

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0131)

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:

On 27 September last year, a major fire broke out at Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter and a number of vessels sank as a result. It was subsequently found that fireboat No. 8 stationed at North Point Fire Station had been carrying out duties in other part of the waters at the time of the incident. This fireboat is a support vessel rather than a regular fireboat of the Fire Services Department (FSD), indicating that there is no regular fireboat stationed in the eastern Victoria Harbour and the eastern waters of Hong Kong. In this regard, would the Government inform this Committee:

1. Whether the FSD has any plan currently to replace the support vessel stationed at North Point Fire Station with a regular fireboat; if yes, what is the latest progress of the plan; if not, what are the reasons;
2. Whether the FSD has formulated any work plan for 2016-17 to strengthen the marine firefighting capability in the eastern Victoria Harbour and the eastern waters of Hong Kong; if yes, what are the details of the work plan and the estimated expenditure involved; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 21)

Reply:

1. To cope with emergency incidents in the Victoria Harbour and the eastern waters of Hong Kong, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has stationed 2 fireboats in the Victoria Harbour, namely the major Fireboat Elite at the Central Fireboat Station and Fireboat No. 8 at North Point Fireboat Station. Besides carrying fire personnel and fire-fighting equipment to render support in marine and offshore islands incidents, Fireboat No. 8 is also a regular fireboat equipped with fire-fighting and rescue equipment, which can provide marine fire-fighting and rescue services. When Fireboat No. 8 is deployed to carry out supporting duties outside its service area, the FSD will, according to the existing mechanism, deploy a diving support vessel equipped with fire-fighting and rescue equipment from the Ngong Shuen Chau Diving

Base to stand by at the North Point Fireboat Station for providing marine fire-fighting and rescue services in the eastern Victoria Harbour and the eastern waters of Hong Kong. The FSD handled the fire which broke out at Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter on 27 September last year under the same mechanism.

2. The FSD reviews from time to time its overall marine fire-fighting and rescue strategies in Hong Kong as well as the related equipment. The FSD conducts risk assessment for different water areas, taking into account factors including the distribution of vessels, utilisation of shipping channels, existence of high risk facilities at sea and along coastal areas, etc., in deciding the location of fireboat stations and deployment of fire vessels (e.g. fireboats and fire speedboats). The FSD noted that the total number of emergency incidents in the eastern waters of Hong Kong (including the waters in Sai Kung, east Lei Yue Mun, Tolo Harbour/Tai Po, northeast and southeast Hong Kong) has shown a rising trend in recent years, and the marine traffic is expected to become busier day by day. In this regard, the FSD, upon detailed examination of existing resources, has proposed to procure an additional major fireboat and a fast rescue vessel for stationing in Sai Kung waters, so as to enhance the overall efficiency of fire-fighting, ambulance and emergency search and rescue operations in these waters. The estimated costs of the proposed procurement of the fireboat and the fast rescue vessel are \$125 million and \$40 million respectively, and the vessels are scheduled for commissioning in 2018.

Moreover, to enhance its emergency response capability in the eastern waters of Hong Kong, the FSD, in the daytime (i.e. from 10 am to 7 pm) during Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays between every July and September, temporarily deploys a diving support speedboat equipped with fire-fighting and rescue equipment and a diving team to the Sai Kung Marine Police Base and the Sai Kung Fire Station respectively for rendering services to the eastern waters during peak seasons for water sports. Since the above deployment arrangement is only seasonal and temporary, the FSD discussed with the Drainage Services Department and was allowed to set up a temporary rescue speedboat deployment point on the waterfront of the Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works at Tui Min Hoi, Sai Kung. The estimated cost for the basic facility works of the temporary deployment point is about \$2 million and the works are scheduled for completion in mid-2016.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1223)

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 effective is the Rapid Response Vehicle Scheme (the Scheme) since its implementation by the Fire Services Department? What were the number of cases, the expenditure and the manpower involved in the Scheme last year? The Department will continue the Scheme in 2016-17 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. 30)

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 end February 2016, the RRVs provided support for a total of 18 460 emergency calls, and conducted 15 111 field audits of emergency ambulance cases and 35 670 inspections.

Currently the FSD has 2 RRVs providing round-the-clock service (involving 9 Ambulance Officer posts), which are stationed at Wong Tai Sin Ambulance Depot and Sheung Shui Ambulance Depot respectively. In 2015, the RRVs provided support for a total of 3 852 emergency calls, and conducted 4 142 field audits of emergency ambulance cases and 8 034 inspections. The expenditure involved was about \$5 million. In 2016-17, the FSD will continue to implement the RRV Scheme with existing manpower and replace 2 on-run and 1 reserve RRVs. The expenditure is estimated to be around \$7.8 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2465)

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:

1. Please list by district the Classification of Special Services in Appendix 6.2 of the Fire Services Department Review in 2014-2015 and 2015-16.
2. The Fire Services Department established a Special Task Force in April 2013 to carry out joint operations with the Buildings Department to inspect common areas and means of escapes in old-style composite or domestic buildings. Please list by year the cases of irregularities identified during the inspections, 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.

Asked by: Hon Albert HO Chun-yan (Member Question No. 45)

Reply:

1. A breakdown of the special service calls by division that the Fire Services Department (FSD) handled in 2014 and 2015 is provided below:

2014

Types	Hong Kong Command				Kowloon Command				New Territories Command					Total
	East Division	Central Division	West Division	Marine & Offshore Islands Division	East Division	Central Division	West Division	South Division	East Division	South Division	West Division	North Division	South West Division	
Flooding premises	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	6
Trapped by machinery	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3	4	2	1	2	15
Threatening to jump	6	18	3	2	18	14	20	15	14	18	19	6	13	166
Falling into water	10	3	4	30	5	0	3	10	9	8	10	3	4	99
Falling from height	7	9	4	4	19	21	26	3	6	14	17	9	5	144
Hanging	6	1	5	1	21	6	9	6	9	14	11	9	7	105
Leakage of flammable liquid/gas	50	32	21	3	37	26	28	46	30	33	31	20	16	373
Traffic accidents	4	8	7	1	11	11	19	9	26	36	27	38	53	250
Locked in premises	130	43	101	10	194	189	142	100	133	138	170	117	87	1 554
Trapped/ shut in lift	1 265	1 321	1 160	91	1 219	1 107	1 124	1 532	977	771	783	657	202	12 209
False alarms	775	628	560	313	1 410	1 265	1 215	1 000	1 130	956	1 390	1 123	279	12 044
Ambulance cases	322	138	219	145	573	534	505	281	471	441	608	473	140	4 850
Others	63	76	97	156	74	89	70	69	225	112	158	337	79	1 605
Total	2 638	2 277	2 181	757	3 582	3 263	3 163	3 071	3 033	2 546	3 227	2 795	887	33 420

2015

Types	Hong Kong Command				Kowloon Command				New Territories Command					Total
	East Division	Central Division	West Division	Marine & Offshore Islands Division	East Division	Central Division	West Division	South Division	East Division	South Division	West Division	North Division	South West Division	
Flooding premises	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	6
Trapped by machinery	1	1	1	0	2	2	1	3	0	1	1	1	1	15
Threatening to jump	7	15	5	0	18	15	24	14	14	14	14	8	6	154
Falling into water	4	7	7	15	8	4	2	10	9	4	5	1	5	81
Falling from height	8	5	5	1	17	16	15	10	20	20	12	7	6	142
Hanging	4	6	4	1	16	11	11	7	13	12	8	15	4	112
Leakage of flammable liquid/gas	62	30	23	4	36	29	33	42	50	34	21	15	15	394
Traffic accidents	4	6	15	1	13	25	17	8	22	20	20	33	24	208
Locked in premises	109	46	62	10	229	167	174	62	151	124	136	121	71	1 462
Trapped/ shut in lift	1 274	1 288	1 172	100	1 217	1 056	1 148	1 637	1 186	678	574	653	195	12 178
False alarms	875	672	613	358	1 418	1 431	1 361	964	1 455	939	1 091	1 114	330	12 621
Ambulance cases	311	158	227	152	582	588	578	282	546	418	482	370	172	4 866
Others	55	63	93	149	74	142	77	43	239	126	130	199	54	1 444
Total	2 714	2 297	2 228	791	3 630	3 489	3 441	3 082	3 705	2 390	2 496	2 537	883	33 683

2. The FSD established a Special Task Force (the Task Force) in April 2013 to carry out joint operations with the Buildings Department (BD) to inspect common areas and

means of escapes in about 6 500 old-style composite or domestic buildings, with a view to ensuring fire safety of these buildings. In April 2014, the two departments completed an initial joint inspection of such buildings and the Task Force identified fire safety-related irregularities in about 2 700 buildings, such as obstruction to means of escape, lack of maintenance of fire service installations and equipment, over-storage of dangerous goods, existence of subdivided units or unauthorised building works. Upon completion of the inspection, the Task Force conducted risk assessments of the irregularities and set priorities for follow-up actions. During the follow-up inspections, new irregularities, mainly involving obstruction to means of escape by miscellaneous articles newly set out, were found. As at 29 February 2016, the FSD has completed most of the fire prevention enforcement actions and will continue to follow up on the irregularities identified in about 460 buildings that remained.

A breakdown of the irregularities identified by the Task Force over the past 3 years is provided below:

Fire Safety-related Irregularities	2013	2014	2015	Total
Obstruction to means of escape	4 789	4 655	1 263	10 707
Wedged open of Smoke stop doors	1 409	750	496	2 655
Lack of maintenance of fire service installations and equipment	983	212	0	1 195
Combustible articles found in means of escape not constituting an obstruction	949	341	209	1 499
Defective or missing smoke stop doors or fire resisting doors	633	227	240	1 100
Unauthorised installation of metal gates in staircases	196	62	10	268
Locked exits	110	173	8	291
Unauthorised combustible wall linings/carpets	60	1	1	62
Over-storage of dangerous goods	2	0	0	2
Suspected subdivided units*	599	323	0	922
Suspected unauthorised building works*	104	28	0	132
Total	9 834	6 772	2 227	18 833

*Irregularities referred to the BD for follow-up action

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB198

(Question Serial No. 0267)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Fire Service, (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the marine fire prevention strategy, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. How long does it generally take for fireboats and fire speedboats to arrive at various typhoon shelters or bays from their respective berths? (Set out in the table below, and put a mark “/” for areas beyond the respective service areas of those vessels)

Typhoon shelter	Fireboat								Fire speedboat
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Aberdeen West Typhoon Shelter									
Aberdeen South Typhoon Shelter									
Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter									
Cheung Chau Typhoon Shelter									
Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter									
New Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter									
Sam Ka Tsuen Typhoon Shelter									
Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter									
To Kwa Wan Typhoon Shelter									
Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter									
Yim Tin Tsai Typhoon Shelter									
Tai O									
River Trade Terminal (Tuen Mun)									
Chai Wan Public Cargo Working Area									
Cafeteria Beach, Tuen Mun									

2. What were the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved in the fire prevention work for typhoon shelters in the past 3 years (from 2013-14 to 2015-16) respectively?
3. What will be the staff establishment and the estimated expenditure involved in the fire prevention work for typhoon shelters in 2016-17?
4. The Government plans to procure a fireboat and a fast rescue vessel. In what ways will these vessels facilitate the overall marine fire prevention work?

Asked by: Hon Steven HO Chun-yin (Member Question No. 34)

Reply:

- The time (in minutes) generally required for fire vessels, including fireboats and fire speedboats, to arrive at various typhoon shelters or bays within their main service areas from their respective stand-by berths is set out in the table below#:

Typhoon shelter / bay	Fireboat								Fire speedboat
	1	2*	3	4	5	6*	7*	8	
Aberdeen West Typhoon Shelter	/	/	/	1.5	/	/	/	/	19
Aberdeen South Typhoon Shelter	/	/	/	6	/	/	/	/	25
Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter	10	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	12
Cheung Chau Typhoon Shelter	/	/	3	/	/	/	/	/	29
Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	7	17
New Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter	20	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	3.5
Sam Ka Tsuen Typhoon Shelter	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	7	16
Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	8	16
To Kwa Wan Typhoon Shelter	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	8	12
Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter	/	/	/	/	15	/	/	/	13
Yim Tin Tsai Typhoon Shelter	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	45	20
Tai O	/	/	/	/	46	/	/	/	5
River Trade Terminal (Tuen Mun)	/	/	/	/	10	/	/	/	8
Chai Wan Public Cargo Working Area	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	12	19
Cafeteria Beach, Tuen Mun	/	/	/	/	15	/	/	/	12

Note: # The actual time taken for fire vessels to arrive at the scene of marine fire is affected by various factors, for example, whether the vessels are engaged in other operations (including participation in regular navigation training, exercise and inspection, or handling other emergency incidents, etc.), and the marine traffic, waves, current, wind direction, visibility and so forth at the time of incident. General speaking, when the Fire Services Department (FSD) receives a call of marine fire incident, it will deploy, apart from fire speedboats, at least 2 fireboats which are nearest to the incident scene for operation. In addition, the nearby on-shore fire stations will deploy fire appliances to provide speedy support.

* Fireboats No. 2 and No. 7 are reserve fireboats which are deployed for duty when required or serve as substitutes for fireboats under maintenance and repair. Therefore, they do not have specific service areas. Fireboat No. 6 is deployed at Tsing Yi Fireboat Station and is responsible for waters near Tsing Yi and Ma Wan, including the oil terminals, oil tanker berths, dockyards, etc. in Tsing Yi. The typhoon shelters and bays listed above are not within its service area. In addition, the FSD has 2 command boats stationed at the Airport Rescue Boat Berths. They are dedicated to handling incidents in the waters near the airport.

- 2 & 3. The fire-fighting, rescue and fire prevention education work in respect of typhoon shelters is mainly taken up by the personnel responsible for marine matters under the Marine and Offshore Islands Division of the FSD, with support from fire stations near the typhoon shelters. The FSD does not have any breakdown of the expenditure involved in the fire prevention work in respect of typhoon shelters. The establishment of the disciplined grades staff responsible for marine matters

under the Marine and Offshore Islands Division of the FSD in 2013-14 to 2015-16 and the estimated establishment in 2016-17 are listed out as follows:

Rank Year (as at 31 March)	Establishment			
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (Estimated)
Senior Divisional Officer	1	1	1	1
Divisional Officer	1	1	1	1
Assistant Divisional Officer	1	1	1	1
Senior Station Officer / Station Officer	11	11	11	11
Principal Fireman	49	49	49	49
Senior Fireman	68	68	68	68
Fireman	107	110	110	110

4. The FSD reviews from time to time its overall marine fire-fighting and rescue strategies in Hong Kong as well as the related equipment, and conducts risk assessment for different water areas, taking into account factors including the distribution of vessels, utilisation of shipping channels, existence of high risk facilities at sea and along coastal areas, etc., in deciding the location of fireboat stations and deployment of fire vessels (e.g. fireboats and fire speedboats). The FSD noted that the total number of emergency incidents in the eastern waters of Hong Kong (including the waters in Sai Kung, east Lei Yue Mun, Tolo Harbour/Tai Po, northeast and southeast Hong Kong) had shown a rising trend in recent years, and the marine traffic is expected to become busier day by day. In this regard, the FSD, upon detailed examination of existing resources, has proposed to procure an additional major fireboat and a fast rescue vessel for stationing in Sai Kung waters, so as to enhance the overall efficiency of its fire-fighting, ambulance and emergency search and rescue operations in these waters.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB199

(Question Serial No. 2814)

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:

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 Government 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 details of the "Rapid Response Vehicle Scheme" mentioned by the Government;
3. The estimated expenditure on ambulance service for this year is 8.6% higher than the original estimate in 2015-16. What is the amount of expenditure to be incurred for meeting the staffing requirement for ambulance service?

Asked by: Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee (Member Question No. 25)

Reply:

1. As at 1 March 2016, 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	4
Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer	7
Superintendent	14
Senior Ambulance Officer	49
Ambulance Officer	89
Principal Ambulanceman	274
Senior Ambulanceman	704
Ambulanceman	1 778
Total	2 921

2. The 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. Since the implementation of the Scheme up to end February 2016, the RRVs provided support for a total of 18 460 emergency calls, and conducted 15 111 field audits of emergency ambulance cases and 35 670 inspections. Currently the FSD has 2 RRVs providing round-the-clock service (involving 9 Ambulance Officer posts), which are stationed at Wong Tai Sin Ambulance Depot and Sheung Shui Ambulance Depot respectively.
3. Provision for ambulance service in 2016–17 is 8.6% higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. This is mainly due to the increase of 24 posts, as well as additional provision for filling vacancies and increased cash flow requirement for capital items. The estimated expenditure for the 24 additional posts is approximately \$7.3 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2815)

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:

This year, the Fire Services Department will, through strategic deployment of properly trained staff, equipment and appliances within each Command area, maintain effective firefighting and rescue services to respond to emergency calls expeditiously and efficiently. In view of this, how will the Government utilise the estimated provision for this year and properly deploy resources to ensure that the quality of fire services is maintained while implementing its proposed plan for reducing the conditioned working hours of fire stream staff to 51 hours per week?

Asked by: Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee (Member Question No. 26)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) proposed to reduce the conditioned working hours of operational staff in the fire stream from 54 hours to 51 hours per week under the three pre-requisites (i.e. cost-neutrality, no additional manpower and maintaining the same level of service to the public). In drawing up the proposal, the FSD has taken into account mainly its operational experience in recent years, the enhanced functionalities of the fire appliances/equipment currently available and the adoption of various efficiency measures. The key features of the proposal include streamlining the manning for designated types of fire appliances/vessels, rationalising the staffing complement and resource deployment in selected areas/units and re-structuring the FSD's diving unit. The FSD has implemented a three-phased trial scheme starting from March 2013, and has been closely monitoring the situation to ensure that the level of service provided to the public is maintained. The trial scheme has been running smoothly to date, and statistics from various aspects show that the scheme satisfies the aforementioned three pre-requisites.

In 2016-17 the FSD will continue to provide the community with efficient firefighting and rescue services by implementing the aforesaid measures and strategically deploying its staff, equipment and appliances. It is hoped that the proposal can be implemented as soon as possible for formally reducing the conditioned working hours of operational staff in the fire stream to 51 hours per week.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB201

(Question Serial No. 0439)

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:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2016-17 that the Government plans to procure an additional fireboat and a fast rescue vessel. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the resources to be involved and the details of the procurement.

Asked by: Hon Dennis KWOK (Member Question No. 40)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) reviews from time to time its overall marine fire-fighting and rescue strategies in Hong Kong as well as the related equipment. It conducts risk assessment for different water areas, taking into account factors including the distribution of vessels, utilisation of shipping channels, existence of high risk facilities at sea and along coastal areas, etc., in deciding the location of fireboat stations and deployment of fire vessels (e.g. fireboats and fire speedboats).

The FSD noted that the total number of emergency incidents in the eastern waters of Hong Kong (including the waters in Sai Kung, east Lei Yue Mun, Tolo Harbour/Tai Po, northeast and southeast Hong Kong) had shown a rising trend in recent years, and the marine traffic is expected to become busier day by day. In this regard, the FSD, upon detailed examination of existing resources, has proposed to procure an additional major fireboat and a fast rescue vessel for stationing in Sai Kung waters, so as to enhance the overall efficiency of fire-fighting, ambulance and emergency search and rescue operations in these waters. The estimated costs of the proposed procurement of the fireboat and the fast rescue vessel are \$125 million and \$40 million respectively, and the vessels are scheduled for commissioning in 2018.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3251)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Prevention and Protection

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The total number of fire safety inspections of fire service installation and equipment, schools, child care centres, food premises, places of public entertainment, karaoke establishments, drug dependent persons treatment and rehabilitation centres, commercial premises and composite buildings, and the ventilation systems in buildings and licensed premises conducted by the Fire Services Department (FSD) in the past year is 316 704, representing an average of 868 inspections per day. In this regard, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. How did the FSD achieve such figures with its current manpower?
2. How long does each inspection take?

Asked by: Hon Dennis KWOK (Member Question No. 51)

Reply:

1. Personnel of various units under the Fire Safety Command and Licensing and Certification Command of the Fire Services Department inspect different types of premises and buildings according to their respective scopes of work, so as to ensure the fire safety of the fire service installations and equipment, ventilating systems and the relevant licensed premises etc. The inspections were conducted by the Fire Service Installations Task Force, Fire Service Installations Division, two Fire Protection Regional Offices, Ventilation Division and Building Improvement Divisions. At present, the above units have a total of 277 members to conduct inspections.
2. The time required for each inspection depends on the nature and scale of the case and could not be generalised.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB203

(Question Serial No. 0519)

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:

Does the Fire Services Department (FSD) still 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? If the meal breaks of ambulancemen are interrupted by emergency calls, will the Department offer any reasonable compensation? Will the Department conduct a detailed review of the working hours of ambulancemen this year? And what will be the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (Member Question No. 12)

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) are required to work 48 hours per week and normally work 12 hours per shift. They may have meals during a designated lunch break period of 2 hours 30 minutes and, save for responding to emergency calls, frontline ambulancemen are only required to stand by at their depots during the designated lunch break period without the need to perform other duties. During the period, the Depot Commander may, having regard to the circumstances, accord lower dispatch priority to certain ambulances to facilitate the taking of meals by the ambulancemen. 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 lunch break period, they may take a 30-minute compensatory meal break afterwards, during which they will be free from attending to 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 implementing the increased compensatory meal break quota for day-shift ambulancemen as a standing arrangement in June 2015; and advancing the starting time for according a lower dispatch priority to ambulancemen serving in busier units to 1pm on a trial basis from July 2015, to facilitate their return from hospital to their respective units for meals.

In 2015, around 97% of ambulancemen on average had a continuous lunch break of at least 30 minutes. To address the increasing need for emergency ambulance service, the FSD plans to add 4 ambulance shifts involving 8 Senior Ambulanceman and 16 Ambulanceman posts in 2016-17, with an estimated expenditure of about \$7.3 million. The FSD will continue to keep under review the efficacy of improvement measures and maintain 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 service to the public.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB204

(Question Serial No. 0229)

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:

In 2015, a total of 710 041 ambulance calls were received. How many of those calls 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 Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung (Member Question No. 15)

Reply:

In 2015, 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 2.2% reflected no obvious need for the service. This revealed a downward trend in the percentage of such cases as against 10.3%, 4.2% and 2.7% recorded in similar analyses in 2009, 2011 and 2013 respectively.

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 2015-16 is about \$1.57 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**SB205****(Question Serial No. 2546)**

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:

Please provide the number of civil servants to be recruited in 2016-17 by grade and rank. How does it compare with the number of posts created for the current year? What will be the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung (Member Question No. 17)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department will have a net increase of 61 posts in 2016-17. The estimated annual expenditure involved is about \$31 million. The posts to be created are detailed as follows:

Grade	Rank	Number
Fire Stream	Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	10
	Principal Fireman	4
	Senior Fireman	45
	Fireman	(41)
Ambulance Stream	Senior Ambulanceman	8
	Ambulanceman	16
Civilian, technical and other grades	Senior Principal Executive Officer	1
	Principal Executive Officer	(1)
	Senior Technical Officer	4
	Building Services Inspector	4
	Assistant Building Services Inspector	4
	Executive Officer II	2
	Senior Artisan	8
Artisan	(3)	
Total		61

Note: The numbers inside the brackets denote the number of posts to be deleted.

The number of posts to be created in 2016-17 is 85 less than the 146 additional posts in 2015-16.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1196)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (603) Plant, vehicles and equipment
Programme: (-) Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security
Question:

Regarding the Replacement of Fireboat No. 7 under Item 8BY of Subhead 603, please provide information on the following:

1. The justifications for the increase in the commitment by over 15%;
2. The reason(s) why the replacement work has not yet commenced given that the item was approved in 2012-13;
3. Whether the increase in the commitment is due to a delay in the replacement work; and
4. The estimated expenditure for 2016-17.

Asked by: Hon LEE Cheuk-yan (Member Question No. 7)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Marine Department (MD), there was a surge in the number of new government vessel projects in the past few years due to the latest operational needs and the fact that quite some of the existing government vessels had approached the end of their normal service life. As the professional agent of government fleets, the MD is responsible for the procurement of government vessels centrally. Due to the need to review the vessel procurement procedures and the shortage of experienced staff in the MD in the past few years, there was a delay in the project of the replacement of Fireboat No. 7 in the Fire Services Department.

The cost estimate for the replacement of Fireboat No. 7 conducted in 2011 was based on market information and the cost of similar vessel construction projects at that time. Since there has been a surge in the cost of labour, material and insurance, etc. in the shipbuilding

industry in recent years, it is envisaged that the approved commitment will not be sufficient to cover the latest cost of such project. The increase in commitment is based on inflation adjustment as well as the comparison with the latest market information and tender prices of recently returned tenders of vessels of similar size and type.

The tender of this project will be issued in the second quarter of 2016. The estimated expenditure for this project in 2016-17 is \$9.826 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1197)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (603) Plant, vehicles and equipment
Programme: (-) Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the replacement of diving support speedboats under Item 8CQ and 8CR of Subhead 603, please advise on:

1. The justifications for doubling in the commitment;
2. The reason(s) why the replacement work has not yet commenced given that the item was approved in 2012-13;
3. Whether the increase in the commitment is due to a delay in the replacement work; and
4. The estimated expenditure for 2016-17.

Asked by: Hon LEE Cheuk-yan (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Marine Department (MD), there was a surge in the number of new government vessel projects in the past few years due to the latest operational needs and the fact that quite some of the existing government vessels had approached the end of their normal service life. As the professional agent of government fleets, the MD is responsible for the procurement of government vessels centrally. Due to the need to review the vessel procurement procedures and the shortage of experienced staff in the MD in the past few years, there was a delay in the projects of the replacement of two diving support speedboats in the Fire Services Department.

The cost estimate for the replacement of diving support speedboats no. 2 and 3 conducted in 2012 was based on market information and the cost of similar vessel construction projects at that time. Since there has been a surge in the cost of labour, material and insurance, etc. in

the shipbuilding industry in recent years, it is envisaged that the approved commitment will not be sufficient to cover the latest cost of such projects. The increase in commitment is based on inflation adjustment as well as the comparison with the latest market information and tender prices of recently returned tenders of vessels of similar size and type.

The tender of the two projects will be issued in the second quarter of 2016. The estimated expenditure for each of the two projects in 2016-17 is \$1.6 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB208

(Question Serial No. 1198)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide justifications for Items 8F4, 8F5, 8F6 and 8F7 under Subhead 603 and the estimated expenditure for these items in 2016-17.

Asked by: Hon LEE Cheuk-yan (Member Question No.9)

Reply:

The justifications for Items 8F4, 8F5, 8F6 and 8F7 and the estimated expenditure for these items in 2016-17 are set out as follows:

Code (Item)	Justifications	Estimated expenditure for 2016-17 (\$)(Approved commitment) (\$)
8F4 (One replacement crash fire tender R32)	The normal serviceable life of a crash fire tender is 8 years. The crash fire tender R32 proposed for replacement has been put into service for over 8 years since January 2008. The Fire Services Department (FSD) has to embark on its replacement at this stage so that the frontline firefighting/rescue work will not be affected by any deteriorating performance of the appliance.	4,224,000 (13,199,000)
8F5 (One replacement aerial ladder platform F722)	The normal serviceable life of an aerial ladder platform is 15 years. The aerial ladder platform F722 proposed for replacement has been put into service for over 12 years since June 2003. As a lead time of approximately 3 years is required for preparatory work including tendering, manufacture,	100,000 (16,940,000)

	delivery and commissioning, the FSD has to embark on replacement of this item at this stage so that the frontline firefighting/rescue work will not be affected by its any deteriorating performance of the appliance.	
8F6 (Acquisition of a fireboat)	The FSD reviews from time to time its overall marine firefighting and rescue strategies in Hong Kong as well as the related equipment. It also conducts risk assessment of different water areas, taking into account factors including the distribution of vessels, utilisation of shipping channels, existence of high risk facilities at sea and along coastal areas, etc. in deciding the location of fireboat stations and deployment of fire vessels (e.g. fireboats and fire speedboats). The FSD noted that the total number of emergency incidents in the eastern waters of Hong Kong (including the waters in Sai Kung, east Lei Yue Mun, Tolo Harbour/Tai Po, northeast and southeast Hong Kong) had shown a rising trend in recent years, and the marine traffic is expected to become busier day by day. In this regard, the FSD, upon detailed examination of existing resources, has proposed to procure an additional major fireboat and a fast rescue vessel for stationing in Sai Kung waters, so as to enhance the overall efficiency of firefighting, ambulance and emergency search and rescue operations in these waters.	12,500,000 (125,000,000)
8F7 (Acquisition of a fast rescue vessel)		4,000,000 (40,000,000)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB209

(Question Serial No. 1585)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (603) Plant, vehicles and equipment
Programme: (-) Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

With regard to the replacement of Fireboat No. 7 (8BY), the Government already submitted a paper on the proposed replacement to the Panel on Security as early as 2012, and it was expected that the new fireboat would come into service in 2014-15. Please account for the delay in the replacement.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Marine Department (MD), there was a surge in the number of new government vessel projects in the past few years due to the latest operational needs and the fact that quite some of the existing government vessels had approached the end of their normal service life. As the professional agent of government fleets, the MD is responsible for the procurement of government vessels centrally. Due to the need to review the vessel procurement procedures and the shortage of experienced staff in the MD in the past few years, there was a delay in this project. The tender of this project will be issued in the second quarter of 2016.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB210

(Question Serial No. 1748)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Fire Services Department estimates that there will be an increase of 61 non-directorate posts in 2016-17. In this regard, would the Government 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, strength, wastage and number of retirees in 2015-16 and 2016-17 (estimated figures) under each Programme by rank;
3. It is stated under "Indicators" on page 226 that the number of "emergency move-ups of ambulances to provide operational coverage" increased from 56 882 in 2013 to 66 313 in 2014, representing an increase of 14%; and to 72 801 in 2015, representing an increase of nearly 10%. As estimated by the Department, the figure will continue to go up in 2016. This will put a certain strain on the posts and manpower relating to ambulance service. How will the Department cope with the service demand in terms of its manpower and resources allocation? Please explain in detail.

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

1. In 2016-17, the Fire Services Department (FSD) will have a net increase of 61 posts. Details are as follows:

Programme	Rank	No.	Function
Programme (1) Fire Service	Senior Station Officer/ Station Officer	4	To provide the manpower required for the newly commissioned Fire and Ambulance Services Academy, and to strengthen the high angle rescue service
	Principal Fireman	4	
	Senior Fireman	2	
	Senior Fireman	39	To upgrade the rank of frontline fire personnel of

	Fireman	(39)	designated fire stations to serve as hazardous materials (HazMat) technicians, so as to enhance FSD's capability in handling HazMat incidents
	Senior Principal Executive Officer	1#	To upgrade the Departmental Secretary post to cope with the increased complexity of work, and to strengthen the administrative support to the Senior Management.
	Principal Executive Officer	(1)#	
	Executive Officer II	2	To strengthen the administrative and staff management support to the Department
	Senior Artisan	8	To strengthen the maintenance and repair services for fire appliances and tools by restructuring the manpower
	Senior Fireman (Workshops)	(2)	
	Fireman (Workshops)	(2)	
	Artisan	(3)	
Programme (2) Fire Protection and Prevention	Senior Station Officer/ Station Officer	6	To enforce the fire safety regulations and policies, and to enhance the control of dangerous goods
	Senior Fireman	6	
Programme (3) Ambulance Service	Senior Technical Officer	4	To handle plan processing and acceptance inspection relating to railway development projects under the fire safety regulations
	Building Services Inspector	4	
	Assistant Building Services Inspector	4	
	Senior Ambulanceman	8	
	Ambulanceman	16	
Total:		61	

Note: The numbers inside the brackets denote the number of posts to be deleted

#The Senior Principal Executive Officer and Principal Executive Officer posts are at the ranks of Directorate Pay Scale Point 2 and Point 1 respectively

2. The establishment and strength of various grades in the FSD in 2015-16 are set out as follows:

Grade	Programme (1)		Programme (2)		Programme (3)		Total	
	Establishment	Strength*	Establishment	Strength*	Establishment	Strength*	Establishment	Strength*
Fire Stream	6 422	6 189	329	356	0	0	6 751	6 545
Ambulance Stream	8	12	0	0	2 913	2 861	2 921	2 873
Civilian, technical and other grades	463	427	196	198	70	63	729	688
Total:	6 893	6 628	525	554	2 983	2 924	10 401	10 106

*Strength as at 1 March 2016 (including staff members on pre-retirement leave)

The estimated establishment of various grades in the FSD in 2016-17 is set out as follows:

Grade	Programme (1)	Programme (2)	Programme (3)	Total
Fire Stream	6 428	341	0	6 769
Ambulance Stream	8	0	2 937	2 945
Civilian, technical and other grades	470	208	70	748
Total:	6 906	549	3 007	10 462

The estimated strength of various grades for 2016-17 is not available as the number of staff members varies from time to time.

The posts of the staff members of the FSD are subject to change from time to time, and may involve inter-Programme transfers. The overall wastage in various grades in the FSD in 2015-16 (as at 1 March 2016) is tabulated as follows:

Type of wastage	Fire Stream	Ambulance Stream	Civilian, technical and other grades	Total
Retirement	203	120	27	350
Exit for other reasons @	31	33	54	118
Total:	234	153	81	468

@Such as resignation, transfer to other grades

While the number of staff who will leave the service for reasons other than retirement cannot be estimated, the estimated numbers of retirees of various grades in the FSD in 2016-17 are set out as follows:

Fire Stream	Ambulance Stream	Civilian, technical and other grades	Total
217	90	28	335

- In normal deployment, the Fire Services Communications Centre timely deploys ambulances to other depots as standbys having regard to the demand and the operation of individual depots, with a view to providing the best service coverage and enabling a more efficient use of emergency ambulance resources. According to past experiences, the number of emergency move-ups of ambulances to other depots as standbys varied from time to time. This did not mean that there was any deficiency in the overall ambulance resources. From 2013 to 2015, the number of calls for ambulance service increased by about 5.2%. In these 3 years, 139 additional posts were created in the establishment of the Ambulanceman grade, representing an increase of about 5.3%. The FSD will provide 4 additional ambulance shifts in 2016-17, which involve 8 Senior Ambulanceman posts and 16 Ambulanceman posts, to cope with the increasing demand for emergency ambulance service, and the estimated expenditure is about \$7.3 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB211

(Question Serial No. 0678)

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:

According to the information provided by the Hong Kong Fire Services Department Ambulancemen's Union, the Fire Services Department (FSD) launched a pilot scheme in July and August 2015, under which the performance pledge for emergency ambulance service in relation to urgent inter-hospital transfers was adjusted from within 1 hour to no specified timeframe; and a UC fleet or emergency ambulance would be deployed for hospital transfer only when there were at least 2 or more patients. In this connection, has the Government allocated resources in its Estimates for 2016-17 to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot scheme in terms of whether its objectives have been achieved? If so, what are the results? If not, what are the reasons? What are the current turnout criteria and performance pledge for emergency ambulance service in relation to urgent inter-hospital transfers following the completion of the pilot scheme?

Asked by: Hon James TO Kun-sun (Member Question No. 20)

Reply:

Currently the Fire Services Department (FSD) provides the Hospital Authority (HA) with two kinds of inter-hospital transfer service, namely "Priority One Transfer" and "Priority Two Transfer". As defined by HA, calls of "Priority Two Transfer" are less urgent than calls of "Priority One Transfer". The FSD handles calls of "Priority One Transfer" in the same way as calls for emergency ambulance service. According to our performance pledge, the target response time for such calls is 12 minutes. The FSD has not set a performance pledge for calls of "Priority Two Transfer"; instead it has agreed with HA on a target of dispatching an ambulance to attend to such calls within 50 minutes.

To optimise the use of ambulance resources, the FSD has the responsibility to keep the arrangement for hospital transfers under review in order to refine existing measures for more effective utilisation of available resources without undermining the provision of proper medical and ambulance services to patients. Having analysed the data relating to calls of "Priority Two Transfer", the FSD observed that many cases were received in peak hours when the Department was handling massive calls for emergency ambulance service

and arranging frontline ambulancemen to take lunch break. Therefore, by making reference to the established arrangement for Hospital Transfer (HT) Ambulance (i.e. more than one “Priority Two Transfer” patient may be conveyed per journey where necessary), the Fire Services Communications Centre has, since mid-July 2015, advised hospitals and medical institutions to pool “Priority Two Transfer” patients for transfer, so that an HT ambulance can convey more than one patient where circumstances permit. The 50-minute target for calls of “Priority Two Transfer” as agreed by the FSD and HA remains unchanged.

As the FSD has solely refined its established arrangement in an effort to enhance the overall operational efficiency of ambulance service and reviews the efficiency of the arrangement through day-to-day monitoring and analysis of dispatch data, there is no need to allocate additional resources for evaluating the aforesaid measure. The FSD will continue to keep the enhanced measures under review and liaise closely with relevant medical institutions to ensure the optimal use of resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0694)

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:

Please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The types and quantity of equipment that the Fire Services Department (FSD) currently keeps for rescue operations in bitterly cold weather;
2. The training provided by the FSD on rescue operations in bitterly cold weather in the past 3 years and the details of such training;
3. The expenditure earmarked in 2016-17 for acquiring additional equipment for rescue operations in bitterly cold weather.

Asked by: Hon James TO Kun-sun (Member Question No. 23)

Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) has all along acquired and stocked equipment and tools required for handling the vast majority of incidents taking place in Hong Kong according to the principle of prudent use of public money and relevant requirements stipulated by the Government. Besides, procurement will be flexibly arranged when unforeseen operational needs arise. Currently, apart from general rescue tools and equipment, the FSD maintains a certain stock of equipment specifically for use in chilling weather by the frontline fire and ambulance personnel. The existing stock of such major equipment is as follows:

Equipment	Quantity (as at 7 March 2016)
Crampons	About 200 pairs
Hiking sticks	About 1 000 nos.
Heat patch	About 680 packets (about 10-12 pieces/packet)
Blankets	About 1 700 nos.
Rescue gloves ^{Note}	About 370 pairs
Hood for keeping warm ^{Note}	About 390 nos.

(Note: For use by ambulance personnel)

2&3. To enhance the skills of its Service members, the FSD has been providing its fire and ambulance personnel with training on rescue techniques in handling various kinds of incidents, including those for emergency rescue under different weather conditions or environments. Members of the Special Rescue Squad and High Angle Rescue Team set up by the FSD also receive training on advanced mountain rescue, high angle rescue, etc. to handle major incidents or rescue operations at height. Since the FSD has not provided any specialised training solely on rescue techniques in handling incidents in chilling weather, it has no statistics on such training.

The FSD has earmarked about \$36 million in 2016-17 for acquiring supplies and equipment to meet the overall rescue needs. To cope with extreme weather conditions (e.g. chilling weather, major flooding or landslip incidents, etc.), the FSD has set up the Reviewing Committee on Rescue Equipment in end January this year to review the relevant operational strategies, including the requisite equipment, tools and training. The Department will acquire necessary additional equipment and tools, as well as strengthen the training for its fire and ambulance personnel to meet operational needs in taking into account the review findings and recommendations of the Committee.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB213

(Question Serial No. 1313)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Fire Service, (3) Ambulance Service
Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LAI Man-hin)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is stated under this Programme that the Fire Services Department (FSD), through strategic deployment of properly trained staff, equipment and ambulances, maintains an ambulance service that responds to ambulance calls effectively and efficiently. In January this year, Hong Kong experienced the coldest winter in nearly 60 years. Many people flocked to Tai Mo Shan and Fei Ngo Shan to see frost and were stranded there. The fire personnel faced increased difficulties arising from icy road surfaces when carrying out the rescue operations. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the following:

Has the FSD assessed whether its existing ambulance equipment is suitable for carrying out rescue operations in extreme weather? Will additional resources be allocated in 2016-17 for acquiring new equipment and strengthening the relevant training to facilitate fire (sic) personnel to carry out ambulance duties; if yes, what are the details of the additional resources and equipment to be acquired?

Asked by: Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen (Member Question No. 33)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) has all along acquired and stocked equipment and tools required for handling the vast majority of incidents taking place in Hong Kong according to the principle of prudent use of public money and relevant requirements stipulated by the Government. Besides, procurement will be flexibly arranged when unforeseen operational needs arise. Currently, apart from general rescue tools and equipment, the FSD maintains a certain stock of equipment specifically for use in chilling weather, e.g. crampons, heat patches, blankets, rescue gloves, hoods for keeping warm, etc., for use by the frontline fire and ambulance personnel. In addition, to enhance the skills of its Service members, the FSD has been providing its fire and ambulance personnel with training on rescue techniques in handling various kinds of incidents, including those for emergency rescue under different weather conditions or environments. Members of the Special Rescue Squad and High Angle Rescue Team set up by the FSD also receive training

on advanced mountain rescue, high angle rescue, etc. to handle major incidents or rescue operations at height.

The FSD has earmarked about \$36 million in 2016-17 for acquiring supplies and equipment to meet the overall rescue needs. To cope with extreme weather conditions (e.g. chilling weather, major flooding or landslip incidents, etc.), the FSD has set up the Reviewing Committee on Rescue Equipment in end January this year to review the relevant operational strategies, including the requisite equipment, tools and training. The Department will acquire necessary additional equipment and tools, as well as strengthen the training for its fire and ambulance personnel to meet operational needs in taking into account the review findings and recommendations of the Committee.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1314)

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:

Under this Programme, the Fire Services Department (FSD) will conduct inspections to ensure that buildings and licensed premises are up to the fire safety standard. Please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What were the expenditure and manpower involved in the inspections of industrial buildings conducted by the FSD in 2015? What were the total numbers of inspections and prosecutions instituted?
2. Will the FSD allocate additional resources and manpower in 2016-17 to strengthen inspections and enforcement actions in this respect? If yes, what will be the estimated expenditure and manpower involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen (Member Question No. 34)

Reply:

1. Personnel of various units under the 3 operational Fire Commands, Fire Safety Command and Licensing and Certification Command of the Fire Services Department (FSD) inspect different types of buildings (including industrial buildings) according to their respective scopes of work, so as to ensure the fire service installations and equipment, means of escape, ventilating systems, handling of dangerous goods and licensed premises are up to the fire safety standards. For example, staff from the operational commands deal with matters relating to obstruction to means of escapes in buildings within their areas, personnel of the Complaint Section under the Fire Safety Command handle issues such as alteration works in buildings and defective smoke stop doors, while staff from dedicated units such as the Fire Service Installations Task Force and the Dangerous Goods Division deal with matters relating to fire service installations and dangerous goods respectively.

In 2015, the FSD conducted 8 548 inspections of industrial buildings and instituted a total of 97 prosecutions against fire safety-related irregularities, which include 64

cases involving contravention of the Fire Services (Fire Hazard Abatement) Regulation and 33 cases involving contravention of the Dangerous Goods Ordinance. The FSD does not keep separate statistics on the expenditure or manpower involved in the inspections of industrial buildings.

2. In 2016-17, relevant units of the FSD will continue to deploy existing manpower and resources to inspect and follow up on the industrial buildings within their respective scopes of work. The Department will review the working arrangements as appropriate to ensure proper utilisation of resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2220)

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 (FSD) has been conducting inspections of pre-1987 composite/domestic buildings. How many cases of irregularities were identified last year? What is the estimated expenditure for such inspections this year? Will there be an increase in manpower required for such inspections as against last year?

What measures will the FSD implement to expedite compliance with fire safety directions issued to these premises?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 36)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department (BD) have set up 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 stipulates that fire safety of composite and domestic buildings which were constructed on or before 1 March, 1987, or with their plans of the building works first submitted for approval on or before that day, should be enhanced to meet the current requirements. The FSD and BD will issue Fire Safety Directions (FS Directions) to the owners and/or occupiers with regard to the fire safety measures of the relevant premises or buildings and specify the required fire safety improvement works.

In 2015, the FSD identified and followed up on 267 cases of contravention of the Fire Services Ordinance during the inspections of composite and domestic buildings, which included obstruction to means of escape, locked exits, and defective fire service installations and equipment (FSIs). In 2016-17, the FSD will maintain the manpower of its task force at the current level (a total of 207 members) and the estimated salary costs to be involved are about \$121 million.

We understand that owners of some old buildings may not be able to fully comply with the requirements set out in the FS Directions under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance due to difficulties in coordinating the fire safety improvement works or due to 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 FS Directions, the FSD has adopted the following measures:

- (i) If the owners and/or occupiers need more time to prepare for and carry out the improvement works, for example due to the formation of an owners' corporation (OC), the Department will consider their applications for extending the compliance period of FS Directions in the light of the justifications provided and/or the scale of works involved;
- (ii) As "three-nil" buildings (i.e. buildings without OCs, residents' organisations or property management companies) may encounter difficulties in coordinating fire safety improvement works, the FSD will refer a list of target buildings without OCs to the Home Affairs Department so that the latter may promptly assist the owners in establishing OCs with a view to facilitating the organisation and coordination of the improvement works;
- (iii) The FSD has taken the initiative to publicise the recruitment of "Building Fire Safety Envoys" and "Fire Safety Ambassadors" at "three-nil buildings" before issuing FS 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;
- (iv) The FSD will, having regard to the circumstances of individual buildings and/or information provided by the authorised persons in relation to the execution of the FS Directions, such as the height of the buildings and whether there are spatial constraints and so forth, will enforce certain requirements with reasonable flexibility or consider accepting the alternative proposals put forward by the owners. Case officers of the FSD are prepared to meet with the owners to explain to them the FS Directions and assist them in solving potential problems associated with the works;
- (v) To assist owners in complying with the FS Directions, the FSD has adopted a series of flexible and pragmatic measures, including exempting the requirement of providing fire hydrants if a target building is of 6 storeys or less and is directly accessible by fire appliances. The owners are only required to install hose reel systems in the building, and the required effective capacity of the fire service water tank for the hose reel system is significantly reduced to 2 000 litres from the standard capacity of 9 000 to 36 000 litres. In addition, the FSD accepts the installation of the fire service water tank at the staircase hood or at the interior of the staircase head to allow the owners more room and flexibility in complying with the FS Directions;
- (vi) The FSD has noted that old buildings of 3 storeys or less may encounter more technical difficulties in carrying out fire safety improvement works, as these aged buildings may be subject to greater structural or spatial constraints in the installation of fire service water tanks and pumping systems. For these old buildings of 3 storeys or less, the FSD and the Water Supplies Department (WSD) have explored some alternative measures and analysed the technical feasibility. Following a preliminary

study, the two departments rolled out a “Pilot Scheme on Improvised Hose Reel System” in May 2015, with a view to verifying the effectiveness of the alternative measures through the Pilot Scheme. The Pilot Scheme was first introduced to 4 three-storey buildings. The owners can install improvised hose reel systems with direct water supply from the government town mains on the ground floor of the buildings, thus be spared the installation of fire service water tanks and pumps. This can help alleviate technical difficulties and costs and ownership issues associated with the works, thereby helping owners to comply with the requirements of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance. The FSD and WSD have also pledged to accord priority to the vetting and compliance inspection of the relevant works. The FSD and WSD will closely monitor the progress and assess the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme. If the Scheme proves to be successful, we will consider extending the measures to other suitable old buildings;

- (vii) The FSD has introduced a cross-checking and screening mechanism and compiled a “Checklist for Major Defects of FSI Drawings Submission” (the Checklist) and “Interim Measures for Processing of FSI Drawings” (the Interim Measures). These measures enable persons appointed by owners for executing the FS 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 FS Directions. The Checklist and the Interim Measures have been uploaded onto the FSD website for reference by the public; and
- (viii) To facilitate owners of old buildings in understanding the requirements of FSIs for different types of buildings, 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.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2221)

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:

Will comprehensive reviews be conducted on a regular basis in respect of the Rapid Response Vehicle Scheme and the strategic deployment under the Ambulance Service of the Fire Services Department? Has the Department set any performance indicators for the Scheme? Please provide the performance indicators set in the previous year.

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 37)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (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 on an ad hoc basis having regard to the resources of individual depots in order to cope with potential emergency calls. With flexibility in using this deployment strategy, ambulance personnel arrived at the scene to help patients within the target response time of 12 minutes in 95% of all emergency ambulance calls in 2015, which was higher than FSD's performance pledge of 92.5% by 2.5 percentage points. The FSD has been closely monitoring the operation and effectiveness of its strategic deployment and reviews it as and when necessary.

As to the Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) Scheme, it mainly provides support to frontline ambulance personnel and performs service quality assurance duties to enhance frontline management and operational efficiency. Currently the FSD has 2 RRVs providing round-the-clock service (involving 9 Ambulance Officer posts), which are stationed at

Wong Tai Sin Ambulance Depot and Sheung Shui Ambulance Depot respectively. In 2015, the RRVs provided support for a total of 3 852 emergency calls, and conducted 4 142 field audits of emergency ambulance cases and 8 034 inspections. The Department reviews the arrangements for RRVs from time to time to ensure the optimal use of resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB217

(Question Serial No. 2989)

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:

With respect to the first stage of inspections of buildings under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance, the Fire Services Department has adjusted its targets to a more realistic level and it is expected to take about 6 years to complete the inspection of the remaining target composite buildings. Is manpower arrangement the major consideration in adjusting its inspection target to a more realistic level? What was the inspection progress in each district last year? How many buildings are expected to be inspected this year?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 38)

Reply:

The Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) (the Ordinance) was implemented since July 2007 to enhance the fire safety standard of old-style composite and domestic buildings. According to past experience, during the arrangement for and implementation of improvement works, building owners and/or occupiers may, from time to time, require technical support from the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department, and assistance from the Home Affairs Department in establishing residents' organisations to strengthen liaison among residents, in order to facilitate the organisation and coordination of the improvement works. In addition, the tendering and the works executed by the owners and/or occupiers often take about 4 to 5 years to complete. Having regard to the capacity of the existing manpower resources and actual operational experience, the FSD considered that a moderate adjustment in the annual inspection targets of composite buildings could enable its case officers to issue Fire Safety Directions (FS Directions) as soon as possible after completing the inspections and to better focus on the follow-up actions of the existing cases. Hence, the Department accepted the recommendations of the Director of Audit's Report No. 61 and adjusted the inspection targets of composite buildings to a more realistic level. After the adjustment, the case officers can better follow up on inspections and assist the owners and/or occupiers in complying with the FS Directions. Since the implementation of the Ordinance, the FSD has reviewed its manpower arrangement from time to time, with a view to optimising its resources to meet the actual operational needs. A total of 38 additional time-limited posts have been created since 2009 to cope with the

relevant work. The Department will apply for resources according to the established procedures if necessary.

As at end December 2015, the FSD has inspected 7 795 composite buildings and issued FS Directions to 5 416 buildings, out of which 97 buildings have complied with the FS Directions. The number of target composite buildings which have been inspected in each of the 18 districts is as follows:

District	Number of target composite buildings inspected
Yau Tsim Mong	1 669
Sham Shui Po	1 079
Central and Western	1 019
Kowloon City	883
Wan Chai	744
Eastern	553
Yuen Long	339
Tsuen Wan	256
North	250
Wong Tai Sin	224
Kwun Tong	188
Tai Po	183
Southern	171
Kwai Tsing	76
Sha Tin	65
Tuen Mun	46
Islands	31
Sai Kung	19
Total	7 795

The FSD plans to inspect 400 target composite buildings in 2016.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3223)

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:

Regarding the fire safety matters under this Programme, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. A breakdown of the numbers of fire safety directions issued, complied with or discharged as at 31 December 2015 by prescribed commercial premises, specified commercial building and composite building;
2. A breakdown of the number of fire safety directions that have not yet been complied with as at 31 December 2015 by length of time since the fire safety directions were issued (1 year, 1-2 years, 2-3 years, and so on);
3. Details of the Fire Services Department's work and the expenditure involved in handling prolonged cases in which the fire safety directions have yet to be complied with in 2016-17.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 40)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department (BD) 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 and domestic buildings constructed at or before that time. The FSD and BD issue Fire Safety Directions (FS Directions) to the owners and/or occupiers, specifying the works required to be carried out to improve the fire safety measures of the relevant premises or buildings.

1. As at 31 December 2015, the number of FS Directions issued by the FSD and the number of directions complied with or discharged are as follows:

	Number of FS Directions issued	Number of FS Directions complied with or discharged
Composite building	124 483	39 305
Specified commercial building	74 482	69 974
Prescribed commercial premises	15 767	14 650

2. Regarding the enforcement of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance, the FSD only has statistics on the number of buildings with FS Directions received which have not been complied with. The details as at 31 December 2015 are as follows:

Length of time since FS Directions were received	Number of buildings with FS Directions received which have not been complied with
8-9 years	336
7-8 years	538
6-7 years	461
5-6 years	571
4-5 years	624
3-4 years	579
2-3 years	600
1-2 years	775
Shorter than 1 year	769
Total	5 253

Regarding the enforcement of the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance, as at 31 December 2015, the numbers of prescribed commercial premises and specified commercial buildings issued with FS Directions which have not been complied with are 334 and 445 respectively. The FSD does not keep a separate breakdown of the number of FS Directions received by the owners and/or occupiers of the relevant premises or buildings by length of time.

3. In 2016-17, the FSD's Task Force (with a total of 207 members) responsible for enforcing the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance and the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance will continue proactively to handle the work, including following up cases with FS Directions issued but not yet complied with. The estimated salary costs to be involved are about \$121 million.

The FSD normally gives the owners one year to comply with the FS Directions. Case officers of the FSD will check the progress of the cases regularly and meet with the owners and/or occupiers to explain to them the requirements in the FS Directions, assist them in solving potential problems associated with the works and provide technical support. If the owners need more time to prepare for and carry out the improvement works, the FSD will consider their applications for extending the compliance period, having regard to their justifications and/or the scale of the improvement works involved.

If no notable progress has been made, the FSD will issue a reminding or warning letter to the owners concerned. If the owners fail to comply with the FS Directions within

a reasonable period or to provide sufficient justifications to support their applications for extending the compliance period, the Department has the responsibility to take enforcement actions under the relevant ordinances to ensure fire safety of old buildings.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB219

(Question Serial No. 2203)

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 riot that broke out on Lunar New Year's Day saw 22 incidents of arson, where a number of rioters set rubbish and vehicles alight and some even committed arson with accelerants. Some flames rose to almost 10 metres high, giving off heavy smoke that severely affected residents nearby. When firefighters tried to extinguish the fires, rioters hurled bottles at them and used bricks to prevent fire appliances from attending the scenes.

1. Will the Government review how the Police can facilitate firefighters to carry out their duties in the event of a riot?
2. Given that similar incidents may occur again, will the Government review its prevailing mechanism for handling a riot scene? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No. 345)

Reply:

The FSD and the Police have an established emergency notification and co-ordination mechanism. In case of an emergency, both departments will activate such mechanism immediately. Not only will the FSD mobilise fire and ambulance resources to the scene of incident, the Incident Commander will also serve at the Police's forward command post to formulate firefighting and rescue strategies and co-ordinate relevant work. To readily obtain information and updates about the scene, FSD personnel will also be deployed to the Police command centre in the area concerned to co-ordinate and liaise with the Police in order to meet the operational needs of frontline personnel.

In handling major incidents (such as catastrophic incidents and civil disturbances), the FSD has all along formulated firefighting, rescue and emergency ambulance service strategies and deployed resources in accordance with its Emergency Fire Orders. When tackling the riot that occurred in the early hours of 9 February this year in Mong Kok, the FSD promptly discharged its firefighting, rescue and emergency ambulance duties according to its

established contingency plan by strategically mobilising its fire appliances and ambulances to the scene and setting up an Incident Command Centre to co-ordinate the deployment of fire and ambulance resources as well as manpower. Similar to other post-incident reviews, the FSD is reviewing its operational deployment, firefighting, rescue and ambulance strategies and procedures in the wake of the riot, with a view to enhancing operational efficiency.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB444

(Question Serial No. 5390)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

There will be an increase of 61 non-directorate posts in the Fire Services Department (FSD) from the estimated 10 382 posts as at 31 March 2016 to 10 443 posts as at 31 March 2017. What are the types and nature of work of these new posts? Besides, there are 19 directorate posts in the FSD at present. Would the Government inform this Committee of the types, salaries, allowances and nature of work of the 19 directorate posts as well as the 10 443 permanent non-directorate posts, together with a breakdown of the number of such posts?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 148)

Reply:

In 2016-17, the Fire Services Department (FSD) will have a net increase of 61 posts. Details are as follows:

Rank	No.	Job Nature
Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	4	To provide the manpower required for the newly commissioned Fire and Ambulance Services Academy, and to strengthen the high angle rescue service
Principal Fireman	4	
Senior Fireman	2	
Senior Fireman	39	To upgrade the rank of frontline fire personnel of designated fire stations to serve as hazardous materials (HazMat) technicians, so as to enhance the FSD's capability in handling HazMat incidents
Fireman	(39)	
Executive Officer II	2	To strengthen the administrative and staff management support to the Department
Senior Artisan	8	To strengthen the maintenance and repair services for fire appliances and tools by restructuring the manpower
Senior Fireman (Workshops)	(2)	
Fireman (Workshops)	(2)	
Artisan	(3)	
Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	6	To enforce the fire safety regulations and policies, and to enhance the control of dangerous goods
Senior Fireman	6	

Senior Technical Officer	4	To handle plan processing and acceptance inspection relating to railway development projects under the fire safety regulations
Building Services Inspector	4	
Assistant Building Services Inspector	4	
Senior Ambulanceman	8	To operate additional ambulance shifts so as to further strengthen the ambulance service
Ambulanceman	16	
Total:	61	

Note: The numbers inside the brackets denote the number of posts to be deleted

The 19 directorate posts of the FSD in 2016-17 are as follows:

Rank	No.	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	
Senior Principal Executive Officer/Principal Executive Officer #	1	
Total:	19	

#It is proposed to upgrade the Departmental Secretary post from Principal Executive Officer rank (at Directorate Pay Scale Point 1) to Senior Principal Executive Officer rank (at Directorate Pay Scale Point 2)

The relevant estimated expenditure is about \$35 million.

Details of the 10 443 non-directorate posts (including the new posts) in 2016-17 are as follows:

Grade	No.	Job Nature
Fire Stream	6 753	Mainly to provide firefighting, rescue and fire prevention services
Ambulance Stream	2 943	Mainly to provide emergency ambulance service
Civilian, technical and other grades	747	Mainly to provide administrative and other support
Total:	10 443	

The relevant estimated expenditure is about \$4.2 billion.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB445

(Question Serial No. 5391)

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:

Please list out in detail the model, use, years of service and expected serviceable life of all fire vessels. It is stated under Programme (1) Fire Service that the Department will continue to monitor the progress of procurement of a fireboat to replace fireboat No. 7, and plan on the procurement of an additional fireboat and a fast rescue vessel. Please provide information on the fire vessels to be procured, and whether the Department has considered procuring more fire vessels to complement the existing marine rescue service.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 149)

Reply:

The information on the service life, major service area, function, etc., of the fire vessels in the existing fleet of the Fire Services Department (FSD) is as follows:

Name of vessel (Type)	Years of service (Year) [#]	Berth	Major service area	Function
Elite (Major fireboat)	15	Central Fireboat Station	Victoria Harbour, Sai Kung and the northeastern waters of Hong Kong	Major fireboats can be used as the frontline command post for major marine incidents, and for fire-fighting and rescue operations. In addition, in case of an incident involving sunken vessel(s), the major fireboats can be used as a rescue platform and the assembly point and triage point for casualties.
Excellence (Major fireboat)	12	Tsing Yi Fireboat Station	The western waters of Hong Kong	

Name of vessel (Type)	Years of service (Year)[#]	Berth	Major service area	Function
No. 2* (Medium fireboat)	21	North Point Fireboat Station	To be deployed to various waters as required	Medium fireboats mainly carry out fire-fighting and rescue operations in incidents and fires occurring on small vessels, in shallow waters or onshore areas as well as waters where vessels are closely berthed, such as typhoon shelters.
No. 3 (Medium fireboat)	18	Cheung Chau Fireboat Station	Cheung Chau and the southern waters of Lantau Island	
No. 4 (Medium fireboat)	8	Aberdeen Fireboat Station	Lamma Island and the southern waters of Hong Kong Island	
No. 5 (Medium fireboat)	19	Tuen Mun Fireboat Station	The northern and western waters of Lantau Island	
No. 7* (Rescue boat)	26	Airport	To be deployed to various waters as required	
No. 8 (Support vessel)	8	North Point Fireboat Station	To be deployed to various waters as required	The design of rescue boats enables a higher cruise speed, a more stable rescue platform and a larger transport capacity. This type of vessel mainly renders assistance in large-scale marine rescue operations.
Diving Support Vessel (Support vessel)	12	FSD Ngong Shuen Chau Diving Base	To be deployed to various waters as required	The support vessel is mainly responsible for conveying land-based FSD personnel or divers and equipment to incident scene or offshore incident scene for fire-fighting and rescue duties.
Diving Support Speedboats (2 nos. in total)	17	FSD Ngong Shuen Chau Diving Base and the Airport	To be deployed to various waters as required	
Command Boat No. 1 and No. 2	19	Airport	Dedicated to handling incidents in the waters near the Airport	To carry out fire-fighting and rescue duties in waters within 5 km from the Airport.
Speedboats (8 nos. in total)	17	Airport		

* Fireboats No. 2 and No. 7 are reserve fireboats which are deployed for duty when required or serve as substitutes for fireboats under annual maintenance and repair. Therefore, they do not have specific service areas.

According to the information provided by the Marine Department (MD), the normal service life of the FSD's existing fireboats is about 20 years while those of other fire vessels (including rescue boats, support vessels, command boats, speedboats, etc.) are about 10 to 15 years. The normal service life means the expected service life of a vessel under regular inspection and maintenance. However, even if the normal service life of a vessel has expired, the MD will assess its serviceability according to the actual condition of the vessel.

The FSD is currently procuring a new fireboat to replace the existing fireboat No. 7. The normal service life of the new fireboat is 15 years. It will be equipped with enhanced navigational and operational features as well as marine fire-fighting and rescue equipment to meet the demand for marine fire-fighting and rescue services nowadays. The estimated cost of the new fireboat is \$98.26 million.

The FSD reviews from time to time its overall marine fire-fighting and rescue strategies in Hong Kong as well as the related equipment, and conducts risk assessment for different water areas, taking into account factors including the distribution of vessels, utilisation of shipping channels, existence of high risk facilities at sea and along coastal areas, etc., in deciding the location of fireboat stations and deployment of fire vessels (e.g. fireboats and fire speedboats). The FSD noted that the total number of emergency incidents in the eastern waters of Hong Kong (including the waters in Sai Kung, east Lei Yue Mun, Tolo Harbour/Tai Po, northeast and southeast Hong Kong) had shown a rising trend in recent years, and the marine traffic is expected to become busier day by day. In this regard, the FSD, upon detailed examination of existing resources, has proposed to procure an additional major fireboat and a fast rescue vessel for stationing in Sai Kung waters, so as to enhance the overall efficiency of fire-fighting, ambulance and emergency search and rescue operations in these waters.

The normal service lives of the fireboat and fast rescue vessel proposed for procurement are 20 years and 15 years respectively. The estimated costs are \$125 million and \$40 million respectively, and the vessels are scheduled for commissioning in 2018.

The FSD will continue to closely monitor the demand for marine emergency service, and will review the relevant fire-fighting and rescue resources from time to time to meet operational needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5393)

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:

Of the total number of building fire calls, the actual percentages of calls that were met within the graded response time were 93.9% and 94.1% in 2014 and 2015 respectively, representing an increase for two consecutive years. Nevertheless, the planned percentage for 2016 still follows the target of 92.5%. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 151)

Reply:

In setting the performance target for handling building fire calls (namely 92.5% of fire calls met within 6 minutes for built-up areas, or met within 9 to 23 minutes for areas of dispersed risk and isolated developments), the Fire Services Department (FSD) takes into account a number of factors including service demand, developments at district levels, and the manpower and resources of the Department. As a matter of fact, the actual response time of FSD personnel is subject to various factors (such as the traffic and weather conditions at the time of the incident). Experience shows that the target achievement rate varies over time. The FSD has no plans to adjust the targets for handling fire calls at this stage, but will continue to provide efficient fire-fighting and rescue services and will review the relevant targets in a timely manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB447

(Question Serial No. 5474)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please tabulate the expenditure details of the duty visits made by the Director of Fire Services in the past 3 years (2013-14 to 2015-16), including the date of visit, place of visit, number of entourage members, purpose of visit, expenses on hotel accommodation, air tickets and meals, and total expenditure of each visit. Please list the amounts of sponsorships received and names of the sponsors (if any).

Date of visit	Place of visit	Number of entourage members	Purpose of visit	Hotel accommodation expenses	Air ticket expenses	Meal expenses	Total expenditure

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 223)

Reply:

The expenditures of the duty visits made by the Director of Fire Services in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Date of visit (Number of visits)	Place of visit	Number of entourage members	Purpose of visit	Hotel accommodation expenses (i)	Air ticket expenses (ii)	Meals and other expenses (iii)	Total expenditure # (i) + (ii) + (iii)
2013-14 (3)	Beijing, Chongqing, Macao	6-11	Official visits/ meetings/ study trips	About \$42,000	About \$49,000	About \$149,000	About \$240,000
2014-15 (1)	Beijing, Shanghai	7		About \$28,000	About \$51,000	About \$35,000	About \$114,000
2015-16 (4)	Beijing, Shanghai, Zhejiang, Singapore	0-10		About \$76,000	About \$101,000	About \$94,000	About \$271,000

The subsistence allowance is granted to officers on duty visits in accordance with the Civil Service Regulations and covers the expenses on hotel accommodation, meals and other expenses. If the hotel accommodation or/and the transportation is arranged by the concerned receiving parties, the subsistence allowance to be granted will be adjusted in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Civil Service Regulations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB448

(Question Serial No. 6249)

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:

Regarding the equipment for rescue operations under frost or snow conditions, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the types and quantity of special equipment currently stocked by the Fire Services Department for rescue operations under frost or snow conditions? Please give a breakdown of the equipment in each fire station by type;
2. In 2016-17, will the Department allocate resources for procuring more special equipment for rescue operations under frost or snow conditions; if yes, what are the details of the procurement plan (including the types and quantity of equipment to be procured) and what is the estimated expenditure involved; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 377)

Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) has all along acquired and stocked equipment and tools required for handling the vast majority of incidents taking place in Hong Kong according to the principle of prudent use of public money and relevant requirements stipulated by the Government. Besides, procurement will be flexibly arranged when unforeseen operational needs arise. Currently, apart from general rescue tools and equipment, the FSD maintains a certain stock of equipment specifically for use in chilling weather by the frontline fire and ambulance personnel. The existing stock of such major equipment is as follows:

Equipment	Quantity (as at 7 March 2016)
Crampons	About 200 pairs
Hiking sticks	About 1 000 nos.
Heat patch	About 680 packets (about 10-12 pieces/packet)
Blankets	About 1 700 nos.
Rescue gloves ^{Note}	About 370 pairs
Hood for keeping warm ^{Note}	About 390 nos.

(Note: For use by ambulance personnel)

2. The FSD has earmarked about \$36 million in 2016-17 for acquiring supplies and equipment to meet the overall rescue needs. To cope with extreme weather conditions (e.g. chilling weather, major flooding or landslip incidents, etc.), the FSD has set up the Reviewing Committee on Rescue Equipment in end January this year to review the relevant operational strategies, including the requisite equipment, tools and training. The Department will acquire necessary additional equipment and tools, as well as strengthen the training for its fire and ambulance personnel to meet operational needs taking into account the review findings and recommendations of the Committee.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 6574)

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:

What are the serviceable life and functions of each existing fireboat? Regarding the procurement of a fireboat to replace fireboat No. 7 and the plan to procure an additional fireboat and a fast rescue vessel, what are the details, expenditure and manpower involved, the expected serviceable life and functions of the vessels to be procured?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 418)

Reply:

The information on the service life, major service area, function, etc., of the fire vessels in the existing fleet of the Fire Services Department (FSD) is as follows:

Name of vessel (Type)	Years in service (Year)[#]	Berth	Major service area	Function
Elite (Major fireboat)	15	Central Fireboat Station	Victoria Harbour, Sai Kung and the northeastern waters of Hong Kong	Major fireboats can be used as the frontline command post for major marine incidents, and for fire-fighting and rescue operations. In addition, in case of an incident involving sunken vessel(s), the major fireboats can be used as a rescue platform and the assembly point and triage point for casualties.
Excellence (Major fireboat)	12	Tsing Yi Fireboat Station	The western waters of Hong Kong	

Name of vessel (Type)	Years in service (Year)[#]	Berth	Major service area	Function
No. 2* (Medium fireboat)	21	North Point Fireboat Station	To be deployed to various waters as required	Medium fireboats mainly carry out fire-fighting and rescue operations in incidents and fires occurring on small vessels, in shallow waters or onshore areas as well as waters where vessels are closely berthed, such as typhoon shelters.
No. 3 (Medium fireboat)	18	Cheung Chau Fireboat Station	Cheung Chau and the southern waters of Lantau Island	
No. 4 (Medium fireboat)	8	Aberdeen Fireboat Station	Lamma Island and the southern waters of Hong Kong Island	
No. 5 (Medium fireboat)	19	Tuen Mun Fireboat Station	The northern and western waters of Lantau Island	
No. 7* (Rescue boat)	26	Airport	To be deployed to various waters as required	The design of rescue boats enables a higher cruise speed, a more stable rescue platform and a larger transport capacity. This type of vessel mainly renders assistance in large-scale marine rescue operations.
No. 8 (Support vessel)	8	North Point Fireboat Station	To be deployed to various waters as required	The support vessel is mainly responsible for conveying land-based FSD personnel or divers and equipment to incident scene or offshore incident scene for fire-fighting and rescue duties.
Diving Support Vessel (Support vessel)	12	FSD Ngong Shuen Chau Diving Base	To be deployed to various waters as required	To provide diving rescue platform and convey divers and equipment to incident scene for fire-fighting and diving rescue operations.
Diving Support Speedboats (2 nos. in total)	17	FSD Ngong Shuen Chau Diving Base and the Airport	To be deployed to various waters as required	
Command Boat No. 1 and No. 2	19	Airport	Dedicated to handling incidents in the waters near the Airport	To carry out fire-fighting and rescue duties in waters within 5 km from the Airport.
Speedboats (8 nos. in total)	17	Airport		

* Fireboats No. 2 and No. 7 are reserve fireboats which are deployed for duty when required or serve as substitutes for fireboats under annual maintenance and repair. Therefore, they do not have specific service areas.

According to the information provided by the Marine Department (MD), the normal service life of the FSD's existing fireboats is about 20 years while those of other fire vessels (including rescue boats, support vessels, command boats, speedboats, etc.) are about 10 to 15 years. The normal service life means the expected service life of a vessel under regular inspection and maintenance. However, even if the normal service life of a vessel has expired, the MD will assess its serviceability according to the actual condition of the vessel.

The FSD is currently procuring a new fireboat to replace the existing fireboat No. 7. The normal serviceable life of the new fireboat is 15 years. It will be equipped with enhanced navigational and operational features as well as marine fire-fighting and rescue equipment to meet the demand for marine fire-fighting and rescue services nowadays. The estimated cost of the new fireboat is \$98.26 million.

The FSD reviews from time to time its overall marine fire-fighting and rescue strategies in Hong Kong as well as the related equipment, and conducts risk assessment for different water areas, taking into account factors including the distribution of vessels, utilisation of shipping channels, existence of high risk facilities at sea and along coastal areas, etc., in deciding the location of fireboat stations and deployment of fire vessels (e.g. fireboats and fire speedboats). The FSD noted that the total number of emergency incidents in the eastern waters of Hong Kong (including the waters in Sai Kung, east Lei Yue Mun, Tolo Harbour/Tai Po, northeast and southeast Hong Kong) had shown a rising trend in recent years, and the marine traffic is expected to become busier day by day. In this regard, the FSD, upon detailed examination of existing resources, has proposed to procure an additional major fireboat and a fast rescue vessel for stationing in Sai Kung waters, so as to enhance the overall efficiency of fire-fighting, ambulance and emergency search and rescue operations in these waters.

The normal service lives of the fireboat and fast rescue vessel proposed for procurement are 20 years and 15 years respectively. The estimated costs are \$125 million and \$40 million respectively, and the vessels are scheduled for commissioning in 2018. The FSD will apply for manpower resources for manning the new fireboat and fast rescue vessel under the existing mechanism in due course.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 6575)

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:

With regard to the indicators “turnouts of ambulances, ambulance motor cycles and Rapid Response Vehicles to calls” and “emergency move-ups of ambulances to provide operational coverage”, the estimate for 2016 is higher than the figures for 2014 and 2015. What are the reasons? Has the Department planned to increase the numbers of ambulances, ambulance motor cycles and Rapid Response Vehicles? If so, what are the details of the acquisition, the expenditure and manpower involved, and the expected lifespans of the vehicles to be acquired and their functions?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 419)

Reply:

Owing to the increasing overall demand for ambulance service, the Fire Services Department (FSD) anticipates that the number of ambulance calls received in 2016 will be higher than those in 2014 and 2015, and therefore projects that the turnouts of ambulances, ambulance motor cycles and Rapid Response Vehicles (RRVs) will be correspondingly higher. On the other hand, in normal deployment, the Fire Services Communications Centre deploys ambulances to other depots as standbys on an ad hoc basis having regard to service demand and operations of individual depots in order to handle potential emergency calls,. The 2016 estimate made by the FSD for emergency move-ups of ambulances to provide operational coverage is mainly calculated based on past figures.

The FSD will provide 4 additional ambulance shifts in 2016-17, which involve 8 Senior Ambulanceman posts and 16 Ambulanceman posts, to cope with the increasing demand for emergency ambulance service, and the estimated expenditure is about \$7.3 million. To cope with the increased ambulance shifts, the FSD plans to acquire additional ambulance vehicles as follows:

Vehicle Type	Quantity	Acquisition	Expenditure Involved	Expected Service Life
Town Ambulance	4	The contract concerned has been entered into and the new ambulances are scheduled to be put into service in the first quarter of 2017.	Approximately \$6.99 million	7 years

The FSD also plans to acquire Emergency Medical Assistant Motor Cycles (EMAMCs) and RRVs as reserve or replacement of existing vehicles, the details of which are as follows:

Vehicle Type	Quantity	Acquisition	Expenditure Involved	Expected Service Life
EMAMC	5 additional EMAMCs to be held in reserve	It is planned to invite tender in April 2016 and the new EMAMCs are scheduled to be put into service in the fourth quarter of 2017.	Approximately \$1.02 million	5 years
RRV	3 replacements (including 1 reserve)	It is planned to invite tender in July 2016 and the new RRVs are scheduled to be put into service in the first quarter of 2018.	Approximately \$3.79 million	It is planned to acquire new model vehicles and their service lives will be assessed by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB451

(Question Serial No. 6576)

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:

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 Government, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved; and
2. What are the details and timetable for the development of a new ambulance depot at the Boundary Crossing Facilities of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 420)

Reply:

1. Since May 2011, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has been gradually providing post-dispatch advice (PDA) to emergency ambulance service (EAS) callers in respect of 6 common types of injuries and sicknesses (i.e. bleeding, fracture/dislocation of limbs, burns, convulsions, heat stroke and hypothermia), with a view to enhancing its EAS. The computer system that the FSD plans to develop will incorporate an internationally-accredited questioning protocol software to assist operators of the Fire Services Communications Centre (FSCC) in identifying various conditions of injuries and sicknesses, so as to provide callers of EAS with more comprehensive and appropriate PDA and guide them to render assistance to patients, thereby helping stabilise patients' conditions. The PDA will cover over 30 types of injuries and sicknesses, including physical trauma, loss of consciousness, cardiac arrest, etc., basically covering all types of injuries and sicknesses that the FSD deals with in its daily handling of EAS calls.

The estimated expenditure for the acquisition and development of the computer system is \$37.88 million, including the costs of computer hardware and software, service implementation, engagement of contract staff and training. The computer system is scheduled to be launched in the first half of 2018. The FSD is currently expediting

the implementation of various related work to shorten the time required, so that the system can be put into operation as soon as possible.

2. The works of the fire station cum ambulance depot at the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge are being implemented under the “Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities—Reclamation and Superstructures” (Project Code 6845TH) and the timetable of the works will tie in with the progress of the project. The construction cost involved has been included in the project. At present, the FSD does not have specific details of the manpower arrangement and other expenditures regarding the new ambulance depot.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB452

(Question Serial No. 6667)

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 2015-16 is 1.2% higher than the original estimate for 2015-16. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 365)

Reply:

The revised estimate for Programme (1) Fire Service for 2015-16 is 1.2% higher than the original estimate. This is mainly due to the increased operating expenses which are partly offset by the reduced cash flow requirement for capital items.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB453

(Question Serial No. 6668)

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 2016-17 is 0.2% higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. What are the reasons? Does it involve additional manpower and expenditure items? What are the details?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 366)

Reply:

Provision for Programme (1) Fire Service for 2016-17 is 0.2% higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. This is mainly due to the net increase of 13 posts, as well as additional provision for filling vacancies, partly offset by the reduced cash flow requirement for capital items.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB454

(Question Serial No. 6669)

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:

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

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 367)

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:

	2013	2014	2015
Fire drills	950	1 042	1 135
Fire safety talks	1 904	2 276	2 046
Seminars	17	130	8
Exhibitions	20	12	9

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

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB455

(Question Serial No. 6670)

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 2015-16 is 9.1% higher than the original estimate for 2015-16. What are the reasons? Does it involve any manpower and other expenses? What are the details?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 368)

Reply:

The revised estimate for Programme (2) Fire Protection and Prevention for 2015-16 is 9.1% higher than the original estimate. This is mainly due to the increased operating expenses.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 6671)

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 2016-17 is 2.6% higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. What are the reasons? Does it involve any manpower and other expenses? What are the details?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 369)

Reply:

Provision for Programme (2) Fire Protection and Prevention for 2016-17 is 2.6% higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. This is mainly due to the net increase of 24 posts, as well as additional provision for filling vacancies, and increased cash flow requirement for a capital item.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB457

(Question Serial No. 6674)

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:

For 2015-16, the revised estimate is 0.9% lower than the original estimate. What are the reasons? Does it involve manpower and other expenses?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 372)

Reply:

The revised estimate for Programme (3) Ambulance Service for 2015-16 is 0.9% lower than the original estimate. This is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for capital items.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB458

(Question Serial No. 6676)

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 2016-17 is 8.6% higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. What are the reasons? Does it involve manpower and other expenses?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 374)

Reply:

Provision for Programme (3) Ambulance Service for 2016-17 is 8.6% higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. This is mainly due to the net increase of 24 posts, as well as additional provision for filling vacancies, and increased cash flow requirement for capital items.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB452****(Question Serial No. 6677)**

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:

Please give details of the Government'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: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 375)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department provides half-day Community Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training courses for the general public free-of-charge at 5 locations, namely Sai Wan Ho Ambulance Depot, Cheung Sha Wan Ambulance Depot, Tsuen Wan Ambulance Depot, Yuen Long Ambulance Depot and the Ma On Shan Paramedic Training Centre. The number of the Community CPR training courses organised and the number of people trained over the past 3 years are as follows:

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (as at 29 February 2016)
Number of Community CPR training courses	52	55	51
Number of people trained	823	879	837

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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB460

(Question Serial No. 6679)

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:

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

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 377)

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	2013-14 (number/details)	2014-15 (number/details)	2015-16 (number/details)
Ambulance Service Campaign (television programme)	1	-	-
Ambulance Elites' Competitive Games	1	-	-
"Use the Ambulance Service Properly" Roving Exhibition	4	4	5
School/Community outreaching activities	57	84	189
Radio series in Happy Daily (radio programme)	4	6	3
Competitions promoting the message of "Use the Ambulance Service Properly" ^{Note}	1	1	1
Advertising the message of "Use the Ambulance Service Properly"	28 days (inside Light Rail train compartments)	28 days (station concourses of East Rail Line, West Rail Line and Ma On Shan Line)	27 days (station concourses of Island Line, Tsuen Wan Line and Kwun Tong Line)

	62 days (on tram bodies)	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)	24 days (station concourses of East Rail Line, West Rail Line, Ma On Shan Line and Light Rail) 21 days (at bus stops)
Fire Safety Carnival, Fire Station and Ambulance Depot Open Day, other promotional activities	7	12	23
An episode in television drama series "Elite Brigade" on ambulance service	-	-	1 episode
Display of posters and banners to promote the message of "Use the Ambulance Service Properly" in various districts	250 posters	265 posters	235 posters

Note: The FSD organised competitions on video production, 4-panel comic drawing and ambulance livery design in 2013-14 and 2014-15, and competitions on video clip and wall-painting as well as a singing contest for children on ambulance service-related messages in 2015-16.

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. Since 2014-15, the FSD has 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 \$3.69 million, \$2.79 million and \$4.52 million in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB461

(Question Serial No. 6680)

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 Government'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: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 378)

Reply:

Since May 2011, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has been gradually providing post-dispatch advice (PDA) to emergency ambulance service (EAS) callers in respect of 6 common types of injuries and sicknesses (i.e. bleeding, fracture/dislocation of limbs, burns, convulsions, heat stroke and hypothermia), with a view to enhancing its EAS. The computer system that the FSD plans to develop will incorporate an internationally-accredited questioning protocol software to assist operators of the Fire Services Communications Centre (FSCC) in identifying various conditions of injuries and sicknesses, so as to provide callers of EAS with more comprehensive and appropriate PDA and guide them to render assistance to patients, thereby helping stabilise patients' conditions. The PDA will cover over 30 types of injuries and sicknesses, including physical trauma, loss of consciousness, cardiac arrest, basically covering all types of injuries and sicknesses that the FSD deals with in its daily handling of EAS calls.

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

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4288)

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 Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The resources provided by the Government to enforce the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) over the past 3 years; please provide a breakdown of the expenditure involved;
2. At present, there are many old blocks without owners' corporations (OCs), residents' organisations or property management companies (the so-called "three nil" buildings). As it takes time to establish an OC, will the Government 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 occupiers of these buildings and recovering the costs incurred afterwards? If yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun (Member Question No. 56)

Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department (BD) have set up 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 stipulates that fire safety of composite and domestic buildings which were constructed in or before March 1987, or with their plans of the building works first submitted for approval on or before that day, should be enhanced to meet the current requirements. 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 consisted of 195 and 129 members respectively in 2013-14; and 207 and 126 respectively in 2014-15 and 2015-16. In the past 3 financial years, the staff costs involved were about \$104 million, \$113 million and \$119 million respectively for the FSD; and about \$50 million, \$53 million

and \$56 million respectively for the BD.

2. The FSD and BD will issue Fire Safety Directions (FS Directions) to the owners and/or occupiers with regard to the fire safety measures of the relevant premises or buildings and specify the required fire safety improvement works. We understand that owners of some old buildings (including owners of “three-nil” buildings) may not be able to fully comply with the requirements set out in the FS Directions under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance due to financial problems or difficulties in coordinating the fire safety improvement works or due to 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 FS Directions, the FSD has adopted the following measures:
 - (i) If the owners and/or occupiers need more time to prepare for and carry out the improvement works, for example due to the formation of an owners’ corporation (OC), the Department will consider their applications for extending the compliance period of FS Directions in the light of the justifications provided and/or the scale of works involved;
 - (ii) As “three-nil” buildings may encounter difficulties in coordinating fire safety improvement works, the FSD will refer a list of target buildings without OCs to the Home Affairs Department so that the latter may promptly assist the owners in establishing OCs with a view to facilitating the organisation and coordination of the improvement works;
 - (iii) The FSD has taken the initiative to publicise the recruitment of “Building Fire Safety Envoys” and “Fire Safety Ambassadors” at “three-nil buildings” before issuing FS Directions to these buildings, with a view to enhancing the residents’ awareness of fire prevention and facilitating coordination of improvement works for fire service installations and equipment (FSIs) in future;
 - (iv) The FSD will, having regard to the circumstances of individual buildings and/or information provided by the authorised persons in relation to the execution of the FS Directions, such as the height of the buildings and whether there are spatial constraints and so forth, will enforce certain requirements with reasonable flexibility or consider accepting the alternative proposals put forward by the owners. Case officers of the FSD are prepared to meet with the owners to explain to them the FS Directions and assist them in solving potential problems associated with the works;
 - (v) To assist owners in complying with the FS Directions, the FSD has adopted a series of flexible and pragmatic measures, including exempting the requirement of providing fire hydrants if a target building is of 6 storeys or less and is directly accessible by fire appliances. The owners are only required to install hose reel systems in the building, and the required effective capacity of the fire service water tank for the hose reel system is significantly reduced to 2 000 litres from the standard capacity of 9 000 to 36 000 litres. In addition, the FSD accepts the installation of the fire service water tank at the staircase hood or at the interior of

the staircase head to allow the owners more room and flexibility in complying with the FS Directions;

- (vi) The FSD has noted that old buildings of 3 storeys or less may encounter more technical difficulties in carrying out fire safety improvement works, as these aged buildings may be subject to greater structural or spatial constraints in the installation of fire service water tanks and pumping systems. For these old buildings of 3 storeys or less, the FSD and the Water Supplies Department (WSD) have explored some alternative measures and analysed the technical feasibility. Following a preliminary study, the two departments rolled out a “Pilot Scheme on Improvised Hose Reel System” in May 2015, with a view to verifying the effectiveness of the alternative measures through the Pilot Scheme. The Pilot Scheme was first introduced to 4 three-storey buildings. The owners can install improvised hose reel systems with direct water supply from the government town mains on the ground floor of the buildings, thus be spared the installation of fire service water tanks and pumps. This can help alleviate technical difficulties and costs and ownership issues associated with the works, thereby helping owners to comply with the requirements of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance. The FSD and WSD have also pledged to accord priority to the vetting and compliance inspection of the relevant works. The FSD and WSD will closely monitor the progress and assess the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme. If the Scheme proves to be successful, we will consider extending the measures to other suitable old buildings;
- (vii) The FSD has introduced a cross-checking and screening mechanism and compiled a “Checklist for Major Defects of FSI Drawings Submission” (the Checklist) and “Interim Measures for Processing of FSI Drawings” (the Interim Measures). These measures enable persons appointed by owners for executing the FS 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 FS Directions. The Checklist and the Interim Measures have been uploaded onto the FSD website for reference by the public; and
- (viii) To facilitate owners of old buildings in understanding the requirements of FSIs for different types of buildings, 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.

At present, there is no provision in the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance empowering the enforcement authorities to carry out fire safety improvement works for target buildings. If government departments were to conduct certain works on the owners' behalf, particularly those non-emergency works relating to private properties, the departments would face great difficulties. For instance, the owners or occupiers concerned may disagree with the works proposals and the associated costs put forward by the departments. They may also disagree with the location of installing fire service water tanks or hose reel systems proposed by the departments due to title issues,

spatial constraints and impact on the appearance of the buildings concerned. Since these types of works involve various feasible proposals and works arrangements (such as locations where the facilities should be installed and the installation of various alternative equipment), and the associated costs would vary subject to the proposals to be adopted, the owners of the buildings must deliberate on the proposals and reach a consensus before the works are carried out. It is therefore not appropriate for the enforcement authorities to make such decisions or to carry out the works for the owners. If the departments were to forcibly carry out the works, it could lead to litigation and delay the progress of the works.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB463

(Question Serial No. 4013)

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:

Regarding the fire safety matters under this Programme, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The numbers of buildings inspected and yet to be inspected under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance at present in each of the 18 districts by type.
2. The indicators regarding the fire safety directions issued to prescribed commercial premises, specified commercial buildings and composite buildings are different from the figures provided by the Buildings Department. Please explain.

Asked by: Hon James TO Kun-sun (Member Question No. 69)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department (BD) 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 and domestic buildings constructed at or before that time.

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

District	Number of target buildings inspected (blocks)	Approximate number of target buildings yet to be inspected (blocks)
Yau Tsim Mong	1 669	360
Sham Shui Po	1 079	230
Central and Western	1 019	330
Kowloon City	883	280

Wan Chai	744	190
Eastern	553	320
Yuen Long	339	100
Tsuen Wan	256	130
North	250	50
Wong Tai Sin	224	50
Kwun Tong	188	100
Tai Po	183	90
Southern	171	100
Kwai Tsing	76	90
Sha Tin	65	90
Tuen Mun	46	120
Islands	31	10
Sai Kung	19	40
Total	7 795	2 680

Upon completing the inspections of the target composite buildings, the FSD and BD will inspect the target domestic buildings.

- Under the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance and the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance, the enforcement authority on fire service installations and equipment (FSIs) is the Director of Fire Services; while the enforcement authority on the planning, design and construction of buildings is the Director of Buildings. The FSD may issue fire safety directions (FS Directions) in respect of improvement works for the FSIs to owners and occupiers of the buildings/premises, while the BD may issue FS Directions in respect of improvement works for the fire safety construction to owners of the buildings/premises. Therefore, the numbers of FS Directions issued by the FSD and BD respectively to prescribed commercial premises, specified commercial buildings and composite buildings, and the numbers of FS Directions complied with/discharged may be different.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB464

(Question Serial No. 4137)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

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

	2015-16 (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 5-day week	()
Number of workers on 6-day week	()

() Change in percentage as compared with the same period in 2014-15

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing (Member Question No. 119)

Reply:

	2015-16 (as at 31 March 2016)
Number of outsourced service contracts	9(+12.5%)
Total payments to outsourced service providers	\$47,579,000(+6.5%) [Estimated full-year cost]
Length of contract for each outsourced service provider	Varies from 10 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 service providers to these workers must not be lower than the statutory minimum wage with 1 paid rest day per week.
<p>Length of service of outsourced workers</p> <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	
<p>Number of workers with remunerated meal break</p> <p>Number of workers without remunerated meal break</p>	Whether meal breaks are paid or not is agreed between the outsourced service providers and their employees. The FSD does not keep such information.
<p>Number of workers on 5-day week</p> <p>Number of workers on 6-day week</p>	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 2014-15

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB465

(Question Serial No. 4138)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

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

	2015-16 (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 5-day week	()
Number of workers on 6-day week	()

() Change in percentage as compared with the same period in 2014-15

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing (Member Question No. 120)

Reply:

	2015-16 (as at 31 March 2016)
Number of contracts engaging employment agencies	2(0%)
Contract sum paid to each employment agency	\$410,000(-56.1%) [Estimated full-year cost]
Length of contract for each employment agency	9 months
Number of agency workers	18 persons(-10%)
Responsibilities of the positions held by agency workers	Clerical services
Monthly salary range of agency workers	
• \$30,001 or above	- ()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	- ()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	18(-10%)
• \$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	0.18%(-10%)
Percentage of payments to employment agencies among the total staff costs of the Department	0.009%(-55%)
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	18(-10%)
Number of workers without remunerated meal break	0(0%)
Number of workers on 5-day week	18(-10%)
Number of workers on 6-day week	0(0%)

() *Change in percentage as compared with the same period in 2014-15*

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB466

(Question Serial No. 4139)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

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

	2015-16 (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 - \$30,000	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()
• \$6,240 - \$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 5-day week	()
Number of staff working on 6-day week	()

() Change in percentage as compared with the same period in 2014-15

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing (Member Question No. 121)

Reply:

	2015-16 (as at 31 December 2015)
Number of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff	43(+43.3%)
Responsibilities of positions held by NCSC staff	Telecommunications and information technology, administrative and clerical work, project assistance, combating illegal refuelling activities, building inspection, etc.
Salary costs of NCSC staff	About \$21,372,000(+50%)
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff	
• \$30,001 or above	30(+42.9%)
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	13(+44.4%)
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	0(0%)
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	0(0%)
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	0(0%)
• below \$6,240	0(0%)
Length of service of NCSC staff	
• over 15 years	0(0%)
• 10 to 15 years	5(+400%)
• 5 to 10 years	3(-57.1%)
• 3 to 5 years	2(+100%)
• 1 to 3 years	16(-11.1%)
• less than 1 year	17(+466.7%)
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	0.42% (+44.8%)
Percentage of staff costs of NCSC staff among the total staff costs of the Department	0.49% (+40%)

Number of staff who received severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity	0/0/32
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity paid	\$0/\$0/About\$2,058,000
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)	0/0/0
Amount of severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	\$0/\$0/\$0
Number of staff with remunerated meal break	43(+43.3%)
Number of staff without remunerated meal break	0(0%)
Number of staff working on 5-day week	43(+43.3%)
Number of staff working on 6-day week	0(0%)

() Change in percentage as compared with the same period in 2014-15

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB03

(Question Serial No. S0049)

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:

Regarding the major fire which broke out at Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter during the Mid-Autumn Festival last year (2015), would the Fire Services Department (FSD) inform this Committee of the following:

1. When will the relevant report be completed;
2. Whether the responsibilities of various parties will be established; and
3. Whether the FSD's equipment (such as fireboats) and the arrangements for its resources and manpower will be reviewed so as to protect public safety?

Asked by: Hon Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok

Reply:

- 1 & 2. Regarding the cause and the investigation of the No.3 alarm vessel fire at Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter on 27 September 2015, the Director of Marine is empowered to conduct investigation into a collision or fire on local vessels pursuant to the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap.548). In this connection, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has been maintaining close liaison with the Marine Department (MD) for sharing observations and findings in relation to the fire-fighting and rescue operation in this incident with a view to facilitating the MD's investigation into the cause of the fire. A detailed investigation report is being prepared by the MD.
3. The FSD reviews from time to time its overall marine fire-fighting and rescue strategies in Hong Kong as well as the related equipment, and conducts risk assessment for different water areas, taking into account factors including the distribution of vessels, utilisation of shipping channels, existence of high risk facilities at sea and along coastal areas, etc., in deciding the location of fireboat stations and deployment of fire vessels (e.g. fireboats and fire speedboats). The

FSD noted that the total number of emergency incidents in the eastern waters of Hong Kong (including the waters in Sai Kung, east Lei Yue Mun, Tolo Harbour/Tai Po, northeast and southeast Hong Kong) had shown a rising trend in recent years, and the marine traffic is expected to become busier day by day. In this regard, the FSD, upon detailed examination of existing resources, has proposed to procure an additional major fireboat and a fast rescue vessel for stationing in Sai Kung waters, so as to enhance the overall efficiency of its fire-fighting, ambulance and emergency search and rescue operations in these waters. The vessels are scheduled for commissioning in 2018. The FSD will apply for manpower resources for manning the new fireboat and fast rescue vessel under the existing mechanism in due course.

The FSD will continue to closely monitor the demand for marine emergency service, and will review the relevant fire-fighting and rescue resources from time to time to meet operational needs.

- End -