



電話 TEL: 2601 8966
圖文傳真 FAX NO: 2602 1480
本署檔號 OUR REF: (15) in LCSD/4-35/46 C (Pt. 2)
來函檔號 YOUR REF:

9 April 2021

Ms Wendy JAN
Clerk
Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council
1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms JAN,

**Public Accounts Committee
Consideration of Chapter 2 of
the Director of Audit's Report No. 75
Government's efforts in tackling shoreline refuse**

I refer to your letter dated 30 March 2021 concerning the above subject.
Our response is set out below -

Additional clean-up operations at gazetted beaches

2. When the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) deploys additional cleansing workers to its gazetted beaches to meet the needs of the venues, it will make the request to the cleansing service contractors for additional cleansing workers in accordance with the terms specified in the cleansing service contracts. Generally speaking, the unit and amount for additional cleansing workers are calculated by means of the number of cleansing workers providing additional services and their shifts. There are various shifts, say every one hour, two hours, four hours, eight hours per shift or on man-month terms. Currently, the amount payable for the above-mentioned shifts are already specified in the three contracts related with the provision of cleansing services at gazetted beaches. The amount payable by LCSD for a particular month will be calculated by taking into account the request for additional service made to the contractor and the additional services actually provided in the month according to the payment amount specified in the contract.

3. LCSD may, as special circumstances may require, ask contractors to deploy additional cleansing workers for instant clearance or cleansing operation on the day-to-day management of the leisure venues. Details of the arrangement have been set out in the Contract Management Manual of LCSD, which stipulates the matters requiring attention from venue management staff when requiring contractor to provide additional services under the contract, including the justifications for such requirements and record of certification by supervisor. LCSD has reminded the management staff of beaches to manage requests of providing additional cleansing services by contractor in accordance with the established contract management mechanism.

Additional clean-up operations at Rocky Bay Beach

4. Rocky Bay Beach is one of the gazetted beaches of LCSD in the Southern District, which is unsuitable for swimming given its geographical condition. Hence, members of the public are not encouraged to swim at the beach, where ancillary facilities such as toilets and changing rooms, etc. are not provided. However, as Rocky Bay Beach is situated in Shek O picnic area and adjacent to Shek O Beach, quite a number of members of the public go to the beach for a tour or sun-bathing.

5. In view of the increase in the number of visitors to Rocky Bay Beach and Shek O Beach during summer and weekends, additional cleansing workers are deployed to work on the two beaches every alternate Friday to ensure a hygienic environment. Besides, as the two beaches are adjacent to each other while Rocky Bay Beach is not provided with a beach building, the venue-based cleansing workers (including the additional cleansing workers) of Rocky Bay Beach will continue providing service at Shek O Beach after finishing their daily work so as to assist in coping with the heavy cleaning workload at Shek O Beach for the sake of management convenience and effective use of manpower. Hence, the additional cleansing workers are required to provide services for both Rocky Bay Beach and Shek O Beach.

Provision of water dispensers at gazetted beaches

6. Based on past experience, it normally takes about two years to install water dispensers at LCSD's outdoor land-based venues served with a full range of infrastructure, such as parks, etc. As the ancillary facilities of beaches are generally not comparable with those of land-based venues, installation works at beaches are more time consuming, usually taking about three years. As Tong Fuk Beach is relatively remote and lacks ancillary infrastructure, the works departments need more time to carry out the preparatory work for the installation of water dispensers, including assessment of implications to existing plumbing, drainage and electrical systems, estimation of adequacy of existing water pressure, exploration of design alternatives to cope with site constraints and the seeking of

approval from the Water Services Department (WSD) for the design proposal, etc. as mentioned in the Audit Report.

7. The installation of water dispensers at Tong Fuk Beach took more than four years because LCSD proposed to the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) to increase the number of water dispensers from one to two during the course of the preparatory work, with the aim of facilitating the use of the water dispensers by different people, including adults, children and people with disabilities. As a result, ArchSD had to revise the proposal and submit revised drawings to WSD. The works were only carried out after permission was obtained from WSD and the commencement permission application submitted, leading to the delay of about one year in the completion of the works. Learning from the experience, LCSD would avoid requesting for change of details of works after commencement of the project except when necessary. LCSD will strengthen liaison with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) and ArchSD, with a view to shortening the time required as far as practicable.

8. The total expenditure for the installation of water dispensers at Tong Fuk Beach was \$240,000, including the works cost paid to ArchSD and EMSD. Water dispenser facilities were provided by LCSD at nine gazetted beaches over the past three years, involving a total of 19 water dispensers. The expenditure for each water dispenser ranged from \$50,000 to \$120,000 and installation took 23 to 56 months.

9. Provision of water dispensers at gazetted beaches, water sports centres and other leisure venues of LCSD is meant to provide better facilities to enable members of the public to drink water after exercising rather than being solely adopted as a measure to promote environmental protection and reduce waste from entering the marine environment. From our daily observations, quite a number of members of the public drink water from the water dispensers after swimming or exercising. Hence, there is practical necessity for such provision. LCSD will render full support to the measures put forward by the Environmental Protection Department in assessing the effectiveness of reducing shoreline refuse and explore with relevant departments the feasibility of cutting the lead time and costs for the works.


10. LCSD will enhance liaison with ArchSD and EMSD so as to speed up installation of water dispensers as far as practicable and explore the feasibility of applying innovative technology in future. Besides, to strengthen monitoring of the progress of installation of water dispensers, progress of any new installation of water dispensers at LCSD's venues has to be reported periodically to district management for the purposes of monitoring and escalating the issue to management staff and relevant works departments for discussion when necessary.

11. Most of LCSD's beaches are already provided with water dispensers or are under planning for provision of water dispensers. As at 31 March 2021, 29

beaches of LCSD are provided with water dispensers. Among the 12 beaches not yet provided with water dispensers, the installation works at two beaches, i.e. Ting Kau Beach and Hoi Mei Wan Beach will be completed within this year; the installation at the other six beaches, including Gemini Beaches, Kwun Yam Beach, Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach, Silver Mine Bay Beach, Anglers' Beach and Trio Beach are expected to be completed in 2022 and 2023. Three out of the four remaining beaches, i.e. Casam Beach, Kiu Tsui Beach and Hap Mun Bay Beach cannot be provided with water dispensers due to the lack of infrastructure, such as water supply or sewage disposal system. Regarding Rocky Bay Beach which is not provided with a beach building, associated ancillary facilities and lifesaving service, LCSD will assess whether there is a need to provide water dispenser facilities there as soon as possible.

12. For further information, please feel free to contact me at 2601 8966.

Yours sincerely,

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

(Mr Horman CHAN)
for Director of Leisure and Cultural Services