

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB155

(Question Serial No. 0106)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the vetting and approval of building plans in relation to fire safety, would the Fire Services Department (FSD) provide the following information:

1. The number of building plans processed by the FSD in 2020 (19 178) dropped by nearly 18% as against that in 2019 (23 383). What are the reasons?
2. Has the FSD set any performance pledge for the vetting work to ensure the vetting be completed within a reasonable time? If yes, how were the targets met in the past 3 years; if not, will the FSD consider setting one soon?
3. Has the FSD explored using technology, such as real-time imaging and 3D scanning, to replace some of the on-site inspections and acceptance work in a bid to speed up the vetting process for building plans and, at the same time, reduce the impact of the pandemic and work-from-home arrangement?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 115)

Reply:

1. The number of building plans received by the FSD in 2020 was about 20% lower than that in 2019. This accounts for the decrease in the number of building plans processed.
2. Pursuant to regulation 30(3) of the Building (Administration) Regulations (Cap. 123A), the Building Authority (BA) shall process plans submitted for the first time or with major revision to him for approval within 60 days from their submission dates, and re-submitted plans within 30 days from their submission dates. After the said periods, the BA shall be deemed to have given his approval of plans submitted to him. In this connection, the FSD is committed to working in tandem with the BA to complete the vetting work within the relevant time frames. To support the operational needs of the industry, the FSD gives priority to building plans which are submitted for the first time

for the commencement of building works, and amended plans for acceptance inspection of fire service installations and equipment (FSI). Over the past 3 years, the FSD has been able to complete all vetting work in tandem with the BA within the relevant time frames.

3. The FSD uses electronic digital technology from time to time to conduct video conferences with government departments and consultant firms for various works projects in a bid to speed up the vetting process. As regards the arrangement for acceptance inspection of FSIs of new buildings, since the acceptance procedures involve various tests, such as water supply pressure and air flow rate tests, the FSD's inspection officers have to, under the current practice, conduct on-site inspections and tests to ensure that the buildings have met the fire safety standard as required. Nevertheless, the FSD will keep abreast of any development of technologies which may facilitate the work of acceptance inspection, and explore the use of such technologies where appropriate.

In addition, the FSD is currently engaged in a study together with other departments concerned on the development of the "Electronic Submission Hub" spearheaded by the Buildings Department. The aim is to assist in formulating the relevant technical standards and requirements so as to promote the wider use of building information modelling technology by the industry.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB156

(Question Serial No. 0107)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the work for enhancing building fire safety, would the Fire Services Department (FSD) provide the following information:

1. The number of Fire Safety Directions issued to composite buildings by the FSD in 2020 (13 717) dropped by 44% as against that in 2019 (24 485). It is also expected that the number of Directions to be issued in 2021 (16 000) will drop by 35% as against that in 2019. What are the reasons?
2. The FSD estimates that there will only be 7 500 Fire Safety Directions complied with/discharged in 2021, representing a drop by 30% to 40% as against the numbers in the past 2 years. What are the reasons?
3. The Chief Executive has pledged to amend relevant legislation as soon as possible to authorise the FSD and the Buildings Department to conduct fire safety improvement works directly for problematic old buildings and recover the cost from the owners concerned afterwards. Does the FSD need to increase its manpower and expenditure accordingly? If yes, what are the details?
4. What is the latest progress in pursuing the legislative work for the introduction of the Registered Fire Engineer Scheme?
5. It is mentioned that the FSD will review the legislative provisions regarding fire service installations to promote the adoption of stand-alone fire detectors in buildings. Please provide the details and schedule of such review.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 116)

Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) issued a total of 13 717 Fire Safety Directions (Directions) to owners/occupiers of composite buildings in 2020, representing a drop by 44% as against that in 2019 (24 485). The reasons are as follows:
 - (i) Prior to issuing Directions, the FSD would first arrange for inspections to the buildings concerned. In view of the development of the COVID-19 epidemic, the FSD had adjusted the provision of its public services in 2020 to reduce social interaction and the risk of spreading the epidemic in the community. The reduction in the inspections arranged during this period led to the drop in the number of Directions issued in 2020.
 - (ii) In the light of the risks revealed in the Yau Ma Tei fire incident on 15 November 2020, the FSD and the Buildings Department embarked on a special operation on 23 November 2020, to inspect about 2 800 domestic or composite buildings that are of comparable age as the building involved in the fire incident (namely, those aged 60 or above) by the end of the year. The need of the FSD to deploy internal resources for the special operation also attributed to the drop in the number of Directions issued in 2020.

On the other hand, the estimate for the number of Directions issued in each of the past 3 years was 16 000. In 2019, the actual number of Directions issued was 24 485, about 53% higher than the estimated figure of 16 000. This was mainly because the FSD had issued more than 10 000 Directions to the owners/occupiers of two large housing estates. The number of Directions issued in 2019 was exceptional. The estimate for the numbers of Directions to be issued in 2020 and 2021 remained at 16 000.

2. The FSD has been proactively providing assistance to owners of old buildings, in order to facilitate their early compliance with Directions. The FSD will adopt a flexible and pragmatic approach in handling individual cases on the premise that basic fire safety will not be compromised. Since 2016, the FSD has launched various facilitation measures for owners of buildings meeting relevant requirements, including the introduction of the “Improvised Hose Reel System” to target buildings of three storeys or below, to dispense with the need to install fire service water tanks and pumps, as well as relaxing the capacity requirements of fire service water tanks from 2 000 litres to 500 litres for target buildings of four to six storeys. Regarding target buildings of seven storeys or above, the capacity requirements of fire service water tanks can be further relaxed from 9 000 litres to 4 500 litres. These apart, the Water Supplies Department has agreed in principle to the use of existing fresh water supply systems and fresh water roof tanks for firefighting purpose.

If the target buildings applying to adopt the facilitation measures meet the requirements, the FSD will reassess their fire safety requirements, re-issue a new Direction and discharge the old one.

In the few years following the launch of various facilitation measures in 2016, a total of 3 704 target buildings were found to be eligible for the measures, resulting in a rise in the number of Directions discharged (5 103 in 2017, 6 404 in 2018, 11 633 in 2019). Since most of the target buildings eligible for the facilitation measures have submitted their applications, it is anticipated that the number of target buildings applying for the measures will gradually drop from 2021 onwards. Hence, the estimate for the number

of Directions complied with/discharged in 2021 remains the same as that in 2020 (7 500).

3. The FSD established the Building Improvement Strategy Office (BISO) which is dedicated to reviewing the strategy for improving fire safety in old buildings, including conducting a study on amending the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (the Ordinance), Cap. 572, Laws of Hong Kong. The BISO comprises a Deputy Chief Fire Officer and 5 fire officers. The posts are created through redeployment of internal resources and no additional resources are involved for the time being. In the course of studying the amendment to the Ordinance, the FSD will review the staff establishment from time to time and apply for additional resources under the established mechanism if necessary.
4. Over the past 2 years, the FSD had consulted relevant professional bodies and other stakeholders on the implementation and regulatory details of the Registered Fire Engineer Scheme, such as eligibility criteria, disciplinary code and criminal liability, etc. At present, the FSD is drawing up subsidiary legislation and relevant code of practice and code of ethics, etc. by proactively making reference to the relevant experiences in other countries. The FSD hopes to introduce the relevant draft subsidiary legislation in the coming term of the Legislative Council (LegCo).
5. After analysing some of the fatal building fires in Hong Kong in recent years and making reference to the experience of the mainland and overseas, as well as taking into account the fire safety requirements for various types of local premises, the FSD plans to promote a wider use of stand-alone battery-operated fire detector (stand-alone fire detector). With the use of the device, it is hoped that members of the public would be able to notice a fire early (especially for domestic building fires) and escape as soon as possible, hence enhancing building fire safety.

The promotion of a wider use of stand-alone fire detector involves amendments to the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations (Cap. 95B). The FSD has commenced the relevant preparatory work and will brief members of the Panel on Security of LegCo on the proposed amendments at the Panel meeting in April 2021. It is expected to push forward the relevant work in the second half of 2021.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB142

(Question Serial No. 0871)

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 (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)

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								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 each of the past 3 years (from 2018-19 to 2020-21)?
3. What will be the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved in the fire prevention work for typhoon shelters in 2021-22?
4. What strategies does the Government have to expedite the arrival of fireboats and fire speedboats at the scenes of incidents in the future?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

- 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									Fire speed boat
	1	2*	3	4	5	6 [@]	7 [^]	8	10*	
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 handling other 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 call of marine fire incident, 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. 10 (i.e. the former Fireboat 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.

^ The new Fireboat No. 7 was put into service in mid-October 2020. It is currently berthed at Central Fireboat Station, alternating with Fireboat No. 1 to provide fire and rescue services to the Victoria Harbour and the Hong Kong water areas.

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 2018-19 to 2020-21 and in 2021-22 (estimate) is tabulated as follows:

Rank	Establishment			
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 (Estimate)
Year (as at 31 March)				
Senior Divisional Officer	1	1	1	1
Divisional Officer	2	2	2	2
Assistant Divisional Officer	4	4	4	4
Senior Station Officer/ Station Officer	11	11	11	15*
Principal Fireman	53	53	53	61*
Senior Fireman	72	73	73	84*
Fireman	118	118	118	141*

* To enhance its operational efficiency in the waters of Hong Kong, the Department is in the process of procuring 1 fireboat. The establishment of the Marine and Diving Division is expected to increase correspondingly in 2021-22, with the addition of 4 Station Officers, 8 Principal Firemen, 11 Senior Firemen and 23 Firemen. The FSD will provide training to personnel concerned in advance for immediate deployment to the new fireboat upon its commissioning.

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 will adopt 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.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1330)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2020, among the ambulance calls received, how many actually turned out to be non-emergency cases? What was the expenditure incurred? Will the Department conduct a review of the misuse of ambulance services to ensure the effective use of public resources?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) conducts analyses regularly on cases of emergency ambulance calls in order to understand the use of emergency ambulance service by the public. In the analysis conducted in 2019, about 1.6% of some 10 000 randomly selected cases were found to have no obvious need for emergency ambulance service. This revealed a continuous downward trend in the percentage of such cases as against 10.3%, 4.2%, 2.7%, 2.2% and 2.0% recorded in similar analyses conducted in 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 respectively. The FSD did not conduct such similar analysis in 2020.

The above figures show that the FSD's efforts in educating the public on the proper use of ambulance service in the past few years have yielded positive results. The FSD's revised estimated expenditure on ambulance service for 2020-21 is about \$2.2 billion. There is no separate estimate for the expenditure involved in handling the abovementioned type of cases with no obvious need for emergency ambulance service. To ensure the effective use of public resources, the FSD will continue to closely monitor the need for and the use of emergency ambulance service, and to proactively publicise the message of proper use of ambulance service to the public through various channels.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB144

(Question Serial No. 1340)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Fire Service

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the key performance measures in respect of the provision of fire service by the Fire Services Department (FSD), the Government's 3 planned targets for 2021-22, namely "total building fire calls met within graded response time", "fire calls met within graded response time of six minutes for built-up areas", and "fire calls met within graded response time of nine to 23 minutes for more dispersed risk/isolated developments", are all lower than those of the previous 2 years. Will the Government inform this committee of the following:

1. The operating expenditure, details and manpower deployment for maintaining emergency services in response to fire calls in the past 3 years;
2. The justifications and supporting data for lowering the above 3 targets;
3. The operating expenditure and staff costs for providing refresher and tactical training to all service staff to ensure that all fire fighting and rescue units are in an immediate state of readiness; and
4. The expenditure and manpower for upgrading the FSD's mobilising system and maintaining the existing equipment in the past 3 years and next 3 years?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

1. In the past 3 years, the staff establishment of the Fire Services Department (FSD) to maintain effective fire fighting and rescue services is as follows:

Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Staff establishment	7 202	7 221	7 281

The relevant expenditure on maintaining effective fire fighting and rescue services is as follows:

2018-19 (Actual) (\$m)	2019-20 (Actual) (\$m)	2020-21 (Revised Estimate) (\$m)
3,970.4	4,198.8	4,332.5

2. Currently, the performance pledges of the FSD on the provision of fire services in response to building fire calls within the graded response time are (i) fire personnel will arrive at the fire scenes within 6 minutes for 92.5% of such calls in built-up areas; and (ii) fire personnel will arrive at the fire scenes within 9 to 23 minutes for 94.5% of such calls in areas of more dispersed risk/isolated developments. The actual number meeting the targets is affected by the number of fire calls and the traffic conditions, etc. The FSD will continue to maintain the above targets in 2021.

3. Refresher and training in fire fighting and rescue techniques are mainly undertaken by the personnel of the Fire Services Training Unit and the Technical Rescue Unit in the Fire and Ambulance Services Academy, and the staff establishment of the units is tabulated below:

Fire and Ambulance Services Academy		
Unit	Fire Services Training	Technical Rescue
Staff establishment	89	165

In 2021-22, the estimated staff cost is about \$170 million.

4. Upgrading and maintenance of the current mobilising system (i.e. the Third Generation Mobilising System) is mainly undertaken by the Information Technology Management Unit, and the staff establishment of the unit in the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Staff establishment	15	18	22

In the past 3 years, the expenditure on the upgrading and maintenance of the current mobilising system (including staff cost and expenditure on maintenance) is as follows:

2018-19 (Actual) (\$m)	2019-20 (Actual) (\$m)	2020-21 (Revised Estimate) (\$m)
88.4	112.1	108.5

Regarding the replacement of the mobilising system, the FSD was allocated a funding of \$1.7 billion in 2017 for developing the Fourth Generation Mobilising System (4GMS) to replace the current mobilising system, and the 4GMS is scheduled to be put into service in the first quarter of 2023. The new system will include a function which identifies location of mobile phone caller, along with an enhanced geographic information system and a newly introduced real-time traffic information system; these will enable a more accurate identification of the location of an incident and allow fire appliances and ambulances to arrive at the scene more promptly. The replacement of the mobilising system is mainly undertaken by the 4GMS Unit. The staff establishment of the unit in the past 3 years is as follows:

Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Staff establishment	23	23	26

In the past 3 years, the staff cost on the replacement of the mobilising system is as follows:

2018-19 (Actual) (\$m)	2019-20 (Actual) (\$m)	2020-21 (Revised Estimate) (\$m)
18.0	18.9	21.5

The staff establishment and staff cost for the upgrading and maintenance of the current mobilising system and replacement of the mobilising system in the next 3 years will depend on the actual situation. The FSD will bid for resources, if necessary, in a timely manner according to established mechanism.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB145

(Question Serial No. 1341)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (010) Recruiting Expenses

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the provision of an efficient and effective paramedic emergency ambulance service to meet public demand, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The staff establishment and wastage of ambulance personnel in the past 3 years;
2. The operating expenditure and staff cost involved in the recruitment and training of ambulance personnel;
3. The operating expenditure and staff cost involved in the upgrading and maintenance of ambulances and equipment?
4. The Government states that the Rapid Response Vehicle Scheme will be implemented in 2021-22. Please set out the details and expenditure of the scheme together with an elaboration of how the scheme can effectively enhance the delivery of paramedic ambulance service and quality assurance.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1. The staff establishment and wastage of personnel of the Ambulance Stream of the Fire Services Department (FSD) in the past 3 financial years are tabulated below:

	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
	Staff establishment	Wastage	Staff establishment	Wastage	Staff establishment	Wastage*
Ambulance Stream (including Programmes (1), (2) and (3))	3 117	137	3 207	128	3 309	113

*As at 28 February 2021

2. The FSD's recruitment and training of personnel of the Ambulance Stream involve, among others, placing recruitment advertisements, conducting relevant assessments and physical fitness tests for applicants, as well as providing foundation training and other in-service training for personnel of the Ambulance Stream. The operating expenditure and staff cost involved in the relevant work in the past 3 financial years are tabulated below:

2018-19 (\$million)	2019-20 (\$million)	2020-21 (revised estimate) (\$million)
26.0	27.7	27.4

3. Upgrading and maintenance of ambulances and associated equipment involve, among others, corrective repairs, preventive maintenance and accident repairs. The operating expenditure and staff cost involved in the relevant work in the past 3 financial years are tabulated below:

2018-19 (\$million)	2019-20 (\$million)	2020-21 (revised estimate) (\$million)
74.6	75.2	88.4

4. The FSD launched the Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) Scheme in November 2006. The RRVs provide operational support to frontline personnel by rendering support for emergency calls and engaging in command duties during major incidents, etc. while strengthening frontline management through conducting inspections of FSD facilities and public hospitals under the Hospital Authority, the overall operational efficiency of paramedic ambulance services can thus be enhanced. In terms of quality assurance of ambulance service, the RRVs ensure that the overall quality of ambulance services is maintained at a high level via enhancement of auditing on different fronts, including field auditing and auditing of the quality of inter-hospital transfer service and patient-transfer procedures at hospital.

The RRVs provide round-the-clock service and each of them is manned by 1 Ambulance Officer. The number of RRVs has been increased from 4 originally to 5 since the second quarter of 2020. They are deployed to Pok Fu Lam Ambulance Depot, Wong Tai Sin Ambulance Depot, Tsim Tung Ambulance Depot, Tsuen Wan Ambulance Depot and Sheung Shui Ambulance Depot respectively. In 2020, the RRVs provided support for a total of 13 179 emergency calls, and conducted 13 459 field audits of emergency ambulance cases and 19 859 inspections of FSD facilities and public hospitals under the Hospital Authority. At present, the RRV Scheme involves a total of 24 Ambulance Officer posts. The estimated staff cost for 2021-22 is about \$16.26 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB138

(Question Serial No. 1401)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Fire Service

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The estimate for this year is \$411 million higher than the revised estimate for last year. One of the reasons is the net increase of 95 posts. Please provide the details on the posts proposed to be added and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) estimates that there will be a net increase of 95 posts under Programme (1) Fire Service in 2021-22, involving an estimated annual expenditure of about \$50 million. The posts to be created and deleted are detailed as follows:

Programme	Rank	No. of posts
(1) Fire Service	Chief Fire Officer (supernumerary post)	1
	Divisional Officer	2
	Assistant Divisional Officer	7
	Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	3
	Principal Fireman	14
	Principal Fireman (Control)	6
	Senior Fireman	14
	Senior Fireman (Control)	8
	Senior Fireman (Workshops)	4
	Fireman	63
	Fireman (Workshops)	4
	Assistant Supplies Officer	1
	Assistant Clerical Officer	1
	Deleted posts	(33)
Total:		95

() The figure in bracket denotes the number of posts to be deleted to offset the new posts created by the department in response to operational need

Remark: The created posts listed above include 3 Senior Station Officer/Station Officer posts, 3 Principal Fireman posts, 6 Senior Fireman posts and 6 Fireman posts, which are time-limited posts until 31 March 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB139

(Question Serial No. 1406)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The estimate for this year is as high as \$427 million, which represents an increase of 256.5% over the revised estimate for last year. The rise is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for fire appliances and equipment. Please provide a breakdown of the estimated cash flow requirement for fire appliances and equipment this year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

In 2021-22, the Fire Services Department (FSD) will spend an estimate of \$427 million on the procurement and replacement of fire appliances, vessels and associated equipment. About \$372 million of the amount will be used to cover part of the expenditure of approved items in the previous financial years while the remaining sum of about \$55 million will be spent on new approved items, including the procurement of a few firefighting and rescue appliances for proposed new fire service facilities and the replacement of some frontline appliances and vessels, etc..

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1408)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (690) Town ambulances (block vote).

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The estimate for this item is about \$217 million this year, which represents an increase of 78.5% over the revised estimate of last year. The increase is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for town ambulances. Regarding the procurement of new and replacement of ambulances each costing up to \$10 million, please provide:

1. the types of ambulances under the Fire Services Department and their respective numbers;
2. the number of ambulances procured and replaced last year and the number of ambulances scheduled to be procured and replaced this year, and their respective percentages of the fleet of ambulances.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

1. As at 4 March 2021, the types of town ambulances under Subhead 690 "Town ambulances (block vote)" under the Fire Services Department (FSD) and their respective numbers are as follows:

Type of Ambulances*	Number
Ambulance	405
Cross Country Ambulance	2
Light Ambulance	12
Total	419

*Village ambulance is not included as a type of town ambulances under Subhead 690 "Town ambulances (block vote)".

2. In 2020-21 (as at 4 March 2021), the FSD has 27 newly procured town ambulances and

24 replacement town ambulances, accounting for 12.2% of the fleet of town ambulances (419) in the year. In 2021-22, the FSD expects that there will be 17 newly procured town ambulances and 50 replacement town ambulances, accounting for 15.4 % of the fleet of town ambulances (estimated to be 436) in that year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB153

(Question Serial No. 1422)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (-) Not specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Fire Services Department expects a net increase of 112 posts including 1 supernumerary post in 2021-22 under the Operating Account, which represents the largest increase among disciplinary forces. Please provide information on manpower planning as follows:

1. The figures on posts to be deleted and created in the department by rank and function; and
2. The figures on the establishment, strength, wastage and retirees of each rank in 2020-21 and the estimated figures for 2021-22 by Programme.

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) estimates that there will be an increase of 112 posts in 2021-22. The posts to be created are detailed as follows:

Programme	Rank	No. of posts	Reason
(1) Fire Service	Chief Fire Officer (supernumerary post)	1	To strengthen supervision, direction and management of the operation of the New Territories Command.
	Divisional Officer	1	
	Divisional Officer	1	To strengthen manpower of the Tactical Support Unit to cope with major emergencies
	Assistant Divisional Officer	2	
	Principal Fireman (Control)	2	

Programme	Rank	No. of posts	Reason
	Senior Fireman (Control)	4	
	Senior Fireman (Workshops)	4	To set up an additional duty fitter team to provide emergency repair service in call-out cases arising from major emergencies.
	Fireman (Workshops)	4	
	Assistant Divisional Officer	1	
	Assistant Supplies Officer	1	To strengthen manpower for enhancing efficiency in procurement.
	Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	3	To maintain a high level of preparedness for public order events. (time-limited posts until 31 March 2024)
	Principal Fireman	3	
	Senior Fireman	6	
	Fireman	6	
	Assistant Divisional Officer	4	To provide manpower for the airside fire station at Western Support Area for the Three-Runway System (3RS) of the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA).
	Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	(4)	
	Principal Fireman	11	
	Senior Fireman	8	
	Fireman	57	
	Assistant Clerical Officer	1	
	Principal Fireman (Control)	4	
	Senior Fireman (Control)	4	To provide necessary manpower for the new rescue control room of the airside fire station at Western Support Area for the 3RS of the HKIA.
	Office Assistant	(3)	Posts deleted to offset the new posts created by the department in response to operational need.
	Cook	(18)	
	Typist	(1)	
	Workman II	(5)	
	Property Attendant	(2)	
(2) Fire Protection and Prevention	Senior Divisional Officer	1	To set up a dedicated enforcement team and strengthen the manpower of the prosecution team to enforce the Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance. (time-limited posts until 31 March 2026)
	Assistant Divisional Officer	2	
	Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	2	
	Senior Fireman	2	
	Building Services Engineer	1	

Programme	Rank	No. of posts	Reason
	Senior Technical Officer	1	
	Senior Building Services Inspector	1	
	Principal Technical Officer	2	To provide manpower to Building Improvement Divisions 1 and 2 for handling regulatory work in relation to the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance and the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance. (time-limited posts until 31 March 2026)
	Senior Technical Officer	6	
	Building Services Inspector	(2)	Posts deleted to offset the new posts created by the department in response to operational need.
	Assistant Building Services Inspector	(3)	
	Clerical Assistant	(3)	
	Motor Driver	(1)	
	Workman II	(1)	
(3) Ambulance Service	Senior Ambulance Officer	1	To set up a specialised team to cope with the outbreak of infectious disease.
	Ambulance Officer	1	
	Senior Ambulanceman	2	
	Ambulanceman	4	
	Senior Ambulance Officer	1	To provide essential management support to Ta Kwu Ling Ambulance Depot. (involving the upgrading of 5 Senior Ambulanceman posts)
	Ambulance Officer	1	
	Principal Ambulanceman	5	
	Senior Ambulanceman	(5)	To upgrade the rank of 1 Senior Ambulanceman for enhancing the management of the new ambulance out-station at Siu Lek Yuen Fire Station.
	Principal Ambulanceman	1	
	Senior Ambulanceman	(1)	To maintain a high level of preparedness for public order events. (time-limited posts until 31 March 2024)
	Senior Ambulanceman	3	
	Ambulanceman	6	
	Workman II	(3)	Posts deleted to offset the new posts created by the department in response to operational need.
Motor Driver	(7)		
	Total	112	

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

2. The establishment and strength of the FSD in 2020-21 are tabulated below:

Grade	Programme (1) Fire Service		Programme (2) Fire Protection and Prevention		Programme (3) Ambulance Service		Total	
	Establish- ment	Strength*	Establish- ment	Strength*	Establish- ment	Strength*	Establish- ment	Strength*
Fire Stream	6 771	6 522	479	477	0	0	7 250	6 999
Ambulance Stream	12	14	18	19	3 279	3 124	3 309	3 157
Civilian, technical and other grades	498	446	232	226	73	61	803	733
Total:	7 281	6 982	729	722	3 352	3 185	11 362	10 889

* Strength as at 1 March 2021 (including staff members on pre-retirement leave)

The estimated establishment of the FSD in 2021-22 are tabulated below. The estimated strength of various grades for 2021-22 is not available as the number of staff members varies from time to time.

Grade	Programme (1) Fire Service	Programme (2) Fire Protection and Prevention	Programme (3) Ambulance Service	Total
Fire Stream	6 893	486	0	7 379
Ambulance Stream	12	18	3 298	3 328
Civilian, technical and other grades	471	233	63	767
Total:	7 376	737	3 361	11 474

The overall wastage of various grades in 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) and the estimated wastage in 2021-22 in the FSD are tabulated below:

Type of wastage	No. of persons							
	2020-21*				2021-22 (Estimate)			
	Fire Stream	Ambulance Stream	Civilian, technical and other grades	Total	Fire Stream	Ambulance Stream	Civilian, technical and other grades	Total
Retirement	243	71	33	347	205	72	104	381
Exit for other reasons [@]	73	42	66	181	Not predictable			
Total:	316	113	99	528	205	72	104	381

* Wastage as at 28 February 2021

@ Such as resignation and transfer to other grades, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1452)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Has an evaluation been conducted by the Fire Services Department (FSD) on the use of publicly accessible Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) available in government buildings and premises as well as other public places in the community in terms of, among others, the average number of times of the device being used per annum, the number of persons in the relevant premises knowing how to operate the device and public awareness of the use of the device and its importance? If yes, what are the findings of the evaluation and is the FSD satisfied with the use of the AEDs? If no, why not and will such an evaluation be conducted? What specific measures will be taken by the FSD in 2021-22 to raise public awareness of the importance of the device?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

Since 2007, the Fire Service Department (FSD) has been providing the public and various organisations with training courses on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), including organising the CPR Training Programme in Campus, the “Press to shock – Save a life” CPR & AED Course and the Community Emergency Preparedness Education Talk, etc.. The FSD also adopts various promotional strategies to publicise the concepts that “Anyone Can Save Lives” and “Dare to Do, Save a Life”, in a bid to educate more members of the public on the use and importance of CPR and AEDs.

In addition, the FSD encourages owners and property management companies of various premises or buildings to take the initiative to install AEDs, in an effort to enable the public to locate and use an AED nearby in case of cardiac arrest, thereby enhancing rescue efficiency. Currently, AEDs have been voluntarily installed at a number of places in the territory, including government buildings, office buildings, theme parks, schools, large shopping malls, private housing estates, private clubhouses, commercial buildings and nursing homes, etc., for use by staff and members of the public.

Currently, the FSD does not have information on the number or use of AEDs installed at various premises in the community. To further encourage provision of AEDs at different premises in the community, the FSD is inviting the participation of government departments as well as public and private organisations in the new “AED Anywhere for Anyone” Programme. The programme is aimed at increasing the number of publicly accessible AEDs, and collating relevant information for the establishment of a database and an electronic platform. Aided by the platform, members of the public will be able to locate AEDs and access them more easily for increasing the survival rate of persons suffering from cardiac arrest. Preparations for the programme are under way and details will be announced later this year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB146

(Question Serial No. 1573)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In times of inclement weather, such as typhoon, rescue operations are reported from time to time in the press. In this connection, will the department inform this Committee of the following:

1. Details of the calls for assistance involving rescue operations in inclement weather during typhoons received by the department in the past 3 years, including, among others, the numbers and types of the operations and manpower deployment arrangements;
2. The utilisation rate of the department's emergency rescue equipment and the number of upgrades made to them in the past 3 years; and
3. The measures put in place to protect the safety of rescue personnel under adverse conditions?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

1. In the past 3 years, the numbers of emergency calls received by the Fire Services Department (FSD) during the hoisting of No.8 Gale or Storm Signal or above are as follows:

Year	2018	2019	2020	
Name of Typhoon	Mangkhut	Wipha	Higos	Nangka
Duration for which No. 8 Gale or Storm Signal or above was in force	16 September (1:10 a.m.) to 17 September (5:20 a.m.)	31 July (1:40 p.m.) to 31 July (11:40 p.m.)	18 August (10:40 p.m.) to 19 August (11:10 a.m.)	13 October (5:40 a.m.) to 13 October (7:40 p.m.)

Number of emergency calls	Fire	535	99	100	49
	Special Service	972	100	102	63
	Emergency Ambulance Service	2 329	840	565	987
	Non-emergency Ambulance Service	24	41	15	53
No. of frontline personnel involved (No. of personnel mobilised)		19 440	5 011	4 001	4 431

2. The FSD does not keep data on the utilisation rate of emergency rescue equipment and the number of upgrades made to them.
3. To cope with the possibility of more frequent occurrence of extreme weather (such as super typhoons or chilling weather etc.) in Hong Kong in the future, the FSD's Reviewing Committee on Operation Strategies for Rescue Operations for Extreme Weather (the Committee) reviews the adequacy of relevant training, tools and equipment to meet the operational needs arising from the possible increase in the frequency or severity of incidents caused by extreme weather. The FSD will, with due regard to the recommendations of the Committee, enhance the provision of training, tools and equipment to frontline personnel for handling such incidents.

In addition, the FSD has introduced various new tools and equipment for use by frontline personnel, including multi-function uniforms, personal floatation devices, extendable reach and rescue poles, inflatable boats as well as light chainsaws etc., with a view to enhancing their protection and efficiency during operations.

The Department will also continue to review its various types of tools and equipment from time to time and keep abreast of the latest development in the market as well as the prevailing international standards of the relevant equipment. It will introduce suitable equipment to ensure frontline personnel's safety and efficiency during operations in accordance with the principle of prudent use of public money and relevant Government requirements.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1596)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) stated that it will conduct inspection with a view to enhancing fire protection measures for pre-1987 industrial buildings in 2021-22. Will the Government advise on:

1. the total number of such industrial buildings across the territory and the number of inspections to such buildings conducted in each of the past 3 years;
2. follow-up actions taken after the inspections; and
3. the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1. The purpose of the Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance (the Ordinance) is to enhance the fire safety of industrial buildings constructed or those with building plans first submitted to the Building Authority for approval on or before 1 March 1987, in order to provide better protection for the public. About 1 100 industrial buildings across the territory are currently regulated under the Ordinance. With the Ordinance being gazetted and coming into effect on 19 June 2020, the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department commenced joint inspections at the end of 2020, with a plan to inspect 60 target industrial buildings in each of the coming 3 years. The FSD did not keep statistics on the number of industrial buildings inspected in the past. With the implementation of the Ordinance, the FSD has begun to keep relevant data from 2021.
2. Upon inspection of target industrial buildings, FSD personnel will, depending on the condition of individual industrial buildings, issue Fire Safety Directions to the owners and/or occupiers concerned, requiring them to improve the fire safety standards of their

industrial buildings to the level as required by the Ordinance within a specified time frame. In relation to fire service installations and equipment, depending on the need of individual buildings, improvement works may involve the installation of automatic sprinkler systems, fire hydrant/hose reel systems, fire alarm systems and emergency lighting.

3. The FSD has created 26 time-limited posts to undertake tasks related to the Ordinance. In 2021-22, the expenditure on remuneration for the posts is about \$18.89 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB147

(Question Serial No. 1854)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Chief Executive the Honourable Mrs Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor pointed out earlier at the Question and Answer Session of the Legislative Council that building safety and fire hazards in old buildings were an issue of great social concern, and that the Government considered making legislative amendments to empower the Fire Services Department and the Buildings Department to carry out fire safety improvement works for the owners of old buildings who were incapable of complying with the requirements of the legislation on fire protection. Will the Government inform this Committee of the total number of fire safety directions issued by the Government in each of the past 3 years requiring buildings to carry out fire safety improvement works; the number of non-compliance cases due to financial problems as claimed by the owners; and the progress and schedule of the legislative work?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

In the past 3 years, the numbers of Fire Safety Directions (the Directions) issued by the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department (BD) to the owners and/or occupiers of composite buildings and domestic buildings regulated by the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) (the Ordinance) are tabulated as follows:

	2018	2019	2020
FSD	21 375	24 485	13 717
BD	4 337	3 617	3 305

There may be various factors accounting for owners' non-compliance with the Directions, including co-ordination issues among owners, technical constraints and financial difficulties. The FSD does not keep statistics of the various reasons.

In terms of financial support, to assist owners of private buildings in maintaining and repairing their buildings, the Government and the Urban Renewal Authority have been implementing various financial assistance schemes for owners in need, including, among others, the Building Safety Loan Scheme and the Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Needy Owners. Fire safety improvement works pertaining to the Ordinance have been incorporated into the scope of works eligible for subsidies or loans under these schemes. To further assist owners of old buildings, the Government allocated \$2 billion to launch the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme (the FSWS) in 2018 to subsidise eligible owners of old target composite buildings in carrying out necessary fire safety improvement works for compliance with the requirements of the Ordinance. The allocation was subsequently increased to \$5.5 billion. It is anticipated that the entire FSWS can benefit around 6 000 to 6 500 buildings.

The Chief Executive announced at the Question and Answer Session of the Legislative Council on 4 February 2021 that having regard to the experience of BD in carrying out work related to building safety, the Government agreed that there was a need to consider amending the Ordinance to empower the FSD and the BD to carry out fire safety improvement works for the owners of old buildings who were incapable of complying with the requirements of the Ordinance, and to recover the costs incurred from such owners upon completion of the works. The Government would make reference to a similar mechanism and its implementation under the existing Buildings Ordinance, and would do its best to resolve the legal and enforcement issues involved. It is expected that a public consultation will be launched in the second half of 2021 in order to formulate a suitable mechanism and amend the legislation to empower relevant departments to carry out the related work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB150

(Question Serial No. 2356)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Fire Service

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

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 2020-21.
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
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.: 66)

Reply:

1. Fireboats No. 1 to No. 8 and No.10 (i.e. former Fireboat No. 7) perform duties, including 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, while not under regular maintenance inspection or repair. The maintenance time of each fireboat in 2020-21 is as follows:

Fireboat	Maintenance time (no. of days)
	2020-21 (as at 4 March 2021)
Fireboat No. 1	111.5
Fireboat No. 2#	10.5*
Fireboat No. 3	15.5*
Fireboat No. 4	81.5
Fireboat No. 5	67.5
Fireboat No. 6	28.5*
Fireboat No. 7^	81
Fireboat No. 8	63
Fireboat No. 10#@	52.5

Fireboats No. 2 and No. 10 are reserve fireboats, which mainly serve as substitutes for fireboats under maintenance.

^ The new Fireboat No. 7 was put into service in mid-October 2020. It is currently berthed at Central Fireboat Station, alternating with Fireboat No. 1 in operation.

@ The former Fireboat No. 7 is renamed as Fireboat No. 10.

* No major routine maintenance inspection was required for Fireboats No. 2, No. 3 and No. 6 in 2020-21.

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)
Acquisition of 1 fireboat	36 metres/ 12 persons/ 25 knots	Scheduled to be delivered to Hong Kong in the third quarter of 2022.	Lung Teh Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., Taiwan	125
Acquisition of 1 fast rescue vessel	17-19.5 metres/ 4 persons/ 40 knots	Scheduled to be delivered to Hong Kong in November 2021.	Marine Alutech Oy Ab	40
Replacement of Fireboat No. 2	29-32 metres/ 7 persons/ 25 knots	Construction scheduled to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2023.	The Marine Department (MD) is in the process of assessing the tenders.	97.5

Replacement of Command Boat No. 1	34-36 metres/ 8 persons/ 35 knots	Construction scheduled to be completed in the third quarter of 2023.	The MD is in the process of assessing the tenders.	120
Replacement of Command Boat No. 2	34-36 metres/ 8 persons/ 35 knots	Construction scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2024.	The MD is in the process of assessing the tenders.	120

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

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2412)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22, it is stated that the Fire Services Department (FSD) will continue to implement the "Rapid Response Vehicle Scheme" to enhance the delivery of paramedic ambulance service and quality assurance.

How many Rapid Response Vehicles (RRVs) and Mobile Casualty Treatment Centres (MCTCs) are there at present? To which stations are each of the RRVs and MCTCs deployed? How many calls involving operations by each of the RRVs were there in each of the past 5 years? Does the FSD have the need and plan to increase the number of RRVs and MCTCs in the future?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

The current numbers of Rapid Response Vehicles (RRVs) and Mobile Casualty Treatment Centres (MCTCs) of the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the locations to which they are deployed are set out below:

Type of vehicles	Number	Locations to which the vehicles are deployed
RRV	5	Pok Fu Lam Ambulance Depot, Wong Tai Sin Ambulance Depot, Tsim Tung Ambulance Depot, Tsuen Wan Ambulance Depot and Sheung Shui Ambulance Depot
MCTC	4	Sai Wan Ho Ambulance Depot, Ho Man Tin Ambulance Depot, Sheung Shui Ambulance Depot and Tsing Yi Ambulance Depot

The FSD launched the RRV Scheme in November 2006 mainly for providing support to frontline personnel and performing service quality assurance duties so as to enhance frontline

management and operational efficiency. The number of times each RRV provided support for emergency ambulance calls in the past 5 years is as follows:-

	RRV (at Wong Tai Sin Ambulance Depot)	RRV (at Sheung Shui Ambulance Depot)	RRV (at Pok Fu Lam Ambulance Depot)*	RRV (at Tsuen Wan Ambulance Depot)*	RRV (at Tsim Tung Ambulance Depot)#	Total
2016	2 244	2 254	-	-	-	4 498
2017	2 265	2 218	-	-	-	4 483
2018	2 515	2 480	1 641	1 638	-	8 274
2019	2 874	2 953	2 933	2 942	-	11 702
2020	2 952	2 977	2 908	2 610	1 732	13 179

*The 2 RRVs have been in service since May 2018.

#The RRV has been in service since June 2020.

The FSD will continue to closely monitor the demand for emergency ambulance service and review relevant resources from time to time. If necessary, the FSD will seek resources according to established procedures to meet operational needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB152

(Question Serial No. 2431)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding public education on the proper use of ambulance service, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What were the specific initiatives or activities put forward by the Fire Services Department (FSD) in educating the public on the proper use of emergency ambulance service in the past 3 years? Besides, will there be any new initiative or activity proposed by the FSD in future?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 69)

Reply:

Through a wide array of measures and activities, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has been committed to disseminating information on community emergency preparedness and ambulance service, among others the message of "Use the Ambulance Service Properly" and its importance, to different social groups over the years.

The FSD organises "Ambulance Service" roving exhibitions in local communities to publicise practical and important information on ambulance service to the public. This apart, the Ambulance Service Education Vehicle is also deployed to various housing estates and local communities in the territory, to promote ambulance service-related messages.

In addition, the FSD deploys staff to the kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, which have joined the "Community Emergency Preparedness – School-based Education Programme", to provide free education sessions and enhance promotion, including talks on "Use the Ambulance Service Properly". The FSD also organises activities such as singing contests for children and comic drawing competitions to convey the message of "Use the Ambulance Service Properly" to the public, with a view to further spreading the message among children and young people.

As regards information dissemination, the FSD makes good use of various media such as social media platforms, public transport facilities, radio and television stations, to publish information on ambulance service and bring important messages to different social groups via multiple channels.

The FSD will continue to closely monitor the need for and the use of emergency ambulance service. It will also step up its efforts to convey the message of the proper use of ambulance service to the public through various channels and ensure the effective use of public resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2471)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. As at the end of 2018, 2019 and 2020, how many target buildings regulated under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (the Ordinance) were inspected by the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department (BD)? How many of them were issued with Fire Safety Directions (the Directions) and among them, how many have complied with the Directions or have had the Directions discharged? (Please provide a breakdown by 18 District Councils.)
2. In 2018, 2019 and 2020, how many people were prosecuted and convicted for non-compliance with the Directions issued under the Ordinance?
3. To date, how many applications for the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme have been received? (Please provide a breakdown by 18 District Councils.)
4. What were/will be the staff establishments, expenditures on remuneration and total expenditures for the FSD and the BD to enforce the Ordinance in the past 3 years and the coming year?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 89)

Reply:

1. Since the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (the Ordinance) came into effect in July 2007, the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department (BD) have started joint inspections of target buildings in stages according to schedule. About 10 500 composite buildings would be inspected in the first stage, and about 3 000 domestic buildings would be inspected in the second stage. The FSD and the BD are now conducting the first stage of inspection. The numbers of buildings inspected/issued with Fire Safety Directions (the Directions) by the FSD and the BD in the past 3 years by District Council district are tabulated as follows:

District Council district	As at the end of 2018 [accumulated no.]		As at the end of 2019 [accumulated no.]		As at the end of 2020 [accumulated no.]	
	No. of buildings inspected	No. of buildings issued with the Directions	No. of buildings inspected	No. of buildings issued with the Directions	No. of buildings inspected	No. of buildings issued with the Directions
Central and Western	1 103	820	1 129	895	1 190	989
Wan Chai	806	669	816	703	843	743
Eastern	638	532	668	575	711	629
Southern	217	171	235	195	242	207
Yau Tsim Mong	1 809	1 542	1 824	1 605	1 867	1 675
Sham Shui Po	1 182	1 025	1 275	1 184	1 307	1 228
Kowloon City	1 022	849	1 059	919	1 093	964
Wong Tai Sin	265	220	292	262	295	267
Kwun Tong	252	183	259	207	265	218
Tsuen Wan	332	264	338	293	376	336
Tuen Mun	91	59	122	107	149	129
Yuen Long	384	311	397	341	416	374
North	302	263	316	281	326	292
Tai Po	210	186	223	200	234	221
Sai Kung	21	12	21	12	27	26
Sha Tin	111	55	145	112	166	146
Islands	51	42	52	44	54	47
Kwai Tsing	121	89	146	127	156	134
Total	8 917	7 292	9 317	8 062	9 717	8 625

The numbers of buildings which have complied with the Directions issued by the FSD and the BD or have had the Directions discharged due to demolition of the buildings by District Council district are tabulated as follows:

District Council district	As at the end of 2018 [accumulated no. of building]		As at the end of 2019 [accumulated no. of building]		As at the end of 2020 [accumulated no. of building]	
	FSD	BD	FSD	BD	FSD	BD
Central and Western	57	54	87	60	105	66
Wan Chai	39	38	60	49	84	54
Eastern	55	54	63	55	69	59
Southern	6	7	8	7	14	9
Yau Tsim Mong	81	70	99	85	108	89

Sham Shui Po	39	40	51	53	58	57
Kowloon City	46	42	49	57	59	64
Wong Tai Sin	2	1	3	2	7	2
Kwun Tong	8	20	13	25	16	25
Tsuen Wan	5	8	11	8	13	10
Tuen Mun	0	0	0	0	4	0
Yuen Long	1	3	1	6	4	6
North	0	0	0	2	3	3
Tai Po	4	1	5	2	6	2
Sai Kung	0	1	0	2	0	3
Sha Tin	3	1	3	1	3	3
Islands	4	0	21	3	21	3
Kwai Tsing	0	0	2	0	3	0
Total	350	340	476	417	577	455

2. The numbers of relevant prosecution and conviction cases in respect of the FSD and the BD in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	2018		2019		2020	
	FSD	BD	FSD	BD	FSD	BD
No. of cases in which owners and/or occupiers were prosecuted	113	26	147	22	298	26
No. of cases in which owners and/or occupiers were convicted	109	33	140	16	295	21

3. The first round of application for the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme (FSWS) was opened from July to October 2018, and the second round from July to October 2020. The numbers of applications in the two rounds by District Council district are tabulated as follows:

District Council district	No. of applications (Note)	
	First round of application	Second round of application
Central and Western	283	109
Wan Chai	216	95
Eastern	169	86

Southern	58	30
Yau Tsim Mong	626	197
Sham Shui Po	424	104
Kowloon City	267	93
Wong Tai Sin	92	22
Kwun Tong	57	23
Tsuen Wan	104	41
Tuen Mun	27	9
Yuen Long	128	34
North	16	11
Tai Po	51	24
Sai Kung	1	2
Sha Tin	25	6
Islands	1	4
Kwai Tsing	27	13
Total	2 572	903

Note: The numbers of applications include those cancelled for failing to meet the basic application requirements (There were 209 such applications in the first round and 58 in the second round).

4. The numbers of staff and associated expenditures on remuneration for the FSD and the BD to enforce the Ordinance in the past 3 years and the coming year are tabulated as follows:

Year	FSD		BD ¹	
	No. of staff	Associated expenditure on remuneration (\$million)	No. of staff	Associated expenditure on remuneration (\$million)
2021-22	208	140	150	78
2020-21	208	140	150	78
2019-20	210	140	126	66
2018-19	209	130	126	63

Note¹: The numbers of staff and associated expenditures on remuneration for the BD are the overall figures in respect of its Fire Safety Section (the Section). Enforcement of the Ordinance is one of the duties of the Section. Apart from the Ordinance, the Section is also responsible for enforcing the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance (Cap. 502) and the Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 636). As such, the BD is not able to provide separate breakdowns for the number of staff and associated expenditures on remuneration involved in the enforcement of the Ordinance.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB149

(Question Serial No. 2597)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. As at the end of 2018, 2019, and 2020, what were the numbers of old industrial buildings not installed with automatic sprinkler systems across the territory (provide a breakdown by District Council district);
2. In the past 3 years and the coming year, what were/will be the staff establishment, expenditures on remuneration and total expenditures of the Fire Services Department in relation to the improvement of the fire safety of industrial buildings; and
3. What were the numbers of fire safety inspections conducted to old industrial buildings, and the numbers of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices issued to the persons concerned, by the Government in the past 3 years?

Asked by: LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 148)

Reply:

1. According to the records of the Fire Services Department (FSD), as at the end of 2018, 2019 and 2020, the numbers of old industrial buildings not installed with automatic sprinkler systems across the territory remained unchanged. The relevant distribution by District Council district is tabulated as follows:

District Council district	No. of old industrial buildings not installed 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 staff establishment and relevant expenditures on remuneration of FSD in relation to the improvement of the fire safety of industrial buildings in the past 3 years and the coming year are tabulated below:

Year	Staff establishment	Relevant expenditures on remuneration (\$m)
2021-22	41	31.12
2020-21	31	21.45
2019-20	19	13.79
2018-19	15	10.73

Note: The Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance (the Ordinance) was gazetted and came into effect on 19 June 2020. The Ordinance aims to enhance the fire safety of old industrial buildings and provide better protection for occupants and users of, and visitors to, industrial buildings constructed or with building plans first submitted to the Building Authority for approval on or before 1 March 1987. The posts for implementing the Ordinance are included in the staff establishment in 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Apart from the relevant expenditures on remuneration, the total expenditures on the improvement of fire safety of industrial buildings also cover search fees, duty transport and travelling expenses, general office administration expenses, etc. The FSD does not keep separate statistics on the total expenditures on the improvement of fire safety of industrial buildings.

3. The numbers of fire safety inspections to industrial buildings across the territory conducted, and the numbers of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices (FHANs) issued by the FSD in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

	2018	2019	2020
No. of fire safety inspections conducted	12 844	13 084	5 366
No. of FHANs issued	2 722	2 007	1 075

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2884)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In respect of the ambulance service of the Fire Services Department, please provide information on the following:

1. In each month from January 2011 to September 2018, the respective numbers of relevant calls received from Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre and Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre.
2. In each month from January 2011 to September 2018, the respective numbers of relevant calls received from Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre and Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre by the 6 common types of conditions of injuries and sicknesses covered by the Fire Services Department's post-dispatch advice (PDA) service, namely:
 - (i) bleeding,
 - (ii) burns,
 - (iii) fracture/dislocation of limbs,
 - (iv) convulsion,
 - (v) heat exposure, and
 - (vi) hypothermia.
3. In each month from September 2018 to December 2020, the respective numbers of relevant calls received from Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre and Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre.
4. In each month from September 2018 to December 2020, the respective numbers of relevant calls received from Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre and Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre by the 32 types of conditions of injuries and sicknesses covered by the Fire Services Department's PDA service.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 211)

Reply:

1. The numbers of incidents involving emergency ambulance service for Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre and Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre from January 2014 to September 2018 are tabulated by month below:

Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre												
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	2	1	1	1
2015	3	2	1	3	1	5	2	4	2	3	0	2
2016	0	0	1	1	2	0	6	4	1	3	0	3
2017	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	3	7	2	3	3
2018	3	1	1	7	1	5	5	4	1			

Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre												
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	0	0	0	2	3	1	4	0	1	1	1	0
2015	0	1	1	3	0	2	3	1	0	2	0	1
2016	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	2
2017	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	3	0	2	0	2
2018	1	0	0	1	3	3	3	4	0			

2. The Fire Services Department (FSD) officially launched the new post-dispatch advice (PDA) service in October 2018, and did not keep statistics under the relevant categorisation before launching the service.
3. The numbers of incidents involving emergency ambulance service for Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre and Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre from October 2018 to December 2020 (Note) are tabulated by month below:

Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre												
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018										4	4	6
2019	3	3	2	2	5	2	3	2	2	1	1	0
2020	3	3	2	3	1	3	1	4	4	7	7	4

Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre												
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018										1	0	0
2019	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	0
2020	1	1	3	1	2	1	3	0	2	2	2	3

Note: The question also asks for the figure for September 2018. The relevant information is provided in the first part of this reply.

4. The FSD officially launched the new PDA service in October 2018. The number of incidents involving emergency ambulance service for Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre and Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre from October 2018 to December 2020, by

month and type of conditions of injuries and sicknesses covered by the PDA service, are tabulated below:

Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre																					
Type (Note 1)	Abdominal pain	Assault	Back pain	Breathing problems	Cardiac or respiratory arrest	Chest pain	Convulsions / seizures	Falls	Headache	Heart problems	Hemorrhage	Overdose	Pregnancy	Psychiatric	Sick person	Stroke	Traumatic injuries	Unconscious	Others (Note 2)	Total	
2018	Oct			1		1											1		1	4	
	Nov						1				1			1			1			4	
	Dec						2										2		2	6	
2019	Jan						1								1		1			3	
	Feb	1					1				1									3	
	Mar					1													1	2	
	Apr									1								1		2	
	May		1						1				1		2					5	
	Jun						1					1								2	
	Jul												1		2					3	
	Aug						1										1			2	
	Sep						1												1	2	
	Oct	1																		1	
	Nov									1											1
	Dec																				0
2020	Jan											1		1			1			3	
	Feb														1		1	1		3	
	Mar				1												1			2	
	Apr						1	1											1	3	
	May							1												1	
	Jun														1		1		1	3	
	Jul																	1		1	
	Aug						1	1							1				1	4	
	Sep	1							1						1				1	4	
	Oct		1				1			1					3			1		7	
	Nov	1												1	2	1			2	7	
	Dec			1											2		1			4	

Note 1: The FSD received no requests for emergency ambulance service from Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre for incidents involving the other 14 types of conditions of injuries or sicknesses (i.e. allergies, animal bites, burns, carbon monoxide/inhalation, choking, diabetic problems, drowning, electrocution, eye problems, heat/cold exposure, inaccessible incident, stab, traffic/transportation incidents and unknown problems) from October 2018 to December 2020.

Note 2: It usually refers to cases in which the caller hung up or was unable to offer help as he/she was not by the patient's side.

Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre														
Type (Note 3)	Abdominal pain	Breathing problems	Cardiac or respiratory arrest	Chest pain	Convulsions / seizures	Heart problems	Overdoses	Psychiatric	Sick person	Traumatic injuries	Unconscious	Others (Note 4)	Total	
2018	Oct											1	1	
	Nov												0	
	Dec												0	
2019	Jan										1		1	
	Feb											1	1	
	Mar												0	
	Apr												0	
	May							1	1				2	
	Jun										1		1	
	Jul										1		1	
	Aug													0
	Sep								2					2
	Oct													0
	Nov													0
	Dec													0
2020	Jan			1									1	
	Feb		1										1	
	Mar					1			1		1		3	
	Apr								1				1	
	May					1				1			2	
	Jun								1				1	
	Jul			1			1					1	3	
	Aug													0
	Sep	1	1											2
	Oct								1			1		2
	Nov	1							1					2
	Dec	1	1								1			3

Note 3: The FSD received no requests for emergency ambulance service from Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre for incidents involving the other 21 types of conditions of injuries or sicknesses (i.e. allergies, animal bites, assault, back pain, burns, carbon monoxide/inhalation, choking, diabetic problems, drowning, electrocution, eye problems, falls, headache, heat/cold exposure, hemorrhage, inaccessible incident, pregnancy, stab, stroke, traffic/transportation incidents and unknown problems) from October 2018 to December 2020.

Note 4: It usually refers to cases in which the caller hung up or was unable to offer help as he/she was not by the patient's side.