

立法會 *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(3) 140/14-15

Paper for the House Committee meeting of 14 November 2014

Questions scheduled for the Legislative Council meeting of 19 November 2014

Questions by:

- | | | |
|------|---|-------------------------------|
| (1) | Hon CHAN Kam-lam | (Oral reply) |
| (2) | Hon IP Kin-yuen | (Oral reply) |
| (3) | Hon WONG Ting-kwong | (Oral reply) |
| (4) | Hon Michael TIEN
<i>(Replacing his previous question)</i> | (Oral reply)(New question) |
| (5) | Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT
<i>(Hon Christopher CHEUNG has given up the
question slot)</i> | (Oral reply)(New question) |
| (6) | Hon Paul TSE | (Oral reply) |
| (7) | Hon Abraham SHEK | (Written reply) |
| (8) | Hon Alice MAK | (Written reply) |
| (9) | Hon SIN Chung-kai | (Written reply) |
| (10) | Hon WONG Kwok-hing | (Written reply) |
| (11) | Hon NG Leung-sing | (Written reply) |
| (12) | Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN | (Written reply) |
| (13) | Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT
<i>(Replacing her previous question)</i> | (Written reply)(New question) |
| (14) | Hon Charles Peter MOK | (Written reply) |
| (15) | Hon WU Chi-wai | (Written reply) |
| (16) | Hon Kenneth LEUNG | (Written reply) |
| (17) | Hon WONG Ting-kwong | (Written reply) |
| (18) | Hon NG Leung-sing | (Written reply) |
| (19) | Hon CHAN Kin-por | (Written reply) |
| (20) | Hon Albert CHAN | (Written reply) |
| (21) | Hon TANG Ka-piu
<i>(Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT has given up
this written question slot as she has
been allocated an oral question slot)</i> | (Written reply)(New question) |
| (22) | Hon CHAN Han-pan | (Written reply) |

註 :

NOTE :

議員將採用這種語言提出質詢

Member will ask the question in this language

Regulation of telemarketing activities

(4) Hon Michael TIEN (Oral reply)

In 2007, the Government implemented the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance and established Do-not-call Registers for the purpose of regulating the sending of commercial electronic messages, including fax messages, emails, short messages and pre-recorded phone messages, but person-to-person telemarketing calls were excluded. Subsequently, to further protect the personal privacy of the public, the Personal Data (Privacy) (Amendment) Ordinance 2012 came into full operation in April 2013, stipulating that any data user must, before using personal data in direct marketing or providing personal data to another person for use in direct marketing, notify the data subjects of its intention of so doing and receive their consent. Yet, the results of a survey conducted by the media have revealed that the problem of members of the public receiving marketing messages is still rather serious in recent years and the situation has not been improved so far. Hong Kong people receive an average of 150 telemarketing calls per person each year, and they also frequently receive marketing messages sent through short messages, pre-recorded phone messages and even mobile messaging applications, which have caused serious nuisance to and impact on their daily life. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it has studied and assessed the current situation of telemarketing activities, such as the daily average number of telemarketing calls received by each member of the public and the economic losses suffered by them due to such calls;
- (2) given that the Office of the Privacy Commissioner on Personal Data had referred a total of 18 complaints relating to the use of personal data in telemarketing activities to the Police during the period from 1 April last year to early August this year but, among them, there is no case in which the relevant persons were convicted, whether the authorities have conducted regular reviews of the effectiveness of the existing legislation in preventing the use of personal data in telemarketing activities; and
- (3) given that the authorities have all along refused to introduce legislation to regulate person-to-person telemarketing calls on the ground that it will affect the livelihood of 20 000 persons, whether the authorities have any means to enable members of the public to exercise their rights to be free from the nuisance caused by such type of calls; if they do, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Measures to reduce suicides

(5) Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT (Oral Reply)

The Coroners' Report 2013 pointed out that last year, the number of suicides in Hong Kong was 1 040, a rise by more than 20% from the previous year. Among those persons who committed suicide last year, 644 of them were male, outnumbering the 396 women by 60%, and those of middle-aged (i.e. aged 30 to 59) men and elderly persons (i.e. persons aged 60 above) accounted for 28% and 36% respectively. Moreover, the suicide rate of teenagers (i.e. persons aged 19 or below) soared by 38% as compared with the figure in 2012. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it has studied the reasons why the suicide rates of men and elderly persons were higher than those of other groups, and why the suicide rate of teenagers soared last year; if it has, of the details; if not, whether it will conduct relevant studies;
- (2) whether it has analyzed if the phenomena of middle-aged men and elderly persons having higher suicide rates and the suicide rate of teenagers soaring reflect that the Government and the community have failed to provide sufficient support for the aforesaid groups; of the respective support services currently provided by the Government for these groups; and
- (3) whether the Government will make reference to the statistics on suicides and outcome of analysis on the causes of suicides and consider providing more targeted support services for people of different age groups in need; if it will, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Handling of postal items by Hongkong Post

(13) Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT (Written Reply)

It has been reported that a press group posted a number of letters on 29 August this year, but two months later, the Hongkong Post (“HKP”) returned to the sender nine of those letters in a document envelope. All of the returned letters had postage fully paid, with only one of them bearing incomplete recipient address and another two suspectedly having been opened and then sealed again. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the circumstances under which HKP officers will open or allow other people to open postal items; whether HKP has, at present, put in place any monitoring mechanism to ensure that the opening of postal items will not lead to the leakage of personal privacy; if it has, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (2) of the circumstances under which HKP will refuse to deliver a postal item with complete recipient address and postage fully paid; the channel(s) through which senders may lodge complaints about the refusal of HKP to deliver such postal items, and how the authorities follow up such a complaint;
- (3) of the circumstances under which HKP will return to a sender in a document envelope postal item(s) bearing incomplete recipient address(es) together with other postal item(s) bearing complete recipient address(es) mailed by the same sender;
- (4) of the number of working days it normally takes for HKP to go through the procedure of returning an undelivered postal item to the sender; and
- (5) whether HKP will explain to the senders the reasons for returning their postal items; if HKP will, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Public library services

(21) Hon TANG Ka-piu (Written Reply)

Some members of the Sha Tin District Council (“STDC”) have relayed to me that while the population of Tai Wai has continued to grow in recent years, only mobile library services are provided for the local residents who have all along been requesting the authorities to provide a district library in that area. Regarding the provision of public library services, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) as it is stipulated in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines drawn up by the Planning Department that there should be one district library for every 200 000 persons, and there are comments that the population of Tai Wai has reached that threshold, whether the authorities will construct a district library in Tai Wai; if they will not, of the reasons for that; if they will, of the details, including the selected site, the site area and the proposed collection size of the library;
- (2) given that a STDC member and I have recommended to the Government that temporary libraries be provided in the vacant school premises in Tai Wai, whether the authorities will accept such a recommendation; if they will, of the details of the follow-up work; if not, the reasons for that;
- (3) given that the authorities indicated at an STDC meeting that additional mobile library stops would be provided in Mei Tin Estate, of the progress of the relevant plan; whether the authorities will provide more mobile library stops in other locations in Tai Wai (such as Sun Chui Estate, Chun Shek Estate and Sun Tin Wai Estate); if they will, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (4) whether the authorities received in the past three years any recommendation from District Councils (“DCs”) other than STDC regarding the construction of district libraries; if they did, of the DCs involved, and whether the authorities accepted such recommendations?