

本署檔號
OUR REF: () in EP20/08/400A01
來函檔號
YOUR REF:
電話
TEL NO.: 3509 8628
圖文傳真
FAX NO.: 2834 5648
電子郵件
E-MAIL: amyuen@epd.gov.hk
網址:
HOMEPAGE : <http://www.epd.gov.hk>

**Environmental Protection
Department
Headquarters**

15/F & 16/F, East Wing,
Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue,
Tamar, Hong Kong



環境保護署總部

香港添馬
添美道二號
政府總部東翼
十五及十六樓

25 February 2015

Clerk to Public Works Subcommittee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong

(Attn: Ms Sharon CHUNG)

Dear Ms Chung,

**Public Works Subcommittee
Follow-up to meeting on 10 February 2015**

Supplementary information pertaining to item PWSC(2014-15)49

Regarding the Environment Bureau's proposal in the captioned paper of upgrading part of 160DS and part of 346DS, entitled "Tuen Mun sewerage – Castle Peak Road trunk sewer and Tuen Mun village sewerage", to Category A, the Public Works Subcommittee at its meeting on 10 February 2015 requested the Government to provide a table showing the connection rates of village houses (to be categorized by village) to the public sewers under the village sewerage projects in villages in the past 10 years, and for the houses not yet connected to the public sewers, the reasons for such in each individual case. The Government's responses are as follows.

Village sewerage is part of the Government's sewerage provision programme, with the aim to improve the village environs and sanitary conditions of unsewered areas and to reduce pollution to rivers and coastal waters. Sewer connection works involve various procedures and a great number of village houses, therefore it usually takes a number of years to complete the work. The objective of the village sewerage programme is to construct sewage collection system within the sewerage catchment, thus the programme is based on sewerage catchments. Further sub-division of catchment details may not

accurately reflect the situation of relevant village areas. Besides, for reasons including insufficient space, inadequate hydraulic gradient, obstruction from underground utilities and encroachment on other's private land etc., the design of a village sewerage system usually covers only about 70% to 80% of the village houses within the sewerage catchment. As at end 2014, the percentage of village houses which had made connection to the public sewerage system as designed is shown in the table below.

Village sewerage connection rates by catchments (statistics as at end 2014)

Sewerage Catchment	Number of Village Area Covered	Connection Rate (%)
Sha Tin*	30	94
Tai Po*	38	90
Sai Kung*	9	87
Tsuen Wan*	7	91
Islands*	8	80
North District and Yuen Long*	34	77
Tuen Mun*	1	38
Total	127	85

* *Sewer connection work is still on-going.*

In many areas of the above catchments, the construction of public sewers has just been completed and sewer connections of village houses to public sewers are still on-going, thus the connection rates are still varying. The connection rates of village areas vary depending on a number of factors. We do not have records of the reasons of non-connection to the public sewers for individual cases. In general, apart from on-going sewer connection works, in some village areas, the reasons also include complicated house ownership (for example, multiple owners), unsuccessful attempt to contact owner, owner with plan to re-build the village house and postpone the sewer connection etc.. Some village sewerage schemes have also reserved sewer connection points for land lots with village house development proposals to facilitate future connection of sewage to the public sewerage system.

When the public village sewers are ready for connection, we will invite the village representatives and house owners to attend briefing session to explain to them the legal requirement for house connection, the technical specifications and details. Letters will then be issued to the house owners, requesting them to complete the sewer connection works before a specified date. A period of about 6 to 12 months is usually allowed for completing the house connection works.

To assist house owners in carrying out the connection works, we will visit individual households to see if they have any technical difficulties and offer assistance where applicable. The local village representatives, Rural Committee and District Council members often play an important role in promoting house connection works. In the case of uncooperative house owners where the sewage arising is causing environmental pollution, the Environmental Protection Department would consider serving statutory notices to them under Section 3 of the Water Pollution Control (Sewerage) Regulation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick LEI', with a horizontal line underneath the signature.

(Patrick LEI)

for Director of Environmental Protection

c.c.	SFST	(Attn: Ms Crystal PANG)	(Fax.: 2147 5240)
	DDS	(Attn: Mr Raymond TAI)	(Fax.: 2827 8526)