

**Supplementary question raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing
Session No. : 7**

Reply Serial No	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-THB(T)01	SV023	LI Fung-ying	42	Mechanical Installations Safety
S-THB(T)02	S024	WONG Kwok-hing	42	Mechanical Installations Safety
S-THB(T)03	S023	WONG Kwok-hing	60	Capital Projects
S-THB(T)04	SV021	CHAN Tanya	100	Local Services
S-THB(T)05	S022	WONG Kwok-hing	186	Planning and Development

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

S-THB(T)01

Question Serial No.

SV023

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead
(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question: The Administration is requested to explain why the number of renewal applications under the voluntary registration scheme for vehicle mechanics in 2011 was only 3 739, whereas the number of registration applications in 2008 was 5 524, as each registration is valid for three years and renewal of registration is required.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply: Registration under the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics is valid for three years and subject to renewal. The number of renewal applications received in 2011 was less than the number of those newly registered in 2008, mainly because some of the registered mechanics had missed the renewal deadline and some had retired or left the trade. Amongst the 8 940 mechanics whose registration was due for renewal by 31 December 2011, 6 114 have already renewed their registration, 1 454 indicated that they had missed the renewal deadline and would submit their renewal applications soon, whilst the remaining 1 372 had no plan to renew either because they had retired or left the trade, or for other reasons. On the other hand, from 2009 to 2011, there were 1 373 mechanics who had registered for the first time.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ **CHAN Fan** _____

Post Title: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date: _____ **19 March 2012** _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

S-THB(T)02

S024

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

For “the completed investigation of railway incidents” in 2011/2012, please advise this committee:

- (a) The number of people affected by the railway incidents;
- (b) The average time required to carry out the investigation of railway incidents; and
- (c) Has any punitive action been taken against MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) due to the railway incidents? If so, what are the details? And if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) is responsible for the safety aspects of railway system and does not have statistical data on the number of people affected by railway incidents.
- (b) The time required to complete an investigation into railway incident depends on the nature and complexity of the incident in question. In general, an investigation into minor incidents usually takes a few days to complete whilst it may take a few months to complete the entire investigation process for some complicated incidents.
- (c) Railway incidents investigated by EMSD in 2011 did not reveal any safety non-compliance with the existing requirements. Therefore no punitive action has been taken.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ CHAN Fan

Post Title: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date: _____ 19 March 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

S-THB(T)03

Question Serial No.

S023

Head: 60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question: Q6

Regarding the 'investigation and preliminary design for the Tuen Mun Western Bypass', will the Administration inform this Committee of:

- a. timetable of the advance works;
- b. the estimated cost and alignment of the project mentioned above;
- c. the number of jobs to be created for professional staff/technical staff/workers by the project mentioned above; and
- d. the scheduled date of completion.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- a. We are working on the traffic impact assessment, environmental impact assessment, ground investigation and preliminary design relating to the proposed Tuen Mun Western Bypass (TMWB) project, all of which are anticipated to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2012.
- b,c,d. The alignment of the TMWB project has gained the support of the Tuen Mun District Council. The southern section of the bypass will be constructed in the form of a tunnel connecting the proposed Tuen Mun–Chek Lap Kok Link at Pillar Point, Tuen Mun. The tunnel exit at the northern end will be situated at the east of Tsun Wen Road / Tsing Tin Road Interchange. The northern section of the alignment will provide a dual two-lane viaduct next to the Tuen Mun Road outside Siu Hong Station of West Rail in Tuen Mun. This section will cross over the Lam Tei Interchange and go northbound along the Castle Peak Road. After passing through the bottom of Kong Sham Western Highway, this section will cross over the vehicular bridge of West Rail and connect the Kong Sham Western Highway near the existing cement plant at Yick Yuen.

The estimated cost, number of jobs to be created and anticipated date of completion of the project can only be confirmed after the preliminary design is completed.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

S-THB(T)03

Question Serial No.

S023

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: K K LAU

Post Title: Director of Highways

Date: 16.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

S-THB(T)04

Question Serial No.

SV021

Head: 100 Marine Department

Subhead:

Programme: (3) Local Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Marine

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Administration is requested to advise whether legislative amendments are required to be introduced to implement a cross-boundary sailing scheme for private vessels.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

All visiting pleasure vessels from outside Hong Kong are currently regulated by existing marine legislation for entry into Hong Kong waters. As the details of the cross-boundary sailing scheme for pleasure vessels are yet to be developed, it is premature at this stage to advise on whether amendments are needed.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: FRANCIS H. P. LIU

Post Title: Director of Marine

Date: 15.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-THB(T)05

Question Serial No.

S022

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the work "continue to encourage franchised bus companies to deploy environment-friendly buses at busy corridors", would the Administration advise this Committee the number of environment-friendly franchised buses currently operating in Hong Kong.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

As at 31 December 2011, there were a total of 5 798 franchised buses operating in Hong Kong. Among which, 5 797 buses have environment-friendly engines that meet European emission standards. The Administration has been working with the franchised bus companies to promote the deployment of more environment-friendly buses along busy corridors. As at 31 December 2011, all the franchised buses running on Yee Wo Street, 98% on Nathan Road, 95% on Hennessy Road, 94% on Des Voeux Road Central and 91% on Queensway were of Euro II or above emission standards.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

JOSEPH Y T LAI

Commissioner for Transport

16 March 2012