

政府總部  
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工務科



**Works Branch  
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31 January 2018

Ms Anita Sit  
Assistant Secretary General 1  
Finance Committee of the Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road, Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Sit,

**Finance Committee of the Legislative Council  
Follow-up action arising from the meeting on 12 January 2018**

Thank you for your email of 15 January 2018, requesting supplementary information relating to the proposed creation of a permanent Chief Landscape Architect post in the Architectural Services Department [FCR(2017-18)47]. The requisite information is set out in the following paragraphs.

**(a) Use of pesticides in landscape projects**

Under the Pesticides Ordinance (Cap. 133), only pesticides registered under the Pesticides Register maintained by the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (DAFC) can be used in Hong Kong.

Moreover, contractors and staff members are required to follow the “Code of Practice for the Safe and Proper Use of Pesticides in Public Areas”, which provides practical guidelines on the safe and proper use of pesticides in public areas, including safety measures for the handling, application, storage and disposal of pesticides to protect worker safety, prevent unnecessary dispersion and forestall danger or harm to the

public and the environment. For instance, when applying pesticides, the pesticide application area must be cordoned off and notices should be posted after pesticide application at prominent locations.

**(b) Evaluation of Contractors' Performance for Government Landscape Projects**

Contractors performing landscape work for government building contracts are evaluated regularly during the contract period under the Development Bureau's contractor performance reporting system, covering aspects like standard of the materials (e.g. plant stocks, planting soil), standard of planting and tree works, protection of trees, adherence to site safety requirements to ensure the safety of workers and the public, pollution prevention, etc.

**(c) Removal of Old Trees in Silver Mine Bay**

A Member asked why an old tree in Silver Mine Bay Beach had been removed. The tree in question was a *Casuarina equisetifolia*, which was under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). The tree was located beside a main pedestrian path. During routine tree inspection on 20 December 2017, LCSD noted that most of the tree roots were exposed and wilted, with a large cavity one metre above the tree base. After assessment by arborists, the tree was rated "very likely" to collapse under strong winds, hence posing potential danger to the public. Given the imminent danger and in anticipation of increasing pedestrian flow in the upcoming festive season, LCSD removed the tree on 21 December 2017.

**(d) New Landscape Architect Posts to be Created in 2018-19**

We propose to create two Chief Landscape Architect posts, one each in the Civil Engineering and Development Department and the Highways Department in 2018-19. We would consult the Panel on Development shortly before seeking funding approval from the Finance Committee.

We review the need for landscape architectural support in various departments from time to time, having regard to the implementation of various landscape and greening policies and initiatives to address the community's aspirations.

Please let me know if you require further information. I can be reached by phone at 3509 8272 or by email at [joeylam@devb.gov.hk](mailto:joeylam@devb.gov.hk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joey Lam', written in a cursive style.

(Joey Lam)  
for Secretary for Development