

- (a) The Chairman requested the Administration to provide the outcome of investigation on the alleged breach of government guidelines on tree maintenance by LCSD contractors in Happy Valley.**

In response to Hon Tanya Chan's enquiry dated 28 December 2011, LCSD had replied to her on 1 February 2012. As requested by the Chairman, our reply to Hon Tanya Chan is enclosed for reference.

- (b) Hon Tanya CHAN requested the Administration to provide a response on whether the poor quality of tree pruning in Victoria Park was due to negligence or skill mismatch of LCSD staff in supervising its contractor.**

Concerning the tree pruning incident at Victoria Park in November 2010, LCSD had replied to Hon Tanya CHAN in March and June 2011. In gist, LCSD had engaged, through the "direct purchase arrangement", an experienced contractor to carry out tree pruning work at Victoria Park. About a week before the tree pruning work and again that morning, an LCSD staff who possessed relevant tree management experience briefed the contractor thoroughly on the details of the pruning work involved, including the work requirements and safety/precautionary measures to be taken. The contractor had also engaged a full-time staff possessing arboriculture knowledge and experience to supervise the tree pruning work, which lasted more than six hours. The LCSD staff inspected the work progress several times at the beginning and when the work was half way through but did not observe any irregularities. However, when the LCSD staff inspected again near work completion, he observed that some trees had not been pruned properly. The LCSD staff immediately instructed the contractor to rectify the damage to the trees. In view of the unsatisfactory performance of the contractor, LCSD issued a strongly-worded letter to the contractor, reminding that its poor performance would have negative impact on its chance of securing similar contracts in future. Moreover, LCSD had refrained from inviting the contractor concerned to give quotations for future tree pruning works in the district. Having reviewed the case, we consider that the contractor, who was entrusted with the tree pruning works, has to bear the major

responsibility. That said, LCSD had alerted all its district staff of the incident and reminded them that they should monitor very closely the tree works conducted by contractors. To further improve the quality of tree works performed by contractors in future, LCSD has specified in its invitation to quotations and service requirements that the contractor should engage a certified arborist to lead and supervise the whole process of tree pruning works.

- (c) **Hon Cyd HO requested the Administration to provide information on the number of skilled workers who were paid at a rate equivalent to Statutory Minimum Wage under the government service contracts in 2011-12 and would not be benefited from the funding application.**

LCSD's outsourcing services contracts that rely heavily on the deployment of non-skilled workers include cleansing and supporting services, security guards services, horticultural maintenance as well as venue management services contracts. Of the about 9,900 workers serving under these contracts, there are only 475 skilled workers who are not covered by the top-up exercise announced on 11 April 2011.

According to the information provided by the service contractors, all these 475 skilled workers are currently paid higher than the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW). Changes in their wages are as follows:

Wages before the implementation of SMW with effect from 1 May 2011	Wages after the implementation of SMW with effect from 1 May 2011	Number of skilled workers involved
Below SMW level	Wages increased to above SMW level	40
Above SMW level	(a) Wages remain unchanged	369
	(b) Further wage increase to above their original wage levels	66



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陳議員：

跑馬地馬場外緩跑徑樹木遭去頂事宜

多謝你二零一一年十二月二十八日的來信；查詢跑馬地遊樂場樹木的修剪工作。繼本署於一月四日給你的簡覆，現謹覆如下：

你信中提及的修樹工程，涉及跑馬地遊樂場內的 85 棵雞蛋花樹，由本署的員工負責管理和保養。這些雞蛋花樹種植在跑馬地遊樂場已超過 11 年。由於該些雞蛋花樹位處馬場賽道旁邊，為避免阻礙監察賽道視線，場地員工每年十一月開花期過後，都會為它們進行年度的修剪工作，將該批樹木修剪至約 1.3 米高，當雞蛋花樹春夏季回復正常生長時，可維持於約 2.2 米高。

一如過往，二零一一年十一月份的修剪工程亦是由本署場地員工負責，包括 2 名技工及 3 名一級工人。負責帶領修樹工作的技工具備經驗及受過樹藝訓練。在今次的修樹工作過程中，因有關員工發覺雞蛋花樹樹幹上舊有切口外觀有異，同時發現切口有真菌滋生的跡象，遂決定擴大修剪幅度，由以往每棵樹修剪約 0.9 米的枝葉，增至約 1 米。而樹木亦由修剪前的約 2.2 米高，經修剪後降低到 1.15 至 1.2 米高。

由於雞蛋花樹處於馬場賽道旁邊的特殊位置，過去多年也曾進行較一般正常幅度為大的修剪，而今次負責的員工憑個人判斷，作了更大幅度的修剪，因而引起了關注。雖然本署理解有需要修剪樹木以促進它們的健康生長，但亦認同是次的修剪工作的幅度較以往為大。事後，本署已即時向有關員工及相關的管理人員作出嚴肅訓示，提醒他們在處理樹木護理工作時必須小心謹慎，如遇到特殊的情況必須與上司商討；本署並已加強有關場地園藝護理的監管程序，任何異於常規的修樹工程必須得到主管級人員同意方可進行。此外，本署會繼續加強對管理職級及前線員工的培訓工作，及會要求所有負責樹木護理的員工參加有關樹木護理的訓練課程及定期參與相關的復修課程，以確保員工獲得專業的訓練及依據最新的作業指引執行樹木護理的工作。

就已被修剪的雞蛋花樹，本署會密切監察它們的生長情況，並會採取適當的跟進護理措施。根據過往經驗，該些樹木經過修剪後，均會逐漸重新長出新枝條及樹葉。

本署每年都會為跑馬地遊樂場內的樹木進行檢測工作。由於這些雞蛋花樹於二零一一年的周年檢測工作已於二零一一年四月完成，而有關的樹木修剪為恆常的園藝護理工作，故在是次修剪工作前，並沒有再進行額外的檢測。本署會在今年四至五月為跑馬地遊樂場內的樹木進行下一次的周年檢測工作。

在此，多謝妳一直以來對樹木保育工作的關注。如有任何查詢，請致電 2879 5528 與灣仔區康樂事務經理孔得泉先生聯絡。

康樂及文化事務署署長

(李鳳鳴



代行)

二零一二年二月一日