

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB298

(Question Serial No. 0247)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the ambulance services of the Fire Services Department (FSD), please advise on the following:

1. Please set out in table form the number of ambulance calls received in each region and the establishment of staff of each region in the past 3 years;
2. What are the criteria for the creation of 101 new ambulance posts in 2020-21? Will regular reviews be conducted to see whether the establishment of staff is large enough to cope with the overall ambulance services?
3. There is an upward trend in the number of emergency ambulance calls every year. Please set out in table form the overall establishment of ambulanceman grade staff in Hong Kong as well as the quantity of existing and newly acquired equipment, including ambulances, ambulance equipment, masks (N95 respirators and surgical masks), goggles, disposable gowns, etc. in the past 3 years;
4. How much spending has been increased by the FSD on frontline ambulance services to tackle the novel coronavirus outbreak? What is the extra spending for? Does it involve any upgrading of equipment? Are there any quarantine cases due to contact with suspected cases? If yes, what is the number? Does it involve extra allowances? What is the overall expenditure on fire and ambulance services to tackle the novel coronavirus outbreak? Does the FSD expect to increase its acquisition of relevant equipment in 2020 in response to the outbreak and actual needs?
5. There will be a net increase of \$327.2 million in the estimated expenditure for 2020-21 for, among others, the 101 ambulance posts. Please give a breakdown of the use of the \$327.2 million.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

1. The number of ambulance calls received in each region and the establishment of staff of each region in the past 3 years (as at 31 December of each year) are as follows:

	2017 Number of ambulance calls (establishment of staff*)	2018 Number of ambulance calls (establishment of staff*)	2019 Number of ambulance calls (establishment of staff*)
Hong Kong	138 307 (507)	140 058 (513)	140 354 (519)
Kowloon	300 268 (935)	304 695 (941)	309 645 (966)
New Territories	347 735 (1 357)	359 932 (1 438)	372 151 (1 497)
Total	786 310 (2 799)	804 685 (2 892)	822 150 (2 982)

* Establishment of the ambulanceman grade in the region

2. The Fire Services Department (FSD) reviews regularly its establishment of staff in order to meet the increase in ambulance service demand. In 2020-21, there will be a net increase of 101 posts under Programme (3) Ambulance Service in the FSD, which mainly involves 14 additional ambulance shifts. The number of posts to be created and reasons for their creation are tabulated below:

Programme	Rank	No. of posts	Remark
Programme (3) Ambulance Service	Senior Ambulanceman	28	To provide 14 additional ambulance shifts to meet the increase in service demand.
	Ambulanceman	57	
	Assistant Clerical Officer	2	To strengthen administrative support of the Ambulance Command.
	Senior Ambulanceman	3	To provide manpower for the Special Support Unit teams (1 Senior Ambulanceman and 2 Ambulanceman posts are time-limited up to 31 March 2023).
	Ambulanceman	6	
	Ambulance Officer	5	To provide manpower for a Rapid Response Vehicle (all are time-limited posts up to 31 March 2023).
	Principal Ambulanceman	1	To upgrade a Senior Ambulanceman post to enhance management duties of the newly established ambulance out-station at Yau Tong Fire Station.
	Senior Ambulanceman	(1)	
	Total		Net increase of 101

() The figure in brackets denotes the number of posts to be deleted

3. The overall establishment of ambulanceman grade staff of the FSD in the past 3 years (as at 31 December of each year) under Programme (3) Ambulance Service is tabulated as follows. As regards ambulance equipment, the FSD generally increases the supply year-on-year according to the number of ambulances.

	2017	2018	2019
Establishment of the ambulanceman grade#	2 822	2 925	3 015
Establishment of ambulances*	383	392	426^

Including the establishment of staff of each region and the establishment of staff with non-operational duties

* Including town ambulances, light ambulances, cross country ambulances and village ambulances

^ 34 of them are ambulances additionally procured and are currently in transit

Due to surging global demand for personal protective equipment (PPE), the SAR Government is facing keen competition in the procurement. The SAR Government does not consider it appropriate to disclose at this stage more specific information about the PPE, such as the stock and procured quantity, of individual departments in the past few years and in recent times, so as not to undermine the bargaining power of the Government Logistics Department and other departments in procuring PPE.

4. To tackle the situation in relation to the novel coronavirus outbreak, the FSD procured additional anti-epidemic protective equipment of various types. In 2020-21, the FSD will allocate an additional \$36 million for ambulance services, including \$30 million for enhancing PPE for relevant personnel, such as masks (N95 respirators and surgical masks), face shields, goggles and disposable gowns, etc., and \$6 million for disbursement of Disciplined Services Overtime Allowance. The FSD does not keep a separate breakdown of the expenditure on tackling the novel coronavirus outbreak in the fire and ambulance streams.

As at 4 March 2020, a total of 2 fire personnel and 6 ambulance personnel of the FSD, having handled confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus, were classified as close contacts by the Centre for Health Protection and required to undergo quarantine observation at quarantine centres. The 8 personnel have completed the quarantine observation and left the quarantine centres.

The FSD attaches utmost importance to the safety of frontline personnel and is committed to providing them with the most appropriate PPE and protective clothing, etc.. In view of the novel coronavirus outbreak, the FSD will continue with the relevant procurement work to provide its members with necessary equipment for operational needs and ensure that there is sufficient stock to tackle the epidemic.

5. In 2020-21, the estimated expenditure on Programme (3) Ambulance Service is \$2.3922 billion, representing an increase of \$327.2 million over the revised estimate of 2019-20. The increased expenditure covers, among others, a net increase of 101 posts. The breakdown of the expenditure items is as follows:

	2020-21 (\$ million)
Personal emoluments and personnel related expenses	135.1
General departmental expenses	35.8
Specialist supplies and equipment	39.2
Minor plant, vehicles, equipment and town ambulances	117.1
Total:	327.2

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB294

(Question Serial No. 0487)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the ambulance services of the Fire Services Department, will the Government advise on the following:

1. the number of ambulances in the establishment and those on run in the past 3 years, in table form;
2. the number of ambulances requiring repair, the average number of days for repair and the number of ambulances disposed of for being beyond repair in the past 3 years, in table form.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

1. The number of ambulances in the establishment and those on-run in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year@	No. of ambulances in the establishment#	No. of ambulances on-run#
2017-18	383	310
2018-19	392	322
2019-20	426*	328

@ Figures as at 31 March 2018, 31 March 2019 and 29 February 2020 respectively

Including town ambulances, light ambulances, cross country ambulances and village ambulances

* 34 of them are ambulances additionally procured and are currently in transit.

2. The number of ambulances requiring factory repair, the average number of days for repair and the number of ambulances disposed of for being beyond economic repair in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year@	Number of ambulances requiring factory repair#	Average number of days for repair	Number of ambulances disposed of for being beyond economic repair
2017-18	1 587	14.7	3
2018-19	1 684	13.3	4
2019-20	1 549	9.0	0

@ Figures as at 31 March 2018, 31 March 2019 and 29 February 2020 respectively

Including corrective repairs, accident repairs and preventive maintenance carried out three times a year for each ambulance

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB307

(Question Serial No. 0940)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (1) Fire Service
Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. The number of emergency ambulance calls attended by first responders surged from 49 886 in 2018 to 69 835. Nevertheless, the number of estimated calls in 2020 is reduced to 40 000, which is even less than the 50 000 calls in 2019. What are the reasons?
2. The actual number of calls handled in 2019 surged by nearly 40% as against 2018. Has the Department looked into the reasons for the surge and assessed its impacts on first responders and indeed on other firemen?

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

In handling emergency ambulance service (EAS) calls, the personnel of the Fire Services Communications Centre (FSCC) will determine whether such calls require the attendance of first responders in the light of the preliminary information on injuries and sicknesses provided by the callers. To further improve the quality of EAS provided by the Fire Services Department (FSD) for patients, the FSD officially and fully launched the enhanced post-dispatch advice (PDA) service in October 2018, which enables the FSCC personnel, with the aid of a new computer system, to provide first-aid advice for EAS callers on ways to deal with more than 30 types of injuries and sicknesses before the arrival of ambulance personnel at scene in a bid to help callers handle and stabilise the patients' conditions. Based on the more detailed and specific information regarding the injuries and sicknesses of the patients provided by the callers to the FSCC during the process, some cases are also classified as requiring the attendance of first responders. This accounts for the increase in the number of emergency ambulance calls attended by first responders from 49 886 in 2018 to 69 835 in 2019.

The FSD conducts reviews of the service provided by first responders from time to time. In the light of the operational experience in the delivery of enhanced PDA service, the FSD

has conducted a comprehensive review of the relevant dispatch criteria in 2019. The FSD has, without prejudice to the efficiency of the handling of emergency ambulance calls and on the overriding principle of acting in the interests of the patients, duly adjusted the dispatch criteria so as to ensure more effective deployment of frontline resources. With the new arrangement put in place on 1 January 2020, there will be an expected decrease in the number of cases classified as requiring the attendance of first responders in 2020. Such figures are also reflected in the Controlling Officer's Report for 2020-21.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB295

(Question Serial No. 0967)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (3) Ambulance Service
Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is stated under this Programme that the Fire Services Department will explore the long-term arrangement for the provision of emergency ambulance service. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

1. the details and targets of the long-term arrangement for the provision of emergency ambulance service; and
2. the time, resources and manpower needed for the exploration work.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-por (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) attaches great importance to the planning of emergency ambulance service (EAS) especially in tackling the challenges posed by an ageing population. Apart from continuously optimising resource management and utilising big data to enhance the efficiency in management, the FSD has commissioned a consultancy to study the demand for EAS in the long run. In 2011 and 2015, the FSD commissioned a consultancy firm and the Efficiency Unit (EU) respectively to conduct comprehensive reviews on the demand for EAS in Hong Kong and the functions of ambulance personnel. The consultancy firm and the EU made a number of recommendations in areas including support for frontline personnel, service quality assurance and allocation of additional resources. The FSD made reference to these recommendations and made appropriate deployment of ambulance resources, with a view to providing efficient, effective and advanced EAS to the public.
2. Amidst an ageing population and increasing demand for ambulance services, the FSD plans to allocate \$2 million in 2020-21 to commission a consultancy firm for conducting a comprehensive review and study on the future development of EAS, and

updating the findings of a similar study in 2011, so as to explore the long-term arrangements for EAS.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1071)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention
Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The actual number of prosecutions instituted by the Fire Services Department (FSD) against “fire hazards” in 2019 is 779, representing an increase of more than 80% as against the actual number in 2018. Will the FSD advise on:

1. the types of cases involved and the reasons for such increase, and the manpower involved in handling the prosecution work;
2. the details of the relevant work to enhance public awareness on community emergency preparedness as stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention in the coming year, and the estimated expenditures and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

1. The personnel of the 2 Fire Protection Commands (the Licensing and Certification Command and the Fire Safety Command) of the Fire Services Department (FSD) inspect different types of buildings and licensed premises under their respective scopes of work, and take enforcement actions related to, among others, fire service installations and equipment (FSIs), means of escape, ventilating systems, storage of dangerous goods and fire safety of licensed premises in these buildings. When the FSD personnel identify any irregularities during inspections, they will institute prosecutions in accordance with relevant laws.

The FSD established a designated inspection team in 2018 to step up the inspections of FSIs in buildings and relevant law enforcement work. The 2 Fire Protection Commands of the FSD, including the aforesaid designated inspection team, instituted a total of 779 prosecutions in 2019 against fire prevention issues. The increase in prosecutions mainly stemmed from irregularities related to FSIs. There was a total of

332 such cases, which accounted for 43% of all cases. The number of such cases increased by 310% as compared to that in 2018.

The Prosecution Section of the FSD is responsible for the prosecution work. Its establishment is as follows:

Grade	Rank	No. of posts
Fire stream	Divisional Officer	1
	Assistant Divisional Officer	2
	Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	10
	Senior Fireman	3
Civilian grade	Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Total		17

The FSD will review the relevant establishment of staff from time to time, and make appropriate manpower deployment in response to the needs in law enforcement and inspection.

2. The FSD established the Community Emergency Preparedness Division (CEPD) in October 2018 to promote ways and skills in community emergency preparedness through educational and promotional activities, with a view to further enhancing public awareness of emergency preparedness in a holistic manner, strengthening the public's response capability in the event of emergencies or contingencies and educating the public on "extinguishment and prevention of fire", "self-help and helping others" as well as "escape and evacuation". The goal of the FSD is to educate members of the public in such a way that they are able to remain calm when they are caught in various emergency situations, such as having acute physical problems or finding themselves in a fire, a natural disaster or even under terrorist attack, so that they could save themselves as well as others.

The CEPD is responsible for formulating strategies on community emergency preparedness covering disaster preparedness, counter-terrorism preparedness, fire safety and community life support. The Division reaches out to different age and community groups through various platforms (such as online social media, training courses and advertisements, etc.) to carry out publicity and educational work, thereby raising their awareness of emergency preparedness, strengthening their survival skills in emergencies, and enhancing their knowledge of, among others, fire safety, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of automated external defibrillator (AED).

Apart from the aforesaid measures, the CEPD will make continued efforts to train volunteers from various sectors of the community to become Fire Safety Ambassadors, Building Fire Safety Envoys and Heart Savers; organise various types of publicity activities on fire safety and ambulance services through coordination with other government departments and District Fire Safety Committees and liaison with various local bodies (including schools, building management companies, owners' corporations, centres for the elderly, consulates and ethnic minority organisations, etc.); and promote correct knowledge of fire prevention and ambulance services to

members of the public through various channels (including the FSD mobile applications, video-sharing websites, online social platforms, the Fire and Ambulance Services Education Centre, the Ambulance Service Education Vehicle, the Emergency Preparedness Education Bus and the Fire Safety Education Bus, etc.)

Furthermore, the FSD will continue to organise, among others, the CPR Training Programme in Campus, the “Press to shock – Save a life” CPR & AED Course, the School Outreaching Programme, the Community Outreaching Programme, the Community CPR Training Course and the Community Emergency Preparedness Education Talk. The Department will also adopt various promotional strategies to publicise the message that “Anyone Can Save Lives” and “Dare to Do, Save a Life”, in a bid to educate more members of the public on CPR and the use of AED. The FSD will also encourage callers for emergency ambulance services to follow its post-dispatch advice and provide timely first-aid to patients before the arrival of ambulance crew at scene.

The CEPD comprises civil servants and non-civil service contract staff. The estimated number of staff in the CEPD for 2020-21 is 87 while the expenditure on their remuneration and the various activities is about \$54 million.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB296

(Question Serial No. 1083)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the provision of ambulance service, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please set out the percentages of emergency ambulance calls answered within the target response time of 12 minutes for each of the half-year periods (i.e. from January to June and from July to December) in the past 3 years.
2. Does the data suggest a fall in the percentage of emergency ambulance calls answered within the target response time in the second half of 2019? Does the Department think that it is related to vandalism committed and road blockage caused by rioters? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1. The current performance pledge adopted by the Fire Services Department (FSD) in respect of emergency ambulance calls is to arrive at scene in 92.5% of the emergency ambulance calls within the target response time of 12 minutes. The percentages of emergency calls with ambulance services arriving at the scene within the target response time of 12 minutes in the past 3 years are as follows:

	From January to June	From July to December
2017	95.3%	94.9%
2018	95.1%	94.1%
2019	94.0%	92.8%

2. The performance in answering emergency ambulance calls within the target response time recorded a fall in the second half of 2019 as compared to the first half of 2019. Nevertheless, the percentage is still higher than the FSD's performance pledge of

92.5%. The time taken for ambulances to arrive at scenes can be affected by various unforeseeable factors, for example long travelling distances or traffic congestion, etc. The main reason for the fall in the percentage of arriving at the scene within the target response time of 12 minutes in the second half of 2019 is traffic congestion.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB297

(Question Serial No. 1084)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (3) Ambulance Service
Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the estimated expenditure on ambulance services under the influence of the novel coronavirus, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Has the Government procured additional anti-epidemic protective equipment for the provision of ambulance services in response to the growing epidemic of the novel coronavirus? If yes, please provide information on the additional items procured and the expenditure involved.
2. What is the estimated expenditure on epidemic control measures for the novel coronavirus in the next financial year? Is the Government concerned about the difficulties in procurement under the worldwide spread of the epidemic? If yes, how will the Government ensure that the supply of anti-epidemic goods covers the needs of frontline ambulancemen or firemen?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

1. To tackle the situation in relation to novel coronavirus outbreak, the Fire Services Department (FSD) procured additional anti-epidemic protective equipment of various types. In 2020-21, the FSD will allocate an additional \$36 million for ambulance services, including \$30 million for enhancing personal protective equipment for relevant personnel, such as masks (N95 respirators and surgical masks), face shields, goggles and disposable gowns, etc., and \$6 million for disbursement of Disciplined Services Overtime Allowance.
2. The epidemic has affected many parts of the world, resulting in a very tight supply of personal protective equipment. The FSD attaches great importance to the safety of frontline personnel. It has also put in a lot of efforts in conducting worldwide procurement from different suppliers to secure an adequate supply of equipment for

frontline personnel in handling both epidemic-related emergencies and daily operations. While the supply of such equipment may be unstable owing to uncontrollable circumstances, the FSD's current stock of various personal protective equipment is maintained at a healthy and sufficient level for frontline personnel. The FSD does not keep a separate breakdown of the estimated expenditure involved in tackling a particular infectious disease.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB303

(Question Serial No. 1411)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the efforts to “ensure that fire safety regulations are observed and emergency vehicular accesses are properly maintained by the public”, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The numbers of fires, which occurred in “public areas”, received by the Fire Services Department (FSD) in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by month and district;
2. The numbers of fires, which were caused by deliberate act in public areas, received by the FSD in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by month and district;
3. There had been a frequent occurrence of arson cases during public events in the past year. The existing fire protection and prevention publicity work is inadequate under the current circumstances. Will the FSD adjust its relevant tactics/strategies in order to tackle the arson cases which have occurred from time to time? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) does not keep separate statistics on fire calls in “public areas”. However, statistics on non-building fire calls handled by the FSD in the past 3 years are as follows:

Month	2017			2018			2019		
	Hong Kong	Kowloon	New Territories	Hong Kong	Kowloon	New Territories	Hong Kong	Kowloon	New Territories
January	42	91	274	42	92	231	49	90	216
February	62	82	275	51	87	228	39	70	177
March	38	82	179	60	80	283	32	67	130
April	46	75	271	79	92	413	34	53	176
May	34	76	101	36	86	195	26	60	95

June	30	65	138	23	58	88	34	53	114
July	32	62	112	24	56	98	51	55	116
August	31	81	169	27	60	101	50	120	184
September	36	57	140	52	92	273	63	126	192
October	71	87	329	54	83	377	97	314	361
November	40	84	248	45	78	243	155	674	799
December	52	137	375	51	83	206	45	201	422
Total	514	979	2 611	544	947	2 736	675	1 883	2 982

2. The FSD does not keep separate statistics on “fires caused by deliberate act in public areas”. However, statistics on non-building fire cases with suspicious circumstances handled by the FSD in the past 3 years are as follows:

Month	2017			2018			2019		
	Hong Kong	Kowloon	New Territories	Hong Kong	Kowloon	New Territories	Hong Kong	Kowloon	New Territories
January	0	3	9	2	0	13	2	12	17
February	2	3	2	4	4	7	2	7	17
March	1	4	13	2	4	8	0	6	9
April	0	6	4	0	7	11	0	5	5
May	0	3	9	0	8	12	1	1	5
June	1	4	6	2	13	13	4	7	6
July	2	4	7	2	7	9	8	4	5
August	2	2	9	0	3	7	6	19	31
September	0	2	5	0	5	2	20	33	33
October	1	8	7	1	4	10	25	121	92
November	0	6	10	1	6	11	56	310	222
December	0	11	15	3	5	11	6	37	19
Total	9	56	96	17	66	114	130	562	461

3. The FSD conducted multi-faceted risk assessments and formulated contingency plans to deal with fire calls in relation to the Public Order Events staged in various districts, while making advance deployment of the Tactical Support Unit of the Fire Stream and the Special Support Unit of the Ambulance Stream to stand by at relevant strategic locations. In addition, the FSD set up a Headquarters Command Coordination and Support Centre, Forward Command Posts and Ambulance Operation Support Bases to maintain close liaison with the Fire Services Communications Centre and monitor the real-time situations of incident locations. Based on the information provided by them, the FSD personnel will be able to make on-the-spot professional judgment in the event of fires or other emergency incidents, command and conduct firefighting and rescue operations, and provide emergency ambulance service, so that members of the public can be provided with the most appropriate emergency services in the shortest possible time.

As regards the publicity for fire protection and prevention, the Community Emergency Preparedness Division (CEPD) of the FSD is responsible for formulating strategies on community emergency preparedness covering disaster preparedness, counter-terrorism preparedness, fire safety and community life support. Through training programmes and promotional activities, the CEPD educates different organisations and communities on the ways and skills in emergency preparedness. The aim of the FSD is to educate the public on “extinguishment and prevention of fire”, “self-help and helping others” as well as “escape and evacuation”, so that they can stay calm when caught in various emergency situations and are able to save themselves as well as others.

In addition, the CEPD also carries out publicity and educational work through online social platforms. The objectives include raising people's awareness of emergency preparedness, strengthening their survival skills in emergencies such as ways to handle clothes catching fire, advising them against improper use of dangerous goods or chemicals and blocking roads, so that firefighting and rescue operations as well as emergency ambulance service will not be affected.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB300

(Question Serial No. 1572)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the respective estimated expenditures on salary and other allowances for the Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Directors of Fire Services in 2020-21?

Asked by: Hon LAM Cheuk-ting (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

The respective estimated expenditures on salary and other allowances for the Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Directors of Fire Services in 2020-21 are as follows:

Post	No. of posts	Estimated expenditures in 2020-21 (\$million)
Director of Fire Services	1	3.3
Deputy Director of Fire Services	1	2.7
Assistant Director of Fire Services	8	18.3

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB293

(Question Serial No. 1700)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (1) Fire Service
Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Since June 2019, there had been multiple arsons at MTR stations, shops and roadside rubbish bins that required intervention by firemen. Did such arson incidents cause an increase in workload of certain fire services divisions or impose hindrance to other firefighting or rescue operations?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

From June 2019 to end February 2020, the Fire Services Department (FSD) received a total of 2 013 fire calls in relation to the Public Order Events (POEs). Among these, the causes of fire of 1 298 cases were deemed to be suspicious. As many as 252 POE-related fire calls were received on a single day.

Road blockages, some of which were in a “flash-mob” style, were staged across the territory during the POEs, causing the FSD personnel unable to handle the fire calls within the graded response time. For example, in November last year, the FSD personnel were unable to handle a total of 440 building fire calls within the graded response time (accounting for 17.4% of the building fire calls in the month). On some individual days, only 52.7% of the building fire calls were handled by the FSD personnel within the graded response time, which was far below the FSD’s performance pledge of 92.5%.

The FSD conducted multi-faceted risk assessments and formulated contingency plans to deal with fire calls in relation to the POEs staged in various districts, while making advance deployment of the Tactical Support Unit of the Fire Stream and the Special Support Unit of the Ambulance Stream to stand by at relevant strategic locations. In addition, the FSD set up a Headquarters Command Coordination and Support Centre, Forward Command Posts and Ambulance Operation Support Bases to maintain close liaison with the Fire Services Communications Centre and monitor the real-time situations of incident locations. Based on the information provided by them, the FSD personnel will be able to make on-the-spot

professional judgment in the event of fires or other emergency incidents, command and conduct firefighting and rescue operations, and provide emergency ambulance service, so that members of the public can be provided with the most appropriate emergency services in the shortest possible time.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB308

(Question Serial No. 1779)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (002) Allowances
Programme: (-) Not specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In response to the ongoing epidemic of the Wuhan pneumonia, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has set up the "Rapid Response Teams". Sources suggest that the FSD has called up about 120 fire personnel to station at the quarantine camps. Will the FSD inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the duties of the stationed fire personnel? What are the FSD's selection criteria for this post? What are the working hours for each shift?
2. Does the FSD provide epidemic-related training and suitable protective equipment? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
3. Sources suggest that the stationed fire personnel are only rationed with supplies such as cup noodles, biscuits, water, etc; or they have to order meals at their own expense from contractors of the Department of Health. Does the FSD consider such support adequate?
4. The stationed fire personnel are only eligible for Disciplined Services Overtime Allowance. What are the payment criteria? Will the FSD consider disbursing extra allowances to boost staff morale?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

1. The Government has set up quarantine centres at designated locations to tackle the situation in relation to novel coronavirus outbreak. The Fire Services Department (FSD) conducts an overall fire safety risk assessment on the use, design and operational mode for the newly-built quarantine centres, and also adopts relevant measures to ensure that the quarantine centres are up to the required fire safety standards. Based on the relevant risk assessments, the FSD sets up the Rapid

Response Teams (RRT), which are assigned to the quarantine centres for stand-by duties in order to promptly handle fire incidents or other emergencies.

Each RRT consists of 5 fire personnel recruited through operational fire commands. Team members are required to stand by for 12 hours per shift at the quarantine centres on a rotation schedule. They are mainly responsible for firefighting, rescue and fire safety inspection duties which are the same as the daily firefighting and rescue services of other fire personnel.

2. The FSD has formulated operational guidelines for the RRT for handling emergencies, wearing personal protective equipment, decontamination, etc. The department has also provided the team members with appropriate and adequate personal protective equipment, including helmets, PBI Firefighting Protective Suits, rubber boots, fire gloves, protective gowns, UVEX goggles, disposable hoods, disposable gloves, surgical masks, and N95 respirators, etc.
3. Contractors engaged by the Department of Health provide take-away services to relevant Government officers working at the quarantine centres (including members of the RRT). Besides, the FSD further provides light refreshments such as biscuits, cup noodles, beverages, etc. to the RRT members.
4. Since the RRT are required to be on duty outside the conditioned hours of work, the FSD will compensate the team members in accordance with the rules of the Civil Service Regulations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB306

(Question Serial No. 2075)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention
Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is stated in the Budget that the Fire Services Department (FSD) will “pursue legislative work for the introduction of a scheme of registered fire engineers”. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

What is the FSD's progress in pursuing the scheme? What is the estimated time for finalising relevant regulations for submission to the Legislative Council?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)

Reply:

The Fire Services (Amendment) Ordinance 2017 was enacted by the Legislative Council (LegCo) in 2017 to provide a basis for making subsidiary legislation for the Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme. The Fire Services Department (FSD) consulted relevant professional bodies and other stakeholders on the implementation and regulatory details of the RFE Scheme, such as eligibility criteria, disciplinary code and criminal liability, etc. in early 2018. The trade was generally in support of the RFE Scheme. At present, the FSD is drawing up subsidiary legislation and relevant code of practice and code of ethics by scrutinizing stakeholders' suggestions and making reference to the relevant experiences in other countries.

The FSD aims at introducing the draft subsidiary legislation in the next term of the LegCo. The FSD will implement the RFE Scheme upon passing of the relevant subsidiary legislation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB301

(Question Serial No. 2180)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (1) Fire Service
Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In recent years, there were often members of the public hanging large banners with slogans on hills or even within country parks. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. How many times did the Fire Services Department (FSD) remove large banners with slogans in each of the past 5 years? Did these removal operations incur any additional expenditure?
2. Displaying banners with slogans within country parks is suspected to be a violation of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations. How many such cases were referred to relevant law enforcement agencies by the FSD? Does the FSD have any knowledge of the number of cases of prosecution and conviction?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 80)

Reply:

1. The numbers of operations conducted by the Fire Services Department (FSD) to remove large banners with slogans from country parks in the past 5 years are as follows:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
No. of operations	3	4	3	3	21

The FSD conducted these operations with existing resources and no additional expenditure was incurred.

2. The FSD would refer all cases involving removal of large banners with slogans within country parks to relevant law enforcement agencies for follow-up actions. The FSD does not have the relevant information on cases of prosecution and conviction.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB302

(Question Serial No. 2183)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention
Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020-21" in the Estimates that the Fire Services Department (FSD) will pursue legislative work and enforcement actions to improve the fire safety of industrial buildings in 2020-21. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the current number of old industrial buildings not equipped with automatic sprinkler systems across the territory (with a breakdown by District Council district);
2. whether it is necessary for the FSD to increase manpower to pursue legislative work and enforcement actions to improve the fire safety of industrial buildings; if yes, what is the additional manpower needed and the expenditure involved;
3. the number of fire safety inspections conducted by the authority to old industrial buildings and the number of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices issued to the persons concerned in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 85)

Reply:

1. According to the records of the Fire Services Department (FSD), the distribution of old industrial buildings not equipped with automatic sprinkler systems by District Council district is tabulated as follows:

District Council district	Number of old industrial buildings not equipped with automatic sprinkler systems
Central and Western	3
Wan Chai	1
Eastern	19
Southern	12

Yau Tsim Mong	38
Sham Shui Po	30
Kowloon City	31
Wong Tai Sin	31
Kwun Tong	83
Tsuen Wan	29
Tuen Mun	4
Yuen Long	9
North	4
Tai Po	0
Sai Kung	2
Sha Tin	2
Islands	2
Kwai Tsing	44
Total	344

2. The FSD expects to create 12 posts in 2020-21 to step up enforcement work in enhancing the fire safety of industrial buildings. The expenditure on remuneration is about \$7.66 million.
3. The number of fire safety inspections to industrial buildings across the territory conducted by the FSD and the number of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices (FHANs) issued to the persons concerned in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	2017	2018	2019
Number of fire safety inspections	17 695	12 844	13 084
Number of FHANs issued	8 084	2 722	2 007

Note: Both the number of inspections of industrial buildings and the number of FHANs issued by the FSD in 2017 were comparatively higher. It was because the FSD has inspected around 800 mini-storages across the territory from the second half of 2016 to the end of 2017 and identified nearly 2 800 fire hazards. The FSD issued FHANs to the persons in charge of such mini-storages, requiring that the fire hazards be abated within specified periods.

The FSD does not keep separate statistics on the relevant data in respect of old industrial buildings.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB305

(Question Serial No. 2214)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Fire Service, (2) Fire Protection and Prevention, (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. Please set out the quantity, value and stock of surgical masks produced by the Correctional Services Department (CSI masks) that the Fire Services Department (FSD) obtained from the Government Logistics Department (GLD) each month in the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	No. of CSI masks obtained	Value of CSI masks obtained	Stock of CSI masks

2. Please set out the quantity, value, stock and consumption of surgical masks that the FSD obtained from the GLD or procured each month in the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	No. of surgical masks obtained from the GLD (value)	No. of surgical masks procured (value)	Stock	Consumption

3. Please set out the quantity, value, stock and consumption of N95 respirators that the FSD obtained from the GLD or procured each month in the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	No. of N95 respirators obtained from the GLD (value)	No. of N95 respirators procured (value)	Stock	Consumption

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4. Please set out the quantity, value, stock and consumption of gowns that the FSD obtained from the GLD or procured each month in the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	No. of gowns obtained from the GLD (value)	No. of gowns procured (value)	Stock	Consumption

5. Please set out the quantity, value, stock and consumption of protective coverall suits that the FSD obtained from the GLD or procured each month in the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	No. of protective coverall suits obtained from the GLD (value)	No. of protective coverall suits procured (value)	Stock	Consumption

6. Please set out the quantity, value, stock and consumption of face shields that the FSD obtained from the GLD or procured each month in the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	No. of face shields procured	Value of face shields procured	Stock of face shields	Consumption

7. Please set out the quantity, value, stock and consumption of goggles that the FSD obtained from the GLD or procured each month in the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	No. of goggles procured	Value of goggles procured	Stock of goggles	Consumption

8. Did the FSD supply or sell surgical masks, N95 respirators, face shields, goggles, gowns and protective coverall suits to other organisations in the past 3 years? If yes, please provide the relevant information, including the quantity, consumption and stock, in the following table:

Month/	Name of	Manner	Surgical	N95	Face	Goggles	Gowns	Protective
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Year	organisations	of provision (e.g. sold or supplied for free)	masks	respirators	shields			coverall suits

9. If the FSD has supplied or sold surgical masks, N95 respirators, face shields, goggles, gowns and protective coverall suits to other organisations, what are the departments and the ranks of the officers responsible for making such decisions? Please provide the ranks of the officers involved in each decision, the date they made the decision and other relevant information.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) has obtained masks (produced by the Correctional Services Department) and other personal protective equipment (PPE) from the Government Logistics Department (GLD), while also purchased masks and other PPE from the market for distribution to staff. The FSD has not consolidated data in respect of the masks and other PPE of different sources distributed to individual personnel.

Due to surging global demand for PPE, the SAR Government is facing keen competition in the procurement. The SAR Government does not consider it appropriate to disclose at this stage more specific information about the PPE, such as the stock, procured quantity, value and consumption, of individual departments in the past few years and in recent times, so as not to undermine the bargaining power of the GLD and other departments in procuring PPE.

The FSD did not supply or sell surgical masks, N95 respirators, face shields, goggles, gowns and protective coverall suits to other organisations in the past 3 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB299

(Question Serial No. 2333)

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 (LI Kin-yat)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding marine fire prevention strategies, please advise on 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 the time in Annex 1 and put a slash "/" for areas beyond the respective service areas of the vessels.)

Typhoon shelter	Fireboat No.								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 establishment of staff and estimated expenditure involved in the fire prevention work for typhoon shelters in each of the past 3 years (from 2017-18 to 2019-20)?
3. What will be the establishment of staff and estimated expenditure involved in the fire prevention work for typhoon shelters in 2020-21?
4. What strategies does the Government have to expedite the arrival of fireboats and fire speedboats at the scenes of incidents in the future?

5. It is known that the Fire Services Department is now liaising with the Marine Department on the design and technical specifications of the new major fireboat, and the tendering process is expected to commence in 2019-20. What is the progress of such work?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 55)

Reply:

1. The estimated journey times (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 are set out in the table below#:

Typhoon shelter/Bay	Fireboat No.								Fire speed boat
	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	10
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 a fire vessel to arrive at the scene of a marine fire is affected by various factors, for example, whether the vessel is engaged in other operations (including participation in regular navigation training, exercise and inspection, or attendance at another emergency incident, etc.) when the fire call is received, and the marine traffic, waves, currents, wind direction, visibility and so forth at the time of the incident. Generally speaking, when the Fire Services Department (FSD) receives a marine fire call, it will deploy at least 2 fireboats nearest to the incident scene for operation. In addition, on-shore fire stations in the vicinity will promptly deploy fire appliances to nearby piers, where on-shore

fire personnel carrying portable fire pumps and other firefighting equipment will board police launches or Marine Department (MD) vessels and head for the incident scene to provide support.

* Fireboats No. 2 and No. 7 are reserve fireboats, which mainly serve as substitutes for fireboats under maintenance and repair. They therefore 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 District. The typhoon shelters and bays listed above are not within its service area.

In addition, the FSD has 2 command boats and 8 speedboats stationed at the East and West Rescue Boat Berths of the airport. They are dedicated to handling incidents in the waters near the airport.

2. & 3. The firefighting, 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 Diving Division of the FSD, with support from personnel of fire stations near the typhoon shelters. The FSD does not maintain separate statistics on the expenditure for fire prevention work for typhoon shelters. The establishment of the disciplined grade staff responsible for marine matters under the Marine and Diving Division of the FSD from 2017-18 to 2019-20 and in 2020-21 (estimate) is tabulated as follows:

Rank	Establishment				
	Year (as at 31 March)	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (Estimate)
Senior Divisional Officer		1	1	1	1
Divisional Officer		1	2#	2	2
Assistant Divisional Officer		1	4#	4	4
Senior Station Officer/ Station Officer		11	11	11	11
Principal Fireman		49	53 [^]	53	53
Senior Fireman		68	72 [^]	73 ⁺	73
Fireman		110	118 [^]	118	118

In 2018, the FSD conducted an internal review aimed at integrating and redistributing the management duties of the fire stations under the then Marine and Offshore Islands Division, in order to cope with the latest development of each district, meet the demands for emergency services and enhance service quality. Since 3 July 2018, the Division has been restructured and renamed as the Marine and Diving Division. Under the new structure, the 2 Divisional Officers and the 4 Assistant Divisional Officers of the Marine Unit, who were originally responsible for fire services provided by fireboat stations or fire

stations of offshore islands, will undertake the management of the disciplined grade staff of both fireboat stations and fire stations of offshore islands.

[^] To enhance the FSD's operational efficiency in the waters of Hong Kong, the procurement of 1 fast rescue vessel is underway. The establishment of the Marine and Diving Division was also increased correspondingly in 2018-19, with the addition of 4 Principal Firemen, 4 Senior Firemen and 8 Firemen. The relevant personnel are now under training for immediate deployment to the new fast rescue vessel upon its commissioning.

⁺ 1 Senior Fireman has been added to the establishment of the FSD in 2019-20 to provide support for relevant government departments to handle marine pollution incidents in the waters of Hong Kong.

4. The FSD reviews from time to time its marine firefighting and rescue strategies in Hong Kong as well as the related equipment, and conducts risk assessments 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).

Every year, the fishing moratorium in the South China Sea and traditional festivals (such as the Lunar New Year, Ching Ming Festival, Tin Hau Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival and Chung Yeung Festival) often see an increase of fishermen berthing their fishing vessels at major typhoon shelters, causing an increase in fire risks. In this light, the FSD adopts corresponding measures during the aforementioned periods, including the deployment of 2 fire speedboats with firefighting equipment at the temporary deployment points located near the Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter and Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter respectively for stand-by duties, so as to further enhance the efficiency of firefighting and rescue operations in these areas.

The FSD will continue to closely monitor the demand for marine emergency service and keep under review the relevant firefighting and rescue resources to meet operational needs.

5. The FSD is currently procuring 1 fast rescue vessel and 1 major fireboat for stationing in Sai Kung waters, so as to enhance the overall efficiency of its firefighting, ambulance services, and emergency search and rescue operations in these waters.

The tendering exercise of the new fast rescue vessel has been completed in February 2020. The construction will begin soon and is expected to complete in the first quarter of 2022. Separately, the tendering process of the shipbuilding contract regarding the new major fireboat commenced on 29 March 2019 and closed on 27 September 2019. The Tender Assessment Panel of the MD is conducting the relevant assessment.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB304

(Question Serial No. 3234)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. Please tabulate the numbers of duty and maintenance hours for Fireboats No. 1 to No. 8 in 2019-20.
2. Please provide the progress and budget updates on the replacement of the following fireboats.

	Basic features (total length/ crew capacity/speed)	Time of replacement	Builder (if any)	Budget
Replacement of Fireboat No. 7				
Acquisition of 1 fireboat				
Acquisition of 1 fast rescue vessel				
Replacement of Fireboat No. 2				
Replacement of Command Boat No. 1				
Replacement of Command Boat No. 2				

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

1. Fireboats No. 1 to No. 8 perform duties, while not under regular maintenance inspection or repair, which include attending vessel fires or rescue operations, undertaking regular drills, promoting public education on vessel fire prevention,

conducting inspections and navigation training in the respective waters they serve, or on standby duty. The maintenance inspection or repair time of each fireboat in 2019-20 is as follows:

Fireboat	Maintenance inspection/repair time (no. of days)
	2019-20 (as at 10 March 2020)
Fireboat No. 1 (Elite)	46
Fireboat No. 2#	63
Fireboat No. 3	57
Fireboat No. 4	9*
Fireboat No. 5	27*
Fireboat No. 6 (Excellence)	68
Fireboat No. 7#	27*
Fireboat No. 8	46

Fireboats No. 2 and No. 7 are reserve fireboats, which are deployed for duty when required or serve as substitutes for fireboats under annual inspection and repair.

* No major routine maintenance inspection is required for Fireboats No. 4, No. 5 and No. 7 in 2019-20.

2. The relevant information regarding the replacement and acquisition of vessels mentioned in the question is tabulated as follows:

	Basic features (total length/ crew capacity/speed)	Target replacement time*	Builder (if any)	Approved commitment (\$million)
Replacement of Fireboat No. 7	36 metres/ 8 persons/ 35 knots	The new fireboat has been delivered to Hong Kong in the first quarter of 2020.	Lung Teh Shipbuilding Co., Ltd	98.26
Acquisition of 1 fireboat	36 metres/ 12 persons/ 25 knots	Construction is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2022.	The Marine Department (MD) is in the process of assessing the tenders.	125
Acquisition of 1 fast rescue vessel	17-19.5 metres/ 4 persons/ 40 knots	Construction is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2022.	Marine Alutech Oy Ab	40

Replacement of Fireboat No. 2	The MD is in the process of drawing up the design and technical specifications.	Construction is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2023.	The MD is in the process of drawing up the design and technical specifications.	97.5
Replacement of Command Boat No. 1	34-36 metres/ 8 persons/ 35 knots	Construction is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2023.	Under tendering process	120
Replacement of Command Boat No. 2	34-36 metres/ 8 persons/ 35 knots	Construction is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2024.	Under tendering process	120

* The actual time for the new vessels to come into service depends on factors including, among others, the acceptance and performance tests subsequent to completion of construction.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB856

(Question Serial No. 3447)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention
Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. In the past 3 years, what were the total numbers of school group visits to, and outreaching activities to schools by, the Fire Services Department (FSD)? Please provide the information in the following table:

Year	Number of school group visits to the FSD				Number of outreaching activities to schools			
	Kindergarten	Primary school	Secondary school	Special school	Kindergarten	Primary school	Secondary school	Special school
2019								
2018								
2017								

2. In each of the past 3 years, how many requests for school group visits were received by the FSD in total? What were the common reasons for a request by school to be rejected, if any?
3. In each of the past 3 years, how many requests for outreaching activities to schools were received by the FSD in total? What were the common reasons for a request by school to be rejected, if any?

Asked by: Hon IP Kin-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 198)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) welcomes persons aged 6 or above to visit fire stations or ambulance depots. The FSD will process the applications for visits to fire stations or ambulance depots and receive student visitors, provided that its emergency services will not be affected. The FSD does not maintain separate statistics on the numbers of student visits to fire stations or ambulance depots.

Regarding outreaching activities to schools, the numbers of such applications received by the FSD in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of applications for outreaching activities to schools
2019	4 419
2018	5 614
2017	4 759

In general, the FSD will not reject any applications for outreaching activities to schools. However, the number of such activities that can actually be carried out is subject to the availability of resources. The numbers of outreaching activities to schools arranged by the FSD for the purposes of promoting fire safety and the proper use of ambulance service as well as providing training courses on cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators, etc. in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of outreaching activities to schools			
	Kindergarten	Primary school	Secondary school	Special school
2019	4 175	102	130	12
2018	5 447	58	103	6
2017	4 606	68	82	3

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB857

(Question Serial No. 4833)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Fire Service, (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Did the Fire Services Department (FSD) handle any stampedes in the past year? If yes, please advise on the date(s) of the operation(s); if no, please advise on the number of similar major crowd events handled by the FSD, as well as the dates and causes of these events.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 554)

Reply:

On the night of 18 November 2019, while handling an “automatic fire alarm” incident outside Exit A1 of Yau Ma Tei MTR station, personnel of the Fire Services Department (FSD) found that a large number of people fell on the ground in the passageway between Exit A1 of Yau Ma Tei MTR station and Bell House at around 11:30 pm. In the incident, FSD personnel provided emergency ambulance service to a total of 33 injured persons and conveyed them to hospitals for further treatment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB852

(Question Serial No. 4879)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In respect of the work on the Code on Access to Information (the Code), would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- For requests for information made under the Code and met in part by the Fire Services Department (FSD) from October 2018 to present, please set out in table form: (i) the information requested, (ii) the reasons for meeting the requests in part; (iii) whether the decision of withholding part of the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application); (iv) whether the decision of withholding part of the information was made subject to a "harm or prejudice test", i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from the disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)? If yes, please provide the details of the approach adopted to handle the requests.

From October to December 2018

(i) Information requested for requests met in part	(ii) Reasons for meeting the requests in part	(iii) Whether the decision of withholding part of the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)	(iv) Whether the decision of withholding part of the information was made subject to a "harm or prejudice test", i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from the

			disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application). If yes, please provide the details.

2019

(i) Information requested for requests met in part	(ii) Reasons for meeting the requests in part	(iii) Whether the decision of withholding part of the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)	(iv) Whether the decision of withholding part of the information was made subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from the disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application). If yes, please provide the details.

2. For requests for information made under the Code and refused by the FSD from October 2018 to present, please set out in table form: (i) the information requested; (ii) the reasons for refusing the requests; (iii) whether the decision of withholding the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application); (iv) whether the decision on withholding the information was made subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from the disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)? If yes, please provide the details of the approach adopted to handle the requests.

From October to December 2018

(i) Information requested for refused requests	(ii) Reasons for the refusing requests	(iii) Whether the decision of withholding the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)	(iv) Whether the decision of withholding the information was made subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from the disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application). If yes, please provide the details.

2019

(i) Information requested for refused requests	(ii) Reasons for the refusing requests	(iii) Whether the decision of withholding the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)	(iv) Whether the decision of withholding the information was made subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from the disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application). If yes, please provide the details.

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3. Any person who believes that a department has failed to comply with any provision of the Code may ask the department to review the situation. Please advise this Committee of (i) the number of review cases received; (ii) the number of review cases among those received in the year, for which further information was disclosed after review; (iii) whether the decisions of conducting a review were made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level, in each of the past 5 years.

Year in which review cases were received	(i) Number of review cases received	(ii) Number of review cases among those received in the year, for which further information was disclosed after review	(iii) Whether the decisions of conducting a review were made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level
2015			
2016			
2017			
2018			
2019			

4. With reference to the target response times set out in paragraphs 1.16.1 to 1.19.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application of the Code, please advise this Committee of the following information by year in table form (with text descriptions).

(a) Within 10 days from date of receipt of a written request:

	Number of requests for information met	Number of requests for information not met as third party information was involved	Number of requests for information not met as there was a need to transfer the case to another department which held the information under request	Number of requests for information refused under the exemption provisions in Part 2 of the Code	Number of applications withdrawn by applicants not accepting the charge and having indicated their wish of not proceeding with the application
2020					
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					

Within 10 to 21 days from date of receipt of a written request:

	Number of requests for information met	Number of requests for information not met as third party information was involved	Number of requests for information not met as there was a need to transfer the case to another department which held the information under request	Number of requests for information refused under the exemption provisions in Part 2 of the Code	Number of applications withdrawn by applicants not accepting the charge and having indicated their wish of not proceeding with the application
2020					
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					

Within 21 to 51 days from date of receipt of a written request:

	Number of requests for information met	Number of requests for information not met as third party information was involved	Number of requests for information not met as there was a need to transfer the case to another department which held the information under request	Number of requests for information refused under the exemption provisions in Part 2 of the Code	Number of applications withdrawn by applicants not accepting the charge and having indicated their wish of not proceeding with the application
2020					
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					

(b) Cases in which information could not be provided within 21 days from date of receipt of the request in the past 5 years:

Date	Subject of information	Specific reason
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	requested	

(c) Cases in which information could not be provided within 51 days from date of receipt of the request in the past 5 years:

Date	Subject of information requested	Specific reason

5. Please set out in table form the number of those, among the cases in which requests for information were refused under the exemption provisions in Part 2 of the Code, on which the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data was consulted during the handling process in the past 5 years. For cases on which advice was sought from the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, was the advice fully accepted in the end? If it was not or the advice was only partially accepted, what were the reasons?

Date	Subject	Specific exemption provision in Part 2 of the Code under which requests for information were refused	Whether the advice of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data was fully accepted	Reasons for not accepting or only partially accepting the advice of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 447)

Reply:

- 1.& 2. Among the requests for information made under the Code on Access to Information (the Code) received by the Fire Services Department (FSD) from October 2018 to September 2019, 2 were met in part and 2 were refused by the FSD.

For the abovementioned 2 requests met in part, the applicants requested information about a prosecution instituted by the FSD and the details of specific vehicle fleets of the FSD since 1997 respectively. After consideration, the FSD provided part of the requested information to the applicants in accordance with paragraph 2.6 “law enforcement, legal proceedings and public safety” and paragraph 2.9 “management and operation of the public service” of the Code respectively. The decisions were made by the Access to Information Officer of the FSD (who was not at the Directorate Pay Scale Point 1 or Point 2 level), subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, which concluded that the harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure of information would outweigh the public interest in disclosure of such information in the case.

As regards the 2 refused requests, the applicants requested information about the specifications of goods provided by a successful tenderer in a procurement exercise conducted by the FSD and a list of buildings to which the FSD issued “Fire Safety Improvement Direction” and “Fire Safety Improvement Compliance Order” pursuant to the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance (Cap. 502), and “Fire Safety Direction” and “Fire Safety Compliance Order” pursuant to the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) in certain districts. After consideration, the FSD refused the requests in accordance with paragraph 2.16 “business affairs” and paragraph 2.18 “legal restrictions” of the Code respectively. The decisions were made by the Access to Information Officer of the FSD, who was not at the Directorate Pay Scale Point 1 or Point 2 level, subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, which concluded that the harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure of information would outweigh the public interest in disclosure of such information in the case.

3. During the period from 2015 to September 2019, the FSD received 1 review case. After review, the FSD maintained the decision not to disclose further information. The decision was made by officer at Directorate Pay Scale Point 1 level.
4. During the period from 2016 to September 2019, the number of written requests for information met within 10 days, within 11 to 21 days and within 22 to 51 days from the date of receipt of the requests were 157, 147 and 43 respectively. Among these requests, 12 were refused according to the exemption provisions in Part 2 of the Code.

During the period from 2016 to September 2019, the main reason of the FSD being not able to meet the requests within 21 days or 51 days from the date of receipt of the requests is the complexity of the requested information or the need to seek legal advice on the cases, which took some time to process.

5. During the period from 2016 to September 2019, the FSD did not consult the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data on the cases in which requests for information were refused.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB853

(Question Serial No. 5275)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (-) Not specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the following figures:

1. the current stock of masks in your department;
2. the monthly stock of masks in your department for the past 5 years;
3. the monthly stock of masks produced by the Correctional Services Department in your department for the past 5 years;
4. the expenditure on masks in your department for the past 5 years;
5. the monthly consumption of masks in your department for the past 5 years;
6. the quantity of masks procured by your department for the past 5 years;
7. the quantity of masks depleted due to storage problems in your department for the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1880)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) has obtained masks (produced by the Correctional Services Department) from the Government Logistics Department (GLD), while also purchased masks from the market for distribution to staff. The FSD has not consolidated data in respect of masks of different sources distributed to individual personnel.

Due to surging global demand for personal protective equipment (PPE), the SAR Government is facing keen competition in the procurement. The SAR Government does not consider it appropriate to disclose at this stage more specific information about the PPE,

such as the stock, procured quantity, value and consumption, of individual departments in the past few years and in recent times, so as not to undermine the bargaining power of the GLD and other departments in procuring PPE.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB854

(Question Serial No. 5599)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (603) Plant, vehicles and equipment
Programme: (-) Not specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the estimated expenditures and work plans on the new items “8FF Replacement of Turntable Ladder F131” and “8FG Replacement of Turntable Ladder F132”? Why is the funding for the above items sought from the Legislative Council in the context of the Appropriation Bill? While this is not a new arrangement, why is the funding not sought separately from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 806)

Reply:

The estimated cost of the 2 turntable ladders that the Fire Services Department proposes to replace is \$11.871 million each. They are expected to be commissioned in 2022.

The arrangement to include in the draft Estimates funding proposals for creating commitments or increasing expenditure ceilings for approved commitment items under the General Revenue Account for scrutiny and approval by the Legislative Council in the context of the Appropriation Bill is in line with the requirements under sections 5 and 6 of the Public Finance Ordinance. The Government explained the relevant arrangements to the Finance Committee in early 2015. We have also included the necessary provision for this proposal under the respective heads and sub-heads of expenditure, and provided appropriate information in the Controlling Officer's Report to facilitate Members' consideration.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB855

(Question Serial No. 5768)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (-) Not specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please advise this Committee of the following:

1. Has the Fire Services Department (FSD) received and used any CSI masks produced by the Correctional Services Department (CSD)? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons; and
2. If the FSD has received and used CSI masks produced by the CSD, please set out the quantity of CSI masks received and used in each of the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 595)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) has obtained masks (produced by the Correctional Services Department) from the Government Logistics Department (GLD), while also purchased masks from the market for distribution to staff. The FSD has not consolidated data in respect of masks of different sources distributed to individual personnel.

Due to surging global demand for personal protective equipment (PPE), the SAR Government is facing keen competition in the procurement. The SAR Government does not consider it appropriate to disclose at this stage more specific information about the PPE, such as the stock, procured quantity, value and consumption, of individual departments in the past few years and in recent times, so as not to undermine the bargaining power of the GLD and other departments in procuring PPE.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB858

(Question Serial No. 6607)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (002) Allowances

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LI Kin-yat)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the allocation of Disciplined Services Quarters (DSQs) to staff of the Hong Kong Fire Services Department (FSD), please provide the following information:

1. Please tabulate (i) the number of FSD staff allocated with DSQs and (ii) its percentage in the total number of FSD staff, in the financial year 2019-20.

(i) Number of FSD staff allocated with DSQs	(ii) Percentage in the total number of FSD staff

2. Please tabulate (i) the projected number of FSD staff to be allocated with DSQs and (ii) its percentage in the total number of FSD staff, in the financial year 2020-21.

(i) Projected number of FSD staff to be allocated with DSQs	(ii) Percentage in the total number of FSD staff

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (LegCo internal reference no.: 237)

Reply:

It is the Government's policy to provide Disciplined Services Quarters (DSQs) for married staff of disciplined services, subject to the availability of resources. The Fire Services Department (FSD) understands the concerns of disciplined services staff on the shortfall of DSQs, and is committed to expediting the progress of different DSQ projects so as to alleviate the shortfall.

1. (i) The number of FSD staff allocated with DSQs and (ii) its percentage in the total number of eligible disciplined services staff in the Department, as at 1 March 2020, are tabulated as follows:

(i) Number of disciplined services staff allocated with DSQs	(ii) Percentage in the total number of eligible disciplined services staff in the Department
4 182	71%

2. (i) The number of FSD staff to be allocated with DSQs as projected by FSD and (ii) its percentage in the total number of eligible disciplined services staff in the Department, as at 31 March 2021, are tabulated as follows:

(i) Projected number of disciplined services staff to be allocated with DSQs	(ii) Percentage in the total number of eligible disciplined services staff in the Department
4 182	70%

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-SB005

(Question Serial No. SV021)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the service provided by first responders, the Fire Services Department conducted a comprehensive review of the relevant dispatch criteria in 2019 and the new arrangements were put in place officially on 1 January 2020. Please provide information on the changes in dispatch criteria and the numbers of emergency ambulance calls attended by first responders before and after the review.

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) reviews the first responder service from time to time. After the enhanced post-dispatch advice service was fully implemented in October 2018, the FSD, with sufficient data and operational experience accumulated, has conducted a comprehensive review in the fourth quarter of 2019 on the dispatch criteria of the first responder service. Having sought professional advice from the FSD's Medical Director, the FSD, without prejudice to operation efficiency and the interest of patients, set out more precise definitions of 3 types of injuries and sicknesses that require the attendance of first responders. Adjustments in classification were made to change (1) "Cardiac Disease" to "Cardiac Arrest", (2) "Airway Obstruction by Foreign Body" to "Choking" and (3) "Absence of Breathing/Shortness of Breath" to "Severe Breathing Difficulty". With the adjusted definitions, injuries and sicknesses can be more accurately classified, allowing a more effective deployment of resources and timely provision of first responder service to patients who are most in need.

After the implementation of the relevant arrangements, the FSD handled a total of 6 904 cases that required the attendance of first responders from 1 January to 31 March 2020, representing a decrease against the 19 905 cases in the same period of 2019.