

財經事務及庫務局



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**FINANCIAL SERVICES AND THE
TREASURY BUREAU**

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電話號碼 Tel. No. : 2810 2232
本函檔號 Our Ref. : TsyB W 00/645-1-15/3 (20-21)
來函檔號 Your Ref. :

10 March 2020

The Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP
Chairman of the Finance Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Chairman,

**Finance Committee
Follow-up to the meeting on 9 March 2020**

Regarding the follow-up issues arising from the above meeting, we have consulted the relevant bureaux/departments and would like to respond first to some of the issues for which information has been prepared. For the remaining issues, a supplementary response will be given later. The information prepared is set out at **Enclosure** for reference.

Yours sincerely,

(Original signed)

(Howard LEE)
for Secretary for Financial Services
and the Treasury

Enclosure**Head 703 Subhead 3004GX, Head 703 Subhead 3101GX and Head 705 Subhead 5101CX****Temporary quarantine camps works project**

- (a) **For the temporary quarantine camps at Upper/Lower Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village, Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre and Junior Police Call (JPC) Permanent Activity Centre at Pat Heung (“the four quarantine camps”), are their building services requirements the same? Do they include prefabricated components? If yes, what are the places of origin of these components/services;**

The technical specification requirements of the building services systems of the four temporary quarantine camps are basically the same.

Having regard to the construction period, delivery time of materials and work process requirements of individual works projects, some of the building services installations (such as power distribution units) of the quarantine units are prefabricated off-site by using the “modular integrated construction” method.

For building services materials, contractors will recommend and submit for approval the materials to be used with regard to market situation and materials specifications. These materials come from various places such as Mainland China, Europe and some other Asian countries. Regardless of their places of origin, the materials will be considered for use as long as they meet the materials specifications requirements.

Security services of quarantine facilities

- (b) **(i) The justifications for using direct appointment rather than open tender for service contracts to procure the security services of the quarantine centre at Chun Yeung Estate; and (ii) the procurement method for the security services of the four quarantine camps;**

(i) Before the quarantine centre at Chun Yeung Estate commenced operation, due to the rapid spread of the epidemic, the continued increase in the number of people requiring quarantine and the fact that the existing quarantine centres have almost reached their maximum capacity, the Government had to substantially increase the supply of quarantine units in a short period of time and set up as soon as possible a quarantine centre at Chun Yeung Estate so as to accommodate the large number of people requiring quarantine, particularly the Hong Kong citizens brought back from the Diamond Princess cruise ship and those stranded in Hubei Province.

The quarantine centres are jointly operated by various government departments, with venue management duties taken up mainly by the Civil Aid Service (CAS). As the quarantine centre at Chun Yeung Estate was larger in size and more and more

quarantine centres had come into operation, a lot of manpower was required to provide security services. Besides the CAS staff stationed at the centres, the Government also had to hire security companies to assist the CAS and strengthen the security services of the quarantine centres.

In view of this and for the purposes of protecting public health and ensuring the early operation of the quarantine centre at Chun Yeung Estate, the Department of Health (DH) directly appointed a security company under the Stores and Procurement Regulations to provide the security services for the quarantine centre at Chun Yeung Estate.

Before making the direct appointment, the DH has made reference to the quotations of four security companies for the services concerned. Of these four companies, the company directly appointed was the one that has met all the services requirements with the lowest bid. In the appointment process, the Government has also taken into consideration such factors as the performance of the contractors in their services with various government departments, previous records (if any) of being convicted for contravening the Employment Ordinance or other relevant legislation, as well as the reasonableness of the prices quoted.

(ii) The quarantine centres currently in operation include Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village in Chai Wan, Heritage Lodge of Jao Tsung-I Academy, and Chun Yeung Estate in Fo Tan. Among them, Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village in Chai Wan and Heritage Lodge of Jao Tsung-I Academy are jointly operated by various government departments, with CAS being responsible for venue management. So far, no external security companies have been hired. Meanwhile, the quarantine centre at the JPC Permanent Activity Centre at Pat Heung is about to commence operation and preparation work is now underway. As this centre is larger in size with uneven terrain, it is rather difficult to manage the venue. Depending on the manpower demand for venue management, we tentatively plan to procure the security services by invitation of quotations.

Head 703 Subhead 3100GX

Additional courtrooms and associated facilities at lower ground fourth floor (LG4/F) in the High Court Building — consultants' fees

(d) The area of the existing library at LG4/F of the High Court Building and the area of the library after relocation to the first floor of the High Block, Queensway Government Offices under the above project;

The area of the existing High Court Library is about 900 square metres. The size of the new library after relocation would be similar to the existing one. The Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) and the Judiciary are having discussions on, inter alia, the layout and facilities of the new library. The Judiciary will later consult the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services on the details of the project "032LJ — Additional courtrooms and associated facilities at lower ground fourth floor

in the High Court Building”.

Head 703 Subhead 3100GX

Construction of the District Court at Caroline Hill Road, Causeway Bay — minor investigations and consultants’ fees

- (e) **Will the Government consider renovating the existing District Courts and/or enhancing their equipment (particularly the security equipment such as closed-circuit television system) to temporarily cater for some of the needs of court users before completion of the District Court relocation projects;**

The ArchSD has been providing building maintenance services for the existing District Court. Various renovation and improvement works were also carried out upon requests from the Judiciary. The ArchSD has conveyed Members’ queries and opinions to the Judiciary for follow-up. The ArchSD will also provide necessary support on technical and works aspects to meet the needs of court users.

Head 706 Subhead 6100TX

Contract No. CE23/2017(TT) Electronic Road Pricing Pilot Scheme in Central and its adjacent areas — feasibility study

- (f) **The progress of the feasibility study and the timetable of relevant work, including whether the study has accepted the views given by the Central and Western District Council (C&W DC) Members on the Pilot Scheme a few years ago (if yes, please briefly describe the views accepted), and when will the C&W DC be consulted on the findings of the feasibility study or the implementation details of the Pilot Scheme;**

The Transport Department (TD) consulted different stakeholders on the concepts and preliminary ideas of the Electronic Road Pricing Pilot Scheme (“the Pilot Scheme”) in Central in mid-2019, including the C&W DC, professional bodies, academics, transport trades, business associations, green groups and youth groups. The stakeholders have expressed a broad range of views on the concepts and preliminary ideas of the Pilot Scheme.

The TD is now working on the concrete proposal of the Pilot Scheme. Detailed suggestions on the Pilot Scheme, including the timetable and scope of stakeholder consultation, will be confirmed after careful consideration of the latest social situation in Hong Kong.

Head 706 Subhead 6100TX

Installation of signs displaying “except taxi pick up or drop off” beneath traffic signs with a specific no-stopping restriction

- (g) Regarding a video clip showing a traffic police officer with both hands off the hand grips when driving a motorcycle, the Hong Kong Police Force explained that the police officer was then giving signals with both hands at the same time based on his professional judgment. In this connection, would the TD confirm whether a motorcyclist giving signals with both hands at the same time complies with relevant regulations and/or guidelines (including the Road Users' Code), so as to enable Members to consider the effectiveness of road traffic restrictions and the merits of proceeding with above sign installation work;

The Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374) and the Road Users' Code do not have specific regulations on how a driver should control the hand grips when driving a motorcycle. However, it is important that a driver should always remain cautious and focused when driving on the road and should give reasonable consideration to the safety of other road users.

Head 707 Subhead 7100CX

Smart City Proof of Concept (PoC) Trials in Kowloon East

- (h) (i) The objectives and main features of the project; and (ii) the annual estimated and actual expenditures since the creation of this project item;

(i) The Energizing Kowloon East Office of the Development Bureau is responsible for the implementation of this project, comprising seven smart city PoC trials, which aims to demonstrate the benefits of smart city development and to provide better understanding of the feasibility of wider application. Three of the PoC trials related to smart crowd management system, persona and preference-based way-finding for pedestrians, and energy efficiency data system have been completed, while the other four trials related to kerbside loading/unloading bay monitoring system, multi-purpose lamp posts, smart recycling bin system, and real-time roadworks information are in progress. For details of the PoCs, please visit https://www.ekeo.gov.hk/en/smart_city/index.html.

- (ii) The annual estimated and actual expenditures of the project are set out below:

Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
\$ million					
Estimated expenditure	3.0	2.4	2.4	1.8	1.7
Actual expenditure	1.0	1.6	1.9	—	—

Head 707 Subhead 7100CX

Protective and upkeeping works for the site of ex-Kennedy Town Incineration Plant/Abattoir and adjoining area

- (i) In clearing the barriers on the road in recent months, the Highways Department (HyD) has moved some of the barriers to the site of this project

for temporary storage. What is the expenditure incurred? Which department is charged for the expenditure?

Over the past few months, the HyD has been working with relevant departments in clearing the barriers on public road after large-scale public events were held in various districts. The purpose is to let traffic resume as soon as possible and to protect the safety of road users.

The barriers cleared by the HyD contractors include road bricks dug up, roadside railings removed and water barriers. For items requiring special treatment such as dangerous goods and chemical wastes, they are cleared by other relevant departments.

The HyD is responsible for assisting the clearance of barriers on the road, including mainly construction materials (such as road bricks damaged) and other facilities on public road. Items requiring special treatment such as dangerous goods and chemical wastes are not included. The HyD contractors will move the barriers to landfills, refuse transfer stations or public filling facilities designated by the Government. In general, the contractors will move the reusable inert construction wastes to public filling areas and non-inert construction wastes to landfills.

In view of the service hours limitation of the above landfill facilities and the barrier clearance arrangements, as well as the fact that the vehicles used to remove barriers have limited capacity, some of the barriers may have to be moved to other places for temporary storage. In the past few months, some barriers were moved to a temporary site of the HyD on Sai Ning Street for temporary storage and were all cleared and removed from the site late last year. For the public event held in Central on 1 January 2020, as the landfill facilities were closed that day which was a public holiday, some of the barriers had been moved to the above site for temporary storage for a few hours. They were later moved to the landfill facilities as appropriate. Since then, the HyD has not used that site for temporary storage of barriers. The costs of the HyD in moving to the landfill facilities the barriers temporarily stored in the site at Sai Ning Street was about \$0.26 million and was charged to the HyD as recurrent expenditure for the year 2019/20.

Other new items anticipated to be created in the year 2020-2021

(k) The full list of new items (if any) anticipated to be created under Capital Works Reserve Fund (CWRF) in the year 2020-2021 but not shown in LC Paper No. PWSC(2019-20)23 (as at March 2020)

At present, we do not know if there are any new items not shown in the “Full List of Items” submitted along with LC Paper No. PWSC(2019-20)23 but with specific plan to be carried out under the CWRF block allocations in 2020-21.

We anticipate that the Controlling Officers may, in light of the latest development, need to create, set aside or withdraw new items in mid-year. For new items created in mid-year, they will be reflected in the “Full List of Items” submitted along with the paper seeking funding application for next year in end-2020.