from the Legislative Council in 2010 and 2012 to support the CIC to strengthen its role in training of local construction personnel and to enhance promotion and publicity activities to attract more people to join the industry, especially for young people. The average age of the newly registered construction workers in 2013 was 38 (versus 46 for all registered construction workers in late 2013).

In 2014-15, we will continue to collaborate with CIC to conduct the “Build Up Publicity Campaign” to uplift the image of the industry. Major initiatives include producing the next series of TV drama on the industry (“Dreams Come True”), introducing the Build Up Ambassadors, displaying of selected trade and industry posters, outreaching to schools, arranging visits to the Construction Industry Resource Centre and organising roving exhibitions, etc. Further, to attract more new blood to the industry, we have endeavored to improve the working conditions in construction sites. Various initiatives will continue to be taken to enhance the caring and safety culture in the industry, including measures to improve site tidiness, provide additional welfare facilities on site, step up safety training for workers, and enhance promotion and publicity of site safety.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)050****(Question Serial No. 1443)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 29):

What is the area of Green Belt sites (outside country parks) on Hong Kong Island? What is its percentage out of the total area of Hong Kong Island? What measures will be taken by the Administration with regard to the greening of Hong Kong Island in future? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

As at early March 2014, the area of land zoned "Green Belt" ("GB") on statutory plans and outside Country Parks on Hong Kong Island is about 18 sq. km, accounting for about 22% of the total land area of Hong Kong Island. It should be noted that this figure only refers to the zoned area on statutory plans, and thus does not accurately reflect whether the land concerned is currently vegetated.

The Government strives to promote and increase greening opportunities in the territory to enhance the quality of our living environment. In the Urban Greening Master Plans completed in 2011, 7 240 trees and 1.4 million shrubs were planted on Hong Kong Island which significantly enhanced the aesthetic and environmental quality in various districts.

The Government will continue to incorporate greening opportunities through parks/public open spaces and roadside amenity areas planting programmes, promenade beautification works, greening works in various public works projects such as road/infrastructure projects, footbridges, roof and vertical greening in government buildings and the environment beautification works in District Minor Works programmes. Major public works projects with greening works on Hong Kong Island under planning/construction include Relocation of Former Central Government Offices; Preliminary Treatment Works at Wan Chai East, Central, North Point and Shau Kei Wan; Provision of Planters on Flyovers in Central District; and roof and vertical greening projects in government buildings.

There is no separate breakdown of expenditure for greening works as they are integral parts of the building and infrastructure projects.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)051

(Question Serial No. 1444)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 30):

What is the area of Green Belt sites (outside country parks) on Kowloon Peninsula? What is its percentage out of the total area of Kowloon Peninsula? What measures will be taken by the Administration with regard to the greening of Kowloon Peninsula in future? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

As at early March 2014, the area of land zoned "Green Belt" ("GB") on statutory plans and outside Country Parks in Kowloon is about 5 sq. km, accounting for about 11% of the total land area of Kowloon. It should be noted that this figure only refers to the zoned area on statutory plans, and thus does not accurately reflect whether the land concerned is currently vegetated.

The Government strives to promote and increase greening opportunities in the territory to enhance the quality of our living environment. In the Urban Greening Master Plans completed in 2011, 17 650 trees and 3.7 million shrubs were planted in Kowloon which significantly enhanced the aesthetic and environmental quality in various districts.

The Government will continue to incorporate greening opportunities through parks/public open spaces and roadside amenity areas planting programmes, promenade beautification works, greening works in various public works projects such as road/infrastructure projects, roof and vertical greening in government buildings and the environment beautification works in District Minor Works programmes. Major public works projects with greening works in Kowloon under planning/construction include Kai Tak Development – Stage 2 Infrastructure Works at North Apron Area of Kai Tai Airport, Kwun Tong (Stage 2) Promenade, Tai Kok Tsui Advance Promenade, Yuet Wah Street Pedestrian Linkage and Beautification and Greening Works for Yau Tsim Mong District.

There is no separate breakdown of expenditure for greening works as they are integral parts of the building and infrastructure projects.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)052

(Question Serial No. 1445)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 31):

What is the area of Green Belt sites (outside country parks) in the New Territories? What is its percentage out of the total area of the New Territories? What measures will be taken by the Administration with regard to the greening of the New Territories in future? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

As at early March 2014, the area of land zoned "Green Belt" ("GB") on statutory plans and outside Country Parks in the New Territories is about 129 sq. km, accounting for about 13% of the total land area of the New Territories. It should be noted this figure only refers to the zoned area on statutory plans, and thus does not accurately reflect whether the land concerned is currently vegetated.

The Government strives to promote and increase greening opportunities in the territory to enhance the quality of our living environment. In the New Territories (NT), the development of Greening Master Plans for Southeast and Northwest NT was completed in January 2014. Subject to funding approval, we plan to implement the priority greening works to meet the public aspiration in October 2014. The development of the Greening Master Plans for Northeast NT and Southwest NT would be completed in the latter part of 2014.

The Government will continue to incorporate greening opportunities through parks/public open spaces and roadside amenity areas planting programmes, promenade beautification works, greening works in various public works projects such as road/infrastructure projects, roof and vertical greening in government buildings and the environment beautification works in District Minor Works programmes and Rural Public Works programmes. Major public works projects with greening works in the New Territories under planning/construction include District Open Space, Sports Centre and Library in Area 74 Tseung Kwan O; Open Space in Area 117 Tin Shui Wai; Reconstruction and Improvement

of Tuen Mun Road (Eastern and Sam Shing Hui Section).

There is no separate breakdown of expenditure for greening works as they are integral parts of the building and infrastructure projects.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)053****(Question Serial No. 1181)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 16):

The Development Bureau (DEVB) advocates the concept of “walkability” to improve pedestrian environment in Kowloon East and connectivity with its neighbouring areas. What are the specific measures, expenditure and manpower involved, as well as the implementation timetable? To implement the concept of “walkability”, will the DEVB tend to develop an at-grade road linkage network or a footbridge network above ground? What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

To advocate the concept on “walkability” in Kowloon East, the Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO) has worked closely with the Transport Department (TD) and the Highways Department (HyD). We have already completed 21 local traffic improvement works, converted 26 existing directional signs from “Kwun Tong Industrial Area” to “Kwun Tong Business Area”, provided 37 traffic/directional signs to enhance the connection between MTR stations and the waterfront, and reviewed 41 existing road junctions with improvement works done in Kowloon East. The expenditure for these improvement works was absorbed by TD and HyD.

A feasibility study to formulate short, medium and long-term improvement proposals required for the pedestrian and traffic environment at Kowloon Bay Business Area was commissioned in February 2013 for completion in late 2014. For the short to medium term, we have proposed various at-grade improvement schemes for three key areas and 17 individual locations. We are liaising with the relevant departments to take forward these proposals in 2014 progressively. We will also formulate other medium to long-term measures such as grade-separated pedestrian links, including footbridges, to meet the future increasing pedestrian demand. The study will cost about \$7 million and is administered by in-house resources of the EKEO.

To enhance the walkability and connectivity in the Kwun Tong Business Area, we will commission another pedestrian and traffic study in mid-2014 for completion in 2016. The study is estimated to cost about \$11 million and will be funded under Capital Works Reserve Fund. It will be administered by in-house resources of the EKEO

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)054

(Question Serial No.1182)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 17):

What is the latest progress of the strategic review carried out by the Development Bureau in 2013 on the existing procurement system for public works projects? When will the review be completed and the results announced? Are there any preliminary findings and recommendations for enhancing competition in tendering in the course of the review? If yes, what are the details and the measures to address the situation?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

The review of procurement system for public works projects is an on-going process to update the existing procedures to tie in with the changing market conditions. In 2013, based on consultations with stakeholders in the construction industry, we have updated the rules for admission and management of the List of Approved Contractors for Public Works. For example, we have raised the tender limits for the various groups of listed contractors which would help enhance the tendering opportunity for medium to small sized contractors. Under the revised rules, we now accept the relevant experience in both government and selected non-government works contracts executed in Hong Kong for those probationary contractors seeking a confirmed status on the List. We now also assess the capability of probationary contractors seeking confirmation based on their relevant experience without prescribing a 24-month minimum probationary period. We have already incorporated all these changes into the Contractor Management Handbook which is accessible by the public on the website of the Development Bureau.

Based on our review, we have also identified measures to enhance and promote site safety, construction productivity, innovation and creativity. To implement these measures, we are now updating the relevant procedures including the guidelines on evaluation of tenders and performance management for public works contracts and consultancies. The revised procedures will be promulgated very shortly.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)055

(Question Serial No.1184)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 19):

Regarding the promotion of professional services, please provide the following information:

1. To set out by profession: how many Hong Kong professionals have obtained professional qualifications in the Mainland through the mutual recognition of professional qualification so far? How many of them have applied for setting up business in the Mainland and which Mainland cities are involved? What are the estimated numbers of professionals who will obtain professional qualifications in the Mainland through the mutual recognition arrangement and those who will apply for setting up business in the Mainland in 2014-15 respectively?
2. Has the Bureau set new targets for further extending the scope of mutual recognition and providing assistance to them to set up business in the Mainland in 2014-15? If yes, what professions will be involved? What is the number of Hong Kong professionals expected to be benefited? How will the targets be achieved and what is the implementation timetable?
3. To set out by profession: how many Hong Kong professionals have obtained the qualifications to register and practise in Guangdong Province under the pilot schemes implemented there so far? How many of them have applied for setting up business in Guangdong Province? Will the pilot schemes be extended to cover other professions in 2014-15? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

1. 1 490 Hong Kong professionals, including 412 Architects, 249 Structural Engineers, 66 Planners, 196 Estate Surveyors, 339 Quantity Surveyors and 228 Building Surveyors, have obtained relevant professional qualifications in the Mainland through the mutual recognition (MR) of professional qualification. They are potentially eligible to register for practice in the Mainland, albeit with Architects and Structural Engineers required to pass a legal test first. Amongst them, 331 Architects and Structural Engineers have passed the required legal test and inclusive of them, 559 are now eligible to set up enterprises in Guangdong under the Guangdong pilot scheme. We will continue to strive to extend the MR of professional qualifications to more

professional disciplines. The number of professionals who will seek to obtain Mainland professional qualifications through MR and set up their business in the Mainland is heavily dependent on the market and the own interest of the individual professionals. We have no estimates of those figures for 2014-15.

2. The Development Bureau will continue to work closely with the Mainland authorities to promote the construction and related professional services and to pursue further market access in the Mainland. In 2014-15, we will particularly strive to extend MR of professional qualifications to electrical engineering and building services engineering. It is estimated that up to 600 Hong Kong professionals could potentially benefit from the MR if the extension is successfully implemented.
3. From 1 May 2012, the Guangdong pilot scheme allows progressively Hong Kong professionals who have acquired the relevant Mainland professional qualifications through MR to register for practice as well as set up enterprises in Guangdong. So far, 249 Hong Kong Architects, 82 Structural Engineers and 228 Building Surveyors are already qualified to register for practice and set up enterprises under the Guangdong pilot scheme. Amongst them, 16 have already registered for practice and another 12 are applying for registration for practice. Another 9 Architects and 2 Structural Engineers are applying for setting up design enterprises. Up till now, one of the applications has been approved. In 2014-15, we will endeavour to seek extension of the pilot scheme to cover more professions where possible.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)056

(Question Serial No. 1185)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 20):

In April 2013, the Secretary for Development said that the Development Bureau had invited the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) to take part in the policy review on the conservation of privately owned historic buildings, and hoped that the AAB would have prepared the consultation paper by the end of last year. What is the latest progress of the review? When will the review be completed and the results announced? Has the Administration earmarked provision for the follow-up work on the results in 2014-15? If yes, what are the amount of provision and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

The Development Bureau (DEVB) has invited the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) to assist in the review of the policy on the conservation of built heritage. During the past year, the AAB has been studying various heritage conservation issues, in particular issues related to the conservation of privately-owned historic buildings. As the first leg of the public engagement exercise, the AAB has just launched a series of public educational activities on the existing heritage conservation policy. The AAB will then collect public views on the specific issues under the review and prepare a report to the Government. DEVB will consider the way forward after receiving AAB's report. As the amount of resources required for the follow-up work can only be determined after the AAB has submitted the report to the Government, no funding has been earmarked for the follow-up work on the results of the review in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)057

(Question Serial No. 1535)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 15):

In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15, the Administration indicates that the Energizing Kowloon East Office will “co-ordinate Government’s efforts and resources for improvement of the environment, including a number of initiatives”. Please set out the progress of these initiatives, including (a) the progress of the studies; (b) the implementation dates of the proposed plans; (c) the completion dates of the plans; (d) the expenditures involved; and (e) the government departments involved.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

In 2014-15, the Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO) will co-ordinate the efforts and resources of the Government and continue to work closely with other departments including the Architectural Services Department, the Civil Engineering and Development Department, the Drainage Services Department, the Highways Department, the Lands Department, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Transport Department to take forward various projects to improve the environment of Kowloon East:

(i) Face-lifting of waterfront along Hoi Bun Road

The enhancement works to the drainage facilities blocking the pedestrian way and views along Hoi Bun Road were completed in end 2013. We subsequently commenced the improvement of Hoi Bun Road sitting out area for completion in 2014. The improvement works are estimated to cost about \$8 million.

(ii) Conversion of unused vacant government sites underneath Kwun Tong Bypass

We have identified three sites located along Hoi Bun Road underneath the Kwun Tong Bypass for creativity, arts and cultural use. One of the sites has already been transformed into a multi-purpose performance and exhibition venue and opened for public use since January 2013. The other two sites are vacant government land. The EKEO intends to engage a non-profit-making organisation in 2014-15 to manage and operate these three sites. The design and construction cost is estimated at approximately \$20 million.

(iii) Face-lifting of Tsun Yip Street Playground

The face-lifting works will be implemented in two phases. The phase 1 works covering the removal of railings and renovation of the sitting out area have commenced in January 2013 and are scheduled for completion in mid-2014. The phase 2 works for converting the remaining Tsun Yip Street Playground to an industrial heritage park is targeted for commencement in 2015. The whole project will be completed in about 2017. We will work out the project cost upon completion of the detailed design.

(iv) Transformation of King Yip Street nullah to Tsui Ping River

We are working with the departments to assess the technical feasibility on converting the existing King Yip Street nullah to a green and vibrant Tsui Ping River.

Apart from the above projects, we have commenced the face-lifting of Kwun Tong public pier in November 2013 for completion in late 2014 with project estimate of about \$ 0.9 million. We have also commissioned the pre-construction works for other face-lifting projects including Tsun Yip Street Cooked Food Centre and Lai Yip Street Refuse Collection Point and the formulation of the green spine in Kowloon Bay Business Area. We will continue to identify suitable locations in Kowloon East for more greening with trees and shrubs.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)058

(Question Serial No.1536)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 16):

Regarding the efforts “to improve pedestrian environment in Kowloon East and connectivity with its neighbouring areas”, the Energizing Kowloon East Office has finished the Stage 2 Public Engagement for Kowloon Bay Business Area Pedestrian Environment Improvement Feasibility Study. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) The earliest date for implementing the recommendations for improving the Kowloon Bay Business Area pedestrian environment, as well as the details of the projects to be carried out?
- (2) When will the feasibility study on improving the pedestrian environment of Kwun Tong District be expected to commence?
- (3) Apart from the pedestrian environment, will there be any studies on the overall traffic environment of Kwun Tong District to review the overall transport planning of Kowloon East?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

1. The feasibility study for Kowloon Bay Business Area (KBBA) pedestrian environment improvement proposes various at-grade improvement schemes for three key areas and 17 individual locations as short to medium term measures during the Stage 2 public engagement held in late 2013. We are liaising with the relevant departments to take forward these proposals in 2014 progressively. We are formulating other medium to long-term measures such as grade-separated pedestrian links, including footbridges, to meet the future increasing pedestrian demand. These measures will be introduced in the Stage 3 public engagement scheduled for the second quarter of 2014. We will then formulate an implementation plan with the relevant departments and carry out detailed assessment and design on these medium

to long-term measures as necessary.

2. The study to improve the pedestrian environment in the Kwun Tong Business Area (KTBA) will be commissioned in mid-2014.
3. Both the KBBA and KTBA studies have taken into account the overall traffic condition in Kwun Tong District and will formulate short, medium and long-term improvement proposals required for both the pedestrian environment and traffic conditions.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)059****(Question Serial No. 3113)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 27):

Regarding the conservation of existing declared monuments and the Government's plan for conservation, will the Government inform this Committee:

1. What were the number of inspections of the existing declared monuments taken by the Government on its own initiative, the number of declared monuments in need of repair and the expenditure involved in the past 3 years? What are the estimated expenditures on the inspection and repair of declared monuments in the coming year?
2. What were the number of visitors and revenue of all declared monuments in the past 3 years? What are the estimated number of visitors and revenue in the coming year?
3. The Government organised "Heritage Fiesta 2013" from September to October in 2013. Will the Government continue to allocate resources to organise similar activities in this financial year to promote heritage tours in Hong Kong? If yes, what are the estimated expenditure and the estimated number of visitors? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. YIU Si-wing

Reply:

1. The table below sets out the number of inspections of the existing declared monuments taken by the Government on its own initiative, the number of declared monuments in need of repair and the expenditure involved in the past 3 years –

Financial Year	No. of inspections of the existing declared monuments taken by the Government on its own initiatives	No. of declared monuments in need of repair	Expenditure incurred
2011-12	577	43	\$14,997,000
2012-13	817	40	\$11,029,000
2013-14 (as at end	824	44	\$17,675,000

February 2014)			
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The estimated expenditures on the inspection and repair of declared monuments in FY2014-15 are \$1.98 million and \$11.7 million respectively.

2. The table below sets out the number of visitors and revenue received from opening declared monuments for public visit^{Note 1} in the past three years –

Financial Year	No. of visitors to declared monuments	Revenue received from opening declared monuments ^{Note 1} for public visit
2011-12	578 832	\$0 ^{Note 2}
2012-13	570 561	\$0 ^{Note 2}
2013-14 (as at end February 2014)	462 065	\$0 ^{Note 2}

Note 1: Only figures related to declared monuments under the management of the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) are available.

Note 2: No revenue is received because of free admission to declared monuments under the management of the AMO.

The estimated number of visitors in FY2014-15 is 570 000. No revenue is expected in FY2014-15 because of the reason stated in Note 2 above.

3. The Commissioner for Heritage's Office of the Development Bureau will continue to organise "Heritage Fiesta" in 2014 to promote selected historic buildings and monuments in Hong Kong. The event is expected to attract around 50 000 visitors with an estimated expenditure of \$1 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)060

(Question Serial No. 1852)

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708 (Capital Subventions), 709 and 711

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 33):

Please set out in terms of “man-years” the number of job opportunities for professional/technical staff and labourers provided in 2012-13 and 2013-14, as well as the estimated number for 2014-15 respectively under the Public Works Programme (Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708 (Capital Subventions), 709 and 711).

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

In 2012-13, the projects under Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708 (Capital Subventions), 709 and 711 of the Capital Works Programme were estimated to have provided a total of 66 700 man-years (comprising 6 900 for professional/technical staff and 59 800 for labourers) of job opportunities.

In 2013-14 and 2014-15, job opportunities provided by the projects under these Heads of the Capital Works Programme are estimated to increase to 74 600 man-years (comprising 8 600 for professional/technical staff and 66 000 for labourers) and 76 000 man-years (comprising 10 300 for professional/technical staff and 65 700 for labourers) respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)061

(Question Serial No. 0404)

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 709 and 711

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 4):

Regarding the latest estimates by the Administration about approved projects under Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 709 and 711, please inform this Committee about:

- (a) the projects in which the project commencement and completion dates were deferred due to (i) more time was required for tendering; (ii) more time was required for tendering assessment; (iii) extension of tendering periods as requested by tenderers; and (iv) re-tendering;
- (b) what are the latest estimated completion dates of these projects;
- (c) the additional expenditure to be incurred for each of these projects due to deferral; and
- (d) what measures will be implemented to expedite these projects?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

- (a) For those approved projects listed in the 2014-15 Draft Estimates under Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 709 and 711, there are 16 projects in which the project commencement and completion dates were deferred as compared with the scheduled commencement and completion dates stated in the respective Finance Committee (FC) papers due to (i) more time required for tendering; (ii) more time required for tender assessment; (iii) extension of tendering periods as requested by tenderers; and (iv) re-tendering.
- (b) Amongst these projects, 8 are still on-going and their latest estimated completion dates are as follows :

Sub-head (Code)	Approved Projects	Latest estimated completion dates
B437RO	District Open Space adjoining Lower Ngan Tau Kok public housing redevelopment	2 nd quarter of 2015
4104CD	Drainage improvement in Northern Hong Kong Island - western lower catchment works	1 st quarter of 2014
4365DS	Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas, stage 1 phase 2C	4 th quarter of 2014
4368DS	Yuen Long South sewerage and expansion of Ha Tsuen sewage pumping station	2 nd quarter of 2015
4378DS	North District sewerage, stage 2 part 2A - Pak Hok Lam trunk sewer and Sha Tau Kok village sewerage	3 rd quarter of 2016
7448RO	Improvement works at Mui Wo, phase 1	3 rd quarter of 2016
7271RS	Cycle tracks connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories - Sheung Shui to Ma On Shan section	1 st quarter of 2014
9043WS	Upgrading of Wan Chai salt water supply system	1 st quarter of 2016

The other 8 projects have already been completed.

- (c) No additional expenditure has been incurred for these projects as a result of deferral.
- (d) Relevant departments will continue to closely monitor the works progress including the contractors' and consultants' performance, review of design and construction method, and deployment of additional resources if appropriate, with a view to ensuring completion of the works as early as possible.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)062

(Question Serial No. 0405)

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 709 and 711

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 11):

There is an increasing concern over the huge cost overruns of public works projects under Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 709 and 711. In this connection, will the Administration provide a breakdown of the public works projects with cost overruns in each of the past 5 years, inclusive of the changes in labour cost of construction workers and changes in the tender prices for the works projects during the period?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

For the approved projects under Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 709 and 711, out of the 235 submissions, a total of 25 submissions (comprising 52 public works projects) were approved by the Finance Committee for increasing the Approved Project Estimates (APE) in the past five LegCo sessions. In general, the main reasons for the increase in APE include:

- (i) Increase in provision for price adjustment to cover escalation in labour and material costs;
- (ii) Higher-than-expected tender returns; and
- (iii) Increase in project contingency (and its associated provision for price adjustment) to account for unforeseen circumstances, such as worse-than-expected ground conditions and extra works to meet local concerns.

Details are shown in the table below: -

LegCo Session	Sub-Head	Approved Projects	Increase in APE (\$ million) (Note 1)	Reasons for increase in APE (Note 2)
2008-09	-	Increase in Approved Project Estimates for 25 Category A projects under construction	1,795.9	(i)
2008-09	-	Increase in Approved Project Estimates for ten Category A projects	348.8	(i)+(ii)
2008-09	7343CL	Central reclamation phase III – engineering works	2,200.0	(i)+(iii)
2008-09	6746TH	Reconstruction and Improvement of Tuen Mun Road	2,183.8	(i)+(ii)+(iii)
2008-09	3419RO	Aldrich Bay Park	19.6	(i)+(ii)+(iii)
2008-09	7070CD	Yuen Long bypass floodway	40.8	(i)+(iii)
2008-09	3265ES	Extension of Lai Chack Middle School at Scout Path, Kowloon	19.3	(i)+(ii)
2009-10	3063KA	Tamar Development Project	359.8	(i)+(iii)
2009-10	3261ES	Secondary school at Aberdeen Reservoir Road, Aberdeen	27.3	(i)+(ii)+(iii)
2009-10	4359DS	North District sewerage, stage 1 phase 2B	55.0	(i)+(ii)+(iii)
2009-10	4234DS	Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 1 phase 2 – Sok Kwu Wan sewage collection, treatment and disposal facilities	97.3	(i)+(ii)+(iii)
2009-10	4230DS	Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 1 phase 1 part 2 – Yung Shue Wan sewerage, sewage treatment works and outfall	59.2	(i)+(ii)+(iii)
2009-10	9076WC	Improvement to Hong Kong Central mid-level and high level areas water supply – remaining works	100.5	(i)+(iii)

2009-10	4329DS	Upgrading of Pillar Point sewage treatment works	559.6	(i)+(iii)
2010-11	B645TH	Sai Sha Road widening between Kam Ying Road and future Trunk Road T7 junction	8.9	(i)+(iii)
2010-11	5045CG	District Cooling System at the Kai Tak Development	190.8	(i)+(iii)
2011-12	4103CD	Drainage improvement in Northern Hong Kong Island –Hong Kong West drainage tunnel	336.6	(i)
2011-12	4111CD	Drainage improvement in Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi – Tsuen Wan drainage tunnel	226.5	(i)
2011-12	4148CD	Drainage improvement works in Ping Kong, Kau Lung Hang, Yuen Leng, Nam Wa Po and Tai Hang areas	97.9	(i)+(iii)
2011-12	4152CD	Drainage improvement works in upper Lam Tsuen River, She Shan River, upper Tai Po River, Ping Long and Kwun Hang	141.9	(i)+(iii)
2011-12	6844TH	Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge—Hong Kong Link Road	8,857.3	(i)+(ii)+(iii)
2012-13	4382DS	Sewerage at Clear Water Bay Road, Pik Shui Sun Tsuen and west of Sai Kung town	68.4	(i)+(ii)
2012-13	6819TH	Traffic Improvements to Tuen Mun Road Town Centre Section	153.5	(i)+(ii)
2012-13	6076TI	Bus-bus interchanges on Tuen Mun Road	43.0	(i)+(iii)
2012-13	5045CG	District Cooling System at the Kai Tak Development	1,284.1	(i)+(iii)

Note 1: Increases in APE for approved projects under Head 708 are excluded.

Note 2:

(i): Increase in provision for price adjustment to cover escalation in labour and material costs.

(ii): Higher-than-expected tender returns.

(iii): Increase in project contingency (and its associated provision for price adjustment) to account for unforeseen circumstances, such as worse-than-expected ground conditions and extra works to meet local concerns.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)063****(Question Serial No. 0406)**

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 709 and 711

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 25):

Among the contractors engaged in the public works projects under Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 709 and 711, please inform this Committee about the proportion of which were local, mainland and overseas companies, respectively.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

Based on the contract value of public works contracts under the Capital Works Reserve Fund Heads 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 709 and 711, the market share of contractors, which are incorporated in Hong Kong, Mainland and overseas, is roughly as follows:

Place of incorporation	Proportion by contract value
Hong Kong	80%
Mainland	13%
Overseas	7%

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)064

(Question Serial No. 0380)

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department

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

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (K K LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 4):

- 1) In 2013-14, what was the expenditure incurred by the Architectural Services Department ("ArchSD") on outsourced service contracts, including that for consultancy service? What was the total number of workers engaged in outsourced services? What were the types of contracts involved?
- 2) In 2014-15, what is the expenditure to be incurred by the ArchSD on outsourced service contracts, including that for consultancy work? What is the total number of outsourced workers to be involved? What are the types of contracts to be involved? What is the increase/decrease in percentage over the previous year?
- 3) What is the establishment of the staff overseeing the execution of such service contracts?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

- 1) The ArchSD uses a wide range of outsourced services, such as office cleansing and security, customer services, property management services, information technology and consultancy services. The expenditure incurred in 2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013) was \$35.67 million. The number of workers engaged in 2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013) (other than consultancy services) was 58.
- 2) It is expected that the level of outsourced services in 2014-15 will not differ significantly from that in 2013-14.
- 3) A number of officers of different grades including professional, executive and clerical are involved in overseeing the execution of outsourced services, which forms part of their overall duties. The manpower spent on these duties can be absorbed within the current establishment.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)065

(Question Serial No. 0381)

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (K K LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 5):

Regarding the advice to the Government on matters related to green building design, what is the establishment concerned? What is the amount of expenditure for this year?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

Architectural Services Department is very supportive of green building design and our staff are providing technical advisory services on this subject as part of their normal duties. The manpower and expenditure involved are absorbed within the existing resource of ArchSD.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)066

(Question Serial No. 0383)

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (K K LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 7):

What is the expenditure on promoting roof greening and vertical greening as well as enhancing practices on greening in government building works?

How many staff members are assigned to such work? Please list the annual maintenance fee for each project and its percentage in the annual management and maintenance expenditure for the building(s) concerned.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

In 2014-15, ArchSD will complete 20 roof greening projects on government buildings, at an estimated expenditure of \$22.2 million. ArchSD will also complete nine vertical greening projects on government buildings, at an estimated expenditure of \$9.0 million.

Existing staff are deployed to manage construction projects and to provide technical advisory services including those on roof greening and vertical greening and there is no separate breakdown of manpower involved.

Upon completion of the roof greening and vertical greening on government buildings, management departments of the buildings concerned will take over the management and carry out horticulture maintenance. ArchSD does not have information on the annual expenditure involved in the maintenance of the completed roof greening and vertical greening.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)067

(Question Serial No. 1350)

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): Not specified
Programme: (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (K K LEUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 33):

Regarding the Considerate Contractors Site Award Scheme, please advise on the following –

- (1) What are the resources and expenditure involved in 2013-14? What are the estimated manpower and expenditure for 2014-15?
- (2) How many sites have participated in the Scheme since 2012? How many of them have been awarded? Please set out the details by Public Works and non-Public Works sites;
- (3) What are the ways and measures to encourage more contractors to participate in the Scheme? Please set out the details and the estimated expenditure involved; and
- (4) Apart from the Scheme, are there any other schemes in place to promote the environmental awareness and performance of contractors?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

- (1) The Considerate Contractors Site Award Scheme (CCSAS) is co-organised by the Development Bureau (DEVB) and Construction Industry Council, with assistance by participating works departments on rotational basis. In 2014-15, the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) will assist in organizing the 2014 CCSAS. As ArchSD provides its input out of their existing in-house resources, there is no separate breakdown of manpower and expenditure involved.

- (2) The number of sites participating in the CCSAS and the number of winning awards in 2012 and 2013 set out by public works and non-public works sites are -

Year	Public Works		Non-Public Works	
	Participation	Award	Participation	Award
2012	141	25	99	21
2013	166	Assessment in progress for award to be given in May 2014	121	Assessment in progress for award to be given in May 2014

- (3) DEVB encourages all contractors to participate in CCSAS through the works departments for public works sites and the contractors' associations for non-public works sites. In 2014, DEVB has launched a Pay for Safety Performance Merit Scheme for public works contracts. As an incentive for contractors participating in CCSAS, those contractors with good achievements in CCSAS will be recognized as one of the criteria under the Merit Scheme for a token payment. So far, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved for encouraging contractors to participate in CCSAS.
- (4) Apart from CCSAS, some works departments operate their own schemes to promote contractors' performance and industry awareness. For example, ArchSD promotes the environmental awareness of contractors through its Annual Green Contractor Award Scheme.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)068

(Question Serial No. 2807)

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department
Subhead (No. & title) : Not Specified
Programme: (3) Facilities Development
Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (K K LEUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 45):

It is mentioned in “Matters Requiring Special Attention” under Programme 3 of Head 25 that in 2014-15, the Architectural Services Department will promote roof greening and vertical greening, and enhance practices on greening, landscaping and tree management in government building works. Please advise on the details of the greening practices, including the projects in which the practices will first be carried out, the expenditure involved and completion dates.

Asked by: Hon. POON Siu-ping

Reply:

It is the established practice of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) to include roof greening and vertical greening in its projects. As government’s technical adviser, ArchSD will promote best practices to government departments and quasi-government organisations of subvention projects. ArchSD will also liaise closely with related professional institutes and organisations to enhance partnership and collaboration in promoting greening, landscaping and tree management in the industry.

In the coming years, ArchSD will continue to maximize greenery coverage, including roof greening and vertical greening, in building projects. In 2014-15, ArchSD will complete 20 roof greening projects at an estimated total expenditure of \$22.2 million, as well as nine vertical greening projects at an estimated total expenditure of \$9.0 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)069

(Question Serial No. 0730)

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services,
(2) Facilities Upkeep, (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (K K LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 5):

It is mentioned under all the above three programmes that during 2014-15, the Architectural Services Department ("ArchSD") will enhance existing and develop new information systems for improved efficiency and transparency. In this connection, please advise -

- (1) the financial provision and manpower required by the department in this respect and the new information systems involved, including the respective names, costs, manpower requirements and implementation timetables of each system.
- (2) the number of departmental staff involved in the above work and the information systems involved during 2013-14, including the respective names, costs, manpower requirements, the latest progress and implementation timetables of each system.
- (3) whether the department will deploy more staff to cope with the above work during 2014-15? If yes, what will be the number, posts and terms of appointment of the additional staff? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

- (1) In 2014-15, the ArchSD will implement a project on a new information system involving the migration of the Automated Communication, Technical Information and Operations Network (ACTION) System from Mainframe to Midrange platform as recommended by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer to keep in step with the latest technology trend at an estimated cost of \$15.3 million. The project will be completed in April 2015 by outsourced contractors.

The ArchSD will also enhance its existing information systems, including replacement of legacy PCs, servers, backup systems and expansion of the Complaints and Enquiries Handling System at a total estimated cost of \$9.4 million. The enhancement works will be completed in September 2015 by outsourced contractors.

- (2) In 2013-14, the ArchSD completed the implementation of the following projects for new information systems and enhancement of existing information systems -
- (a) New electronic form system;
 - (b) New Room Data Sheet Information System;
 - (c) New secure folder system;
 - (d) Enhancement of the ACTION System to meet operational needs;
 - (e) Enhancement of the desktop application of the Repair Call Centre; and
 - (f) Enhancement of Staff Resources Planning System.

The total cost of the above projects is \$15 million and they are now in operation. These projects were carried out by outsourced contractors under monitoring by staff of ArchSD as part of their normal duty and the manpower involved are absorbed within the existing resources of ArchSD

- (3) As the development of the new information systems and the enhancement of existing information systems in 2014-15 will be carried out by outsourced contractors, there is no extra resources incurred by ArchSD to handle the above projects.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)070

(Question Serial No. 1171)

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (K K LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 6):

Regarding the key performance measures in respect of facilities development, the number of projects targeted for completion in 2014 is only 35, which is 5 projects fewer than the actual figure in the year before. In addition, the Department has made it its target to have all the projects completed within approved project estimates. In this connection, please answer the following questions:

- (1) Why does the Department estimate that only 35 projects will be completed in 2014? Is it affected by constraints in manpower and other resources? If yes, please provide the details.
- (2) At present, how many staff members are responsible for facilities development? What are their positions and terms of appointment? Has assessment been made on whether the current manpower is sufficient? If yes, what are the results?
- (3) Will the Department increase its manpower in 2014? If yes, please provide details on the number of staff members and expenditure involved, as well as their positions and terms of appointment. If no, what are the reasons? Is the Department's target to have all the projects completed within approved project estimates a factor to be considered?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

- (1) The number of projects completed each year is dependent on a number of factors, including the number of projects which have commenced works the years before, the scale of individual projects and the actual time required for completion. The actual number of projects completed in each year should be considered independently.
- (2) At present, 824 civil servants and eight non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff in the Architectural Services Department are responsible for facilities development, i.e. providing professional and project management services for the design and construction of all new Government buildings and related facilities. The breakdown is as follows -

Grade	No. of Post (NCSC post #)
Professional	283 (5)
Technical	208
Site Supervisory	205
General and Common	136 (3)
Total :	832 (8)

The number in brackets refers to the number of NCSC staff which is included in the total number of post above.

The Department conducts review on staffing resources from time to time. We would arrange internal re-deployment of resources as and when needed for the development of individual projects.

- (3) Five additional posts will be created under facilities development in 2014-15 and the breakdown is as follows -

Rank	No. of Civil Service Post
Senior Architect	2
Architect/Assistant Architect	1
Senior Building Services Engineer	1
Building Services Engineer/ Assistant Building Services Engineer	1
Total :	5

The annual staff cost for the five posts is around \$4.7 million in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value. The Department targets to complete all projects within the approved project estimates.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)071

(Question Serial No. 2714)

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department
Subhead (No. & title) : Not Specified
Programme: (3) Facilities Development
Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (K K LEUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development
Question (Member Question No. 46):

With regard to the promotion of greening,

- (1) What specific measures will be rolled out by the Department in 2014-15 to promote roof greening and vertical greening? What are the expenditure and manpower arrangements involved in those measures? Compared with 2013-14, what are the changes in funding and manpower arrangement for the work?
- (2) Concerning the enhancement of practices on greening, landscaping and tree management in government building works, how much funding will be allocated and what manpower arrangements will be made in 2014-15? What specific measures and projects will be involved? Compared with 2013-14, will the funding and manpower for the work be increased? If yes, what are the increases in the cost, manpower and posts involved?
- (3) Has the Department set any specific targets for the two tasks mentioned above? If yes, what are the targets for 2013-14 and 2014-15, and how does the Department assess its work and service performance in 2013-14, and whether the resources allocated are sufficient? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

- (1) It is the established practice of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) to include roof greening and vertical greening in its projects. As government's technical adviser, ArchSD will promote best practices to government departments and quasi-government organisations of subvention projects. ArchSD will also liaise closely with related professional institutes and organisations to enhance partnership and collaboration in promoting greening in the industry. ArchSD completed 24 roof greening projects on government buildings in 2013-14 at an expenditure of \$36.1 million, and ten vertical greening projects on government buildings at an expenditure of \$3.0 million. In 2014-15, ArchSD will complete 20 roof greening projects on government buildings at an estimated expenditure of \$22.2 million, as well as nine vertical greening projects on government buildings at an estimated expenditure of \$9.0 million.

ArchSD does not have staff specifically deployed for roof greening and vertical greening works. Existing staff are deployed to manage construction projects and to provide technical advisory services. There is no separate breakdown of the manpower involved.

- (2) On the enhancement of practices on greening, landscaping and tree management, & ArchSD works in accordance with the policy and guiding requirements from the
- (3) Development Bureau and will continue to do so in 2014-15. On greening and landscaping, ArchSD has been maximizing greenery coverage, including roof greening and vertical greening, in building projects. On tree management, ArchSD has been carrying out tree risk assessment for the trees under its maintenance jurisdiction and those within the construction sites of its new works projects.

Funding allocation for greening, landscaping and tree management forms part of the funding proposals of the relevant construction projects and slope maintenance projects. There is no separate breakdown on the funding allocation for the works concerned. Likewise, existing staff are deployed to manage construction projects and to provide technical advisory services including those on greening, landscaping and tree management and the manpower involved is absorbed within the existing resources of ArchSD.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)072

(Question Serial No. 0267)

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 24):

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15 in this Programme, the Administration has indicated that it will complete public consultation on the Environmentally Friendly Linkage System for Kowloon East to facilitate commencement of the detailed feasibility study. Will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) What is the estimated expenditure involved in 2014-2015 for the above matter?
- (2) What is the staff establishment and the estimated full-year personal emoluments in 2014-2015 for the above matter?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

- (1) The 3-month period for the Stage 2 public consultation exercise on the Environmentally Friendly Linkage System (EFLS) ended on 4 February 2014. We aim to finalise in April 2014 the collation of comments received. Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee, the proposed detailed feasibility study (DFS) of EFLS is planned for commencement in early 2015. No expenditure in 2014-15 on the DFS is anticipated at this stage.
- (2) In 2014-15, a project team comprising mainly one Senior Engineer and one Engineer, with the annual staff cost of about \$2 million in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, will be responsible for taking forward the DFS and for finalising the collation of comments received from the public consultation exercise for EFLS.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)073

(Question Serial No. 0900)

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 16):

As the government will implement extensive construction works in the coming year, the estimate for the provision of land and infrastructure under the Civil Engineering and Development Department rises 17.3% from \$360 million-plus in 2013-14 to \$420 million-plus. For the following projects, will the government respectively list:

- i) The total project expenditures from the commencement of the projects to financial year 2013/14 (What are the percentages provided from the Capital Works Reserve Fund?);
- ii) The estimates for 2014/15; and
- iii) The areas that will incur the expenditures.
 - a) Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai new Boundary Crossing Point project;
 - b) Cavern development;
 - c) Construction of artificial islands in the central waters of Hong Kong;
 - d) Planning and engineering (P&E) study on the development of Lok Ma Chau Loop;
 - e) P&E study on Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area (NDA);
 - f) P&E study on the North East New Territories (NENT) NDAs; and
 - g) Feasibility study on developing the New Territories North.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The estimates quoted in the question are the operating expenses. The project expenditures, the estimates for 2014-15 and the areas that will incur the expenditures by the Civil Engineering and Development Department for projects (a) to (g) are shown in the table below. The expenditures of these Public Works Programme projects are provided under the Capital Works Reserve Fund.

Project under the purview of Civil Engineering and Development Department	Project Expenditure up to 13-14 (\$M) (i)	Estimated Project Expenditure in 14-15 (\$M) (ii)	Areas that will incur the Project Expenditure in 2014-15 (iii)
(a) Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point	1,025.621	2,545.356	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Detailed design ● Site investigation ● Village re-provision ● River regulation ● Site formation and infrastructure works
(b) Study on long-term strategy for cavern development	14.540	16.211	Feasibility study for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● preparation of a Cavern Master Plan ● formulation of policy guidelines ● development of a systematic relocation programme for suitable Government facilities
(c) Strategic studies for artificial islands in the central waters	0	20.000 (subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee)	Feasibility study for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● engineering feasibility and infrastructure study ● port operations and marine traffic & safety study ● strategic environmental assessment ● fisheries impact assessment ● possible land uses
(d) Planning and engineering study on development of Lok Ma Chau Loop	27.996	2.856	Finalisation of the consultancy
(e) Review studies on Hung Shui Kiu new development area	17.645	9.731	Review studies for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● technical assessment ● formulation of Recommended Outline Development Plan ● public consultation ● site investigation

Project under the purview of Civil Engineering and Development Department	Project Expenditure up to 13-14 (\$M) (i)	Estimated Project Expenditure in 14-15 (\$M) (ii)	Areas that will incur the Project Expenditure in 2014-15 (iii)
(f) Review studies on the North East New Territories new development areas	47.959	3.880	Finalisation of the consultancy
(g) Preliminary feasibility study on developing the New Territories North	1.340	17.210	Preliminary feasibility study for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● baseline review ● technical assessment ● development of preferred broad land use option ● identification of scope for detailed planning and engineering studies

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)074

(Question Serial No. 1301)

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 16):

What is the scope/boundary, commencement time, anticipated completion date, expenditures involved in the strategic studies on artificial islands in central waters, which will be implemented by the Department? Besides, will the strategic study be undertaken by in-house staff or out-sourced to research agencies or consultant companies?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Che-cheung

Reply:

The study area of the strategic studies for artificial islands in the central waters mainly covers the waters between Lantau and Hong Kong Island. Subject to the approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to engage consultants to carry out the studies, which will commence in the second half of this year for a period of three years. The latest estimate of the studies is about \$227 million in money-of-the-day prices.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)075****(Question Serial No. 1302)**Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Provision of Land and InfrastructureControlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 17):

In 2014-15, there will be a net increase of 62 posts in the Department to carry out the work under Programme (3). What is the specific work undertaken by the additional manpower?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Che-cheungReply:

71 new posts will be created in 2014-15 is to cope with the additional workload arising from the following areas of work under Programme (3) –

Item	Area of Work	Total Number of New Posts to be Created in 2014-15
1	Studies and/or implementation of projects, which include but are not limited to the proposed developments in New Territories North, Lantau, new development areas, Kam Tin South, potential sites identified in land use reviews and topside development on the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities Island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge; underground space developments; and reclamations at an appropriate scale outside Victoria Harbour	40 ^{Note}
2	Implementation of projects for Kai Tak Development and the detailed feasibility study for the Environmentally Friendly Linkage System for Kowloon East	3
3	Studies and/or implementation of other land formation and infrastructure works	14
4	Planning and design of the integrated basement for the West Kowloon Cultural District	12 ^{Note}

Item	Area of Work	Total Number of New Posts to be Created in 2014-15
5.	Headquarters supporting services	2
	Total	71

Discounting a total of 9 time-limited posts under Programme (3) which will lapse in 2014-15, the net increase of posts in 2014-15 is $(71 - 9) = 62$.

Note : The creation of directorate posts is subject to Finance Committee's approval.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)076

(Question Serial No. 1551)

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 40):

When will the Department plan to commence the detailed feasibility study on the Environmentally Friendly Linkage System in Kowloon East? What are the expenditure involved for the study and its expected completion date?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Che-cheung

Reply:

Subject to the funding approval of the Finance Committee, the proposed detailed feasibility study (DFS) of the Environmentally Friendly Linkage System for Kowloon East is planned to commence in early 2015 for completion in about 2 years. The overall project estimate of the DFS is currently under review.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)077

(Question Serial No. 0515)

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 28):

Regarding the commencement of the feasibility study on topside development on the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities Island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, what is the estimated input resources expenditure of the study in 2014-15? Has the government estimated the number of jobs to be created by the topside development? Will the government consult the relevant groups and residents on topics such as the overall planning and associated transportation? If yes, what are the details and time table?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

The feasibility study is scheduled for commencement in August 2014 and completion in September 2016. The estimated expenditure in 2014-15 is about \$6.4 million.

The number of jobs to be created by the proposed topside developments will be estimated when a recommended scope and scale of the proposed developments is made under the feasibility study.

We will conduct community engagement activities as part of the study to gather the views of the relevant stakeholders and the public on the development proposals but the details and time table are yet to be determined.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)078****(Question Serial No. 1349)**Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Provision of Land and InfrastructureControlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 31):

As pointed out in the performance measure of the Provision of Land and Infrastructure, the actual length of roads constructed/widened for development in 2013 was 2 613m while the estimated length in 2014 is 9 507m. How were the figures derived? Please list by district the roads need to be constructed/widened. Are any land resumption and clearance involved? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwokReply:

The actual length of 2 613m and the forecast length of 9 507m of road constructed/widened for development in 2013 and 2014 respectively are under different projects managed by the Civil Engineering and Development Department as follows:

Name of Project	Actual Length of road constructed/widened for development in 2013	Estimated length of road to be constructed/widened for development in 2014	Land resumption and clearance involved? (Y/N) And details
Cycle Tracks connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories - Sheung Shui to Ma On Shan section	550m	3 190m	Yes. 3 637 m ² of land were resumed. 79 temporary structures were cleared from the resumed land.

Name of Project	Actual Length of road constructed/ widened for development in 2013	Estimated length of road to be constructed/ widened for development in 2014	Land resumption and clearance involved? (Y/N) And details
Hung Shui Kui Development, Stage 2 - Widening of Tin Ha Road and Tan Kwai Tsuen Road	-	1 750m	Yes. 135.7 m ² of land were resumed. 2 structures (fencing and bollard) were cleared from the resumed land.
Development at Anderson Road	360m	4 250m	Yes. The roadworks involved resumption of about 2 500m ² of private land covering 13 land lots. The land resumption and the associated site clearance had been completed.
Kai Tak Development	1 703m	317m	No. The site is located on government land and no land resumption/demolition was involved.
Total	2 613m	9 507m	

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)079****(Question Serial No. 3177)**

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 40):

Regarding the continuation of implementing infrastructure works in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai in 2014-15, can the Administration advise the items of the works, anticipated completion dates and the expenditures involved respectively?

Asked by: Hon. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

Information of the major construction works projects implemented by the Civil Engineering and Development Department in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai in 2014-15 are as follows:

Name of Project	Anticipated Completion Date	Estimated Expenditure in 2014-15
Cycle tracks connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories - Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui section (stage 1)	End 2016	\$55.0 million
Hung Shui Kui development, stage 2 - widening of Tin Ha Road and Tan Kwai Tsuen Road	End 2014	\$30.7 million
Formation, roads and drains in Area 54, Tuen Mun – phase 2 stage 1 works	Early 2015	\$61.9 million
Formation, roads and drains in Area 54, Tuen Mun, phase 2 stage 2 works	Early 2016	\$63.8 million

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)080

(Question Serial No. 1677)

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 (C K HON)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 4):

Regarding "As for hotels, Government is pressing ahead with the infrastructure works at the southern end of the runway and south apron of the former Kai Tak Airport. We are identifying feasible ways for the gradual release of the six sites facing Victoria Harbour within the 'hotel belt' adjacent to Kai Tak Cruise Terminal to the market starting from the end of next year. These prime sites can be developed into a distinctive hotel cluster with five-star accommodation as well as gourmet and entertainment facilities.", please advise:

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure in this respect in 2014-15?
- (b) What are the number and rank of officers responsible for this work respectively?
- (c) What items are included in the specific work programme?
- (d) What is the progress or timetable in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

- (a) & (c) The infrastructure works for developments at the southern part of the former Runway including the six hotel sites are in the design stage mainly under 7724CL "Kai Tak development - investigation and detailed design for advance infrastructure works for developments at the southern part of the former Runway". The estimated expenditure in 2014-15 is about \$9 million.
- (b) In 2014-15, one Chief Engineer, two Senior Engineers and two Engineers will undertake the above work, among other duties, with support from consultants as well as some in-house technical and clerical staff.
- (d) We aim to complete the relevant design and statutory procedures in 2014-15 for the infrastructure works for developments at the southern part of the former Runway, and plan to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee for the construction works to facilitate early disposal of the hotel sites by phases.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)081

(Question Serial No. 1092)

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 (C K HON)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 41):

Under the plan of the Planning Department in 2014-15, the Civil Engineering and Development Department will appoint consultants to conduct a study on reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and rock cavern development, a study on long-term strategy for rock cavern development and studies on underground space development in urban areas. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee the specific plans and progress of these studies? What are the expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

Key information on the aforementioned studies is given below:

(1) Enhancing Land Supply Strategy: Reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and Rock Cavern Development

The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) commissioned the above study in July 2011 for completion by end 2014. Following the completion of the two-staged public engagement exercises for the study, the government is now actively taking forward further studies on the potential reclamation sites and rock cavern developments. For reclamations, we are now carrying out a cumulative environmental impact assessment and a Chinese White Dolphins field survey for the three potential near-shore reclamation sites in the western waters, and will initiate studies on various reclamation sites. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, CEDD will commence the strategic studies on artificial islands in the central waters and the planning and engineering studies for the reclamations at Sunny Bay in the second half of 2014. The estimated total cost of the studies concerned will be about \$360 million and the estimated expenditure in 2014-15 is about \$44 million. On rock cavern development, the government plans to further study the feasibility of relocation of three government facilities, viz. the Sham Tseng sewage treatment works, Sai Kung sewage treatment works and the Diamond Hill fresh water and salt water service reservoirs to caverns. These studies will be undertaken by Drainage Services

Department and Water Supplies Department separately and are targeted to commence in the second half of 2014. The estimated total cost of the studies concerned will be about \$126 million and the estimated expenditure in 2014-15 is about \$10 million.

(2) Long-term Strategy for Cavern Development in Hong Kong

We commenced this study in September 2012 for completion in December 2015. Under the study, we will formulate policy guidelines to facilitate rock cavern development for both the public and private sectors, prepare a territory-wide Cavern Master Plan and develop an implementation programme for systematic relocation of suitable government facilities to caverns. The above work is currently underway and preliminary results are expected to be available in end 2014, followed by public engagement exercises and consultation with relevant stakeholders. The estimated cost of the study is about \$40 million and the estimated expenditure in 2014-15 is about \$16 million.

(3) Territory-wide Study on Underground Space Development in the Urban Areas

This study commenced in December 2013 for completion in December 2015. It is a territory-wide study, which aims at identifying districts with potential for developing urban underground space, with a view to increasing usable space for commercial development and other uses (e.g. recreational and entertainment), as well as enhancing connectivity in the urban areas. The study is currently at the stage of methodology formulation. The estimated cost of the study is about \$25 million and the estimated expenditure in 2014-15 is about \$11 million.

(4) Pilot Study on Underground Space Development in Selected Strategic Urban Districts

This proposed study will explore the potential of developing underground space in four pilot strategic urban districts, viz. (i) Tsim Sha Tsui West, (ii) Causeway Bay, (iii) Happy Valley and (iv) Admiralty/Wan Chai, with a view to formulating a master plan for underground space development for each strategic district and carry out broad technical assessment for priority projects identified in these districts. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence the proposed study in the second half of 2014 for completion in about 30 months. The estimated cost of the study is about \$69 million and the estimated expenditure in 2014-15 is about \$8 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)082

(Question Serial No. 1435)

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 (C K HON)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 20):

In 2013-14, the Administration carried out public consultation on reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and rock cavern development. What is the number of comments received from the public during the consultation? What is the expenditure involved in the consultation? When will the result be announced? Concerning the relevant issues, what is the way forward?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

About 38 000 submissions were received by the end of the Stage 2 Public Engagement (PE2) on "Enhancing Land Supply Strategy: Reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and Rock Cavern Development (RCD)" (ELSS) on 21 June 2013. The Civil Engineering and Development Department employed consultants to organise the activities, analyse the results of PE2 and prepare the report. The total expenditure incurred on PE2 activities (including the related consultancy fees) was \$2.3 million. The Report on PE2 was completed and uploaded to the ELSS website on 17 January 2014 for public viewing and downloading. The Government will initiate further studies on various reclamation and RCD sites in stages.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)083****(Question Serial No. 1440)**

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 25):

Regarding the cycle track network in the New Territories (NT), what is the current progress of the works? Which sections have not yet been connected so far? When is the whole project expected to be completed? What is the plan next step after the connection of the cycle track network in NT? How will the cycling policy be supported for its implementation in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The comprehensive cycle track network in the New Territories is mainly made up of two sections, namely (i) Ma On Shan to Tuen Mun section which starts from Ma On Shan in the east and connects via Sha Tin, Tai Po, Fanling, Sheung Shui and Yuen Long to Tuen Mun in the west; and (ii) Tsuen Wan – Tuen Mun section. To enable early enjoyment by the public, we have been implementing the cycle track network in phases. The current status of the various sub-sections of the cycle track network is as follows-

Section	Sub-section	Current status	Anticipated completion date
Ma On Shan to Tuen Mun	Ma On Shan to Sheung Shui	Completed	March 2014 (Actual completion date)
	Sheung Shui to Tuen Mun – stage 1 works (along Shek Sheung River and Sheung Yue River in Sheung Shui, and along Kam Tin River in Yuen Long) (2.5km)	Construction in progress	End 2016
	Sheung Shui to	Detailed design	End 2019

Section	Sub-section	Current status	Anticipated completion date
	Tuen Mun – remaining works (11km)	in progress	
Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun	Advance and stage 1 works (Tsuen Wan to Ting Kau) (7km)	Detailed design in progress	Under review
	Stage 2 works (Ting Kau to Tuen Mun) (15km)	Alignment review in progress	Under review

After the above cycle track network is completed, we would liaise with the relevant policy bureau and government departments for reviewing the need to extend the network.

The Government will continue to foster a “bicycle friendly” environment in new towns and new development areas. The Transport and Housing Bureau is conducting a review of cycling policies. It will take reference from overseas experience and hopes to put forward policies and proposals to further enhance the bicycle-friendly environment within this year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)084

(Question Serial No. 1175)

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 (C K HON)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development
Question (Member Question No. 10):

Regarding the construction and widening of roads:

- (1) The actual length of roads constructed/widened for development in 2013 was 2 613 m, 35% less than the original estimate of 3 993m. What are the reasons for not meeting the original estimated target? What are the funds and manpower involved respectively and are they sufficient to cope with the original estimated volume of road construction?
- (2) The Department estimates that the length of roads constructed/widened for development in 2014 will be 9 507m, an increase of 264% over the actual 2 613m of roads constructed/widened in 2013. What projects are involved in the relevant road works? What are the locations, the expenditure and manpower involved and implementation timetable of the projects?
- (3) As there is a substantial increase in the estimated length of roads to be constructed/widened in 2014 compared with 2013, will the Department allocate additional resources and manpower to cope with the work? If yes, what are the details? Of the increased manpower, what are the proportion of posts created and vacancies filled respectively? If no, how will the Department meet the target of the originally estimated volume of road construction?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

- (1) The actual length of road constructed/widened in 2013 is less than the original target by about 1 380m which comprises 780m under the cycle track project between Sheung Shui and Ma On Shan, and 600m under the Tin Ha Road and Tan Kwai Tsuen Road widening project. It was due to slower construction progress as compared to the original target, which was caused by a number of factors including adverse weather, obstruction by underground utilities and longer time required to coordinate the works with the affected locals. The funds and manpower provided are listed in the table

below. They were sufficient to cope with the original estimated length of road to be constructed/widened.

Name of Project	Estimated length of road to be constructed/widened for development in 2013	Actual length of road constructed/widened for development in 2013	Estimated Expenditure in 2013-14	Manpower Involved
Cycle Tracks connecting North West New Territories (NWNT) with North East New Territories (NENT) - Sheung Shui to Ma On Shan section	1 330m	550m	\$37 million	3 in-house professional staff for managing consultants who are responsible for supervision of the construction works
Hung Shui Kui Development, Stage 2 - Widening of Tin Ha Road and Tan Kwai Tsuen Road	600m	0m	\$39.8 million	
Development at Anderson Road	360m	360m	No separate breakdown on expenditure and manpower as road works, land formation and associated infrastructure works are carried out together under the works contract.	
Kai Tak Development	1 703m	1 703m	Ditto	

- (2) The roads to be constructed/widened for development in 2014 under the projects managed by CEDD are as follows:

Name of Project	Estimated length of road to be constructed/widened for development	Anticipated Completion Date	Estimated Expenditure in 2014-15	Manpower Involved
Cycle Tracks connecting NWNT with NENT - Sheung Shui to Ma On Shan section	3 190m	March 2014	\$12.2 million	3 in-house professional staff for managing consultants who are responsible for supervision of the construction works
Hung Shui Kui Development, Stage 2 - Widening of Tin Ha Road and Tan Kwai Tsuen Road	1 750m	End 2014	\$30.7 million	
Development at Anderson Road	4 250m	End 2014	No separate breakdown on expenditure and manpower as road works, land formation and associated infrastructure works are carried out together under the works contract.	
Kai Tak Development	317m	End 2014	Ditto	

- (3) Sufficient manpower resources have been allocated for managing the projects as listed in the table in part (2) above.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)085

(Question Serial No. 1457)

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 (C K HON)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 19):

A lot of Kwun Tong residents and a number of Kwun Tong District Council members support the construction of the link bridge (including the link bridge for pedestrians only) from the cruise terminal to Kwun Tong as soon as possible before the commissioning of the mono rail in 2023. Will the Administration respond positively to the above demand, study and take forward the relevant proposal? If yes, what are the details? What is the estimated expenditure of the policy? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chun, Paul

Reply:

The Kwun Tong Transportation link (KTTL), which is a monorail-cum-pedestrian bridge with a cycle track linking the former Runway tip and Kwun Tong, forms an integral part of the proposed Environmentally Friendly Linkage System (EFLS) for Kowloon East. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence in early 2015 a detailed feasibility study (DFS) of the EFLS including public consultation, the outcome of which will facilitate the Government to decide on the way forward of the EFLS. The study scope of the DFS will include an in-depth examination of the feasibility and the implementation programme of the proposed KTTL particularly on its potential impact to the Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter and mitigation measures. The overall project estimate of the DFS is currently under review.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)086

(Question Serial No. 0937)

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 53):

With respect to the Greening Master Plans (GMPs) in Hong Kong, please advise:

1. The locations and associated greening area under the GMPs to be implemented in 2014-15.
2. The number of works contracts to be awarded in 2014-15 and the contract scopes, expenditure and the completion dates.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

1. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence the proposed greening works recommended in the GMPs for South East New Territories (i.e. Sha Tin and Sai Kung) and North West New Territories (i.e. Tuen Mun and Yuen Long) in October 2014 under Sub-head 5047CG "GMPs for the New Territories South East and North West – priority greening works".
2. There will be two works contracts to be awarded in 2014-15 under the project, the scopes of which comprise planting works and associated plant establishment, ground preparation, construction of planter walls and other ancillary works including irrigation facilities. The works are scheduled to be completed by end 2017. The estimated expenditure for 2014-15 is about \$11 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)087****(Question Serial No. 2526)**

Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 34):

Regarding man-made slopes, retaining walls and natural hillside catchments, please advise this Committee:

- 1) On district council boundary basis, the list of man-made slopes completed and slope features upgraded and landscaped, and the staff establishment and expenditures involved in 2013-14;
- 2) On district council boundary basis, the area of vegetation cover planted on man-made slopes, retaining walls and natural hillside catchments in 2013-14;
- 3) On district council boundary basis, the list and number of man-made slopes, retaining walls and natural hillside catchments with high potential risk (or below government standard) that are pending for action in 2014-15, and their expected completion dates.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply:

- 1) The numbers of government man-made slopes and retaining walls upgraded and landscaped in 2013-14 under the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme (LPMitP) undertaken by the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), based on district council boundary, are shown in Table 1. There are 55 professional staff and 93 technical staff involved in the LPMitP in 2013-14. The estimated expenditure for the LPMitP in 2013-14 is about \$980 million.

Table 1

Government Man-made Slopes and Retaining Walls Upgraded and Landscaped in 2013-14 under the LPMitP	
District	Number
Central & Western	11
Eastern	10
Islands	7

Government Man-made Slopes and Retaining Walls Upgraded and Landscaped in 2013-14 under the LPMitP	
District	Number
Kowloon City	0
Kwai Tsing	6
Kwun Tong	9
North	4
Sai Kung	4
Sha Tin	21
Sham Shui Po	4
Southern	25
Tai Po	16
Tsuen Wan	6
Tuen Mun	10
Wan Chai	7
Wong Tai Sin	1
Yau Tsim Mong	0
Yuen Long	10
Total	151

- 2) The area of vegetation cover planted on man-made slopes, retaining walls and natural hillside catchments under the LPMitP in 2013-14 is shown in the Table 2. We do not have readily available information on their breakdown according to the demarcation of district councils.

Table 2

District	Area of Vegetation Cover Planted on Man-made Slopes, Retaining Walls and Natural Hillside Catchments (sq. m)
Hong Kong Island	85 000
Kowloon	30 900
New Territories	56 500
Outlying Islands	1 700
Total	174 100

- 3) CEDD selects the most deserving government man-made slopes, retaining walls, and natural hillside catchments for studies according to a risk-based priority ranking system under the LPMitP. Slopes, retaining walls and catchments confirmed to be requiring landslide prevention and mitigation works will be included in works contracts for implementation of the necessary works.

The numbers of “government man-made slopes and retaining walls” and “natural hillside catchments” included in works contracts under the LPMitP for implementation of the landslide prevention and mitigation works in 2014-15, based on district council boundary, are shown in Table 3 and Table 4 respectively.

Table 3

Government Man-made Slopes and Retaining Walls included in Works Contracts under the LPMitP		
District	Number	Target Completion Date
Central & Western	14	2014-15
	7	2015-16
Eastern	1	2014-15
	1	2015-16
Islands	14	2014-15
	10	2015-16
Kowloon City	2	2014-15
	1	2015-16
Kwai Tsing	8	2014-15
Kwun Tong	2	2014-15
	1	2015-16
North	11	2014-15
Sai Kung	21	2014-15
	2	2015-16
Sha Tin	27	2014-15
	3	2015-16
	1	2016-17
Sham Shui Po	4	2014-15
Southern	23	2014-15
	21	2015-16
Tai Po	12	2014-15
	3	2015-16
Tsuen Wan	7	2014-15
	2	2015-16
	1	2016-17
Tuen Mun	13	2014-15
	7	2015-16
Wan Chai	3	2014-15
	3	2015-16
Wong Tai Sin	1	2015-16
Yau Tsim Mong	1	2014-15
	1	2015-16
Yuen Long	6	2014-15
	1	2015-16
Total	235	

Table 4

Natural Hillside Catchments included in Works Contracts under the LPMitP		
District	Number	Target Completion Date
Central & Western	7	2014-15
	3	2015-16
Eastern	0	-
Islands	16	2015-16
Kowloon City	0	-
Kwai Tsing	1	2014-15
Kwun Tong	0	-
North	5	2015-16
Sai Kung	2	2014-15
	1	2015-16
Sha Tin	1	2014-15
	2	2015-16
Sham Shui Po	0	-
Southern	5	2014-15
	5	2015-16
	4	2016-17
Tai Po	2	2014-15
	2	2015-16
Tsuen Wan	8	2014-15
	8	2015-16
Tuen Mun	1	2014-15
	1	2015-16
	4	2016-17
Wan Chai	2	2014-15
Wong Tai Sin	1	2014-15
	1	2016-17
Yau Tsim Mong	0	-
Yuen Long	0	-
Total	82	

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)088

(Question Serial No. 1523)

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 (C K HON)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 3):

Regarding the improvement of water quality of Kai Tak Approach Channel and Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter, please advise this Committee:

- 1) Apart from the improvement of water quality by bioremediation treatment of sediments, has the Administration examined other additional measures to improve the water quality of the typhoon shelter?
- 2) How will the Administration assess the effectiveness of the relevant measures? What improvement has been made in the water quality since the commencement of the works?
- 3) What was the relevant expenditure for the improvement of water quality in the past 3 years? What is the expected expenditure in the coming 3 years?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

- 1) Apart from bioremediation treatment of seabed sediments at the Kai Tak Approach Channel (KTAC) and Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter (KTTS), drainage and sewerage improvement works in the hinterland of Kai Tak Development (KTD) are implemented by the Drainage Services Department (DSD). Continuous water quality data are being collected to ascertain the combined effectiveness of existing improvement works including the bioremediation works, and to review the scope of further planned measures including a proposal of creating an opening at the northern end of the former Runway under the Metro Park.
- 2) With progressive completion of drainage and sewerage improvement works in the hinterland of KTD together with the on-going bioremediation treatment, odour problem at KTAC and KTTS is generally under control and the dissolved oxygen level has gradually increased, reflecting that the water quality at KTAC and KTTS is improving.
- 3) The Administration has made a concerted effort to improve water quality in KTAC and

KTTS. The Civil Engineering and Development Department spent a total of about \$255 million in the past three years (i.e. from 2011-12 to 2013-14) on the design and construction of improvement works at KTAC and KTTS under PWP Item Nos. 738CL and 745CL of this Programme (3). The estimated total expenditure of the on-going improvement works will be about \$92 million in 2014-15. The estimated expenditure in 2015-16 and 2016-17 is under review. The above expenditure and estimates have not included those drainage and sewerage improvement works in the hinterland of KTD, which are carried out by DSD under other relevant public works items.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)089

(Question Serial No. 1524)

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 4):

Regarding the Environmentally Friendly Linkage System (EFLS) in Kowloon East, please advise:

- 1) Upon the completion of Stage 2 of public consultation, when will the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) expect to sum up the consultation, commence detailed design and duly begin the construction of EFLS?
- 2) As the current patronage of MTR Kwun Tong Line has exceeded the design maximum capacity, will CEDD revise the alignment of EFLS, such as extending it to MTR Yau Tong Station to reduce the burden on the existing railways?
- 3) Following the development of business areas in Kowloon East, has the Administration re-examined information, such as the project estimate, operating revenue and expenditure and payback period of EFLS?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

- 1) We aim to conclude and report the outcome of the Stage 2 public consultation to the Legislative Council Panel on Development in the 2nd Quarter of this year. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence in early 2015 a proposed detailed feasibility study (DFS) of the EFLS for Kowloon East for further public consultation, the outcome of which will facilitate the Government to decide on the way forward of the EFLS. The DFS will examine and propose the implementation programme for the EFLS.
- 2) In the proposed DFS, we will review the preferred EFLS alignment and its connections with the MTR network that would best serve the development of Kowloon East.
- 3) In the proposed DFS, we will update the patronage forecast, estimated capital, operating and maintenance costs of the EFLS, and will conduct detailed financial assessment and economic benefit analysis.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)090

(Question Serial No. 1622)

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 35):

Regarding the provision of land and infrastructure in this programme, please advise this Committee:

- 1) In the form of the following table, provide details on each item of land formation, infrastructure construction or other works completed by the Civil Engineering and Development Department and delivered for the use of other government departments from 2011 to 2014. The details include i) item locations, ii) area occupied, iii) the expenditures involved in the land formation, infrastructure provision and other works, iv) the names of government departments accepting the delivery of the items and their proposed uses (e.g. public housing, private residential, commercial, government, institution and community (GIC) facilities, etc.)

i)	ii)	iii)	iv)

- 2) In the form of the following table, provide details on each item of land formation, infrastructure construction or other works in progress and to be delivered for the use of other government departments. The details include i) land locations, ii) area occupied, iii) the estimated expenditures involved in the land formation, infrastructure provision and other works, iv) the names of government departments accepting the delivery of the items after completion of the works and their proposed uses (e.g. public housing, private residential, commercial, government, institution and community (GIC) facilities, etc.), and v) the expected delivery dates.

i)	ii)	iii)	iv)	v)

- 3) In the form of the following table, provide details on each item of land formation, infrastructure construction or other works to be commenced in the next 12 months and will be delivered for the use of other government departments. The details include i) item locations, ii) area occupied, iii) the estimated expenditures involved in the land formation, infrastructure provision and other works, iv) the names of government departments accepting the delivery of the items after completion of the works and their proposed uses (e.g. public housing, private residential, commercial, government, institution and community (GIC) facilities, etc.), and v) the expected delivery dates.

i)	ii)	iii)	iv)	v)

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

- 1) CEDD projects involving land formation, infrastructure works or other works for the provision of land that were completed and handed over to other government departments from 2011 up to March 2014 are as follows:

Location of Project	Area of land formation	Estimated Cost of Construction Works Project	Major Government Departments Handed Over To (Proposed Use)
Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and associated works - Resite for Chuk Yuen Village	2.2 ha	\$43 million	Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) (Resite of Chuk Yuen Village)
Ma On Shan Development - Whitehead and Lok Wo Sha Phase 1	3 ha	\$152 million	Lands Department (LandsD) (Private residential development and government, institution and community (GIC) facilities)
Tseung Kwan O Further Development – Site Formation and Infrastructure Works at Pak Shing Kok	22 ha	\$188 million	LandsD (GIC facilities)
Tseung Kwan O Further Development – Infrastructure Works at Town Centre South and Tiu Keng Leng, Tseung	23 ha	\$470 million	LandsD (Open space , commercial/ residential development, and GIC facilities)

Location of Project	Area of land formation	Estimated Cost of Construction Works Project	Major Government Departments Handed Over To (Proposed Use)
Kwan O			
Kwai Chung Incineration Plant Demolition and Decontamination Works	1.4 ha	\$158 million	LandsD (Land use to be determined)
Kai Tak Development - Stage 2 Infrastructure at North Apron Area of Kai Tak Airport	5.8 ha	\$355.8 million (on-going project)	Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA), LandsD (Public and private residential development)
Tuen Mun Area 54	3.9 ha	\$325 million (on-going project)	HA (Public housing development)

- 2) On-going CEDD projects involving land formation, infrastructure works or other works for the provision of land that will be handed over to other government departments are as follows:

Location of Project	Area of land formation	Estimated Cost of Construction Works Project	Major Government Departments Taking Over Completed Works (Proposed Use)	Expected delivery date
Tuen Mun Area 54	0.3 ha	see table under item (1) above	Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) (Public housing development)	2014
Development at Anderson Road	43.6 ha	\$3,259 million	HA (Public housing development)	2015
Wan Chai Development Phase II	12.7 ha	\$4,642.7 million	LandsD (Open space)	2017
Kai Tak Development - Stage 2 Infrastructure at North Apron Area of Kai Tak Airport	1.3 ha	see table under item (1) above	LandsD (GIC facilities)	2015
Housing Sites Adjacent to Lung Ping Road at Tai	4 ha	\$781 million	LandsD (Private residential development)	2016

Location of Project	Area of land formation	Estimated Cost of Construction Works Project	Major Government Departments Taking Over Completed Works (Proposed Use)	Expected delivery date
Wo Ping, Shek Kip Mei				
Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point (BCP) Site Formation Works	23 ha	\$491 million	ArchSD (Construction of BCP buildings)	2015

- 3) It is anticipated that there is no CEDD project involving land formation, infrastructure works or other works for the provision of land that will commence in the next 12 months.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)091****(Question Serial No. 1623)**

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 36):

Regarding the construction of cycle track network in the New Territories, please advise the Committee:

- (1) The details, including the location(s), length of the section(s), etc. of the cycle track from Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui, where the construction works were completed in 2013-14;
- (2) From the question above, the details, including the location(s), section length, etc. of the section(s) expected to be completed in the next 12 months;
- (3) The details of the investigation and design of the cycle track network being carried out and planned for the next 12 months.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

- (1)& (2) Stage 1 works of the Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui cycle track section covering construction of 2.5km of new cycle track and improvement of 4.5km of existing cycle track commenced in November 2013, and are expected to be completed in 2016.
- (3) The investigation and design activities for the cycle track network in the New Territories being carried out and planned for the next 12 months are as follows:

Section	Sub-section	Activities
Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui	Remaining works	Detailed design
Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun	Advance works and stage 1 works	Detailed design and site investigation
	Stage 2 works	Alignment review

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)092

(Question Serial No. 0975)

Head: (705) Capital Works Reserve Fund - Civil Engineering
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (-) Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 17):

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge will open in 2016 and connect with Lantau. This will create enormous business opportunities and traffic flow for this area. In this connection, will the Government advise the funding and manpower reserved by the Administration for the study, planning and consultation on the artificial islands of Lantau? What is the estimated future construction cost?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Han-pan

Reply:

Regarding the strategic studies for artificial islands in the central waters (the Studies), the latest estimate is about \$227 million in money-of-the-day prices which include the associated site investigation works. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to engage consultants to carry out the Studies and associated site investigation works in the second half of 2014. The Civil Engineering and Development Department will deploy six in-house professional staff in managing the Studies. As the Studies are yet to start, we do not have the estimated construction cost for the proposed artificial islands.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)093

(Question Serial No. 0592)

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 705 – Civil Engineering

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (CK HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 19):

The Financial Secretary stated in the Budget Speech that the study on the East Lantau Metropolis will commence as soon as possible. Will outside organizations be commissioned to conduct the consultancy study? What is the expenditure involved? When will the Administration expect the study to commence, and what is the timetable for the completion of the study? What are the detailed plans afterwards?

Asked by: Hon. LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin

Reply:

We will commission consultants to conduct a study entitled “Strategic studies for artificial islands in the central waters” (the Study) to investigate the preliminary technical feasibility of constructing artificial islands in the central waters between Hong Kong Island and Lantau, including the development of an East Lantau Metropolis. The latest estimate of the Study is about \$227 million in money-of-the-day prices. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence the Study in the third quarter of 2014 for completion by 2017. Separate planning and engineering studies will be carried out on the artificial islands and associated reclamation proposed in the Study as necessary.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)094

(Question Serial No. 1427)

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 705 – Civil Engineering

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 10):

It is stated in paragraph 119(f) of the Budget Speech that the study on the East Lantau Metropolis will commence. What is the estimated expenditure? What is the timetable for the study? What aspects will be covered by the study on the East Lantau Metropolis?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

We will commission consultants to conduct a study entitled “Strategic studies for artificial islands in the central waters” (the Study) to investigate the preliminary technical feasibility of constructing artificial islands in the central waters between Hong Kong Island and Lantau, including the development of an East Lantau Metropolis. The latest estimate of the Study is about \$227 million in money-of-the-day prices. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence the Study in the third quarter of 2014 for completion by 2017. The Study will cover the engineering feasibility on the proposal of artificial islands, port operation and marine traffic and safety study, fisheries impact assessment, strategic environmental assessment, site investigation work and consultation with relevant stakeholders.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)095

(Question Serial No. 0921)

Head: (707) Capital Works Reserve Fund: New Towns and Urban Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 43):

Regarding the marine works in the extension of new towns and planning of New Development Areas, please advise:

- (a) In connection with the development of Lantau Island and reclamation on an appropriate scale outside Victoria Harbour, what are the reclamation area involved, fishing grounds area lost, and the area of marine exclusion zone set up for ensuring navigation and aviation safety after the marine works?
- (b) For the fishery planning in the marine works, what are the development details, staff establishment and expenditures involved in the fishery planning respectively? What are the percentages they account for in the total expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) For projects relating to the development of Lantau Island and potential reclamation sites outside Victoria Harbour, the reclamation extent, fishing grounds area lost and marine exclusion zone set up for ensuring navigation and aviation safety will be ascertained after completion of the respective detailed studies.
- (b) The development details of marine works, including the fisheries impact assessment, will be ascertained after completion of the respective detailed studies. We do not have separate breakdown on the staff establishment and expenditures on the part concerning fisheries impact assessment.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)096

(Question Serial No. 0352)

Head: 707 Capital Works Reserve Fund: New Towns and Urban Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 21):

Subhead 7487CL: Tung Chung development phase 3A, reclamation for Areas 51, 52(part) and 53 to 56

According to the original proposals approved by the Finance Committee, 7487CL – Tung Chung development phase 3A, reclamation for areas 51, 52 (part) and 53 to 56 should have been completed by the year of 2003. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Council:

- a) reasons for procrastination;
- b) the progress of the project, with a breakdown of the actual expenditure as of 31 March 2013 on reclamation, seawall, drainage culverts, environmental monitoring and audit programme, Consultant's fees, Contingencies, and Inflation allowance;
- c) whether the procrastination of the project has led to increased cost; if it has, will the Administration seek additional funding from LegCo; and
- d) what is the Administration's latest estimated completion date of the project?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

- a) The reclamation and associated infrastructure works were substantially completed in April 2003. The only outstanding work is the removal of public fill stockpiled in Tung Chung Areas 53 and 54 which has been used as surcharge on the reclaimed land to accelerate its consolidation and settlement. Such surcharge has been kept at the project site pending the identification of a public fill outlet. The public fill is now being progressively reused in the reclamation works of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge project.

- b) The outstanding work of removing public fill stockpiled in Tung Chung Areas 53 and 54 is in progress. A breakdown of the project expenditure as of 31 March 2013 is as follows:

Description	Actual Expenditure (as at 31 March 2013) (\$ million)
Reclamation	93.7
Seawall	179.5
Drainage Culverts	107.0
Environmental Monitoring and Audit Programme	0.1
Consultant's Fees	54.4
Contingencies	21.8
Inflation Allowance	(1.3)
Total	455.2

- c) The deferred removal of public fill stockpiled at the project site has not led to any increase in cost.
- d) The current forecast completion date of the project is June 2014.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)097

(Question Serial No. 2931)

Head: 707 Capital Works Reserve Fund: New Towns and Urban Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): 7100 CX – New towns and urban area works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 105):

As stated in the Policy Address, it is anticipated that about 6 800 new residential units can be provided at the Kai Tak Development. Please inform this Committee of the estimated area of public housing or private residential sites, as well as the estimated number of units to be completed.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

It is anticipated that the additional number of about 6 800 residential units will be provided through suitably increasing the development intensity in Kai Tak Development, subject to statutory planning approvals for minor relaxation of maximum plot ratio and building height restrictions for some residential sites under the Kai Tak Outline Zoning Plan. It does not involve new residential sites. These additional units are largely derived from private residential developments except about 130 units under the Home Ownership Scheme development.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)098

(Question Serial No. 3106)

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 707 – New Towns and Urban Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 9):

It is stated in the Budget Speech that \$60 million has been earmarked for a feasibility study on the development of the artificial island for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities for commercial purposes. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) What is the timetable for the feasibility study?
- (2) During the transitional period between the commissioning of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge in 2016 and the completion of the commercial infrastructure on the artificial island, how will the Administration handle the unused sites on the artificial island? What measures will be taken to increase the utilisation rate of the artificial island?

Asked by: Hon. YIU Si-wing

Reply:

- (1) The preliminary feasibility study on the topside and underground space development on the artificial island for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) Hong Kong boundary crossing facilities (BCF) (the Study) is scheduled to commence in August 2014 for completion in September 2016.
- (2) The whole artificial island is being formed for the purpose of providing BCF associated with HZMB and will be used for that purpose upon the commissioning of HZMB. The Study will investigate the feasibility of providing commercial development through utilizing the topside and underground space on the artificial island while maintaining smooth and safe operation of the BCF during construction and operation of the proposed commercial development. The Study will also work out an implementation programme to optimize the utilization of the available space on the island by phased development.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)099

(Question Serial No. 0140)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum Wah, Daniel)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 14):

(1) In 2013-14, how many burst incidents of storm water drains occurred due to ageing of the network? For how many years have each of these drains been used before the incident occurred?

(2) What measures will be taken this year to tackle the problem of bursts and leaks? What are the expenditure and manpower involved?

(3) Please list out the total lengths, current lifespans, overall average lifespan and the maintenance cost of stormwater drains in the territory.

Length of stormwater drains in total: _____

Lifespan of stormwater drains	Percentage against total length	Maintenance cost (\$)
Less than 5 years		
5 to < 10 years		
10 to < 15 years		
15 to < 20 years		
20 to < 25 years		
25 to < 30 years		
30 to < 35 years		
35 to < 40 years		
40 to < 45 years		
45 to < 50 years		
50 years or above		

Overall average lifespan: _____

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

(1) Bursting or leakage of public storm water drains is commonly due to a confluence of various factors, including ageing of the drains, ground settlement, and external loading. In 2013-14, there were 672 cases of bursting or leakage of public storm water drains. These drains had been in operation from 10 years to more than 40 years before the burst incidents.

(2) All public storm water drains are regularly inspected by the Drainage Services Department under a systematic maintenance programme. Rehabilitation works to the drains will be carried out when damages/defects are identified in the inspections. In 2013-14, the associated expenditure was estimated to be \$95 million and 114 staff were involved.

(3) The Drainage Services Department is managing about 2 300 kilometres of storm water drains. The average age of the drains is about 28 years with age distribution as follows –

Age of storm water drains	Proportion against total length
Less than 5 years	4%
5 to < 10 years	6%
10 to < 15 years	13%
15 to < 20 years	11%
20 to < 25 years	11%
25 to < 30 years	13%
30 to < 35 years	12%
35 to < 40 years	7%
40 to < 45 years	5%
45 to < 50 years	6%
50 years or above	12%

In 2013-14, the total estimated expenditure on repair and maintenance of storm water drains is approximately \$262 million. The Drainage Services Department does not have the statistics of maintenance expenses broken down by the age of the drains.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)100

(Question Serial No. 1351)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department
Subhead(No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage
Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services(CHUNG Kum-wah, Daniel)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question(Member Question No. 36):

Regarding the value of capital projects under detailed design, the original estimate for 2013 was \$3.255 billion, but the actual expenditure turned out to be \$6.1719 billion. What are the reasons? Please list out the additional projects in detail.

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

The increase in the value of capital projects under detailed design in 2013 was mainly due to the advancement of commencement of the detailed design for the project "Drainage improvement works in Yuen Long" from 2014 to 2013.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)101****(Question Serial No. 1176)**Head: (39) Drainage Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum Wah, Daniel)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 11):

The Department will create 21 non-directorate posts in 2014-15. Please list these 21 posts in detail by terms of appointment, major scope of duty or designated project involved, pay scale, and indicate whether they are filled through new recruitment or internal redeployment.

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, TonyReply:

The Department will have a net increase of 21 non-directorate posts in 2014-15 with creation of 24 posts and deletion of three posts. The appointment for all the posts created will be on civil service terms. Respective recruitment and promotion exercises will be conducted to fill the posts. A breakdown showing the posts to be created/deleted in 2014-15, their scopes of duty and pay scales are provided as follows –

Post	No. of Posts to be Created/ Deleted	Scope of duty	Pay Scale (\$)
Senior Engineer	2	Professional services for drainage and sewerage infrastructure work	89,565 to 103,190
Engineer/ Assistant Engineer	12		29,720 to 86,440
Engineer/ Assistant Engineer	-1	N.A.	29,720 to 86,440
Landscape Architect/ Assistant Landscape Architect	1	Professional services for design of landscaping and related greening matters	28,315 to 86,440

Technical Officer/ Technical Officer Trainee	2	Technical support for planning and design of drainage facilities	11,485 to 34,315
Inspector of Works	1	Technical support for operation and maintenance of drainage and sewerage facilities	37,625 to 56,810
Works Supervisor II	1		17,485 to 20,905
Senior Mechanical Inspector	1	Technical support for operation and maintenance of electrical and mechanical facilities	57,275 to 64,410
Electrical Inspector	1		37,625 to 56,810
Works Supervisor II	2		17,485 to 20,905
Engineering Laboratory Technician I	1	Technical support for laboratory services	34,315 to 45,155
Workman II	-2	N.A.	10,555 to 12,445
Total	21		

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)102

(Question Serial No. 2260)

Head: (704) Capital Works Reserve Fund: Drainage

Subhead(No. & title): (4407DS) Relocation of Sha Tin sewage treatment works to caverns – consultants' fees and investigation

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services(CHUNG KumWah, Daniel)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question(Member Question No. 48):

Regarding Subhead 4407DS "Relocation of Sha Tin sewage treatment works to caverns – consultants' fees and investigation", please advise on:

1. the works involved for the expenditure incurred in 2013-14; and
2. the works involved for the expenditure incurred in 2014-15.

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

We commenced a detailed feasibility study on the relocation of Sha Tin sewage treatment works (STSTW) in May 2012, funded under Subhead No. 4379DS. The main tasks of the feasibility study were completed in end 2013, and the results showed that the STSTW relocation proposal is technically feasible and financially viable. We completed a two-stage public engagement exercise under the feasibility study in October 2013 and the public generally supported the proposal. As such, we propose employing consultants to carry out an investigation and design (I&D) study and more detailed site investigation works for the relocation project to be funded under Subhead No. 4407DS.

Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence I&D study in the second half of 2014 for completion in stages by end 2022. Hence, there was no expenditure incurred under Subhead No. 4407DS in 2013-14 as the funding is yet to be approved. The estimated expenditure reserved in 2014-15 under this Subhead is for payments to the consultants and contractors for carrying out the study and the associated site investigation works. The scope of 4407DS comprises –

- (a) preliminary and detailed design for the relocation project;
- (b) detailed impact assessments on relevant aspects;
- (c) public engagement and consultation exercises with relevant stakeholders;

- (d) more detailed site investigation works and supervision; and
- (e) preparation of tender documents.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)103

(Question Serial No. 2266)

Head: (704) Capital Works Reserve Fund: Drainage

Subhead(No. & title): (4379DS) Feasibility study on relocation of Sha Tin sewage treatment works to caverns

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG KumWah, Daniel)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 54):

Regarding Subhead 4379DS "Feasibility study on relocation of Sha Tin sewage treatment works to caverns", please advise on:

1. the works involved for the expenditure incurred in 2013-14; and
2. the works involved for the expenditure incurred in 2014-15.

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

1.&2. The estimated expenditure incurred in 2013-14 and reserved in 2014-15 under PWP item 4379DS is for payments to the consultants and contractors for carrying out the feasibility study on relocation of Sha Tin sewage treatment works (STSTW) to caverns, and the associated ground investigation works.

The scope of 4379DS comprises –

- (a) detailed engineering feasibility study for the STSTW relocation proposal, including relevant preliminary technical and impact assessments;
- (b) planning review of the future land use of the released site for establishing a business case;
- (c) public engagement and consultation exercises with relevant stakeholders; and
- (d) associated ground investigation works and site supervision.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)104****(Question Serial No. 2956)**

Head: (704) Capital Works Reserve Fund: Drainage

Subhead (No. & title): (4407DS) Relocation of Sha Tin sewage treatment works to caverns

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum Wah, Daniel)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 44):

Regarding Subhead 4407DS “Relocation of Sha Tin sewage treatment works to caverns—consultants’ fees and investigation” under “Environment—Environmental Protection—Sewerage and sewage treatment”, the project at a rough order of cost of \$644 million is forecast to start in the third quarter of the 2014–15 financial year, with an estimated expenditure of \$8.48 million in 2014–15.

What is the timetable for the works involved? Will the Administration set out in detail the allocation of resources for various facilities involved in this project? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence the consultancy study on investigation and design for relocation of the Sha Tin sewage treatment works (STSTW) to caverns in the second half of 2014 for completion in stages by end 2022.

The latest estimated cost of the investigation and design study and the associated site investigation works is about \$637.7 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices, broken down as follows:

	\$ million
(a) Consultants’ fees for preliminary and detailed design, detailed impact assessments, public engagement and consultation exercises, preparation of tender documents etc.	194.2

		\$ million	
(b)	Remuneration of resident site staff for site investigation works	17.8	
(c)	Site investigation works	248.0	
(d)	Contingencies	<u>46.0</u>	
	Sub-total	506.0	(in September 2013 prices)
(e)	Provision for price adjustment	<u>131.7</u>	
	Total	<u>637.7</u>	(in MOD prices)

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)105

(Question Serial No. 2958)

Head: (704) Capital Works Reserve Fund: Drainage

Subhead (No. & title): (4402DS) Feasibility study on relocation of Sai Kung sewage treatment works to caverns

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum Wah, Daniel)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 46):

Regarding Subhead 4402DS “Feasibility study on relocation of Sai Kung sewage treatment works to caverns”, under “Environment—Environmental Protection—Sewerage and sewage treatment”, the project at a rough order of cost of \$40.9 million is forecast to start in the third quarter of the 2014–15 financial year, with an estimated expenditure of \$2.12 million in 2014–15.

What is the timetable for the works involved? Will the Administration set out in detail the allocation of resources for various facilities involved in this project? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. QUAT, Elizabeth

Reply:

Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence the feasibility study on relocation of Sai Kung sewage treatment works to caverns in the second half of 2014 for completion in about two years.

The latest total estimated cost of the feasibility study and the associated site investigation works is about \$40.6 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices, broken down as follows –

	\$ million
(a) Consultants’ fees for detailed engineering feasibility study, planning review of the future land use, public engagement and consultation exercises etc.	23.4

(b) Site investigation and other investigations	8.5	
(c) Contingencies	3.1	
	Sub-total	<u>35.0</u> (in September 2013 prices)
(d) Provision for price adjustment	5.6	
	Total	<u>40.6</u> (in MOD prices)

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)106****(Question Serial No. 0694)**Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Mechanical Installations SafetyControlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 22):

Under Programme (2), the provision for 2014-15 is \$2.5 million higher than the revised estimate for 2013-14. This is mainly due to the increased requirements for modernisation of existing lifts of government bureaux and departments and the increased provision for the creation of ten posts. Please advise the rank and duties of the ten new posts.

Asked by: Hon. POON Siu-pingReply:

The ranks and duties of the ten new posts are summarised in the table below:

Rank	Number	Duties
Engineer	One	To handle professional matters related to prosecution and disciplinary actions under the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance and to provide professional support to the Lift and Escalator Safety Advisory Committee.
Senior Inspector	One	To lead and supervise a team of inspectors on matters related to inspection on lifts and escalators, incident investigation, regulatory enforcement and step up audit of registered lift and escalator contractors.
Inspectors	Eight	To conduct inspection on lifts and escalators, assist in incident investigation, handle site investigations on complaints and enquiries, and assist in stepping up audit of registered lift and escalator contractors.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)107****(Question Serial No. 1167)**

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 47):

According to the indicators in Programme (2), there were a total of 72 806 and 85 699 lifts and escalators in 2012 and 2013 respectively. The number of lifts and escalators inspected in 2012 and 2013 were 9 173 and 10 564 respectively. The numbers of lift and escalator incidents investigated in 2012 and 2013 were 272 and 271 respectively. Would the Administration please advise:

1. How many lifts and escalators in the past four years (i.e. 2010 to 2013)? Please list out the lifts and escalators according to the lift and escalator companies and contractors in Hong Kong that they belonged to. How can the public identify the corresponding lift and escalator maintenance company and contractor from the internet?
2. Please list out the lifts and escalators inspected by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) in the past four years (i.e. 2010 to 2013) according to the lift and escalator companies and contractors in Hong Kong that they belonged to. What are the manpower and expenditures involved in EMSD's inspection work?
3. Please list out the incidents investigated by EMSD in the past four years (i.e. 2010 to 2013) according to the lift and escalator companies and contractors that they belonged to. What are the manpower and expenditures involved in EMSD's investigation work?
4. How many employees are there in the lift and escalator industry? What are the employees' average years of experience? It is estimated that more than 80 000 lifts and escalators will be inspected and maintained in 2014, what is the expected number of new employees to be registered in 2014?
5. Is the Administration aware of the average salaries of lift and escalator workers and registered engineers in the lift and escalator industry? If yes, what are the average salaries of relevant posts in the past four years (i.e. 2010 to 2013)? If no, what is the reason?

Asked by: Hon. TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

1. The total numbers of lifts and escalators in the past four years from 2010 to 2013 are summarised in Table 1 below. They are maintained by 43 registered lift contractors, of which 32 are also registered escalator contractors. The list of registered lift and escalator contractors can be found on EMSD website http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/pps/leo_reg_ctrctr.shtml. Registered contractor should post a label of its name and contact phone number at a conspicuous position adjacent to the main landing of the lift/escalator or in the lift car so that the public can identify the responsible registered contractor by referring to the label.

Table 1: Numbers of Lifts and Escalators

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total no. of lifts	58 583	59 245	60 356	61 522
Total no. of escalators	7 937	8 233	8 470	8 648

2. The inspections conducted by EMSD in the past four years have covered all registered lift and escalator contractors providing maintenance services for lifts and escalators. The manpower involved in conducting inspections and incident investigations for lifts and escalators includes one Senior Engineer, three Engineers, one Senior Inspector and 18 Inspectors. The expenditures involved in 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 were \$13.5 million, \$14.3 million, \$15.1 million and \$20.2 million respectively.

3. Most of the lift and escalator incidents are related to inappropriate behaviour of passengers such as having their hands too close to the lift doors or failure to maintaining balance while using escalators. The number of incidents related to failure of equipment components in the past four years from 2010 to 2013, broken down into registered contractors for maintenance of concerned lifts and escalators are summarised in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Equipment Related Incidents

Registered Contractors	2010	2011	2012	2013
Sigma Elevator (HK) Ltd.	2	3	0	0
Hitachi Elevator Engineering Co. (HK) Ltd.	3	0	0	0
Chevalier (HK) Ltd.	4	2	1	3
Schindler Lifts (Hong Kong) Ltd.	6	3	5	1
Otis Elevator Company (HK) Ltd.	2	8	6	1
Holake Hong Kong Lifts Ltd.	2	1	1	0
Fujitec (HK) Co. Ltd.	9	0	3	1
KONE Elevator (HK) Ltd.	7	8	1	1
Mitsubishi Elevator Hong Kong Co. Ltd.	1	0	0	0
Nikkin Lifts & Escalators Ltd.	0	2	2	0
Anlev Elex Elevator Ltd.	1	2	1	0
Chun Ming Elevator Co. Ltd.	2	1	1	0
The Express Lift Co. Ltd.	1	3	2	0
Antofield Engineering Co. Ltd.	1	0	0	0
ThyssenKrupp Elevator (HK) Ltd.	2	0	1	0

Jekco Elevator Ltd.	0	1	1	0
Shineford Engineering Ltd.*	1	0	2	1
Ring Hing Engineering Services Co. Ltd.	0	1	0	0
Lighthouse Elevator Engineering Ltd.	0	0	1	0
Rich Mark Engineering Ltd.	0	0	1	0
Total:	44	35	29	8

* Registration of Shineford Engineering Ltd. was cancelled with effect from 16 October 2013

For the manpower and expenditure involved in incident investigation, please refer to part 2 above.

4. As at 24 February 2014, there were 303 registered engineers and 5 092 registered workers. There are also about 600 general workers who work under the supervision of registered workers and registered engineers. According to the information from the trade, the average years of experience for registered engineers and registered workers are around 15 years and 20 years respectively. We expect that the numbers of registered engineers and registered workers will increase by about 15 and 150 respectively in 2014.

5. The Census and Statistics Department regularly publishes reports on average daily wages of workers engaged in public sector construction projects as reported by main contractors which include the lift and escalator mechanic trade. The information can provide an indication of the salary level of lift and escalator workers. As in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013, the average daily wages of lift and escalator mechanic were \$696, \$644, \$605 and \$648 respectively. As for registered engineers, we do not have the corresponding salary information.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)108****(Question Serial No. 1947)**Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Heritage and MuseumsControlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Mrs. Betty FUNG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 40):

It is mentioned in the Brief Description under the Programme that the Department will provide support to the Antiquities Authority on matters relating to the preservation and conservation of built heritage and provide secretariat support to the Antiquities Advisory Board.

Please list by grading (including Grades 1, 2 and 3 historic buildings) the buildings/structures declared as monuments each year in the past five years (i.e. 2009-13).

Please list by item the expenditure incurred in the restoration, repair and maintenance works of historic buildings in the past five financial years (i.e. from 2009-10 to 2013-14).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-hanReply:

Monuments declared in the past five years and their grading before declaration is listed below:

<u>Declaration Year</u>	<u>Item and Address of the Declared Monument</u>	<u>Grading Before Declaration</u>
2009	Six Historic Structures of Pok Fu Lam Reservoir, Hong Kong	Grade 1
	22 Historic Structures of Tai Tam Group of Reservoirs, Hong Kong	Grade 1
	Three Historic Structures of Wong Nai Chung Reservoir, Hong Kong	Grade 1
	Four Historic Structures of Aberdeen Reservoir, Hong Kong	Grade 1
	Five Historic Structures of Kowloon Reservoir, Sha Tin, New Territories	Grade 1
	Memorial Stone of Shing Mun Reservoir, Kwai Tsing, New Territories	Grade 1
	Residence of Ip Ting-sz at Lin Ma Hang Tusen, Sha Tau Kok, New Territories	Grade 1

<u>Declaration Year</u>	<u>Item and Address of the Declared Monument</u>	<u>Grading Before Declaration</u>
	Yan Tun Kong Study Hall at Hang Tau Tsuen, Ping Shan, Yuen Long, New Territories	Grade 1
2010	Tung Wah Museum, 25 Waterloo Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon	Grade 1
	Man Mo Temple Compound, Hollywood Road, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong	Grade 1
	Tang Kwong U Ancestral Hall, Shui Tau, Kam Tin, Yuen Long, New Territories	Grade 1
	Kom Tong Hall, 7 Castle Road, Mid-Levels, Hong Kong	Grade 1
2011	Fortified Structure at No. 55 Ha Pak Nai, Yuen Long, New Territories	Grade 1
	School House of St. Stephen's College, 22 Tung Tau Wan Road, Stanley, Hong Kong	Grade 1
	King's College, 63A Bonham Road, Hong Kong	Grade 1
2013	The Cenotaph, Central, Hong Kong	Grade 1
	The Bethanie, 139 Pok Fu Lam Road, Hong Kong	Grade 1
	Fat Tat Tong, 1-5 Ha Wo Hang, Sha Tau Kok, New Territories	Grade 1
	Tat Tak Communal Hall, Ping Shan, Yuen Long, New Territories	Grade 1

The expenditure incurred by the Antiquities and Monuments Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in restoration and maintenance works for monuments and historic buildings in the past five years is as follows:

Year	Expenditure on restoration of monuments	Expenditure on maintenance of monuments	Financial assistance for maintenance of privately-owned graded historic buildings
2009-10	\$5,727,000	\$3,566,000	\$1,206,000
2010-11	\$5,753,000	\$6,124,000	\$3,788,000
2011-12	\$8,691,000	\$6,304,000	\$2,826,000
2012-13	\$7,272,000	\$3,758,000	\$3,913,000
2013-14 (Estimate)	\$14,453,000	\$3,480,000	\$5,520,000

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)109

(Question Serial No. 3273)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Heritage & Museums
Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Mrs. Betty FUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development
Question (Member Question No. 38):

Regarding the conservation of historic buildings,

1. what is the estimated expenditure of the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) for 2014-15 and how does it compare with that for 2013-14?
2. the assessment of 1 444 historic buildings has not been completed and it is known that a total of 202 buildings have been referred to the AMO for the assessment of their historical significance. When is the work expected to be completed? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

1. The estimated expenditures of the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) for 2013-14 and 2014-15 are \$111.4 million and \$126.7 million respectively.
2. Since 2009, the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) has been processing the grading of the 1 444 historic buildings. As the assessment and grading process involves lengthy discussions with the owners/stakeholders (e.g. seeking clarification on the status of the buildings, handling objections), the AAB has not set a specific deadline for the completion of the grading exercise. In February 2013, the AAB further decided that the assessment of the 202 new items would be processed alongside the remaining buildings on the list of 1 444 buildings. As at March 2014, the AAB has finalised the grading of 1 292 buildings, including 1 241 from the original list of 1 444 buildings and 51 from the 202 new items. The cost incurred in the grading of historic buildings has been absorbed in the annual provision for the AMO, which provides executive support to the AAB.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)110

(Question Serial No. 1442)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums
Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Mrs. Betty FUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 28):

Please provide the names of the buildings which are currently declared as monuments under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance. What is the annual expenditure on the conservation and promotion of these monuments? What other buildings will be declared as monuments in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

There are currently 105 monuments under the statutory protection of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap.53). Details are listed in the Annex.

The estimated expenditures incurred by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in the restoration/repairs of and publicity for the declared monuments in 2013-14 are \$17,933,000 and \$573,000 respectively.

It is intended to declare three historic buildings as monuments in 2014-15. As the AMO is liaising with the owners of the buildings concerned on the proposed monument declaration, the details will be announced at a later stage.

Declared Monuments in Hong Kong (as at 27 December 2013)

1. Rock Carving at Big Wave Bay, Hong Kong Island
2. Rock Carving on Kau Sai Chau, Sai Kung
3. Rock Carving on Tung Lung Chau, Sai Kung
4. Rock Inscription at Joss House Bay, Sai Kung
5. Rock Carving at Shek Pik, Lantau Island
6. Rock Carvings on Po Toi
7. Tung Chung Fort, Lantau Island
8. Duddell Street Steps and Gas Lamps, Central
9. Tung Lung Fort, Tung Lung Chau, Sai Kung
10. Sam Tung Uk Village, Tsuen Wan
11. Fan Lau Fort, Lantau Island
12. Old District Office North, Tai Po
13. Sheung Yiu Village, Sai Kung
14. Rock Carvings on Cheung Chau
15. Tin Hau Temple, Causeway Bay
16. Rock Carving at Lung Ha Wan, Sai Kung
17. Island House, Yuen Chau Tsai, Tai Po
18. Site of Chinese Customs Station, Fat Tau Chau, Sai Kung
19. Man Lun Fung Ancestral Hall, San Tin, Yuen Long
20. Pottery Kilns at Wun Yiu Village, Tai Po
21. Stone Circle at Fan Lau, Lantau Island
22. Tung Chung Battery, Lantau Island
23. Man Mo Temple, Tai Po
24. Hong Kong Observatory, Tsim Sha Tsui
25. Old Stanley Police Station
26. The Exterior of the Old Supreme Court, Central
27. The Exterior of the Main Building, the University of Hong Kong
28. Rock Carvings at Wong Chuk Hang, Hong Kong Island
29. Old Tai Po Market Railway Station
30. Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall, Sheung Shui
31. Old House, Hoi Pa Village, Tsuen Wan
32. Tai Fu Tai Mansion, San Tin, Yuen Long
37. Former French Mission Building, Battery Path, Central
38. Law Uk Hakka House, Chai Wan
39. Old House, Wong Uk Village, Sha Tin
40. Old Wan Chai Post Office
41. Old Pathological Institute, Caine Lane, Sheung Wan
42. Western Market, Sheung Wan
43. Former Kowloon-Canton Railway Clock Tower, Tsim Sha Tsui
44. Kang Yung Study Hall, Sha Tau Kok
45. Former Kowloon British School, Tsim Sha Tsui
46. Main Building of St. Stephen's Girls' College, Lyttelton Road, Mid-Levels
47. Yi Tai Study Hall, Kam Tin, Yuen long
48. Enclosing Walls and Corner Watch Towers of Kun Lung Wai, Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling
49. The Exterior of the Main Building, the Helena May, Garden Road, Central
50. Entrance Tower of Ma Wat Wai, Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling
51. Former Marine Police Headquarters Compound, Tsim Sha Tsui
52. Gate Lodge of the Former Mountain Lodge, the Peak
53. Central Police Station Compound, Hollywood Road, Central
54. Former Central Magistracy, Arbuthnot Road, Central
55. Victoria Prison Compound, Old Bailey Street, Central
56. The Exterior of University Hall, the University of Hong Kong
57. The Exterior of Hung Hing Ying Building, the University of Hong Kong
58. The Exterior of Tang Chi Ngong Building, the University of Hong Kong
59. Government House, Upper Albert Road, Central
60. St. John's Cathedral, Garden Road, Central
61. I Shing Temple, Wang Chau, Yuen Long
62. Remnants of the South Gate of Kowloon Walled City, Kowloon Walled City Park
63. Former Yamen Building of Kowloon Walled City, Kowloon Walled City Park
64. Entrance Tower & Enclosing Walls of Lo Wai, Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling
65. Tang Chung Ling Ancestral Hall, Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling
66. Cheung Shan Monastery, Ping Che, Fanling
71. Waglan Lighthouse, Waglan Island
72. Tang Lung Chau Lighthouse, Tang Lung Chau, Kap Shui Mun, Tsuen Wan
73. Tang Ancestral Hall, Ping Shan, Yuen Long
74. Yu Kiu Ancestral Hall, Ping Shan, Yuen Long
75. Tsui Sing Lau Pagoda, Ping Shan, Yuen Long
76. Hung Shing Temple, Kau Sai Chau, Sai Kung
77. Tin Hau Temple, Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling
78. Hau Ku Shek Ancestral Hall, Ho Sheung Heung, Sheung Shui
79. Morrison Building, Hoh Fuk Tong Centre, Tuen Mun
80. Cape D' Aguilar Lighthouse, Cape D'Aguilar, Hong Kong
81. Leung Ancestral Hall, Yuen Kong Tsuen, Pat Heung, Yuen Long
82. Chik Kwai Study Hall, Sheung Tsuen, Pat Heung, Yuen Long
83. Tang Ancestral Hall, Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long
84. Maryknoll Convent School, Waterloo Road, Kowloon Tong
85. King Yin Lei, No. 45 Stubbs Road, Mid-Levels
86. Green Island Lighthouse Compound
87. Six Historic Structures of Pok Fu Lam Reservoir
88. 22 Historic Structures of Tai Tam Group of Reservoirs
89. Three Historic Structures of Wong Nai Chung Reservoir
90. Four Historic Structures of Aberdeen Reservoir
91. Five Historic Structures of Kowloon Reservoir
92. Memorial Stone of Shing Mun Reservoir
93. Residence of Ip Ting-sz at Lin Ma Hang Tsuen, Sha Tau Kok
94. Yan Tun Kong Study Hall at Hang Tau Tsuen, Ping Shan, Yuen Long
95. Tung Wah Museum, Waterloo Road, Yau Ma Tei
96. Man Mo Temple Compound, Hollywood Road, Sheung Wan
97. Tang Kwong U Ancestral Hall, Kam Tin, Yuen Long
98. Kom Tong Hall, Castle Road, Mid-Levels
99. Fortified Structure at No. 55 Ha Pak Nai, Yuen Long
100. School House of St. Stephen's College, Stanley
101. King's College, Bonham Road, Mid-Levels
102. The Cenotaph, Central

33. Kun Lung Gate Tower, Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling
34. Yeung Hau Temple, Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long
35. Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb, Sham Shui Po
36. Flagstaff House, Cotton Tree Drive, Central

67. King Law Study Hall, Tai Po Tau Tsuen, Tai Po
68. Cheung Ancestral Hall, Shan Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long
69. Fan Sin Temple, Sheung Wun Yiu, Tai Po
70. North and West Blocks of St. Joseph's College, Kennedy Road, Central

103. The Bethanie, Pok Fu Lam Road
104. Fat Tat Tong, Ha Wo Hang, Sha Tau Kok
105. Tat Tak Communal Hall, Ping Shan, Yuen Long

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)111

(Question Serial No. 1695)

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (-) Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 66):

It is stated that Government departments will review fees and charges including water charges, which have not been revised for 19 years. However, the hardware (e.g. sewage treatment works) and software (e.g. updated water quality objectives) for ensuring desirable water quality have not been significantly improved in the past 19 years. In this regard, will the Government consider providing the public with better services before increasing the fee levels? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

The Water Supplies Department (WSD) has strived to improve the water quality by adhering to the latest water standard of the World Health Organization (WHO), applying advanced water treatment technology and uplifting the water monitoring and control measures.

In regard to water quality standard, the WSD has been keeping pace with the latest developments and revisions of WHO Guidelines for drinking-water quality which was updated in 1984, 1993, 2004 and 2011 respectively. The quality of drinking water supply in Hong Kong is stringently controlled in accordance with the latest edition of WHO's Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality (WHO-2011).

As for water treatment facilities, new technologies such as dissolved air flotation, ozonation and biological filtration and advanced monitoring and control systems have been adopted to enhance the performance of water treatment works under different operating conditions and to assure the quality of treated water supply to customers.

In regard to uplifting water quality monitoring and control, we have developed and adopted advanced water quality monitoring technologies such as “zebrafish” water quality monitoring system to enhance the capability of rapid and preventive monitoring of the quality of water supply. In addition, we have implemented a Water Safety Plan in accordance with the WHO's requirements. The plan identifies and monitors potential sources of contamination in the water supply systems together with the implementation of

necessary risk control measures to ensure the water quality from the source, through water treatment and distribution networks to consumer taps. Over the years, we have been consistently achieving the target of 100% compliance with the WHO's standards for drinking water quality as set out in the WSD's performance pledge.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)112

(Question Serial No. 0166)

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

Question (Member Question No. 6):

According to Programme (1), the Water Supplies Department will continue to plan and develop water resources and supply systems in 2014-15. Will the Government advise on the following:

1. What are the details and progress of the planning and investigation study for the desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O? What are the expenditure and manpower involved this year?
2. What are the details of the investigation and studies on the use of reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable purposes in the Northeast New Territories, their commencement and completion dates, and the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

1. The Water Supplies Department has engaged a consultant to carry out a planning and investigation study for the setting up of a seawater desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O. The scope of the study covers detailed assessment on technical feasibility and cost effectiveness, formulation of implementation strategy and programme, preliminary design, and various technical impact assessments for the construction of the desalination plant. Up to February 2014, different technical options on seawater intake, seawater treatment and, concentrate discharge have been explored and evaluated. The estimated expenditure in 2014-15 is \$15.7 million and 1.5 in-house professional staff is assigned to oversee the study.
2. For supplying reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable purposes to the north-eastern part of the New Territories, we plan to commence technical and financial studies in late 2014 for completion by 2017. The estimated expenditure for the studies in 2014-15 is \$0.5 million and 0.7 in-house professional staff is assigned to oversee the studies undertaken by consultants.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)113****(Question Serial No. 2264)**

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 52):

What items are included in the 26 projects under planning in the Estimate of the Water Supplies Department this year? Please provide the estimated expenditure on and the scheduled commencement date of works for each item using the table below.

Project under planning	Estimated expenditure	Scheduled commencement date of works

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

The 26 projects are categorized into three groups as illustrated in the table below. Most of the planning items are now at conceptual and preliminary planning stage and have not yet been included in the Public Works Programme (PWP). The items are subject to change and refinement to cope with the latest situation of development proposals and associated water demand.

Group	Project under planning	Value of projects under planning in 2014-15 (\$ million)	Scheduled commencement date of works
A	Provision of water supply to cope with land supply and new developments including Kai Tak Development, Lok Ma Chau Loop Development, Fanling North New Development Areas and Kwu Tung North, Tung Chung and Lantau (18 projects)	7,500 (The preliminary project estimates)	Project commencement date to be ascertained upon completion of detailed planning.
B	Enhancement or improvement of existing water supply infrastructure including water mains, water treatment works, service reservoir and pumping station (6 projects)		
C	Implementation of new water resources including water reclamation and seawater desalination (2 projects)		

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)114

(Question Serial No. 2301)

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development
Question (Member Question No. 39):

Regarding the commencement of the “desalination” programme:

1. What is the estimated expenditure in 2014-15? When will funds be sought?
2. The proposed incineration facility in Shek Kwu Chau consists of a desalination plant. Have the study and project costs been included in the above estimate or funds?

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

1. We sought funds in 2012-13 for carrying out a planning and investigation study for the construction of a desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O (TKO) and commenced the study in December 2012. The entire study will largely be completed in early 2015. The estimated expenditure for the study in 2014-15 is about \$15.7 million. Further funding for the project will then be considered if the technical feasibility and cost-effectiveness of the project is established.
2. The proposed incineration facility in Shek Kwu Chau is not a project under Water Supplies Department. The study for the desalination plant in TKO is funded under PWP item No. 9345WF and the project estimate of the future TKO desalination plant will be exclusively for the construction of the TKO plant only.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)115

(Question Serial No. 0742)

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

Question (Member Question No. 14):

According to Paragraph 150 of the Budget Speech, “fees and charges is an important source of government revenue. Last year, I asked government departments to review their fees and charges, beginning with items which did not directly affect people’s livelihood. After a review of more than 1 300 fees and charges, more than 200 increases have been proposed. These will reduce the loss of public revenue by around \$60 million per year. We shall review other fees and charges this year, including water charges, which have not been revised for 19 years, the fees for use of leisure facilities and services, and charges relating to environmental hygiene services”. Could the Administration advise this Committee on the details of the review on revision of water charges, whether public opinions will be sought during the review, whether the affordability of the grassroots is an important consideration, and the estimated time of completing the review and introducing new charges?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

We aim at completing a review on water charges this year. The review will cover water charges for domestic and non-domestic supplies. We will take into consideration in the review a number of factors including affordability, the financial performance of waterworks operation, the prevailing economic situation and views of the Legislative Council members. After completion of the review, a time table for the implementation of the revised charging rates, if proposed, will be determined in due course.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)116****(Question Serial No. 0773)**

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 46):

Regarding “assessing fresh water supply requirements on the basis of providing round-the-clock supply of water throughout the year to meet the demand of the territory; developing fresh resources to cope with such requirements” mentioned in the Aim, could the Administration advise this Committee on the proportion of the sources of fresh water supply in Hong Kong in the past two years, and the cost comparison among the latest locally collected rainwater, Dongjiang water imported and the production of reclaimed water using reverse osmosis technology?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The quantities of fresh water supply from water collected locally and Dongjiang water in the past two years are as follows:

	2012-13		2013-14 (up to end Feb 2014)	
	Quantity (million cubic metre)	%	Quantity (million cubic metre)	%
From water collected locally	218	23.4	333	38.8
From Dongjiang water	715	76.6	526	61.2
Total quantity of fresh water supply	933	100	859	100

The production costs per cubic metre of fresh water supply from water collected locally and Dongjiang water at 2013-14 price level are estimated to be about \$4.2 and \$8.8 respectively. At the moment, we have no plan to produce reclaimed water using reverse osmosis technology. We therefore do not have the estimated cost for production of reclaimed water using the technology.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)117

(Question Serial No. 0774)

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

Question (Member Question No. 47):

Regarding “monitoring closely the level of arrears of water charges; and coping with the growth in the number of consumer accounts” mentioned in the Brief Description, could the Administration advise this Committee on the level of arrears of water charges including the number of cases, the amounts involved and the amounts of irrecoverable water charges in the past 2 years; and the estimated growth in the number of consumer accounts in the next 3 financial years?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The level of arrears of water charges including the number of cases and the total amount involved for the past two years are provided below-

	2012-13	2013-14 (as at 31.1.2014)
Number of cases	14 492	15 276
Total amounts involved	\$8.0 million	\$7.2 million

The average amount of irrecoverable water charges for the past two years (2012-13 and 2013-14) was \$2.7 million per annum, which represented 0.1% of the water charges received.

It is estimated that there will be an annual increase of about 40 000 new consumer accounts from 2014-15 to 2016-17.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)118****(Question Serial No. 2315)**

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Customer Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 48):

Regarding the matter of “operating and maintaining fresh water supply and distribution systems” in the Brief Description, could the Administration advise this Committee on the number of cases of bursting or apparent leaking of fresh water pipes and salt water pipes by District Council district in the past two years; the main causes of bursting or apparent leaking as revealed by investigations; the longest and average hours of suspension of water supply affecting the general public as a result; and the longest and average time taken by the Department’s staff for attending to urgent repairs upon the outbreak of the incidents.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The numbers of fresh and salt water main burst and leakage cases in 2012-13 and 2013-14 (up to February 2014) broken down by the demarcation of District Councils are tabulated in Table 1 and Table 2 below –

Table 1 - Numbers of water main burst and leakage cases in 2012-13 –

District	Fresh water main		Salt water main	
	Burst	Leakage	Burst	Leakage
Central and Western	4	506	3	202
Eastern	3	279	6	195
Islands	1	339	0	1
Kowloon City	10	374	16	279
Kwai Tsing	32	231	14	133
Kwun Tong	7	384	11	268
North	0	1 057	1	2
Sai Kung	7	1 012	7	36

Sha Tin	11	369	16	100
Sham Shui Po	10	200	16	150
Southern	0	365	3	91
Tai Po	2	411	15	58
Tsuen Wan	3	290	2	118
Tuen Mun	3	605	6	117
Wan Chai	6	460	3	188
Wong Tai Sin	0	95	4	103
Yau Tsim Mong	5	299	18	258
Yuen Long	22	2 034	0	0
Total	126	9 310	141	2 299

Table 2 - Numbers of water main burst and leakage cases in 2013-14 (up to February 2014) –

District	Fresh water main		Salt water main	
	Burst	Leakage	Burst	Leakage
Central and Western	2	432	2	189
Eastern	5	254	5	167
Islands	0	308	0	1
Kowloon City	10	317	16	248
Kwai Tsing	27	202	12	175
Kwun Tong	4	320	5	199
North	3	790	0	0
Sai Kung	15	668	8	27
Sha Tin	10	306	5	113
Sham Shui Po	10	164	9	119
Southern	1	323	0	88
Tai Po	9	448	17	39
Tsuen Wan	1	234	2	106
Tuen Mun	2	434	0	103
Wan Chai	2	363	4	205
Wong Tai Sin	2	87	4	83
Yau Tsim Mong	6	252	11	220
Yuen Long	20	1 806	0	2
Total	129	7 708	100	2 084

Burst and leakage of water mains are commonly due to a confluence of various factors, including ageing of water mains, ground settlement or upheaval and external loading or vibration.

The average and longest time of fresh and salt water supply suspension affecting the general public are shown in Table 3 below:

Table 3 - Suspension of Water Supply

	Average time of Suspension	Longest time of Suspension
Fresh Water Supply	1.5 hours	73.4 hours
Salt Water Supply	6.6 hours	120.5 hours

The exceptional cases with much longer time of suspension of water supply were isolated cases due to such reasons as i) congested ground conditions with lots of underground pipes, conduits and cables of the utility companies, ii) repairs requiring breaking of large concrete blocks, iii) fabrication of special pipe fittings to suit site conditions, iv) time for locating leakage spots, v) repairs affected by adverse weather conditions such as typhoon and by other repairs in the vicinity, and vi) repairs requiring prior ground strengthening. For fresh water supply suspension expected to last for more than three hours, we will provide emergency temporary fresh water supply to meet the basic need of the affected consumers.

The average and longest time taken by the Department's staff for attending to urgent repairs upon the outbreak of fresh and salt water main bursts are shown in Table 4 below:

Table 4 – Attending to Urgent Repairs

	Average time of Attending to Urgent repairs	Longest time of Attending to Urgent repairs
Fresh Water Main Burst	0.4 hours	1.2 hours
Salt Water Main Burst	0.4 hours	1.6 hours

The cases with longer time for attending to urgent repairs were isolated cases due to such reasons as i) the emergency gangs concerned being engaged in dealing with other main burst incidents, and ii) remote location of burst main, busy traffic condition or adverse weather conditions such as typhoon requiring longer travelling time for the emergency gang to reach the site.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)119

(Question Serial No. 2235)

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department
Subhead (No. & title): (223) Purchase of water
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 54):

The expenditures on purchasing Dongjiang water from Guangdong Province by a package deal approach from 2012-13 to 2014-15 are \$3,575.9 million, \$3,782.58 million and \$3,959.34 million respectively. The Administration will negotiate a new agreement on the price of Dongjiang water with the Government of the Guangdong Province within this year. When will the negotiation start? What is the estimated expenditure on purchasing Dongjiang water in 2015? Will the quantity ceiling for purchasing Dongjiang water be lowered? If yes, what are the estimated quantity ceiling and the reasons for lowering the quantity ceiling? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK, Dennis

Reply:

We have started the negotiation with the Guangdong authorities on the Dongjiang water supply agreement after 2014. Water price and quantity are issues that will be discussed during the negotiation.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)120

(Question Serial No. 2236)

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

Question (Member Question No. 55):

Regarding the planning and investigation study for a desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O, will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- a) The Administration indicated that the investigation study for the desalination plant would be completed by the end of 2014. However, the Financial Secretary stated in the Budget this year that the study would largely be completed early next year. What are the reasons for the extension of time / difficulties in completing the study?
- b) The allocation for the study was \$9 million in 2013-14. What was the expenditure on the study last year? What were the works covered by or the reasons for the expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK, Dennis

Reply:

- a) The consultant has taken more time to carry out seawater sampling and analysis, site investigation works and the ecological field survey which are essential for the preliminary design and the environmental impact assessment for the project. The study is expected to be completed in early 2015. We anticipate that the slight delay in completion of the study will not have any adverse impact on the overall project programme for commissioning the desalination plant in 2020.
- b) The expenditure for the planning and investigation study in 2013-14 is estimated to be about \$4.2 million covering consultants' fee and investigation works. The expenditure is less than the allocation mainly due to the longer time taken to carry out the seawater sampling and analysis, site investigation works and the ecological field survey.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)121****(Question Serial No. 2504)**Head: (194) Water Supplies DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and DistributionControlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 76):

The Water Supplies Department indicated that it would continue to plan, design and construct salt water supply and distribution systems. Will the Administration advise this Committee on the following:

a) Please provide the information on each salt water flushing system in detail using the table below:

Area	Number of residents	Quantity of salt water supplied for flushing	Commencement date of works	Completion date of works	Estimated amount of expenditure	Estimated quantity of fresh water saved
Pok Fu Lam						
Northwest New Territories						
Tung Chung						
(Other projects to be implemented)						

b) Apart from the works of salt water flushing for Pok Fu Lam area and salt water supply for Northwest New Territories, will the Administration develop any other salt water flushing systems? If yes, what are the details and the estimated expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK, Dennis

Reply:

a) Details of the salt water flushing systems are provided as follows –

Area	Number of residents	Quantity of salt water supplied for flushing (cubic metre/day)	Commencement date of works	Completion date of works*	Estimated amount of expenditure in 2014-15 (\$million)	Estimated quantity of fresh water saved* (cubic metre/day)
Pok Fu Lam	98 000	15 100	October 2009	July 2013	1.5	15 100
Northwest New Territories	600 000	60 000	February 2008	2015	53.2	60 000
Tung Chung	89 000 [#]	10 600	(under planning)	(under planning)	-	10 600
(Other projects to be implemented)	-	-	-	-	-	-

* This refers to the substantial completion date of the salt water supply system including service reservoir(s), pumping station(s) and distribution mains

[#] Existing population

b) WSD is planning to develop a salt water flushing system in Tung Chung to serve 89 000 residents in the area. We will continue to review regularly, based on the anticipated developments and demand forecast, the technical feasibility and cost effectiveness for developing salt water flushing system for other areas.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)122

(Question Serial No. 0970)

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

Question (Member Question No. 32):

According to Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15 under Programme (1), the Administration will continue with the construction of stages 3 and 4 of the replacement and rehabilitation programme (R&R programme) of water mains. Will the Government advise on the following:

1. The progress of the construction of stages 3 and 4 of the R&R programme of water mains this year, the districts of the construction locations in details, the length in kilometres of water mains replaced or rehabilitated, and the expenditure and manpower involved in the construction.
2. The target of the construction of stages 3 and 4 of the R&R programme of water mains in the coming year, the districts of the construction locations in details, the expected lengths in kilometres of water mains replaced or rehabilitated.

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

1. In 2013-14 (up to end January 2014), the length of water mains replaced or rehabilitated under stage 3 and stage 4 of the R&R programme is 75 km and 177 km respectively. The water mains replaced or rehabilitated are mainly located in Kowloon City, Eastern, Central & Western, Wan Chai, Tuen Mun and Yuen Long districts. The estimated expenditure for stage 3 and stage 4 works in 2013-14 are \$2,621 million of which \$378 million is for the employment of resident site staff for supervision of the construction works.
2. A total of about 354 km of water mains is planned to be replaced or rehabilitated in 2014-15 under stage 3 and stage 4 of the R&R programme. The water mains to be replaced or rehabilitated will be mainly located in Kowloon City, Eastern, Central & Western, Yau Tsim Mong and Kwai Tsing districts.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)123

(Question Serial No. 1206)

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

Question (Member Question No. 21):

Regarding the investigation and studies on the use of reclaimed water for toilet flushing in the Northeast New Territories, what is the expenditure involved? Have the studies been outsourced? If yes, what was the contract cost involved and when will the studies be completed?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

For supplying reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable purposes to the north-eastern part of the New Territories, we will engage consultants to carry out technical and financial studies. The studies will commence in late 2014 for completion by 2017. The estimated total consultancy fee of the studies is \$8 million, while the estimated expenditure for the studies in 2014-15 is \$0.5 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)124

(Question Serial No. 3260)

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

Question (Member Question No. (19)):

It is stated in the Budget Speech that the Administration will review water charges this year. Please set out in detail the fee items to be reviewed, and the suggested criteria for and rates of adjustment.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wai-king, Starry

Reply:

The review will cover water charges for domestic and non-domestic supplies. We will take into consideration in the review a number of factors including affordability, the financial performance of waterworks operation, the prevailing economic situation and views of the Legislative Council members. The rates of adjustment, if proposed, are subject to the result of the review.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)125****(Question Serial No. 0141)**Head: (194) Water Supplies DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and DistributionControlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 15):

(1) In 2013-14, how many water main burst incidents have occurred due to the ageing of fresh water mains and salt water mains for flushing? For each burst water main, how many years has it been used and what was its originally expected lifespan?

(2) What measures has the Administration taken to address the problems of bursting and leakage of fresh water mains and salt water mains for flushing this year? What were the expenditure and manpower involved?

(3) Please provide the total lengths, existing ages, average ages and maintenance costs in 2013-14 of the fresh water mains and salt water mains for flushing in the territory.

Total length of fresh water mains: _____

Total length of salt water mains for flushing: _____

Fresh water mains	Proportion to total length	Maintenance cost in 2013-14 (Hong Kong dollars)
Below 5 years		
5 to <10 years		
10 to <15 years		
15 to <20 years		
20 to <25 years		
25 to <30 years		
30 to <35 years		
35 to <40 years		
40 to <45 years		
45 to <50 years		
50 years or above		

Average age: _____

Salt water mains for flushing	Proportion to total length	Maintenance cost in 2013-14 (Hong Kong dollars)
Below 5 years		
5 to <10 years		
10 to <15 years		
15 to <20 years		
20 to <25 years		
25 to <30 years		
30 to <35 years		
35 to <40 years		
40 to <45 years		
45 to <50 years		
50 years or above		

Average age: _____

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

- (1) Water main burst is commonly due to a confluence of various factors, including ageing of water mains, ground settlement or upheaval and external loading or vibration. The numbers of fresh and salt water main burst incidents in 2013-14 (up to February 2014) were 129 and 100 respectively. The numbers of years for which the burst water mains had been used before burst are shown in the table below-

Years of water main used before burst	Numbers of water main burst in 2013-14 (up to February 2014)	
	Fresh water main	Salt water main
Below 5 years	2	1
5 to <10 years	3	1
10 to <15 years	3	5
15 to <20 years	0	6
20 to <25 years	0	8
25 to <30 years	15	14
30 years or above	106	65
Total	129	100

The water supply network is made up of pipelines of different materials. The serviceable life of the water mains varies with the types of pipe materials, the ground conditions and the type of water they carry. Most of the burst water mains had been in use for nearly or more than 30 years before burst and were at the end of their typical serviceable lives.

- (2) We have been taking a multi-pronged approach to tackle the water main burst and leakage problem including leakage detection, pressure management and implementation of the Replacement and Rehabilitation Programme for water mains. In 2013-14, the expenditure on implementing all these measures is estimated to be

\$2,798 million. The number of staff involved for implementation of the measures is 100.

- (3) The total lengths, ages and average ages of fresh water mains and salt water mains of the Water Supplies Department in the territory are provided below-

Total length of fresh water mains: about 6 300 kilometres (km)

Total length of salt water mains for flushing: about 1 500 km

Existing age of fresh water mains	Proportion to total length
Below 5 years	15%
5 to <10 years	19%
10 to <15 years	15%
15 to <20 years	10%
20 to <25 years	8%
25 to <30 years	8%
30 years or above	25%
Total	100%

Average age: approximately 19 years

Existing age of salt water mains for flushing	Proportion to total length
Below 5 years	14%
5 to <10 years	20%
10 to <15 years	18%
15 to <20 years	12%
20 to <25 years	10%
25 to <30 years	7%
30 years or above	19%
Total	100%

Average age: approximately 18 years

In 2013-14, the expenditure on maintenance and repair works for water mains is estimated to be \$220 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)126

(Question Serial No. 1304)

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

Question (Member Question No. 20):

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15 that the Department will “continue with the planning and investigation study for a desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O”.

(a) What was the progress of work in this area in 2013? Can the work be completed by 2014 as planned? If no, what are the reasons? What is the expenditure involved in the entire study?

(b) What are the unit costs (per cubic metre) of turning seawater into potable water, processing local fresh water and processing Dongjiang water according to the latest study findings?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Che-cheung

Reply:

(a) We commenced the planning and investigation study for a desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O in December 2012. The scope of the study includes detailed assessment on technical feasibility and cost effectiveness, formulation of implementation strategy and programme, preliminary design, and various technical impact assessments for construction of the desalination plant. Up to February 2014, different technical options on seawater intake, seawater treatment, and concentrate discharge have been explored and evaluated under the study. The study will continue in 2014-15 on preliminary design, site investigation works, environmental impact and traffic impact assessments, cost estimation and cost effectiveness analysis. As the consultant has taken more time to carry out the seawater sample collection and analysis, site investigation works and the ecological field survey in 2013-14 which are essential for the preliminary design and the environmental impact assessment for the project, the study is expected to be completed in early 2015. We anticipate that the slight delay in completion of the study will not have adverse impact on the overall project programme for commissioning the desalination plant in 2020. The estimated cost for the entire study is about \$26 million.

(b) While the ongoing study has yet to arrive at an estimate of the production cost of fresh water by desalination, the unit cost of fresh water to be produced from desalination has previously been broadly estimated to be around \$12 per cubic metre at 2012-13 price level. The unit cost of fresh water produced from locally collected fresh water and imported Dongjiang water are estimated to be \$4.2 and \$8.8 respectively at 2013-14 price level.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)127****(Question Serial No. 1339)**

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 1.05):

Regarding the matters on water supply and water resources management, will the Administration advise on:

1. The annual expenditures, quantities of water purchased and price increases for purchasing Dongjiang water from the Chinese Government in the past five years;
2. The quantities of fresh water discharged to the sea due to overflow from reservoirs in the past five years (please provide a breakdown by reservoir); and
3. Whether the Administration has explored ways to avoid overflow from reservoirs, and if yes, what the details and improvement measures are?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG, Kenneth

Reply:

1. For the past five years (2009-2013), we have purchased 820 million cubic metres of Dongjiang (DJ) water each year and their annual expenditures and price increases are shown in the following table.

Year	Expenditure on purchasing DJ water (\$ million)	Percentage increase in water price (%)
2009	2,959.0	-
2010	3,146.0	6.3
2011	3,344.0	6.3
2012	3,538.7	5.8
2013	3,743.3	5.8

2. The quantities of overflow from reservoirs* from 2009 to 2013 are as follows -

Year	Overflow Quantity from reservoir/reservoir group (million cubic metre)								
	Aberdeen	Kowloon	Shek Pik	Tai Tam	Tai Lam Chung	Lower Shing Mun	Plover Cove	High Island	Total
2009	1.8	3.1	0.5	9.4	0	0	0	0	14.8
2010	3.7	4.0	5.5	11.8	0	0	0	0	25.0
2011	0.3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.3
2012	1.3	1.6	0.9	10.0	1.6	0	0	0	15.4
2013	3.3	5.2	15.7	15.4	0.6	0	0	0	40.2

Notes:

* We have not measured the overflow at Pok Fu Lam Reservoir due to its very small capacity (only contributing 0.03% of the total reservoir capacity in Hong Kong).

3. Overflow from small reservoirs during very heavy rainfall is an operational constraint. We have explored various ways to reduce reservoir overflows. Since 2006, we have adopted a flexible supply arrangement under the DJ water supply agreement with provision for adjusting the daily supply rate according to our need to facilitate better control on the storage level of our large reservoirs in which DJ water is stored. Overflow since then has been greatly reduced as compared to the period before 2006. The average overflow quantity over the past five years is 19 million cubic metres per annum, equivalent to about 2% of total fresh water supply.

We have also considered different options including expanding the reservoir storages, to reduce overflow from reservoirs. However, these options are found not cost-effective and will have severe ecological impact and in some cases heritage impact on the downstream areas.

Nevertheless, we will continue to review the situation with a view to reducing the quantity of overflow from reservoirs.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)128****(Question Serial No. 2055)**

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 1.14):

(1) Please provide the water main leakage rates and quantities in the past 5 years with a breakdown by fresh water and salt water.

(2) What specific measures has the Administration taken to reduce the leakage rate of water mains? Please provide the expenditures on water main maintenance and leakage prevention in the past 5 years, and the estimated expenditure involved in 2014-2015.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG, Kenneth

Reply:

(1) The fresh water main leakage rates in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Fresh Water Main Leakage Rate
2009	21 %
2010	20 %
2011	19 %
2012	18 %
2013	17 %

As there is currently no reliable and economical technical solution for metering salt water consumption, we cannot ascertain the salt water main leakage rate with sufficient accuracy.

(2) We are taking a multi-pronged approach to tackle water main leakage, including leakage detection, pressure management and implementation of replacement and rehabilitation programmes for water mains. The expenditures on water main maintenance and leakage prevention in the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure involved in 2014-2015 are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure on water mains maintenance and leakage prevention (\$ million)
2009 – 2010	2,302
2010 – 2011	2,468
2011 – 2012	2,233
2012 – 2013	2,509
2013 – 2014 (estimates)	3,018
2014 – 2015 (estimates)	2,779

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)129

(Question Serial No. 2063)

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development
Question (Member Question No. 1.13):

Regarding the matter of flushing supply, please provide the following information:

- (1) The expenditure, manpower and specific plan involved in the investigation and studies on the use of reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable purposes in the north-eastern part of the New Territories;
- (2) The current percentage of flats covered by salt water flushing supply in the territory;
- (3) The current number of flats in urban areas across the territory using fresh water for flushing (please provide a breakdown by building age);
- (4) The current number of flats in rural areas across the territory using fresh water for flushing; and
- (5) The expenditure on and progress of extending salt water flushing supply in 2013-2014, and the estimated expenditure involved in 2014-2015.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG, Kenneth

Reply:

(1) For supplying reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable purposes to the north-eastern part of the New Territories, we will engage consultants to carry out technical and financial studies. The studies will commence in late 2014 for completion by 2017. The estimated total consultancy fee of the studies is \$8 million. The estimated expenditure for the studies in 2014-15 is \$0.5 million and 0.7 in-house professional staff is assigned to oversee the studies.

(2), (3) & (4). Our flushing water supply statistics are not based on the numbers of flats nor building age, but rather on the population coverage. Currently about 80% of the population in Hong Kong is receiving salt water for flushing. On the other hand, about 11% and 31% of the population in urban areas and rural areas (New Territories including outlying islands) are respectively using fresh water for flushing.

(5) In 2013-14, we completed the construction of a salt water flushing supply system in Pokfulam and we will provide salt water supply for flushing to consumers in the district

gradually. Furthermore, the construction of a salt water flushing supply system in the northwest New Territories will be completed by 2015. The total estimated expenditures on these works in 2013-14 and 2014-15 are \$246.8 million and \$54.7 million respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)130

(Question Serial No. 2395)

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

Question (Member Question No. 39):

The ageing of water mains increases the number of water main bursts and leaks which do not only waste the precious water resources, but also cause much inconvenience to the public. In this regard, could the Administration advise this Committee on the following:

1. What were the quantities of water loss due to water main bursts and leaks in the past 3 years, and the amounts of expenditure involved?
2. What were the progresses of the replacement of aged water mains in the past 3 years, and the amounts of resources allocated for such work? Please list out each expenditure item in detail.
3. Will the Administration increase the resources and manpower for expediting the replacement of aged water mains and reducing wastage of water resources? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply:

1. With service reservoirs located at high altitude for water supply to premises at different levels, water mains at lower altitudes are operating under a relatively high water pressure. The high water pressure together with ground settlement, ground upheaval, external loading and vibration makes our ageing water distribution network prone to leakage and bursting. Therefore, water main leaks and bursts are considered more as operational constraints rather than as losses. The water main leakage rates in 2011, 2012 and 2013 were 19%, 18% and 17% respectively. The quantity of water drained away due to main bursts was less than 0.01% of the total water supplied in 2011 and 2012, and less than 0.02% of the total water supplied in 2013.

2. In the past three financial years, the length of water mains replaced or rehabilitated and the corresponding expenditure are given in the table below: -

Financial Year	Length of water mains replaced or rehabilitated (km)	Expenditure (\$ million)		
		Works	Employment of Resident Site Staff for works supervision	Total
2010-11	310	1,920	284	2,204
2011-12	235	1,710	267	1,977
2012-13	295	1,882	315	2,197

3. The replacement and rehabilitation of water mains programme was originally planned for implementation in stages over a 20-year period from 2000 to 2020. Since 2005, we have redeployed more resources and compressed the works programme to advance the target completion date of the entire project by 5 years, i.e. completion of the programme within 15 years by 2015. Although the works are conducted mostly in heavily trafficked roads with congested underground utilities, they are in reasonably good progress that enable us to meet our target of reducing the leakage rate to 15% by 2015. We will keep on monitoring the conditions of the water mains and advance the works of those aged water mains in need of earlier replacement and rehabilitation as far as practicable.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)131

(Question Serial No. 0513)

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

Question (Member Question No. 26):

As mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15, the construction of stages 3 and 4 of the replacement and rehabilitation programme of water mains will be continued. Could the Government advise on the manpower and expenditure involved in 2013-14, the estimated manpower and expenditure involved in 2014-15, the present progress, and the estimated time of completion?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

The estimated expenditures for stage 3 and stage 4 of the replacement and rehabilitation programme of water mains in 2013-14 and 2014-15 are \$2,621 million and \$2,368 million respectively of which \$378 million and \$339 million are for the employment of resident site staff for supervision of the construction works.

The length of water mains replaced or rehabilitated under stage 3 and stage 4 of the programme up to end January 2014 is 569 km (71% of stage 3 works) and 415 km (48% of stage 4 works) respectively. The remaining works will be completed by December 2015.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)132

(Question Serial No. 0514)

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

Question (Member Question No. 27):

Regarding the studies on the use of reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable purposes in the north-eastern part of the New Territories including Sheung Shui and Fanling,

1. What are the estimated manpower and expenditure involved in 2014-15? Have the advance works of investigation been commenced? What is the present progress?
2. It is known that the high cost of using reclaimed water stems from water distribution facilities. Does the Administration have any measures to reduce the cost, such as collaborating with Hong Kong institutions to explore low-cost facilities for the development of reclaimed water? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

1. For supplying reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable purposes to the northeastern part of the New Territories, we plan to carry out technical and financial studies in late 2014 for completion by 2017. The estimated expenditure for the studies in 2014-15 is \$0.5 million and 0.7 in-house professional staff is assigned to oversee the studies undertaken by consultants.
2. Reclaimed water will mostly be used for flushing purpose and its distribution system consisting of pumping stations, service reservoirs and distribution mains, is similar to other flushing system using fresh water or seawater. We will explore cost minimizing measures in detail at the detailed design stage of the project.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)133

(Question Serial No. 0176)

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

Question (Member Question No. 14):

According to the Indicators under Programme (1), the actual leakage rates of water mains in the recent 2 years were 18% and 17% respectively, and the estimated leakage rate of water mains in the coming year is 16%. In this regard, will the Government advise on the following:

1. How many water main burst incidents have occurred due to the ageing of water mains this year? What were the respective expenditure and manpower involved in the replacement and rehabilitation programme of water mains, leakage detection and pressure management implemented by the Administration this year?
2. What measures has the Administration taken to address the problem of water main leakage this year? What were the expenditure and manpower involved?
3. The leakage rate reduces by a mere 1% each year. What measures will the Administration take to more effectively reduce the leakage rate for the coming year? What will be the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

1 & 2. Water main bursts are commonly due to a confluence of various factors, including aging of water mains, ground settlement or upheaval and external loading or vibration. The number of water main bursts in 2013-14 (up to February 2014) was 229.

We have been taking a multi-pronged approach to tackle the water main burst and leakage problem including leakage detection, pressure management and implementation of the replacement and rehabilitation programmes for water mains. In 2013-14, the expenditure for implementing these measures is estimated to be \$2,798 million. The number of staff involved for implementation of the measures is 100.

3. The 1% reduction in leakage rate each year involves an annual replacement and rehabilitation of some 300km of water mains. These works are conducted mostly in heavily

trafficked roads with heavily congested utilities. The works are in reasonably good progress that enable us to meet our target of reducing the leakage rate to 15% by 2015. We will continue with the above-mentioned measures in 2014-15, which will involve an estimated expenditure of \$2,559 million. The number of staff involved for implementation of the measures is estimated to be about 89.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)134

(Question Serial No. 0194)

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) Water Quality Control
Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 13):

According to Programme (2), the Water Supplies Department (WSD) is responsible for ensuring that the purity, wholesomeness and safety of treated fresh water conform to international standards. Will the Government advise on the following:

1. What were the expenditure and manpower involved in taking samples from water treatment works, service reservoirs and consumers' taps by the Department this year?
2. What were the respective numbers of enquiries and complaints on fresh water quality received by the Department in the recent 3 years? How many of them involved residual chlorine in fresh water? Has the Department conducted any investigation into these enquiries and complaints in the recent 3 years? If yes, what were the details, and the respective expenditure and manpower involved in the recent 3 years?

Asked by: Hon. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

1. The departmental expenditure for water quality control in 2013-14 is estimated to be \$92.2 million. There are 128 staff involved in sampling, testing as well as water quality control and monitoring. The expenditure and manpower are for the control of water quality to ensure compliance with the World Health Organization's Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality. It covers sampling, testing, control and monitoring of the quality of water from Dongjiang, in the water gathering grounds, impounding reservoirs, service reservoirs, distribution network as well as consumer taps. The expenditure and manpower for taking water samples from treatment works, service reservoirs and consumers' taps have not been separately accounted for.

2. The enquiries and complaints on fresh water quality received by the Department in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (up to January 2014)
No. of enquiries and complaints on freshwater quality	2 193	1 574	1 282

Enquiries and complaints will usually not specifically refer to residual chlorine but rather about taste or odour of the water supply. The number of enquiries and complaints on fresh water quality related to taste or odour in treated water in the past three years are tabulated as below.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (up to January 2014)
No. of enquiries and complaints related to taste or odour	144	133	144

All enquiries and complaints on water quality including those related to taste and odour are dealt with expeditiously including site inspection, investigation, water sampling and testing as appropriate. Upon receipt of a complaint regarding chlorine taste or odour, the WSD will investigate the source of the treated water supply and arrange whenever necessary sample collection and testing to ensure that the treated water residual chlorine level fully complies with the drinking water quality standards. In the past three years, about 250 staff of various ranks were involved in dealing with the enquires and complaints on water quality. There is no additional expenditure other than the salary of the 250 staff. It should be noted that the 250 staff were also engaged in other customer services works.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)135

(Question Serial No. 0197)

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

Question (Member Question No. 23):

According to the Brief Description under Programme (1), the Water Supplies Department is responsible for providing adequate and satisfactory supplies of water to the territory. However, a total of 24 villages are not yet provided with metered water supply at present, affecting about 625 people. Many villagers of remote villages are worried about water shortages. Will the Government advise on the following:

1. Has the Administration planned to design and construct any reliable and efficient fresh water supply and distribution systems for the villages not yet provided with metered water supply this year? If yes, what were the details, and the expenditure and manpower involved? If no, what were the reasons?
2. Will the Administration plan to construct any reliable and efficient fresh water supply and distribution systems for the villages not yet provided with metered water supply in the coming year? If yes, what are the details, and the expenditure and manpower involved? If no, what are the reasons, and can the Administration provide the programme of provision of metered water supply for those villages?

Asked by: Hon. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

1. In 2013-14, we carried out the engineering design for the treated water supply system for four villages not yet provided with treated water supply, viz Tung Ah, Tung Ah Pui, Ngan Hang and Lan Nai Wan villages in the Southern District. The estimated cost of this project is about \$8 million. The construction works are anticipated to commence in 2014 for completion in 2016. We are deploying in-house resources of 0.5 professional staff and 0.7 technical staff to complete the design work. Supervision of the construction works will also be carried out by in-house staff and the estimated resources involved are 0.5 professional staff and 2.5 technical staff.

In 2014-15, we will carry out planning, design and construction for the treated water supply system for Yuen Tun Ha village in the Tai Po District. The estimated cost of this project is about \$1 million. The construction works are anticipated to commence in late 2014 for completion in late 2015. We have deployed in-house resources of 0.1 professional staff and 0.2 technical staff to complete the design and supervision of the construction works.

2. For the remaining 19 villages, we will continue to conduct regular review based on updated information of anticipated water consumption, the estimated construction cost and other factors which may affect the provision of treated water supply systems.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)136

(Question Serial No. 1877)

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

Question (Member Question No. 16):

The planning and investigation study for the desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O originally scheduled for completion in the end of this year has been deferred and will be largely completed early next year. What are the reasons? Are there any detailed assessments to see if the deferral will affect the progress of construction in future and the plan for putting the desalination plant into operation in 2020? Also, apart from desalination, what specific and practical measures have been taken to reduce the reliance on Dongjiang water? Will the Administration review the water supply agreement with the Mainland as soon as possible so as to reduce the supply quantity and price of Dongjiang water?

Asked by: Hon. MO, Claudia

Reply:

The consultant has taken more time to carry out seawater sample collection and analysis, site investigation works and the ecological field survey which are essential for the preliminary design and the environmental impact assessment for the project. The study is expected to be completed in early 2015. We anticipate that the slight delay in completion of the study will not have any adverse impact on the overall project programme for commissioning the desalination plant in 2020.

Apart from seawater desalination, we have been implementing a number of water demand and supply management measures to cope with the increase in water demand due to population and economic growth, and to enhance the resilience of our water sources to climate change impacts. The measures include extending the seawater supply networks for flushing purposes, studying the feasibility of supplying reclaimed water to the north-eastern part of the New Territories for flushing and other non-potable use, enhancing water leakage control and encouraging grey water recycling and rainwater harvesting in new government developments. We have also been stepping up the initiatives of water conservation with an aim to reducing the water demand.

Although we will strive to meet the demand increase by the aforesaid initiatives, Dongjiang water will still remain as our major source of water supply in the coming years. We have

started the negotiation with the Guangdong authorities on the Dongjiang water supply agreement for supply after 2014. Water price and quantity are issues that will be discussed during the negotiation.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)137****(Question Serial No. 1584)**

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 21):

According to Paragraph 53 of the Budget Speech, near 70 to 80 percent of Hong Kong's fresh water comes from Dongjiang. The Government has reserved a site for the construction of a desalination plant. Please advise on:

- 1) The Government expenditure on purchasing Dongjiang fresh water in the past 8 years;
- 2) The location of the site reserved for the construction of the desalination plant; and
- 3) The estimated annual quantities of salt water processed and fresh water supplied to Hong Kong by the desalination plant.

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

- 1) The expenditure on purchase of Dongjiang water in the past eight years is shown in the following table –

Year	Expenditure on purchase of Dongjiang water (Hong Kong \$ million)
2006	2,494.8
2007	2,494.8
2008	2,494.8
2009	2,959.0
2010	3,146.0
2011	3,344.0
2012	3,538.7
2013	3,743.3

- 2) A site at the southeastern side of Tseung Kwan O Area 137 near Tit Cham Chau (鐵蓼洲) has been reserved for the construction of a desalination plant.
- 3) The fresh water production capacity of the desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O is around 50 million cubic metre (mcm) per annum, expandable to 90 mcm per annum which would involve processing of 125 mcm and 225 mcm of seawater per annum respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)138

(Question Serial No. 1587)

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

Question (Member Question No. 24):

Regarding the matter of “continuing with the construction of stages 3 and 4 of the replacement and rehabilitation (R&R) programme of water mains”, there were reports saying that the Water Supplies Department had declared in 2000 to replace all water mains in Hong Kong within 15 years. However, 10 years from then, 50% to 60% of water mains in the territory are yet to be replaced with 70% of water mains in Wanchai, Hong Kong East, Kwai Tsing and Tuen Mun districts pending replacement. These districts will surely become the places hardest hit by water main burst. Please advise on:

- 1) The details of the R&R programme of water mains;
- 2) The progress of the replacement of water mains in all districts up to end 2013 as well as the remaining water mains to be replaced;
- 3) The reasons for the serious delay and difficulties in implementing the R&R programme of water mains; and
- 4) The cumulative total numbers of water main burst cases in all districts, quantities of fresh water lost and maintenance costs in the past 8 years (from 2005 to 2013).

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

- 1) Hong Kong's fresh water and salt water supplies are provided through a network of about 7 800 kilometers (km) water mains. We commenced implementing a territory-wide programme in 2000 for replacement and rehabilitation (R&R) of some 3 000 km of selected aged water mains in 4 stages within a period of 20 years. Since 2005, we have compressed the works programme to advance the target completion date of the entire project by five years i.e. completion of the programme within 15 years by 2015. The details of the R&R programme are as follows:-

		Length (km)	Commencement Date	Completion Date
Stage 1	Phase 1	350	Dec 2000	Dec 2008
	Phase 2	250	Sep 2005	Mar 2010
Stage 2		750	Jan 2007	Jun 2011
Stage 3		800	Sep 2008	Dec 2014
Stage 4	Phase 1	500	Mar 2011	Dec 2015
	Phase 2	350	Jan 2012	Dec 2015
Total		3 000	--	--

- 2) The progress of the entire R&R programme of water mains in 18 districts of Hong Kong (up to end December 2013) is as follows : -

	District	Length of completed water mains (km)	Remaining length of water mains to be completed (km)
Hong Kong	Central & Western	177	57
	Wan Chai	87	57
	Eastern	96	56
	Southern	104	23
Kowloon	Kwun Tong	104	49
	Wong Tai Sin	81	16
	Kowloon City	176	61
	Yau Tsim Mong	158	59
	Sham Shui Po	132	39
New Territories	Sai Kung	94	14
	Sha Tin	162	20
	Tai Po	107	11
	North	156	17
	Yuen Long	343	31
	Tuen Mun	136	44
	Tsuen Wan	57	36
	Kwai Tsing	78	53
	Islands	66	43
	Total	2 314	686

- 3) We target to complete the R&R programme by the end of 2015. We have completed 77% of the water mains up to late 2013. The progress is generally satisfactory. In the implementation of the R&R programme, we need to address the impacts arising from the works on traffic and environment. The main difficulties encountered are traffic

constraints, congested underground utilities and extensive roadwork co-ordination.

- 4) From 2005 to 2013, the cumulative total number of water main bursts was 9 091. The corresponding volume of fresh water drained away due to the water main bursts was about 1.3 million cubic metres, and the expenditure on urgent repair of these water mains was about \$770 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)139

(Question Serial No. 2734)

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

Question (Member Question No. 11):

The Government plans to review the fees and charges of its departments, including water charges. What are the manpower and expenditure involved in the review? What is the estimated rate of adjustment? What are the estimated water charges to be paid by the public?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

The review is carried out by internal manpower resources. The resources required constitute part of the department's expenditure estimates and are reflected in the operational expenses of the department. While we have not engaged dedicated consultants to conduct the review on water charges, we have engaged consultants to conduct studies on various issues of which some of the information collected or findings may be used for reference during the review. The total expenditure for the consultancy studies is about \$1.4 million. The rates of adjustment, if proposed, are subject to the result of the review which is expected to be completed within this year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)140

(Question Serial No. 1446)

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

Question (Member Question No. 5):

Paragraph 53 of the Budget mentions that a desalination plant will commence operation in 2020. What are the estimated construction and operation costs involved? What policies will be introduced to avoid a repeat failure of Lok On Pai Desalination Plant, and ensure the cost-effectiveness of the proposed desalination project and a steady increase in Hong Kong's water supply?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chun, Paul

Reply:

The Water Supplies Department has engaged a consultant to carry out a planning and investigation study for the setting up of a seawater desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O. The scope of the study covers detailed assessment on technical feasibility and cost effectiveness, formulation of implementation strategy and programme, preliminary design, and various technical impact assessments for construction of the desalination plant. The construction and operation cost of the desalination plant will be estimated in the study. We will scrutinise the study findings to ensure that the project is technically feasible and cost-effective before proceeding to the design and construction stage.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)141****(Question Serial No. 1447)**

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 6):

- 1) What is the expenditure on purchasing Dongjiang water in the new financial year? What are the changes in expenditure and rate of increase in the past 3 years?
- 2) What policies will the Government introduce to ensure that the expenditure on purchasing Dongjiang water is reasonable, and the quality of Dongjiang water supplied to the public for potable use will not change for the worse?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chun, Paul

Reply:

- 1) The expenditures on purchase of Dongjiang (DJ) water in the coming / past three financial years and the corresponding rates of increase are shown in the following table

Financial Year	Expenditure on purchase of DJ water (\$ million)	Percentage increase in expenditure (%)
2011-12	3,379.40	6.2
2012-13	3,575.90	5.8
2013-14	3,782.58	5.8
2014-15 ¹	3,239.46 ¹	Not applicable

Note 1 : The current DJ water supply agreement covers a period from 1st January 2012 to end December 2014. The expenditure on purchase of DJ water for 2014-15 is calculated up to end December 2014.

- 2) The purchase price of DJ water in the new supply agreement after 2014 is subject to negotiation with the Guangdong (GD) authorities. In considering the adjustment of the DJ water purchase price, it will be based on the operation costs of GD side having

regard to the yearly changes in exchange rate between Renminbi and Hong Kong dollar as well as the relevant price indices of GD and Hong Kong to ensure the reasonableness of the water purchase price.

Under the current DJ water supply agreement, the quality of the DJ water supplied to Hong Kong is required to conform basically to the highest national standard set out for the abstraction for human consumption in the "Environmental Quality Standards for Surface Water GB3838-2002". We will negotiate with the GD authorities in the new DJ water supply agreement that the water quality should not be lower than this standard. In addition, the GD authorities and Hong Kong has all along been maintaining close liaison on water quality of DJ through an established institutional mechanism, which includes the GD/Hong Kong Water Supply Business Meeting, GD/Hong Kong Water Supply Operation and Management Technical Cooperation Sub-group Meeting and the Special Panel on the Protection of DJ Water Quality. We also closely monitor the DJ water quality round the clock through the on-line monitoring system installed at the reception point in Muk Wu Pumping Stations. Regular samples are also taken for detailed analysis to ensure that the DJ water supply complies with the required standard. If any abnormality in the DJ water quality is detected, we will immediately step up the monitoring and liaise with the GD authorities to take appropriate control measures to safeguard the quality of the DJ water supplied to Hong Kong.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)142

(Question Serial No. 1448)

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

Question (Member Question No. 7):

What was the quantity of fresh water lost due to aged water main leakage and burst incidents in the financial year 2013-14? What is the estimated quantity of fresh water lost in the financial year 2014-15? What policies and measures will be introduced to reduce water loss and what is the expenditure involved?

What are the respective costs of fresh water loss in terms of expenditure on purchasing the same quantity of Dongjiang water at the latest price level in the financial years 2013-14 and 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chun, Paul

Reply:

The water main leakage rate in 2013 was 17% and is estimated to be 16% in 2014. The quantity of fresh water drained away due to main bursts in 2013 was less than 0.02% of the total water supplied and the estimate for 2014 is about the same order.

In order to tackle the water main burst and leakage problem, we have been taking a multi-pronged approach including leakage detection, pressure management and implementation of the Replacement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Programme for water mains. The estimated expenditures on implementing these measures are \$ 2,798 million in 2013-14 and \$2,559 million in 2014-15.

With service reservoirs located at high altitude for water supply to premises at different levels, water mains at lower altitudes are operating under a relatively high water pressure. The high water pressure together with ground settlement, ground upheaval, external loading and vibration makes our ageing water distribution network prone to leakage and bursting. Therefore, water main leaks and bursts are considered more as operational constraints and it is not considered appropriate to deduce a cost for the water drained away.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)143

(Question Serial No. 0941)

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

Question (Member Question No. 65):

According to Targets under Programme (3), the Administration has set the accuracy of water meters at 100% (with inaccuracy not exceeding plus or minus 3%). However, the target could not be achieved in 2012 and 2013. Could the Government advise on the following:

1. What were the reasons for failing to achieve the target? How many complaints on inaccuracy of water meters has the Administration received this year? Will the Administration set about improving the accuracy of water meters? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. What were the participation figures of the "regular meter replacement programme" for the recent 3 years, and the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

1. The target of having 100% of our water meters with accuracy level within plus or minus 3% of the actual consumption represents our long term goal. Although the target could not be achieved at present, with regular replacement of aged water meters over the years, the level of achievement has improved from 92.7% in 2006 to 96.3% in 2013. The achievement level is expected to further increase to 96.6% in 2014.

The number of water meters currently in service is about 2 860 000. The number of complaints disputing the accuracy of water meters received in 2013-14 (up to end January 2014) was 214. After testing and follow-up investigations, there were 11 cases where the meters were confirmed to be inaccurate. Replacement of aged meters is the most cost-effective way to enhance the overall accuracy of water meters. To this end, we will strive to sustain the improvement by continuing the meter replacement programme.

2. In 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14, we replaced 190 000, 210 000, and around 180 000 aged water meters respectively. The expenditure involved in the three years were \$35 million, \$41 million and around \$40 million respectively. About 80% of the meter replacement works were carried out through contractors and the remaining by our in-house resources involving about 50 staff.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)144

(Question Serial No. 1180)

Head: (709) Capital Works Reserve Fund: Waterworks
Subhead (No. & title): (9345WF) Planning and investigation study of desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 15):

Subhead: 9345WF Planning and investigation study of desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O

Regarding the proposed project for the construction of a desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O, the revised estimate for the project under the above subhead is \$9 million in 2013-14. What is the progress for the project work including the feasibility study, preliminary design, site investigation, environmental and traffic impact assessments, etc.? What is the expected time for concluding and publishing the findings of the relevant study? What is the reason for not including further funding for the entire project in the 2014-15 Estimates?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

The scope of the planning and investigation study of desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O includes detailed assessment on technical feasibility and cost effectiveness, formulation of implementation strategy and programme, preliminary design, and various technical impact assessments for construction of the desalination plant. Up to February 2014, different technical options on seawater intake, seawater treatment and, concentrate discharge have been explored and evaluated. The study will continue in 2014-15 on preliminary design, site investigation works, environmental impact and traffic impact assessments, cost estimation and cost-effectiveness analysis. The estimated expenditure in 2014-15 for the study is \$15.7 million. The study is expected to be completed in early 2015. Further funding for the implementation of the project will then be considered if the technical feasibility and cost-effectiveness of the project is established.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)145

(Question Serial No. 3593)

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) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 311):

1. Please provide a breakdown of the numbers of the horticulture contractors and term maintenance contractors directly engaged by the Government's tree management departments in the outsourcing of tree maintenance and management and the expenditures involved in the past 3 years. How many contractors have received warning letters or have punitive action taken against them for improper tree pruning or failure to meet the work requirements under the contract? Please provide the relevant details;
2. Please list by year the names of all the tree management departments, the numbers of tree management staff (including the numbers of general management staff and tree management staff with professional qualifications) and the numbers of trees under the care of each department in the past 3 years;
3. Please provide information on the estimated expenditure for the centralized tree support team and its staff establishment, as well as the tree management qualifications required for each of the newly created posts; and
4. Please provide the names and numbers of equipment for tree inspection or maintenance (for example sonic tomograph, resistograph, stump grinder, etc.) kept by each tree management department.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

1. The Government adopts an "integrated approach" for the management of trees on government land. In essence, the department responsible for the maintenance of an area or a facility is also responsible for the maintenance of trees there. Tree management departments may engage contractors to assist in tree maintenance in the following manner –
 - (i) directly engage horticulture contractors for carrying out maintenance work on the trees under their purview (including tree pruning); or
 - (ii) engage term maintenance contractors for the management of the relevant facility,

who may in turn engage specialist landscape contractors, as required, for tree maintenance (including tree pruning).

The number of tree management contracts engaged, contract amount and warning letters issued/punitive action taken by the major tree management departments in the past three years are as follows –

Financial Year	Number of Contracts	Contract Amount (\$M)	Warning Letters Issued/ Punitive Action Taken
2011-12	58	300	4
2012-13	48	319	10
2013-14 (up to 31 December 2013)	49	354	7

2. A breakdown of the number of trees under the purview of the major tree management departments and the number of their management staff is set out below –

Department	Number of trees			Number of tree management staff (Note 3) (Note 4)		
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (As at 31 Dec 2013)	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (As at 31 Dec 2013)
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	36 000 (Note 1)			86(54)	87(35)	87(38)
Architectural Services Department	200 000			18(5)	5(3)	5(4)
Civil Engineering and Development Department (Note 7)	25 650	27 300	27 300	12(5)	22(1)	22(3)
Drainage Services Department	34 254	25 700	24 100	16(2)	16(2)	16(2)
Highways Department	500 000	630 000	630 000	22(1)	53(19)	57(24)
Housing Department (Note 8)	100 000			31(10)	35(11)	35(14)
Lands Department	N/A (Note 2)			-	12(8) (Note 5)	12(8) (Note 5)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	521 000	513 600	513 600	210(105)	222(148) (Note 6)	222(160) (Note 6)
Water Supplies Department	49 400			16(1)	14(2)	14(2)

Note 1:

All trees in country parks are under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). The figure only includes the number of trees in Category I Areas (i.e. areas with intensive use in country parks such as picnic areas) under AFCD's jurisdiction.

Note 2:

There are differences in the way that trees planted on unallocated and unleased government land and trees planted within government facilities are managed. There is a very large amount of unallocated and unleased government land (with a total area of 33 000 hectares) spreading across the territory.

The Lands Department, as the land administration department, could only look to its staff to identify trees that may have problems and take follow-up action when discharging their day-to-day functions of land control and management and on receipt of referrals and complaints.

Note 3:

Figures in this column include only the number of government staff involved in day-to-day tree management (on a full-time or part-time basis), but exclude the manpower temporarily deployed on a need basis. Figures in the column also exclude senior staff of the departments involved in tree management (particularly at the strategic level). In addition to government staff, individual departments have engaged contractors or non-government personnel to assist in tree management.

Note 4:

The figures within brackets indicate the number of tree management staff with professional qualifications in arboriculture. For a member of staff with multiple qualifications in arboriculture, it is counted as one.

Note 5:

The figures refer to the staff in the Tree Unit of the Lands Department.

Note 6:

For the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the number of staff includes full-time staff only while the number of staff with professional qualifications (in bracket) also includes staff on a part-time basis.

Note 7:

From 2009-10, the Civil Engineering and Development Department is responsible for maintaining the trees planted under the urban Greening Master Plans.

Note 8:

Excludes the frontline management staff in 160 housing estates who also provide assistance.

3. In addition to the creation of two Arborist posts on non-civil service contract (NCSC) terms in April 2010 to reinforce arboricultural support in the Tree Management Office (TMO), four additional Arborist/Assistant Arborist posts on NCSC terms have been created since 1 April 2011. All recruits to these posts are required to be certified arborists. They, apart from possessing Certified Arborist qualifications awarded by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), have also obtained one or more additional arboricultural qualifications such as Board Certified Master Arborist, Municipal Specialists and Tree Risk Assessment Qualification awarded by the ISA; Certificate in Professional Tree Inspection awarded by Lantra Awards, U.K.; and Bachelor of Science in Arboriculture. The staffing costs concerned amount to around \$4.2 million each year. These Arborists and Assistant Arborists posts form an integral part of the establishment of TMO of the Development Bureau (DEVB).

4. Broadly speaking, there are two categories of tools and equipment for use in tree inspections, namely advanced equipment (i.e. resistograph and sonic tomograph); and other simple handheld tools and equipment such as measuring tape, mallet, thin long metal pole, electric torch, binoculars, camera, laser pointer, etc. These simple handheld tools and equipment are kept by departments and they involve a large quantity. For advanced equipment, as at 31 December 2013, the main tree management departments, together with TMO in DEVB, had a total of 47 resistograph instrument, 39 tomograph instrument and seven stump grinders. A breakdown for the tomograph and resistograph instruments and stump grinder is listed below –

Department	Number of tomograph instrument	Number of resistograph instrument	Number of stump grinder
TMO, DEVB	2	2	0
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	4	7	0
Lands Department	1	1	0
Highways Department	1	1	0
Housing Department	1	2	0
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	29	34	7
Water Supplies Department	1	0	0
Total	39	47	7

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)146****(Question Serial No.3703)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 318):

1. How many privately-owned graded historic buildings have been funded under the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme since its launch in 2008? Please provide details of the maintenance projects by year, including the names and grading of buildings, scope of maintenance works and the amounts of grants approved.
2. Have any owners failed to complete the maintenance works as stated in their applications in the past? If yes, please provide details of the cases such as the names of the buildings.
3. What is the estimated expenditure on the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme for privately-owned historic buildings in the financial year 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

Reply:

1. Since the launch of the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme in 2008, we have approved 37 applications and the details are listed below.

<u>Name of Historic Building</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Brief Scope of Maintenance Works</u>	<u>Approved Amount (\$)</u>
<u>Approved Applications in 2009/10</u>			
i) Lo Pan Temple, Kennedy Town	1	Restoration of roof, columns and walls	711,000
ii) Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre, Shatin	2	Restoration of roofs and walls of Pilgrim's Hall and Conference Hall	820,000
iii) Main Building of Helena May, Central	2	Preservation of existing walls at Garden Room by cavity wall system	600,000
iv) Ancestral Hall of Tsang Tai Uk, Shatin	1	Restoration of ancestral altar and roof	1,000,000

<u>Name of Historic Building</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Brief Scope of Maintenance Works</u>	<u>Approved Amount (\$)</u>
v) No. 3 Bungalow, St. Stephen's College, Stanley	2	Restoration of roof, external walls	606,000
vi) Tin Hau Temple, Yuen Long	3	Restoration of roof, external walls	985,000
vii) Hung Shing Temple, Fanling	3	Restoration of roof, walls, columns	880,000
viii) Jamia Mosque, Sheung Wan	1	Repainting of building	860,000
<u>Approved applications in 2010/11</u>			
ix) Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long	2	Restoration of roof and structural frame	1,000,000
<u>Approved applications in 2011/12</u>			
x) Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre (Side Chapel), Shatin	2	Roof rectification works, structural repair to walls	999,000
xi) Tat Yan Study Hall, Yuen Long	2	Restoration of roof and upgrading of electrical system	1,000,000
xii) Leung Ancestral Hall, Tai Po	3	Restoration of roof, walls, floor, doors and ancestral altars	1,000,000
xiii) Earth God Shrine, Sheung Shui	2	Restoration of the walls and ground slab of the shrine	390,000
xiv) Tsang's Ancestral Hall, Tsuen Wan	3	Restoration of roof, walls, floor, doors, plaques and murals	950,000
xv) Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun	1	Restoration of roof	1,000,000
xvi) Lim House, Yuen Long	2	Restoration of roof, walls, doors, windows and balconies	1,000,000
xvii) Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kowloon City	2	Restoration of the higher roof	958,000
xviii) No. 8 San Lau Street, Sha Tau Kok	2	Restoration of roof, structural repair to slab and beam,	1,000,000
xix) Kowloon Union Church, Jordan	3	Upgrading of the storm water and waste water System	1,000,000
<u>Approved Applications in 2012/13</u>			
xx) Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	2	Restoration of the roof and wall at the entrance hall and main hall	1,000,000
xxi) Ip Ancestral Hall, Sha Tau Kok	3	Restoration of the roof, walls, and the shrine	1,000,000
xxii) Tin Hau Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	3	Restoration of eaves boards, granite plaque	980,000
xxiii) Jamia Mosque, Sheung Wan, Phase II	1	Install new waterproofing system at roof	950,000
xxiv) Tin Hau Temple, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po	2	Restoration of roof	1,000,000
xxv) Holy Spirit Seminary, Chapel	3	Install new waterproofing system at roof	999,960

<u>Name of Historic Building</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Brief Scope of Maintenance Works</u>	<u>Approved Amount (\$)</u>
xxvi)Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun Phase II	1	Repair spalling of concrete	1,000,000
<u>Approved Applications in 2013/14</u>			
xxvii)Yuen Kwan Tai Temple, Mong Tseng Wai, Yuen Long	1	Restoration of roof of Main Hall and Incense Pavilion	1,000,000
xxviii)Tin Hau Temple, Fung Chi Tsuen, Yuen Long	1	Restoration of roof of Gate House, Main Hall and Incense Pavilion	1,000,000
xxix) First Church of Christ Scientist	2	Restoration of roof and drainage system of church building, cracks repair and repaint to the exterior and interior wall	1,000,000
xxx) Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre (Christ Temple), Shatin	2	Paint works to door, windows, timber structures, internal and external walls, cracks repair at exterior circular columns	921,200
xxxii) Entrance gate of Mong Tseng Wai, Yuen Long	3	Restoration of roof, walls, floors and upgrading of electrical system	789,000
xxxiii) No.71 San Wai Tsuen, San Tin, Yuen Long	3	Repair and waterproofing works on the roof and related drainage rectification works	390,000
xxxiiii) Municipal Services Staff Recreation Club, King's Park, Kowloon	3	Restoration of roof and drainage system, repaint walls and ceiling, floor cracks repair.	991,000
xxxv) Ancestral Hall (Middle Hall) of Tsang Tai Uk, Shatin	1	Restoration of roof, repair ceremonial screens and upgrading of electrical system	1,000,000
xxxvi) No.60 Kat Hing Street, Tai O, Lantau	2	Repair of spalled concrete, brickwork, rendering and roof waterproofing	1,000,000
xxxvii) Man San Ye Ancestral Hall, San Tin, Yuen Long	2	Restoration of roof and upgrading of electrical system	1,000,000
xxxviii) Tat Yan Study Hall, Yuen Long, Phase II	2	Restoration of roof and shrine	810,000

2. No owner has failed to complete the maintenance works as stated in his application in the past.
3. The estimated expenditure for providing financial assistance under this scheme in 2014-15 is around \$4.5 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)147****(Question Serial No. 3704)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 319):

1. Since the implementation of the historic buildings grading system, how many reports of redevelopment or alteration of graded historic buildings have been received under the internal monitoring mechanism? How many cases are still being processed or how many of those buildings have been demolished? Please provide details in the table below:

	Name and address of the historic building	Grading	Application	Portion retained
01				
02				

2. Will the Administration allocate resources to study how to extend statutory protection to the graded historic buildings or those with grading yet to be confirmed so as to prevent them from being damaged or demolished while pending their grading? If yes, what are the expenditure and timetable? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

1. Under the internal monitoring mechanism, the relevant departments will alert the Commissioner for Heritage's Office of the Development Bureau (DEVB) and the Antiquities and Monuments Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department if they have received applications which may affect privately-owned historic buildings. Among the applications approved by the respective departments, 50 graded or proposed graded historic buildings are involved. Among these 50 cases, we are exploring with the owners on preservation-cum-development options in 21 cases. For the remaining 29 cases, one building had been extensively renovated before the announcement of its proposed grading in 2009 and the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) confirmed at its meeting held on 17 April 2013 that the grading assessment for the building will not be processed further; and in the other 28 cases, we have obtained agreement from the owners to conserve the historic buildings concerned in whole or in part or conserve selective building elements for incorporation into the new

development or have arranged photographic recording. Details of these 29 cases are set out below:

Item	Name and address of the historic building	Grading	Application	Portion retained
1.	Ho Tung Gardens, No.75 Peak Road	Grade 1	Building plans	The main building was demolished.
2.	CLP Administration Building, Nos.139-147 Argyle Street	Proposed Grade 1	Planning application and building plans	Clock tower
3.	No.47 Barker Road	Grade 2	Planning application	Part of the façade
4.	No. 8 Pollock's Path	Grade 2	Planning application	Part of the façade
5.	Nos. 6 and 8 Kennedy Road	Grade 2	Building plan	Façade
6.	No. 47 Lee Yick Street, Yuen Long Kau Hui	Grade 2	Redevelopment application to Lands Department (LandsD)	Photographic record
7.	Enchi Lodge, Castle Peak Road	Grade 2	Planning application and demolition plan	Main building
8.	No. 20 Severn Road	Proposed Grade 2	Building plan	Photographic record
9.	No. 2 Hing Hon Road	Proposed Grade 2	Demolition plan	Photographic record
10.	No. 15 Lee Yick Street	Proposed Grade 2	Redevelopment application to LandsD	Photographic record
11.	Nos. 2 and 4 Tai O Market Street	Proposed Grade 2	Redevelopment application to LandsD	Significant architectural features such as verandah, ornamental balustrade, wooden glazed doors and louvered shutters
12.	Nos. 369 and 371 Hennessy Road	Grade 3	Demolition plan	Photographic record
13.	Jessville, No.128 Pok Fu Lam Road	Grade 3	Planning application and building plan	Main building
14.	Eastern Cotton Mills Ltd., No. 7 Mok Cheong Street	Grade 3	Building plans	Portion of the front façade

Item	Name and address of the historic building	Grading	Application	Portion retained
15.	No. 179 Prince Edward Road West	Grade 3	Planning application and building plan	Front portion of the building
16.	Nos. 31-33 First Lane, Wu Kai Sha	Grade 3	Applications for redevelopment to LandsD	Photographic record
17.	No. 11 Kak Tin Village Third Street	Grade 3	Application for redevelopment to LandsD	Photographic record
18.	No. 186 Tai Kei Leng Tsuen	Grade 3	Building plan	Whole building
19.	No. 119 Tai Kei Leng Tsuen	Grade 3	Application for redevelopment to LandsD	Selective building elements such as green bricks
20.	Cheung Chau Theatre, San Hing Back Street	Grade 3	Planning application	Whole building
21.	Nos. 76-77 Hung Uk Tsuen	Grade 3	Application for redevelopment to LandsD	Photographic record
22.	Kong Ha Wai, Main Building, near Kam Tsin Wai, Pat Heung	Grade 3	Planning application	Main Building, Entrance Gate and Servants' Quarters
23.	No. 19 Hing Hon Road	Proposed Grade 3	Building plans	Selective building elements such as old windows and grilles
24.	Nos. 130-132 Portland Street	Proposed Grade 3	Building plans	Photographic record
25.	No. 43 Tseng Lan Shue	Proposed Grade 3	Redevelopment application to Lands D	Photographic record
26.	Entrance Tower, Tai Kiu Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung	Proposed Grade 3	Planning application	Entrance tower
27.	No. 36 Lee Yick Street	Proposed Grade 3	Application for redevelopment to LandsD	Photographic record
28.	No. 45 Tai Kei Leng Tsuen	Proposed Grade 3	Redevelopment application to LandsD	Main Building

Item	Name and address of the historic building	Grading	Application	Portion retained
29.	No. 4 Shek O Road	<p style="text-align: center;">Proposed Grade 3</p> <p>(The building had been extensively renovated before the announcement of the proposed grading in 2009. The AAB confirmed at its meeting held on 17 April 2013 that the grading assessment for the building will not be processed further.)</p>	Building plan	The building will be redeveloped.

2. As announced in the 2013 Policy Address, in light of experiences in the past few years, we consider that we should review the present policy on the conservation of privately-owned historic buildings. The review will cover the grading system. DEVB has invited AAB to assist with this policy review. As the first leg of the public engagement exercise, AAB has launched a series of public educational activities on the existing heritage conservation policy. AAB will then collect public views on the specific issues under the review and prepare a report to the Government.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)148

(Question Serial No. 3705)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 320):

What is the progress of the policy review on the conservation of built heritage? When does the Government expect that the consultation paper for the review will be published? What is the Government's plan to collect public opinion on the review? Please provide details of the numbers, expenditures and timetables regarding the public engagement activities such as public consultation forums, seminars or exhibitions expected to be held.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Development Bureau has invited the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) to assist in the review of the policy on the conservation of built heritage. During the past year, the AAB has been studying various heritage conservation issues, in particular issues related to the conservation of privately-owned historic buildings and engaged the key stakeholders. As the first leg of the public engagement exercise, the AAB has just launched a series of public educational activities on the existing heritage conservation policy. The AAB will then collect public views on the specific issues under the review and prepare a report to the Government. Detailed plans on the collection of views, including the expenditure and manpower to be involved, will be worked out with the AAB.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)149****(Question Serial No.3706)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 321):

- Has the Government earmarked funding for reviewing the “integrated approach” and the organisation structure and functions of the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section, and for commencing the enactment of a tree ordinance? If yes, please provide details of the relevant timetables, reviews and work plans;
- What are the numbers of Old and Valuable Trees under the purview of various tree management departments? Please provide the following information on the current numbers of trees by department:

Department	Number of trees when the Register of Old and Valuable Trees was set up	Current number of trees	Number of trees included in the Register of Old and Valuable Trees after it was set up	Number of trees removed from the Register

- Please provide information on the trees with their names removed from the Register of Old and Valuable Trees:

	Registration number and location	Responsible department	Date of removal	Reasons for removal
01				

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

- No funds have been earmarked specifically to conduct reviews in the areas of integrated approach to tree management, enactment of tree legislation and the structure of the Tree Management Office and Greening and Landscape Office. Review of the above issues, if conducted, will be taken up by existing staff.

2. The numbers of Old and Valuable Trees (OVTs) under the purview of various tree management departments are given below (up to 15 March 2014) –

Department	Number of trees when the Register of Old and Valuable Trees was set up (in 2004)	Current number of trees (Note 1)	Number of trees added in the Register of Old and Valuable Trees after it was set up (Note 1)	Number of trees removed from the Register
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	10	6	1	0
Architectural Services Department (ArchSD)	0	87	16	3
Civil Engineering and Development Department	0	1	0	0
Chief Secretary for Administration's Office	0	5	0	0
Commissioner for Heritage's Office, DEVB	0	2	0	0
Department of Health	0	2	0	0
Department of Justice	0	1	0	0
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	0	1	0	0
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	0	5	0	0
Fire Services Department	0	1	0	0
Highways Department	0	15	5	0
Hong Kong Police Force	0	2	0	0
Hong Kong Post	0	1	0	0
Housing Department	4	3	1	0
Lands Department (Note 2)	0	11	3	0
Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)	513	349	10	68 (Note 3)
Total	527	492	36	71

Note 1 – The current number of trees in each department has been updated upon transfer of maintenance responsibility between departments

Note 2 – The figure includes two OVTs under lots with lease conditions for OVT preservation

Note 3 – The figure includes four OVTs removed from the Register due to the change in land status

We are processing nominations of trees to enrich the OVT Register.

3. The Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section of the Development Bureau was established in March 2010. The information on the trees removed from the Register of OVTs from 1 March 2010 to 15 March 2014 is listed as follows –

Registration number and location		Responsible department	Date of removal	Reasons for removal
LCSD WTS/2	San Po Kong Interchange	LCSD	19 May 2010	Health/structural problem
LCSD E/14	Lei Yue Mun Park	LCSD	13 September 2010	Health/structural problem
LCSD E/34	Victoria Park	LCSD	13 September 2010	Health/structural problem
LCSD YTM/10	Nathan Road	LCSD	8 December 2010	Brown Root Rot (BRR) Disease
LCSD KC/5	Essex Crescent Rest Garden	LCSD	20 January 2011	Health/structural problem
LCSD CW/92	Battery Path	LCSD	28 May 2011	BRR Disease
LCSD CW/93	Battery Path	LCSD	28 May 2011	BRR Disease
LCSD CW/113	Hong Kong Park	LCSD	17 June 2011	Health/structural problem
LCSD WCH/13	Morrison Hill Road Playground	LCSD	21 June 2011	BRR Disease
LCSD CW/56	Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens	LCSD	28 June 2011	Health/structural problem
LCSD YTM/31	Nathan Road	LCSD	6 August 2011	Health/structural problem
LCSD N/25	Fanling Station	LCSD	4 May 2012	Change in land status
LCSD YTM/8	Nathan Road	LCSD	19 July 2012	BRR Disease
LCSD YTM/96	Kowloon Park	LCSD	23 July 2012	Collapsed under typhoon
LCSD CW/123	Chater Garden	LCSD	24 July 2012	Collapsed under typhoon
LCSD E/7	Lei Yue Mun Park	LCSD	24 July 2012	Collapsed under typhoon
LCSD S/10	Shouson Hill Road	LCSD	24 July 2012	Collapsed under typhoon
LCSD WCH/10	Wong Nai Chung Road	LCSD	25 July 2012	Collapsed under typhoon
LCSD YTM/72	Kowloon Park	LCSD	29 July 2012	Collapsed under typhoon
LCSD Is/1	Outside Tung Chung Sitting-out Area	LCSD	30 July 2012	BRR Disease
LCSD YTM/11	Nathan Road	LCSD	8 August 2012	BRR Disease
LCSD E/2	Lei Yue Mun Park	LCSD	13 August 2012	BRR Disease
LCSD N/27	Jockey Club Road	LCSD	8 September 2012	Health/structural problem
LCSD N/26	Jockey Club Road	LCSD	25 September 2012	Health/structural problem
LCSD E/35	Victoria Park	LCSD	18 October 2012	BRR Disease
LCSD CW/73	Garden Road	LCSD	4 November 2012	Health/structural problem
LCSD CW/5	Junction at Smithfield	LCSD	16 November 2012	Health/structural problem
LCSD CW/9	Pok Fu Lam Road	LCSD	16 November 2012	BRR Disease
LCSD N/46	Castle Peak Road	LCSD	30 November 2012	Health/structural problem
LCSD WCH/12	Morrison Hill Road Playground	LCSD	4 February 2013	BRR Disease
LCSD E/32	Victoria Park	ArchSD	7 March 2013	BRR Disease
LCSD CW/111	Hong Kong Park	LCSD	12 March 2013	BRR Disease
LCSD S/39	Tai Tam Road	LCSD	9 April 2013	BRR Disease
LCSD SSP/14	Osmanthus Road Rest Garden	LCSD	5 December 2013	BRR Disease
LCSD CW/110	Hong Kong Park	ArchSD	17 December 2013	BRR Disease
LCSD CW/94	Battery Path	ArchSD	21 December 2013	BRR Disease
LCSD SSP/16	Wistaria Road	LCSD	17 January 2014	Health/structural problem

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)150****(Question Serial No. 3707)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 322):

What was the Government's expenditure on researches on various tree management issues in the past 2 financial years? Please provide a detailed breakdown of the expenditures by year and research category/topic (such as wood strength and *Phellinus noxius*). What is the Government's estimated expenditure on these researches in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

During 2012-13 and 2013-14, the Tree Management Office of the Development Bureau carried out a number of researches on tree management issues. In 2014-15, we will continue the relevant researches. A list of the research titles and the breakdown of expenditures is as follows:

Title of Consultancy Project	Consultancy Fee \$		
	2012-13 Actual expenditure	2013-14 Actual expenditure	2014-15 Estimated expenditure
Comprehensive Street Tree Management Plan for Hong Kong	1,002,250	0	0
Field experiment in the control and prevention of needle casts on <i>Pinus thunbergii</i> at Nan Lian Garden	1,260,000	0	0
Wood Strength Assessment of Common Tree Species in Hong Kong	399,187	399,187	0

Occurrence and Distribution of Common Wood Decay Fungi on Trees of Hong Kong	219,647	878,588	0
Field and in vitro evaluation of <i>Trichoderma</i> species as a biological control agent against <i>Phellinus noxius</i> infected trees in Hong Kong	44,420	488,620	355,360
Roadside Tree Survey	0	2,063,500	61,500
Study on the sustainable management of <i>Podocarpus macrophyllus</i> through the implementation of plant health care programme in landscaped parks and gardens of Hong Kong	0	0	987,000
TOTAL:	2,925,504	3,829,895	1,403,860

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)151****(Question Serial No.3708)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 323):

1. How many public works projects were completed in time in each of the past 2 financial years? Of these public works projects, what were the numbers of projects with unspent provisions and cost overruns? Please set out the names, estimated expenditures and final expenditures regarding these projects.
2. What measures will be taken by the Government to keep the underspending of public works projects to below 5%?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

1. Among the 84 public works projects completed in the past two financial years, 30 projects were completed on time. As these completed projects are still in the account finalization stage, we cannot tell at this moment whether they will have unspent provisions or cost overruns. Nevertheless, a summary of the current situation of these projects is shown below for reference:-

Financial Year	Number of Projects Completed	Approved Project Estimates (\$M)	Expenditure up to end Mar 2013(\$M)
2011-12	44	18,900	16,670
2012-13	40	18,500	15,860

2. Works Departments will strive to provide accurate project estimates for capital works projects and implement the projects in a cost-effective manner. We will also continue to monitor the progress of the projects to ensure meeting the annual expenditure target for the Capital Works Programme for the financial year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)152****(Question Serial No.3709)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 324):

The financial provision for Programme (5) is 18% higher than that for last year. The Government indicates that this is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for "Investing in Construction Manpower" etc. Please provide a detailed breakdown of the investment involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Legislative Council approved a total of \$320 million in 2010 and 2012 for the Item 868 "Investing in Construction Manpower" to support the Construction Industry Council to strengthen its role in training of local construction personnel and to enhance promotion and publicity activities to attract more people to join the industry, especially for young people. The increase in the estimated expenditure for "Investing in Construction Manpower" from 2013-14 to 2014-15 is about \$22 million and its breakdown is as below -

Item	Estimated expenditure in 2013-14 (\$ million) (about)	Estimated expenditure in 2014-15 (\$ million) (about)
Enhanced construction manpower training for selected trades and enhanced construction supervisor/technician training	56	81
Subsidies for fees of trade tests, specified training courses and skill enhancement courses and advanced training courses for senior workers	1	1
Promotion and publicity activities	5	2
Total :	62	84

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3711)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 328):

1. What services will be provided by the Development Bureau for the Lantau Development Advisory Committee (LanDAC)? What are the manpower and estimated expenditure involved?
2. What are the criteria adopted by the Government for selecting members of the LanDAC earlier on?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

1. We plan to seek approval from the Establishment Subcommittee/Finance Committee to create a supernumerary Principal Assistant Secretary (PAS) post in the Works Branch of the Development Bureau from 2014-15 to 2018-19 to steer the implementation of infrastructure works arising from new initiatives in relation to land supply. The PAS will also provide initial secretariat support to the newly established Lantau Development Advisory Committee (LanDAC) on a part-time basis. We will consider the need for additional technical and secretarial support when the work plan of the LanDAC has been drawn up.
2. The committee comprises officials from government bureaux and departments, professionals, representatives from the tourism and logistics industries, academics, members of the Legislative Council and the District Councils, and local representatives. The members have vast experience and rich knowledge in their respective profession/sector as well as the local community and can initiate active discussions and gauge views from the wider community to assist the government in developing a comprehensive and long-term strategy for the economic and social development of Lantau.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)154****(Question Serial No. 5359)**

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

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 116):

Please provide details of the government fleet under your purview:

	Number	Operational expenses for 2013	Estimated operational expenses for 2014-15
VIP Car			
Large Saloon Car (Grade A)			
Large Saloon Car (Grade B)			

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

Details of the government fleet under the purview of the Works Branch of the Development Bureau are provided below -

	Number	Operational expenses for 2013-14	Estimated operational expenses for 2014-15
VIP Car	0	-	-
Large Saloon Car (Grade A)	1	\$108,085	\$109,000
Large Saloon Car (Grade B)	2 ²	\$ 33,017	\$58,000

² Including a large saloon car (Grade B) coming into service under the Works Branch of the Development Bureau since 6 January 2014.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)155

(Question Serial No. 6692)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 40):

What is the Development Bureau (DEVB)'s role in the development of heritage conservation policy in Hong Kong? How did the DEVB discharge its duties in heritage conservation in the past? Does the DEVB plan to review the existing heritage conservation policy in Hong Kong? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The Development Bureau (DEVB) is responsible for policy matters concerning built heritage conservation. In the past five years, the DEVB has pressed ahead heritage conservation work, including introducing the Heritage Impact Assessment for all new capital works projects, working with non-profit-making organisations to conserve and revitalise government-owned historic buildings through the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme, discussing economic incentives with owners of privately-owned historic buildings to encourage them to preserve their historic buildings, and offering financial assistance to private owners to carry out maintenance works for historic buildings through the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme. DEVB has invited the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) to assist in the review of the policy on the conservation of built heritage. During the past year, AAB has been studying various heritage conservation issues, in particular issues related to the conservation of privately-owned historic buildings. AAB will submit a report to the Government after the review.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)156****(Question Serial No. 6383)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 317):

Most of the courses of the Construction Industry Council (CIC) are conducted in Chinese. As regards the "Build Up Publicity Campaign" which is supposed to encourage young people to join the construction industry, none of its courses is conducted in English at this stage. The CIC has said that it will consider conducting courses in English only if more than 10 ethnic minority trainees enrol in them together. This requirement makes it difficult for the ethnic minority construction workers to acquire construction skills and gain qualifications through training, which in turn makes it unlikely for them to get a job and wage raise, and reduces their chances of escaping from poverty. Will CIC and the Employees Retraining Board consider providing on-site translation services for the ethnic minorities in the languages required in regular courses conducted in Chinese if a certain number (recommended to be at least 2 or more) of ethnic minority non-Chinese speaking residents enrol in them, so that they will have the same opportunities for jobs and wage raise? If yes, what are the expenditure and details involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

CIC conducts most of training courses in Cantonese because most trainees are Cantonese-speaking local workers. Nevertheless, CIC has been implementing initiatives to attract ethnic minorities to enhance their skills. CIC currently offers two full-time short courses, nine part-time safety related courses and one part-time skill enhancement course in English. CIC also offers a construction vocational Cantonese course for ethnic minorities to enhance their proficiency in Cantonese. Further, test papers in English are available for trade tests and plant operating certification tests which are popular to ethnic minorities. CIC also allows the candidates to be accompanied by translators for translation during testing. CIC will continue to maintain close liaison with the industry stakeholders and the ethnic minority communities in reviewing the training courses to better suit the needs of the market.

CIC's main source of fund is from collection of levy from the construction industry. When CIC plans for a training course, CIC will consider the cost effectiveness of the courses including the needs of the industry, sizes of classes, other training expenses, etc. Thus, we

consider it reasonable to set a minimum number of attendees in launching individual training courses to ensure prudent use of industry's resources.

The Employees Retraining Board (ERB) has offered dedicated training courses for ethnic minorities in English. In 2014-15, ERB plans to provide 25 dedicated courses for ethnic minorities. For ethnic minorities who understand spoken Cantonese but cannot write Chinese, ERB provides English training manuals for some popular training courses.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)157

(Question Serial No. 6697)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 272):

What was the expenditure for fung shui compensation due to the implementation of public works projects in the past 5 years? What were the expenditures for such structures as Pai Lau and fung shui pavilions in this regard?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

Works departments will strive to minimise the impact on the surrounding environment when implementing public works projects. However, there may be cases where the works will cause unavoidable adverse impact or inconvenience to the neighbourhood. In such cases, to ensure smooth implementation of the projects as well as to address the concerns of the residents, the works departments will provide certain community facilities or improve the existing ones, such as Pai Lau or rain shelters, to alleviate the adverse impact of the public works projects. While some residents may consider these compensatory works are related to "fung shui", "fung shui" is actually not a consideration for the departments concerned.

In the past five years (i.e. from 2009-10 to 2013-14), the expenditure on provision or improvement of community facilities such as Pai Lau or rain shelters is around \$11 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)158****(Question Serial No.6097)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 204):

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that the Administration will “explore opportunities to support the arts, culture and creative industries, with a view to turning Kowloon East into a distinctive business area”. Given that many arts and cultural workers as well as organisations that rent industrial building units in Kowloon East for use as studios have to face the problem of rental increase or even eviction because of the policy to revitalise industrial buildings, please inform this Committee of the following:

- A. What is the amount of funding earmarked for the development of culture and creative industries in the area, as well as the ratio of commercial to arts and cultural development? Will priority be given to local arts and cultural workers and practitioners of traditional crafts for them to use the revitalised buildings so as to preserve the current art scene and networks of the area?
- B. Apart from the unused vacant sites underneath the flyover at present, will restrictions on existing public space be further relaxed by the Administration?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

To support the development of arts, culture and creative industries so that Kowloon East will be transformed into a business area with special character, the Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO) will continue to explore opportunities to provide suitable space for artists, art groups and creative designers in Kowloon East. We have identified three sites located along Hoi Bun Road underneath the Kwun Tong Bypass for creativity, arts and cultural use. One of the sites has already been transformed into a multi-purpose performance and exhibition venue and opened for public use since January 2013. The other two sites are vacant government land. The EKEO intends to engage a non-profit-making organisation in 2014-15 to manage and operate these three sites. The design and construction cost is estimated at approximately \$20 million. These sites will provide dedicated spaces for creativity, arts and cultural use with some ancillary commercial uses. The sites have the potential to become a contemporary cultural hub in Kwun Tong for all,

and not limited to local groups, to enjoy and contribute to enriching the lives of Hong Kong people.

Apart from optimising the use of the flyover sites, EKEO will further explore the possibility of incorporating space for cultural and art uses into existing and new premises, and the feasibility to provide space for the arts and cultural community and creative industries in the two Action Areas of Kowloon East.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)159

(Question Serial No. 6463)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 203):

The Administration intends to “revitalise historic buildings for arts and cultural purposes so as to enhance public interest in and knowledge of heritage conservation”. The “PMQ” is a historic building formerly. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- A. Regarding the “PMQ”, please provide a breakdown of the expenditures on the rentals, exhibitions and workshops, promotional activities, staff costs (by rank) and repairs for the historic buildings.
- B. What are the criteria for the selection of operators? Does the Administration take into account the relationship between the operators’ backgrounds, nature of the activity and backgrounds of the historic buildings concerned? How do the revitalisation projects blend in with the community?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

- A The “PMQ” is a revitalisation project at the site of the former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road. The non-profit-making organisation (NPO), the Musketeers Education and Culture Charitable Foundation Limited supported by three co-applicants, namely the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the Hong Kong Design Centre and the Hong Kong Design Institute of the Vocational Training Council, was selected to conserve the heritage site, transform it into a creative industries landmark and provide landscaped open space for the local community. The NPO will manage, operate and maintain the “PMQ” site and the premises at its own expenses on a self-financing and self-sustainable basis, whereas the co-applicants would provide advice to the NPO in relation to the organisation of various programmes/activities as well as networking with the creative community. The Government does not finance or subsidise the operating expenses of the revitalised facilities.

The Government will be responsible for the structural maintenance of the buildings and facilities on the site, as well as the maintenance of eight retaining walls within the site. The estimated annual recurrent expenditure for maintenance works upon

completion of the project is about \$705,000.

- B. The selection criteria for the operator of “PMQ” are as follows:
- a) reflection of historical value and technical aspects;
 - b) creative industries value, social value and social enterprise operation;
 - c) financial viability; and
 - d) management capability and other considerations.

Capitalising on the proximity of the PMQ site to a wide array of historic sites and buildings in Central, the existing cluster of cultural and creative industries establishments (e.g. antique shops and galleries) in the vicinity of Hollywood Road as well as the colourful cultural landscape of the South of Hollywood Road (SoHo) and Lan Kwai Fong areas, the revitalised PMQ site can manifest the historical significance of the site, create a new focal point of creative activities, meet the community need for more quality open space, and create synergy between the site and various heritage, cultural and tourist attractions in the area. The project has benefited from the advice of the local organisations, including the Central and Western District Council.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)160

(Question Serial No.6389)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 83):

It is stated in the Budget Speech that the Financial Secretary “forecasts an annual surplus in the Operating Account in the four years from 2015-16. With a number of major infrastructure projects entering their construction peaks, a deficit will arise in the Capital Account, but a surplus is expected in the Consolidated Account in all years except 2015-16. Fiscal reserves are estimated at approximately \$799.2 billion by end-March 2019, representing about 29.1 per cent of GDP and equivalent to 19 months of government expenditure.” Will the Administration inform this Committee what the major infrastructure projects mentioned above are and the annual expenditure on each project in the next few years?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

With the major infrastructure projects entering the peak of construction phase, the annual expenditure of capital works projects is expected to remain at a high level in next few years. As there are a number of uncertain factors affecting the progress of works, it would be difficult to accurately predict the future expenditure of individual projects on a yearly basis. However, based on the works progress of the on-going Category A projects, we anticipate that the total spending of these projects from 2014-15 to 2018-19 would be about \$300 billion. Some of the major Category A projects are listed below (the estimated expenditure from 2014-15 to 2018-19 is shown in bracket):

- Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the related Hong Kong projects, including Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities, Hong Kong Link Road, Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link, and funding support for the Main Bridge (\$81 billion)
- Shatin to Central Link (\$52 billion)
- Central - Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link (\$24 billion)

- Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (\$22 billion)
- Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and associated works (\$20 billion)*
- Establishment of Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics (\$10 billion)
- Replacement and rehabilitation of water mains (\$8 billion)
- Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, stage 2A and Sludge Treatment Facilities (\$8 billion)
- Expansion of Tai Po water treatment works and ancillary raw water and fresh water transfer facilities - part 2 works (\$5 billion)
- Widening of Tolo Highway/Fanling Highway between Island House Interchange and Fanling (\$4 billion)

** Subject to Finance Committee's approval of the increase in Approved Project Estimate for the site formation and infrastructure works.*

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)161

(Question Serial No. 4587)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply, (2) Heritage Conservation, (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management, (4) Energizing Kowloon East, (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 86):

Regarding the studies (if any) conducted by your bureau and the departments under its purview for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies, please provide information in the following format.

- (a) Using the table below, please provide information on studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds have been allocated in the past 2 financial years (2012-13 and 2013-14):

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/in progress/completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?

- (b) Are there any projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies this year (2014-15)? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/in progress/completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them

							public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?

(c) What are the criteria for considering the award of consultancy projects to the research institutions concerned?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

(a) Information on studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated in the past two financial years (2012-13 and 2013-14) is given in the table below:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender /others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Mott MacDonald (previously known as Mott Connell)	Invitation of quotation from selected consultants	Consultancy Study on Developing a Sustainable Construction Management Framework for Public Works (Civil Engineering) Projects	1,150,000	Dec 2007	Completed	The study findings will be taken into consideration in future improvement of the construction management framework for public works projects.	Consultation within the Government and with the relevant stakeholders of the construction industry will be conducted when improvement of the construction management framework for public works is introduced.
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Invitation of quotation	Provision of Services of Baseline Carbon Assessment for the Construction Process of Public and Private Works Projects	1,346,400	Jun 2011	Completed	Some of the recommendations of the Study have been adopted as new initiatives on green construction in the 2014 Policy Agenda.	Paper on the Study was presented to the industry by the consultant in the Sustainable Building 2013 Hong Kong Regional Conference.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender /others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Open tender	Increasing Land Supply by Reclamation and Rock Cavern Development cum Public Engagement – Feasibility Study	28,000,000	Jul 2011	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2014-15.	Pending completion of study	Not applicable
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Open tender	Long-term Strategy for Cavern Development – Feasibility Study	34,000,000	Sept 2012	Study is in progress and will be completed by end 2015.	Pending completion of study	Not applicable
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Open tender	Territory-wide Study on Underground Space Development in the Urban Areas of Hong Kong – Feasibility Study	19,400,000	Dec 2013	Study is in progress and will be completed by end 2015.	Pending completion of study	Not applicable
GHK(Hong Kong) Limited	Invitation of quotation	Study on the feasibility, framework and implementation plan for the setting up of a statutory heritage trust in Hong Kong	1,307,500	Nov 2011	Completed	Findings will be taken into consideration in the review of the policy on the conservation of built heritage conducted by the Development Bureau with the assistance of the Antiquities Advisory Board.	The final report of the study is available on the Commissioner for Heritage's Office's website (www.heritage.gov.hk).

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender /others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Urbis Ltd.	Invitation of quotation	Comprehensive Street Tree Management Plan for Hong Kong - To develop a street tree management plan to sustain this resource and minimise risk	1,055,000	Nov 2011	Completed	Findings will be taken into consideration in the formulation of comprehensive street tree management plan.	Research was primarily for internal use. Information has been shared with the relevant government departments.
Chi Lin Nunnery	Invitation of single quotation	Field experiment in the control and prevention of needle casts on <i>Pinus thunbergii</i> at Nan Lian Garden - To study the control and prevention of needle cast and develop guidelines	1,400,000	Nov 2011	Completed	Findings will be taken into consideration in the management of tree pest/disease control.	Research was primarily for internal use. Information has been shared with the relevant government departments.
The University of Hong Kong	Invitation of quotation	Occurrence and Distribution of Common Wood Decay Fungi on Trees of Hong Kong - To collect baseline data on the occurrence and distribution of wood decay fungi and to produce guidance on diagnosis, control, etc. for practical use	1,098,235	Dec 2011	Completed	Findings will be taken into consideration in fungal diseases management of trees.	We will share the study findings with relevant government departments and professionals in the industry through seminar and publications.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender /others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Invitation of quotation	Wood Strength Assessment of Common Tree Species in Hong Kong - To evaluate wood strength in selected common trees and establish a resulting database for use in tree risk assessment	798,373	Feb 2012	Completed	Findings will be taken into consideration in formulating tree risk management and planting strategies.	We will share the study findings with relevant government departments and professionals in the industry through seminar and publications.
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Invitation of quotation	Field and in vitro evaluation of <i>Trichoderma</i> species as a biological control agent against <i>Phellinus noxius</i> infected trees in Hong Kong -To research on the applicability, effectiveness and practicality of using <i>Trichoderma</i> as a biological control agent against <i>Phellinus noxius</i> infected trees in Hong Kong	888,400	Jan 2013	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2014-15.	Findings will be taken into consideration in formulating management strategies for Brown Root Rot disease in trees in Hong Kong.	Not applicable
ACLA Ltd.	Invitation of quotation	Roadside Tree Survey	2,125,000	July 2013	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2014-15.	Findings will be consolidated as the database for tree management.	Not applicable
Aon Hong Kong Ltd.	Invitation of quotation	Review of Construction Related Insurance for Public Works Contracts	380,000	Oct 2012	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2014-15.	Pending completion of study.	Not applicable

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender /others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Pinsent Masons Management Ltd.	Invitation of quotation	Consultancy Study for Security of Payment Legislation	1,250,000	Sep 2012	Completed	Study recommendations have been incorporated in drafting the proposed legislation framework.	The proposed legislation framework will be publicised soon.
Occupational Safety & Health Council	Invitation of single quotation	Review of the Existing Guidelines on Construction, Design and Management	1,286,400	Sep 2013	Study is in progress and will be completed in early 2015.	Consultation with the stakeholders on the study findings will be carried out.	Not applicable
Centre for Architectural Heritage Research, The Chinese University of Hong Kong.	Invitation of quotation	Consultancy Study on the Heritage Conservation Regimes in Other Jurisdictions	750,000	June 2013	Study is in progress and will be completed in mid-2014.	Preliminary findings of the research have been reported to the Antiquities Advisory Board, and the final findings will be taken into consideration in the review of the policy on the conservation of built heritage conducted by the Development Bureau with the assistance of the Antiquities Advisory Board.	The final report will be uploaded onto the Commissioner for Heritage's Office's website (www.heritage.gov.hk) and the dedicated website for the heritage policy review is being set up.

(b) Information of projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies in 2014-15:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Centre for Architectural Heritage Research, The Chinese University of Hong Kong.	Invitation of quotation	Consultancy Study on the Heritage Conservation Regimes in Other Jurisdictions	750,000	June 2013	Study is in progress and will be completed in mid-2014.	Preliminary findings of the research have been reported to the Antiquities Advisory Board, and the final findings will be taken into consideration in the review of the policy on the conservation of built heritage conducted by the Development Bureau with the assistance of the Antiquities Advisory Board.	The final report will be uploaded onto the Commissioner for Heritage's Office's website (www.heritage.gov.hk) and the dedicated website for the heritage policy review is being set up.
ACLA Ltd.	Invitation of quotation	Roadside Tree Survey	2,125,000	July 2013	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2014-15.	Findings will be consolidated as the database for tree management.	Not applicable
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Invitation of quotation	Field and in vitro evaluation of <i>Trichoderma</i> species as a biological control agent against <i>Phellinus noxius</i> infected trees in Hong Kong -To research on the applicability, effectiveness and practicality of using <i>Trichoderma</i> as a biological control agent against <i>Phellinus noxius</i> infected trees in Hong Kong	888,400	Jan 2013	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2014-15.	Findings will be taken into consideration in formulating management strategies for Brown Root Rot disease in trees in Hong Kong.	We will share the study findings with relevant government departments and professionals in the industry.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
To be appointed	To be decided	Study on the sustainable management of <i>Podocarpus macrophyllus</i> through the implementation of plant health care programme in landscaped parks and gardens of Hong Kong	1,400,000	Second Quarter 2014	Under planning	Not applicable	Not applicable
Aon Hong Kong Ltd.	Invitation of quotation	Review of Construction Related Insurance for Public Works Contracts	380,000	Oct 2012	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2014-15.	Pending completion of study	Not applicable
Occupational Safety & Health Council	Invitation of single quotation	Review of the Existing Guidelines on Construction, Design and Management	1,286,400	Sep 2013	Study is in progress and will be completed in early 2015.	Consultation with the stakeholders on the study findings will be carried out.	Not applicable
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Open tender	Increasing Land Supply by Reclamation and Rock Cavern Development cum Public Engagement – Feasibility Study	28,000,000	Jul 2011	Study is in progress and will be completed in 2014-15.	Pending completion of study	Not applicable
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Open tender	Long-term Strategy for Cavern Development – Feasibility Study	34,000,000	Sept 2012	Study is in progress and will be completed by end 2015.	Pending completion of study	Not applicable

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Open tender	Territory-wide Study on Underground Space Development in the Urban Areas of Hong Kong – Feasibility Study	19,400,000	Dec 2013	Study is in progress and will be completed by end 2015.	Pending completion of study	Not applicable
To be appointed	Open tender	Strategic Studies for Artificial Islands in the Central Waters – Feasibility Study - To confirm the broad reclamation extent and the technical feasibility for forming artificial islands in the central waters	Not yet known	* Third Quarter, 2014	Under planning	Not applicable	Not applicable
To be appointed	Open tender	Pilot Study on Underground Space Development in Selected Urban Districts – Feasibility Study	Not yet known	* Fourth Quarter, 2014	Under planning	Not applicable	Not applicable
To be appointed	To be decided	Consultancy study on reclaimed water supply	Not yet known	Fourth Quarter, 2014	Under planning	Not applicable	Not applicable

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
To be appointed	To be decided	Consultancy on Total Water Management Strategy review	Not yet known	Third Quarter, 2014	Under planning	Not applicable	Not applicable

* Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee

(c) Both the technical capability of the consultants and their fee proposals will be taken into account in considering the award of consultancies. The criteria adopted for the technical capability of consultants include (i) consultants' experience and knowledge; (ii) approach and methodology in conducting the study; and (iii) composition and quality of the team.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)162

(Question Serial No. 4622)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply, (2) Heritage Conservation, (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management, (4) Energizing Kowloon East, (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 119):

In regard to the growing co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland in recent years, please provide relevant information on Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in which your bureau and the departments under its purview have been involved.

(a) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes, please provide information in 2011-12 to 2013-14 as per the following table:

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong / Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement)	Expenditure involved	Mainland official and department/ organisation involved	Progress (% completed, commencement date, target completion date)	Have the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If so, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?	Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project/ programme

(b) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in 2014-15, please provide information as per the following table:

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement	Expenditure involved	Mainland official and department/ organisation involved	Progress (% completed, commencement date, target completion)	Will the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology be	Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project/

				date)	released to the public? If so, through which channels and what will be the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?	programme

- (c) Apart from the projects or programmes listed above, are there any other modes of Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary co-operation? If so, what are they? What were the manpower and expenditure involved over the past 3 years? How much financial and manpower resources have been earmarked in the Estimates for 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

- (a) Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes over the past three years (2011-12 to 2013-14) in which the Works Branch of the Development Bureau (DEVB(WB)) and the departments under its purview have been involved are provided as follows-

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong / Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement)	Expenditure involved	Mainland official and department/ organisation involved	Progress (% completed, commencement date, target completion date)	Have the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If so, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?	Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project/ programme
Liantang/ Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and associated works	The project is related to the expenditure involved in the Framework Agreement. Upon completion of the project, a new boundary control point (BCP) will be provided in	\$1,069.945 million	Bureau of Public Works of Shenzhen Municipality and the Shenzhen River Regulation Office, Shenzhen Water Bureau	Site formation and construction of connecting road commenced in April 2013 for completion in mid 2018. The	The details, objectives etc are released to the public at various project stages when we consult the Legislative Council, the District Councils and the relevant stakeholders. Resources are mainly included	No legislative amendment or policy change is involved in the project /programme.

	the eastern part of the New Territories to facilitate “East in – East out” and “West in – West out”.			regulation of Shenzhen River stage IV commenced in August 2013 for completion in end 2017. The detailed design of the BCP buildings and the associated facilities commenced in January 2013 for completion in early 2015.	in the project expenditure or absorbed by the respective Departments.	
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(b) Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in 2014-15 in which the DEVB(WB) and the departments under its purview have been involved are provided as follows-

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement	Expenditure involved	Mainland official and department/ organisation involved	Progress (% completed, commencement date, target completion date)	Will the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology be released to the public? If so, through which channels and what will be the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?	Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project/ programme
Liantang/ Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and associated works	The project is related to the expenditure involved in the Framework Agreement. Upon completion of the project, a new boundary control point (BCP) will be provided in the eastern part of the New Territories to	\$2,590.356 million	Bureau of Public Works of Shenzhen Municipality and the Shenzhen River Regulation Office, Shenzhen Water Bureau	Site formation, construction of connecting road and the regulation of Shenzhen River stage IV are in progress. The construction of the BCP buildings and the associated	The details, objectives etc are released to the public at various project stages when we consult the Legislative Council, the District Councils and the relevant stakeholders. Resources are mainly included in the project expenditure or absorbed by the respective	No legislative amendment or policy change is involved in the project /programme.

	facilitate “East in – East out” and “West in – West out”.			facilities is planned to commence in early 2015 for completion in 2018.	Departments.	
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- (c) Under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), the DEVB(WB) closely works with the Mainland counterparts to promote the construction and related professional services and to facilitate market access in the Mainland with focus on effective implementation of pilot schemes for construction professionals to register for practice and to set up enterprises in the Guangdong Province. Regarding Qianhai development, we signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Qianhai Authority in September 2013. An Expert Group on Planning and Construction has been set up exploring further market liberalization measures to allow Hong Kong construction professionals and enterprises to provide construction and related consulting services directly in Qianhai. Three staff members of the DEVB(WB) are tasked to be mainly responsible for the service promotion to the Mainland including the liberalisation measures under CEPA and the Qianhai development. The expenditure on salaries was \$2.2 million in 2011-12, and \$2.7 million each in 2012-13 and 2013-14. The expenditure on salaries is about \$2.8 million in 2014-15.

The DEVB(WB) also cooperates with the Mainland in the supply of Dongjiang water and natural sand to Hong Kong. Two senior professional staff are responsible for the related works on a part-time basis. The annual expenditure on salaries is about \$0.1 million from 2011-12 to 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)163****(Question Serial No. 6342)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 92):

In the past 5 years, the Development Bureau (DEVB) offered assistance and explored economic incentives as appropriate to facilitate conservation of privately owned historic buildings. Please set out in detail the historic buildings involved, assistance offered, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved. What were the details of the public consultations launched by the DEVB on this matter in the past 5 years? What are the estimated number of public consultations to be held by the DEVB on this matter, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

In the past five years, we have successfully secured owners' agreement to conserve historic buildings under the following seven projects through the provision of economic incentives:

- (a) The front portion of the shophouse at 179 Prince Edward Road West (a Grade 3 building) is preserved through a minor relaxation of plot ratio from 9 to 10.23 approved by the Metro Planning Committee of the Town Planning Board (TPB) on 19 March 2010;
- (b) Four historic buildings of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui at 1 Lower Albert Road (three Grade 1 buildings and one Grade 2 building) are preserved through a transfer of plot ratio approved by the Chief Executive in Council on 7 June 2011;
- (c) The clock tower of the CLP Administration Building (Proposed Grade 1 building) is preserved through a minor relaxation of building height from 80 metres above Principle Datum (mPD) to 100 mPD and plot ratio from 5 to 5.5, as well as permission for using the clock tower as a place of recreation, sports or culture, approved by the Metro Planning Committee of TPB on 4 November 2011;
- (d) Part of the façade of 47 Barker Road (a Grade 2 building) is preserved through a minor relaxation of plot ratio from 0.5 to 0.545 approved by the Metro Planning Committee of

TPB on 18 November 2011;

- (e) Jessville (a Grade 3 building) is preserved under a preservation-cum-development proposal which was facilitated by the partial uplifting of the Pokfulam Moratorium approved by the Chief Executive in Council on 26 March 2013;
- (f) Part of the façade of 8 Pollock's Path (a Grade 2 building) is preserved through a minor relaxation of plot ratio from 0.5 to 0.548 approved by the Metro Planning Committee of TPB on 27 September 2013; and
- (g) Cheung Chau Theatre (a Grade 3 historic building) is preserved through a minor relaxation of plot ratio restriction from 0.4 to 0.472 and that of site coverage restriction from 20% to 36.8% approved by the Rural and New Town Planning Committee of the TPB on 13 December 2013.

We are also exploring possible land exchange of similar development parameters for preserving the residence at 23 Coombe Road (a Grade 1 building).

No public money was involved in the above cases and the manpower involved in discussing with the owners concerned on the economic incentives is absorbed within existing resources.

When applying the policy of providing economic incentives, we will present the proposals to the public and adhere to the required statutory procedures. In the cases of 179 Prince Edward Road West, CLP Administration Building, 47 Barker Road, 8 Pollock's Path and Cheung Chau Theatre, the applications submitted to TPB under section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance were made public and the public was allowed to express their views within a certain period of time. For the other three cases (i.e. Jessville, the four historic buildings of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui and 23 Coombe Road), the District Councils concerned have been consulted.

The number of public consultation and expenditure involved in respect of the implementation of the economic incentive policy in 2014-15 would depend on the number of cases. The manpower involved in discussing with the owners concerned on possible economic incentives will be absorbed within existing resources.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)164****(Question Serial No. 6343)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 94):

In the past 5 years, the Development Bureau (DEVB) implemented the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme to provide financial assistance on the maintenance of privately owned graded historic buildings for conservation. Please set out in detail the historic buildings involved, assistance offered, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved. What were the details of the public consultations launched by the DEVB on this matter in the past 5 years? What are the estimated number of public consultations to be held by the DEVB on this matter, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

Since the launch of the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme (FAS) in 2008, we have approved 37 applications for the carrying out of maintenance works to the privately-owned graded historic buildings. The details are listed below.

<u>Name of Historic Building</u>	<u>Brief Scope of Maintenance Works</u>	<u>Approved Amount (\$)</u>
<u>Approved Applications in 2009/10</u>		
i) Lo Pan Temple, Kennedy Town	Restoration of roof, columns and walls	711,000
ii) Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre, Shatin	Restoration of roofs and walls of Pilgrim's Hall and Conference Hall	820,000
iii) Main Building of Helena May, Central	Preservation of existing walls at Garden Room by cavity wall system	600,000
iv) Ancestral Hall of Tsang Tai Uk, Shatin	Restoration of ancestral altar and roof	1,000,000
v) No. 3 Bungalow, St. Stephen's College, Stanley	Restoration of roof, external walls	606,000
vi) Tin Hau Temple, Yuen Long	Restoration of roof, external walls	985,000
vii) Hung Shing Temple, Fanling	Restoration of roof, walls, columns	880,000

<u>Name of Historic Building</u>	<u>Brief Scope of Maintenance Works</u>	<u>Approved Amount (\$)</u>
viii) Jamia Mosque, Sheung Wan	Repainting of building	860,000
<u>Approved applications in 2010/11</u>		
ix) Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long	Restoration of roof and structural frame	1,000,000
<u>Approved applications in 2011/12</u>		
xi) Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre (Side Chapel), Shatin	Roof rectification works, structural repair to walls	999,000
xi) Tat Yan Study Hall, Yuen Long	Restoration of roof and upgrading of electrical system	1,000,000
xii) Leung Ancestral Hall, Tai Po	Restoration of roof, walls, floor, doors and ancestral altars	1,000,000
xiii) Earth God Shrine, Sheung Shui	Restoration of the walls and ground slab of the shrine	390,000
xiv) Tsang's Ancestral Hall, Tsuen Wan	Restoration of roof, walls, floor, doors, plaques and murals	950,000
xv) Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun	Restoration of roof	1,000,000
xvi) Lim House, Yuen Long	Restoration of roof, walls, doors, windows and balconies	1,000,000
xvii) Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kowloon City	Restoration of the higher roof	958,000
xviii) No. 8 San Lau Street, Sha Tau Kok	Restoration of roof, structural repair to slab and beam,	1,000,000
xix) Kowloon Union Church, Jordan	Upgrading of the storm water and waste water System	1,000,000
<u>Approved Applications in 2012/13</u>		
xx) Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	Restoration of the roof and wall at the entrance hall and main hall	1,000,000
xxi) Ip Ancestral Hall, Sha Tau Kok	Restoration of the roof, walls, and the shrine	1,000,000
xxii) Tin Hau Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	Restoration of eaves boards, granite plaque	980,000
xxiii) Jamia Mosque, Sheung Wan, Phase II	Install new waterproofing system at roof	950,000
xxiv) Tin Hau Temple, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po	Restoration of roof	1,000,000
xxv) Holy Spirit Seminary, Chapel	Install new waterproofing system at roof	999,960
xxvi) Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun Phase II	Repair spalling of concrete	1,000,000
<u>Approved Applications in 2013/14</u>		
xxvii) Yuen Kwan Tai Temple, Mong Tseng Wai, Yuen Long	Restoration of roof of Main Hall and Incense Pavilion	1,000,000
xxviii) Tin Hau Temple, Fung Chi Tsuen, Yuen Long	Restoration of roof of Gate House, Main Hall and Incense Pavilion	1,000,000

<u>Name of Historic Building</u>	<u>Brief Scope of Maintenance Works</u>	<u>Approved Amount (\$)</u>
xxix) First Church of Christ Scientist	Restoration of roof and drainage system of church building, cracks repair and repaint to the exterior and interior wall	1,000,000
xxx) Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre (Christ Temple), Shatin	Paint works to door, windows, timber structures, internal and external walls, cracks repair at exterior circular columns	921,200
xxxii) Entrance gate of Mong Tseng Wai, Yuen Long	Restoration of roof, walls, floors and upgrading of electrical system	789,000
xxxiii) No.71 San Wai Tsuen, San Tin, Yuen Long	Repair and waterproofing works on the roof and related drainage rectification works	390,000
xxxiiii) Municipal Services Staff Recreation Club, King's Park, Kowloon	Restoration of roof and drainage system, repaint walls and ceiling, floor cracks repair.	991,000
xxxv) Ancestral Hall (Middle Hall) of Tsang Tai Uk, Shatin	Restoration of roof, repair ceremonial screens and upgrading of electrical system	1,000,000
xxxvi) No.60 Kat Hing Street, Tai O, Lantau	Repair of spalled concrete, brickwork, rendering and roof waterproofing	1,000,000
xxxvii) Man San Ye Ancestral Hall, San Tin, Yuen Long	Restoration of roof and upgrading of electrical system	1,000,000
xxxviii) Tat Yan Study Hall, Yuen Long, Phase II	Restoration of roof and shrine	810,000

In the implementation of FAS, DEVB is the co-ordinator and approval body, the Technical and Advisory Unit (TAU) of the Antiquities and Monuments Office provides conservation and technical advice to the approved applicants throughout the delivery of the work projects. TAU is led by a Senior Heritage Officer under non-civil service contract (NCSC) terms at a level comparable to Architect, and supported by 4 NCSC technical staff. The estimated expenditure in 2014-15 is approximately \$4.5 million with the number of staff deployed to work on FAS remaining unchanged in 2014-15. The public can obtain information and make enquiry regarding FAS via the website of the Commissioner for Heritage's Office of DEVB.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)165****(Question Serial No. 6344)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 97):

In the past 5 years, the Development Bureau (DEVB) took forward the Central Police Station Compound revitalisation project in partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club. What were the expenditure and manpower involved? What were the details of the public consultations launched by the DEVB on this matter in the past 5 years? What are the estimated number of public consultations to be held by the DEVB on this matter, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

Under the partnership arrangement between the DEVB and the Hong Kong Jockey Club ("HKJC"), the HKJC will fund all the revitalisation works and all operational deficits until the operation of the Central Police Station Compound is financially self-sustainable. As such, the Government will not be required to contribute any expenditure or manpower under this revitalisation project.

HKJC conducted a six-month public engagement exercise from October 2007 to April 2008 to engage stakeholders through various channels and activities. During this period, HKJC held a total of 56 meetings (including 4 public forums) with relevant organisations and members of the public to collect their views. These include -

- (a) the Heritage Conservation Subcommittee of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Panel on Home Affairs and individual Members of the LegCo;
- (b) the Central and Western District Council ("C&WDC"), residents and concerned groups of the Central and Western District and representatives of trade groups in Lan Kwai Fong and SoHo;
- (c) the Antiquities Advisory Board ("AAB"), professional institutes and heritage conservation groups;
- (d) the arts and cultural community, the tourism sector, business groups, and young professional groups; and
- (e) retired police and prison officers who had worked at the Central Police Station and the Prison Compound.

An exhibition entitled “Conservation & Revitalisation - the Central Police Station Compound” was held from December 2007 to early May 2008 at the Hong Kong Racing Museum to display the historical photographs, videos, building plans and architectural models of the Central Police Station Compound to collect the public views on the revitalisation proposal. Roving exhibitions were also held at the Hong Kong City Hall, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre and the Sha Tin Town Hall attracting more than 19 000 visitors in total. A dedicated website with detailed information on the revitalisation proposal was launched where the public could express their views and make suggestions. A total of 112 857 page view counts were recorded during the public consultation period.

After extensive consultation with the public, the Government jointly announced the revised design of the revitalisation of Central Police Station Compound with HKJC on 11 October 2010. DEVB and HKJC consulted the LegCo Panel on Development and the C&WDC on 23 November 2010 and 6 January 2011 respectively and obtained members’ support on the revised design. Public consultation was also conducted under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499) and the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131) on HKJC’s proposal. After considering the public views collected, the authorities granted the Environmental Permit and planning permission in April and May 2011 respectively.

Furthermore, DEVB has regularly reported to the LegCo Panel on Development, the C&WDC, the AAB and the District Council’s Working Group about the latest development of this revitalisation project and would continue to do so in 2014-15. The expenditure and manpower involved in these public consultation exercises are absorbed within the existing resources.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)166****(Question Serial No. 6345)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 99):

The Development Bureau (DEVB) took forward the transformation of the former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road into a creative industries landmark in partnership with the selected non-profit-making organisation. What were the expenditure and manpower involved? What were the details of the public consultations launched by the DEVB on this matter in the past 5 years? What are the estimated number of public consultations to be held by the DEVB on this matter, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The approved project estimate of the project 3400IO "Transformation of the former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road into a creative industries landmark" is \$560.1 million in money-of-the-day prices. The manpower involved in the project will be absorbed within the existing resources.

In order to gauge the community's views on how best the site should be revitalised, the Development Bureau (DEVB) conducted a three-month public consultation exercise between February and May 2008. During this period, the DEVB held a total of eight meetings with relevant organisations and members of the public to collect their views. These include the Heritage Conservation Subcommittee of the Legislative Council, the Central and Western District Council (C&WDC), the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the Travel Industry Council, the Tourism Strategy Group, the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB), the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, the Urban Renewal Authority, etc. The DEVB also organised public seminars and open days.

After extensive consultation with the public, the Government and the Musketeers Education and Culture Charitable Foundation Limited (Musketeers Foundation) consulted the C&WDC on 3 March 2011 and 15 March 2011 and obtained members' support for the proposed project. Moreover, the Government and the Musketeers Foundation also consulted AAB and the Legislative Council Panel on Development on 22 March 2011 and 20 April

2011 respectively and obtained members' support. Public consultation was also conducted under the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131) on the project proposal. After considering the public views collected, the Metro Planning Committee of the Town Planning Board granted the planning permission on 15 April 2011.

Furthermore, DEVB has regularly reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Development, C&WDC, AAB and the District Council's Working Group about the latest development of this project. In 2014-15, we would continue reporting to the Legislative Council Panel on Development, C&WDC and AAB about the latest development of this project. The expenditure and manpower involved in these public consultation exercises are absorbed within the existing resources.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)167

(Question Serial No. 6346)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 101):

The Development Bureau has carried out grading exercise for about 1 444 historic buildings and other buildings suggested for grading by the public and sought the Antiquities Advisory Board's confirmation of the proposed grading. What are the progress and manpower involved? What are the estimated number of public consultations to be held by the Bureau on this matter, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

Since 2009, the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) has been reviewing the grading of 1 444 historic buildings in the territory. Apart from these 1 444 buildings, some 200 suggestions for grading some other items (new items) have been received from the public. As at the last AAB meeting held on 4 March 2014, AAB has finalised the grading of 1 292 buildings. The work is absorbed within the existing manpower resources.

The AAB agreed at its meeting on 20 February 2013 that, the AAB will proceed to examine new items alongside the remaining buildings from the list of 1 444 buildings. Such arrangement was reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Development on 26 February 2013. According to the established practice, after AAB has agreed on a proposed grading for an individual item, AAB will conduct public consultation through its website before finalising the grading. The expenditure and manpower involved in 2014-15 will be absorbed within the existing resources.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)168****(Question Serial No. 6347)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 103):

What are the numbers of participants in the “New Life @ Heritage” roving exhibition, “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme” roving exhibition, King Yin Lei Open Days, “Heritage Fiesta 2013” cum photo exhibition, and International Conference on Heritage Conservation 2013? What is the expenditure involved and how successful are the activities? Will similar activities be launched by the Development Bureau in 2014-15? What are the details as well as the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

In 2013-2014, the Commissioner for Heritage's Office of the Development Bureau organised a variety of activities to enhance public awareness on heritage conservation and their appreciation of historic buildings. The table below illustrates the number of participants and expenditures for each activity during 2013-2014. The workload of organising these activities was mainly absorbed by the staff of the Commissioner for Heritage's Office.

	Activities	No. of Participants	Actual Expenditure (\$)
1.	“New Life @ Heritage” Exhibition	161 480	1,168,001
2.	Roving Exhibition on Batch I of the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme”	75 887	1,097,300
3.	King Yin Lei Open Days	24 283	597,427
4.	“Heritage Fiesta 2013”	48 000	1,418,930
5.	“International Conference on Heritage Conservation 2013 - Latest Movements in Heritage Conservation: Global Vision and Local Outlook”	302	474,737

In 2014-15, we will continue to organise promotional and educational activities for the public, including open days, guided tours and roving exhibitions. The estimated budget is approximately \$5.9 million. These activities will mainly be organised by staff of the Commissioner for Heritage's Office. We will continue to collaborate with different organisations in organising exhibitions to promote Hong Kong's built heritage. We will also work with the management parties of selected monuments/graded historic buildings in organising open days and guided tours.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)169

(Question Serial No. 6348)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 106):

In the past 5 years, the Development Bureau (DEVB) has conducted consultancy studies on the feasibility of setting up a heritage trust in Hong Kong. What were the details of the studies as well as the expenditure and manpower involved? What were the details of the public consultations launched by the DEVB on this matter in the past 5 years? What are the estimated number of public consultations to be held by the DEVB on this matter, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The Development Bureau (DEVB) commissioned a consultancy study in 2011-12 to investigate the feasibility, framework (covering the statutory, financial, organisational and operational aspects) and implementation of setting up a statutory heritage trust in Hong Kong to take forward heritage conservation efforts. The cost of the consultancy study is \$1,307,500. The consultancy study is handled by existing staff.

As announced by the Chief Executive in his 2013 Policy Address, in the light of experiences in the past few years, we consider that we should review the present policy on the conservation of privately-owned historic buildings. The review will cover the impact of setting up a heritage trust on the conservation of privately-owned historic buildings. The DEVB has invited the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) to assist with this policy review. The AAB will collect public views on the specific issues under the review and prepare a report to the Government. Detailed plans on the collection of views, including the expenditure and manpower to be involved, will be worked out with AAB.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)170

(Question Serial No. 5432)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 59):

In 2014-15, the Development Bureau (Works Branch) will continue with the grading exercise of historic buildings, liaise with private owners of graded historic buildings to facilitate their preservation, and offer assistance and explore economic incentives as appropriate to facilitate conservation of privately owned historic buildings. How many owners of graded historic buildings have been provided with assistance for the conservation of their buildings in the past 5 years? What are the funding earmarked and manpower assigned to promote the conservation of privately owned historic buildings in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply:

In the past five years, we have provided seven owners of privately-owned historic buildings with economic incentives to encourage them to preserve the historic buildings under their ownership. The expenditure and manpower involved in discussing with the owners concerned on the economic incentives will be absorbed within existing resources.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)171****(Question Serial No. 5433)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 60):

In 2014-15, the Development Bureau (Works Branch) will continue to oversee the effective implementation of the tree risk management arrangement within the Government and the development of a database of problematic trees, as well as continue to build up the tree management capacity of the tree management departments through training and research. Please provide a breakdown of the number of problematic trees in Hong Kong by District Council district. What are the estimated expenditure and manpower required to continue to oversee tree risk management in 2014-15? What is the amount of resources to be allocated to train the relevant personnel to enhance their tree management capacity?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply:

The breakdown of the number of problematic trees on the Tree Register by district is appended below –

District	Number of Trees
Central & Western	22
Eastern	10
Southern	8
Wan Chai	0
Kowloon City	9
Kwun Tong	4
Sham Shui Po	9
Wong Tai Sin	2
Yau Tsim Mong	20
Islands	0
Kwai Tsing	13
North	4
Sai Kung	0
Sha Tin	5

Tai Po	2
Tsuen Wan	5
Tuen Mun	1
Yuen Long	1
Total	115

The tree risk management work is part and parcel of the overall tree management work. We therefore have no separate figure on manpower and resources dedicated to tree risk assessment only. A total amount of \$1.99 million will be allocated for various tree management training programmes, including those on tree risk management in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)172****(Question Serial No. 6603)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 527):

It is stated in paragraph 53 of the Budget Speech that “70 to 80 per cent of Hong Kong’s fresh water comes from Dongjiang. Given the rising demand for fresh water in Guangdong Province and the challenge due to climate change, we shall endeavour to increase the supply of fresh water from local sources. Government has reserved a site for the construction of a desalination plant, and the planning and investigation study will largely be completed early next year. The desalination plant is expected to commence operation in 2020. Although the initial annual output of the plant will account for just five to ten per cent of Hong Kong’s total fresh water consumption, I believe seawater desalination can serve as an important water source for Hong Kong in the long run as technology advances.”

Please inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) What is the cost of fresh water produced by the desalination plant at the initial stage, and how does it compare with the current cost of chargeable supplies?
- 2) How is the cost expected to change in future?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

- 1) The Water Supplies Department has engaged a consultant to carry out a planning and investigation study for the setting up of a seawater desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O. While the ongoing study has yet to arrive at an estimate of the production cost of fresh water by desalination, the unit cost of water produced from desalination has previously been broadly estimated to be around \$12 per cubic metre at 2012-13 price level. The unit cost of water produced from locally collected fresh water and Dongjiang water are estimated to be \$4.2 and \$8.8 respectively at 2013-14 price level.

- 2) The unit cost of water produced from desalination will be affected by a number of factors including technology advancement, chemical and electricity cost, and maintenance cost, including replacement for equipment and reverse osmosis membranes. With continuous improvements to the energy recovery process, there is room for reduction in the production cost.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)173

(Question Serial No.4280)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 59):

The Administration-led Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (Revitalisation Scheme) has launched its Batch IV buildings. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Please set out in tabular form for each revitalised project in operation the number of people who have visited or used the building and the operating expenses; as well as the resources allocated to the revitalised projects over the years.
- (2) Regarding the operation of the above projects, has the Administration conducted interim reviews to ensure that they can achieve the targets of conservation and sustainable development? If yes, what are the results of the reviews? If no, does the Administration plan to conduct such reviews so that the organisations concerned can revitalise the historic buildings in a sustainable way?
- (3) Has the Administration deployed staff of the Antiquities and Monuments Office to inspect the condition of the historic buildings under the Revitalisation Scheme on a regular basis? Have they found that the buildings suffer damage and what is the extent of the damage? What are the repair costs and the staff establishment involved?
- (4) It is mentioned in the Indicators for this programme that the Administration will process Batch IV applications under the Revitalisation Scheme. What are the establishment involved and the provision earmarked for the work? Is there any implementation timetable for Batch IV projects of the Revitalisation Scheme?

Asked by: Hon. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

- (1) The six projects which have commenced operation under the Revitalisation Scheme are set out in the table below, including the number of people who have visited or used the buildings since the projects commenced operation up to 28 February 2014 and the funding allocated to each project so far.

Project Name (Name of Historic Building)	No. of People who visited or used the Building	Funding allocated to projects (mainly for pre-operating start-up costs) (in \$ Million)
Savannah College of Art and Design, Hong Kong (Former North Kowloon Magistracy)	About 92 160	Nil
Tai O Heritage Hotel (Former Tai O Police Station)	About 373 780	Nil
Hong Kong Baptist University School of Chinese Medicine – Lui Seng Chun (Lui Seng Chun)	About 101 350	About 0.84
Jao Tsung-I Academy (Former Lai Chi Kok Hospital)	About 20 140	About 3.8
The Yuen Yuen Institute “Fong Yuen Study Hall” - Tourism and Chinese Cultural Centre cum Ma Wan Residents Museum (Fong Yuen Study Hall)	About 4 290	About 1.07
YHA Mei Ho House Youth Hostel (Mei Ho House)	About 77 250	About 3.7

The operating expenses of the Revitalisation Scheme projects are borne by respective non-profit making organisations (NPOs) on a self-financing basis. Where justified, the Government will provide one-off financial assistance to the NPOs to meet the pre-operating start-up cost and operating deficits in the first two years of operation at a ceiling of \$5 million for each project, on the prerequisite that the business of the NPOs can be self-sustainable after the first two years. The funding allocated to the projects so far is mainly for pre-operating start-up costs.

- (2) The Government has all along been monitoring the projects under the Revitalisation Scheme to see if the NPOs have kept in line with the principles of conservation and sustainable development. This monitoring is done through regular submission of reports by NPOs and review visits conducted by our staff. Through the revitalisation projects, the historic buildings which have originally been left vacant are now conserved and put into gainful use. Through guided tours or related activities, the public can visit and appreciate these historic buildings. As a result, the Revitalisation Scheme has increased the public awareness of heritage conservation. Moreover, as these projects are run in the mode of social enterprises, employment opportunities are created at the district level.
- (3) The Antiquities and Monuments Office will conduct inspections to each government-owned graded historic buildings (including those under the Revitalisation Scheme) at least once every three years to ensure that the buildings have been properly maintained. In case of any irregularities, the Commissioner for Heritage's Office (CHO) of the Development Bureau (DEVB) will be notified accordingly. So far, no irregularity about the maintenance of the buildings under the Revitalisation Scheme has been observed.
- (4) The processing of Batch IV applications will be done by existing staff of the CHO of DEVB. Invitation for Batch IV's applications has commenced in December 2013 and the application will close in the second quarter of 2014. It is anticipated that the selection results will be announced in the first quarter of 2015.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)174****(Question Serial No. 4281)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 60):

According to the information of the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB), every now and then some of the 1 444 historic buildings in Hong Kong have been demolished or substantially altered by their owners while pending AAB's grading. As a result, they do not warrant any grading since their heritage merits have been greatly diminished. In this connection, please provide the following information:

- (1) A breakdown of the number of historic buildings not graded due to demolition or substantial alteration by their owners in the past 3 years (2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14);
- (2) A tabular breakdown of the names of private property owners who have applied for the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme (the scheme), names and locations of the historic buildings involved, and amounts of grants applied for and approved in the past 3 years (2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14);
- (3) The criteria and procedures for the application, assessment and approval of the scheme;
- (4) The maintenance progress of the historic buildings with grants approved in the past 3 years (2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14) in tabular form; and
- (5) The establishment of the Antiquities and Monuments Office staff responsible for following up on the implementation of the scheme, criteria and measures adopted for overseeing the scheme, and estimated changes in staff establishment for the scheme in 2014-15.

Asked by: Hon. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

1. The grading result of 1 444 historic buildings/structures was announced by the Antiquities and Monument Office (AMO) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department on 19 March 2009. According to records, four proposed graded buildings were demolished in the past three financial years, i.e. 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14, with the following breakdown:

Year	Number of proposed graded buildings being demolished
2011-12	2
2012-13	2
2013-14	0

The Assessment Panel of the Antiquities Advisory Board has reviewed the proposed grading of the aforesaid items and decided not to proceed further with the grading assessment of the demolished buildings.

2. In the past three years, we have approved 28 applications under the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme (FAS). The details are listed below.

<u>Name of Historic Building</u>	<u>Locations</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Amounts of Grants(\$) (Approved amount equivalent to applied amount)</u>
<u>Approved Applications in 2011/12</u>			
i. Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre (Side Chapel), Shatin	Sha Tin	Areopagos Norge	999,000
ii. Tat Yan Study Hall, Yuen Long	Yuen Long	Sung Shing Tong	1,000,000
iii. Leung Ancestral Hall, Tai Po	Tai Po	Leung Tung Cheong Tong	1,000,000
iv. Earth God Shrine, Sheung Shui	Sheung Shui	Kam Tsin Tsuen	390,000
v. Tsang's Ancestral Hall, Tsuen Wan	Tsuen Wan	Tsang Tai Cheung Tso	950,000
vi. Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun	Sai Ying Pun	Hong Kong of the Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Incorporated	1,000,000
vii. Lim House, Yuen Long	Yuen Long	Lim Fat Property Limited	1,000,000
viii. Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kowloon City	Kowloon City	Holy Trinity Church, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui	958,000
ix. No. 8 San Lau Street, Sha Tau Kok	Sha Tau Kok	The Owner of No. 8, San Lau Street	1,000,000
x. Kowloon Union Church, Jordan	Yau Ma Tei	The Trustees of Kowloon Union Church	1,000,000

Approved Applications in 2012/13

xi.	Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	Yuen Long	Tang Wai San Tong	1,000,000
xii.	Ip Ancestral Hall, Sha Tau Kok	Sha Tau Kok	Ip Sz Fat Tso	1,000,000
xiii.	Tin Hau Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	Yuen Long	Tang Shui Mi Tsuen	980,000
xiv.	Jamia Mosque, Sheung Wan, Phase II	Sheung Wan	The Incorporated Trustees of the Islamic Community Fund of Hong Kong	950,000
xv.	Tin Hau Temple, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po	Tai Po	Lam Tsuen Valley Committee	1,000,000
xvi.	Holy Spirit Seminary, Chapel	Wong Chuk Hang	Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong	999,960
xvii.	Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun Phase II	Sai Ying Pun	Hong Kong of the Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Incorporated	1,000,000

Approved Applications in 2013/14

xviii.	Yuen Kwan Tai Temple, Mong Tseng Wai, Yuen Long	Yuen Long	The Community of Mong Tseng	1,000,000
xix.	Tin Hau Temple, Fung Chi Tsuen, Yuen Long	Yuen Long	Ping Shan Rural Committee	1,000,000
xx.	First Church of Christ Scientist	Central	Executive Board Chairman of the Church	1,000,000
xxi.	Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre (Christ Temple), Shatin	Shatin	Tao Fong Shan Foundation Limited	921,200
xxii.	Entrance gate of Mong Tseng Wai, Yuen Long	Yuen Long	Village Representative of Mong Tseng Wai	789,000
xxiii.	No.71 San Wai Tsuen, San Tin, Yuen Long	Yuen Long	Dr. Kan Wai Fun Jenny	390,000
xxiv.	Municipal Services Staff Recreation Club, King's Park, Kowloon	Yau Ma Tei	Municipal Services Staff Recreation Club Limited	991,000
xxv.	Ancestral Hall (Middle Hall) of Tsang Tai Uk, Shatin	Shatin	Tsang Sam Lee Tso	1,000,000
xxvi.	No.60 Kat Hing Street, Tai O, Lantau	Island	Chan Wai Chi Veronica	1,000,000

xxvii. Man San Ye Ancestral Hall, San Tin, Yuen Long	Yuen Long	Man San Ye Tso	1,000,000
xxviii. Tat Yan Study Hall, Yuen Long, Phase II	Yuen Long	Sung Shing Tong	810,000

3. The criteria for application include that the applicant has to be the owner of the concerned graded historic building, and he has to agree to a number of conditions including not to demolish his building, not to transfer the ownership of his building and to allow reasonable public access to his building for appreciation within an agreed period of time (usually 10 years) after completion of the maintenance works.

The assessment of the applications will be carried out by a vetting panel, with reference to a number of factors including urgency of the works, degree of public access allowed, benefits of the maintenance works to the community, etc. The application procedure and criteria for approval are available on the website of the Commissioner for Heritage's Office of the Development Bureau (DEVB).

4. In the past three years, the progress of the maintenance works for the historic buildings with grants approved is tabulated below.

<u>Name of Historic Building</u>	<u>Progress of Maintenance Works</u>
<u>Approved Applications in 2011/12</u>	
i.. Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre (Side Chapel), Shatin	Completed
ii. Tat Yan Study Hall, Yuen Long	Completed
iii. Leung Ancestral Hall, Tai Po	Completed
iv. Earth God Shrine, Sheung Shui	Completed
v. Tsang's Ancestral Hall, Tsuen Wan	Completed
vi. Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun	Completed
vii. Lim House, Yuen Long	Completed
viii. Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kowloon City	Work in progress
ix. No. 8 San Lau Street, Sha Tau Kok	Works tender under preparation
x. Kowloon Union Church, Jordan	Work in progress
<u>Approved Applications in 2012/13</u>	
xi. Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	Completed
xii. Ip Ancestral Hall, Sha Tau Kok	Consultancy tender in progress
xiii. Tin Hau Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	Work in progress
xiv. Jamia Mosque, Sheung Wan, Phase II	Completed
xv. Tin Hau Temple, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po	Works tender under preparation

xvi. Holy Spirit Seminary, Chapel	Works are scheduled to commence
xvii. Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun, Phase II	Completed

Approved Applications in 2013/14

xviii. Yuen Kwan Tai Temple, Mong Tseng Wai, Yuen Long	Consultancy tender in progress
xiv. Tin Hau Temple, Fung Chi Tsuen, Yuen Long	Consultancy tender in progress
xx. First Church of Christ Scientist	Works tender in progress
xxi. Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre (Christ Temple), Shatin	Consultancy tender in progress
xxii. Entrance gate of Mong Tseng Wai, Yuen Long	Works tender in progress
xxiii. No.71 San Wai Tsuen, San Tin, Yuen Long	Consultancy study in progress
xxiv. Municipal Services Staff Recreation Club, King's Park, Kowloon	Consultancy tender in progress
xxv. Ancestral Hall (Middle Hall) of Tsang Tai Uk, Shatin	Consultancy tender in progress
xxvi. No.60 Kat Hing Street, Tai O, Lantau	Consultancy tender in progress
xxvii. Man San Ye Ancestral Hall, San Tin, Yuen Long	Consultancy tender in progress
xxviii. Tat Yan Study Hall, Yuen Long, Phase II	Consultancy tender in progress

5. A team under the Technical and Advisory Unit (TAU) of AMO is responsible for providing technical advice and support to DEVB in the implementation of FAS. It is led by a Senior Heritage Officer under non-civil service contract (NCSC) terms at a level comparable to Architect, and supported by 4 NCSC technical staff. Apart from FAS, the team is also responsible for the works and maintenance projects undertaken by AMO. DEVB is the co-ordinator and approval body of FAS, while TAU provides conservation and technical advice throughout the delivery of the work projects. The number of staff deployed to work on FAS would remain unchanged in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)175****(Question Serial No. 4282)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 61):

Regarding the tree management in Hong Kong, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What were the numbers of trees felled by the tree management departments in the past 2 years (i.e. 2012-13 and 2013-14) due to their potential risk or immediate danger?
- (2) Please provide a breakdown of the numbers of the horticulture contractors and term maintenance contractors directly engaged by the Government's tree management departments in the outsourcing of tree maintenance and management and the expenditures involved in the past 2 years (2012-13 and 2013-14). Please provide details of the contractors who have received warning letters or have punitive action taken against them for improper tree pruning or failure to meet the work requirements under the contract.
- (3) What were the channels and number of exchange activities and experience sharing with overseas tree experts in 2013-14? Will the Administration introduce and adopt new tree management measures in 2014-15? If yes, what are the details?
- (4) What are the estimated number of participants in the courses organised by the Administration and the estimated expenditure involved in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

- (1) In the past two years, the numbers of trees removed due to their potential risk or immediate danger by the tree management departments are as follows –

Financial Year	No. of trees removed due to potential risk/immediate danger
2012 - 13	17 060
2013 – 14 (up to 31 December 2013)	12 767

- (2) The Government adopts an “integrated approach” for the management of trees on government land. In essence, the department responsible for the maintenance of an area or a facility is also responsible for the maintenance of trees there. Tree management departments may engage contractors to assist in tree maintenance in the following manner –
- (i) directly engage horticulture contractors for carrying out maintenance work on the trees under their purview (including tree pruning); or
 - (ii) engage term maintenance contractors for the management of the relevant facility, who may in turn engage specialist landscape contractors, as required, for tree maintenance (including tree pruning).

The number of tree management contracts engaged, contract amount and warning letters issued/punitive action taken by the major tree management departments in the past two years are as follows –

Financial Year	Number of Contracts	Contract Amount (\$ million)	Warning Letters Issued / Punitive Action Taken
2012-13	48	319	10
2013-14 (up to 31 December 2013)	49	354	7

- (3) TMO staff have many opportunities for sharing experience and knowledge with overseas tree experts. For example, among the 11 non-official members in the Expert Panel on Tree Management (Expert Panel) under the Development Bureau, five of them come from areas outside Hong Kong including Guangzhou, Macau, Malaysia, Australia and U.S.A. Both the local and overseas members have actively participated in the five meetings and nine site inspections held in 2013, in addition to regular communication through emails and telephones. Moreover, TMO paid visits to Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau of Macau in March 2013 and Administration of Forestry and Gardening of Guangzhou Municipality in October 2013; and also arranged its staff and sponsored departmental colleagues in attending the ‘6th International Arboriculture Summit - Hong Kong’ organised by the Institute of Arboriculture Studies in November 2013, and to share with many overseas experts the experience and knowledge in tree management work. TMO will continue to exchange with overseas experts the experience and new knowledge in tree management work in 2014-15.
- (4) The estimated number of government staff and contractors who will participate in tree management training programmes in 2014-15 is around 5 900 and the estimated expenditure is about \$1.99 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)176

(Question Serial No. 4288)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 30):

Under Programme (3), the Works Branch took the lead in resolving complex cases in collaboration with the departments concerned in the area of greening, landscape and tree management. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What is the number of inter-departmental collaboration this year? What are the details of the cases involved? Which departments are involved? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?
2. The Administration estimates that 4.9 million shrubs will be planted next year, a decrease of 1.1 million and 1.2 million as compared with 2012 and 2013 respectively. What are the reasons for the decrease?
3. Under the Greening Master Plans for the New Territories (GMPs), trees will be planted and established in Sha Tin, Sai Kung, Tuen Mun and Yuen Long. Will the Administration plan to extend the GMPs to cover other parts of the New Territories? If yes, what are the details as well as the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

1. The Government adopts an 'integrated approach' for the management of trees. Under this approach, the department responsible for the maintenance of an area or a facility is also responsible for the maintenance of trees there. The Tree Management Office (TMO) of the Development Bureau takes the lead in resolving complex tree cases, which include cases involving inter-departmental efforts.

The inter-departmental collaboration on tree management is a part of the overall coordination work undertaken by existing staff of TMO and no separate statistic on manpower or expenditure has been maintained.

2. The decrease in the estimated number of shrubs to be planted in 2014 was mainly attributed to the completion of a few major planting works including Cruise Terminal Building and Ancillary Facilities for the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal Development; Town Park, Indoor Velodrome-cum-sports Centre in Area 45, Tseung Kwan O; and River Improvement Works in Upper Lam Tsuen River, She Shan River and Upper Tai Po River in 2013 which involved a large quantity of shrubs.
3. Apart from developing Greening Master Plans (GMPs) for Southeast New Territories (NT) (covering Shatin and Sai Kung) and Northwest NT (covering Tuen Mun and Yuen Long), the formulation of GMPs for other parts of the NT, namely GMPs for Northeast NT (covering Tai Po and North District) and Southwest NT (covering Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing and Islands District) are under preparation and expected to be available in the second half of 2014. We will determine the timetable for implementing the recommended greening works after the GMPs are formulated. The estimated expenditure for the greening works will be worked out after the detailed design is completed.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)177

(Question Serial No. 6187)

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

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 125):

Regarding the official entertainment expenses of the Bureau and its departments, will the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (1) the number of exceptions where official entertainment expenses of public officers for lunch and dinner exceeded the respective ceilings per head, the number of exceptions with approval of directorate officers, the exceeded amounts and the reasons for the excess over the past 3 years? Please provide the information by bureau/department/public organisation, etc.
- (2) the number of non-compliance with the guidelines on the bestowal of gifts or souvenirs by public officers during the conduct of official activities, and the number of and reasons for exceptions with approval of directorate officers over the past 3 years? Please provide the information by bureau/department/public organisation, etc.

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

The Civil Service Regulations (CSRs) set out the principles, rules and approval procedures relating to official entertainment. Heads of Departments have the delegated authority to authorise all expenditure from the departmental entertainment vote. In addition, according to the Government's internal guidelines, the expenditure limits on entertaining guests should not exceed \$450 per person for lunch or \$600 per person for dinner. Government officers are required to exercise prudent judgement and economy when entertaining guest(s) for official purposes in order to avoid any public perception of extravagance. Where there are sufficient justifications for exceeding the expenditure limits, the departments are required to consider those applications according to the established mechanism and to document properly the detailed justifications for granting such approval.

In line with the Government's green policy, public officers should as far as possible refrain from bestowing gifts/souvenirs on others during the conduct of official activities. According to the existing guidelines, where bestowal of gifts/souvenirs is necessary or

unavoidable due to operational, protocol or other reasons, the gift/souvenir items should not be lavish or extravagant and the number should be kept to a minimum. Also, the exchange of gifts/souvenirs should only be made from organisation to organisation.

In the past 3 years, no officer of the Works Branch of the Development Bureau and the departments under its purview was subject to disciplinary action for alleged contravention of the CSRs or other government requirements in relation to claiming reimbursement of entertainment expenses or offering gifts/souvenirs.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)178

(Question Serial No. 6217)

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

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 192):

Regarding the Bureau's expenditure on the procurement of computer software and hardware, could the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Does the Administration have any standard internal procurement guidelines which set out criteria for the purchase or upgrade of computer software and hardware for the Bureau? If yes, what are the details? Do the guidelines require that the Bureau must upgrade its computer software and hardware in a timely manner?
- (2) Given that the computer software and hardware supplier Microsoft will terminate its support service for the operating platform of its Windows XP, please provide the respective numbers of mainframe computers in the Bureau which are using (1) the operating platform of Microsoft Windows XP; (2) the operating platforms released by Microsoft before 2001; and (3) other operating platforms (please specify the version), as well as the respective percentages of these three types of operating systems in the Bureau's total number of mainframe computers. Does the Bureau have any plan to upgrade the above operating platform versions which are now obsolete?
- (3) What are the expenditure on and criteria for the procurement of tablet computers by the Bureau? What are the model numbers and the uses of the tablet computers? Is there any classified information saved on the tablet computers? If yes, what are the details? Is there any information security software installed in the tablet computers used by the Bureau? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

(1) According to current guidelines of the Administration, the Works Branch of the Development Bureau has prepared a Departmental IT Project Portfolio and Departmental IT Plan for the next three years and on a yearly basis in order to ensure that IT projects cope with our business and operational needs. In considering for upgrade of IT systems, we review and assess the potential risks, including products compatibility, maintenance and support, subsequent product replacement and market supply etc. and proceed to implementation based on their importance and priority in consideration with other IT projects in the Works Branch of the Development Bureau.

(2) The Works Branch of the Development Bureau has already upgraded the operating platforms of all 350 computers to Microsoft Windows 7. The computers are installed with security tools and connected with our network with full range of security devices, which provide protection to our computers from information security risks.

(3) In the 2013-14 financial year, the expenditure for procurement of tablet computers was around \$30,000. The models currently used by the Works Branch of the Development Bureau are iPad and iPad mini. Provision of tablet computers to users are on operational basis. Users make use of tablet computers mainly for emails, except classified emails, using their official email account, reading meeting documents, access to Internet, etc. There is no confidential information saved on tablet computers in accordance with the Security Policy. Whilst there is no information security software installed in tablet computers, all of them are protected by password and auto-screen lock. Besides, all information in tablet computers will be completely wiped out if wrong passwords are entered continuously. Moreover, anti-virus system and anti-spam system are installed in the backend email servers which can guard against virus in the emails communicated through the tablet computers.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)179****(Question Serial No. 6535)**

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

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 112):

In connection with the provision of public information and gathering of public opinions by means of the Internet, please advise on the following:

- (a) the information regarding the social media platforms set up and operated by your bureau/departments/public bodies or their agents (such as out-sourced contractors or consultants) for the past year in tabulated form (see Annex 1).

Commencement of operation (Month/Year)	Status (keep updating /ceased updating) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government agencies (including policy bureaux/ departments /public bodies/ government consultations)	Name	Social media (Facebook/ Flickr/ Google+ /LinkedIn /Sina Weibo/ Twitter/ YouTube)	Purpose of establishment and no. of updates (as at 31 January 2014)	No. of "Likes"/ No. of subscribers / Average monthly visits (as at 31 January 2014)	Compiling summary of comments and following up on a regular basis (Yes/ No)	Rank and No. of officers responsible for the operation (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation (as at 31 January 2014)
			(1)...	(1)...					
			(2)...	(2)...					
			(3)...	(3)...					

- (b) whether the "Guidelines on the Use of Social Media" available on Government intranets give instructions to your department on the ceilings on expenditures for using social media or web-based platforms, such as registration fees, advertising expenditures and value-added services. If yes, what are the details? If not, will the guidelines be revised to set out the reasonable levels of expenditures derived from the use of social media.
- (c) In recent years, governments around the world have introduced systems through which citizens may hand in their online proposals. They have also undertaken that they will give a formal online response if a certain number of citizens have indicated their support of the proposals. Has the Administration examined ways to improve the existing channels for collecting public opinions on the Internet and evaluate the feasibility of the system of collecting online proposals mentioned above? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) The statistics relating to the Works Branch of the Development Bureau (DEVB(WB)), departments and public bodies under WB's purview or their agents are provided at **Annex 1**.
- (b) With regard to the application of social media, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer provides information security guidelines and other references for bureaux/departments, including the creation of a thematic webpage to disseminate the information and know-how on the use of social media so as to provide technical advice and support for them. As for expenses on the use of social media, individual bureaux/departments may set their own budgets according to their operational needs.
- (c) The DEVB(WB) and its departments have set up and operated websites to strengthen the communication with the general public, including dedicated websites to promulgate proposals, collect public views, and respond to the comments received. It is an on-going effort of the DEVB(WB) and its departments to enhance the communication with the general public through different media, including websites, emails and social media. We will continue to review and evaluate the existing channels for collecting public opinions on the Internet.

Annex 1

Commencement of operation (Month/ Year)	Status (keeps on updating / ceased updating) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government agencies (including policy bureaux/ departments/ public bodies/ government consultants)	Name	Social media (Facebook / Flickr/ Google+/ LinkedIn/ Sina Weibo/ Twitter/ YouTube)	Purpose of establishment and no. of updates (as at 31 January 2014))	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits (as at 31 January 2014)	Compilation of summary of comments and follow-up on a regular basis (Yes/ No)	Rank and No. of officers responsible for the operation (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation (as at 31 January 2014)
August 2013	Keeps on updating	DEVB(WB)	“Be Our Greening Partner” Campaign	Facebook	To post information and activities that are of interest to Greening Partners on the Facebook. Over 102 posts have been issued.	No. of “Likes”: 112	No	1 Senior Executive Assistant (agency staff) comparable to Executive Officer I rank	N.A.
February 2013	Keeps on updating	DEVB(WB)	DEVB’s YouTube channel	YouTube	To make use of the social media to post interesting coverage of Energizing	No. of video views (total): 253	No	1 Place Making Manager on non-civil service contract (NCSC)	N.A.

Commencement of operation (Month/ Year)	Status (keeps on updating / ceased updating) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government agencies (including policy bureaux/ departments/ public bodies/ government consultants)	Name	Social media (Facebook / Flickr/ Google+/ LinkedIn/ Sina Weibo/ Twitter/ YouTube)	Purpose of establishment and no. of updates (as at 31 January 2014))	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits (as at 31 January 2014)	Compilation of summary of comments and follow-up on a regular basis (Yes/ No)	Rank and No. of officers responsible for the operation (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation (as at 31 January 2014)
					Kowloon East Office events. Five videos have been uploaded.			terms comparable to Executive Officer I rank	
June 2012	Ceased updating	DEVB(WB)	Greening Projects’ YouTube channel	YouTube	To share presentation material on Skyrise Greenery Awards 2012 seminar held in May 2012. No update has been made since its upload in June 2012.	No. of video views (total): 930	No	N.A.	N.A.

Commencement of operation (Month/ Year)	Status (keeps on updating / ceased updating) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government agencies (including policy bureaux/ departments/ public bodies/ government consultants)	Name	Social media (Facebook / Flickr/ Google+/ LinkedIn/ Sina Weibo/ Twitter/ YouTube)	Purpose of establishment and no. of updates (as at 31 January 2014))	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits (as at 31 January 2014)	Compilation of summary of comments and follow-up on a regular basis (Yes/ No)	Rank and No. of officers responsible for the operation (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation (as at 31 January 2014)
May 2012	Ceased updating	DEVB(WB)	DEVB’s YouTube channel	YouTube	To showcase the activities of the Construction Safety Week 2012 organised in May 2012. Five videos have been uploaded.	No. of video views (total) : 395	No	N.A.	N.A.
November 2011	Ceased updating	Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)	Enhancing Land Supply Strategy (ELSS)	Facebook	To provide subscribers the latest news of ELSS. 85 contents have been uploaded.	Number of “Likes”: 217	No	1 Engineer	Included in the cost of consultancy study. There is no separate cost breakdown for the part of Facebook.

Commencement of operation (Month/ Year)	Status (keeps on updating / ceased updating) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government agencies (including policy bureaux/ departments/ public bodies/ government consultants)	Name	Social media (Facebook / Flickr/ Google+/ LinkedIn/ Sina Weibo/ Twitter/ YouTube)	Purpose of establishment and no. of updates (as at 31 January 2014))	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits (as at 31 January 2014)	Compilation of summary of comments and follow-up on a regular basis (Yes/ No)	Rank and No. of officers responsible for the operation (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation (as at 31 January 2014)
August 2011	Keeps on updating	CEDD	Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO), CEDD	Facebook	To facilitate public education and promote awareness of slope safety. 35 posts have been issued.	Number of “Likes”: 216	No	1 Senior Geotechnical Engineer	N.A.
August 2011	Keeps on updating	CEDD	GEO, CEDD	YouTube	To facilitate public education and promote awareness of slope safety. 28 videos have been uploaded.	No. of video views (total): 35 806	No	1 Senior Geotechnical Engineer	N.A.

Commencement of operation (Month/ Year)	Status (keeps on updating / ceased updating) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government agencies (including policy bureaux/ departments/ public bodies/ government consultants)	Name	Social media (Facebook / Flickr/ Google+/ LinkedIn/ Sina Weibo/ Twitter/ YouTube)	Purpose of establishment and no. of updates (as at 31 January 2014))	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits (as at 31 January 2014)	Compilation of summary of comments and follow-up on a regular basis (Yes/ No)	Rank and No. of officers responsible for the operation (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation (as at 31 January 2014)
November 2012	Keeps on updating	Drainage Services Department	Feasibility Study on Relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to Caverns	Facebook	To disseminate information of the feasibility study and the public engagement activities. Five times of update have been made.	Number of “Likes” (total): 159	No	Consultants of the Feasibility Study	Included in the lump sum consultancy fee. DSD does not have the breakdown on the cost of establishment and operation of the Facebook.
July 2012	Keeps on updating	Electrical & Mechanical Services Department (EMSD)	EMSD Channel	YouTube	To disseminate publicity and educational videos to public and trade through internet. Seven videos	No. of video views (total): about 6 300	Yes	1 Engineer	N.A.

Commencement of operation (Month/ Year)	Status (keeps on updating / ceased updating) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government agencies (including policy bureaux/ departments/ public bodies/ government consultants)	Name	Social media (Facebook / Flickr/ Google+/ LinkedIn/ Sina Weibo/ Twitter/ YouTube)	Purpose of establishment and no. of updates (as at 31 January 2014))	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits (as at 31 January 2014)	Compilation of summary of comments and follow-up on a regular basis (Yes/ No)	Rank and No. of officers responsible for the operation (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation (as at 31 January 2014)
					(DEVB(WB) related) have been uploaded.				
August 2013	Keeps on updating	Construction Industry Council (CIC)	CIC Channel	YouTube	To post promotion videos of CIC. 12 videos have been uploaded.	No. of video views (total): 1 598	Yes	2 officers under CIC	N.A.
May 2012	Keeps on updating	CIC	CIC’s Facebook	Facebook	To provide information on CIC’s major events, updates and photo gallery. Over 170 posts	No. of “Likes”: 255	Yes	1 officer under CIC	N.A.

Commencement of operation (Month/ Year)	Status (keeps on updating / ceased updating) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government agencies (including policy bureaux/ departments/ public bodies/ government consultants)	Name	Social media (Facebook / Flickr/ Google+/ LinkedIn/ Sina Weibo/ Twitter/ YouTube)	Purpose of establishment and no. of updates (as at 31 January 2014))	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits (as at 31 January 2014)	Compilation of summary of comments and follow-up on a regular basis (Yes/ No)	Rank and No. of officers responsible for the operation (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation (as at 31 January 2014)
					have been issued.				
May 2012	Keeps on updating	CIC	CIC’s Twitter	Twitter	To post top stories of CIC. Over 170 tweets have been issued.	No. of subscribers: 20	Yes	1 officer under CIC	N.A.
February 2012	Keeps on updating	CIC	CIC Construction Industry Resource Centre’s (CIRC) Facebook	Facebook	To promote the CIRC. Over 90 posts have been issued.	No. of “Likes”: 781	Yes	1 officer under CIC	N.A.

Commencement of operation (Month/ Year)	Status (keeps on updating / ceased updating) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government agencies (including policy bureaux/ departments/ public bodies/ government consultants)	Name	Social media (Facebook / Flickr/ Google+/ LinkedIn/ Sina Weibo/ Twitter/ YouTube)	Purpose of establishment and no. of updates (as at 31 January 2014))	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits (as at 31 January 2014)	Compilation of summary of comments and follow-up on a regular basis (Yes/ No)	Rank and No. of officers responsible for the operation (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation (as at 31 January 2014)
December 2011	Keeps on updating	CIC	CIC Construction JobsNet’s Facebook	Facebook	To promote the JobsNet and to provide information on construction worker recruitment activities. Over 65 posts have been posted.	No. of “Likes”: 182	Yes	1 officer under CIC	N.A.
October 2011	Keeps on updating	Zero Carbon Building (ZCB), CIC	ZCB, CIC’s Facebook	Facebook	To provide information on ZCB, CIC and its events. Over 210 posts have been issued.	No. of “Likes”: 2 136	Yes	1 officer under CIC	N.A.

Commencement of operation (Month/ Year)	Status (keeps on updating / ceased updating) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government agencies (including policy bureaux/ departments/ public bodies/ government consultants)	Name	Social media (Facebook / Flickr/ Google+/ LinkedIn/ Sina Weibo/ Twitter/ YouTube)	Purpose of establishment and no. of updates (as at 31 January 2014))	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits (as at 31 January 2014)	Compilation of summary of comments and follow-up on a regular basis (Yes/ No)	Rank and No. of officers responsible for the operation (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation (as at 31 January 2014)
January 2010	Keeps on updating	CIC	CIC Training Courses and Trade Tests Facebook Page	Facebook	To provide information on new construction training courses, photo gallery, roving exhibition and recruitment day etc. Over 280 posts have been issued.	No. of “Likes”: 265	Yes	1 officer under CIC	N.A.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)180****(Question Serial No. 6551)**

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

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 154):

In respect of the public relations expenses of various government departments in the past year, please inform this Committee of:

- (1) The expenses this department spent on advertisement on mainstream or online media as well as the relevant details in table form (please see Annex 1):

Published / Broadcast Time (Month / Year)	Status (one-off / ongoing / done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government or Public Organisation (including policy bureau / department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Advertisement	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station / TV station / advertising panel / car wrap advertising / website, etc.)	Purpose and Frequency of the Advertisement (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources for the expenses involved (as at 31 January 2014)
			(1)... (2)... (3)...	(1)... (2)... (3)...			

- (2) The expenses this department spent on sponsoring media to provide programmes or materials as well as the relevant details (please see Annex 2):

Programme / Materials Published / Broadcast Time (Month / Year)	Status (one-off / ongoing / done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Sponsoring Government or Public Organisation (including policy bureau / department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Programme / Materials	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station / TV station / website, etc.)	Purpose and Frequency of the Sponsorship (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Expenses (as at 31 January 2014)
			(1)... (2)... (3)...	(1)... (2)... (3)...			

- (3) The expenses on and details of the Advertorial of this department (please see Annex 3):

Programme / Materials Published / Broadcast Time (Month/Year)	Status (one-off/ ongoing/ done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government Organisation (including policy bureau/ department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Programme/ Materials	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station/ TV station / website, etc.)	Purpose and Frequency of the Programme/ Materials (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Non-government organisation/ Personnel Responsible for Writing Advertisement Script (if any)	Expenses (as at 31 January 2014)
			(1)... (2)... (3)...	(1)... (2)... (3)...				

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

- (1) The expenses incurred by the Works Branch of the Development Bureau (DEVB(WB)) on advertisement on mainstream or online media in 2013-14 as well as the relevant details are provided at **Annex 1**.
- (2) There has not been any expense on sponsoring media to provide programmes or materials in 2013-14.
- (3) The expenses spent on and details of the advertorial of DEVB(WB) in 2013-14 are provided at **Annex 2**.

Annex 1

Published / Broadcast Time (Month / Year)	Status (one-off/ ongoing / done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government or Public Organisation (including policy bureau / department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Advertisement	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station / TV station / advertising panel / car wrap advertising / website, etc.)	Purpose and Frequency of the Advertisement (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources for the expenses involved (as at 31 January 2014)
November 2013	Done	DEVB(WB)	Market Sounding Exercise for “Creativity, Arts and Culture under Kwun Tong Bypass”	(1) South China Morning Post (2) Ming Pao	<u>Purpose</u> To invite interested parties to provide comments <u>Frequency</u> One time per newspaper	One Place Making Manager on non-civil service contract (NCSC) terms comparable to Executive Officer I rank	\$10,436

Published / Broadcast Time (Month / Year)	Status (one-off/ ongoing / done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government or Public Organisation (including policy bureau / department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Advertisement	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station / TV station / advertising panel / car wrap advertising / website, etc.)	Purpose and Frequency of the Advertisement (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources for the expenses involved (as at 31 January 2014)
November 2013	Done	DEVB(WB)	Kowloon Bay Business Area Pedestrian Environment Improvement Feasibility Study Stage 2 Public Engagement	(1) South China Morning Post (2) Ming Pao	<u>Purpose</u> To invite public views <u>Frequency</u> Two times per newspaper	One Engineer	Included in the lump sum consultancy fees for the feasibility study
November 2013	Done	DEVB(WB)	Kai Tak Fantasy International Ideas Competition on Urban Planning and Design	(1) South China Morning Post (2) Ming Pao	<u>Purpose</u> To invite professionals to participate in the competition <u>Frequency</u> One time per newspaper	One Place Making Manager on NCSC terms comparable to Executive Officer I rank	\$66,001

Published / Broadcast Time (Month / Year)	Status (one-off/ ongoing / done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government or Public Organisation (including policy bureau / department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Advertisement	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station / TV station / advertising panel / car wrap advertising / website, etc.)	Purpose and Frequency of the Advertisement (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources for the expenses involved (as at 31 January 2014)
July 2013	Done	DEVB(WB)	Kai Tak Fantasy International Ideas Competition on Urban Planning and Design (Public Consultation)	(1) am730 (2) South China Morning Post (3) Ming Pao	<u>Purpose</u> To invite public views <u>Frequency</u> Two times per newspaper	One Place Making Manager on NCSC terms comparable to Executive Officer I rank	\$101,636
May 2013	Done	DEVB(WB)	Kowloon Bay Business Area Pedestrian Environment Improvement Feasibility Study Stage 1 Public Engagement	(1) South China Morning Post (2) Ming Pao	<u>Purpose</u> To invite public views <u>Frequency</u> Two times per newspaper	One Engineer	Included in the lump sum consultancy fees for the feasibility study

Published / Broadcast Time (Month / Year)	Status (one-off/ ongoing / done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government or Public Organisation (including policy bureau / department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Advertisement	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station / TV station / advertising panel / car wrap advertising / website, etc.)	Purpose and Frequency of the Advertisement (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources for the expenses involved (as at 31 January 2014)
April 2013 to February 2014	Done	DEVB(WB)	“Build Up” Publicity Campaign	(1) Mass Transit Railway Lightboxes (April 2013 and January to February 2014) (2) Minibus Body (April to September 2013) (3) Outdoor Billboards (May to July 2013) (4) Tramcar Body and Bus Shelter (June and July 2013) (5) Bus Body (November 2013)	<u>Purpose</u> To uplift the image of the construction industry <u>Frequency</u> All were one-off publicity measures	One Administrative Officer and One Marketing Executive on NCSC terms comparable to Assistant Information Officer rank	Around \$2.16 million

Programme / Materials Published / Broadcast Time (Month/Year)	Status (one-off/ ongoing/ done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government Organisation (including policy bureau/ department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Programme/ Materials	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station/ TV station / website, etc.)	Purpose and Frequency of the Programme/ Materials (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Non-government organisation/ Personnel Responsible for Writing Advertisement Script (if any)	Expenses (as at 31 January 2014)
January 2014	Done	DEVB(WB)	“Be Our Greening Partner” Campaign	(1) Sing Tao Daily (2) Ming Pao	<u>Purpose</u> To promote “Be Our Greening Partner” Campaign and its activities <u>Frequency</u> One time per newspaper	One Information Officer	N.A.	\$73,500

Programme / Materials Published / Broadcast Time (Month/Year)	Status (one-off/ ongoing/ done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government Organisation (including policy bureau/ department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Programme/ Materials	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station/ TV station / website, etc.)	Purpose and Frequency of the Programme/ Materials (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Non-government organisation/ Personnel Responsible for Writing Advertisement Script (if any)	Expenses (as at 31 January 2014)
January 2014	Done	DEVB(WB)	Tree Care for Private Property Owners	(1) Sky Post (2) Hong Kong Economic Times	<u>Purpose</u> To arouse private property owners' concern of the importance of tree care and maintenance <u>Frequency</u> One time per newspaper	One Information Officer	N. A.	\$49,800

Programme / Materials Published / Broadcast Time (Month/Year)	Status (one-off/ ongoing/ done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government Organisation (including policy bureau/ department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Programme/ Materials	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station/ TV station / website, etc.)	Purpose and Frequency of the Programme/ Materials (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Non-government organisation/ Personnel Responsible for Writing Advertisement Script (if any)	Expenses (as at 31 January 2014)
August to October 2013	Done	DEVB(WB)	Heritage Fiesta 2013	(1) South China Morning Post (August 2013) (2) Apple Daily (August 2013) (3) Headline Daily (September 2013) (4) Singtao Daily (September 2013) (5) Weekend Daily (October 2013)	<u>Purpose</u> For publicity purpose <u>Frequency</u> One time per newspaper	One Chief Manager on NCSC terms comparable to Chief Executive Officer rank	Lighthouse Consultant Limited	\$250,410

Programme / Materials Published / Broadcast Time (Month/Year)	Status (one-off/ ongoing/ done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government Organisation (including policy bureau/ department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Programme/ Materials	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station/ TV station / website, etc.)	Purpose and Frequency of the Programme/ Materials (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Non-government organisation/ Personnel Responsible for Writing Advertisement Script (if any)	Expenses (as at 31 January 2014)
July, August and November 2013	Done	DEVB(WB)	“New Life @ Heritage” Exhibition	(1) South China Morning Post (July 2013) (2) U Magazine (July, August and November 2013) (3) Headline Daily (August 2013)	<u>Purpose</u> For publicity purpose <u>Frequency</u> (1) One time (2) Three times (3) One time	One Chief Manager on NCSC terms comparable to Chief Executive Officer rank	Lighthouse Consultant Limited	\$186,500
July and September 2013	Done	DEVB(WB)	“Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme” Roving Exhibition	(1) Metro Daily (July 2013) (2) U Magazine (July and September 2013)	<u>Purpose</u> For publicity purpose <u>Frequency</u> (1) One time (2) Two times	One Chief Manager on NCSC terms comparable to Chief Executive Officer rank	Lighthouse Consultant Limited	\$79,090

Programme / Materials Published / Broadcast Time (Month/Year)	Status (one-off/ ongoing/ done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government Organisation (including policy bureau/ department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Programme/ Materials	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station/ TV station / website, etc.)	Purpose and Frequency of the Programme/ Materials (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Non-government organisation/ Personnel Responsible for Writing Advertisement Script (if any)	Expenses (as at 31 January 2014)
June 2013	Done	DEVB(WB) & Construction Industry Council (CIC)	Construction Safety Week 2013	(1) Headline Daily (2) Ming Pao	<u>Purpose</u> To recap Construction Safety Week 2013 <u>Frequency</u> One time per newspaper	One Chief Engineer and One Senior Engineer	N. A.	\$107,726
June 2013	Done	DEVB(WB) & CIC	Construction Safety Week 2013	Hong Kong Daily	<u>Purpose</u> To recap Considerate Contractors Site Award Scheme – Model Workers and the Best Model Worker Award <u>Frequency</u> One time	One Chief Engineer and One Senior Engineer	N. A.	\$10,000

Programme / Materials Published / Broadcast Time (Month/Year)	Status (one-off/ ongoing/ done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government Organisation (including policy bureau/ department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Programme/ Materials	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station/ TV station / website, etc.)	Purpose and Frequency of the Programme/ Materials (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Non-government organisation/ Personnel Responsible for Writing Advertisement Script (if any)	Expenses (as at 31 January 2014)
April to June 2013	Done	DEVB(WB) & CIC	Construction Safety Week 2013	(1) Feature Page of Apple Daily (小蘋果) (April 2013) (2) Metro Radio (April to May 2013) (3) Commercial Radio (April to June 2013)	<u>Purpose</u> To promote Construction Safety Week 2013 <u>Frequency</u> (1) One time (2) 23 times (3) 20 times	One Chief Engineer and One Senior Engineer	N. A.	\$169,000

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)181****(Question Serial No. 5496)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 54):

As mentioned in paragraph 105 of the Budget, the Government hopes that employers and employees will work towards solutions to labour shortage in the construction sector through candid and open discussions. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

1. Will the Administration make arrangements and provide assistance at this stage for the discussions between the employers and employees? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Recently, a number of government infrastructure projects have run over budget and have applied to the Legislative Council for additional funding. Has the Administration assessed the impact of labour shortage on this issue? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
3. If no consensus can be reached between the employers and employees, will the Administration take into account its impact on infrastructure projects and proceed to import labour? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

1.&3.

In the long term, we will continue to strive to meet the manpower demand by local training, re-training and attracting more new entrants to the construction industry. However, taking into account the limitations of training and other factors, we project that there will be labour shortage in the coming four years. Contractors may consider applying for importing workers through the established "Supplementary Labour Scheme (SLS)" for cases of genuine needs. With due regard to the principle of not affecting the employment and reasonable income levels of local construction workers, we need to make full use of SLS to import skilled workers as a short term measure in the coming four years. This would facilitate timely completion of construction works. To meet the

specific needs of the industry, we have made a proposal to the Labour Advisory Board (LAB) to better prepare for SLS applications related to public sector works in expediting the administrative work to facilitate smooth processing of the applications. Being the coordinating body of the industry, the Construction Industry Council has set up a platform to coordinate the industry stakeholders including relevant trade associations and labour unions to explore ways to tackle the labour shortage and has formulated a list of trades in manpower shortage with their standard recruitment requirements. At its meeting on 26 March 2014, LAB accepted the proposal and agreed to make reference to the list of shortage trades and their standard recruitment requirements in processing the relevant SLS applications.

2. The tight manpower situation of the construction industry has been reflected by wage increase of construction workers in recent years. According to the General Household Survey conducted by the Census and Statistics Department, the median monthly employment earnings of construction workers have increased by about 33% from the time after a trough in 2009 to 2013. Further, the latest construction costs indices for the key construction materials, as compared with the trough in 2009, have increased by an average of about 31%. With respective shares of about 35% and 50% of construction labour costs and materials costs in total project costs, they would contribute to around 11.6% and 15.5% increase in total project costs. The sum is lower than the 59% increase of the Building Works Tender Price Index recorded in the same period which may be due to other factors such as increase in risk premium. On this front, the tight manpower situation may not be a key factor leading to increase in project cost.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)182

(Question Serial No.3372)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Heritage Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 81):

Does the Administration plan to provide details of the daily maintenance programmes for the conservation of various abandoned military facilities of World War II in the Southern District and conduct studies on their revitalisation plans? If yes, what are the details and the expenditure? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

There are 35 graded or proposed graded military structures in the Southern District. Apart from the graded and proposed graded military structures, the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) has also kept a list of items which AMO had previously received suggestions for grading from the public. Research is being carried out on these items by AMO.

The Administration acknowledges the importance of identifying and properly documenting the historic military structures in Hong Kong in order to formulate an appropriate approach to conserve them. To identify these structures and assess their heritage values, AMO has engaged a consultant to conduct a study of the historic military structures in Hong Kong. The study will provide information to help establish guidelines for the future care of the structures. The maintenance responsibility and funding for maintenance will be further considered subject to the findings of the study. The study is funded by AMO under Head 95 controlled by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)183****(Question Serial No. 4797)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 78):

Under Programme (5), the Administration worked with the Construction Industry Council to facilitate registration of construction workers and implementation of prohibition in phases including legislative amendment to the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance (CWRO) this year. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. How many meetings were held by the Administration with the Task Force on Amendments to CWRO for the above work this year? How many industry consultations on the CWRO were conducted? What was the number of participants? What were the expenditure and manpower involved?
2. Are there any relevant bodies, organisations or trade unions that have not been consulted? If yes, what are the names of the bodies, organisations and trade unions concerned? Will these remaining bodies, organisations and trade unions be consulted in the coming year? What are the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

1. The Task Force on CWRO Amendments was formed in August 2012 and has held a total of 11 meetings. Since 2010, we collaborated with the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to conduct extensive discussion and consultations with relevant industry stakeholders, including trade associations, labour unions, on the proposed amendments to CWRO and have taken into account their views and concerns before finalising the proposed amendments. So far, we have held a total of 103 meetings, including industry-wide consultation and briefing fora in 2012 and 2013 respectively. Further in 2013, we arranged briefings and distributed pocket-sized booklets³ to over 10 000 construction workers at construction sites during morning exercises. Also, we distributed briefing documents and pocket-sized booklets at Workers Registration Offices, major labour

³ The pocket-sized booklet uses simple phrases and cartoons to present the key messages of the proposed amendments to CWRO for easy understanding by the construction workers.

unions and District Offices since September 2013. Together with CIC, we have procured services for printing and logistics for the aforementioned consultations and briefings. The cost is shared equally between the Development Bureau and CIC, and our share is about \$280,000.

2. We have made our best endeavours to reach out to the relevant industry stakeholders to collect their views on the proposed amendments, including arranging meetings with relevant trade associations and labour unions, as well as conducting briefings to their members upon request. To attract more stakeholders to attend the industry-wide consultation and briefing fora in 2012 and 2013, we conducted publicity activities including newspaper advertisements, posters etc. In case other organisations of relevant industry stakeholders are interested in the proposed amendments to the CWRO, we still stand ready to brief them. Further, CIC will carry out publicity activities to inform the industry stakeholders of the implementation of the remaining phase of prohibition under CWRO and bear the cost incurred.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)184****(Question Serial No. 6116)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 58):

In the 2013-14 financial year, what was the Government's total expenditure on training or subsidising the training of operators for heavy construction machinery, such as tower cranes, bulldozers, crawler cranes, pile drivers for foundation works, excavators and mobile cranes? How effective was the training? Was it enough to solve the manpower shortage faced by the industry?

What will be the change in the expenditure involved in the 2014-15 financial year?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chun, Paul

Reply:

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) has implemented various training initiatives and conducted training courses to help address manpower demand for heavy construction machinery. Amongst them, full-time in-house short courses are provided for training operators for cranes, excavators and bulldozers. In order to boost training capacity, CIC purchased new plants for training in 2013. Besides, CIC collaborates with contractors to train operators for heavy construction machinery under the "Contractors Cooperative Training Scheme (CCTS)", whereby contractors hire trainees first and then train them on-site while CIC bears the training allowances and other training expenses. This initiative helped increase training places and facilitate trainees to acquire early on-site experience. The training places provided in 2013 were about 150 and the expenditure incurred including purchasing of the new plants was about \$8.5 million.

In 2014, CIC will set up a new temporary training ground for training crawler crane operators. CIC targets to train 180 operators of heavy construction machinery in 2014 and the forecast expenditure incurred including the setting up of the temporary ground will be about \$8 million. CIC will review and adjust the training programmes from time to time to better meet the market needs.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)185

(Question Serial No.6118)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 42):

What is the time required for the planning work of the Kai Tak Fantasy mentioned by the Financial Secretary in paragraph 88 of the Budget? When will it be completed? What is the estimated expenditure on the project in the financial year 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chun, Paul

Reply:

Kai Tak Fantasy (KTF) – International Ideas Competition on Urban Planning and Design mentioned in paragraph 88 of the Financial Secretary's Budget Speech refers to the international urban planning and design ideas competition launched by the Energizing Kowloon East Office to look for creative thoughts and design excellence proposals for the Kai Tak Runway, the Kwun Tong Waterfront Action Area and the enclosed waterbody between the runway and Kwun Tong waterfront. The competition was launched in November 2013 and submissions were returned in February 2014. The entries received are being considered by a jury panel comprising both international and local experts. The shortlisted entries after the first stage assessment will be exhibited in mid-2014 to collect public views for the panel's consideration in selecting the winning entry. It is expected that the result will be announced in end 2014.

The design ideas and concepts of the winning or shortlisted entries will be adopted for further development under a planning and engineering study for the area of KTF. Its detailed implementation programme will also be examined in the planning and engineering study. The development in KTF is expected to be progressively implemented from around 2021 onwards, following the original timeframe of Kai Tak Development. The expenditure incurred for KTF in 2014-15 is estimated to be about \$3.9 million including the prize money for the winner and shortlisted submissions.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)186****(Question Serial No. 6120)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 61):

Prominent figures in the political and engineering circles have noted that Hong Kong is now “ruled by consultants”, in the sense that the Government inappropriately commissions consultants regardless of how trivial the issues are, which results in a waste of public money. The Government has been criticised for wasting \$7 million of consultancy fees in the rationalisation of traffic distribution among the 3 road harbour crossings. As the major shareholder of the MTR Corporation Limited, the Government has consulted the academics and consultants of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Stanford University in the United States instead of the local consultants on the maximum capacity of its own trains. Regarding the expenditure and policy on commissioning consultants for each bureau and department, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

What was the expenditure on consultancy fees for the Works Branch in each of the past 3 financial years? What research topics were covered? What were the respective percentages of overseas and local consultants? Are there any codes of practice or guidelines which give priority to local consultants? Are there any monitoring measures or policies regarding consultancy fees?

To prevent the misuse of public money for inappropriate spending on consultancy fees, will the Administration consider setting up a monitoring mechanism, and drawing up terms, guidelines and codes of practice which give priority to local consultants in the financial year 2014-15? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chun, Paul

Reply:

The actual expenses on consultancy fees incurred by the Works Branch of the Development Bureau were \$6.4 million, \$10.4 million and \$13.4 million in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively. The topics covered are listed below:-

- Comprehensive Street Tree Management Plan for Hong Kong
- Field experiment in the control and prevention of needle casts on *Pinus thunbergii* at Nan

Lian Garden

- Wood Strength Assessment of Common Tree Species in Hong Kong
- Occurrence and Distribution of Common Wood Decay Fungi on Trees of Hong Kong
- Field and in vitro evaluation of *Trichoderma* species as a biological control agent against *Phellinus noxius* infected trees in Hong Kong
- Roadside Tree Survey
- Increasing Land Supply by Reclamation and Rock Cavern Development cum Public Engagement - Feasibility Study
- Provision of Services of Baseline Carbon Assessment for the Construction Process of Public and Private Works Projects
- Consultancy on Design & Build mode of contract procurement
- Implementation of Reference Class Forecasting to Large-scale Public Works Projects in Hong Kong
- Survey on Contractors' Tendering Considerations
- Review and Update of the Research Study on Benchmark Comparison of Construction Costs
- Consultancy Study for Security of Payment Legislation
- Consultancy Study on Developing a Sustainable Construction Management Framework for Public Works (Civil Engineering) Projects
- Review of Construction Related Insurance for Public Works Contracts
- Review and Preparation of Construction (Design and Management) Guidelines for the Construction Industry of Hong Kong
- Kowloon Bay Business Area Pedestrian Environment Improvement – Feasibility Study
- Study on Industrial Heritage of Kowloon East and its Potential for Public Art and Urban Design
- Study on the feasibility, framework and implementation plan for the setting up of a statutory heritage trust in Hong Kong
- Consultancy Study on the Heritage Conservation Regimes in Other Jurisdictions

All consultancy studies were conducted by local consultants.

The procurement policy of the Government is to obtain goods and services at the best value for money in support of the Government's programmes and activities. We are committed to providing equal opportunities for domestic and foreign suppliers and service providers, participating or competing in government procurement. This means that contracts for supplying goods and services to the Government are awarded through open, fair, competitive and transparent procedures.

When procuring consultancy services, we are guided by the dual policy objectives of achieving best value for money and maintaining open and fair competition.

To achieve the best value for money, we take into account in consultant selection not only the competitiveness in price, but also compliance with users' requirements, reliability of performance and qualitative superiority, where applicable.

The policy for procuring consultancy services will remain unchanged in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)187

(Question Serial No. 5393)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 49):

Under Programme (3), the Administration will promote community surveillance of trees through co-operation with District Councils, schools and non-governmental organisations so as to protect public safety in the coming year. Will the Government inform this Committee:

1. What were the number and details of co-operation between the Administration and the above organisations in the past 3 years? What were the manpower and expenditure involved? Will the Administration enhance co-operation with the organisations in the coming year? If yes, what are the details as well as the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?
2. What were the details and numbers of public education and community involvement activities organised by the Administration in the past 3 years? What were the manpower and expenditure involved? How to assess the effectiveness of the activities?
3. What were the numbers of public enquiries and comments on tree condition received in the past 3 years? What is the follow-up mechanism for public enquiries and comments?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply:

1. In the past three years, the Tree Management Office (TMO) of the Development Bureau (DEVB) has arranged talks on tree management for District Councils and visited every District Council to promote community surveillance on trees. Five guided visits of Old and Valuable Trees have been organised for District Councillors. TMO has organised roving exhibitions on tree care, guided tree tours and delivered a total of 43 talks for secondary and primary schools. A teaching kit on greening, landscape and tree management for secondary school students and a tree care book for primary school students have also been published to arouse students' interest in tree care. Moreover, TMO arranged a total of 26 seminars for the public, professional groups and other non-government organisations such as the Hong Kong Association of Property Management Companies and Hong Kong Scout Association on proper tree

management and tree care. TMO will continue to co-operate with the organisations in 2014-15 on the promotion of community surveillance on trees. The work involved in promoting community surveillance has been undertaken by existing manpower staff as a part of public education and community involvement programme and there is no separate figure on the expenditure.

2. DEVB seeks to foster a culture of care for greenery, including trees, across the territory through a variety of community involvement and public education activities, and encourages the public to participate in community surveillance of trees. In addition to conducting seminars and talks, DEVB publishes the 'Greening Newsletter' regularly and releases updated information on its websites to disseminate messages of greening and tree management to different sectors of the community. The 'Be Our Greening Partner' Campaign has been launched since May 2013 to promote greening and tree care among the general public. Photography/Video Contests have been organised to enhance the awareness of the general public of the value of trees and landscape and the importance of tree preservation. Through roving exhibitions and displays at the Hong Kong Flower Show, the message of greening and proper tree management have been promoted. 66 public education and community involvement activities have been organised with about 15 000 participants in the past three years. All the work involved was undertaken by existing manpower staff and an expenditure of around \$2.8 million was incurred in these community involvement and public education activities in the past three years. Feedback and suggestions received through questionnaires, websites and telephone calls on these activities have been collected to evaluate their effectiveness.

3. About 46 000 enquiries and complaints concerning tree management were received by the '1823' Call Centre, the major tree management departments and TMO of the DEVB from 1 April 2011 to 31 December 2013. Upon receipt of public enquiries and comments on tree matters, TMO would make referrals to the responsible tree management departments for follow-up action, monitor the progress and keep complainants posted of development. TMO will also take the lead in resolving complex tree cases which the tree management departments may not be able to deal with by themselves. For cases that have remained unresolved for a period of time, TMO will liaise and follow up with the responsible department.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)188****(Question Serial No. 5253)**

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

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 29):

What is the 2014-15 estimate for the Development Bureau (Works Branch)'s duty visits or exchange activities in the Mainland? Please provide information on the themes of the duty visits or exchange activities in the Mainland planned for 2014-15. How will the Administration prevent activities irrelevant to official duties from taking place during duty visits outside Hong Kong? And how will the Administration prevent applications for revising visit destinations from becoming a mere formality?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

In 2014-15, officers of the Works Branch of the Development Bureau (DEVB(WB)) will, owing to operational needs, work closely with the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and counterparts in Guangdong Province (including Qianhai amongst its key development areas) of the Mainland to pursue further market access in the Mainland, mutual recognition of professional qualifications, extension of the existing scope of the professional services as well as registration of construction sector professionals to practise and to set up enterprises; provide support to Government's involvement in the post-quake reconstruction work in Sichuan, including a leading role in liaising with the Sichuan authorities; as well as visit the Mainland to discuss a new agreement on the supply of Dongjiang water. Officers of DEVB (WB) will attend the relevant meetings and conduct duty visits. There are no specific plans for the time being.

Duty visits, if publicly funded, are subject to control under the relevant regulations and guidelines to ensure effective monitoring and proper use of public funds. There is control on aspects, such as duty visits should only be conducted when there are strong operational reasons; all duty visits should obtain prior approval formally and should avoid non-official activities; the officers concerned should provide all necessary information in respect of the proposed visit as far as possible when submitting the application; if there are any subsequent changes to the arrangements, the officers concerned should inform the approving officers as soon as possible who should then assess whether re-consideration of the applications is needed.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)189

(Question Serial No.5003)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 61):

Regarding the efforts to “carry out strategic planning studies to release the potential of the government sites including the two Action Areas”, please provide detailed information on the studies, including (a) the expected commencement dates; (b) the time and expenditure required; (c) the government facilities covered by the studies including their locations, types of facilities, current uses etc. When does the Government expect to relocate the facilities at the earliest?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

We are working closely with the concerned departments in relocating or rationalising the existing government facilities including the vehicle examination centre and the waste recycling centre in the two Action Areas such that the sites currently occupied by these facilities can be released for comprehensive development. A planning and engineering (P&E) study for the Kowloon Bay Action Area will commence in mid-2014 for completion in 2015-16. The P&E study together with other on-going advance works for relocating or rationalising these facilities to expedite the process will incur an estimated expense of \$2.75 million in 2014-15. This is funded under the Capital Works Reserve Fund Subhead 7100CX “New towns and urban area works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme”. With the completion of the relevant P&E studies for the Action Areas, we will work out a detailed plan including the relocation strategy of these facilities. To enable an early release of the development potential of these two Action Areas, we have identified two government sites for release in 2014-15, providing over 120 000 square metres of commercial floor area. We will also proceed to conduct the necessary studies for other government sites in Kowloon East for early release of their potential.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)190

(Question Serial No.5004)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 62):

Regarding the efforts to “continue to advocate and further develop the continuously evolving Conceptual Master Plan (CMP) for Energizing Kowloon East”, the Administration has proposed 10 main tasks in the latest Conceptual Master Plan 3.0. What is the current progress of these tasks? Which 3 tasks does the Energizing Kowloon East Office expect to implement first?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

The Conceptual Master Plan (CMP) of Energizing Kowloon East is an evolving document incorporating public views collected through continuous engagement activities since the establishment of the Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO). The CMP has evolved into version 3.0 with identification of new opportunities and updates on the work progress of various initiatives including the ten Main Tasks for Energizing Kowloon East. The ten Main Tasks have been formulated aiming at enhancing connectivity, improving environment and releasing development potential in Kowloon East (KE):

(i) Enhancing Connectivity

To advocate the concept on “walkability” in KE, we have already completed 21 local traffic improvement works, converted 26 existing directional signs from “Kwun Tong Industrial Area” to “Kwun Tong Business Area”, provided 37 traffic/directional signs to enhance the connection between MTR stations and the waterfront, and reviewed 41 existing road junctions with improvement works done in KE.

A feasibility study to formulate short, medium and long-term improvement proposals required for the pedestrian and traffic environment at Kowloon Bay Business Area was commissioned in February 2013 for completion in late 2014. For the short to medium term, we have proposed various at-grade improvement schemes for three key areas and 17 individual locations. We are liaising with the relevant departments to take forward these proposals in 2014 progressively. We will also formulate other medium to long-term measures such as grade-separated pedestrian links, including footbridges, to meet

the future increasing pedestrian demand. To enhance the walkability and connectivity in the Kwun Tong Business Area including the connection from Ngau Tau Kok MTR Station to waterfront, we will commission another pedestrian and traffic study in mid-2014 for completion in 2016.

We have conducted the second stage public consultation on the provision of an elevated rail-based Environmentally Friendly Linkage System (EFLS) to enhance both internal and external linkages of KE. We will collate and analyse views and suggestions collected and prepare for the next stage of work by formulating the study scope of the proposed detailed feasibility study for the EFLS.

(ii) Improving Environment

The enhancement works to the drainage facilities blocking the pedestrian way and views along Hoi Bun Road were completed in end 2013. We subsequently commenced the improvement of Hoi Bun Road sitting out area for completion in 2014. We have identified three sites located along Hoi Bun Road underneath the Kwun Tong Bypass for creativity, arts and cultural use. One of the sites has already been transformed into a multi-purpose performance and exhibition venue and opened for public use since January 2013. The other two sites are vacant government land. The EKEO intends to engage a non-profit-making organisation in 2014-15 to manage and operate these three sites.

The face-lifting works of Tsun Yip Street Playground will be implemented in two phases. The phase 1 works covering the removal of railings and renovation of the sitting out area commenced in January 2013 and is scheduled for completion in mid-2014. The phase 2 works for converting the remaining Tsun Yip Street Playground to an industrial heritage park is targeted for commencement in 2015. The whole project will be completed in about 2017.

We are working with the departments to assess the technical feasibility on converting the existing King Yip Street nullah to a green and vibrant Tsui Ping River.

Apart from the above, we have commenced the face-lifting of Kwun Tong public pier in November 2013 for completion in late 2014. We have also commissioned the pre-construction works for other face-lifting projects including Tsun Yip Street Cooked Food Centre and Lai Yip Street Refuse Collection Point and the formulation of the green spine in Kowloon Bay Business Area. We will continue to identify suitable locations in KE for more greening with trees and shrubs.

(iii) Releasing Development Potential

We are working closely with the concerned departments in relocating or rationalising the existing government facilities including the vehicle examination centre and the waste recycling centre in the two Action Areas such that the sites currently occupied by these facilities can be released for comprehensive development. A planning and engineering (P&E) study for the Kowloon Bay Action Area will commence in mid-2014 for completion in 2015-16. With the completion of the relevant P&E studies for the Action Areas, we will work out a detailed plan including the relocation strategy of these facilities. To enable an early release of the development potential of these two Action Areas, we have identified two government sites for release in 2014-15, providing over 120 000 square metres of commercial floor area.

We have also launched the Kai Tak Fantasy – International Ideas Competition on Urban Planning and Design to look for creative thoughts and design excellence proposals for the Kai Tak Runway, the Kwun Tong Waterfront Action Area and the enclosed waterbody between the runway and Kwun Tong waterfront. Submissions for the competition were returned in February 2014 and are being considered by a jury panel comprising both international and local experts. It is expected that the result will be announced in end 2014.

We are pushing ahead the ten Main Tasks following the evolving CMP. Many of them have already commissioned with progress as scheduled. We will continue to co-ordinate the efforts and resources of the government to take forward the Energizing Kowloon East initiative to facilitate the transformation of KE and to sustain the long-term economic growth of Hong Kong.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)191****(Question Serial No. 5068)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 123):

Regarding the implementation of total water management strategy, please inform this Committee of:

1. the measures taken by the departments to implement the total water management strategy in 2013-14 and the expenditure involved; and
2. the measures to be taken by the departments to implement the total water management strategy in 2014-15 and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

The measures in respect of water demand and supply management implemented in 2013-14 and to be implemented in 2014-15 under the Total Water Management Strategy and the respective estimated expenditures involved are as follows :

	Estimated expenditure (\$ million)	
	2013-14	2014-15
Water Demand Management measures:	3,085	2,634
- Water mains replacement and rehabilitation		
- Public education and promotion on water conservation		
- Retrofitting government buildings and schools with water saving devices including flow controllers		
- Leakage detection and pressure management		
- Extension of the salt water flushing supply system		

<p>Water Supply Management measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing the study on setting up of a seawater desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O - Carrying out studies on supplying reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable purposes to the north-eastern part of the New Territories 	4	16
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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)192****(Question Serial No. 5069)**

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

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 124):

Regarding Item 868 Investing in Construction Manpower, please inform this Committee of:

1. the usage of the expenditure of \$62.2 million in 2013-14; and
2. the estimated expenditure under the Item in 2014-15 and details of the projects to be carried out.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

The Legislative Council approved a total of \$320 million in 2010 and 2012 for the Item 868 "Investing in Construction Manpower" to support the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to strengthen its role in training of local construction personnel and to enhance promotion and publicity activities to attract more people to join the industry, especially for young people. The breakdown of the expenditure in 2013-14 under the Item is as below –

Item	Estimated expenditure in 2013-14 (\$ million) (about)
Enhanced construction manpower training for selected trades and enhanced construction supervisor/technician training	56.4
Subsidies for fees of trade tests, specified training courses and skill enhancement courses and advanced training courses for senior workers	0.8
Promotion and publicity activities	5.0
Total :	62.2

The forecast expenditure under the Item in 2014-15 was about \$84 million. We will

continue to provide training allowances and subsidies for the above various training courses and trade tests. These help enhance the skill levels of construction workers, thereby increasing their productivity. Further, we will continue to collaborate with CIC to strengthen the promotion and publicity efforts, with a view to uplifting the image and attracting more people to join the construction industry.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)193

(Question Serial No.5140)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Energizing Kowloon East

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (C S WAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 213):

Regarding the efforts to “explore opportunities to support the arts, culture and creative industries” in Kowloon East, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. How many public arts and cultural activities have been organised since the establishment of the Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO)? Please provide information on the names, dates, participating organisations, numbers of participants and expenditures regarding these activities.
2. Apart from organising activities to support the arts, culture and creative industries, are there any long-term plans to support the development of relevant arts and cultural activities? For instance, will the Administration retain the government facilities in the Action Areas or provide other venues for the long-term development of arts and culture?
3. Has the EKEO conducted any statistical surveys or studies to assess the impact on the cultural scene in the area since the implementation of the Energizing Kowloon East initiatives by the Government? For instance, how many arts groups have moved out of Kowloon East due to rising rentals?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

1. Since the setting up of the Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO), we have been in active engagement with different stakeholders, including the creativity, arts and cultural sectors, in facilitating the transformation of Kowloon East. We have organized more than 210 fora/workshops/conferences/exhibitions/briefings/visits with about 7 200 participants. In addition, we have organized or supported a total of 39 local and international community events covering a wide spectrum of activities, including music, dancing, sports, painting, photography, bazaar, architecture exhibition and cultural heritage tour with professional institutions, universities, school bodies, social enterprises and community groups. About 130 000 people have participated in these activities. For example, over 40 000 participants visited the weekly carnival “Playful Thursday” from October 2012 to January 2013, the “2013 Bi-City Biennale of

Urbanism\Architecture” lasting from December 2013 to February 2014 attracted about 70 000 participants, and more than 8 000 participants in the “AXA Hong Kong Streetathon 10km@Kowloon East 2014” in March 2014. The expenditure to support and facilitate the above events in 2013-14 is about \$2.5 million. For the coming year, we will continue to engage the community and identify every opportunity to keep close contact with different stakeholders including the creativity, arts and cultural sectors.

2. To support the development of arts, culture and creative industries so that Kowloon East will be transformed into a business area with special character, the EKEO will continue to explore opportunities to provide suitable space for artists, art groups and creative designers in Kowloon East, including optimising the use of the remaining plots of flyover sites and exploring the possibility of incorporating space for cultural and art uses into existing and new premises. We will further explore the feasibility to provide space for the arts and cultural community and creative industries in the two Action Areas of Kowloon East.
3. In 2011, the Planning Department has undertaken a survey on business establishments in Kowloon East. According to the findings of the survey, there were about 500 establishments relating to arts, cultural and creative industries scattered in the area. The Planning Department is now conducting a new round of Area Assessments of Industrial Land in the Territory, which will include sample surveys of the private industrial building units in the industrial areas throughout Hong Kong. In addition to uses of the units, the survey also covers the business nature and number of employees, etc. of the unit users. The entire assessments are expected to be completed within this year. The findings of the survey undertaken as part of the Area Assessment will provide information on the use of industrial building units by establishments relating to arts, cultural and creative industries in Kowloon East.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)194

(Question Serial No. 4361)

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified
Programme: (3) Facilities Development
Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (K K LEUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 60):

The Administration mentioned in this Programme that the Architectural Services Department was able to meet the demand for its services in 2013 through: (i) the use of outsourcing; (ii) increased application of technology; and (iii) the maintenance and enhancement of a robust Integrated Management System ("IMS") encompassing quality, environmental, occupational health and safety management. Would the Administration advise on:

- (1) the respective expenditure involved over the last year on (i) outsourcing; (ii) increased application of technology; and (iii) maintenance and enhancement of a robust IMS; and
- (2) the types of services covered in meeting the demand?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

- (1) The expenditure on outsourcing, increased application of technology and maintenance and enhancement of a robust IMS to support the services provided by the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) for facilities development under Programme 3 in 2013 was \$17.323 million, \$3.620 million and \$0.114 million respectively.
- (2) The services provided by ArchSD under Programme 3 include assisting user departments in developing their project requirements, designing the facilities to meet users' requirements and Government's needs, supervising consultants and contractors to ensure the facilities are constructed to standard.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)195****(Question Serial No. 4315)**

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified

Programme: (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (K K LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 62):

Regarding the implementation of renewable energy works :

- (a) Would the Administration provide information on the following works in the past four years (2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14) in the table below:

Year	Buildings/ facilities involved	Types of renewable energy	Amount of electricity generated	Amount of carbon emission reduced	Related expenditures
2010-11					
2011-12					
2012-13					
2013-14					

- (b) How would the Administration assess its effectiveness in economising on the use of resources? Will there be any new projects in 2014-15? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

- (a) Information on projects with renewable energy technologies (RET) from 2010-11 to 2013-14 are provided below:

Year	Buildings/ facilities involved	Types of renewable energy ¹	Amount of electricity generated ²	Amount of carbon emission reduced ³	Related expenditures
2010-11	- Education facilities - Sports and mixed amenity facilities and open spaces - Correctional services facilities	- Solar Water Heating System - Solar PV System - Wind Power System - Solar Lighting	About 706 000 kWh per annum	About 494 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum	\$19.6 million

Year	Buildings/ facilities involved	Types of renewable energy ¹	Amount of electricity generated ²	Amount of carbon emission reduced ³	Related expenditures
2011-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education facilities - Sports, cultural, mixed amenity facilities and open spaces - Medical facilities - Community halls - Government offices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solar Water Heating System - Solar PV System - Wind Power System 	About 996 000 kWh per annum	About 697 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum	\$40.5 million
2012-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education facilities - Sports and mixed amenity facilities - Quarters - Government offices - Columbaria and crematoria - Medical facilities - Food supply facilities - Boundary facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solar Water Heating System - Solar PV System - Solar Lighting 	About 274 000 kWh per annum	About 192 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum	\$12.9 million
2013-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sports and mixed amenity facilities - Border facilities - Cultural complex - Fire service facilities - Institutional facilities - Medical facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solar Water Heating System - Solar PV System - Solar Lighting 	About 335 000 kWh per annum	About 234 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum	\$10.1 million

Remarks

- 1 Types and capacities of RET installed each year depend on the number and nature of projects completed in that year. In 2011-12, substantial scale of RET were installed in projects like the Swimming Pool Complex in Area 1, Tuen Mun (which generates about 380 000 kWh per annum) and the Expansion of Tseung Kwan O Hospital – New Ambulatory Block (which generates about 217 000 kWh per annum).
 - 2 The amount of electricity generated is affected by various factors such as sunshine hours and wind speed.
 - 3 The estimation of reduction in carbon emission is based on the conversion factor of 0.7kg / kWh.
- (b) Application of RET in new government buildings and the amount of renewable energy generated each year depend on the geographic location and nature of buildings, number and size of renewable energy installations completed in that year as well as the weather conditions such as the amount of sunlight received.

It is the Architectural Services Department's established practice to incorporate RET as far as reasonably practicable in all new building projects in 2014-15 in accordance with the requirements promulgated by the Development Bureau and Environment Bureau. The effectiveness of some large scale RET installed in selected projects will be assessed in the post occupancy evaluation exercise conducted after building construction completion.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)196

(Question Serial No. 4324)

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified
Programme: (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (K K LEUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 78):

According to Programme (1), the Administration will promote roof greening and vertical greening, and enhance practices on greening, landscaping and tree management in government building works. Please advise:

- (1) the respective number of government buildings with completed roof greening and vertical greening projects;
- (2) the total greened area in government buildings and its percentage in terms of total gross area of government buildings;
- (3) the expenditure incurred by the above greening projects in 2013-14 as well as the number and expenditure of greening projects expected to be implemented in 2014-15;
- (4) details of the approach to be adopted by the Administration in 2014-15 to continue the promotion of roof greening and vertical greening works in public and private buildings as well as the expenditure and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

- (1) From 2001 to March 2014, the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) completed roof greening on 234 buildings and vertical greening on 52 buildings.
- (2) As an on-going initiative, ArchSD has been enhancing greening through maximisation of greenery coverage, and provision of roof greening and vertical greening. Although we have no statistics on the greened areas and the greening ratio for all our completed projects in the past, we have started compiling statistics since 2010 on site coverage of greenery for new projects with a site area larger than 1 000 m². From 2010 to December 2013, there were 37 projects with a site area larger than 1 000 m² having achieved over 20% of site coverage of greenery.

- (3) In 2013-14, ArchSD completed 24 roof greening projects on government buildings at an expenditure of \$36.1 million, and ten vertical greening projects at an expenditure of \$3.0 million. In 2014-15, ArchSD will complete 20 roof greening projects on government buildings, at an estimated expenditure of \$22.2 million, and nine vertical greening projects on government buildings, at an estimated expenditure of \$9.0 million.
- (4) It is the established practice of the ArchSD to include roof greening and vertical greening in its projects. As government's technical adviser, ArchSD will promote best practices to government departments and quasi-government organisations of subvention projects. ArchSD will also liaise closely with related professional institutes and organisations to enhance partnership and collaboration in promoting greening, landscaping and tree management in the industry.

Existing staff are deployed to manage construction projects and to provide technical advisory services including those on roof greening and vertical greening. There is no separate breakdown of manpower and expenditure involved.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)197

(Question Serial No. 6533)

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department
Subhead (No. & title) : Not Specified
Programme: (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (K K LEUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 86):

In many countries, the Building Information Modeling and Enterprise Resource Planning have long been promoted for overall management of construction design and material use in real time so as to achieve reduction in material wastage and construction errors. Would the Administration advise whether the Hong Kong Government has a plan:

- (1) to promote the comprehensive use of the above two systems;
- (2) to formulate the standards of use of these systems for reference by the industry; and
- (3) to promote training in the use of these systems.

What are the details of implementing such a plan, the manpower and estimated provision involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

(1) Building Information Modeling (BIM)

The Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) adopts an incremental strategy in using BIM in public works projects. Pilot projects have been selected for trial with a view to evaluating the performance of BIM and promoting the wider use of BIM at different stages of public works projects under the direction of a Working Group established under the Development Bureau. In 2013-14, the total cost for procurement of BIM software and hardware for adopting BIM in ArchSD is about \$2.1 million whereas in 2014-15, the budget is estimated to be \$0.9 million. The manpower resources involved in the implementation of BIM will be absorbed within the existing resources of ArchSD.

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)

ArchSD understands that ERP is a business management model which can store and manage data from every stage of business, facilitate information flow between all business functions and manage connections to outside stakeholders with a view to improving the quality, efficiency and financial management of the business. In practice, ArchSD has already implemented various management information systems that perform similar resource planning functions of ERP such as -

- Knowledge Management System;
- Automated Communication, Technical Information and Operations Network System;
- Information for Management System;
- Staff Resources Planning System;
- Human Resources Management System;
- Complaints and Enquiries Handling System;
- Building Material Database System etc.

These information systems have effectively and efficiently supported the various services provided by ArchSD. The total costs for development and enhancement of information systems completed in 2013-14 and to be implemented in 2014-15 are \$15.1 million and \$24.7 million respectively. The manpower resources involved will be absorbed within the existing resources of ArchSD.

(2) Building Information Modeling (BIM)

ArchSD understands that the Construction Industry Council has established a Working Group under its Committee on Environment, Innovation and Technology on the strategic implementation of BIM in Hong Kong's construction industry. The Working Group has engaged a consultant to devise a set of standards and specifications for the use of BIM in construction projects in Hong Kong. ArchSD, being one of the members in the Working Group, will be actively participating in this initiative of establishing a BIM standard for the construction industry.

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)

ArchSD does not intend to establish a standard of ERP for the reference of the construction industry but will keep in view with the development of ERP.

(3) Building Information Modeling (BIM)

ArchSD will continue to arrange BIM training for staff, ranging from introductory level to advanced level for smooth delivery of the pilot projects and to build up the expertise for administering BIM models. The total expenditure of BIM training for ArchSD staff in 2013-14 is about \$420,000 and the budget for BIM training in 2014-15 is estimated to be \$720,000.

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)

ArchSD has already implemented several management information systems which are similar to ERP. Training for these existing systems and any new systems will be provided to relevant staff on a need basis.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)198****(Question Serial No. 4680)**

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (K K LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 86):

On engagement of agency workers, please provide the following information:

	2013-14 (the latest position)
Number of contracts with employment agencies	()
Contract sum paid to each employment agency	()
Duration of service of each employment agency	()
Number of agency workers	()
Details of the positions held by agency workers	
Monthly salary range of agency workers	
● \$30,001 or above	()
● \$16,001 - \$30,000	()
● \$8,001 - \$16,000	()
● \$6,501 - \$8,000	()
● \$6,240 - \$6,500	()
● less than \$6,240	()
Length of service of agency workers	
● 15 years or above	()
● 10 - 15 years	()
● 5 - 10 years	()
● 3 - 5 years	()
● 1 - 3 years	()
● less than 1 year	()
Percentage of agency workers against the total staff in the department	()
Percentage of expenditure for employment agencies against the total staff costs in the department	()
Number of workers who received severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity paid	()
Number of workers with severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity	()

offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	
Number of workers with paid meal break	()
Number of workers without paid meal break	()
Number of workers working 5 days per week	()
Number of workers working 6 days per week	()

Percentages in () denote comparison with 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The Architectural Services Department has not procured any agency service in 2012-13 and 2013-14.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)199****(Question Serial No. 4681)**

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (K K LEUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development
Question (Member Question No. 87):

On engagement of “outsourced workers”, please provide the following information:

	2013-14 (the latest position)
Number of outsourced service contracts	()
Total expenditure for outsourced service providers	()
Duration of service of each outsourced service provider	()
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	()
Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology)	
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers	
● \$30,001 or above	()
● \$16,001 - \$30,000	()
● \$8,001 - \$16,000	()
● \$6,501 - \$8,000	()
● \$6,240 - \$6,500	()
● less than \$6,240	()
Length of service of outsourced workers	
● 15 years or above	()
● 10 - 15 years	()
● 5 - 10 years	()
● 3 - 5 years	()
● 1 - 3 years	()
● less than 1 year	()
Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the department	()
Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the department	()
Number of workers who received severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity paid	()
Number of workers with severance payment/long service payment/	()

contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Number of workers with paid meal break	()
Number of workers without paid meal break	()
Number of workers working 5 days per week	()
Number of workers working 6 days per week	()

Percentages in () denote comparison with 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The Architectural Services Department uses a wide range of outsourced services, such as office cleansing and security, customer services, property management and information technology. The required information is provided below.

(a) Number of outsourced service contracts

2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
4 (0%)

(b) Total expenditure for outsourced service providers

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013) (\$ M)
21.99 (+10.9%)

(c) Duration of outsourced service contracts

Duration of service	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)	
	Number of contracts	
6 months or less	0	(-)
Over 6 months to 1 year	0	(-100%)
Over 1 year to 2 years	4	(+100%)
Over 2 years	0	(-100%)
Total:	4	(0%)

(d) Total number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers

2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
58 (-6.5%)

(e) Number of outsourced workers against their work nature

Nature of service contracts	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)	
	Number of workers	
Customer services	4	(0%)
Property management	1	(0%)
Security	10	(0%)
Cleansing	8	(0%)
Information technology	35	(-10.3%)
Total:	58	(-6.5%)

(f) Salaries of outsourced workers

After the implementation of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) on 1 May 2011, for service contracts on security and cleansing, the contractors were required to pay workers wages not lower than the prevailing SMW.

For other service contracts, we specify and require only the service to be provided. We do not have information about the salaries of the workers employed by the contractors.

(g) Length of service of outsourced workers

The mode of using outsourced workers is that government departments and the contractor enter into a service contract under which the contractor will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of government departments (in terms of the number of outsourced workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from outsourced workers) are satisfied, the contractor may arrange any of their employees to work in the departments or arrange replacement outsourced workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of outsourced workers who are employees of the contractors and are at the disposal of the latter.

(h) Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the Department

2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
3.2%

(i) Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the Department

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013)
3.0%

(j) Severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity paid to outsourced workers

The department entered into contracts with the outsourced contractors for provision of services as required by the department during the contract period. The contractual relationship of the outsourced workers is with the outsourced contractors which have to fulfill the obligations of employers under the relevant laws including the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57) and Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance (Cap. 485). We do not have information on the severance payment/ long service payment/ contract gratuity paid by the contractors to their workers.

(k) Meal break for outsourced workers

The outsourced workers are employed by the contractors, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(l) Number of outsourced workers against working days ^(Note 1)

Working days	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)	
	Number of workers	
5 working days per week	1	(0%)
6 working days per week	16	(0%)
Others ^(Note 2)	1	(0%)
Total:	18	(0%)

Note 1: For workers of service contracts on security and cleansing only.

Note 2: The worker is only required to provide services once a month.

Percentages in () denote comparison with 2012-13 except where the relevant figure in 2012-13 is zero.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)200****(Question Serial No. 4682)**

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (K K LEUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 88):

Regarding the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, please provide the following information:

	2013-14 (the latest position)
Number of NCSC staff	()
Details of the positions held by NCSC staff	
Total expenditure on salaries for NCSC staff	()
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff	
● \$30,001 or above	()
● \$16,001 - \$30,000	()
● \$8,001 - \$16,000	()
● \$6,501 - \$8,000	()
● \$6,240 - \$6,500	()
● less than \$6,240	()
Length of service of NCSC staff	
● 15 years or above	()
● 10 - 15 years	()
● 5 - 10 years	()
● 3 - 5 years	()
● 1 - 3 years	()
● less than 1 year	()
Number of NCSC staff successfully appointed as civil servants	()
Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the department	()
Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the department	()
Number of NCSC staff who received severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity paid	()
Number of NCSC staff with severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions	()

to MPF	
Number of NCSC staff with paid meal break	()
Number of NCSC staff without paid meal break	()
Number of NCSC staff working 5 days per week	()
Number of NCSC staff working 6 days per week	()

Percentages in () denote comparison with 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Information on the employment of full-time non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff is provided below.

(a) Number of NCSC staff against their job nature

Job nature	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)	
	Number of NCSC staff	
Professional	27	(+22.7%)
Technical & inspectorate	0	(-100%)
General administration	11	(0%)
Total:	38	(+11.8%)

(b) Total expenditure on salary of NCSC staff

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013) (\$ M)
13.01 (-11.3%)

(c) Number of NCSC staff against their salaries and length of service

Monthly salary	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)	
	Number of NCSC staff	
\$30,001 or above	31	(+29.2%)
\$16,001 to \$30,000	7	(-30.0%)
\$8,001 to \$16,000	0	(-)
\$6,501 to \$8,000	0	(-)
\$6,241 to \$6,500	0	(-)
\$6,240 or less	0	(-)
Total:	38	(+11.8%)

Length of services	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)	
	Number of NCSC staff	
15 years or above	0	(-)
10 years to less than 15 years	0	(-)
5 years to less than 10 years	0	(-)
3 years to less than 5 years	4	(+33.3%)
1 year to less than 3 years	18	(+12.5%)
Less than 1 year	16	(+6.7%)
Total:	38	(+11.8%)

(d) Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servant ^(Note 1)

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013)
8 (+166.7%)

Note 1: Including information on NCSC staff appointed as civil servant within the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) only. The said NCSC staff have joined the civil service through an open, fair and competitive process.

(e) Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the Department

2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
2.1%

(f) Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the Department

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013)
1.7%

(g) Number of NCSC staff who received severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013)
23 (+27.8%)

(h) Amount of severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity paid

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013) (\$ M)
1.16 (+22.7%)

(i) Number of NCSC staff with severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF ^(Note 2)

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013)
0

(j) Amount of severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF ^(Note 2)

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013) (\$ M)
0

Note 2 : According to the Civil Service Bureau's guidelines on employment of NCSC staff, the contract gratuity for NCSC staff, plus the government's MPF contributions in respect of the NCSC staff, should not be more than 10% (for non-skilled jobs) or 15% (for skilled jobs) of the total basic salary drawn during the contract period. The government will not make reference to accrued benefit in calculating contract gratuity for NCSC staff.

(k) Number of NCSC staff against meal break

Meal break	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
	Number of NCSC staff
Paid meal break	38 (+11.8%)
Unpaid meal break	0 (-)
Total:	38 (+11.8%)

(I) Number of NCSC staff against working days

Working days	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
	Number of NCSC staff
5 working days per week	38 (+11.8%)
6 working days per week	0 (-)
Total:	38 (+11.8%)

Percentages in () denote comparison with 2012-13 except where the relevant figure in 2012-13 is zero.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)201

(Question Serial No. 5228)

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (K K LEUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 4):

What is the 2014-15 estimate for the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD)'s duty visits or exchange activities in the Mainland? Please provide information on the themes of the duty visits or exchange activities in the Mainland planned for 2014-15. How will the Administration prevent activities irrelevant to official duties from taking place during duty visits outside Hong Kong? And how will the Administration prevent applications for revising visit destinations from becoming a mere formality?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

In 2014-15, when there are operational needs, officers of ArchSD will undertake duty visits in the Mainland relating to quality and sustainable development and upkeep of community facilities, including urban design, building technologies, and best practices and standards in the building industry. There is no specific plan for the time being.

Duty visits, if publicly funded, are subject to control under the relevant regulations and guidelines to ensure effective monitoring and proper use of public funds. There is control on aspects, such as duty visits should only be conducted when there are strong operational reasons; all duty visits should obtain prior approval formally and should avoid non-official activities; the officers concerned should provide all necessary information in respect of the proposed visit as far as possible when submitting the application; if there are any subsequent changes to the arrangements, the officers concerned should inform the approving officers as soon as possible who should then assess whether re-consideration of the applications is needed.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)202****(Question Serial No. 4993)**

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified

Programme: (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (K K LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 51):

Regarding “plan and implement government facilities in Kai Tak, including the Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics, government offices, schools and recreational facilities”, what is the works progress of various facilities in Kai Tak Development at present?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

The works progress of the 17 government facilities at Kai Tak Development projects undertaken by the Architectural Services Department are as follows:

Item	Project No.	Project title	Project Progress
1.	3007GA	Cruise terminal building and ancillary facilities for Kai Tak Cruise Terminal Development	Completed in May 2013
2.	3172BF	Construction of fire station-cum-ambulance facility at Cheung Yip Street, Kowloon Bay	Completed in June 2013
3.	3443RO	Runway Park at Kai Tak, Kowloon City District – Phase 1	Construction works in progress
4.	3439RO	Kwun Tong promenade - Stage 2	Construction works in progress
5.	3109KA	Construction of Trade and Industry Tower in Kai Tak Development Area	Construction works in progress
6.	3349EP	A 30-classroom primary school at Site 1A-3, Kai Tak Development	Construction works in progress

Item	Project No.	Project title	Project Progress
7.	3350EP	A 30-classroom primary school at Site 1A-4, Kai Tak Development	Construction works in progress
8.	8076MM	Establishment of Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics	Construction works in progress
9.	3237LP	Kowloon East Police Regional Headquarters and Operational Base cum Ngau Tau Kok Divisional Police Station at 105 Concorde Road, Kai Tak	Tender assessment in progress
10.	3108ET	Two special schools at Site 5C-5, Kai Tak Development	Design in progress
11.	3271ES	A 30-classroom secondary school at Site 1A-2, Kai Tak Development	Planning of pre-construction works in progress
12.	3436RO	Open space at Kai Tak Avenue Park, Kowloon City District	Design in progress
13.	3441RO	Hoi Sham Park Extension for Waterfront Promenade and Reprovisioning of Tennis Courts from Ko Shan Road Park	Design in progress
14.	3122KA	Inland Revenue Tower in the Kai Tak Development	Consultancy study for planning application in progress
15.	3452RO	Waterfront Promenade behind the Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics at Kai Tak	Planning of pre-construction works in progress
16.	3272RS-1	Multi-Purpose Sports Complex at Kai Tak – pre-construction works	Planning of pre-construction works in progress
17.	3272RS-2	Multi-Purpose Sports Complex at Kai Tak – construction works	Planning in progress

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)203

(Question Serial No. 5042)

Head: (25) Architectural Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified
Programme: (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (K K LEUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 97):

Regarding the work of the Subvented Projects Division of the Department under this Programme, please advise this Committee whether the Department has reviewed in 2012-14 the impact of two contract models, namely 'first design then build' and 'design and build', on tender expenditures in view of the increasing expenditures in capital works in recent years? If yes, what are the manpower and expenditure involved in the review?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

Subvented projects are private projects carried out by consultants and contractors employed by subvented organizations. According to a review conducted in 2012 by the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) in-house resources for capital building works, each of the procurement modes has its own merits and limitations. The procurement mode to be adopted for a subvented project is proposed by the consultant who should take into account the project scale, scope, complexity, as well as the technical expertise a project may specifically require. ArchSD would provide technical advice as necessary.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)204

(Question Serial No. 5412)

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 47):

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention that studies on cavern development and underground space development in urban areas will be conducted. How long are they expected to take? When is the consultation work expected to commence?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

The information on the related studies is given below:

(1) Long-term Strategy for Cavern Development in Hong Kong

This study commenced in September 2012 for completion in December 2015. Under the study, we will formulate policy guidelines to facilitate cavern development, prepare a territory-wide Cavern Master Plan and develop a systematic relocation programme for suitable government facilities to caverns. The above work is currently underway and it is expected that public consultation will commence in the first quarter of 2015.

(2) Territory-wide Study on Underground Space Development in the Urban Areas

This study commenced in December 2013 for completion in December 2015. It is a territory-wide study which aims at identifying districts with potential for developing urban underground space, with a view to creating new space for commercial and other uses, as well as enhancing connectivity in the urban areas. The study is currently at the stage of methodology formulation. It is expected that public consultation will commence in the fourth quarter of 2014.

(3) Pilot Study on Underground Space Development in Selected Strategic Urban Districts

This proposed study will explore the potential of developing underground space in four pilot strategic urban districts, viz. (i) Tsim Sha Tsui West, (ii) Causeway Bay, (iii) Happy Valley and (iv) Admiralty/Wan Chai, with a view to formulating a master plan for underground space development for each district and carry out broad technical assessment for priority projects. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence the study in the second half of 2014 for completion in about 30 months. The programme of public consultation will be worked out with the consultants upon commencement of the study.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)205

(Question Serial No. 3710)

Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards
Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 327):

On district basis, please list the number of trees felled and trees planted for compensation during the slope maintenance works carried out by the government in the previous financial year and the associated expenditures.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

Slope maintenance works, comprising mainly simple operation such as clearance of debris from drainage channels and repair of cracked surface covers to upkeep man-made slopes in good condition, are carried out by the respective slope maintenance departments. According to information provided by them, no tree felling was required during the implementation of routine slope maintenance works in 2013-14.

The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) carries out landslip prevention works for man-made slopes and mitigation works for natural terrain under the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme (LPMitP). The numbers of trees felled and new trees planted in connection with these works under the LPMitP in 2013-14 are shown in the table below. As tree felling and planting is part of the landslip prevention and mitigation works, we do not have separate statistics for the expenditures for tree felling and planting.

Financial year	District	Number of trees felled ^{Note}	Number of new trees planted
2013-14 (up to end of February 2014)	Hong Kong Island	138	6 305
	Kowloon	33	4 320
	New Territories	239	110
	Outlying Islands	21	0
Total		431	10 735

Note: These trees were felled due to health condition of the trees or to facilitate landslip prevention and mitigation works. None of the trees felled are old and valuable trees.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)206

(Question Serial No. 4902)

Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 329):

- (1) In the past financial year, what was the quantity of slope improvements works completed by various District Council Areas by means of shotcrete, soil nail or other methods respectively? What was the average expenditure of each type of works?
- (2) How many slopes without immediate danger underwent improvement works by way of shotcrete last year? Of these slopes, how many slopes were provided with appearance mitigation measures (e.g. colour shotcrete, greening, etc.) following the completion of upgrading works? Please provide the relevant data and detailed expenditures by types of mitigation measures.
- (3) How many private slope owners implemented slope improvement works by way of shotcrete last year? Has the Department allocated resources to encourage private slope owners to implement the relevant works by other means and what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

- (1) In 2013-14, the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) has upgraded under the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme (LPMitP) a total of 151 man-made slopes with 143 slopes by soil nails and eight slopes by other means such as fill re-compaction. Vegetation cover was provided to 106 of the upgraded man-made slopes whereas shotcrete was applied to the other 44 upgraded man-made slopes as the application of vegetation cover was not feasible, such as on steep or rocky slopes. The remaining slope was covered with stone pitching. For slopes upgraded by the use of soil nails, the average cost of soil nailing was about \$2.35 million per slope. For slopes that involved the use of shotcrete as the principal means of surface protection, the average cost of provision of shotcrete slope cover was about \$0.28 million per slope. For slopes provided with vegetation cover, the average cost of provision of vegetation cover was about \$0.1 million per slope. We do not have readily available information on the breakdown of the quantities of slope improvement works according to demarcation of district councils.

- (2) All the 151 man-made slopes upgraded under the LPMitP in 2013-14 were of safety concern although they were not categorized as of immediate and obvious danger. Coloured shotcrete was applied to 44 of them as the application of vegetation cover was not feasible, such as on steep or rocky slopes. The cost involved in the provision of coloured shotcrete for the slopes concerned was about \$15.4 million.

- (3) We have no statistics on the number of private slope owners implementing slope upgrading/maintenance works by way of shotcrete. The Government has been making continuous efforts to improve the appearance of slopes in Hong Kong. The Buildings Department has issued Practice Notes for Authorized Persons, Registered Structural Engineers and Registered Geotechnical Engineers No. ADV23 “Improvement of Visual Appearance and Landscape Treatment for Man-made Slopes and Retaining Walls” in 2004, to recommend professionals to use green measures when implementing slope upgrading/maintenance works. CEDD has published a guidance booklet “Layman’s Guide to Landscape Treatment of Slopes” which aims at helping and encouraging private slope owners to provide landscape treatment when planning slope works. The booklets are distributed to private slope owners at publicity events, such as roving exhibitions, public seminars, outreach events to slope owners and Owners' Incorporations, etc. The booklet can also be downloaded from the Hong Kong Slope Safety Website – <http://hkss.cedd.gov.hk>. The Community Advisory Unit of the CEDD also provides proactive outreach services to advise private slope owners on slope upgrading, maintenance and landscaping issues.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)207

(Question Serial No. 4320)

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 63):

According to Programme (3), the Administration will complete the public consultation on the Environmentally Friendly Linkage System for Kowloon East in the coming year to facilitate commencement of the detailed feasibility study. Will the Government provide information on the following:

1. What is the number of consultations with organizations and bodies on the Environmentally Friendly Linkage System (EFLS) for Kowloon East by the Administration this financial year? What are the names of the organizations and bodies participating in the consultations? What are the manpower and expenditure involved? What is the number of public engagement workshops organized by the Administration this financial year? What is the number of participants? What is the total number of members of public who have expressed their views since the commencement of the public consultation? What is the percentage of support and objection to the above project?
2. When will the feasibility study commence and complete? What are the manpower and expenditure involved? When will the Administration announce the implementation strategy for the above project?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

1. Following a series of informal briefing sessions with interested stakeholders, we launched the 3-month Stage 2 public consultation (PC) exercise on the EFLS in late October 2013 and engaged in a total of 10 formal consultation fora and meetings. The organisations participating in the Stage 2 PC included Kwun Tong District Council, Kowloon City District Council, Wong Tai Sin District Council, Task Force on Kai Tak Harbourfront Development of the Harbourfront Commission, representatives from marine trades, Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, Hong Kong Institute of Planners, Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Hong Kong, Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation – Hong Kong Branch, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Hong Kong, Hong Kong Institute of Urban

Design, Kowloon Motor Bus Company Limited, MTR Corporation Limited, Hong Kong Tramways Limited, and residents of Laguna City. In-house staff resources were deployed to undertake the Stage 2 PC exercise, with support from consultants involving an expenditure of about \$0.6 million in 2013-14. A public forum was held for the Stage 2 PC with 78 attendees. We observed that there was general support for conducting the proposed detailed feasibility study (DFS) of the EFLS as the next stage of work. We are in the process of collating the views received, and aim to report the outcome to the Legislative Council Panel on Development in the second quarter of this year.

2. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence in early 2015 the proposed DFS of the EFLS for completion in about 2 years. The DFS will be managed by a project team comprising mainly one Senior Engineer and one Engineer. The overall project estimate of the DFS is currently under review. The DFS will examine and propose an implementation strategy for the EFLS. The plan for further PC exercise will also be formulated under the DFS.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)208

(Question Serial No. 4322)

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 69):

According to Programme (3), the Administration will continue the initiatives for improving the water quality at Kai Tak Approach Channel and Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter in the next financial year. Will the government provide the following information:

- (1) What is the progress of the above works in this financial year? What are the respective manpower and expenditures involved? Has the water quality been improved? If yes, what are the details? What is the number of samples selected for water quality test? Is the water quality at Kai Tak Approach Channel and Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter up to standard?
- (2) The Administration will continue the above initiatives in the next financial year. What are the details of the scope of works? What will be the manpower and expenditures involved? Will the works be completed as scheduled? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

- (1) Continuing with the first phase of the improvement works for Kai Tak Approach Channel (KTAC) and Kai Tak Typhoon Shelter (KTTS) under Public Works Programme (PWP) item no. 745CL, we have substantially completed the dredging works, the repairing and reinstatement works to embankments, and the first round of bioremediation treatment of the seabed sediments in 2013-14.

Apart from the bioremediation treatment of seabed sediments, there are other measures implemented to enhance the water quality at KTAC and KTTS, which include drainage and sewerage improvement works in the hinterland of Kai Tak Development (KTD) undertaken by the Drainage Services Department.

We have been collecting water and sediment samples regularly to monitor the water quality within KTAC and KTTS to evaluate the effectiveness of the improvement works. So far, the odour problem is generally under control while the dissolved oxygen level has gradually increased with reduction in E-coli content, reflecting that the water quality at KTAC and KTTS is improving. To explore the scope of further improvement measures at KTAC and KTTS, a proposal of creating an opening at the northern end of the former Runway under the Metro Park is being reviewed under PWP item no. 738CL.

The PWP items nos. 738CL and 745CL, with an estimated 2013-14 expenditure totalling about \$63 million, are managed by two separate project teams (each comprising mainly one Senior Engineer and one Engineer) amongst other duties, with support from consultants and some in-house clerical and technical staff.

- (2) The two project teams mentioned in (1) above will continue to work on the improvement measures in 2014-15. We aim at completing the remaining bioremediation works at KTAC and KTTS under PWP item no. 745CL, and firming up the design of further improvement measures at KTAC and KTTS including the proposal of creating an opening under the Metro Park under PWP item no. 738CL. The estimated expenditure in 2014-15 will be about \$92 million. The improvement works for KTAC and KTTS will be completed to tie in with the phased implementation of KTD.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)209****(Question Serial No. 3493)**

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development, Secretary for Transport and Housing, Secretary for Home Affairs

Question (Member Question No. 223):

In 2014, there will be a net increase of 62 posts in the manpower establishment under Programme (3). Please specify the relevant ranks, scope of work and salaries.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

To cope with the additional workload arising from the following areas of work under Programme (3), the following new posts will be created in 2014-15 -

Item	Area of Work	Number of New Posts to be Created in 2014-15			Total
		Directorate	Professional	Technical and General	
1	Studies and/or implementation of projects, which include but are not limited to the proposed developments in New Territories North, Lantau, new development areas, Kam Tin South, potential sites identified in land use reviews and topside development on the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities Island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge; underground space developments; and reclamations at an appropriate scale outside Victoria Harbour	2 ^{Note}	31	7	40
2	Implementation of projects for Kai Tak Development and the detailed feasibility study for the Environmentally Friendly Linkage	0	2	1	3

Item	Area of Work	Number of New Posts to be Created in 2014-15			Total
		Directorate	Professional	Technical and General	
	System for Kowloon East				
3	Studies and/or implementation of other land formation and infrastructure works	0	14	0	14
4	Planning and design of the integrated basement for the West Kowloon Cultural District	1 ^{Note}	10	1	12
5	Headquarters supporting services	0	2	0	2
	Total	3	59	9	71

Discounting a total of 9 time-limited posts under Programme (3) which will lapse in 2014-15, the net creation of new posts in 2014-15 is $(71 - 9) = 62$. The annual staff cost for the net increase of 62 posts under Programme (3) is \$46.5 million in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value.

Note : The creation of directorate posts is subject to Finance Committee's approval.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)210

(Question Serial No. 3310)

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 54):

- (1) In paragraph 118 (g) of the Budget, it is stated that a study will be conducted on the development of urban underground space in four strategic districts, namely Causeway Bay, Happy Valley, Admiralty/Wan Chai and Tsim Sha Tsui West. When will the pilot study commence this year? Will communication be made with the local district councils prior to the pilot study?
- (2) Besides, in the face of the overcrowding problem in Causeway Bay, Wan Chai and Tsim Sha Tsui West in weekdays and holidays, would the development of commercial underground space increase the pedestrian/traffic flow and worsen the crowdedness, and hence affecting the traffic and living space of the people? Would these factors be considered in the pilot study?

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher

Reply:

- (1) Subject to the funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence the proposed pilot study in the second half of 2014 for completion in about 30 months. We have consulted the relevant district councils in respect of the proposed pilot study, and will continue to engage them during the study.
- (2) Apart from creating space for commercial and other beneficial uses, the proposed pilot study is also aimed at enhancing connectivity in these districts. Well planned underground space development would offer good opportunities for mitigating the existing traffic problems through reducing vehicle-pedestrian conflicts on surface roads, thereby enhancing pedestrian safety, as well as improving the environment of pedestrian walkways. In addition, underground space development connecting existing/planned developments and public transport network would help relieve the heavy pedestrian flow on street level and enhance accessibility to adjacent areas. The proposed study will assess the impacts on road traffic and pedestrian circulation for the conceptual design scheme of priority projects proposed under the study, and propose mitigation measures as necessary.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)211

(Question Serial No. 5632)

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 46):

Has the Administration intended to construct more and enhance cycle tracks and ancillary facilities in Yuen Long district and Tin Shui Wai district? If yes, what are the details and expenditures? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

At present, we are implementing a cycle track network in the New Territories. The section from Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui via Yuen Long involves the construction of new cycle tracks and associated supporting facilities such as entry/exit hubs, toilets, resting stations and cycle rental kiosks, as well as improvement of the existing cycle tracks.

Construction of the stage 1 works of the Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui cycle track section commenced in November 2013. The works comprise the construction of 2.5km of new cycle track and associated supporting facilities in Yuen Long and Sheung Shui, and improvement of 4.5km of existing cycle track in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai. The approved project estimate of the stage 1 works is \$295.4 million. The estimated expenditures in 2013-14 and 2014-15 are \$27 million and \$55 million respectively.

The remaining works of the Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui cycle track section, comprising 11km new cycle track and associated supporting facilities in Yuen Long and Sheung Shui, are under detailed design.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)212****(Question Serial No. 6360)**

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 153):

The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and its Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities, Hong Kong Link Road and Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link will provide the North Lantau district with the opportunity of developing a “bridgehead economy”. What are the development objectives, planning details, and the expenditure and manpower involved regarding the North Lantau district? Will the Development Bureau conduct any public consultations, community impact studies and environmental impact assessments on this matter in 2014-15? When will the consultations and studies be completed? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The Civil Engineering and Development Department is undertaking studies through consultants at three separate locations in the North Lantau area. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee (FC), a planning, engineering and architectural study on the topside development at the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (BCF) Island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge will be conducted to ascertain the feasibility and optimise the scope and scale of proposed commercial development on the artificial island through topside as well as underground space development to capitalise on its unique locational advantage for developing bridgehead economy and create synergy among the HKBCF and other tourist and business destinations on Lantau. The study is to be undertaken by consultants and is planned to commence in August 2014 for completion in September 2016. The estimated cost of the study is about \$61.9 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices. Four in-house professional staff will be involved in managing the consultants.

At Tung Chung, a planning and engineering study is being conducted to formulate a comprehensive development proposal for extending the Tung Chung New Town to meet the future housing and commercial need. The study undertaken by consultants commenced in January 2012 and is anticipated to be completed in 2015. The estimated cost of the study is about \$44 million in MOD prices. Three in-house professional staff are involved in managing the consultants.

At Sunny Bay, a planning and engineering study is being planned to examine the technical feasibility of reclamation and formulate proposals on future land uses including tourism, entertainment and leisure. Subject to FC's approval of the funding, we plan to commence the study in August 2014 for completion in the second half of 2016. The latest estimated cost for the study is about \$96 million in MOD prices. The study will be undertaken by consultants and managed by three in-house professional staff.

The above studies will include assessment in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance covering relevant environmental aspects related to the proposed developments. The public would be consulted during the course of the studies.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)213****(Question Serial No. 5568)**

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 66) :

In Programme (2) (Page 526) of Controlling Officer's Report under Transport and Housing Bureau (Transport Branch), it is stated in the "Aim" that the Administration will "manage road use, reduce congestion and promote safety; and support environmental improvement measures in transport-related areas." Please advise:

- (a) Whether the item "complete the cycle track network connecting Tai Po, Yuen Long, North districts and the associated facilities as soon as possible" will be included in the plan this year?
- (b) If yes, what are the details?
- (c) If no, is it included in other subhead? What are the details?
- (d) If item (c) is no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

The implementation of the cycle track network in the New Territories is mentioned under Programme (3): Provision of Land and Infrastructure on page 122 of the Controlling Officer's Report of Civil Engineering and Development Department. On-going and planned work in 2013-14 and 2014-15 for the cycle track network are as follows:

Section	Sub-section	Activities
Ma On Shan to Tuen Mun	Ma On Shan to Sheung Shui	Works completed in March 2014
	Sheung Shui to Tuen Mun – Stage 1 works	Construction
	Sheung Shui to Tuen Mun – remaining works	Detailed design
Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun	Advance works and Stage 1 works	Detailed design and site investigation
	Stage 2 works	Alignment review

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)214

(Question Serial No. 4289)

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 58):

According to Programme 3, the Administration continues the construction works for the cycle track network between Tuen Mun and Sheung Shui, and the investigation and design for several sections of the comprehensive cycle track network in the New Territories in this financial year. Will the government provide the following information:

- (1) What are the manpower and expenditures involved in the above works in this financial year? For the cycle track sections where the construction works were completed in this financial year, how many kilometres (km) were involved? How many km have not yet been completed in the project?
- (2) What will be the manpower and expenditures involved in the above works in the next financial year? Will the works be completed as scheduled? Will the manpower be increased to handle the work in the next financial year? If yes, what are the details? What will be the manpower and expenditures involved? If no, what are the reasons?
- (3) The Administration continues the investigation and design for several sections of the comprehensive cycle track network in the New Territories. What were the cycle track sections investigated and designed by the Administration in this financial year? How many km were involved? What were the details of cycle tracks investigated by the Administration in this financial year? Was there any new design proposed?

Asked by: Hon. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

- (1)& Stage 1 works of the Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui cycle track section covering
- (2) construction of 2.5km of new cycle track and improvement of 4.5km of existing cycle track commenced in November 2013, and are expected to be completed in 2016. The construction works are supervised by consultants and two in-house professional staff are involved in managing the project in 2013-14 and 2014-15. The estimated project expenditures in 2013-14 and 2014-15 are \$27 million and \$55 million respectively.

- (3) Investigation and design work carried out in 2013-14 for different sections of the cycle track network in the New Territories are as follows :

Section	Sub-section (length)	Activities
Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui	Remaining works (11km)	Detailed design
Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun	Advance and stage 1 works (7km)	Detailed design and site investigation
	Stage 2 works (15km)	Alignment review

The design of the cycle track network is being developed in consultation with relevant government departments and stakeholders.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)215****(Question Serial No. 4709)**Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 92):

On engagement of agency workers, please provide the following information:

	2013-14 (the latest position)
Number of contracts with employment agencies	()
Contract sum paid to each employment agency	()
Duration of service for each employment agency	()
Number of agency workers	()
Details of the positions held by agency workers	
Monthly salary range of agency workers	
• \$30,001 or above	()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	()
• less than \$6,240	()
Length of service of agency workers	
• 15 years or above	()
• 10 - 15 years	()
• 5 - 10 years	()
• 3 - 5 years	()
• 1 - 3 years	()
• less than 1 year	()
Percentage of agency workers against the total staff in the department	()
Percentage of expenditure for employment agencies against the total staff costs in the department	()
Number of workers who received severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity paid	()

	2013-14 (the latest position)
Number of workers with severance payment/long service payment/ contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Number of workers with paid meal break	()
Number of workers without paid meal break	()
Number of workers working 5 days per week	()
Number of workers working 6 days per week	()

Percentages in () denote comparison with 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information in respect of engagement of agency workers is appended below. This information excludes services provided under term contracts centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

(a) The number of contracts with employment agencies (EAs)

2013-14 (as at 30.9.2013)
5 (+400%)

(b) Contract sum and duration of services

Contract sum	2013-14 (as at 30.9.2013)
	Number of contracts
Less than \$0.5 million	5 (+400%)
\$0.5 million to \$1 million	0 (-)
Over \$1 million	0 (-)
Total:	5 (+400%)

Duration of services	2013-14 (as at 30.9.2013)
	Number of contracts
6 months or less	4 (-)
Over 6 months to 1 year	1 (0%)
Over 1 year to 2 years	0 (-)
Over 2 years	0 (-)
Total:	5 (+400%)

(c) Number of workers against their job categories

	2013-14 (as at 30.9.2013)
Number of workers	5 (-)

	2013-14 (as at 30.9.2013)
Job category of workers	Number of workers
Backend office support	5 (-)
Technical services	0 (-)
Total:	5 (-)

(d) Monthly salary range of agency workers

With the implementation of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) since 1 May 2011, bidders are required to pay their agency workers salaries not lower than the average monthly wages for “General Worker for all selected industries” in the Quarterly Report for December 2010, unless it is overtaken by the prevailing SMW plus one paid rest day in every period of seven days. As at 30 September 2013, the department engaged five contracts and the monthly wages of the agency workers ranged from \$8,352 to \$9,333.

(e) Length of service of agency workers

The mode of using agency workers is that a government department and an EA enter into a service contract under which the agency will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government department (in terms of the number of agency workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from agency workers) are satisfied, the EA may arrange any of their employees to work in the department or arrange replacement agency workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not keep information on the years of service of agency workers who are employees of the EAs and are at the disposal of the latter.

(f) Percentage of workers against the total staff in the Department

2013-14 (as at 30.9.2013)
0.28%

(g) Percentage of expenditure for EAs against the total staff costs in the Department

2013-14 (up to 30.9.2013)
0.05%

(h) Severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity paid to agency worker by employment agency

The department entered into contracts with the EAs for provision of services as required by the department during the contract period. The contractual relationship of the agency workers is with the EAs which have to fulfil the obligations of employers under the relevant laws including the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57) and Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance (Cap. 485). We do not have information on the severance payment/ long service payment/ contract gratuity paid by the EAs to their workers.

(i) Meal break for workers

The agency workers are employed by the EAs, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(j) Working days

Working days	2013-14 (as at 30.9.13)
	Number of workers
5 working days per week	5 (-)
6 working days per week	0 (-)
Total:	5 (-)

Percentage in () denotes comparison with 2012-13 except where the relevant figure in 2012-13 is zero.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)216****(Question Serial No. 4710)**Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 93):

On engagement of "outsourced workers", please provide the following information:

	2013-14 (the latest position)
Number of outsourced service contracts	()
Total expenditure for outsourced service providers	()
Duration of service for each outsourced service provider	()
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	()
Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology)	
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers	
• \$30,001 or above	()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	()
• less than \$6,240	()
Length of service of outsourced workers	
• 15 years or above	()
• 10 - 15 years	()
• 5 - 10 years	()
• 3 - 5 years	()
• 1 - 3 years	()
• less than 1 year	()
Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the department	()
Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the department	()
Number of workers who received severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity paid	()

	2013-14 (the latest position)
Number of workers with severance payment/long service payment/ contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Number of workers with paid meal break	()
Number of workers without paid meal break	()
Number of workers working 5 days per week	()
Number of workers working 6 days per week	()

Percentages in () denote comparison with 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The Civil Engineering and Development Department uses a wide range of outsourced services, such as cleansing and security, information technology, etc. The requested information is provided below.

(a) Number of outsourced service contracts

2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
87 (+14.5%)

(b) Total expenditure for outsourced service contracts

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013) (\$million)
27.8 (+15.8%)

(c) Duration of outsourced service contracts

Duration of service	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
	Number of contracts
6 months or less	10 (0%)
Over 6 months to 1 year	48 (+23.1%)
Over 1 year to 2 years	20 (+25.0%)
Over 2 years	9 (-18.2%)
Total:	87 (+14.5%)

(d) Total number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers

2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
223 (+6.7%)

(e) Number of outsourced workers against their work nature

Nature of service contracts	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
	Number of workers
Cleansing	23 (-30.3%)
Security	83 (-8.8%)
Information technology	9 (+28.6%)
Technical service	27 (+58.8%)
General administration support	65 (+32.7%)
Others (e.g. staff training)	16 (+33.3%)
Total:	223 (+6.7%)

(f) Salaries of outsourced workers

After the implementation of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) on 1 May 2011, for service contracts on security and cleansing, the contractors were required to pay workers wages not lower than the prevailing SMW.

For other service contracts, we specify and require only the service to be provided. We do not have information about the salaries of the workers employed by the contractors.

(g) Length of service of outsourced workers

The mode of using outsourced workers is that government departments and the contractor enter into a service contract under which the contractor will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government departments (in terms of the number of outsourced workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from outsourced workers) are satisfied, the contractor may arrange any of their employees to work in the department or arrange replacement outsourced workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of outsourced workers who are employees of the contractors and are at the disposal of the latter.

(h) Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the Department

2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
12.4%

(i) **Percentage of expenditure of outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the Department**

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013)
3.7%

(j) **Severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity paid to outsourced workers**

The department entered into contracts with the outsourced contractors for provision of services as required by the department during the contract period. The contractual relationship of the outsourced workers is with the outsourced contractors which have to fulfil the obligations of employers under the relevant laws including the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57) and Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance (Cap. 485). We do not have information on the severance payment/ long service payment/ contract gratuity paid by the contractors to their workers.

(k) **Meal break for outsourced workers**

The outsourced workers are employed by the outsourced contractors, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(l) **Number of outsourced workers against working days^(Note)**

Working days	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)	
	Number of workers	
5 working days per week	2	(+100%)
6 working days per week	104	(-15.4%)
Total:	106	(-14.5%)

Note: For workers of service contracts on security and cleansing only

Percentages in () denote comparison with 2012-13 except where the relevant figure in 2012-13 is zero.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)217

(Question Serial No. 4711)

Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 94):

Regarding the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, please provide the following information:

	2013-14 (the latest position)
Number of NCSC staff	()
Details of the positions held by NCSC staff	
Total expenditure on salaries for NCSC staff	()
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff	
● \$30,001 or above	()
● \$16,001 - \$30,000	()
● \$8,001 - \$16,000	()
● \$6,501 - \$8,000	()
● \$6,240 - \$6,500	()
● less than \$6,240	()
Length of service of NCSC staff	
● 15 years or above	()
● 10 - 15 years	()
● 5 - 10 years	()
● 3 - 5 years	()
● 1 - 3 years	()
● less than 1 year	()
Number of NCSC staff successfully appointed as civil servants	()
Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the department	()
Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the department	()
Number of NCSC staff who received severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity paid	()
Number of NCSC staff with severance payment/long service payment/ contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract	()

	2013-14 (the latest position)
gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	
Number of NCSC staff with paid meal break	()
Number of NCSC staff without paid meal break	()
Number of NCSC staff working 5 days per week	()
Number of NCSC staff working 6 days per week	()

Percentages in () denote comparison with 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Information on the employment of full-time non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff employed under the recurrent expenditure of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) as at 31.12.2013 is provided below.

(a) Number of NCSC staff against their job nature

Job nature	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
	Number of NCSC staff
Professional	25 (+66.7%)
Technical and inspectorate	5 (+400%)
General administration	7 (-12.5%)
Total:	37 (+54.2%)

(b) Total expenditure on salary of NCSC staff

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013) (\$million)
10.9 (+6.9%)

(c) Number of NCSC staff against their salaries and length of service

Monthly salary	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
	Number of NCSC staff
\$30,001 or above	15 (+36.4%)
\$16,001 to \$30,000	17 (+88.9%)
\$8,001 to \$16,000	5 (+25%)
\$6,501 to \$8,000	0 (-)
\$6,240 to \$6,500	0 (-)
Less than \$6,240	0 (-)
Total:	37 (+54.2%)

	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
Length of services	Number of NCSC staff
Over 15 years	0 (-)
10 years to 15 years	0 (-)
5 years to 10 years	1 (-)
3 years to 5 years	6 (+200%)
1 year to 3 years	8 (0%)
Less than 1 year	22 (+57.1%)
Total:	37 (+54.2%)

(d) Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servant^(Note 1)

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013)
9 (0%)

Note 1: Including information on NCSC staff appointed as civil servant within the CEDD only. The said NCSC staff have joined the civil service through an open, fair and competitive process.

(e) Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the Department

2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
2%

(f) Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the Department

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013)
1.4%

(g) Number of NCSC staff who received severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013)
58 (0%)

(h) Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity paid

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013) (\$million)
2.6 (+2.2%)

- (i) **Number of NCSC staff with severance payment/long service payment/ contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF^(Note 2)**

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013)
58 (0%)

- (j) **Amount of severance payment/long service payment/ contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF^(Note 2)**

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013) (\$million)
0.7 (+13.5%)

Note 2: According to the Civil Service Bureau's guidelines on employment of NCSC staff, the contract gratuity for NCSC staff, plus the Government's MPF contributions in respect of the NCSC staff, should not be more than 10% (for non-skilled jobs) or 15% (for skilled jobs) of the total basic salary drawn during the contract period. The Government will not make reference to accrued benefit in calculating contract gratuity for NCSC staff.

- (k) **Number of NCSC staff against meal break**

	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
Meal Break	Number of NCSC staff
Paid meal break	33 (+43.5%)
Unpaid meal break	4 (+300%)
Total:	37 (+54.2%)

- (l) **Number of NCSC staff against working days**

	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
Working days	Number of NCSC staff
5 working days per week	33 (+43.5%)
6 working days per week	4 (+300%)
Total:	37 (+54.2%)

Percentages in () denote comparison with 2012-13 except where the relevant figure in 2012-13 is zero.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)218

(Question Serial No. 5235)

Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 11):

What is the 2014-15 estimate for the Civil Engineering and Development Department's duty visits or exchange activities in the Mainland? Please provide information on the themes of the duty visits or exchange activities in the Mainland planned for 2014-15. How will the Administration prevent activities irrelevant to official duties from taking place during duty visits outside Hong Kong? And how will the Administration prevent applications for revising visit destinations from becoming a mere formality?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

In 2014-15, when there are operational needs, officers of the Civil Engineering and Development Department will undertake duty visits in the Mainland including attending meetings in relation to works projects, and attending international conferences and seminars held in the Mainland for technical exchanges. There is no specific plan for the time being.

Duty visits, if publicly funded, are subject to control under the relevant regulations and guidelines to ensure effective monitoring and proper use of public funds. There is control on aspects, such as duty visits should only be conducted when there are strong operational reasons; all duty visits should obtain prior approval formally and should avoid non-official activities; the officers concerned should provide all necessary information in respect of the proposed visit as far as possible when submitting the application; if there are any subsequent changes to the arrangements, the officers concerned should inform the approving officers as soon as possible who should then assess whether re-consideration of the applications is needed.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)219

(Question Serial No. 4997)

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 55):

What is the relevant work on the “technical studies on enhancing the density of residential and commercial developments at Kai Tak Development (KTD)”? As the Planning Department has increased the plot ratio of a number of residential plots at KTD, will the Civil Engineering and Development Department revise the road designs or other projects at KTD?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

The scope of the technical study on increasing the development intensity in Kai Tak Development (KTD) conducted by the Civil Engineering and Development Department is to assess the technical feasibility and environmental acceptability of the proposals put forward by the Planning Department to suitably increase the office and housing supply in the KTD. The study aims to identify and address possible implications of the proposals to increase the development intensity in the KTD on the aspects of planning, townscape, landscape, urban design, transport and traffic, drainage and sewerage, water supply, and environmental impacts. It will also provide input to support the necessary town planning procedures.

The study has provided information to facilitate the first batch of planning applications for the proposed minor relaxation of plot ratio and building height restrictions of four residential sites at the Grid Neighbourhood in the North Apron area of KTD, which were approved by the Town Planning Board in November 2013. No change to the road design and other relevant infrastructure works in the area is required for these four sites.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)220

(Question Serial No. 4999)

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 (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 57):

Regarding the strategic studies on artificial islands in the central waters, when will the Government commence the relevant study process? How long is the process expected to take and what is the relevant expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, the strategic studies for artificial islands in the central waters will commence in the second half of this year. The studies will be completed in three years and the estimated cost is about \$227 million in money-of-the-day prices.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)221

(Question Serial No. 5338)

Head: (707) Capital Works Reserve Fund: New Towns and Urban Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 87):

Subhead : 7686CL Consultants' fees and site investigation for site formation, roads and drains in Area 54, Tuen Mun - phase 2

In Subhead 7686CL under this Head, will the Administration advise this Committee:

- (1) What was the number of objections to the site formation, roads and drains in Area 54, Tuen Mun - phase 2 received by the Administration in the past three years?
- (2) Did the Administration respond to the objections? If yes, what were the details? If no, what were the reasons?
- (3) Has the Administration assessed in detail the environmental, traffic impacts, etc. on the residents of Tsz Tin Tsuen and Siu Hang Tsuen arising from the above works? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

- (1) 17 objections to the gazettals in relation to the proposed site formation, road and sewerage works in Area 54, Tuen Mun (including the phase 2 works recommended under Subhead 7686CL) were received in the past three years.
- (2) To address the objections, the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) and other relevant departments had met the objectors to listen to their views and concerns. The CEDD also explained to them the details of the proposed works. The government is still considering these objections.
- (3) The CEDD completed a review study on potential impacts including traffic and environmental impacts arising from development of Tuen Mun Area 54 in end 2013. The study confirmed that the development of Tuen Mun Area 54 would not cause adverse environmental and traffic impacts to Tsz Tin Tsuen and Siu Hang Tsuen.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)222

(Question Serial No. 5341)

Head: (707) Capital Works Reserve Fund: New Towns and Urban Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 90):

Subhead: 7276RS Cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun-detailed design and site investigation (advance and stage 1 works)

In Subhead 7276RS under this Head, will the Administration advise this Committee:

- (1) What is the current construction progress of the cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun?
- (2) Has the Administration set targets for the actual construction and completion time for the cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (3) Has the Administration conducted assessment of the future flow capacity and potential safety problems of the cycle track in the detailed design of the above project? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

- (1) Detailed design and site investigation works are being carried out for the advance and stage 1 works (section from Tsuen Wan to Ting Kau) of the cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun.
- (2) We are reviewing the comments received from local residents on the proposed alignment of the cycle track. The implementation programme for the cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun will be devised after completion of the review and further discussions with local residents.
- (3) The proposed cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun is mainly for recreational purpose. It will be designed in accordance with the prevailing design standards issued by the Transport Department in respect of its alignment, dimensions and safety provision.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)223

(Question Serial No. 5343)

Head: (707) Capital Works Reserve Fund: New Towns and Urban Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 93):

Subhead: 7279RS Cycle tracks connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories—Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui section (stage 1)

In Subhead 7279RS under this Head, will the Administration advise this Committee:

- (1) In relation to the construction works of the cycle track from Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui, has the Administration collected detailed statistics on the related manning expenditure, design expenditure, and road safety assessment expenditure? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (2) Has the Administration set timetables for the construction and completion of the above works, and to ensure the works to be completed by the target time? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

- (1) The stage 1 construction works of the cycle track from Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui under Subhead 7279RS are designed and supervised by consultants. In 2013-14, two in-house professional staff were involved in managing the project. The consultancy fee for the design work and related assessments, and contract administration is about \$5.3 million.
- (2) The construction works commenced in November 2013 for completion in end 2016. The Civil Engineering and Development Department will closely monitor the works progress, the performance of the contractors and consultants, and the interfacing issues with a view to ensuring timely completion of the works.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)224

(Question Serial No. 5348)

Head: (707) Capital Works Reserve Fund: New Towns and Urban Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 91):

Subhead: 7705CL Hang Hau Tsuen Channel at Lau Fau Shan

In Subhead 7705CL under this Head, will the Administration advise this Committee:

- (1) According to the information of the Civil Engineering and Development Department, the Hang Hau Tsuen Channel works were originally scheduled for completion in the second quarter of 2012. Can the Administration provide information on the latest progress of the works?
- (2) What is the number of accidents in the above works?
- (3) What is the number of objections to the Hang Hau Tsuen Channel works received by the Department?
- (4) Has the Administration responded to the objections? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

- (1) The engineering works of the project were substantially completed in July 2012 and the associated access road, footpaths and footbridges had been opened for use by the public. The whole project including the landscaping works was completed in May 2013.
- (2) No site accident in relation to the works for the project was reported.

- (3) We received four objections from the public on the gazettal of the project scheme & under Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance in 2008. We held meetings
- (4) with the respective objectors to discuss their concerns and measures that could be taken to resolve them, such as minor changes to design and land clearance boundary. Following further discussions and provision of supplementary information to the objectors, all of the four objections were withdrawn.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)225

(Question Serial No. 4333)

Head: (707) Capital Works Reserve Fund: New Towns and Urban Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 85):

Regarding Subhead 7167CD "Kai Tak development - reconstruction and upgrading of Kai Tak Nullah" :

1. In the coming year, what will be the progress of the works with respect to the reconstruction and rehabilitation in the upstream, and the widening of the nullah in the downstream?
2. Can the works dovetail with the completion of the new Kai Tak Development?
3. In the course of the upgrading and landscaping works, how will the Administration work with the communities and civil groups in the future to make the watercourse improvement works and landscaping programmes meet the needs of the communities and environment, and achieve the target of people oriented? If yes, what are the plans, and the costs involved?
4. Have the Administration considered opening the completed sections of Kai Tak River in phases for the communities and civil groups to hold cultural activities?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

1. The reconstruction and rehabilitation works of Kai Tak Nullah are being implemented in stages. The Drainage Services Department (DSD) is undertaking the improvement works at the upstream section from Po Kong Village Road to Prince Edward Road East since October 2011 (Subheads 4140CD and 4169CD). The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) started the upgrading and reconstruction works at the downstream section within Kai Tak Development (KTD) in January 2013 (Subhead 7167CD). The relevant works will be in full swing in 2014-15.

2. The works are in active progress to tie in with the phased development of KTD.
3. According to the outcome of the two-stage public engagement exercise on “Building our Kai Tak River” conducted in 2010 and 2011, there are strong public aspirations for revitalising the Kai Tak Nullah into an attractive green river and townscape feature to provide space for leisure and public activities while meeting the needs for flood protection and pedestrian movement. At the upstream section, DSD has allowed \$22 million and \$41 million in Subheads 4140CD and 4169CD respectively for the landscaping enhancement works. At the downstream section within KTD, a design ideas competition on the landscaping of Kai Tak River is being organised by CEDD for launching later this year. The estimated expenditure of the activity is currently under review. We will continue to consult relevant parties to collect views on the landscaping design of the Kai Tak River.
4. The reconstructed/rehabilitated Kai Tak River together with the landscaping enhancement works alongside will be opened in stages from 2017 and beyond starting with the upstream section.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)226

(Question Serial No. 6160)

Head: (707) Capital Works Reserve Fund : New Towns and Urban Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 67):

Regarding Subhead 7270RS Cycle tracks and associated facilities along seafront at Town Centre South, Tseung Kwan O, has the bureau/Administration considered providing additional drinking fountains and toilets along LOHAS Park section? If yes, how much expenditure is involved respectively?

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

Four drinking fountains and one toilet have recently been provided along the promenade at Town Centre South, Tseung Kwan O under Subhead 7270RS. Moreover, there are existing toilet facilities outside MTR LOHAS Park Station and pet garden at Area 77, and portable toilets near LOHAS Park Road and Bauhinia Garden. Therefore, we have no plan at the moment to provide additional drinking fountains and toilet facilities for this area.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)227

(Question Serial No. 5546)

Head: (707) Capital Works Reserve Fund: New Towns and Urban Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 40):

Regarding “7092CL Tai Po development, package 4”, please advise:

- (a) Whether “to search sites in Tai Po district for constructing major public housing estates to alleviate the housing demand of local residents, and to increase the mobility of the population in the community and boost the economic development” is included?
- (b) If yes, what is the timetable, tender schedule, expenditure of the works?
- (c) If no, is it included in other Subhead?
- (d) If (c) is no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

The works under the project, Tai Po development, package 4 (PWP Item No. 7092CL), mainly involved land formation and construction of village resite houses. The project was upgraded to Category A in 1976 and all the works were substantially completed in 2013. The task as mentioned in part (a) of the question is not included in this project nor any other subhead under the control of Director of Civil Engineering and Development.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)228

(Question Serial No. 5547)

Head: (707) Capital Works Reserve Fund: New Towns and Urban Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 42):

Regarding “7092CL Tai Po development, package 4”, please advise:

- (a) Whether “to proceed with changing the proposed private hospital site in Tai Po, whose tender failed previously, to a public housing site” is included?
- (b) If yes, what is the timetable, tender schedule, expenditure of the works?
- (c) If no, is it included in other Subhead?
- (d) If (c) is no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

All works under PWP Item No. 7092CL were substantially completed. The task as mentioned in part (a) of the question is not included in this project.

However, the Civil Engineering and Development Department is planning to commence an investigation and design consultancy later this year covering the land formation and associated infrastructure works for the proposed public housing development at Area 9 (previously planned for private hospital development) in Tai Po.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)229

(Question Serial No. 5548)

Head: (707) Capital Works Reserve Fund: New Towns and Urban Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 43):

Regarding “7092CL Tai Po development, package 4”, please advise:

- (a) Whether “to study the redevelopment plan of Tai Yuen Estate and the associated community and transport support facilities, in order to provide more public housing units and improve community development” is included?
- (b) If yes, what is the timetable, tender schedule, expenditure of the works?
- (c) If no, is it included in other Subhead?
- (d) If (c) is no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

The works under the project, Tai Po development, package 4 (PWP Item No. 7092CL), mainly involved land formation and construction of village resite houses. The project was upgraded to Category A in 1976 and all the works were substantially completed in 2013. The study on the redevelopment plan of Tai Yuen Estate and the associated supporting facilities is not included in this project nor any other subhead under the control of the Director of Civil Engineering and Development.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)230

(Question Serial No. 5889)

Head: (707) Capital Works Reserve Fund: New Towns and Urban Area Development

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (C K HON)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 58):

Has the Administration intended to develop a promenade from Kai Tak to Tsim Sha Tsui East? If yes, what are the relevant details and expenditure? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

Subject to the actual circumstances of the harbourfront sites, the government aims to provide a continuous promenade along both sides of the harbour including Kai Tak to Tsim Sha Tsui East for public enjoyment. In recent years, some new promenade sections such as Hung Hom Promenade, Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade Extension, Kwun Tong Promenade Stage 1 and Kai Tak Cruise Terminal Park have already been completed and opened to the public. Those under construction including the Kwun Tong Promenade Stage 2 and Kai Tak Runway Park Phase 1 are scheduled for completion in 2014-15. The approved project estimates for construction of the two latter projects are \$250.7 million and \$169.7 million respectively (in money-of-the-day prices).

For the other promenade sections from Kai Tak to Tsim Sha Tsui East, their planning and implementation could vary and depend on whether they could form part of the future public works projects or could be implemented through private developments. Their implementation programme and cost are not yet available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)231

(Question Serial No. 4346)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage
Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum Wah, Daniel)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 57):

What are the resources and manpower to be deployed by the Drainage Services Department on the feasibility studies on relocation of Sha Tin sewage treatment works, Sai Kung sewage treatment works and Sham Tseng sewage treatment works to caverns? Please provide details and the timetable. Is there room to speed up the work progress for early implementation of these schemes and speedy release of existing sites for other uses?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Han-pan

Reply:

Relocation of Sha Tin sewage treatment works (STW) to caverns:

The feasibility study on relocation of Sha Tin STW to caverns is funded under Head 704 Subhead No. 4379DS with an approved project estimate of \$57.9 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices. The study is managed by a Chief Engineer, a Senior Engineer and an Engineer on a part-time basis, and supported by four time-limited professional grade officers. The study commenced in May 2012 for completion by mid 2014.

Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence the consultancy study on investigation and design (I&D) for the relocation of Sha Tin STW to caverns in the second half of 2014 for completion in stages by end 2022. In the detailed design, we will review the implementation programme including the feasibility of shortening the construction period of the relocation project. The estimated cost of the I&D study, \$637.7 million in MOD prices, is to be funded under Head 704 Subhead No. 4407DS.

Relocation of Sham Tseng and Sai Kung STWs to caverns:

The feasibility studies on relocation of Sham Tseng and Sai Kung STWs to caverns are to be funded under Head 704 Subhead Nos. 4401DS and 4402DS respectively with estimated costs of \$39.2 million and \$40.6 million in MOD prices. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence the two studies in August 2014 for completion in August 2016. The two studies will be managed by a Chief Engineer, a Senior Engineer and an Engineer on a part-time basis, supported by a time-limited professional

grade officer. We will review the implementation programme and explore measures to speed up the proposed relocation projects under the studies.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)232

(Question Serial No. 3735)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage
Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum Wah, Daniel)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 331):

1. How many cases of flooding occurred on Hong Kong Island last year? Please list in chronological order these cases by the amount of rainfall on that day and cause(s) of flooding.
2. What is the progress of improvements works for each of these flooding blackspots on Hong Kong Island? Please advise on the details of the works, progress and estimated expenditure involved.
3. Hong Kong West Drainage Tunnel has commenced operation for more than a year. Has the Administration reviewed the effectiveness of this project? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

1. In 2013, there were totally 15 flooding cases on Hong Kong Island and all of them were recorded on 22 May 2013 when the Black Rainstorm Warning was issued. Hourly rainfall intensity exceeding 70 millimetres was generally recorded on Hong Kong Island on that day.

All these flooding cases were minor and happened at localized areas in Western District, Pok Fu Lam, Central District, Causeway Bay, North Point and Shau Kei Wan. They were due to blockage of roadside gullies and surface channels resulting in ineffective discharge to cope with the large quantity of rainwater.

2. The details of the flooding blackspots on Hong Kong Island, the progress and estimated costs of the drainage improvement works to them are as follows-

Flooding Blackspot	Details of Drainage Improvement Works
(i) Pok Fu Lam Village	<p>PWP Item No. 4158CD involving upgrading works to the drainage system in the village commenced in March 2009 and were completed in June 2009. The cost for this part of works was \$5.9 million.</p> <p>Further drainage improvement works are under planning.</p>
(ii) Wong Chuk Hang Road, junction of Nam Long Shan Road	<p>PWP Item No. 4158CD involving the construction of stormwater drains along Wong Chuk Hang Road, Yip Kan Street and Tong Bin Lane commenced in March 2009 and was completed in October 2010. The cost for this part of works was \$7.5 million.</p> <p>Further drainage improvement works at the junction commenced in January 2013 for completion by late 2014. The estimated cost for this part of works is about \$6.0 million.</p>
(iii) Morrison Hill Road, junction of Lap Tak Lane	<p>PWP Item No. 4103CD (Hong Kong West Drainage Tunnel (HKWDT) works commenced in November 2007 and were completed in June 2012. The cost for this project was about \$3,381.3 million.</p> <p>PWP Item No. 4104CD involving the construction of stormwater drains along Sung Tak Street and Morrison Hill Road commenced in May 2010 and was completed in November 2013. The cost for this part of works was \$6.5 million.</p> <p>PWP Item No. 4160CD for the construction of an underground stormwater storage tank in Happy Valley commenced in September 2011 for completion by 2018 in phases. The estimated cost for this project is about \$1,065.8 million.</p> <p>Drainage Services Department's Block Vote involving the construction of stormwater drains along Lap Tak Lane and Yat Sin Street commenced in January 2014 for completion by 2016. The estimated cost is about \$8.5 million.</p>

3. HKWDT is designed to intercept the excess runoff from upland during severe rainstorms and protect the downstream catchments of Wan Chai, Central District and Western District. Since its commissioning in 2012, there has been no major flooding incident in

these districts. A post-commission flow monitoring for HKWDT conducted by the Drainage Services Department in 2013 recorded that it intercepted 548 000 cubic metres of runoff during the severe rainstorm on 22 May 2013 and no major flooding incident was reported at the downstream areas, which demonstrates that HKWDT functions effectively as per design.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)233

(Question Serial No. 3736)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage
Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum Wah, Daniel)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 332):

1. What is the progress of construction of the Happy Valley Underground Stormwater Storage Scheme? What is the Drainage Services Department's anticipated percentage of completion of the project this year? Are the works progressing according to schedule?
2. Any complaints (e.g. traffic congestion, noise, etc.) in relation to, or arising from the above project received since the commencement of this project? Please provide the number, details and follow up work of these complaints.
3. The Happy Valley Racecourse is now one of the selected sites for the "Pilot study on underground space development in selected strategic urban areas". In this regard, has the Department assessed whether the underground space development at the Happy Valley Racecourse would affect the structure, operation and construction progress of the underground storage tank? Please provide details.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

1. The main contract for construction of the Happy Valley Underground Stormwater Storage Scheme commenced in September 2012. The Drainage Services Department anticipates that about 45% of the works will be completed by end 2014. The works progress is on schedule.
2. One complaint was received since the commencement of the main contract. It was about dark smoke emitted from two generators within the site in Happy Valley Recreation Ground. The two generators were subsequently replaced by the contractor and no further complaint has been received since then.
3. The consultants of the "Pilot study on underground space development" will be required to take into account the Happy Valley Underground Stormwater Storage Scheme in relation to its construction progress, structural safety and operation in carrying out their study and formulating a master plan for underground space development for the area.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)234

(Question Serial No. 4903)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum Wah, Daniel)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 333):

The Drainage Services Department has indicated that it will commence the review of drainage master plan for Northern Hong Kong Island in the coming year. Please advise the details of the work schedule and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Drainage Master Plan Review Study in Northern Hong Kong Island is scheduled to commence in mid 2014 for completion in 2016. The total estimated cost for this Study including the consultancy fee and associated investigations and surveys is about \$16 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)235

(Question Serial No. 5633)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage
Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum Wah, Daniel)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 49):

Does the Administration have any plans to deck the town centre section of Yuen Long Nullah? If yes, what are the details and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

Following the completion of the review study for the Yuen Long and North Districts Drainage Master Plan, the Drainage Services Department awarded an investigation consultancy in March 2014 for the drainage improvement works in Yuen Long including the Yuen Long Town Nullah recommended in the review study. As decking of the Yuen Long Town Nullah (Town Centre Section) will constrain the enhancement of the drainage capacity of the nullah, it will have to be considered in conjunction with the proposed improvement works to the nullah in the investigation study.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)236

(Question Serial No. 5385)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage
Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum Wah, Daniel)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 62):

What are the progress and expected completion date of the reconstruction and rehabilitation works of Kai Tak Nullah?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Kai Tak Nullah Project is being implemented in stages under four packages. The progress and expected completion date of the works of each package are as follows:

- (i) The advance works of Kai Tak Nullah comprising the construction of a box culvert at Prince Edward Road East and widening of a section of Choi Hung Road commenced in August 2010 and were substantially completed in January 2014.
- (ii) The improvement works to Kai Tak Nullah at the upstream reach from Po Kong Village Road to Tung Kwong Road commenced in October 2011 for completion in 2017.
- (iii) The improvement works to Kai Tak Nullah at the midstream reach from Tung Kwong Road to Prince Edward Road East commenced in December 2013 for completion in 2017.
- (iv) The improvement works to Kai Tak Nullah at the downstream reach within the Kai Tak Development area commenced in January 2013 for completion in 2018.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)237

(Question Serial No. 5611)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage
Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum Wah, Daniel)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 55):

Do the Drainage Services Department and the Mass Transit Railway Corporation have any plans to implement a revitalisation project for the undecked section of Wong Chuk Hang Nullah, in order to prevent construction projects from lingering on for years after the commissioning of the new rail line and thus impeding tourism and commercial development? If yes, what are the details and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The decking of a section of the Wong Chuk Hang Nullah has already been incorporated into the South Island Line (East) project of the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited for completion by 2015. For the remaining section of the nullah, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) has no plan to implement decking works at this stage but will continue monitoring the situation. DSD also plans to conduct a drainage review for Wong Chuk Hang district, including the need for further nullah improvement works for the undecked section in future.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)238

(Question Serial No. 5240)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (-) Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum Wah, Daniel)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 16):

What is the 2014-15 estimate for the Drainage Services Department (DSD)'s duty visits or exchange activities in the Mainland? Please provide information on the themes of the duty visits or exchange activities in the Mainland planned for 2014-15. How will the Administration prevent activities irrelevant to official duties from taking place during duty visits outside Hong Kong? And how will the Administration prevent applications for revising visit destinations from becoming a mere formality?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

In 2014-15, when there are operational needs, officers of DSD will undertake duty visits or exchanges and attend regional and international conferences in the Mainland relating to planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of drainage and sewerage infrastructures. There are no specific plans for the time being.

Duty visits, if publicly funded, are subject to control under the relevant regulations and guidelines to ensure effective monitoring and proper use of public funds. There is control on aspects, such as duty visits should only be conducted when there are strong operational reasons; all duty visits should obtain prior approval formally and should avoid non-official activities; the officers concerned should provide all necessary information in respect of the proposed visit as far as possible when submitting the application; if there are any subsequent changes to the arrangements, the officers concerned should inform the approving officers as soon as possible who should then assess whether re-consideration of the applications is needed.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)239

(Question Serial No. 5051)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage
Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum Wah, Daniel)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development
Question (Member Question No. 106):

Regarding the programme of stormwater drainage, please advise this Committee of:

- 1) any plans to redevelop some suitable regional drainage facilities in such a way to support rainwater collection for other uses when the planning and upgrading of stormwater drainage systems for each district is carried out? If yes, what are the details of such plans?
- 2) any studies, including those by reference to overseas experience, conducted over the past five years to examine whether local stormwater drainage systems can support collection of suitable water resources. If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

- 1) & 2) The Drainage Services Department (DSD) has examined various options of rainwater re-use in some of the recent drainage projects. DSD has on a trial basis included facilities to re-use collected rainwater for non-potable uses in two drainage projects. A rainwater harvest system of capacity of 120 m³/day has been built in the Lai Chi Kok Drainage Tunnel project. The rainwater collected will be stored in the Stilling Basin and will be used for irrigation, cleansing and toilet flushing within the compound of the Stilling Basin after appropriate treatment. The water could also be made available for street cleansing. Another system of capacity of 600 m³/day is being constructed in the Happy Valley Underground Stormwater Storage Scheme at the Happy Valley Recreation Ground. Underground water as well as irrigation water and rainwater collected from the sport pitches above the underground stormwater storage tank will be stored, treated and then re-used for toilet flushing and irrigation of the sport pitches after treatment.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)240

(Question Serial No. 5053)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum Wah, Daniel)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 108):

Regarding the provision of quarters for departmental staff, please advise this Committee of:

- 1) Any vacant departmental quarters over the past 5 years. If yes, please provide the information for each of these vacant quarters, including the name, location, site area, number of units and planned future uses;
- 2) Any quarters left vacant for more than 5 years. If yes, please provide the information for each of these vacant quarters, including the name, location, site area, number of units, starting date for being vacant, and whether the Government Property Agency has been informed to recover them;
- 3) Any additional government sites allocated to the Department for staff quarters use over the past 3 years. If yes, please provide the information for each of these additional staff quarters, including the name, location, site area and number of units, etc.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

The Drainage Services Department does not have any idle departmental staff quarters over the past five years. Moreover, no additional government sites have been allocated to the Department for staff quarters use over the past three years.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)241

(Question Serial No. 5871)

Head: (704) Capital Works Reserve Fund: Drainage

Subhead (No. & title): (4402DS) Feasibility study on relocation of Sai Kung sewage treatment works to caverns

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum Wah, Daniel)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 72):

Regarding Subhead 4402DS "Feasibility study on relocation of Sai Kung sewage treatment works to caverns", please advise on the projects with expenditure to be incurred in 2014-15.

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence the feasibility study on relocation of Sai Kung sewage treatment works to caverns in the second half of 2014 and the expenditure to be incurred in 2014-15 will be for payments on consultancy fees, site investigation and surveys.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)242

(Question Serial No. 6063)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 417):

After the North Point lift incident, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has continuously enhanced inspections for lifts. The number of inspections for lifts and escalators had increased from 9 173 in 2012 to 10 564 in 2013, and the number of inspections in 2014 is estimated to be 11 800. In respect of the above increase in inspection work, will EMSD advise the increase in manpower in the past two years and the coming year?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

Since 2010, the establishment for lift and escalator inspection and incident investigation comprises one Senior Engineer, three Engineers, one Senior Inspector and 18 Inspectors. In 2014-15, one Engineer, one Senior Inspector and eight Inspectors will be added to the team to carry out additional lift and escalator inspections.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)243

(Question Serial No. 6069)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (-) Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 416):

What are the numbers of work injuries and fatal work injuries involving the staff of various ranks at the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) in the past five years, and what is the respective proportion of these numbers to the total number of staff in each rank? What measures are taken by EMSD to prevent work injuries and promote occupational safety and health respectively?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

There was a total of three work injury cases in the past five years, including one Engineer (1.4% of total staff in the rank), one Senior Engineer (3.6% of total staff in the rank) and one Workman II (100% of total staff in the rank). No fatal case was reported during the period.

The Departmental Occupational Safety and Health Committee established under the Department is responsible for formulating the occupational safety and health (OSH) promotional programme. The Department regularly conducts OSH promotional activities through various channels to colleagues, including OSH competitions, dedicated OSH page in intranet, OSH information and quiz in monthly staff newsletter, OSH information on lobby televisions, etc. Also, Safety Supervisors were appointed to oversee the safety measures in workplace and need for improvement in OSH practice and procurement of protective equipment. The Department also provides various OSH courses for staff regularly.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)244****(Question Serial No. 4183)**Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Mechanical Installations SafetyControlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 202):

Please list out the numbers of prosecution and disciplinary actions taken by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department in the past five years.

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-kiReply:

The numbers of prosecution and disciplinary actions taken by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department on mechanical installations safety in the past five years are listed in the following table.

Financial Year	Number of Prosecution Cases	Number of Disciplinary Cases
2013-14 (up to February 2014)	1	2
2012-13	1	0
2011-12	4	2
2010-11	9	0
2009-10	3	0

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)245****(Question Serial No. 4184)**

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 203):

Please list out the Department's expenditures on examination, enforcement, public education and publicity for lifts and escalators in the past five years. Please also list out the Department's estimated expenditure on examination, enforcement, public education and publicity for lifts and escalators in 2014-15.

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The Department's expenditures on examination, enforcement, public education and publicity for lifts and escalators in the past five years are listed out below:-

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$million)
2009-10	28.1
2010-11	25.9
2011-12	25.4
2012-13	32.0
2013-14	33.3 (estimate)

The Department's estimated expenditure on examination, enforcement, public education and publicity for lifts and escalators in 2014-15 is \$37.3 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)246****(Question Serial No. 4256)**Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Mechanical Installations SafetyControlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 37):

There are over 60 000 lifts in Hong Kong, and their machinery and functional performance will have direct implication on passenger safety. In order to enable the public to have a better understanding, and the Legislative Council to more effectively monitor the existing mechanism in repair and maintenance of lifts, so as to enhance public confidence in using lifts, would the Administration please provide the following information:

(1) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) introduced the lift contractors' performance rating system in 2009, with the contractors' non-compliant items classified into five categories. Please provide the quarterly figures for the past four years in the table below.

Quarter		2011				2012				2013				2014
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1
Points Deducted	1-5													
	6-11													
	12 or above													
Warning Letters Issued	1													
	2													
	3 or above													
Removal from the Register														

(2) In the past three years, what are the figures of incidents involving injury and fatality for each registered contractor; and the penalties to the contractors due to contravention of the Ordinance?

(3) Please provide the numbers of inspections carried out, the numbers of registered engineers responsible for carrying out inspections, the expenditures of the concerned staff establishment for the past three years, and the increases in the manpower and expenditure due to the implementation of the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance.

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

(1) Pursuant to the contractors' performance rating system of EMSD, the numbers of registered lift contractors with performance monitoring points deducted, warning letters issued, or removed from the Register in the past four years are given in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Number of contractors		2011				2012				2013				2014*
Quarter		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1
With performance points deducted	1-5	9	13	9	9	10	5	1	5	3	5	2	7	5
	6-11	9	16	11	13	10	10	8	9	12	16	9	15	12
	12 or above	1	1	2	0	2	4	2	1	2	0	0	1	1
With warning letters issued	1	2	4	1	6	6	5	3	1	2	1	0	1	3
	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
	3 or above	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Removed from the Register		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

*Figures are up to 28 February 2014

(2) In the past three years, there was no fatality case related to failure of equipment components in lifts. The numbers of cases related to failure of equipment components in lifts and involving injury are given in Table 2 below:

Table 2

Registered Lift Contractors	2011	2012	2013
Anlev Elex Elevator Ltd.	0	1	0
Chevalier (HK) Limited	2	1	2
Chun Ming Elevator Co. Ltd.	0	1	0
Holake Hong Kong Lifts Ltd.	1	0	0
Jekco Elevators Ltd.	1	1	0
KONE Elevator (HK) Ltd.	4	0	0
Nikkin Lifts & Escalators Ltd.	1	1	0
Otis Elevator Company (HK) Ltd.	3	3	0
Schindler Lifts (Hong Kong) Ltd	1	3	1
Sigma Elevator (HK) Ltd.	2	0	0

Shineford Engineering Ltd.*	0	1	1
The Express Lift Company Ltd.	0	1	0
Total	15	13	4

* Registration of Shineford Engineering Ltd. was cancelled with effect from 16 October 2013

In the past three years, there were a total of four prosecution cases and three disciplinary cases against the concerned registered lift contractors due to contravention of the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance. For the prosecution cases, the fines imposed ranged from \$2,000 to \$9,000. For the disciplinary action cases, the fines imposed ranged from \$50,000 to \$240,000. One registered contractor was removed from the Register in 2013 due to contravention of the Ordinance.

(3) EMSD adopts a risk-based approach to conduct sample audit inspections of lifts. The numbers of lift inspections carried out in 2011, 2012, and 2013 were 7 603, 7 875, and 9 258 respectively.

The team responsible for carrying out audit inspection and incident investigation comprises one Senior Engineer, three Engineers, one Senior Inspector and 18 Inspectors, with the total expenditures in the past three years summarised in Table 3 below.

Table 3

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14#
Expenditure (in \$ million)	14.3	15.1	20.2

#Estimated figure

The Lifts and Escalators Ordinance was implemented in December 2012. It is estimated that the expenditure in 2013-14 will increase by \$5.1 million as compared to 2012-13. In 2014-15, one Engineer, one Senior Inspector and eight Inspectors will be added to the team to carry out more lift and escalator inspections.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)247****(Question Serial No. 4743)**Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 148):

Regarding the engagement of agency workers, please provide the following information:

	2013-14 (the latest position)
Number of contracts with employment agencies	()
Contract sum paid to each employment agency	()
Duration of service of each employment agency	()
Number of agency workers	()
Details of the positions held by agency workers	
Monthly salary range of agency workers	
• \$30,001 or above	()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	()
• less than \$6,240	()
Length of service of agency workers	
• 15 years or above	()
• 10 - 15 years	()
• 5 - 10 years	()
• 3 - 5 years	()
• 1 - 3 years	()
• less than 1 year	()
Percentage of agency workers against the total staff in the department	()
Percentage of expenditure for employment agencies against total staff costs in the department	()
Number of workers who received severance payment/ long service payment/ contract gratuity	()
Amount of severance payment/ long service payment/ contract gratuity paid	()

Number of workers with severance payment/ long service payment/ contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Amount of severance payment/ long service payment/ contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Number of workers with paid meal break	()
Number of workers without paid meal break	()
Number of workers working 5 days per week	()
Number of workers working 6 days per week	()

Percentage in () denote comparison with 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information in respect of engagement of agency workers is appended below. This information excludes services provided under term contracts centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

(a) The number of contracts with employment agencies (EAs)

2013-14 (as at 30 September 2013)
1 (0%)

(b) Contract sum and duration of services

Contract sum	2013-14 (as at 30 September 2013)
	Number of contracts
Less than \$0.5 million	1 (0%)
\$0.5 million to \$1 million	0 (-)
Over \$1 million	0 (-)
Total:	1 (0%)

Duration of services	2013-14 (as at 30 September 2013)
	Number of contracts
Six months or less	0 (-)
Over six months to one year	0 (-)
Over one year to two years	1 (0%)
Over two years	0 (-)
Total:	1 (0%)

(c) **Number of workers against their job categories**

	2013-14 (as at 30 September 2013)
Number of workers	14 (+180%)

	2013-14 (as at 30 September 2013)
Job category of workers	Number of workers
Backend office support	14 (+180%)
Technical services	0 (-100%)
Total:	14 (+180%)

(d) **Monthly salary range of agency workers**

With the implementation of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) since 1 May 2011, bidders are required to pay their agency workers salaries not lower than the average monthly wages for “General Worker for all selected industries” in the Quarterly Report for December 2010, unless it is overtaken by the prevailing SMW plus one paid rest day in every period of seven days. As at 30 September 2013, the department engaged one contract and the minimum monthly wages specified in the contract was \$8,352.

(e) **Length of service of agency workers**

The mode of using agency workers is that government departments and an EA enter into a service contract under which the agency will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government departments (in terms of the number of agency workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from agency workers) are satisfied, the EA may arrange any of their employees to work in the departments or arrange replacement agency workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of agency workers who are employees of the EAs and are at the disposal of the latter.

(f) Percentage of workers against the total staff in the Department

2013-14 (as at 30 September 2013)
3.5%

(g) Percentage of expenditure for EAs against the total staff costs in the Department

2013-14 (up to 30 September 2013)
0.38%

(h) Severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity paid to agency worker by employment agency

The department entered into contracts with the EAs for provision of services as required by the department during the contract period. The contractual relationship of the agency workers is with the EAs which have to fulfil the obligations of employers under the relevant laws including the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57) and Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance (Cap. 485). We do not have information on the severance payment/ long service payment/ contract gratuity paid by the EAs to their workers.

(i) Meal break for workers

The agency workers are employed by the EAs, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(j) Number of workers against working days

Working days	2013-14 (as at 30 September 2013)
	Number of workers
5 working days per week	14 (+180%)
6 working days per week	0 (-)
Total:	14 (+180%)

Percentage in () denote comparison with 2012-13 except where the relevant figure in 2012-13 is zero.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)248****(Question Serial No. 4744)**Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (-) Not specifiedControlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 149):

On engagement of "outsourced workers", please provide the following information:

	2013-14 (the latest position)
Number of outsourced service contracts	()
Total expenditure for outsourced service providers	()
Duration of service for each outsourced service provider	()
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	()
Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology)	
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers	
• \$30,001 or above	()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	()
• less than \$6,240	()
Length of service of outsourced workers	
• 15 years or above	()
• 10 - 15 years	()
• 5 - 10 years	()
• 3 - 5 years	()
• 1 - 3 years	()
• less than 1 year	()
Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the department	()
Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the department	()
Number of workers who received severance payment/ long service payment/ contract gratuity	()
Amount of severance payment/ long service payment/ contract	()

gratuity paid	
Number of workers with severance payment/ long service payment/ contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Amount of severance payment/ long service payment/ contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contribution to MPF	()
Number of workers with paid meal break	()
Number of workers without paid meal break	()
Number of workers working 5 days per week	()
Number of workers working 6 days per week	()

Percentages in () denote comparison with 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department uses outsourced services for cleansing and security. The requested information is provided below.

(a) Number of outsourced service contracts

2013-14 (as at 31 December 2013)
2 (0%)

(b) Total expenditure for outsourced service providers

2013-14 (up to 31 December 2013) (\$ million)
0.68 (+13.0%)

(c) Duration of outsourced service contracts

Duration of service	2013-14 (as at 31 December 2013)
	Number of contracts
6 months or less	0 (-)
Over 6 months to 1 year	0 (-)
Over 1 year to 2 years	0 (-)
Over 2 years	2 (0%)
Total:	2 (0%)

(d) Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers

2013-14 (as at 31 December 2013)
8 (0%)

(e) Details of outsourced workers against their work nature

Nature of service contracts	2013-14 (as at 31 December 2013)
	Number of workers
Cleansing	4 (0%)
Security	4 (0%)
Total:	8 (0%)

(f) Monthly salary range of outsourced workers

After the implementation of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) on 1 May 2011, for service contracts on security and cleansing, the contractors were required to pay workers wages not lower than the prevailing SMW.

(g) Length of service of outsourced workers

The mode of using outsourced workers is that government departments and the contractor enter into a service contract under which the contractor will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government departments (in terms of the number of outsourced workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from outsourced workers) are satisfied, the contractor may arrange any of their employees to work in the department or arrange replacement outsourced workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of outsourced workers who are employees of the contractors and are at the disposal of the latter.

(h) Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the department

2013-14 (as at 31 December 2013)
2.12%

(i) **Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the department**

2013-14 (up to 31 December 2013)
0.36%

(j) **Severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity paid to outsourced workers**

The department entered into contracts with the outsourced contractors for provision of services as required by the department during the contract period. The contractual relationship of the outsourced workers is with the outsourced contractors which have to fulfil the obligations of employers under the relevant laws including the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57) and Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance (Cap. 485). We do not have information on the severance payment/ long service payment/ contract gratuity paid by the contractors to their workers.

(k) **Meal break for outsourced workers**

The outsourced workers are employed by the outsourced contractors, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(l) **Number of outsourced workers against working days**

Working days	2013-14 (as at 31 December 2013)	
	Number of workers	
5 working days per week	1	(0%)
6 working days per week	7	(0%)
Total:	8	(0%)

Percentage in () denotes comparison with 2012-13 except where the relevant figure in 2012-13 is zero.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)249****(Question Serial No. 4745)**Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion (Member Question No. 150):

Regarding the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, please provide the following information:

	2013-14 (the latest position)
Number of NCSC staff	()
Details of the positions held by NCSC staff	
Total expenditure on salaries for NCSC staff	()
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff	
• \$30,001 or above	()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	()
• less than \$6,240	()
Length of service of NCSC staff	
• 15 years or above	()
• 10 - 15 years	()
• 5 - 10 years	()
• 3 - 5 years	()
• 1 - 3 years	()
• less than 1 year	()
Number of NCSC staff successfully appointed as civil servants	()
Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the department	()
Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the department	()
Number of NCSC staff who received severance payment/ long service payment/ contract gratuity	()
Amount of severance payment/ long service payment/ contract gratuity paid	()
Number of NCSC staff with severance payment/ long service payment/ contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()

Amount of severance payment/ long service payment/ contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Number of NCSC staff with paid meal break	()
Number of NCSC staff without paid meal break	()
Number of NCSC staff working 5 days per week	()
Number of NCSC staff working 6 days per week	()

Percentages in () denote comparison with 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Information on the employment of full-time non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff is provided below.

(a) Number of NCSC staff against their job nature

Job nature	2013-14 (as at 31 December 2013)
	Number of NCSC staff
Professional	6 (-25.0%)
Technical and inspectorate	2 (-60.0%)
General administration	9 (+12.5%)
Total:	17 (-19.0%)

(b) Total expenditure on salaries for NCSC staff

2013-14 (up to 31 December 2013) (\$ million)
5.977 (+12.3%)

(c) Number of NCSC staff against their salaries and length of service

Monthly salary	2013-14 (as at 31 December 2013)
	Number of NCSC staff
\$30,001 or above	9 (+12.5%)
\$16,001 to \$30,000	5 (-37.5%)
\$8,001 to \$16,000	3 (-40.0%)
\$6,501 to \$8,000	0 (-)
\$6,240 to \$6,500	0 (-)
Less than \$6,240	0 (-)
Total:	17 (-19.0%)

Length of service	2013-14 (as at 31 December 2013)
	Number of NCSC staff
15 years or above	0 (-)
10 years to less than 15 years	4 (0%)
5 years to less than 10 years	6 (+20.0%)
3 years to less than 5 years	1 (-66.7%)
1 year to less than 3 years	5 (-16.7%)
Less than 1 year	1 (-66.7%)
Total:	17 (-19.0%)

(d) Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servants^(Note 1)

2013-14 (up to 31 December 2013)
5 (+150.0%)

Note 1: Including information on NCSC staff appointed as civil servant within the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) only. The said NCSC staff have joined the civil service through an open, fair and competitive process.

(e) Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the department

2013-14 (as at 31 December 2013)
4.3%

(f) Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the department

2013-14 (as at 31 December 2013)
3.23%

(g) Number of NCSC staff who received severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity

2013-14 (up to 31 December 2013)
13 (+8.3%)

(h) Amount of severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity paid

2013-14 (up to 31 December 2013) (\$ million)
0.935 (+375%)

(i) Number of NCSC staff with severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF^(Note 2)

2013-14 (up to 31 December 2013)
0

(j) Amount of severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF^(Note 2)

2013-14 (up to 31 December 2013) (\$ million)
0

Note 2: According to the Civil Service Bureau's guidelines on employment of NCSC staff, the contract gratuity for NCSC staff, plus the government's MPF contributions in respect of the NCSC staff, should not be more than 10% (for non-skilled jobs) or 15% (for skilled jobs) of the total basic salary drawn during the contract period. The government will not make reference to accrued benefit in calculating contract gratuity for NCSC staff.

(k) Number of NCSC staff against meal break

Meal Break	2013-14 (as at 31 December 2013)
	Number of NCSC staff
Paid meal break	15(-21.1%)
Unpaid meal break	2 (0%)
Total:	17 (-19.0%)

(I) Number of NCSC staff against working days

Working days	2013-14 (as at 31 December 2013)
	Number of NCSC staff
5 working days per week	17 (-19.0%)
6 working days per week	0 (-)
Total:	17 (-19.0%)

Percentages in () denote comparison with 2012-13 except where the relevant figure in 2012-13 is zero.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)250

(Question Serial No. 5241)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (-) Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 17):

What is the 2014-15 estimate for the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department's duty visits or exchange activities in the Mainland? Please provide information on the themes of the duty visits or exchange activities in the Mainland planned for 2014-15. How will the Administration prevent activities irrelevant to official duties from taking place during duty visits outside Hong Kong? And how will the Administration prevent applications for revising visit destinations from becoming a mere formality?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

In 2014-15, when there are operational needs, officers of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) will participate in exchange activities in the Mainland on energy efficiency, railway safety as well as electrical and mechanical safety such as gas, lifts and escalators safety. Apart from attending the annual EMSD/Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine meeting and the associated working groups' meetings at an estimated expenditure of \$0.32 million, we do not have any plan for other exchange activities in the Mainland in 2014-15.

Duty visits, if publicly funded, are subject to control under the relevant regulations and guidelines to ensure effective monitoring and proper use of public funds. There is control on aspects, such as duty visits should only be conducted when there are strong operational reasons; all duty visits should obtain prior approval formally and should avoid non-official activities; the officers concerned should provide all necessary information in respect of the proposed visit as far as possible when submitting the application; if there are any subsequent changes to the arrangements, the officers concerned should inform the approving officers as soon as possible who should then assess whether re-consideration of the applications is needed.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)251

(Question Serial No. 5055)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 110):

Would the Administration advise on the following inspection work related to lifts and escalators :

- (1) What is the establishment involved in lift and escalator inspection work in 2012 and 2013?
- (2) In the past five years, what is the number of staff recruited for lift and escalator inspection work and the number of staff left each year?
- (3) In 2014-15, will the Administration plan to increase the establishment to carry out additional lift and escalator inspection work? If yes, what are the details.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

- (1) In 2012 and 2013, the establishment for lift and escalator inspection and incident investigation comprises one Senior Engineer, three Engineers, one Senior Inspector and 18 Inspectors.
- (2) In 2009, the team responsible for carrying out lift and escalator inspection and incident investigation comprised one Senior Engineer, three Engineers and 12 Inspectors. Since 2010, one Senior Inspector and six Inspectors have been added to the team.
- (3) In 2014-15, one Engineer, one Senior Inspector and eight Inspectors will be added to the team to carry out additional lift and escalator inspections.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)252

(Question Serial No. 4911)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) District and Maintenance Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 337)

1. Over the past two years, how many complaints regarding overgrown vegetation obstructing traffic flow lodged by the districts did the Department receive each year? What are the procedures for handling these complaints and the time required to improve the situation in general? Will the Department seek advice from tree specialists before taking action to improve the situation to avoid excessive trimming?
2. Does the Department outsource the aforesaid tasks to contractors? What are the expenses involved? Have any contractors been penalised for poor performance (e.g. excessive trimming or sloppiness, etc.) in the past? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Highways Department (HyD) is responsible for the maintenance of vegetation along expressways and at roadside slopes, together with other maintenance works for public roads in Hong Kong. The day-to-day inspections and maintenance works are carried out by contractors engaged by HyD, and pruning of overgrown is part of the contractors' duties. Pruning of overgrown constitutes only a minor portion of the maintenance work which the contractors are required to carry out under the maintenance contracts. There is no separate breakdown dedicated solely for such works.

When complaints on overgrown vegetation are received, HyD will conduct inspections to identify any imminent danger to road users, and if affirmative arrange for pruning of overgrown branches. The subsequent pruning works are supervised by experienced site personnel and are limited to the extent required to address the imminent danger. Specialist advice will be sought if situation warranted. The time required to arrange and complete the pruning works depends on the exact location, adjoining traffic conditions and extent of works. In the past two years, HyD has received the following number of complaints on overgrown vegetation obstructing road users.

	Hong Kong Island	Kowloon	New Territories	Total
2012	34	21	95	150
2013	38	20	97	155

The performance of the contractors on pruning of overgrown vegetation has generally been satisfactory.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)253

(Question Serial No. 4912)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) District and Maintenance Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 338)

What is the number of shotcreted slopes for which the Department plans to conduct greening works in the coming year? What are the criteria for the selection of slope and greening method?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Highways Department (HyD) will carry out greening works for 18 shotcreted slopes in 2014-15.

In selecting the slopes for the greening works, HyD will consider the criteria of the impacts to slope stability, the availability of adequate planting space and sunlight, the potential and sustainability of greening improvements to the surrounding areas, and the cost effectiveness of the greening. HyD will also carry out the greening works when there are upgrading/improvement works for the slopes, if feasible. The greening works will be designed and implemented according to the relevant guidelines promulgated by the Geotechnical Engineering Office of the Civil Engineering and Development Department.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)254

(Question Serial No. 5310)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) District and Maintenance Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 67)

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-2015 of this Programme, the Administration states that it will continue to improve the safety and appearance of roadside slopes. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee on:

- (1) How to determine whether maintenance is required for the road sections concerned?
- (2) What are the procedures involved in slope maintenance?
- (3) Which government departments are likely to be involved in slope maintenance?
- (4) How many slopes are likely to require maintenance or improvement works to the appearance in the Administration's estimation?
- (5) What are the operating expenses, staff establishment and estimated salary expenditure for the afore-mentioned matter in the 2014-2015 estimates?
- (6) What are the locations of roadside slopes where improvement works to their safety and appearance will be carried out in 2014-2015?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The Highways Department (HyD) has employed eight contractors for maintenance of all public roads including maintenance of roadside slopes which are under the responsibility of the department. The routine maintenance works for slopes include clearance of debris from channels and slope surface, unblocking of weep holes and outlet drainpipes, repairing damaged surface cover, repairing erosion control mats and maintenance of landscape treatment on slopes. HyD also carries out Engineer Inspections (EIs) with reference to the guidelines published by the Geotechnical Engineering Office of the Civil Engineering and Development Department. Based on findings of the EIs, further maintenance works will be arranged, if necessary. The number and location of slopes requiring further maintenance works depends on the outcome of EIs carried out from time to time. The estimated cost of maintenance/improvement works on roadside slopes in 2014-15 is about \$90 million. HyD deploys existing staff to oversee the slope maintenance and improvement works. There is no separate breakdown on staff establishment and expenditure on salary solely dedicated for the purpose.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5312)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) District and Maintenance Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 69)

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-2015 of this Programme, the Administration states that it will continue to monitor and enhance the performance of the Excavation Permit Management System. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee:

- (1) What are the inadequacies of the existing Excavation Permit Management System?
- (2) In the past ten years, how many excavation permits were issued by the Administration each year?
- (3) What are the operating expenses, staff establishment and estimated salary expenditure for the afore-mentioned matter in the 2014-2015 estimates?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

In August 2009, the Highways Department (HyD) launched a computer system namely the Excavation Permit Management System (XPMS), which took advantage of the latest information technology at that time to improve the efficiency. The XPMS enhanced the capacity of electronic information management, promoted electronic submissions and streamlined the processes in relation to Excavation Permit (XP) applications, control and monitoring. Even though the XPMS is operating satisfactorily, HyD continuously looks for improvement to the system.

- (1) Following the advancement of information technology, HyD considers that the performance and reliability of the XPMS can be further enhanced by migration of the Geographic Information System engine to a more updated version.

Moreover, as a business facilitating initiative, HyD is also preparing to implement an e-payment service in the XPMS for settlement of certain types of XP fees.

(2) The numbers of XPs issued in the past ten years are tabulated below:

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
No. of XPs issued	42 741	39 949	35 979	29 544	29 615	31 434	30 485	25 776	24 812	24 374

(3) The estimated operational cost of the XPMS in 2014-2015 is \$10.3 million. The establishment for overseeing the daily support and maintenance of the XPMS includes three professional and technical staff.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)256

(Question Serial No. 5326)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (4) Technical Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 84):

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-2015 of this Programme, the Administration states that it will continue to maintain the technical standard of Engineer Inspection of slopes through audit. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee:

- (1) What are the details of "internal audit"?
- (2) Has any reference been made to other countries' standards regarding the technical standard of Engineer Inspection of slopes? If so, to which countries' standards?
- (3) What are the operating expenses, staff establishment and estimated salary expenditure for the aforesaid matter in the 2014-2015 estimates?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

- (1) The Highways Department employs consultants to conduct the Engineer Inspection (EI) of roadside slopes. The internal audit on the EI involves in-house geotechnical engineers auditing the EI reports submitted by the consultants in the aspects of adequacy of slope information collected and reviewed, accuracy of assessment of changes in the conditions of the slope and surrounding areas and appropriateness of the recommendations on follow-up actions.
- (2) The technical standard of the EI is based on the Geoguide 5 published by the Geotechnical Engineering Office of the Civil Engineering and Development Department.
- (3) Auditing of EI is carried out by four professionals amongst their other duties. We do not have separate estimates on the associated operating expenses and salary expenditure in 2014-2015.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)257

(Question Serial No. 4317)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (694) Archaeological excavations (block vote)
Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums
Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Mrs. Betty FUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 64):

The estimated provision for “archaeological excavations” (block vote) in 2014-15 is higher than those in previous years. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (1) the numbers and sites of archaeological excavations conducted in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14, and the number of archaeologists and the expenditure involved in each archaeological project;
- (2) a list of archaeological excavation projects which have been planned but not yet commenced, the area covered by the archaeological study and the present condition of the archaeological sites;
- (3) the number of archaeological excavations expected to be conducted in 2014-15, and the number of archaeologists and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

- (1) The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) conducts archaeological surveys and excavations necessitated by small-scale development projects such as small house development in the New Territories. The number of archaeological surveys and excavations carried out and the expenditure incurred in a particular year depends on the number of small-scale developments that necessitate such work. There are two field archaeologists in AMO to undertake such surveys and excavations.

As the surveys and excavations are carried out with the support of service contractors engaged by AMO under several service contracts, LCSD is unable to provide a breakdown of the expenditure for the individual surveys/excavations. The total expenditure incurred by AMO in this respect in the past three years is listed in the table below:

Year	No. of archaeological surveys and excavations arising from small-scale development projects	Expenditure
2011-12	11	\$882,068
2012-13	12	\$880,790
2013-14	8	\$750,000 (Estimated)

- (2) AMO has received seven new cases of small house development for which archaeological surveys and excavations have been planned. The archaeological surveys and excavations will cover a total of about 4 900 square feet of land on sites of archaeological interest identified by AMO.
- (3) It is anticipated that 11 archaeological surveys and excavations including the seven mentioned in (2) necessitated by small-scale development projects will be arranged in 2014-15 at an estimated expenditure of \$881,000 under the supervision of the two field archaeologists of AMO.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)258****(Question Serial No. 6376)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-)

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Mrs. Betty FUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 276):

What were the maintenance and related conservation costs incurred by the grading of historic buildings for the past five years? Please provide a detailed breakdown of these conservation-related costs and state the expenditure involved. How many graded historic buildings were involved? What is the estimated expenditure on the conservation of graded historic buildings for the coming year? How many buildings will be involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

Grading of historic buildings is an administrative system and exercise conducted by the Antiquities Advisory Board to indicate the heritage value of buildings. The grading exercise itself does not incur conservation and maintenance costs.

The Development Bureau (DEVB) has launched the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme (FAS) since 2008 under which owners of privately-owned graded historic buildings can apply for financial assistance to repair and maintain their properties. Each approved application will be given a grant of not more than \$1 million with payment made on reimbursement basis.

The vote for FAS is controlled by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. The expenditures for repair and maintenance of privately-owned graded historic buildings under FAS in the past five years are as follows:

Year	Expenditure
2009-2010	\$1,206,000
2010-2011	\$3,788,000
2011-2012	\$2,826,000
2012-2013	\$3,913,000
2013-2014	\$5,520,000 (Estimated)

The estimated expenditure for providing financial assistance under this scheme in 2014-15

is around \$4.5 million.

Since launching FAS in 2008, DEVB has approved 37 applications for repair and maintenance of privately-owned graded historic buildings and it is anticipated that 11 further applications will be processed in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)259****(Question Serial No. 6407)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Mrs. Betty FUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 322):

Regarding the restoration, repair and maintenance projects for historic buildings, structures and sites completed in the past 3 years or to be completed in the coming year, what are the provisions for these projects as well as the details and the dates of commencement and completion of the works?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

The Development Bureau has launched the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme (FAS) since 2008 under which owners of privately-owned graded historic buildings can apply for financial assistance to repair and maintain their properties. Each approved application will be given a grant of not more than \$1 million with payment made on reimbursement basis. The vote for FAS is controlled by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department under Head 95.

The projects completed under FAS in the past three years (2011-12 to 2013-14) are set out below:

Name of Building	Scope of Work	Works Commencement Date	Works Completion Date	Approved Amount (\$)
Jamia Mosque, Sheung Wan	Repainting of the building	September 2010	June 2011	860,000
Tin Hau Temple, Yuen Long	Restoration of the roof and external walls	September 2010	May 2012	985,000
Hung Shing Temple, Fanling	Restoration of the roof, walls and columns	December 2010	May 2011	880,000

Name of Building	Scope of Work	Works Commencement Date	Works Completion Date	Approved Amount (\$)
Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre (Side Chapel), Shatin	Roof rectification works and structural repair to walls	December 2011	March 2012	999,000
Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long	Restoration of the roof and structural frame	April 2011	October 2011	1,000,000
Tat Yan Study Hall, Yuen Long	Restoration of the roof and upgrading of electrical system	January 2012	June 2012	1,000,000
Leung Ancestral Hall, Tai Po	Restoration of the roof, walls, floor, doors and ancestral altars	October 2012	February 2013	1,000,000
Earth God Shrine, Sheung Shui	Restoration of the walls and ground slab of the shrine	November 2013	December 2013	390,000
Tsang's Ancestral Hall, Tsuen Wan	Restoration of the roof, walls, floor, doors, plaques and murals	May 2012	November 2012	950,000
Lim House, Yuen Long	Restoration of the roof, walls, doors, windows and balconies	December 2012	April 2013	1,000,000
Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun	Restoration of the roof	March 2012	October 2012	1,000,000
Hung Shing Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	Restoration of the roof and wall at the entrance hall and main hall	March 2013	July 2013	1,000,000

Name of Building	Scope of Work	Works Commencement Date	Works Completion Date	Approved Amount (\$)
Jamia Mosque, Sheung Wan, Phase II	Installation of new waterproofing system at the roof	March 2013	July 2013	950,000
Kau Yan Church, Sai Ying Pun, Phase II	Repair of the spalling concrete	July 2013	November 2013	1,000,000

There are 11 restoration and repair projects under FAS being carried out / anticipated to be carried out in 2014-15. The details are listed below:

Name of Building	Scope of Work	Works Status	Approved Amount (\$)
Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kowloon City	Restoration of the higher roof	In progress	958,000
Kowloon Union Church, Jordan	Upgrading of the storm water and waste water systems	In progress	1,000,000
Tin Hau Temple, Yuen Long, Phase II	Restoration of the eaves boards and granite plaque	In progress	980,000
No. 8 San Lau Street, Sha Tau Kok	Restoration of roof, structural repair to slab and beam	To be carried out	1,000,000
Tin Hau Temple, Lam Tsuen, Tai Po	Restoration of roof	To be carried out	1,000,000
Holy Spirit Seminary, Chapel	Install new waterproofing system at roof	To be carried out	999,960
Yuen Kwan Tai Temple, Mong Tseng Wai, Yuen Long	Restoration of roof of Main Hall and Incense Pavilion	To be carried out	1,000,000
Tin Hau Temple, Fung Chi Tsuen, Yuen Long	Restoration of roof of Gate House, Main Hall and Incense Pavilion	To be carried out	1,000,000

Name of Building	Scope of Work	Works Status	Approved Amount (\$)
First Church of Christ Scientist	Restoration of roof and drainage system of church building, cracks repair and repaint to the exterior and interior wall	To be carried out	1,000,000
Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre (Christ Temple), Shatin	Paint works to door, windows, timber structures, internal and external walls, cracks repair at exterior circular columns	To be carried out	921,200
Entrance gate of Mong Tseng Wai, Yuen Long	Restoration of roof, walls, floors and upgrading of electrical system	To be carried out	789,000

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)260****(Question Serial No. 6408)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Mrs. Betty FUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 323):

What is the expenditure incurred for each of the archaeological surveys and excavations conducted in the past three years (i.e. from 2011-12 to 2013-14) and expected to be conducted in the coming year (i.e. 2014-15)?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department conducts archaeological surveys and excavations necessitated by small-scale development projects such as small house development in the New Territories. The number of archaeological surveys and excavations carried out and the expenditure incurred in a particular year depend on the number of small-scale developments that necessitate such work.

The total expenditures incurred by AMO in conducting archaeological surveys and excavations in the past three years (2011-12 to 2013-14) are listed below:

Year	No. of archaeological surveys and excavations arising from small-scale development projects	Expenditure
2011-2012	11	\$882,068
2012-2013	12	\$880,790
2013-2014	8	\$750,000 (Estimated)

As the surveys and excavations are carried out with the support of service contractors engaged by AMO under several service contracts, LCSD is unable to provide a breakdown of the expenditure for the individual surveys/excavations. It is anticipated that 11 archaeological surveys and excavations necessitated by small-scale development projects

will be arranged in 2014-15 at an estimated expenditure of \$881,000.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)261

(Question Serial No. 5074)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (653) Restoration of historic buildings (block vote)
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Mrs. Betty FUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 142):

Under Subhead 653, the approved estimated expenditure for the restoration of historic buildings has decreased from \$13.1 million in 2013-14 to \$9.9 million in 2014-15. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) What are the major items included in the expenditure for 2013-14, and the principles and mechanisms underlying the selection of these items?
- 2) It is recommended in the Director of Audit's Report No. 60 that the unallocated Government graded buildings should be "properly maintained". Has the relevant expenditure been covered in the estimate? If not, under which Subhead is it listed?
- 3) Various District Councils have requested the departments concerned to strengthen the repair and maintenance works for Government graded buildings in their respective districts. How does the Administration ensure that these requests will be handled promptly and properly, lest the historic buildings would fall into disrepair and their significance be undermined?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

- 1) The provision of \$13.1 million under Subhead 653 in 2013-14 comprises two items:
 - (a) Repair and maintenance of monuments undertaken by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department - \$5.1 million; and
 - (b) Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme (FAS) for maintenance of privately-owned graded historic buildings - \$ 8.0 million.

When prioritising the repair and maintenance needs of monuments, AMO has adopted a pragmatic approach by firstly addressing the most urgent cases (e.g. defects which pose safety risks), followed by the less urgent ones. As the expenditure on FAS is subject to the number of applications received from the public, the nature and complexity of works involved, and the actual works carried out in a particular year, the

spending will fluctuate every year.

- 2) Maintenance of the graded historic buildings on unallocated government land is not covered by Subhead 653. The expenditure in this regard will be absorbed under the provision of the concerned departments.
- 3) Graded government historic buildings are under the management of the concerned departments. AMO will conduct inspections to each of the graded government historic buildings at least once every three years to ensure that they are properly maintained.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)262

(Question Serial No. 6325)

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

Question (Member Question No. 391):

1. What was the total expenditure on the formulation of the Total Water Management Strategy? Did the Government budget for policy reviews at that time? If yes, what were the expenditure budgeted and the review timetables drawn up then?
2. Since the promulgation of the Total Water Management Strategy in 2008, has the Government conducted any reviews and updates of the Strategy? What is the expenditure involved?
3. The Government originally planned to complete a review in 2013. What are the reasons for the extension of time in conducting the review? What is the additional expenditure incurred?
4. Will the Government conduct a review of the Total Water Management Strategy in the coming year? If yes, what are its content, scope, allocation of funding and timetable?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

1. The total expenditure for the consultancy study for formulation of the Total Water Management (TWM) Strategy promulgated in 2008 was \$7 million. It is a long term strategy and we did not fix a timetable for a comprehensive review of the strategy at the time of its promulgation.
2. Since the promulgation of TWM Strategy in 2008, we have been monitoring the implementation of the demand and supply management measures under the TWM Strategy and taking steps to enhance and strengthen the measures as necessary using in-house staff resources.
3. As mentioned in part 1 above, we did not fix a timetable for a comprehensive review of the TWM Strategy at the time of its promulgation. As the TWM Strategy has been implemented for five years, we consider now an appropriate time to conduct a

comprehensive review of it to take into account the results achieved and changes of circumstances occurred in the last five years. We have therefore commenced preparatory work for the review in late 2013 for commencement in 2014.

4. We will engage a consultant for conducting a comprehensive review of the TWM Strategy and have commenced the consultant selection process. One of the main objectives of the review is to study the strategy and measures including any new initiatives to strengthen our water resilience and preparedness to meet challenges such as severe droughts arising from climate changes. Different proportions of various water resources including water collected locally, Dongjiang water, reclaimed water, desalinated water etc. for meeting our demand will be studied in this review. The consultancy study will commence in 2014-15 for completion in 2016-17. The estimated expenditure of this study in 2014-15 is \$3 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)263

(Question Serial No. 6326)

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

Question (Member Question No. 392):

1. The Government has launched the “Let’s Save 10L Water” Campaign and “Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme” to promote public awareness of water conservation and facilitate users’ choice of water efficient devices. What are the respective expenditures on these two campaigns? Has the Government reviewed the effectiveness of the campaigns? What are the details?

2. Will the Government consider enacting legislation to make it compulsory to use water efficient devices and providing economic incentives for achieving water conservation? If yes, what are the work timetable and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

1. This year, the Water Supplies Department (WSD) launched the “Let’s Save 10L Water” Campaign (Campaign) on the World Water Day on 22 March 2014. The estimated expenditure of the Campaign is about \$4.7 million in 2014-15. We will review the effectiveness of the Campaign in early 2015.

In regard to the voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS), WSD has implemented the Scheme since 2009 to advise consumers of the water efficiency of common types of plumbing fixtures and water-consuming appliances in order to help them to choose water efficient products for water conservation. We have been conducting regular inspection visits to the retailers and meetings with the trade, and the feedback is positive. The estimated expenditure on the implementation of the WELS is about \$1.1 million in 2013-14 and about \$1.8 million in 2014-15.

2. We will review the need and if so, the suitable timing for mandating the WELS in the upcoming review of the Total Water Management Strategy for Hong Kong. Pending the outcome of the review, we will continue to encourage consumers to use these water efficient products through promotion, publicity and education.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)264

(Question Serial No. 6328)

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

Question (Member Question No. 393):

Regarding the studies on the use of reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable purposes in Sheung Shui, Fanling and the Northeast New Territories Development Areas, what are the progresses of the studies? What specific measures have been taken at the present stage to accelerate the drive? What is the expenditure on the studies? What is the provision required?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

For supplying reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable purposes to the north-eastern part of the New Territories, we will engage consultants to carry out detailed technical and financial studies. We have commenced the consultant selection process. The studies will commence in late 2014 for completion by 2017. We will closely monitor the progress and resolve issues via inter-departmental steering and working groups to facilitate the early completion of the studies. The estimated total consultancy fee of the studies is \$8 million, while the estimated expenditure in 2014-15 is \$0.5 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)265****(Question Serial No. 6331)**

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 396):

Please advise on the numbers of water main burst and leakage cases in the past 2 years (2012 and 2013) by district in accordance with the demarcation of District Councils, the estimated total quantities of fresh water lost due to such incidents, and the expenditures on urgent repairs of these water mains.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The numbers of water main burst and leakage cases in Hong Kong in 2012 and 2013 broken down in accordance with the demarcation of District Councils are tabulated below –

District	2012		2013	
	Burst	Leakage	Burst	Leakage
Central and Western	5	719	7	696
Eastern	8	458	10	513
Islands	1	366	0	329
Kowloon City	27	665	29	585
Kwai Tsing	47	370	46	403
Kwun Tong	14	653	11	584
North	1	1 080	1	920
Sai Kung	10	1 026	28	875
Sha Tin	28	486	16	454
Sham Shui Po	31	349	19	353
Southern	3	455	0	444
Tai Po	14	450	25	528
Tsuen Wan	4	410	4	387

District	2012		2013	
	Burst	Leakage	Burst	Leakage
Tuen Mun	10	726	3	603
Wan Chai	4	647	10	648
Wong Tai Sin	8	194	5	193
Yau Tsim Mong	22	560	19	522
Yuen Long	22	2 061	24	1 991
Total	259	11 675	257	11 028

In 2012, the leakage rate of fresh water mains was 18% and the water drained away due to main bursts was less than 0.01% of the total water supplied. In 2013, the leakage rate of fresh water mains was 17% and the water drained away due to main bursts was less than 0.02% of the total water supplied. The expenditures on urgent repairs of the above-mentioned water main burst and leakage cases in 2012 and 2013 were about \$136 million and \$132 million respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)266

(Question Serial No. 4319)

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

Question (Member Question No. 60):

According to Programme (3), the Administration will continue to conduct the annual review of water tariffs and other waterworks fees and charges, and monitor closely the level of arrears of water charges. Will the Government advise on the following:

1. What are the details on the review of water charges this year? Will there be any increase in water charges in the coming year? If yes, what are the rates of increase in water charges? Did the Government provide the public with any subsidies for water charges in the past 3 years? If yes, what were the details and the annual amounts of subsidies? If no, what were the reasons?
2. What were the respective amounts of water charges arrears in the past 3 years? What was the amount of water charges arrears successfully recovered? How many people were prosecuted for water charges arrears?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

1. We aim at completing a review on water charges this year. The review will cover domestic and non-domestic accounts. We will take into consideration in the review a number of factors including affordability, the financial performance of waterworks operation, the prevailing economic situation and views of the Legislative Council members. The rates of adjustment, if proposed, are subject to the result of the review.

Water charges have not been revised for 19 years. The Waterworks Operating Accounts have been in deficit for many years. The deficit represents the excess of the total operating costs over the total income, which includes two notional items, i.e. contribution from rates and contribution from government on free allowance to consumers. The amounts of deficit in the past three years are as follows:

	Deficit (\$ million)
2010-11	955.3
2011-12	1,025.3
2012-13	1,007.7

2. The arrears of water charges and the amount recovered from 2011-12 to 2013-14 are as follows-

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14*
Arrears of water charges at year/period end (\$ million)	8.7	8.0	7.2
Amount recovered (\$ million)	3.9	3.1	3.0

Note: * up to 31 January 2014

Under section 21 of the Waterworks Ordinance (Cap. 102), a charge which is not paid shall be a debt due to the Government. We take civil proceedings instead of prosecution against arrears cases.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)267****(Question Serial No. 6637)**

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 327):

Please provide the lengths of existing underground water mains with different service lives in various districts of Hong Kong using the table below.

	0-10 yrs	11-20 yrs	21-30 yrs	31-40 yrs	Above 40 yrs
Central & Western					
Wan Chai					
Eastern					
Southern					
Yau Tsim Mong					
Sham Shui Po					
Kowloon City					
Kwun Tong					
Wong Tai Sin					
Sai Kung					
Sha Tin					
Tai Po					
North					
Tuen Mun					
Yuen Long					
Tsuen Wan					
Kwai Tsing					
Islands					

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

The lengths in kilometres (km) of existing public water mains with different service lives in different districts of Hong Kong are listed below:

District	0-10 yrs	11-20 yrs	21-30 yrs	>30 yrs	Total
Central & Western	141	63	23	152	379
Wan Chai	52	36	41	120	249
Eastern	54	57	70	111	292
Southern	93	85	47	105	330
Yau Tsim Mong	145	52	23	118	338
Sham Shui Po	113	71	20	95	299
Kowloon City	155	55	26	153	389
Kwun Tong	142	57	64	100	363
Wong Tai Sin	85	25	26	52	188
Sai Kung	130	169	114	83	496
Sha Tin	225	156	93	82	556
Tai Po	196	190	100	55	541
North	230	213	114	98	655
Tuen Mun	100	186	120	105	511
Yuen Long	417	277	189	167	1 050
Tsuen Wan	127	142	60	63	392
Kwai Tsing	95	88	57	117	357
Islands	138	116	49	86	389
Total (km)	2 638	2 038	1 236	1 862	7 774

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)268

(Question Serial No. 5877)

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department
Subhead (No. & title): (223) Purchase of water
Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution
Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 60):

The Department's estimated expenditure for purchasing fresh water from Guangdong Province in 2014-15 under Subhead 223 has increased by \$176.76 million when compared with the revised estimate for 2013-14. What are the reasons? Has the Government studied ways to control the rate of increase in the aforesaid expenditure? If yes, what are the expenditure involved and the direction of the study? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

The current Dongjiang (DJ) water supply agreement covers the period up to end 2014. Under the current agreement, the water prices for 2012, 2013 and 2014 are \$3,538.7 million, \$3,743.3 million and \$3,959.34 million respectively. We have assumed the DJ water price level for the first three months in 2015 to be the same as that in 2014. As such, the draft estimate for purchasing DJ water 2014-15 is \$3,959.3 million, which is more than the estimate of \$3,782.6 million for 2013-14 by \$176.7 million.

The price of DJ water after 2014 is subject to negotiation with the Guangdong (GD) authorities. In considering the adjustment of the DJ water price, it will be based on the operation costs having regard to the yearly changes in relevant price indices in GD and Hong Kong as well as the exchange rate between Renminbi and Hong Kong dollar.

Since the promulgation of Total Water Management (TWM) Strategy in 2008, we have been carrying out various studies and implementing water demand and supply management measures to cope with, among others, the increase in water demand due to population and economic growth. One of the aims of such measures is to reduce the rate of increase in fresh water demand which will, in turn, have a positive effect in reducing the rate of increase in expenditure on purchasing DJ water.

In 2014-15, we will engage a consultant for conducting a comprehensive review of the TWM Strategy. One of the main objectives of the review is to study the strategy and measures including any new initiatives to strengthen our water resilience and preparedness to meet challenges such as severe droughts arising from climate changes. Different

proportions of various water resources including water collected locally, DJ water, reclaimed water, desalinated water etc. for meeting our demand will be studied in this review. The total estimated expenditure of the consultancy study for the review is about \$16 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)269

(Question Serial No. 5640)

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

Question (Member Question No. 53):

According to Paragraph 53 of the Budget Speech, “70 to 80 per cent of Hong Kong’s fresh water comes from Dongjiang. Given the rising demand for fresh water in Guangdong Province and the challenge due to climate change, we shall endeavor to increase the supply of fresh water from local sources. Government has reserved a site for the construction of a desalination plant, and the planning and investigation study will largely be completed early next year. The desalination plant is expected to commence operation in 2020. Although the initial annual output of the plant will account for just five to ten per cent of Hong Kong’s total fresh water consumption, I believe seawater desalination can serve as an important water source for Hong Kong in the long run as technology advances”. Could the Administration advise this Committee on the details of the aforesaid construction project of the desalination plant, the estimated construction costs and subsequent operational expenses, and the estimated cost comparison among seawater desalination, Dongjiang water and locally collected rainwater when the desalination plant commences operation?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The Water Supplies Department (WSD) has engaged a consultant to carry out a planning and investigation study for the setting up of a seawater desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O. The scope of the study covers detailed assessment on cost effectiveness, formulation of implementation strategy and programme, and various technical impact assessments for construction of desalination plant. The study will largely be completed in early 2015. The desalination plant is expected to commence operation in 2020. The fresh water production capacity of the desalination plant is around 50 million cubic metre (mcm) per annum, and expandable to 90 mcm per annum.

The construction and operation cost of the desalination plant will be estimated in the study. While the ongoing study has yet to arrive at an estimate of the production cost of fresh water by desalination, the unit cost of fresh water produced from desalination has previously been broadly estimated to be around \$12 per cubic metre at 2012-13 price level, The unit cost of

fresh water produced from locally collected fresh water and Dongjiang water are estimated to be \$4.2 and \$8.8 respectively at 2013-14 price level.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)270****(Question Serial No. 6341)**

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title): (223) Purchase of water

Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 90):

What were the specific expenditures on purchasing Dongjiang water and the specific quantities of Dongjiang water purchased in the past 5 years? What were the specific expenditures on treating Dongjiang water in the past 5 years? What were the quantities and values of Dongjiang water discharged into the sea without being used in the past 5 years? What are the estimated expenditure on purchasing Dongjiang water and the estimated quantity of Dongjiang water purchased in 2014-2015? What is the estimated expenditure on treating Dongjiang water?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

For the past five years, we have purchased 820 million cubic metres of Dongjiang (DJ) water each year and their annual expenditures are shown in the following table.

Year	Expenditure on purchasing DJ water (\$ million)
2009	2,959.0
2010	3,146.0
2011	3,344.0
2012	3,538.7
2013	3,743.3

During the last five years, there was neither overflow nor discharge of DJ water into the sea.

The current DJ water supply agreement covers the period up to end 2014. We have started the negotiation with the Guangdong authorities on the DJ water supply agreement beyond 2014. As the DJ water price in 2015 is not yet available, we have assumed the DJ water price for the first three months in 2015 to be the same as that in 2014. As such, the provision on purchasing DJ water as shown in the draft estimate in 2014-15 is \$3,959.34 million.

As DJ water is treated together with the locally collected fresh water, the expenditures solely on treating DJ water in the past five years and that for 2014-15 are not available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)271

(Question Serial No. 5499)

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

Question (Member Question No. 57):

The Financial Secretary stated that the Government has reserved a site for the construction of a desalination plant and the planning and investigation study will be completed early next year. The desalination plant is expected to commence operation in 2020. In this regard, will the Administration advise :

(a) given the report that anticipated unit cost for seawater desalination is \$12 per cubic metre, which is \$4 higher than the cost for Dongjiang water supply, whether it had assessed the cost-effectiveness of seawater desalination in Hong Kong, the impact to water tariff and proportion of fresh water coming from Dongjiang when the desalination plant comes in operation; and

(b) plan of enlarging annual output of the plant, given that seawater desalination can serve as an important water source in the long run as stated by the Financial Secretary in his Budget Speech; and the resources expected to be spent on related technology advancement in next ten years.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

(a) The Water Supplies Department has engaged a consultant to carry out a planning and investigation study for the setting up of a seawater desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O. The scope of the study covers, amongst others, detailed assessment on cost effectiveness for construction of the desalination plant. The study will be completed by early next year. As the study has not yet been completed, it is premature to estimate at this stage the impact of the desalination plant on the water production cost. In the review of water charges, in addition to the water production cost, we will consider a number of factors including affordability, the financial performance of waterworks operation, the prevailing economic situation, and views of the Legislative Council members. The fresh water production capacity of the desalination plant will be around 50 million cubic metre (mcm) per annum which is about 5% of Hong Kong's total fresh water consumption. Dongjiang water will however still remain as our major source of water in the coming years.

(b) As stated above, the fresh water production capacity of the desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O will be around 50 mcm per annum during the initial commissioning in around 2020. The plant is expandable to 90 mcm per annum. We will continue to keep abreast of the technology advancement in the desalination industry with a view to benefitting most from such advancement.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)272

(Question Serial No. 5885)

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

Question (Member Question No. 80):

According to Programme (1), the Administration will carry out investigation and studies on the use of reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable purposes in the north-eastern part of the New Territories including Sheung Shui and Fanling next year. Will the Government advise on the following:

1. What are the commencement and completion dates of the above investigation and studies? What are the details of the investigation and studies, and the manpower and expenditure involved?
2. Will the Administration extend the investigation and studies to other districts? If yes, what are the details, and the expenditure and manpower involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

1. For supplying reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable purposes to the north-eastern part of the New Territories, we will engage consultants to carry out technical and financial studies. The studies will commence in late 2014 for completion by 2017. The estimated total cost of the study is \$8 million while the estimated expenditure for the studies in 2014-15 is \$0.5 million and 0.7 in-house professional staff is assigned to oversee the studies.
2. Reclaimed water is generally used for non-potable applications such as toilet flushing and irrigation. Currently, non-potable water demand in Hong Kong mainly comes from toilet flushing. However, using seawater for toilet flushing is more cost-effective than other water resources (e.g. reclaimed water) in most areas in Hong Kong. Nevertheless, we will continue to explore the opportunities and feasibility of cost effective use of reclaimed water for non-potable uses in other districts which are outside seawater supply zones using in-house resources.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)273

(Question Serial No. 4737)

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 142):

On engagement of “agency workers”, please provide the following information:

	2013-14 (the latest position)
Number of contracts with employment agencies	()
Contract sum paid to each employment agency	()
Duration of service for each employment agency	()
Number of agency workers	()
Details of the positions held by agency workers	
Monthly salary range of agency workers	
• \$30,001 or above	()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	()
• less than \$6,240	()
Length of service of agency workers	
• 15 years or above	()
• 10 - 15 years	()
• 5 - 10 years	()
• 3 - 5 years	()
• 1 - 3 years	()
• less than 1 year	()
Percentage of agency workers against the total staff in the department	()
Percentage of expenditure for employment agencies against the total staff costs in the department	()
Number of workers who received severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity	()
Amount of severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity paid	()

	2013-14 (the latest position)
Number of workers with severance payment/long service payment/ contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/ contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Number of workers with paid meal break	()
Number of workers without paid meal break	()
Number of workers working 5 days per week	()
Number of workers working 6 days per week	()

Percentages in () denote comparison with 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information in respect of engagement of agency workers is appended below. This information excludes services provided under term contracts centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

(a) The number of contracts with employment agencies (EAs)

2013-14 (as at 30.9.2013)
9 (+12.5%)

(b) Contract sums and duration of services

Contract sum	2013-14 (as at 30.9.2013)
	Number of contracts
Less than \$0.5 million	1 (0%)
\$0.5 million to \$1 million	1 (0%)
Over \$1 million	7 (+16.7%)
Total:	9 (+12.5%)

Duration of services	2013-14 (as at 30.9.2013)
	Number of contracts
6 months or less	1 (-)
Over 6 months to 1 year	8 (0%)
Over 1 year to 2 years	0 (-)
Over 2 years	0 (-)
Total:	9 (+12.5%)

(c) Number of workers against their job categories

	2013-14 (as at 30.9.2013)
Number of workers	74 (+7.2%)

Job categories of workers	2013-14 (as at 30.9.2013)
	Number of workers
Backend office support	2 (0%)
Technical services	72 (+7.5%)
Total:	74 (+7.2%)

(d) Monthly salary range of agency workers

With the implementation of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) since 1 May 2011, bidders are required to pay their agency workers salaries not lower than the average monthly wages for “General Worker for all selected industries” in the Quarterly Report for December 2010, unless it is overtaken by the prevailing SMW plus one paid rest day in every period of seven days. As at 30 September 2013, the minimum monthly wage specified in the contracts was \$8,031.

(e) Length of service of agency workers

The mode of using agency workers is that government departments and an EA enter into a service contract under which the agency will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government departments (in terms of the number of agency workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from agency workers) are satisfied, the EA may arrange any of their employees to work in the departments or arrange replacement agency workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of agency workers who are employees of the EAs and are at the disposal of the latter.

(f) Percentage of workers against the total number of staff in the Department

2013-14 (as at 30.9.2013)
1.4%

(g) Percentage of expenditure for EAs against the total staff costs in the Department

2013-14 (up to 30.9.2013)
0.9%

(h) Severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity paid to agency worker by employment agency

The department entered into contracts with the EAs for provision of services as required by the department during the contract period. The contractual relationship of the agency workers is with the EAs which have to fulfil the obligations of employers under the relevant laws including the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57) and Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance (Cap. 485). We do not have information on the severance payment/ long service payment/ contract gratuity paid by the EAs to their workers.

(i) Meal break for workers

The agency workers are employed by the EAs, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(j) Number of workers against working days ^{Note}

Working days	2013-14 (as at 30.9.2013)
	Number of workers
5 working days per week	65 (+10.2%)
6 working days per week	0 (-)
Total:	65 (+10.2%)

Note: For full-time workers only.

Percentages in () denote comparison with 2012-13, except where the relevant figure in 2012-13 is zero.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)274

(Question Serial No. 4738)

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question(Member Question No. 143):

On engagement of “outsourced workers”, please provide the following information:

	2013-14 (the latest position)
Number of outsourced service contracts	()
Total expenditure for outsourced service providers	()
Duration of service for each outsourced service provider	()
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	()
Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology)	
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers	
• \$30,001 or above	()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	()
• less than 6,240	()
Length of service of outsourced workers	
• 15 years or above	()
• 10 - 15 years	()
• 5 - 10 years	()
• 3 - 5 years	()
• 1 - 3 years	()
• less than 1 year	()
Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the department	()
Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the department	()
Number of workers who received severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity	()
Amount of severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity paid	()

	2013-14 (the latest position)
Number of workers with severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Amount of severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Number of workers with paid meal break	()
Number of workers without paid meal break	()
Number of workers working 5 days per week	()
Number of workers working 6 days per week	()

Percentages in () denote comparison with 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The Water Supplies Department uses a wide range of outsourced services, such as cleansing and security, information technology support, etc. The requested information is provided below.

(a) Number of outsourced service contracts

2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
38 (+11.8%)

(b) Total expenditure for outsourced service providers

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013) (\$M)
49.6 (-4.8%)

(c) Duration of outsourced service contracts

Duration of service	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
	Number of contracts
6 months or less	0 (-)
Over 6 months to 1 year	21 (+23.5%)
Over 1 year to 2 years	13 (0%)
Over 2 years	4 (0%)
Total:	38 (+11.8%)

(d) Total number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers ^{Note}

2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
283 (+9.7%)

Note : Only those contracts with specified number of staff to be provided are counted.

(e) Number of outsourced workers against their work nature

Nature of service contracts	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
	Number of workers
Security	103 (0%)
Cleansing	53 (+1.9%)
Information Technology	16 (+6.7%)
Drivers	103 (+28.8%)
Logistics (Store support)	8 (0%)
Total:	283 (+9.7%)

(f) Salaries of outsourced workers

After the implementation of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) on 1 May 2011, for service contracts on security and cleansing, contractors are required to pay their workers wages not lower than the prevailing SMW.

For other service contracts, we specify and require only the service to be provided. We do not have information about the salaries of the workers employed by the contractors.

(g) Length of service of outsourced workers

The mode of using outsourced workers is that government departments and the contractor enter into a service contract under which the contractor will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government departments (in terms of the number of outsourced workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from outsourced workers) are satisfied, the contractor may arrange any of their employees to work in the departments or arrange replacement outsourced workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the years of service of outsourced workers who are employees of the contractors and are at the disposal of the latter.

(h) Percentage of outsourced workers against the total staff in the Department

2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
6.4%

(i) **Percentage of expenditure for outsourced service providers against the total staff costs in the Department**

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013)
4.3%

(j) **Severance payment / long-service payment / contract gratuity paid to outsourced workers**

The department entered into contracts with the outsourced contractors for provision of services as required by the department during the contract period. The contractual relationship of the outsourced workers is with the outsourced contractors which have to fulfil the obligations of employers under the relevant laws including the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57) and Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance (Cap. 485). We do not have information on the severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity paid by the contractors to their workers.

(k) **Meal break for outsourced workers**

The outsourced workers are employed by the outsourced contractors, and whether the meal break is paid or not is governed by the employment contract between the two parties. We do not have information on this matter.

(l) **Number of outsourced workers against working days**

Working days	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
	Number of workers
5 working days per week	155 (+18.3%)
6 working days per week	128 (+0.8%)
Total:	283 (+9.7%)

Percentages in () denote comparison with 2012-13 except where the relevant figure in 2012-13 is zero.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)275****(Question Serial No. 4739)**

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question(Member Question No. 144):

Regarding the employment of “non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff”, please provide the following information:

	2013-14 (the latest position)
Number of NCSC staff	()
Details of the positions held by NCSC staff	
Total expenditure on salaries for NCSC staff	()
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff	
• \$30,001 or above	()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	()
• less than 6,240	()
Length of service of NCSC staff	
• 15 years or above	()
• 10 - 15 years	()
• 5 - 10 years	()
• 3 - 5 years	()
• 1 - 3 years	()
• less than 1 year	()
Number of NCSC staff successfully appointed as civil servants	()
Percentage of NCSC staff against the total staff in the department	()
Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the department	()
Number of NCSC staff who received severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity	()
Amount of severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity paid	()
Number of NCSC staff with severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contribution to MPF	()

	2013-14 (the latest position)
Amount of severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Number of NCSC staff with paid meal break	()
Number of NCSC staff without paid meal break	()
Number of NCSC staff working 5 days per week	()
Number of NCSC staff working 6 days per week	()

Percentages in () denote comparison with 2012-13

Asked by: Hon.WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Information on the employment of full-time non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff is provided below.

(a) Number of NCSC staff against their job nature

Job nature	2013 – 14 (as at 31.12.2013)
	Number of NCSC staff
Professional	10 (+66.7%)
Technical & inspectorate	27 (+35%)
General administration	87 (-5.4%)
Total:	124 (+5.1%)

(b) Total expenditure on salary of NCSC staff

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013) (\$M)
23.4 (+10.9%)

(c) Number of NCSC staff against their salaries and length of service

Monthly salary	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
	Number of NCSC staff
\$30,001 or above	22 (+37.5%)
\$16,001 to \$30,000	39 (+30%)
\$8,001 to \$16,000	63 (-12.5%)
\$6,501 to \$8,000	0 (-)
\$6,240 to \$6,500	0 (-)
Less than \$6,240	0 (-)
Total:	124 (+5.1%)

Length of services	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
	Number of NCSC staff
15 years or above	0 (-)
10 years to less than 15 years	25 (-7.4%)
5 years to less than 10 years	13 (-18.8%)
3 years to less than 5 years	9 (-18.2%)
1 year to less than 3 years	40 (-20%)
Less than 1 year	37 (+164.3%)
Total:	124 (+5.1%)

(d) Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servant ^(Note1)

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013)
3 (-78.6%)

Note 1: Including information on appointment of NCSC staff as civil servant within Water Supplies Department (WSD) only. The said NCSC staff have joined the civil service through an open, fair and competitive process.

(e) Percentage of NCSC staff against the total number of staff in the Department

2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
2.7 %

(f) Percentage of staff costs for NCSC staff against the total staff costs in the Department

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013)
2.0%

(g) Number of NCSC staff who received severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013)
104(+7.2%)

(h) Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity paid

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013) (\$M)
\$2.2(+46.7%)

- (i) **Number of NCSC staff with severance payment / long service payment / contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF** ^(Note2)

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013)
0

- (j) **Amount of severance payment/ long service payment / contract gratuity offset by the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF** ^(Note2)

2013-14 (up to 31.12.2013) (\$M)
0

Note2: According to the Civil Service Bureau's guidelines on employment of NCSC staff, the contract gratuity for NCSC staff, plus the government's MPF contributions in respect of the NCSC staff, should not be more than 10% (for non-skilled jobs) or 15% (for skilled jobs) of the total basic salary drawn during the contract period. The government will not make reference to accrued benefits in calculating contract gratuity for NCSC staff.

- (k) **Number of NCSC staff against meal break**

Meal break	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
	Number of NCSC staff
Paid meal break	101 (-1%)
Unpaid meal break	23 (+43.8%)
Total:	124 (+5.1%)

- (l) **Number of NCSC staff against working days per week** ^(Note3)

Working days	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
	Number of NCSC staff
5 working days per week ^(Note3)	124 (+5.1%)
6 working days per week	0 (-)
Total:	124 (+5.1%)

Note3: Including staff who are rostered to work shift for 5 days or less in a week.

Percentages in () denote comparison with 2012-13 except where the relevant figure in 2012-13 is zero.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)276

(Question Serial No. 5297)

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 73):

What is the 2014-15 estimate for the Water Supplies Department's duty visits or exchange activities in the Mainland? Please provide information on the themes of the duty visits or exchange activities in the Mainland planned for 2014-15. How will the Administration prevent activities irrelevant to official duties from taking place during duty visits outside Hong Kong? And how will the Administration prevent applications for revising visit destinations from becoming a mere formality?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

In 2014-15, when there are operational needs, officers of the Water Supplies Department will conduct duty visits to the Mainland, such as organising the annual visit to the Dongjiang for the Advisory Committee on Water Resources and Quality of Water Supplies. The estimated expenditure for this visit is \$25,000. We do not have any plan for other exchange activities in the Mainland in 2014-15.

Duty visits, if publicly funded, are subject to control under the relevant regulations and guidelines to ensure effective monitoring and proper use of public funds. There is control on aspects, such as duty visits should only be conducted when there are strong operational reasons; all duty visits should obtain prior approval formally and should avoid non-official activities; the officers concerned should provide all necessary information in respect of the proposed visit as far as possible when submitting the application; if there are any subsequent changes to the arrangements, the officers concerned should inform the approving officers as soon as possible who should then assess whether re-consideration of the applications is needed.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5022)

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

Question (Member Question No. 80):

Regarding “continue to take forward the implementation of the total water management strategy”, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. What are the works involved in the coming year? What is the estimated expenditure on each work item?
2. For the introduction of grey water and rainwater reuse in public works projects, what is the current total number of public works projects employing the technologies of grey water and rainwater reuse? Please provide information about the projects, including the works departments implementing the projects, and the names and implementation timetables of the projects. Among the public works projects planned / under construction at present, how many of them have employed the relevant technologies? What are the details?
3. How many private development projects have adopted the technologies of grey water and rainwater reuse at present? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

1. To take forward the Total Water Management (TWM) strategy, the measures in respect of water demand management and water supply management to be implemented in 2014-15 and the respective estimated expenditures involved are as follows :

	Estimated expenditure in 2014-15 (\$ million)
Water Demand Management measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water mains replacement and rehabilitation - Public education and promotion on water conservation - Retrofitting government buildings and schools with water saving devices including flow controllers - Leakage detection and pressure management - Extension of the salt water flushing supply system 	2,634
Water Supply Management measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing the study on setting up of a seawater desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O - Carrying out studies on supplying reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable purposes to the north-eastern part of the New Territories 	16

2. So far, the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) and the Drainage Services Department (DSD) have installed rainwater harvesting and recycling systems for schools and government facilities in 50 projects. The ArchSD has also installed grey water recycling systems for government facilities in 2 projects.

In addition, the two departments are installing rainwater harvesting and recycling systems in 24 other projects.

3. Installation of rainwater harvesting and recycling system or grey water recycling system in the private sector is on a voluntary basis. We do not have the list of private projects adopting such technologies.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)278

(Question Serial No. 5052)

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

Question (Member Question No. 107):

Regarding treated sewage (reclaimed water) for reuse, please advise this Committee on:

- 1) The annual expenditures involved in the study of reclaimed water in the past 3 years; and
- 2) Whether the Administration has planned to promote the use of reclaimed water in the expanding / newly constructed sewage treatment works in the next 12 months apart from Ngong Ping Sewage Treatment Works, and if yes, what the details are.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

- 1) In the past three years, we have carried out two studies on establishing water quality standard and guidelines on the use of reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable purposes. The expenditures on these studies in 2011-12 and 2012-13 are \$1.11 million and \$0.42 million respectively. For 2013-14, the estimated expenditures is \$0.02 million.
- 2) In the next 12 months, we will focus on the plan of producing reclaimed water at the Shek Wu Hui Sewage Treatment Works for toilet flushing and other non-potable uses in the north-eastern part of the New Territories. We will engage consultants to carry out detailed technical and financial studies for commencement in late 2014 and completion by 2017. The estimated consultancy fee of the studies is \$8 million, while the estimated expenditure in 2014-15 is \$0.5 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)279****(Question Serial No. 5111)**

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 180):

Regarding the fresh water supply, please advise this Committee on:

- 1) The proportion of the sources of fresh water supply in Hong Kong (i.e. locally collected rainwater against Dongjiang water purchased) in 2013-14, and the cost comparison among the latest locally collected rainwater, Dongjiang water purchased from the Mainland and the production of reclaimed water using reverse osmosis technology;
- 2) The total quantity of the discharge of water to the sea resulting from overflow from reservoirs in 2013-14, and the proportion of the overflow quantity to fresh water supply in Hong Kong for the year (please provide a breakdown by reservoir); and
- 3) Whether the Administration has conducted other projects, apart from the desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O, to explore local water sources in order to avoid wastage of fresh water resources and provide a steadier supply of water, and if yes, what the details of the measures are.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

- 1) The quantities of fresh water supply from water collected locally and Dongjiang (DJ) water in 2013-14 (up to end February 2014) are as follows:

	2013-14 (up to end Feb 2014)	
	Quantity (million cubic metre)	Percentage (%)
Water collected locally	333	38.8
Dongjiang water imported ¹	526	61.2

Total quantity of fresh water supply	859	100
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Note 1 : Since 2006, we have adopted the package deal lump sum approach for the DJ water supply agreement in which we can import DJ water with an annual ceiling of 820 million cubic metres.

The production costs per cubic metre of fresh water supply from water collected locally and DJ water are estimated to be \$4.2 and \$8.8 respectively at 2013-14 price level. At the moment, we have no plan to produce reclaimed water using reverse osmosis technology. We therefore do not have the estimated cost for production of reclaimed water using the technology.

- 2) The overflow quantities from reservoirs in 2013-14 (up to end February 2014) are as follows:

Reservoir*	Overflow Quantity (million cubic metres) in 2013-14 (up to end Feb 2014)
Aberdeen	3.3
Kowloon	5.2
Shek Pik	15.7
Tai Tam	15.4
Tai Lam Chung	0.6
Total	40.2

- * We have not measured the overflow at Pok Fu Lam Reservoir due to its very small capacity (only contributing 0.03% of the total reservoir capacity in Hong Kong).

Overflow from small reservoirs during very heavy rainfall is an operational constraint. We have explored various ways to reduce reservoir overflows. Since 2006, we have adopted a flexible supply arrangement under the DJ water supply agreement with provision for adjusting the daily supply rate according to our need to facilitate better control on the storage level of our large reservoirs in which DJ water is stored. Overflow since then has been greatly reduced as compared to the period before 2006. The total overflow quantity of 40.2 million cubic metres in 2013-14 was about 4.7% of total water supply (up to end February 2014). The rainfall in 2013 of 2 847mm was 18.7% above the mean yearly rainfall recorded in the Hong Kong Observatory between 1981 and 2010 thus resulting in higher overflow in that year.

- 3) Apart from seawater desalination project, we have been implementing a number of measures to optimise the utilisation of local water resources and to enhance our water security. The measures include extending the seawater supply for flushing to Pokfulam, Yuen Long, Tin Shui Wai, and Tung Chung areas, studying the feasibility of supplying reclaimed water to the north-eastern part of the New Territories including Sheung Shui

and Fanling for flushing and non-potable use, and exploring the effective use of grey water recycling and rainwater harvesting in new government developments.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)280

(Question Serial No. 5112)

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

Question (Member Question No. 181):

Regarding the use of rainwater collected locally in reservoirs and Dongjiang water as sources of fresh water supply, please advise this Committee whether the Administration has carried out any studies on the effect of raising the proportion of local water sources used (e.g. from 10-20% at present to 30%) on the reliability of fresh water supply; and if yes, the details of the studies and the expenditure involved, and if no, whether any studies will be carried out in 2014-15.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

We promulgated the Total Water Management (TWM) Strategy in 2008 with an aim to, amongst others, upholding the reliability of water supply in a sustainable manner. We will conduct a comprehensive review on the TWM Strategy and have commenced the consultant selection process for the review. One of the main objectives of the review is to study the strategy and measures including any new initiatives to strengthen our water resilience and preparedness to meet challenges such as severe droughts arising from climate changes. Different proportions of various water resources including water collected locally, Dongjiang water, reclaimed water, desalinated water etc. for meeting our demand will be studied in this review. The consultancy study will commence in 2014-15 for completion in 2016-17. The estimated expenditure of this study in 2014-15 is \$3 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)281****(Question Serial No. 5113)**

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (Enoch T.S. LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 182):

Regarding the maintenance of water mains and the replacement and rehabilitation programme of water mains (the programme), please advise this Committee on:

- 1) The number of water main burst incidents in 2013-14 with a breakdown by the 18 districts in Hong Kong;
- 2) Among the above incidents, the number of cases involving water mains which were completed under the programme and the number of such water mains which have been involved in one or more than one incident, together with the relevant information including the dates and locations of occurrence; and
- 3) The expected date of full completion of the programme, and the respective manpower and expenditures involved in the programme in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

- 1) The numbers of water main burst cases in Hong Kong in 2013-14 (up to February 2014) broken down by 18 districts are tabulated below -

District	Numbers of water main burst cases in 2013-14 (up to February 2014)
Central and Western	4
Eastern	10
Islands	0
Kowloon City	26
Kwai Tsing	39
Kwun Tong	9
North	3

Sai Kung	23
Sha Tin	15
Sham Shui Po	19
Southern	1
Tai Po	26
Tsuen Wan	3
Tuen Mun	2
Wan Chai	6
Wong Tai Sin	6
Yau Tsim Mong	17
Yuen Long	20
Total	229

- 2) Of the above water main burst cases, there were no cases of recurrence of water main burst since repairs. Two cases (less than 1%) involved water mains which were replaced under the water mains replacement and rehabilitation (R&R) programme. Both water main burst cases were isolated cases caused by latent defects of the pipes. The dates and locations of the two water main burst cases are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
11 June 2013	Back lane of Cheung Sha Wan Road, Sham Shui Po
28 February 2014	Back lane of Shung Ling Street, Wong Tai Sin

- 3) The current R&R programme is planned to be completed by December 2015. The estimated expenditure of the R&R programme in 2013-14 and 2014-15 is \$2,690 million and \$2,409 million respectively of which \$380 million and \$340 million are for the employment of resident site staff for supervision of the construction works.