



審計署  
香港灣仔  
告士打道七號  
入境事務大樓  
二十六樓

Audit Commission  
26th Floor  
Immigration Tower  
7 Gloucester Road  
Wanchai, Hong Kong

圖文傳真 Facsimile : 2583 9063

電話 Telephone : 2829 4219

本署檔號 Our Ref. : UB/PAC/VFM/42-2

來函檔號 Your Ref. : CB(3)/PAC/R42

5 June 2004

Clerk, Public Accounts Committee  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road, Central  
Hong Kong  
(Attn: Ms Dora Wai)

Dear Ms Wai,

**The Director of Audit's Report on the  
results of value for money audits (Report No. 42)**

**Chapter 3: Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage I**

Thank you for your letter of 29 May 2004 inviting my additional comments on the following issues.

**Beach attendance**

Table 4 in Chapter 7 of my Report No. 42 only provided the **daily average** numbers of beach goers at the Tsuen Wan beaches **for the whole year from 2000 to 2002**. Audit has further examined the statistics compiled by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. At the Appendix is a more comprehensive set of attendance figures of the Tsuen Wan beaches **during the bathing season**, from March to October, in 2001, 2002 **and 2003**.

Figures in the Appendix provide the average daily attendance, indicating separately the attendance on weekdays and during weekends (including public holidays). In addition, the peak day and peak month attendance figures are also provided. The peak attendance figures show that, despite the poor water quality, some of the Tsuen Wan beaches were quite popular. For example, for Lido Beach in 2003, while the average daily attendance was 149 on weekdays and 283 on weekends and public holidays, **the peak day attendance was as high as 3,950 and the peak month attendance was 8,430**. Indeed, the total attendance during the period from March to October 2003 was 41,071. In Audit's

view, the figures in the Appendix give a clear picture about the attendance of the Tsuen Wan beaches and obviate the need for Audit to conduct site visits to the beaches to verify the number of swimmers from 5 am to 7 am for two to three days, as suggested by the Public Accounts Committee.

According to paragraph 5.21 of the Audit Report, the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works has accepted the audit recommendation to reduce the bacteria level in the western harbour area and the Tsuen Wan beaches. In her letter of 18 May 2004 addressed to you, the Secretary said that she intended to advance the provision of part of the permanent disinfection facilities at the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works so as to reduce the bacteria level of the treated effluent.

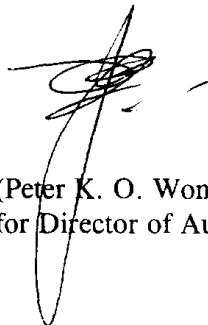
#### **Replacement cost for defective mucking system**

*The exclusion clause and the no claim statement* were only relevant in the Drainage Services Department's (DSD) decision as to whether the claim submitted by Contractor E for the replacement cost of the defective mucking system should be accepted. ***Once the claim was accepted, the clause and the statement did not affect the assessment of the quantum of payment to Contractor E.***

As mentioned in paragraph 4.13 of the Audit Report, the DSD had sought legal advice in determining whether to accept the claim submitted by Contractor E. On the strength of the advice given, the DSD accepted Contractor E's claim, and was obliged to pay for the replacement cost ***under the terms of the contract.*** As such, Contractor E was entitled to be compensated in full the additional expenditure incurred for replacing the mucking system. Audit reviewed the basis of assessing the quantum of payment to Contractor E and found that the assessment was made in accordance with the terms of the contract. The Consultant verified the actual additional expenditure incurred by Contractor E and the DSD approved the payment.

A Chinese translation of this letter will be forwarded to you shortly.

Yours sincerely,



(Peter K. O. Wong)  
for Director of Audit

## Number of visitors to Tsuen Wan beaches

Beach	Average daily attendance		Peak attendance		Total attendance	Beach closed
	Weekdays	Weekends & public holidays	Peak day	Peak month		
<b>2001 (March - October)</b>						
Lido	121	393	2,100	11,900	51,400	
Anglers'	56	172	1,859	9,568	22,956	*
Casam	27	72	350	2,030	10,238	
Approach	29	60	145	1,533	9,532	*
Ting Kau	19	37	111	994	6,186	*
Hoi Mei Wan	0	7	47	168	614	
Gemini	0	4	35	138	325	
<b>2002 (March - October)</b>						
Lido	99	222	1,305	6,665	33,816	
Anglers'	48	133	844	3,387	18,333	*
Casam	26	52	170	1,573	8,400	
Approach	21	43	69	917	6,914	*
Ting Kau	10	26	42	537	3,606	*
Gemini	7	17	40	447	2,529	
Hoi Mei Wan	2	11	49	220	1,152	
<b>2003 (March - October)</b>						
Lido	149	283	3,950	8,430	41,071	*
Anglers'	61	134	1,515	3,921	18,089	*
Casam	30	62	560	1,972	8,585	*
Approach	26	51	82	1,043	7,299	*
Hoi Mei Wan	7	32	103	711	3,183	*
Ting Kau	9	24	43	411	2,915	*
Gemini	1	2	20	301	301	*

Source: Records of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

\* Denotes this beach was closed during that period.