

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB240****(Question Serial No. 2380)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

As stated in the Programme, there will be an increase of 145 non-directorate posts in the Fire Services Department from the estimated 10 245 posts as at 31 March 2015 to 10 390 posts as at 31 March 2016. What are the types and nature of work of these new posts? Besides, the number of directorate posts in the FSD will increase from 18 to 19 as at 31 March 2016. Would the Government inform this Committee of the types, salaries, allowances and nature of work of the 19 directorate posts as well as the 10 390 permanent non-directorate posts, together with a breakdown of the number of such posts?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 36)Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) will have an increase of 145 non-directorate posts in 2015-16. Details are as follows:

Rank	Number	Job Nature
Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	4	To form a special team to cope with the service demand arising from the construction of Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link
Principal Fireman	4	
Senior Fireman	4	
Fireman	7	
Fireman	75	To receive training starting from 2015-16 for deployment to the new fire station at Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Boundary Crossing Facilities upon its commissioning
Fireman	7	To provide additional manpower for Tuen Mun Fire Station to cope with the increasing service demand
Senior Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer	1	To enhance and support the fire and ambulance services training
Personal Secretary II	1	

Rank	Number	Job Nature
Ambulance Officer	6	To provide additional manpower for manning Rapid Response Vehicles to provide round-the-clock clinical support and quality assurance service
Senior Ambulanceman Ambulanceman	8 16	To operate additional ambulance shifts to cope with the increasing demand for emergency ambulance service
Principal Technical Officer Building Services Engineer	1 1	To handle the fire safety certification work related to the Three-Runway System Project of the airport
Executive Officer II	3	To provide executive support for each of the operational Fire Commands
Supplies Supervisor I	1	To strengthen the procurement and logistic support for the Department
Artisan	6	To provide maintenance and repair services for fire appliances and equipment
Total:	145	

The 19 directorate posts of the FSD (including a Deputy Chief Fire Officer post proposed to be created) in 2015-16 are as follows:

Rank	Number	Job Nature
Director	1	To head the FSD
Deputy Director	1	
Chief Fire Officer/Chief Ambulance Officer	7	To respectively oversee 7 Commands (namely 3 operational Fire Commands, Licensing and Certification Command, Fire Safety Command, Ambulance Command, and Headquarters Command) and the Administration Division
Deputy Chief Fire Officer/Deputy Chief Ambulance Officer	9	
Principal Executive Officer	1	
Total:	19	

The relevant estimated expenditure is about \$30 million.

Details of the 10 390 non-directorate posts (including the new posts) in 2015-16 are as follows:

Grade	Number	Job Nature
Fire Stream	6 738	Mainly to provide firefighting, rescue and fire prevention services
Ambulance Stream	2 919	Mainly to provide emergency ambulance service
Civilian, technical and other grades	733	Mainly to provide administrative and other support
Total:	10 390	

The relevant estimated expenditure is about \$4 billion.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2035)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Would the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The manpower and expenditure involved in enforcing the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) (the Ordinance) and the amount of these resources deployed for handling cases involving tenement buildings of less than 7 storeys in each of the past 3 years; and
2. The total number of fire safety directions issued under the Ordinance and the number of these directions involving tenement buildings of less than 7 storeys; and the number of directions that were complied with in both cases in each of the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (Member Question No. 38)

Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department (BD) have set up their task forces to enforce the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance (Cap. 502) and the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572). The objective of the former is to enhance the fire safety standard of prescribed commercial premises and specified commercial buildings constructed in or before March 1987; while the latter enhances the same of composite buildings and domestic buildings constructed at or before that time. The task forces comprise a mix of civil servants and non-civil service contract staff. The task forces of the FSD and the BD each consist of 195 and 129 members respectively in 2012-13 and 2013-14; and 207 and 126 respectively in 2014-15. In the past 3 financial years, the staff costs involved were about \$101 million, \$104 million and \$113 million respectively for the FSD; and about \$49 million, \$50 million and \$53 million respectively for the BD. The FSD has no separate statistical data on the manpower resources and expenditure involved in handling tenement buildings of less than 7 storeys.

2. In the past 3 years, the numbers of fire safety directions issued by the FSD under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance and those complied with or discharged are as follows:

Year	Number of directions issued	Number of directions complied with or discharged
2012	14 916	5 493
2013	15 179	5 587
2014	16 019	6 520

FSD has no separate statistical data on the numbers of directions issued to tenement buildings of less than 7 storeys or those complied with or discharged.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2543)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Since the Fire Services Department implemented the Rapid Response Vehicle Scheme (the Scheme), how effective has the Scheme been? What was the number of cases, the expenditure and the amount of manpower involved in the Scheme last year? The Department will continue the Scheme in 2015-16 to enhance the delivery of the paramedic ambulance service. What will be the estimated expenditure involved and will additional manpower or resources be required?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (Member Question No. 37)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) launched the Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) Scheme in November 2006. Each RRV is manned by an Ambulance Officer who mainly provides support to frontline ambulance personnel and performs service quality assurance duties to enhance frontline management and operational efficiency. As at the end of February 2015, the RRVs provided support for a total of 14 131 emergency calls, and conducted 10 437 field audits of emergency ambulance cases and 26 748 inspections.

In 2014, the FSD had 3 RRVs (involving 3 Ambulance Officer posts) on duty during daytime which provided support for a total of 1 861 emergency calls, and conducted 1 771 field audits of emergency ambulance cases and 3 191 inspections. The expenditure involved was about \$1.71 million. The FSD considers the Scheme effective and will enhance its services in 2015-16 by allocating additional resources and consolidating existing manpower resources of the RRVs to provide round-the-clock service. The estimated expenditure of the Scheme for 2015-16 is approximately \$5 million, involving an increase of 6 Ambulance Officer posts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB243****(Question Serial No. 1604)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Ambulance ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

This year, the Fire Services Department will continue to respond to ambulance calls effectively and expeditiously through strategic deployment of properly trained personnel, equipment and ambulances. In this regard, would the Administration please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The breakdown of the number of personnel of the Ambulance Stream at present by type, including the frontline staff and those providing logistic support;
2. The number of ambulance calls over the past 3 years by division;
3. The details of “strategic deployment” referred to by the Administration;
4. The estimated expenditure on ambulance service for this year is 10% higher than the original estimate in 2014-15. What are the reasons? What is the amount of expenditure to be incurred for addressing the staffing requirement for ambulance service?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (Member Question No. 37)Reply:

1. As at 1 March 2015, the establishment of the Ambulance Stream of the Fire Services Department (FSD) by rank is as follows:

Rank	Establishment
Chief Ambulance Officer	1
Deputy Chief Ambulance Officer	1
Senior Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer	3
Assistant Chief Ambulance	7

Officer	
Superintendent	14
Senior Ambulance Officer	49
Ambulance Officer	83
Principal Ambulanceman	269
Senior Ambulanceman	701
Ambulanceman	1 762
Total	2 890

2. The number of ambulance calls of the Ambulance Command by Division over the past 3 years is as follows:

	2012	2013*	2014
Hong Kong Division	131 920	128 575	133 230
Kowloon East Division	282 591	277 731	145 279
Kowloon West Division			140 557
New Territories North Division	172 821	173 315	177 039
New Territories South Division	138 879	139 525	150 089
Total	726 211	719 146	746 194

*Kowloon Division has been reorganised into Kowloon East Division and Kowloon West Division with effect from April 2013

3. The FSD has been responding to ambulance calls through strategic deployment of ambulance personnel, equipment and various types of ambulance vehicles. The Department closely monitors the number of ambulance calls and the response time performance of each Division and deploys ambulance resources having regard to the circumstances of individual Divisions. This includes adjusting the number of ambulances deployed to each Division to meet the demand, providing additional ambulance deployment points to increase coverage, review of deployment points for Emergency Medical Assistant Motorcycles and Rapid Response Vehicles, deploying extra manpower to cope with special circumstances, flexible arrangement of working schedule for ambulance personnel, etc. In normal deployment, the Fire Services Communications Centre deploys ambulances to other depots as standbys having regard to the operation of individual depots for a more efficient use of emergency ambulance resources.
4. Provision for ambulance service in 2015–16 is 10% higher than the original estimate for 2014-15. This is mainly due to the net increase of 30 posts, as well as additional provision for filling vacancies, increased operating expenses, and increased cash flow requirement for capital items. The estimated expenditure for the 30 new posts is approximately \$10.23 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB244

(Question Serial No. 1541)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

How many ambulance calls received in 2014 were actually not emergency cases? What was the expenditure involved in such calls? Will the Department conduct any review in respect of the misuse of ambulance service so as to ensure effective use of public resources?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (Member Question No. 26)

Reply:

In 2013, the Fire Services Department (FSD) conducted an analysis of the emergency ambulance calls received to understand the use of the emergency ambulance service by the public. Of the about 10 000 randomly selected cases, approximately 2.7% reflected no obvious need for the service. This revealed a downward trend in the percentage of such cases as against 10.3% and 4.2% recorded in similar analyses in 2009 and 2011 respectively. The FSD did not conduct such an analysis in 2014.

The above figures showed that the FSD's efforts in educating the public on the proper use of ambulance service in the past few years had yielded good results. The revised estimated expenditure on ambulance service for 2014-15 is about \$1.48 billion, but there is no separate estimate for the expenditure incurred by the aforesaid cases. To ensure effective use of public resources, the FSD will continue to closely monitor the need for and the use of the emergency ambulance service, and step up its efforts to convey the message of the proper use of ambulance service to the public through various channels.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB245****(Question Serial No. 1542)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Fire Protection and PreventionControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide the number of civil servants to be recruited in 2015-16 by grade and rank. How does it compare with the additional posts for the current year? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (Member Question No. 28)Reply:

The Fire Services Department will have an increase of 146 posts in 2015-16. The annual expenditure involved is estimated to be about \$46 million. The increase of posts is detailed as follows:

Grade	Rank	Number
Fire stream	Deputy Chief Fire Officer	1
	Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	4
	Principal Fireman	4
	Senior Fireman	4
	Fireman	89
Ambulance stream	Senior Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer	1
	Ambulance Officer	6
	Senior Ambulanceman	8
	Ambulanceman	16
Civilian, technical and other grades	Principal Technical Officer	1
	Building Services Engineer	1
	Executive Officer II	3
	Personal Secretary II	1
	Supplies Supervisor I	1
	Artisan	6
Total		146

The increase of posts in 2015-16 is 9 more than the 137 new posts in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2760)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2015-16, the Fire Services Department (FSD) will continue to step up inspection of pre-1987 composite/domestic buildings for enhancement of fire safety; and continue to monitor the fire safety situation in 6 500 old-style domestic and composite buildings after completion of the joint-operation programme with the Buildings Department. How many buildings with subdivided units, cubicle apartments or illegal rooftop structures did the FSD inspect in the past 5 years? What were the details of work and expenditures incurred? Will the inspection work be strengthened in the coming year and what are the details, target and estimated expenditure of such work?

Asked by: Hon LAM Tai-fai (Member Question No. 15)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) established a Special Task Force in April 2013 to carry out joint operations with the Buildings Department (BD) to inspect common areas and means of escapes at about 6 500 old-style commercial/residential or domestic buildings, with a view to ensuring fire safety of these buildings. If any irregularities, such as obstruction to means of escape, existence of subdivided units or illegal structures, lack of maintenance of fire service installations and equipment or excessive storage of dangerous goods, are identified during the inspections, the FSD and the BD will take appropriate follow-up actions. The two Departments completed the initial joint inspection in April 2014 and the FSD has identified fire safety-related irregularities in about 2 700 buildings.

In 2015-16, the Special Task Force will continue to follow up on these buildings where irregularities have been identified, with an estimated expenditure of about \$5.6 million. The FSD has no separate statistical data on the expenditures for inspections of buildings with subdivided units, cubicle apartments or illegal rooftop structures.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB247****(Question Serial No. 2149)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please tabulate the number, duration, destination and purpose of duty visits outside Hong Kong made by the Director over the past 3 years, as well as the post titles and the number of accompanying staff of each visit and details of the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon LAU Wai-hing, Emily (Member Question No. 44)Reply:

Details of duty visits made by the Director of Fire Services from 2012-13 to 2014-15, including the number of such visits, the duration, destinations, reason(s) for the visits, etc., are listed as follows:

Date of duty visit (number of visit)	Total number of days of duty visit	Destinations	Reason(s) for duty visit	Size of entourage from the Department*	Annual Expenditure** (rounded to the nearest thousand)
2012-13 (3)	20	Australia, Japan, US	Conference	1-3	\$239,000
2013-14 (3)	11	Beijing, Chongqing, Macao	Official visit / Conference	6-11	\$240,000
2014-15 (1)	5	Beijing, Shanghai	Official visit / Conference	7	\$114,000

* The ranks of the entourage members include Assistant Director, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Senior Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer, Senior Divisional Officer, Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer, Divisional Officer, Ambulance Superintendent, Assistant Divisional Officer, Senior Ambulance Officer and Senior Station Officer.

** Including travelling expenses and subsistence allowance payable to visiting staff according to the Civil Service Regulations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0279)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Fire Services Department will significantly increase the number of fire safety inspections of commercial premises and composite buildings in the coming year. What will be the additional expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon LAU Wong-fat (Member Question No. 21)

Reply:

Taking into account the recommendations of the Director of Audit's Report No. 61, the Fire Services Department has, through internal redeployment of resources, started to conduct more inspections of the buildings newly issued with Fire Safety Directions and buildings granted with fourth or more extension of time for compliance of directions in 2014, with a view to expediting the enhancement of fire safety of the concerned buildings. No additional expenditure or manpower is required for this purpose.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0472)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (603) Plant, vehicles and equipment

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide information on the estimated expenditures of Items 8EX “One replacement crash fire tender R12” and 8EY “One replacement jackless snorkel R34” under Subhead 603 for 2015-16.

Asked by: Hon LEE Cheuk-yan (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

The estimated expenditures of Items 8EX “One replacement crash fire tender R12” and 8EY “One replacement jackless snorkel R34” under Subhead 603 for 2015-16 are \$6.187 million and \$4.159 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1178)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Government implemented the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) (the Ordinance) in 2007 to ensure that the specified composite and residential buildings are up to the fire safety standard. While the intention of the Ordinance deserves support, it fails to give proper regard to the difficulties to be encountered by owners or the residents' organisations of old buildings in carrying out improvement works. In this regard, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

1. The resources provided by the Administration to enforce the Ordinance over the past 3 years; please provide the breakdown of the expenditure involved;
2. At present, there are many "three nil" buildings (i.e. the old blocks without owners' corporations (OCs), residents' organisations or property management companies). As it takes time to establish an OC, would the Administration consider launching a new measure to help "three nil" buildings upgrade their fire service equipment at an earlier time by, for example, coordinating the improvement works for the owners or occupants of these buildings and recovering the costs incurred afterwards. If yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (Member Question No. 33)

Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department (BD) have set up their task forces to enforce the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance (Cap. 502) and the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572). The objective of the former is to enhance the fire safety standard of prescribed commercial premises and specified commercial buildings constructed in or before March 1987; while the latter enhances the same of composite buildings and domestic buildings constructed at or before that time. The task forces comprise a mix of civil servants and non-civil service contract staff. The task forces of the FSD and the BD each consist of 195 and 129 members respectively in 2012-13 and 2013-14; and 207 and 126 respectively in 2014-15. In the past 3 financial years, the staff costs involved were about \$101

million, \$104 million and \$113 million respectively for the FSD; and about \$49 million, \$50 million and \$53 million respectively for the BD.

2. We understand that some property owners (including those of “three nil” buildings) may encounter difficulties in complying with the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance due to lack of financial or technical support and structural or spatial constraints of their buildings. The FSD will adopt a flexible and pragmatic approach in handling individual cases on the premise that basic fire safety is not compromised. To help property owners comply with the fire safety directions, the FSD has adopted the following measures since 2014:
 - (i) The FSD normally requires target buildings to install fire services water tanks with a capacity ranging from 9 000 to 36 000 litres, and the actual capacity is determined by the maximum floor area of the building. The FSD also accepts fire services water tanks with a capacity of not less than 9 000 litres as an appropriate improvement option for target buildings;
 - (ii) To help owners of old buildings understand the requirements of fire service installations and equipment (FSIs) for different buildings and to present successful cases in which the FSD adopted a flexible and pragmatic approach to help owners comply with the fire safety directions, the FSD has compiled a “Guidebook for the Compliance of Fire Safety Directions”, which has been uploaded onto the FSD website for reference by the public;
 - (iii) The FSD has taken initiative to publicise the recruitment of Building Fire Safety Envoys and Fire Safety Ambassadors at “three nil buildings” before issuing fire safety directions to these buildings, with a view to enhancing the residents’ awareness of fire prevention and facilitating coordination of improvement works for FSIs in future; and
 - (iv) The FSD has introduced a cross-checking and screening mechanism and compiled a “Checklist for Major Defects of FSI Drawings Submission” (“Checklist”) and “Interim Measures for Processing of FSI Drawings” (“Interim Measures”). These measures enable persons appointed by property owners for executing the fire safety directions to better grasp the points to note regarding the submission of FSI drawings, which in turn would help expedite the processing of FSI submissions. When the FSD replies to the appointed persons on matters about FSIs, a copy of such replies will be forwarded to the relevant owners, so that the latter can better understand whether the works executed by the appointed persons meet the requirements set out in the fire safety directions. The “Checklist” and the “Interim Measures” have been uploaded onto the FSD website for reference by the public.

At present, the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance does not empower the enforcement authorities to carry out fire safety improvement works for target buildings and to recover the costs incurred from the relevant parties afterwards. In addition, owners/occupants of the buildings need to discuss and reach a consensus about the feasible options and arrangements for the fire safety improvement works (such as locations of the installations) before carrying out relevant works. It is not appropriate for the enforcement authorities to make such decisions for them.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB251

(Question Serial No. 0977)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (661) Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The provision of \$33,898,000 under Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote) represents an increase of 41.5% over the revised estimate for 2014-15, and the cost for the equipment under this item is often considerable.

According to a newspaper report, “at around 10am on a day in March this year (2014), when the \$7.7 million-worth Rapid Intervention Vehicle (RIV) R41 was heading back to the appliance room after a routine training at the Sub Airport Fire Station, it was suspected that someone made a sharp turn of the RIV at high speed, causing it to lose control and collide with the \$6.8 million-worth Crash Fire Tender R32 parked outside the appliance room.” According to information, it cost \$1 million and took almost 4 months to repair the two vehicles.

1. What were the actual repair costs for the two vehicles?
2. Which account should such non-recurrent expense be charged against?
3. As human negligence might be involved in the incident, would the person(s) involved be required to make appropriate compensation so as to reduce the loss of public money?

Asked by: Hon NG Leung-sing (Member Question No. 13)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) will handle all accidents involving fire appliances according to the established procedures, which include setting up a Traffic Accident Inquiry Board to investigate the accident and recommend whether the relevant repair cost(s) should be recovered from the personnel involved. The reply to different parts of the question is as follows:

1. Regarding the traffic accident which occurred at Sub Airport Fire Station in March 2014 and resulted in damage to Rapid Intervention Vehicle R41 and Crash Fire Tender R32, the repair costs incurred were \$37,970 and \$169,800 respectively.
2. Repair costs incurred by traffic accidents are charged against “General departmental expenses” under Subhead 000 Operational expenses.
3. For cases where repair of or damage to Government property is involved, the Director of Fire Services may, pursuant to Section 14C of the Fire Services Ordinance (Cap. 95), require the personnel involved to pay all or part of the relevant cost(s) to the Government if it has been established that the damage has resulted from the neglect or fault of the personnel concerned. Upon completion of the investigation of the aforementioned traffic accident, the FSD will decide on whether to recover the relevant repair costs from the personnel involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB252****(Question Serial No. 0573)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

The Fire Services Department estimates that there will be an increase of 146 non-directorate posts in 2015-16. In this regard, would the Administration please provide the following information:

1. The number of posts to be deleted and created by the Department by Programme, rank and function;
2. The establishment and strength in 2014-15 and 2015-16 (estimated figures) under each Programme by rank.

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping (Member Question No. 3)Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) will have an increase of 146 posts in 2015-16. Details are as follows:

Programme	Rank	Number	Function
(1) Fire Service	Deputy Chief Fire Officer#	1	To implement the quality assurance and training accreditation mechanisms; and to enhance and support the fire and ambulance services training
	Senior Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer	1	
	Personal Secretary II	1	
	Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	4	To form a special team to cope with the service demand arising from the construction of Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link
	Principal Fireman	4	
	Senior Fireman	4	
	Fireman	7	
	Fireman	75	To receive training starting from 2015-16 for deployment to the new fire station at Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Boundary Crossing Facilities upon its commissioning

Programme	Rank	Number	Function
	Fireman	7	To provide additional manpower for Tuen Mun Fire Station to cope with the increasing service demand
	Executive Officer II	3	To provide executive support for each of the operational Fire Commands
	Supplies Supervisor I	1	To strengthen the procurement and logistic support for the Department
	Artisan	6	To provide maintenance and repair services for fire appliances and equipment
(2) Fire Protection and Prevention	Principal Technical Officer	1	To handle the fire safety certification work related to the Three-Runway System Project of the airport
	Building Services Engineer	1	
(3) Ambulance Service	Ambulance Officer	6	To provide additional manpower for manning Rapid Response Vehicles to provide round-the-clock clinical support and quality assurance service
	Senior Ambulanceman Ambulanceman	8 16	To operate additional ambulance shifts to cope with the increasing demand for emergency ambulance service
	Total:	146	

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer post is at the rank of General Disciplined Services (Commander) Pay Scale point 1, or Directorate Pay Scale point 1 equivalent

2. The establishment and strength of various grades in the FSD in 2014-15 are set out as follows:

Grade	Programme (1)		Programme (2)		Programme (3)		Total	
	Establishment	Strength*	Establishment	Strength*	Establishment	Strength*	Establishment	Strength*
Fire Stream	6 321	6 152	329	345	0	0	6 650	6 497
Ambulance Stream	8	24	0	0	2 882	2 755	2 890	2 779
Civilian, technical and other grades	458	430	195	190	70	59	723	679
Total:	6 787	6 606	524	535	2 952	2 814	10 263	9 955

* Strength as at 1 March 2015 (including staff members on pre-retirement leave)

The estimated establishment of various grades in the FSD in 2015-16 is set out as follows:

Grade	Programme (1)	Programme (2)	Programme (3)	Total
Fire Stream	6 425	329	0	6 754
Ambulance Stream	9	0	2 912	2 921
Civilian, technical and other grades	467	197	70	734
Total:	6 901	526	2 982	10 409

The estimated strength of various grades for 2015-16 is not available as the number of staff members varies from time to time.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB253****(Question Serial No. 0102)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

The Fire Services Department stated that the number of non-directorate posts will be increased by 145 to 10 390 posts as at 31 March 2016. Please inform this Council of the nature of work, ranks and salaries of these new posts.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (Member Question No. 32)Reply:

The Fire Services Department will have an increase of 145 non-directorate posts in 2015-16. Details are as follows:

Rank	Number	Salary* (\$)	Job Nature
Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	4	2,896,080	To form a special team to cope with the service demand arising from the construction of Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link
Principal Fireman	4	1,732,560	
Senior Fireman	4	1,422,240	
Fireman	7	1,737,540	
Fireman	75	18,616,500	To receive training starting from 2015-16 for deployment to the new fire station at Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Boundary Crossing Facilities upon its commissioning
Fireman	7	1,737,540	To provide additional manpower for Tuen Mun Fire Station to cope with the increasing service demand

Rank	Number	Salary* (\$)	Job Nature
Senior Assistant Chief	1	1,380,300	To enhance and support the fire and ambulance services training
Ambulance Officer Personal Secretary II	1	232,920	
Ambulance Officer	6	3,276,720	To provide additional manpower for manning Rapid Response Vehicles to provide round-the-clock clinical support and quality assurance service
Senior Ambulanceman	8	2,844,480	To operate additional ambulance shifts to cope with the increasing demand for emergency ambulance service
Ambulanceman	16	4,110,720	
Principal Technical Officer	1	713,820	To handle the fire safety certification work related to the Three-Runway System Project of the airport
Building Services Engineer	1	673,860	
Executive Officer II	3	1,293,480	To provide executive support for each of the operational Fire Commands
Supplies Supervisor I	1	373,440	To strengthen the procurement and logistic support for the Department
Artisan	6	1,162,080	To provide maintenance and repair services for fire appliances and equipment
Total:	145	44,204,280	

* Calculated on the basis of the relevant notional annual mid-point salary values in 2014-15.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB254****(Question Serial No. 2616)**

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

How many buildings in each of the 18 districts have been inspected, and how many have not, in the first stage of the inspection under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance? Given that the Fire Services Department and Buildings Department have adjusted the annual inspection targets of prescribed commercial premises, specified commercial buildings and composite buildings to a more realistic level, when is the inspection of all target buildings expected to be completed?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No.11)

Reply:

With respect to the first stage of inspections under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance, the numbers of target composite buildings which have been inspected and have yet to be inspected in each of the 18 districts as at the end of February 2015 are approximately as follows:

District	Number of target buildings inspected	Approximate number of target buildings yet to be inspected
Central and Western	976	370
Wan Chai	707	230
Eastern	509	360
Southern	168	100
Yau Tsim Mong	1 623	410
Sham Shui Po	1 041	270
Kowloon City	838	320
Wong Tai Sin	222	50
Kwun Tong	185	100
Tsuen Wan	253	130

Tuen Mun	42	120
Yuen Long	313	130
North	239	60
Tai Po	173	100
Sai Kung	19	40
Sha Tin	60	90
Islands	30	10
Kwai Tsing	76	90
Total	7 474	2 980

Taking into account the recommendations of the Director of Audit's Report No. 61, the Buildings Department and the Fire Services Department have jointly reviewed the implementation programmes under the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance (Cap. 502) and the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572). The two Departments have adjusted the annual inspection targets of prescribed commercial premises, specified commercial buildings and composite buildings to a more realistic level as from 2015. Based on the adjusted inspection targets, the Departments expect to complete the inspection of the remaining target composite buildings in about 7 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB255****(Question Serial No. 2617)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Fire Protection and PreventionControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

How many fire safety directions were issued by the Fire Services Department (FSD) under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance in each of the past 3 years; how many of them were complied with or discharged? What new measures are in place for the FSD to assist property owners in complying with fire safety directions? For example, will the existing relevant requirements be revised, so that more alternative measures are allowed for property owners to adopt in complying with the fire safety directions?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 12)Reply:

The number of fire safety directions issued by the Fire Services Department (FSD) under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance and the number of directions complied with or discharged in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Number of fire safety directions issued	Number of fire safety directions complied with or discharged
2012	14 916	5 493
2013	15 179	5 587
2014	16 019	6 520

We understand that some property owners may encounter difficulties in complying with the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance due to lack of financial or technical support and structural or spatial constraints of their buildings. The FSD will adopt a flexible and pragmatic approach in handling individual cases on the premise that basic fire safety is not compromised. To help property owners comply with the fire safety directions, the FSD has adopted the following measures since 2014:

1. The FSD normally requires target buildings to install fire services water tanks with a capacity ranging from 9 000 to 36 000 litres, and the actual capacity is determined by the maximum floor area of the building. The FSD also accepts fire services water

tanks with a capacity of not less than 9 000 litres as an appropriate improvement option for target buildings;

2. To help owners of old buildings understand the requirements of fire service installations and equipment (FSIs) for different buildings and to present successful cases in which the FSD adopted a flexible and pragmatic approach to help owners comply with the fire safety directions, the FSD has compiled a “Guidebook for the Compliance of Fire Safety Directions”, which has been uploaded onto the FSD website for reference by the public;
3. The FSD has taken initiative to publicise the recruitment of Building Fire Safety Envoys and Fire Safety Ambassadors at “three nil buildings” before issuing fire safety directions to these buildings, in order to enhance the residents’ awareness of fire prevention and to facilitate coordination of enhancement works for FSIs in future; and
4. The FSD has introduced a cross-checking and screening mechanism and compiled a “Checklist for Major Defects of FSI Drawings Submission” (“Checklist”) and “Interim Measures for Processing of FSI Drawings” (“Interim Measures”). These measures enable persons appointed by property owners for executing the fire safety directions to better grasp the points to note regarding the submission of FSI drawings, which in turn would help expedite the processing of FSI submissions. When the FSD replies to the appointed persons on matters about FSIs, a copy of such replies will be forwarded to the relevant owners, so that the latter can better understand whether the works executed by the appointed persons meet the requirements set out in the fire safety directions. The “Checklist” and the “Interim Measures” have been uploaded onto the FSD website for reference by the public.

The FSD will, having regard to the merits of individual cases, consider accepting alternative fire safety improvement measures, or relaxing the relevant requirements where appropriate. Owners of buildings with structural or spatial constraints and/or insurmountable technical difficulties may submit the assessment made by authorised persons or registered structural engineers to the FSD proposing alternative measures, such as provision of improvised hose reel systems, or modification of abandoned water tanks as an alternative to fire services water tanks. The departments concerned will adopt a pragmatic and flexible approach in handling alternative measures put forward by property owners.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 6071)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the ambulance service of the Fire Services Department:

1. What are the details and timetable for the development of the computer system as planned by the Administration, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved; and
2. What are the details and timetable for the commissioning of the ambulance depot at Choi Shun Street, Sheung Shui, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth (Member Question No. 199)

Reply:

1. To further enhance its emergency ambulance services, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has been providing simple post-dispatch advice (PDA) to ambulance callers on certain types of common injuries and sicknesses (e.g. bleeding, fracture/dislocation of limbs, burns and convulsions) to help stabilise the conditions of the patients since May 2011. The FSD plans to acquire a computer system to provide more detailed and appropriate PDA to emergency ambulance services callers. The computer system will be installed with an internationally-accredited questioning protocol software to assist operators of the Fire Services Communications Centre to ask callers questions following the questioning protocol, so as to systematically obtain information on patients' conditions. Through immediate analysis, operators may provide detailed and appropriate PDA to callers and guide them to render assistance to patients, thereby improving patients' conditions and survival rate before arrival of the ambulance crew.

The estimated expenditure for the acquisition and development of the proposed computer system is \$37.88 million, including the costs for computer hardware and software, contract staff and training. The FSD submitted the proposal to the Panel on Security of the Legislative Council (LegCo) for discussion in July 2014 and plans to

seek the funding approval from the Finance Committee of the LegCo in the second quarter of 2015.

2. Sheung Shui Ambulance Depot at Choi Shun Street, Sheung Shui is expected to be commissioned in April 2015, the approved estimate of which is \$174.5 million. The additional posts and salary costs arising from the commissioning of the new ambulance depot are as follows:

Rank	Number	Salary* (\$)
Senior Ambulance Officer	1	817,500
Ambulance Officer	2	1,092,240
Principal Ambulanceman	5	2,165,700
Senior Ambulanceman	-5	-1,777,800
Assistant Clerical Officer	1	232,920
Total:	4	2,530,560

*Calculated on the basis of the relevant notional annual mid-point salary values in 2014-15

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB687****(Question Serial No. 6566)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Fire Service, (2) Fire Protection and PreventionControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

- Please tabulate the details of all fires which occurred on sites for temporary use, such as container yards, open storage areas, recycling storage sites, open car parks, etc., in each of the past 5 years (2010-2014). [Security Bureau-Fire Service]

2010

Serial Number	Date	Location	Type of temporary use at the scene of fire	Number of personnel involved in fighting the fire

2011

Serial Number	Date	Location	Type of temporary use at the scene of fire	Number of personnel involved in fighting the fire

2012

Serial Number	Date	Location	Type of temporary use at the scene of fire	Number of personnel involved in fighting the fire

2013

Serial Number	Date	Location	Type of temporary use at the scene of fire	Number of personnel involved in fighting the fire

2014

Serial Number	Date	Location	Type of temporary use at the scene of fire	Number of personnel involved in fighting the fire

- In view of the inadequate provision of fire prevention measures which led to the outbreak of fire in the above sites for temporary use, will the Fire Services Department (FSD) strengthen inspection in such sites this year to ensure that the fire safety measures meet the requirement? Please provide details of the arrangement made by the FSD in this regard.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 667)

Reply:

- The Fire Services Department (FSD) maintains statistics on fires which occur on recycling storage sites, but has no statistical data on the number of fires by other types of land use. The numbers of fires which occurred on recycling storage sites between 2010 and 2014 are tabulated as follows:

2010

	Date	Location	Number of attending personnel of FSD
1	3/3/2010	Tai Sang Wai, Mai Po, New Territories	97
2	13/6/2010	Ha Tsuen, Lau Fau Shan, New Territories	132
3	19/6/2010	Shan Ha Road, Yuen Long, New Territories	42
4	7/7/2010	Pak Sha Tsuen, Yuen Long, New Territories	108
5	12/10/2010	Shek Wu Wai San Tsuen, Mai Po, New Territories	43
6	23/10/2010	Ng Chow South Road, Ping Che, New Territories	139
7	8/11/2010	San Uk Tsuen, Fanling, New Territories	33
8	19/11/2010	Chi Wa Lane, Fanling, New Territories	32
9	30/11/2010	Ng Chow South Road, Ping Che, New Territories	43
10	1/12/2010	Chau Tau, San Tin, New Territories	130

2011

	Date	Location	Number of attending personnel of FSD
1	13/1/2011	Kung Um Road, Yuen Long, New Territories	145

2	21/1/2011	Kai Pak Ling, Lau Fau Shan, New Territories	51
3	17/4/2011	Ping Che Road, Fanling, New Territories	31
4	24/4/2011	Ha Tsuen, Tin Shui Wai, New Territories	156
5	7/6/2011	Deep Bay Road, Lau Fau Shan, New Territories	31
6	13/6/2011	Kung Um Road, Yuen Long, New Territories	122
7	2/7/2011	Shek Po Tsuen, Hung Shui Kiu, New Territories	31
8	9/8/2011	Pak Sha Tsuen, Yuen Long, New Territories	30
9	2/9/2011	Shek Po Road, Hung Shui Kiu, New Territories	143
10	15/9/2011	San Sang Tsuen, Hung Shui Kiu, New Territories	27
11	30/9/2011	Hung Lung Hang, Ta Kwu Ling, New Territories	100
12	2/11/2011	Lung Kwu Sheung Tan, Pillar Point, New Territories	23
13	9/12/2011	Tan Kwai Tsuen, Hung Shui Kiu, New Territories	35
14	10/12/2011	Sha Kong Tsuen, Lau Fau Shan, New Territories	37

2012

	Date	Location	Number of attending personnel of FSD
1	18/1/2012	Tong Yan San Tsuen, Tin Shui Wai, New Territories	44
2	5/3/2012	Pak Sha Tsuen, Yuen Long, New Territories	22
3	16/3/2012	Ma Yau Tong, Tseung Kwan O, New Territories	147
4	18/3/2012	Yick Yuen Road, Fu Tei, New Territories	74
5	27/3/2012	Fung Kong, Sheung Shui, New Territories	39
6	4/4/2012	Deep Bay Road, Lau Fau Shan, New Territories	126
7	18/5/2012	Near Hung Lung Hang, Ta Kwu Ling, New Territories	26
8	25/5/2012	Tsat Sing Kong Tsuen, Pat Heung, New Territories	40
9	6/8/2012	Ha Chuk Yuen Tsuen, Mai Po, New Territories	21
10	25/8/2012	Deep Bay Road, Lau Fau Shan, New Territories	11
11	27/9/2012	Ng Chow Road, Ping Che, New Territories	120
12	30/9/2012	Yau Cha Po, Yuen Long, New Territories	36
13	2/10/2012	Kai Pak Ling, Lau Fau Shan, New Territories	86
14	17/10/2012	San Hing Tsuen, Fu Tei, New Territories	73
15	25/10/2012	Castle Peak Road-San Tin, New Territories	23
16	27/10/2012	Yau Cha Po, Yuen Long, New Territories	161
17	10/12/2012	Ping Ha Road, Tin Shui Wai, New Territories	39
18	21/12/2012	Ping Kwai Road, Tin Shui Wai, New Territories	38
19	24/12/2012	Lung Kwu Sheung Tan, Pillar Point, New Territories	144
20	28/12/2012	Sheung Tsuen, Kam Tin, Pat Heung, New Territories	35

2013

	Date	Location	Number of attending personnel of FSD
1	11/2/2013	Tseung Kong Wai, Tin Shui Wai, New Territories	52
2	31/3/2013	Lo Uk Tsuen, Pat Heung, New Territories	114
3	2/6/2013	Ping Ha Road, Tin Shui Wai, New Territories	41
4	5/6/2013	Kwun Ping Road, Tsz Wan Shan, Kowloon	30
5	6/6/2013	Kau Lee Uk Tsuen, Tin Shui Wai, New Territories	35
6	4/7/2013	Hang Tau, Kwu Tung, Sheung Shui, New Territories	40
7	9/8/2013	Dai Kwai Street, Tai Po, New Territories	29
8	16/9/2013	Kwan Tei North Village, Fanling, New Territories	41

9	21/9/2013	Shan Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long, New Territories	51
10	24/9/2013	Wang Toi Shan Lo Uk Tsuen, Pat Heung, New Territories	44
11	27/9/2013	Hung Kiu San Tsuen, Sheung Shui, New Territories	31
12	13/10/2013	Wang Toi Shan Lo Uk Tsuen, Pat Heung, New Territories	148
13	26/10/2013	Sha Kong Tsuen, Lau Fau Shan, New Territories	39
14	8/11/2013	Hung Lung Hang, Ta Kwu Ling, New Territories	204
15	24/11/2013	Hung Kiu San Tsuen, Sheung Shui, New Territories	31
16	19/12/2013	Shek Wu Wai Tsuen, Mai Po, New Territories	24
17	28/12/2013	Castle Peak Road-San Tin, New Territories	50
18	28/12/2013	Chong Fu Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong	22

2014

	Date	Location	Number of attending personnel of FSD
1	2/1/2014	Hung Lung Hang, Ta Kwu Ling, New Territories	44
2	3/1/2014	Siu Hum Tsuen, Mai Po, New Territories	54
3	10/3/2014	Yick Yuen Road, Fu Tei, New Territories	4
4	25/5/2014	Wang Toi Shan San Tsuen, Pat Heung, New Territories	30
5	1/6/2014	Kai Pak Ling, Lau Fau Shan, New Territories	198
6	8/6/2014	Near Community Sports, Kwu Tung, New Territories	30
7	8/7/2014	Lau Shui Heung Road, Fanling, New Territories	128
8	9/7/2014	Kung Um Road, Yuen Long, New Territories	57
9	5/8/2014	Ming Yin Road, Fanling, New Territories	18
10	8/8/2014	Ha Tsuen, Tin Shui Wai, New Territories	40
11	30/8/2014	San Sang Tsuen, Tin Shui Wai, New Territories	142
12	24/9/2014	Fung Kong Tsuen, Lau Fau Shan, New Territories	28
13	7/10/2014	Tsat Sing Kong, Pat Heung, New Territories	33
14	8/10/2014	Pak Sha Tsuen, Yuen Long, New Territories	53
15	30/11/2014	Siu Hum Tsuen, Mai Po, New Territories	191

2. Upon receiving an application referred by other Government departments for converting a site to other temporary uses, the FSD will assess the fire risk of the site, and formulate basic fire services requirements for the site having regard to its actual circumstances, including the requirement of providing fire service installations on the site to ensure fire safety. Moreover, frontline personnel from local fire stations regularly inspect the high-risk premises in their areas so as to familiarise themselves with the surroundings to ensure operational efficiency. For recycling storage sites, besides regular inspections, FSD personnel also conduct surprise inspections with the Environmental Protection Department's staff and will follow up on any irregularities identified.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB688****(Question Serial No. 6931)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Fire ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

What is the respective number of refresher and tactical training provided by the Fire Services Department to all service staff in the past 3 years and next year to ensure that performance of its staff is maintained at the highest possible standard?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Member Question No. 858)Reply:

The information on the refresher and tactical training provided by the Fire Services Department to fire personnel in the past 3 years and next year is as follows:

Year	Refresher Training		Tactical Training	
	Number of classes	Number of personnel trained	Number of classes	Number of personnel trained
2012	185	1 758	928	11 023
2013	409	3 471	887	9 894
2014	564	6 495	736	9 089
2015 (Estimated figures)	540	6 500	780	10 300

Note: The numbers of classes and personnel trained vary every year as some refresher training courses require attendees to take classes at regular intervals (e.g. once every few years).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB689****(Question Serial No. 6932)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Fire ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

In the Estimates of Expenditure 2015-16, it is stated that the percentages of fire calls met within graded response time of 6 minutes for built-up areas and 9 to 23 minutes for areas of more dispersed risk or isolated developments in 2014 were 93.5% and 96.9% respectively. In other words, 6.5% and 3.1% of such fire calls were not met within the graded response time. In this regard, would the Administration please inform this Committee of the respective percentages of those calls not met within graded response time due to traffic congestion, no fire appliances in the fire station nearest to the fire scene and other causes?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Member Question No. 859)Reply:

In 2014, the causes for failing to attend to fire calls within the graded response time and the percentages of such cases are as follows:

Causes for failing to attend to building fire calls within graded response time	Built-up areas (Graded response time of 6 minutes)	Areas of more dispersed risk or isolated developments (Graded response time of 9 to 23 minutes)
	Percentage in the total number of fire calls in these areas	Percentage in the total number of fire calls in these areas
Traffic and journey-related issues	5.7%	2.7%
Other causes (Callers failed to provide an accurate address, etc.)	0.8%	0.4%
Total	6.5%	3.1%

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB690****(Question Serial No. 6933)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Fire ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

How many fire drills, fire safety talks, seminars, exhibitions, meetings and operational visits were organised by the Fire Services Department upon request in each of the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Member Question No. 860)Reply:

The numbers of fire drills, fire safety talks, seminars, exhibitions, meetings and operational visits attended/organised by the Fire Services Department in the past 3 years are as follows:

	2012	2013	2014
Fire drills	872	950	1 042
Fire safety talks	1 634	1 904	2 276
Seminars	4	17	130
Exhibitions	11	20	12
Meetings	115	47	53
Operational visits (including familiarisation visits, etc.)	9 880	13 599	14 279
Total:	12 516	16 537	17 792

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB691****(Question Serial No. 6934)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Fire ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide the number of existing fire appliances of the Fire Services Department by their age and type.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Member Question No. 861)Reply:

As at 1 March 2015, the numbers of fire appliances of the Fire Services Department by their age and type are as follows:

Age of fire appliances	Number of fire appliances	
	Frontline fire appliances*	Other supporting vehicles#
Less than 5 years	95	34
5 to 10 years	28	16
10 to 15 years	84	48
Above 15 years	68	39
Total:	275	137

* Frontline fire appliances generally include Hydraulic Platforms, Major Pumps, Major/Light Rescue Units, Turntable Ladders/Aerial Ladder Platforms/Snorkels, and airport rescue and fire-fighting vehicles.

Other supporting fire appliances include Foam Tenders, Hose Layers, a Hazmat Tender, Lighting Tenders, Mobile Command Units, Rescue Tenders, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB692****(Question Serial No. 6935)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Fire ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

What was the number of work injury and fatal work injury cases in each rank of the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the respective percentage of such cases among the total number of staff at the particular rank in the past 5 years? What are the activities undertaken by the FSD each year for prevention of work injury and promotion of occupational safety and health respectively?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Member Question No. 862)Reply:

The Fire Services Department recorded a total of 1 136 general work injury cases in the past 5 years. The figures by rank are listed below:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Assistant Divisional Officer	1(0.66%)	-	-	-	-
Senior Station Officer/Station Officer (Operational)	12(1.76%)	4(0.59%)	4(0.57%)	10(1.39%)	7(0.95%)
Principal Fireman (Operational/Marine)	6(0.99%)	7(1.15%)	7(1.14%)	5(0.76%)	11(1.68%)
Senior Fireman (Operational/Marine)	23(2.28%)	16(1.58%)	15(1.47%)	14(1.30%)	9(0.83%)
Senior Fireman (Control)	1(0.84%)	-	1(0.84%)	1(0.85%)	-
Senior Fireman (Workshops)	1(2.70%)	-	-	-	-

Fireman (Operational/Marine)	109(3.07%)	82(2.29%)	77(2.14%)	61(1.74%)	68(1.93%)
Principal Ambulanceman	10(3.80%)	15(5.70%)	9(3.36%)	6(2.23%)	5(1.86%)
Senior Ambulanceman	47(7.67%)	35(5.33%)	34(5.12%)	33(4.85%)	30(4.28%)
Ambulanceman	95(6.04%)	72(4.33%)	56(3.32%)	46(2.67%)	49(2.78%)
Clerical Officer	-	-	-	-	1(3.23%)
Assistant Clerical Officer	1(0.64%)	1(0.62%)	-	-	1(0.41%)
Clerical Assistant	-	-	-	-	2(2.15%)
Cook	8(8.89%)	8(10.67%)	9(13.04%)	3(4.41%)	2(2.94%)
Artisan	-	-	1(10.00%)	-	1(10.00%)
Workman II	2(4.08%)	1(2.56%)	1(2.63%)	-	-

() Figures in bracket denote the percentage among the total number of staff at that rank

Besides, the FSD recorded 1 fatal work injury case each in 2010 and 2014, which involved 1 Senior Fireman (Operational/Marine) and 1 Principal Fireman (Operational/Marine), representing 0.10% and 0.15% of staff at the respective rank.

The firefighting and rescue services of the FSD are high-risk operations and the Department has all along attached importance to the occupational safety and health (OSH) of its staff. In April 2008, the OSH Unit was officially established to facilitate the formulation of a better “safety management system” for the FSD. For prevention of work injury and promotion of OSH, the Department has implemented measures which include actively arranging OSH training with the Occupational Safety and Health Council, conducting quarterly safety inspections at workplaces, refining the investigation process of work injury cases, reviewing the guidelines for wearing personal protective equipment, fortifying various OSH promotion campaigns, etc. Apart from these measures, the OSH Unit has also designed an internal web-based learning course on manual handling operations, with a view to deepening Service members’ understanding of the OSH culture.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB693****(Question Serial No. 6936)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Ambulance ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide the number of existing ambulances of the Fire Services Department by their age.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Member Question No. 863)Reply:

As at 31 March 2015, the number of ambulances of the Fire Services Department by their age is as follows:

Age of ambulances	Number
Less than 1 year	35
1 to 2 years	53
2 to 3 years	46
3 to 4 years	66
4 to 5 years	76
5 to 6 years	89
Above 6 years	0
Total:	365

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB694****(Question Serial No. 6937)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Fire Service, (3) Ambulance ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide a breakdown of the number of existing fire appliances and ambulances at each fire station of the Fire Services Department by type.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Member Question No. 864)Reply:

A breakdown of on-run fire appliances and ambulance vehicles deployed to fire stations and ambulance depots is as follows (excluding training/reserve vehicles):

Region	Number of fire stations and ambulance depots	Number of fire appliances		Number of ambulance vehicles	
		Frontline fire appliances*	Other supporting vehicles#	Ambulances	Other supporting vehicles^
Hong Kong	Fire stations: 26 Ambulance depots: 7	56	52	47	9
Kowloon	Fire stations: 21 Ambulance depots: 14	67	23	94	23
New Territories	Fire stations: 34 Ambulance depots: 17	100	51	133	19
Total	Fire stations: 81 Ambulance depots: 38	223	126	274	51

* Frontline fire appliances generally include Hydraulic Platforms, Major Pumps, Major/Light Rescue Units, Turntable Ladders/Aerial Ladder Platforms/Snorkels, and airport rescue and fire-fighting vehicles.

Other supporting fire appliances include Foam Tenders, Hose Layers, a Hazmat Tender, Lighting Tenders, Mobile Command Units, Rescue Tenders, etc.

^ Other supporting ambulance vehicles include Emergency Medical Assistant Motorcycles, Mobile Casualty Treatment Centres, a Paramedic Equipment Tender, Rapid Response Vehicles and Hospital Transfer Ambulances.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB695

(Question Serial No. 6511)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The revised estimate for 2014-15 is 2% lower than the original estimate for 2014-15. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 342)

Reply:

The revised estimate for Programme (1) Fire Service for 2014-15 is 2% lower than the original estimate. This is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for capital items.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 6512)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The estimate for 2015-16 is 8.9% higher than the revised estimate for 2014-15. What are the reasons? Does it involve additional manpower and expenditure items? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 343)

Reply:

Provision for Programme (1) Fire Service for 2015-16 is 8.9% higher than the revised estimate for 2014-15. This is mainly due to the net increase of 114 posts, as well as additional provision for filling vacancies, increased operating expenses, and increased cash flow requirement for capital items.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB697****(Question Serial No. 6513)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Fire ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

How many fire safety publicity activities (including fire drills, fire safety talks, seminars and exhibitions) were organised by the Administration through the local community, schools and organisations over the past 3 years? What were the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 344)Reply:

To enhance the knowledge of the public on fire safety, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has been organising various fire safety publicity activities through liaison with different local organisations, including schools, building management companies, groups, etc.

The numbers of fire drills, fire safety talks, seminars and exhibitions organised by the FSD over the past 3 years are as follows:

	2012	2013	2014
Fire drills	872	950	1 042
Fire safety talks	1 634	1 904	2 276
Seminars	4	17	130
Exhibitions	11	20	12

The above activities were organised by personnel of local fire stations and no additional manpower or expenditure was involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB698

(Question Serial No. 6530)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The revised estimate for 2014-15 is 3.4% higher than the original estimate for 2014-15. What are the reasons? Does it involve manpower and other expenditure items? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 345)

Reply:

The revised estimate for Programme (2) Fire Protection and Prevention for 2014-15 is 3.4% higher than the original estimate. This is mainly due to the increased operating expenses.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 6531)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The estimate for 2015-16 is 0.6% higher than the revised estimate for 2014-15. What are the reasons? Does it involve manpower and other expenses? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 346)

Reply:

Provision for Programme (2) Fire Protection and Prevention for 2015-16 is 0.6% higher than the revised estimate for 2014-15. This is mainly due to the net increase of 2 posts, as well as additional provision for filling vacancies, increased operating expenses, and increased cash flow requirement for a capital item.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 6532)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The revised estimate for 2014-15 is 2.6% higher than the original estimate for 2014-15. What are the reasons? Does it involve manpower and other expenses?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 347)

Reply:

The revised estimate for Programme (3) Ambulance Service for 2014-15 is 2.6% higher than the original estimate. This is mainly due to the increased operating expenses.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB701

(Question Serial No. 6533)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The estimate for 2015-16 is 7.2% higher than the revised estimate for 2014-15. What are the reasons? Does it involve manpower and other expenses?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 348)

Reply:

Provision for Programme (3) Ambulance Service for 2015-16 is 7.2% higher than the revised estimate for 2014-15. This is mainly due to the net increase of 30 posts, as well as additional provision for filling vacancies, increased operating expenses, and increased cash flow requirement for capital items.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB702****(Question Serial No. 6534)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Ambulance ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please give details on the Administration's efforts to provide community education programme on the provision of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training for the general public in the past 3 years. What were the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 349)Reply:

The Fire Services Department provides half-day Community CPR training courses for the general public free-of-charge at 5 locations, namely Sai Wan Ho Ambulance Depot, Yau Ma Tei Ambulance Depot, Tsuen Wan Ambulance Depot, Yuen Long Ambulance Depot and the Ambulance Command Training School in Ma On Shan. The number of Community CPR training courses organised and the number of people trained over the past 3 years are as follows:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 (as at 28 February 2015)
Number of Community CPR training courses	62	52	49
Number of people trained	920	823	783

The above courses are taught by Ambulance Officers who are on duty and assisted by 2 Ambulance personnel outside their normal working hours. The overtime work involved is compensated by time-off in lieu. The implementation of this programme therefore requires no additional expenditure.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB703****(Question Serial No. 6535)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Ambulance ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please give details on the Administration's efforts to strengthen publicity activities and educate the public on the proper use of emergency ambulance service in the past 3 years. What were the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 350)Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) conducted the following publicity and educational activities in the past 3 years to educate the public on the proper use of emergency ambulance services:

Publicity and educational activity	2012-13 (Number/Details)	2013-14 (Number/Details)	2014-15 (Number/Details)
Ambulance Service Campaign (Television programme)	1	1	-
Ambulance Elites' Competitive Games	-	1	-
"Do Not Misuse Ambulance Service" Roving Exhibition	5	4	4
School/Community Outreaching Scheme	49	57	84
Radio series in Happy Daily (Radio programme)	2	4	6
"Do Not Misuse Ambulance Service" Video Production, 4-Panel Comic Drawing	1	1	1

Competition and Ambulance Livery Design Competition			
Display of the message of “Do Not Misuse Ambulance Service”	41 days (Inside train compartments)	28 days (Inside Light Rail train compartments) 62 days (On tram bodies)	28 days (Station concourses of East Rail Line, West Rail Line and Ma On Shan Line) 21 days (At bus stops) 21 days (At tram stations) 28 days (Station concourses of Island Line, Tsuen Wan Line and Kwun Tong Line) 28 days (On bus bodies)
Fire Safety Carnival, Fire Station and Ambulance Depot Open Day, other publicity activities	4	7	12
Television drama series of “Fire Brigade” to promote ambulance service	1 episode	-	-
Display of posters and banners to promote the message of “Do Not Misuse Ambulance Service” in various districts	260 posters	250 posters	265 posters

The above activities were co-ordinated and arranged by a Senior Ambulance Officer and an Ambulance Officer from the Community Relations Unit of the Ambulance Command. In 2014-15, the FSD recruited 4 part-time non-civil service contract staff to provide assistance. The expenditures of organising such activities (including staff salaries and activity expenses) were approximately \$3.25 million, \$3.69 million and \$2.79 million in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB704

(Question Serial No. 6536)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the details of the Administration's plan to develop a computer system for the provision of post-dispatch advice to emergency ambulance service callers? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 351)

Reply:

To further enhance its emergency ambulance services, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has been providing simple post-dispatch advice (PDA) to ambulance callers on certain types of common injuries and sicknesses (e.g. bleeding, fracture/dislocation of limbs, burns and convulsions) to help stabilise the conditions of the patients since May 2011. The FSD plans to acquire a computer system to provide more detailed and appropriate PDA to emergency ambulance services callers. The computer system will be installed with an internationally-accredited questioning protocol software to assist operators of the Fire Services Communications Centre to ask callers questions following the questioning protocol, so as to systematically obtain information on patients' conditions. Through immediate analysis, operators may provide detailed and appropriate PDA to callers and guide them to render assistance to patients, thereby improving patients' conditions and survival rate before arrival of the ambulance crew.

The estimated expenditure for the acquisition and development of the proposed computer system is \$37.88 million, including the costs for computer hardware and software, contract staff and training.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB705****(Question Serial No. 6537)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Ambulance ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

What are the manpower and expenditure involved in the commissioning of the new ambulance depot at Choi Shun Street, Sheung Shui?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 352)Reply:

Sheung Shui Ambulance Depot at Choi Shun Street, Sheung Shui is expected to be commissioned in April 2015, the approved estimate of which is \$174.5 million. The additional posts and salary costs to be involved in the commissioning of the new ambulance depot are as follows:

Rank	Number	Salary* (\$)
Senior Ambulance Officer	1	817,500
Ambulance Officer	2	1,092,240
Principal Ambulanceman	5	2,165,700
Senior Ambulanceman	-5	-1,777,800
Assistant Clerical Officer	1	232,920
Total:	4	2,530,560

*Calculated on the basis of the relevant notional annual mid-point salary values in 2014-15

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB706

(Question Serial No. 6538)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the details, manpower arrangement and expenditure involved in the Administration's development of a new ambulance depot at the Boundary Crossing Facilities of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 353)

Reply:

The works of the fire station cum ambulance depot at the Boundary Crossing Facilities of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge will be implemented under the "Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities-Reclamation and Superstructures" (Project Code 6845TH), and the construction cost involved has been included in one of the contracts under the project. At present, the Fire Services Department does not have the specific details regarding the manpower arrangement and other expenditures of the new ambulance depot.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB707****(Question Serial No. 4592)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the engagement of outsourced workers, please provide the following information:

	2014-15 (the latest position)
Number of outsourced service contracts	()
Total payments to outsourced service providers	()
Length of contract for each outsourced service provider	()
Number of outsourced workers engaged through outsourced service providers	()
Responsibilities 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 to \$30,000	()
• \$8,001 to \$16,000	()
• \$6,501 to \$8,000	()
• \$6,240 to \$6,500	()
• below \$6,240	()
Length of service of outsourced workers	
• over 15 years	()
• 10 to 15 years	()
• 5 to 10 years	()
• 3 to 5 years	()
• 1 to 3 years	()
• less than 1 year	()
Percentage of outsourced workers among the total number of staff in the Department	()
Percentage of payments to outsourced service providers among the total staff costs of 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 offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF)	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Number of workers with remunerated meal break	()
Number of workers without remunerated meal break	()
Number of workers on five-day week	()
Number of workers on six-day week	()

() Change in percentage as compared with the same period in 2013-14

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing (Member Question No. 105)

Reply:

	2014-15 (as at 31 March 2015)
Number of outsourced service contracts	8 (0%)
Total payments to outsourced service providers	\$44,665,000 (+7.7%) [Estimated full-year cost]
Length of contract for each outsourced service provider	Varies from 12 to 36 months
Number of outsourced workers engaged through outsourced service providers	The number of workers is determined by outsourced service providers according to the service required. The Fire Services Department (FSD) does not have information about the total number of these workers.
Responsibilities of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology)	Security, cleansing, general services, catering and professional/technical services.
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30,001 or above • \$16,001 to \$30,000 • \$8,001 to \$16,000 • \$6,501 to \$8,000 • \$6,240 to \$6,500 • below \$6,240 	The monthly salary of outsourced workers is agreed between the service providers and their employees in the employment contracts. The FSD does not have detailed information about the monthly salary of outsourced workers. If the service contract is mainly related to the employment of non-skilled workers, the monthly salary paid by outsourced services providers to these workers must not be lower than the statutory minimum wage with 1 paid rest day per week.
Length of service of outsourced workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • over 15 years • 10 to 15 years • 5 to 10 years • 3 to 5 years • 1 to 3 years • less than 1 year 	The length of employment of outsourced workers is not specified in the contract in the procurement of outsourced services by Government departments. In engaging outsourced services, the FSD mainly focuses on whether the service provider can

	fulfill the service requirements set out in the contract. The FSD does not have such information.
Percentage of outsourced workers among the total number of staff in the Department	The number of outsourced workers is determined by the service providers according to the service required. The FSD does not have information about the total number of these workers
Percentage of payments to outsourced service providers among the total staff costs of the Department	1.1% (0%)
Number of workers who received severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity	The employment contracts were entered into between the service providers and their employees. The FSD does not keep such information.
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity paid	
Number of workers with severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF)	
Amount of severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	
Number of workers with remunerated meal break Number of workers without remunerated meal break	Whether meal breaks are paid or not is agreed between the outsourced service providers and their employees. The FSD does not keep such information.
Number of workers on five-day week Number of workers on six-day week	The number of working days per week is agreed between the outsourced service providers and their employees when they enter into employment contracts. The FSD does not keep such information.

() Change in percentage as compared with the same period in 2013-14

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB708****(Question Serial No. 4593)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the engagement of agency workers, please provide the following information:

	2014-15 (the latest position)
Number of contracts engaging employment agencies	()
Contract sum paid to each employment agency	()
Length of contract for each employment agency	()
Number of agency workers	()
Responsibilities 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	()
• below \$6,240	()
Length of service of agency workers	
• over 15 years	()
• 10 to 15 years	()
• 5 to 10 years	()
• 3 to 5 years	()
• 1 to 3 years	()
• less than 1 year	()
Percentage of agency workers among the total number of staff in the Department	()
Percentage of payments to employment agencies among the total staff costs of 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 offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to Mandatory Provident Fund	()

(MPF)	
Amount of severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Number of workers with remunerated meal break	()
Number of workers without remunerated meal break	()
Number of workers on five-day week	()
Number of workers on six-day week	()

() Change in percentage as compared with the same period in 2013-14

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing (Member Question No. 106)

Reply:

	2014-15 (as at 31 March 2015)
Number of contracts engaging employment agencies	2 (-33.3%)
Contract sum paid to each employment agency	\$935,000(-29.5%) [Estimated full-year cost]
Length of contract for each employment agency	9 months
Number of agency workers	20 persons (-41.2%)
Responsibilities of the positions held by agency workers	Clerical services
Monthly salary range of agency workers	
• \$30,001 or above	-
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	0 (-100%)
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	20 (-39.4%)
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	-
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	-
• below \$6,240	-
Length of service of agency workers	The employment contracts were entered into between the employment agencies and their employees. The Fire Services Department (FSD) does not keep such information.
• over 15 years	
• 10 to 15 years	
• 5 to 10 years	
• 3 to 5 years	
• 1 to 3 years	
• less than 1 year	
Percentage of agency workers among the total number of staff in the Department	0.2% (-33.3%)
Percentage of payments to employment agencies among the total staff costs of the Department	0.02% (-33.3%)
Number of workers who received severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity	The employment contracts were entered into between the employment agencies and their employees. The FSD does not keep such information.
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity paid	
Number of workers with severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF)	
Amount of severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	
Number of workers with remunerated meal break	20 (-41.2%)
Number of workers without remunerated meal break	0 (0%)

Number of workers on five-day week	20 (-41.2%)
Number of workers on six-day week	0 (0%)

() *Change in percentage as compared with the same period in 2013-14*

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB709****(Question Serial No. 4594)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, please provide the following information:

	2014-15 (the latest position)
Number of NCSC staff	()
Responsibilities of positions held by NCSC staff	
Salary costs of NCSC staff	()
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff	
• \$30,001 or above	()
• \$16,001 to \$30,000	()
• \$8,001 to \$16,000	()
• \$6,501 to \$8,000	()
• \$6,240 to \$6,500	()
• below \$6,240	()
Length of service of NCSC staff	
• over 15 years	()
• 10 to 15 years	()
• 5 to 10 years	()
• 3 to 5 years	()
• 1 to 3 years	()
• less than 1 year	()
Number of staff converted to civil servants	()
Percentage of NCSC staff among the total number of staff in the Department	()
Percentage of staff costs of NCSC staff among the total staff costs of the Department	()
Number of staff who received severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity paid	()
Number of staff with severance payment/long service	()

payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF)	
Amount of severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Number of staff with remunerated meal break	()
Number of staff without remunerated meal break	()
Number of staff working on five-day week	()
Number of staff working on six-day week	()

() Change in percentage as compared with the same period in 2013-14

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing (Member Question No. 107)

Reply:

	2014-15 (as at 31 December 2014)
Number of NCSC staff	30 (-41.2%)
Responsibilities of positions held by NCSC staff	Telecommunications and information technology, administrative and clerical work, project assistance, building inspection, etc.
Salary costs of NCSC staff	About \$14,248,000 (+12.3%)
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff	
• \$30,001 or above	21 (-8.7%)
• \$16,001 to \$30,000	9 (-10%)
• \$8,001 to \$16,000	0 (-100%)
• \$6,501 to \$8,000	0 (0%)
• \$6,240 to \$6,500	0 (0%)
• below \$6,240	0 (0%)
Length of service of NCSC staff	
• over 15 years	0 (0%)
• 10 to 15 years	1 (-50%)
• 5 to 10 years	7 (-30%)
• 3 to 5 years	1 (+100%)
• 1 to 3 years	18 (+28.6%)
• less than 1 year	3 (-88%)
Number of staff converted to civil servants	There is currently no mechanism to convert NCSC staff to civil servants.
Percentage of NCSC staff among the total number of staff in the Department	0.29% (-43.1%)
Percentage of staff costs of NCSC staff among the total staff costs of the Department	0.35% (+6.1%)
Number of staff who received severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity	10/0/33
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity paid	About \$225,000/0/About \$1,812,000

Number of staff with severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF)	10/0/0
Amount of severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	About \$218,000/0/0
Number of staff with remunerated meal break	30 (-41.2%)
Number of staff without remunerated meal break	0 (0%)
Number of staff working on five-day week	30 (-41.2%)
Number of staff working on six-day week	0 (0%)

() Change in percentage as compared with the same period in 2013-14

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB710

(Question Serial No. 3688)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Who are the training targets of the Fire and Ambulance Services Academy? What are the operational manpower and training capacity of the Academy?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 64)

Reply:

The Fire and Ambulance Services Academy (FASA) will be equipped with advanced and diversified training facilities for providing initial training for new recruits of fire and ambulance personnel as well as professional and continuous in-service training for serving Service members. The FASA will also provide fire and ambulance-related training courses for other persons, such as Community Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation training courses and Fire Safety Ambassador Trainer courses for members of the public.

The FASA will have an establishment of 138 posts at various ranks, with the Commandant proposed to be an officer at Deputy Chief Fire Officer rank. The construction work of the FASA is expected to be completed by end 2015 for commissioning in early 2016 to provide about 530 residential training places.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB711

(Question Serial No. 3689)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2014, the number of inspections conducted by the Department in schools, child care centres, food premises, places of public entertainment, karaoke establishments, and drug dependent persons treatment and rehabilitation centres decreased, while the number of inspections of commercial premises and composite buildings increased as compared to the figures in 2013. Were the two tasks handled by the same team of staff? Please provide the number of inspections of composite buildings over the past 2 years.

What is the number of staff responsible for the two tasks in 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 65)

Reply:

Inspections of schools, child care centres, food premises, places of public entertainment, karaoke establishments, and drug dependent persons treatment and rehabilitation centres are conducted by the 2 Regional Offices under the Licensing and Certification Command of the Fire Services Department (FSD). The number of inspections in 2014 decreased as compared to the figure in 2013 mainly because the FSD decided, following an internal review, to revise the counting methods for different types of fire protection inspections since 2014 to better reflect the work of the Department. As a result, the number of the relevant fire protection inspections changed.

The inspections of commercial premises and composite buildings are conducted by the 2 Building Improvement Divisions under the Fire Safety Command of the Department. Taking into account the recommendations of the Director of Audit's Report No. 61, the FSD has started to conduct more inspections of the buildings newly issued with Fire Safety Improvement Directions (including composite buildings) and buildings granted with fourth or more extension of time for compliance of directions in 2014. Hence, the number of inspections of commercial premises and composite buildings increased from 39 155 in 2013 to 47 954 in 2014, of which the number of inspections of composite buildings increased from 26 273 to 36 249.

The functions of the Regional Offices mainly include advising on matters relating to registration and licensing of schools, food premises and places of public entertainment, and handling issues involving fire hazards in these premises. The Building Improvement Divisions are mainly responsible for enforcing the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance (Cap. 502) and the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) to improve fire protection measures for prescribed commercial premises, specified commercial buildings, old-style composite buildings and domestic buildings. In 2015-16, there will be a total of 59 and 19 established posts of the Fire Stream and civilian grades respectively in the 2 Regional Offices; and a total of 109 and 69 established posts of the Fire Stream and civilian grades respectively in the 2 Building Improvement Divisions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB712

(Question Serial No. 3690)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

There was a slight increase in the number of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices issued in 2014 as compared to the figure in 2013. Which types of premises and buildings accounted for a higher percentage among those issued with such notices?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 66)

Reply:

In 2014, the Fire Services Department issued a total of 4 751 Fire Hazard Abatement Notices (excluding those issued in respect of floating obstructions to means of escape and locked exits), representing an increase of 78 notices over the 4 673 notices issued in 2013. The notices issued mainly involved composite buildings, accounting for about 75% of the total number of notices.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB713

(Question Serial No. 3691)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

There was a significant increase in the number of prosecutions instituted by the Fire Services Department against dangerous goods stores and fire hazards in 2014 as compared to the figure in 2013. Which premises and districts accounted for a higher percentage of prosecutions ?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 67)

Reply:

In 2014, the Fire Services Department (FSD) instituted a total of 219 prosecutions against dangerous goods stores and timber stores, mainly in Sai Kung (35 prosecutions), Kwai Tsing (24 prosecutions) and Yuen Long (22 prosecutions), which accounted for about 37% of the total number of prosecutions. Premises involved in such prosecutions were mainly areas without buildings (125 prosecutions) such as open spaces or construction sites, and industrial buildings (60 prosecutions). These two types of premises accounted for about 84% of the total number of prosecutions.

The FSD instituted a total of 316 prosecutions against fire hazards in 2014, mainly in Yau Tsim Mong (65 prosecutions), Wan Chai (39 prosecutions) and Kowloon City (38 prosecutions), which accounted for about 45% of the total number of prosecutions. Premises involved in such prosecutions were mainly composite buildings (149 prosecutions) and commercial buildings (102 prosecutions), accounting for about 79% of the total number of prosecutions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB714

(Question Serial No. 3692)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Fire Services Department will continue to step up inspection of pre-1987 composite or domestic buildings. What is the number of buildings targeted for inspection for 2015-16 and the number of staff required for such work?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 68)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department (BD) have set up their task forces to enforce the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance (Cap. 502) and the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572). The objective of the former is to enhance the fire safety standard of prescribed commercial premises and specified commercial buildings constructed in or before March 1987; while the latter enhances the same of composite buildings and domestic buildings constructed at or before that time. The task forces comprise a mix of civil servants and non-civil service contract staff. The task forces of the FSD and the BD each consist of 207 and 126 members respectively in 2014-15 and the relevant staff costs were about \$113 million and \$53 million respectively. The number of composite buildings planned for inspection in 2015 is 400.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3693)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What is the number of staff responsible for frontline ambulance work among the 2 982 staff members?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 69)

Reply:

Among the 2 982 staff members under Programme (3) Ambulance Service, 2 862 are responsible for carrying out frontline ambulance duties.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3694)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Will the Fire Services Department (FSD) continue with the meal break arrangement under which ambulancemen are required to work 12 hours per shift, and take turns to have meals for 30 minutes within a designated meal break period of 2 to 3 hours?

Meal breaks of ambulancemen are frequently interrupted by emergency calls, hence affecting staff morale and quality of service. Will the Department improve the arrangement this year?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 70)

Reply:

As in the cases of many other disciplined services staff, the scheduled meal breaks of frontline ambulancemen may be interrupted because of the need to discharge emergency duties. In view of the fact that the meal breaks of frontline ambulancemen may be interrupted due to the need to discharge emergency duties, the FSD has made flexible meal break arrangements for them, taking into account the emergency nature of ambulance service. At present, frontline ambulancemen (including Principal Ambulancemen, Senior Ambulancemen and Ambulancemen) normally work 12 hours per shift. They may have meals during a designated lunch break period of 2 hours 30 minutes, during which the Depot Commander may, having regard to the circumstances, accord lower dispatch priority to certain ambulances, so that the ambulancemen can have their meals. However, if no other ambulances are available for dispatch at that time, they still have to stop their meals to respond to emergency calls. In the event that ambulancemen are unable to take a continuous 30-minute meal break during the designated period, they may take a 30-minute compensatory meal break afterwards, during which they will be free from attending ambulance calls.

The FSD has been paying close attention to the meal break arrangements for frontline ambulancemen, and has formulated and implemented various improvement measures on the premise that the provision of emergency ambulance services to the public is not affected.

Such measures include increasing the number of compensatory meal break quota for day-shift ambulancemen from July 2014, and according lower dispatch priority to staff members who have not been allocated a quota during the compensatory meal break period, so that they can have their meals. Besides, to provide better support for frontline ambulancemen, the FSD established the Special Support Unit comprising 24 ambulance staff members in April 2014. The Unit has enhanced the efficiency of emergency ambulance services and the operational capability in meeting the demand for ambulance service arising from festive occasions and major incidents. It also helps relieve the workload of other ambulance units.

Following the implementation of these measures, there has been improvement in the meal break arrangements for frontline ambulancemen. Between July 2014 and February 2015, about 97% of ambulancemen on average had a continuous lunch break of at least 30 minutes. The Department will continue its dialogue and discussion with the staff side, with a view to providing reasonable meal break arrangements for frontline staff while ensuring the efficient provision of emergency ambulance services to the public.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB717

(Question Serial No. 3695)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Will the Department review the wage level of ambulancemen this year? If not, what are the reasons? Does the Department consider that the existing wage level of ambulancemen is commensurate with their working hours?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 71)

Reply:

In its Grade Structure Review Report of the Disciplined Services submitted to the Government in November 2008, the Standing Committee on Disciplined Services Salaries and Conditions of Service (SCDS) set out, inter alia, the findings and recommendations in respect of the review of the Ambulanceman grade and the pay structure of its respective ranks. During the process, the SCDS had taken into account the nature of work and other special factors, including the hours of work of the Ambulanceman grade. The recommendations were accepted by the Chief Executive in Council in October 2009.

In addition, while considering the report submitted by the SCDS, the Chief Executive in Council decided that comprehensive reviews of the structure, pay and conditions of service of the 7 disciplined services should be conducted on a need basis only when there are significant changes in the work nature and responsibilities, proven recruitment and retention problem, etc. of the disciplined services. According to objective data, the above criteria for conducting grade structure reviews of the disciplined services are not met in the case of the Ambulanceman grade. The Government therefore considers that there are insufficient justifications for conducting such review of the Ambulanceman grade at present.

- End -