

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)2270/99-00

Ref : CB2/PS/4/99

Paper for the LegCo Panel on Security

Report of the Subcommittee on Emergency Ambulance Service

Purpose

This paper reports on the deliberations of the Subcommittee on Emergency Ambulance Service.

The Subcommittee

2. At the Panel meeting held on 28 January 2000, members expressed concern that the inclusion of the response time of ambulance-aid motorcycles in calculating the overall performance of the emergency ambulance service would lead to a better overall response time performance. Members decided that a subcommittee be formed to study in detail issues relating to emergency ambulance service. The membership and terms of reference of the Subcommittee are in **Appendices I and II** respectively.

3. Under the chairmanship of Hon James TO, the Subcommittee has held two meetings, including one meeting with the Administration. The Subcommittee has also met representatives from the Hong Kong Fire Services Department Ambulancemen's Union.

Deliberations of the Subcommittee

4. The major issues and concerns discussed by the Subcommittee are summarized below.

5. The Subcommittee has noted that according to the statistics covering the period between December 1999 and February 2000 provided by the Administration, 93.15% of the emergency ambulance service calls meet the "within 12-minute response time" target, compared to the Fire Services Department (FSD)'s pledged performance of

92.5%. Of all the responded calls, only 0.94 i.e. less than 1% of the calls have to rely on the ambulance-aid motorcycles for fulfilling the response time target, and for 92.21% of the cases, ambulances are able to arrive at the scene within a response time of 12 minutes.

6. The Administration has also explained that as part of the Enhanced Productivity Programme of the FSD in 2000-01, the emergency ambulance service would be strengthened by the addition of eight ambulance-aid motorcycles to further improve the coverage of ambulance-aid motorcycle service. At the same time, three ambulances have reached the end of their serviceable life and would be withdrawn from service. The arrangement would help optimise the utilisation of emergency resources, and facilitate prompt and effective emergency response, particularly to urgent cases requiring immediate attention, or city centres with traffic congestion problems or rural areas without proper road network. As a result of this initiative, each of 29 ambulance depots in the territory would be served by at least one ambulance-aid motorcycle and the emergency ambulance service contingent will operate with 31 ambulance-aid motorcycles and 209 ambulance together.

7. The Subcommittee has questioned how the response time target adopted by FSD compares with that adopted in overseas cities. The Administration has responded that the performance target of emergency ambulance service compares favourably with overseas standards. Many metropolitan cities have not set any performance targets for emergency ambulance service. The Administration is confident that with the Third Generation Mobilizing System in place, further improvement in performance could be made.

8. While improvement in response time performance is important, the Subcommittee considers that the quality of emergency rescue service provided by the ambulance crews is of equal importance. The Subcommittee urges that the knowledge and skills in paramedic service of ambulance crews should constantly be enhanced.

9. The Administration has responded that a range of training courses are provided to the ambulance crews. All newly recruited ambulancemen will receive a 24-week residential training. Selected ambulance supervisors who possess the requisite qualification are nominated to attend Emergency Medical Assistant II Programme. Selected ambulance supervisors who possess valid motorcycle driving licence will attend a three-week ambulance-aid motorcycle driving course. After that, they will attend a specially designed two-week training course which focuses on using of ambulance-aid motorcycle equipment and on reinforcing their skill on Airway Management, control of haemorrhage and procedures of attending major incidents. The Administration has informed members that a review of paramedic ambulance service by the FSD was underway. The Administration has undertaken to provide the Panel with the review report when it is completed.

Observation and recommendation

10. The Subcommittee considers that the inclusion of the response time of ambulance-aid motorcycles has minimal effect on the overall response time performance of emergency ambulance service.

11. The Subcommittee recommends that separate statistics on the response time performance of ambulances and ambulance-aid motorcycles should be kept in order to assess the effect of ambulance-aid motorcycle on the overall response time performance of the emergency ambulance service.

Advice sought

12. Members are invited to note the work of the Subcommittee and endorse the recommendation made by the Subcommittee in paragraph 11 above.

立法會
保安事務委員會
LegCo Panel on Security

研究緊急救護車服務小組委員會
Subcommittee on Emergency Ambulance Service

委員名單
Membership List

涂謹申議員(主席)	Hon James TO Kun-sun (Chairman)
朱幼麟議員	Hon David CHU Yu-lin
楊孝華議員	Hon Howard YOUNG, JP

合共：3 位議員
Total: 3 Members

日期：2000年5月12日
Date: 12 May 2000

LegCo Panel on Security

**Subcommittee on
Emergency Ambulance Service**

Terms of reference

To examine in detail the issue of emergency ambulance service in Hong Kong and to make recommendations to the Panel where necessary.