

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB144

(Question Serial No. 0880)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. Please provide the number of calls involving fireboats in 2022 and the time taken for the fireboats to arrive at the fire scenes, with a breakdown by the following journey times: under 15 minutes, under 30 minutes, under 45 minutes, under 60 minutes and under 120 minutes.
2. Please tabulate the numbers of duty and maintenance hours for Fireboats No. 1 to No. 8 and No. 10 in 2022-23.
3. Please tabulate the fireboats budgeted for replacement from 2020-21 to 2023-24 and their respective replacement progress.

	Basic features (total length/ crew capacity/ speed)	Target time of replacement*	Builder (if any)	Approved commitment

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1. There were 2 252 calls involving fireboats in 2022 and the time taken for the fireboats to arrive at the scenes is tabulated as follows:

Journey Time	Number of calls involving fireboats in 2022		
	Fire	Special service (Note)	Total
Under 15 minutes	79	230	309
15 to 29 minutes	63	307	370
30 to 44 minutes	43	222	265
45 to 59 minutes	16	116	132
60 to 119 minutes	22	74	96
More than 120 minutes	1	3	4

Call cancelled before arrival	195	881	1 076
Total	419	1 833	2 252

Note: Special service calls involve incidents other than fires, such as collision of vessels, ingress of water into vessels, gas leaks, rescue of people fallen into the sea, etc.

2. Fireboats No. 1 to No. 8 and No. 10 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 2022-23 is as follows:

Fireboat	Maintenance time (no. of days)
	2022-23 (as at 4 March 2023)
Fireboat No. 1	93
Fireboat No. 2#	123
Fireboat No. 3	12*
Fireboat No. 4	63
Fireboat No. 5	46
Fireboat No. 6	23*
Fireboat No. 7	58
Fireboat No. 8	45*
Fireboat No. 10#	3*

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

* No major routine maintenance inspection was required for Fireboats No. 3, No. 6, No. 8 and No. 10 in 2022-23.

3. Regarding the replacement and acquisition of vessels mentioned in the question, the relevant information of the vessels that are yet to be delivered is tabulated as follows:

	Basic features (total length/ crew capacity/ speed)	Target time of replacement*	Builder (if any)	Approved commitment (\$million)
Acquisition of 1 fireboat	36-39 metres/ 12 persons/ 25 knots	Scheduled for delivery to Hong Kong in the first quarter of 2024	Lungteh Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.	125
Acquisition of 1 fast rescue vessel	17-19.5 metres/ 4 persons/ 40 knots	Scheduled for delivery to Hong Kong in the first quarter of 2023	Marine Alutech Oy Ab	40
Replacement of Fireboat No. 2	29-32 metres/ 7 persons/ 25 knots	Scheduled for delivery to Hong Kong in the third quarter of 2024	Jianglong Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.	97.5

Replacement of Command Boat No. 1	34-36 metres/ 8 persons/ 35 knots	Scheduled for delivery to Hong Kong in the third quarter of 2024	Afai Southern Shipyard (Panyu Guangzhou) Ltd.	120
Replacement of Command Boat No. 2	34-36 metres/ 8 persons/ 35 knots	Scheduled for delivery to Hong Kong in the fourth quarter of 2024	Afai Southern Shipyard (Panyu Guangzhou) Ltd.	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

SB138

(Question Serial No. 1143)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2023-24, how many civil servants will the Fire Services Department recruit by grade and rank? What is the increase in number as compared to this year? What will be the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

In 2023-24, it is estimated that there will be a net decrease of 22 posts in the Fire Services Department, while there was a net increase of 79 posts in 2022-23.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB139

(Question Serial No. 1155)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2022, among the 703 113 emergency ambulance calls received, how many actually turned out to be non-emergency cases? What was the expenditure incurred? Has the Department conducted a review and formulated a plan regarding the misuse of ambulance service to ensure the effective use of public resources? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) conducts analyses every two years on cases of emergency ambulance calls in order to understand the use of emergency ambulance service by the public. In the analysis conducted in 2021, about 1.1% of some 10 000 randomly selected cases were found to have no obvious need for emergency ambulance service. This revealed a notable decline in the percentage of such cases as against 1.6% recorded in similar analysis conducted in 2019 (Note 1). The FSD will conduct the next similar analysis in 2023.

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 2022-23 is about \$2.5 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 through various channels.

Note 1: The percentages of such cases recorded in similar analysis conducted in 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021 are 10.3%, 4.2%, 2.7%, 2.2%, 2.0%, 1.6% and 1.1% respectively, indicating a continuous downward trend.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB140****(Question Serial No. 1159)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (3) Ambulance ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

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

1. In the past 3 years, has the Government procured additional anti-epidemic protective equipment for the provision of ambulance service in response to the novel coronavirus epidemic? If yes, please provide information on the additional items procured and the expenditure involved.
2. What is the estimated expenditure on epidemic control measures in the next financial year? How will the Government ensure its anti-epidemic supplies meet the needs of frontline ambulance or fire personnel?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) provides all frontline personnel with protective gowns, surgical masks, N95 respirators, head-band type tight-fitting goggles, disposable face shields, disposable caps, gloves and rubber boots for handling ambulance calls related to COVID-19. In addition, the FSD has equipped all ambulances with high efficiency particulate air filter systems. The FSD did not keep separate statistics on the additional expenditure for coping with the COVID-19 epidemic. The total expenditures on the procurement of anti-epidemic protective equipment and air filter systems for ambulances in the past 3 years are as follows:

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as at 2.3.2023)
Expenditure on procurement of anti-epidemic protective equipment and air filter systems for ambulances (\$m)	17.35	29.79	37.98

2. For 2023-24, the FSD has earmarked about \$28.37 million for expenditure on procuring anti-epidemic protective equipment and high efficiency particulate air filters for ambulances. The FSD will continue to closely monitor the latest development of the epidemic, conduct appropriate assessment and deploy resources to ensure sufficient anti-epidemic supplies for use by frontline personnel.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB142

(Question Serial No. 1391)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

According to the information provided by the Government, there are around 13 500 buildings across the territory governed by the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) and a considerable number of which are required to carry out fire safety improvement works as directed by the Fire Services Department (FSD). For this reason, the Legislative Council passed the Fire Services (Amendment) Bill 2016 through 3 readings in early 2017 for the FSD to introduce the Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme, under which a qualified third party would be allowed to share the work of the FSD.

As stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24, the FSD will continue to pursue legislative work for the introduction of the RFE Scheme. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee:

1. of the estimated staff establishment and expenditure involved in pursuing the introduction of the RFE Scheme in 2023-24;
2. of the current progress and expected implementation timetable of the RFE Scheme; and
3. whether an assessment has been made to anticipate the yearly increase in the number of buildings complying with fire safety improvement directions after the introduction of the RFE Scheme?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) will use existing manpower and resources to take forward the introduction of the Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme.
2. In 2017, the Legislative Council (LegCo) enacted the Fire Services (Amendment) Ordinance 2017 for the Government to make the subsidiary legislations for the RFE Scheme. In 2018, the FSD consulted relevant professional bodies and stakeholders on the implementation and regulatory details of the RFE Scheme, such as qualification and

experience requirements, code of conduct and criminal liability, etc. The trade was generally in support of the RFE Scheme. At present, the FSD has consolidated views put forward by stakeholders and has been proactively making reference to relevant experience in the other countries, and is drawing up relevant subsidiary legislations to stipulate the details of the RFE Scheme. The FSD hopes that the relevant subsidiary legislations can be introduced in the current term of the LegCo. It will implement the RFE Scheme upon passing of the subsidiary legislations.

3. The FSD proposes that, when the RFE Scheme is to be taken forward for implementation, the Scheme to be implemented in stages, starting with licensed premises. Meanwhile, there is no plan to include the vetting of fire safety improvement works of old buildings in the proposed duties of RFEs. Nevertheless, the FSD will review the effectiveness of the RFE Scheme and consider whether the scope would be expanded to other areas after the implementation of the Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB143

(Question Serial No. 1429)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

As set out under the Indicators, the numbers of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices (FHANs) issued (other than floating obstructions to means of escape and locked exits) and inspections of fire safety in commercial premises, composite buildings and industrial buildings conducted by the Fire Services Department fell substantially in both 2022 and 2021. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of:

- (a) the reasons for the significant fall in the numbers of FHANs issued and fire safety inspections; and
- (b) the relevant data in the past 5 years in table form?

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

- (a) The number of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices (FHANs) issued is affected by various practical factors, including the number of complaints received and whether the complaints are found substantiated upon investigation, etc. In 2022, the number of relevant complaints received by the Fire Services Department (FSD) fell significantly compared to that in 2021. Hence, the number of FHANs issued dropped correspondingly.

As regards inspections, less inspections of commercial premises, composite buildings and industrial buildings were conducted by the FSD's fire protection units in the first quarter of 2022 as they had to implement special work arrangements and participate in anti-epidemic work under the Government's policy to fight the raging fifth wave of the COVID-19 epidemic.

- (b) The numbers of FHANs issued (other than floating obstructions to means of escape (MOE) and locked exits) and inspections of fire safety in commercial premises, composite buildings and industrial buildings conducted by the FSD in enforcing the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance, the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance and

the Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance (Note) respectively in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of FHANs issued (other than floating obstructions to MOE and locked exits)	8 777	7 738	6 141	6 694	4 900
Number of inspections of fire safety in commercial premises, composite buildings and industrial buildings	65 003	62 247	55 975	67 110	58 944

Note: The Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance came into effect in June 2020.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB145****(Question Serial No. 1507)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Fire Protection and PreventionControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the fire safety of domestic buildings with sub-division of flat units (subdivided units), would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of inspections conducted by the Fire Services Department (FSD) in 2022 (in table form as below):

	(i) Domestic buildings	(ii) Commercial buildings	(iii) Industrial buildings
(a) No. of buildings with sub-divided units			
(b) No. of cases of irregularities			
(c) No. of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices/Fire Safety Directions issued			
(d) No. of people prosecuted			

2. in relation to the above question, the (a) manpower, (b) expenditure on remuneration, and (c) expenditure on equipment that the FSD has earmarked for the inspections in 2022;
3. if a serious breach of the Fire Services Ordinance (such as provision of sub-divided flats in units within an industrial building) or imminent danger is found during the inspections of buildings, apart from prosecuting the owners, whether the FSD has the statutory power to impose closure of the units concerned and evacuate the occupants therein.

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

The building safety of sub-division of flat units (subdivided units) and changes in use of land fall within the purview of the Buildings Department and the Lands Department respectively. If subdivided units or changes in use of land is found during fire safety inspections of

buildings by personnel of the Fire Services Department (FSD), such cases will be referred to the department concerned for follow-up actions. As such, the FSD does not keep relevant statistics on subdivided units or changes in use of land. As regards subdivided units, the FSD does not have the statutory power to impose closure of the units concerned and evacuate the occupants therein. However, when any breaches of the relevant fire services regulations are found, such as obstruction to means of escape or locked exits, defective fire service installations and equipment, over-storage of dangerous goods, etc. during inspections of buildings, the FSD will take appropriate enforcement actions under the existing mechanism.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB146

(Question Serial No. 1718)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the details of the Fire Services Department's work of promoting cardiopulmonary resuscitation, emergency preparedness and the use of automated external defibrillators through its community education programme in 2023-24? Would the Government set key performance indicators (KPIs) for such work? If yes, what are the KPIs; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) will continue to promote to the community the methods and skills of emergency preparedness through educational and promotional activities with a view to further enhancing the public's all-round awareness of emergency preparedness and strengthening their capabilities in dealing with emergencies or contingencies such that all members of the public will be equipped with the knowledge to "Extinguish and Prevent Fire", "Self-help and Help Others" as well as "Escape and Evacuate". The goal of the FSD is to educate all 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".

In terms of community life support, there is an internationally adopted view in recent years that even a person with no training is able to rescue a cardiac arrest patient using an automated external defibrillator (AED). In 2023-24, the FSD will continue to convey to the public the message that "anyone can use an AED" with the use of various promotional strategies, in the hope that more people will be equipped with the knowledge of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of AEDs. This aside, callers for emergency ambulance service will be encouraged to provide timely first aid to patients before the arrival of ambulance crew at scene by making good use of relevant support services, such as following the instant and simultaneous advice given to them under the "post-dispatch advice" system and obtaining information of AEDs available for use nearby from the online information platform, Centralized AED Registry for Emergency (CARE).

Through community education on CPR and the use of AEDs, members of the public will also be able to understand the whole rescue process and deal with emergencies more confidently and efficiently. The FSD will continue to reach out to different age and community groups through various platforms (such as social media, training courses, advertisements, etc.) and organise, among others, the CPR Training Programme in Campus, the “Press to shock - Save a life” AED Course and the Community CPR Training Course.

For 2023-24, the FSD has formulated the following plans to expand the scope of public education, including:

- explaining to the public the importance of early administration of CPR in conjunction with defibrillation by AEDs through the “Press to shock - Save a life” CPR & AED Course and encouraging government departments as well as public and private organisations to install publicly accessible AEDs, thereby strengthening the public’s awareness and response capabilities as well as the supporting measures during emergencies;
- imparting to secondary or tertiary students across the territory basic knowledge of CPR and giving them an understanding of the use of AEDs through the CPR Training Programme in Campus, thereby enhancing the youth’s commitment to society and encouraging their initiative to help people in need;
- initiating community health education and ambulance-related public education to enhance the public’s psychological preparedness and first aid knowledge for various emergencies;
- formulating a new programme comprising elements of fire safety, ambulance services and awareness of emergency preparedness, etc. for university, secondary and primary students, under which community emergency preparedness education will be provided to students at different levels through more systematic channels to foster among them from a young age emergency preparedness and crisis alertness;
- approaching property management agents proactively in a bid to further strengthen the emergency preparedness of developments/facilities under their management;
- liaising with event organisers during the planning stage of some major events in a bid to strengthen their emergency preparedness and that of their employees by, for example, having the event organisers prepare an emergency evacuation plan so that they can implement evacuation procedures in the first instance; and
- enhancing the public’s knowledge of dangerous goods and other hazardous substances as a means to strengthen their awareness of emergency preparedness and response.

In addition, the Chief Executive has set the key performance indicators for strengthening community emergency preparedness in the 2022 Policy Address, including:

- 40 training sessions to be provided by the FSD and the Government Flying Service on CPR, the use of AEDs and other basic emergency preparedness skills (collectively known

as the “Three Basic Skills of Emergency Preparedness”), as well as on air rescue and mountaineering safety, for some 1 500 teachers in all secondary schools by April 2023 so that they can help train their students;

- 100 training sessions for tertiary students and 200 training sessions for the public on the “Three Basic Skills of Emergency Preparedness” to be provided by the FSD each year starting from 2023; and
- increase, by the FSD in collaboration with different sectors of the community, the number of publicly accessible AEDs by some 1 500 sets in three years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB147

(Question Serial No. 1719)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Fire Services Department's estimated provision for procurement and replacement of town ambulances for 2023-24 is \$292 million, which is \$188 million higher than the revised estimate of \$104 million for 2022-23, representing an increase of 181.1%. What are the reasons for such enormous increase in provision? How many existing town ambulances will be replaced and what are the reasons for the replacement? How many new town ambulances will be procured and specifically what features and equipment do they have and how long are their serviceable life? What is the estimated number of town ambulances that will be on run daily after 2023-24?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD)'s estimated expenditure for procurement and replacement of town ambulances for 2023-24 is \$292 million, which is mainly used to cover the approved expenditure on acquisition and replacement of town ambulances in 2023-24. In addition, it is also used to cover part of the payment of the approved expenditure on acquisition and replacement of town ambulances in previous financial years.

To maintain the age of ambulances at a healthy level and to ensure the overall reliability of the fleet, the FSD will replace 62 town ambulances according to the formulated ambulance replacement plan. Moreover, the FSD will procure 56 town ambulances to meet operational needs. In addition to diesel engines which have sufficient torque and horsepower output and comply with the emission standards, the town ambulances will also be fitted with various advanced paramedic ambulance equipment to assist ambulance personnel in providing quality pre-hospital paramedic ambulance service to the public. At present, the expected serviceable life of town ambulances is about 7 years.

The FSD estimates that when all 56 town ambulances approved to be procured in this financial year are put in commission after 2023-24, there will be 461 on-run town ambulances per day.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB148

(Question Serial No. 1720)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In reply to a question from a Member last year, the Fire Services Department stated that a study was conducted to explore the long-term arrangements for emergency ambulance service, and that the study commenced in July 2021 and was expected for completion in the second quarter of 2022. What are the findings of the study so far and when will the findings be released? Will the Medical Priority Dispatch System be included in the study? If yes, what are the details of the study in this respect; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) commissioned a consultancy to explore the long-term arrangements for emergency ambulance service (EAS) and the relevant consultancy report was completed in 2022. The study covered ambulance service demand from 2022 to 2031, the impact of infectious diseases on ambulance service, the need for additional manpower resources, etc. The FSD will take follow-up actions in light of the recommendations made in the consultancy report.

The Government reported to the Panel on Security of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in April 2010 on the outcome of the public consultation on the proposal to introduce the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS). At that time, while the Panel did not agree with the proposal after discussion, the FSD listened to the valuable views of members and conducted a review accordingly. Currently, the FSD does not have plan to further study the MPDS. Thus, the MPDS was not covered in the consultancy report.

The FSD has gradually provided callers for ambulance service with simple post-dispatch advice (PDA) in respect of a few common types of injuries and sicknesses (i.e. bleeding, fracture/dislocation of limbs, burns, convulsion, heat exposure and hypothermia) to stabilise the patients' conditions since May 2011. In view of the favourable response from implementing the PDA service, the FSD has put in place a new computer system in 2018 to assist Fire Services Communications Centre (FSCC) operators, after dispatch of ambulances, to provide callers with immediate, comprehensive and appropriate PDA. The types of

advice has also been extended to cover over 30 types of injuries and sicknesses, including physical trauma, loss of consciousness, cardiac arrest, etc.

The FSD will continue to explore different measures to enhance the EAS and will give due consideration to the views and opinions of the public and LegCo Members when studying the details of long-term measures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB135

(Question Serial No. 2096)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The work of the Fire Services Department involves, among others, upgrading fire safety measures in prescribed commercial premises, specified commercial buildings, composite buildings, domestic buildings and industrial buildings, as well as ensuring the provision and proper maintenance of fire service installations and equipment in buildings. However, in reality, many people have reflected that the process, such as that of the vetting of drawings, in respect of fire safety improvement works has been very lengthy. Would the Government inform this Committee: whether it has considered deploying existing staff to help with such administrative work when they are not engaged in firefighting and training-related duties; and whether there are any measures to provide further support with a view to addressing the existing shortage of staff in handling such administrative work?

Asked by: Hon CHU Kwok-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

Before starting fire safety improvement works in a building, the consultants or professionals appointed by the building owner shall submit the design of the proposed fire service installations and equipment (FSI) (including their details, specifications and locations) in the form of FSI drawings to the Fire Services Department (FSD) for approval. Subsequently, registered fire service installation contractors and registered contractors shall carry out the works in accordance with the approved drawings. This is to ensure that the FSI can function in case of fire.

In general, the processing of FSI drawings can be completed within a reasonable time without delay. When necessary, the FSD will flexibly appoint contract staff to assist in vetting the drawings. If irregularities are found in the FSI drawings, the FSD will clearly state its comments in the letter of reply for the recipient to take follow-up actions on and make amendments to the drawings. The case officer of the FSD will also have meetings with the building owner (s) /consultants or professionals concerned to help them resolve the issues in preparing the drawings.

As a facilitating measure for the trade, the FSD has also uploaded information about approval of drawings such as the workflow, checklists and matters requiring attention to its website for viewing. The FSD also organises from time to time “FSD Connects with the Construction Industry” experience sharing sessions and other seminars with engineers of the FSD in attendance to explain to and remind participants from the trade of matters requiring attention and common mistakes in submission of FSI drawings so as to reduce the number of rounds of amendments to the drawings, thus expediting the vetting process.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2186)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the Fire Services Department's mascot "Anyone", would the Government inform this Committee:

1. of the expenditure on the design of the above-mentioned mascot, and related publicity and operational expenses;
2. of the numbers of publicity materials and publicity activities featuring the mascot in the past 5 years; and
3. whether an evaluation has been conducted on Hong Kong people's awareness of the above-mentioned mascot. If so, what the criteria, method, covering period and findings of the evaluation are; if not, what the reasons are.

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. "Anyone" is designed internally by the Fire Services Department (FSD) to convey the concept that anyone can help save lives, as well as encourage and instill an awareness in people to save the lives of themselves and others and to be ready to lend a helping hand in safe conditions. The design, publicity and operation of "Anyone" do not involve additional manpower and resources. The FSD does not keep separate statistics on the expenditure involved in the design, publicity and operation of "Anyone".
2. "Anyone" is featured in a wide range of the FSD's publicity and educational materials, including but not limited to leaflets, pamphlets, posters, souvenirs and posts on the FSD's Facebook page, etc. "Anyone" also makes appearances at various FSD events, such as open days and educational seminars. The FSD does not keep separate statistics on the numbers of publicity materials and activities featuring "Anyone".
3. "Anyone" is neither a mascot of nor a spokesperson for the FSD. Instead, it refers to anyone in the community including you and me, regardless of occupation, gender or

even physique or body build. The FSD hopes that “Anyone” can bring a positive message to the community and raise people’s awareness of emergency preparedness. The concept and the image of “Anyone” have not yet been patented, and the department has not conducted any evaluation specifically on public awareness of “Anyone”. As for the overall publicity and educational efforts of the FSD, the official Facebook page has been followed by more than 252 000 people since its official launch on 5 November 2018. The FSD will continue to disseminate messages on public safety and the latest information about the FSD through the page and other activities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB141

(Question Serial No. 2729)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Deployed earlier to join the earthquake rescue efforts in Türkiye, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Search and Rescue Team is in the process of making an application for the internationally recognised classification “Medium Urban Search and Rescue Team”, which, if successful, is conducive to enhancing Hong Kong’s international image. Regarding allocation of additional resources to the Fire Services Department, would the Government inform this Committee:

1. of the amount of additional resources allocated by the Government to the search and rescue operation in Türkiye, with a detailed breakdown of all funding items; and
2. whether it is necessary for the Government to provide additional resources for the HKSAR Search and Rescue Team to maintain its equipment and techniques at the required standards in the next 2 years, in order to ensure the team meets the overall benchmarks for passing the assessments; if yes, what the details are.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

1. The Government used existing resources to support the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Search and Rescue Team’s earthquake rescue operation in Türkiye.
2. The HKSAR Search and Rescue Team, which was deployed to assist in search and rescue work in the quake-stricken areas in Türkiye, comprises personnel from the Fire Services Department (FSD)’s Urban Search and Rescue Team, the Security Bureau, the Immigration Department, and the Department of Health. Since its formation, the Urban Search and Rescue Team of the FSD has adopted the international search and rescue standards of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group as its direction for development. It meets the international standards in terms of equipment as well as search and rescue techniques. The FSD expects that the team can pass relevant assessments with existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB136****(Question Serial No. 3155)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Fire Service, (2) Fire Protection and PreventionControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding marine fire prevention strategies, please advise on the following:

- (a) 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									

- (b) 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 2020-21 to 2022-23)?
- (c) What will be the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved in the fire prevention work for typhoon shelters in 2023-24?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 60)Reply:

- (a) 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	/	/	/	/	10	/	/	/	/	1
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	/	/	/	/	10	/	/	/	/	3

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 vessels and head for the incident scene to provide support.

* Fireboats No. 2 and No. 10 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 in the table above are not within its service area.

- ^ 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 areas of Hong Kong eastern waters.

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.

- (b) & (c) 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 2020-21 to 2022-23 and in 2023-24 (estimate) is tabulated as follows:

Rank	Establishment			
Year (as at 31 March)	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (Estimate)
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	15	15	15
Principal Fireman*	53	61	61	61
Senior Fireman*	73	84	84	84
Fireman*	118	141	141	141

- * The FSD is in the process of procuring 1 fireboat to enhance its operational efficiency in the waters of Hong Kong. Since it takes at least 2 to 3 years for the personnel in training to obtain relevant professional maritime licences, the establishment of the Marine and Diving Division has increased since 2021-22 with the addition of 4 Station Officers, 8 Principal Firemen, 11 Senior Firemen and 23 Firemen for immediate deployment to operations upon commissioning of the new fireboat.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3558)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. In the face of the current increasingly complex situation of law and order in Hong Kong, enhancement in staff training and equipment is expected. If yes, what is the relevant situation? If not, what are the reasons?
2. Regarding training and equipment, will the Department enhance its collaboration with relevant Mainland authorities, including arranging study visits to the Mainland and purchasing more security equipment from the Mainland? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1. **Staff Training**

The Fire and Ambulance Services Academy (FASA) of the Fire Services Department (FSD) has significantly enhanced the Department's overall professional training capabilities since its commissioning in 2016. The FASA mainly provides training for both newly recruited and serving fire and ambulance personnel, which allows more opportunities for them to be trained together, thereby enhancing their response and coordination capabilities in case of an emergency. The FASA also offers fire-and-ambulance-related training courses to staff of other government departments and different trades in the private sector, the general public, as well as the FSD's Mainland and overseas counterparts.

The FASA provides a 26-week foundation residential training programme to Recruit Station Officers, Firemen, Ambulance Officers and Ambulancemen. The wide curriculum encompasses courses on professional knowledge of basic firefighting and rescue techniques, fire science, fire engineering, the use of appliances and equipment, compartment fire behaviour training, breathing apparatus operation, fire protection and relevant legislation, basic ambulance aid, basic paramedic knowledge and skills and on-car attachment as well as other training such as foot drills, physical fitness training, discipline training, moral education, emotional intelligence and customer service, etc.

Besides, the Constitution of the People's Republic of China (the Constitution), the Basic Law and the National Security Law are also included in the training curriculum for all new recruits in order to enrich their knowledge and understanding of such legislation and enhance their sense of belonging towards our country and of national identity. The FSD has been committed to promoting among its members a better understanding of national affairs, the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law through training, exchange activities and other means. The FSD resolves to uphold the responsibility to safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests, and to ensure the steadfast and successful implementation of the "one country, two systems" principle. Moreover, our members of the Inter-departmental Counter-terrorism Unit also provide, in collaboration with personnel of the Hong Kong Police Force, counter-terrorism-related training to service members to enhance their awareness of counter-terrorism.

The FASA is equipped with a wide range of advanced simulated training facilities to furnish service members with professional knowledge as well as firefighting and rescue techniques in handling incidents involving railways, tunnels, vessels, aircrafts and fuelling facilities, etc. Specialised training on high angle rescue, urban search and rescue as well as compartment fire behaviour, etc. is also given to strengthen their capability in handling major incidents. The specifically-designed Ambulance Services Training area in the FASA features an array of ambulance services training facilities to allow ambulance trainees to go through a simulated training process covering the complete turn-out procedures. In addition, the FASA organises other specialised training courses for serving members, including Non-commissioned Officer (NCO) Command Course for NCOs to enhance their skills and knowledge in leadership, management, communication as well as customer service, and in tackling major incidents. The FASA also offers ambulance services training to fire personnel, for example, the Basic Ambulance Aid Training for new recruits and the Advanced Ambulance Aid Training at First Responder Level for serving members.

The Training and Development Advisory Committee (TDAC) of the FSD conducts regular review on whether the relevant training and development can cope with the ever-increasing demand for emergency services. In light of the recommendations put forward by the TDAC, the FSD has stepped up training for frontline personnel and has enhanced serving members' professional knowledge and rescue techniques through regular training and drills. The FSD has implemented the Specialised Training Enhancement Scheme since 2016 with a view to optimising the formulation and quality of training. As the specialised teams are now well developed, the FSD will progressively apply for accreditation for the training courses of these specialised teams in recognition of their professional status. It is expected that the training courses of various specialised teams will be granted relevant accreditation gradually.

Equipment

The FSD attaches utmost importance to safeguarding the safety of its frontline personnel and is committed to providing them with the best equipment, protective clothing and appropriate professional training to ensure their safety and efficiency when they are performing operational duties. The existing firefighting and ambulance equipment of the FSD is on a par with that of the fire brigades of other advanced countries/regions in the world. The Department will continue to review its different types of tools and personal protective equipment from time to time. It will also keep abreast of the new

development in firefighting and ambulance equipment, and identify new products available for procurement in a bid to further ensure the safety of frontline personnel and enhance their operational efficiency during firefighting and rescue operations.

2. **Arranging Study Visits to the Mainland**

The FSD has maintained close communication and cooperation with its Mainland counterparts on training and forged closer collaboration with its counterparts in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) through various ongoing efforts, including organising more training courses and technical exchange sessions for them. A “GBA Fire and Rescue Knowledge Management Platform” will also be established to facilitate the development of fire and rescue services in the GBA.

The Compartment Fire Behaviour Training Unit (CFBTU) of the FSD has planned 3 visits to the GBA in 2023, including visits to the Shenzhen Fire and Rescue Brigade, China Rapid Reaction Rescue Division (Guangdong) and Jiangmen Fire and Rescue Brigade. The first visit this year, which took place on 20 March, was attended by 5 instructors from the CFBTU. The second visit, scheduled for September this year, will involve in-depth technical exchanges with our country’s first Compartment Fire Behaviour Training Unit at the China People’s Police University. Besides, the CFBTU has recently received an invitation from the Sanming Municipal People’s Government of Fujian Province to send CFBTU instructors to run a technical course of instruction at the newly established Compartment Fire Behaviour Training Centre in Sanming Municipality for training specialist trainers in this field.

The FSD is now liaising with relevant Mainland authorities on an arrangement for the first batch of about 30 Station Officers, Firemen and Ambulancemen who are undergoing foundation training to attend a three-day exchange programme at the Fire and Rescue Corps of Guangdong Province in the near future. The programme will cover sessions on national affairs and exchanges on firefighting and rescue techniques, etc. The FSD aims to make this a regular arrangement under the foundation training programme for new recruits.

The FSD will also actively arrange for members of different ranks to attend the national studies programme, thematic visits and exchange programmes organised by the Civil Service College, including courses held in collaboration with the National Academy of Governance and relevant institutions/universities. Moreover, the FSD has since 2021 arranged for some serving members at officer rank to join the Master of Public Administration Programme at Tsinghua University and Master Programme in Public Policy at Peking University.

Purchasing Security Equipment from the Mainland

The FSD reviews its procurement strategies from time to time. In view of factors such as heightened geopolitical tensions, the Department has maintained close liaison with Mainland suppliers to ensure a stable supply of various types of tools and personal protective equipment. Besides, the FSD has endeavoured to collaborate with Mainland authorities and organisations by, for example, participating in Emergency Safety Expos and fire safety exhibitions held in the Mainland, so as to deepen exchanges with the Mainland and to timely review existing equipment and procure new equipment of better quality for use by the Department. In recent years, the FSD has introduced the Underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle, Unmanned Aircraft System for Fire and

Emergency Services and Nuclear Radiation Sensing Module sourced from Mainland suppliers to enhance the efficiency of firefighting and rescue.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB002

(Question Serial No. S010)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. The Government said in its reply “if subdivided units or changes in use of land are found during fire safety inspections of buildings by personnel of the Fire Services Department (FSD), such cases will be referred to the department concerned for follow-up actions.” In 2022, how many cases involving building safety of subdivided units or changes in use of land were referred by the FSD to the Buildings Department and Lands Department respectively?
2. The Government also said “when any breaches of the relevant fire services regulations are found, such as obstruction to means of escape or locked exits, defective fire service installations and equipment, over-storage of dangerous goods, etc., during inspections of buildings, the FSD will take appropriate enforcement actions under the existing mechanism.” In 2022, how many prosecutions were instituted by the FSD for each of the aforesaid breaches?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) does not maintain statistics on case referrals involving subdivided units or changes in use of land.
2. In 2022, the numbers of prosecutions instituted by the FSD for breaches of relevant fire services regulations such as obstruction to means of escape or locked exits, defective fire service installations and equipment and over-storage of dangerous goods are tabulated below:

Breaches of fire services regulations	Number of prosecutions
Obstruction to means of escape or locked exits	249
Defective fire service installations and equipment	1 299
Over-storage of dangerous goods	219