

本署檔號  
OUR REF: ( ) in EP 73/P2/2  
來函檔號  
YOUR REF: CB1/F/2/6(III)  
電話  
TEL. NO.: 3509 8628  
圖文傳真  
FAX NO: 2834 5648  
電子郵件  
E-MAIL: amyyuen@epd.gov.hk  
網址  
HOMEPAGE: <http://www.epd.gov.hk>

**Environmental Protection Department  
Headquarters**

15/F & 16/F, East Wing,  
Central Government Offices,  
2 Tim Mei Avenue,  
Tamar, Hong Kong.



環境保護署總部  
香港添馬  
添美道二號  
政府總部東翼  
十五及十六樓

7 May 2012

Clerk to Public Works Subcommittee  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road, Central  
Hong Kong

(Attn: Mr Derek LO)

Dear Mr Lo,

**Public Works Subcommittee  
Follow-up to meeting on 18 April 2012**

**Supplementary information pertaining to item PWSC(2012-13)6**

I refer to your letter referenced CB1/F/2/6(III) of 23 April 2012 to the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury.

During the Public Works Subcommittee's consideration of item PWSC(2012-13)6 proposing to upgrade part of **353DS** "Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 2 – upgrading of Mui Wo village sewerage phase 2 and Mui Wo sewage treatment works" to Category A on 18 April 2012, the Administration was requested to provide information on the number (and the percentage) of connections made by private village house owners to the public village sewerage system completed in recent years. We would provide the Administration's response as follows.

### **Provision of village sewerage**

The policy goals for the provision of sewage infrastructure to unsewered areas, including villages, are the protection of public health and the attainment of the declared Water Quality Objectives. The latter are set so as to ensure our waters are of a sufficient quality to sustain certain uses which are valued by the community. These include, variously, abstraction for water supply, swimming, boating, and the ability to sustain healthy aquatic ecosystems.

To meet the above policy goals, a series of Sewerage Master Plans (SMPs) are drawn up upon a systematic review of the sewerage needs in each sewerage catchment. The SMPs and subsequent reviews contain recommendations for various sewerage projects, including the identification of villages that should be sewered. Priorities and implementation timetables are also suggested for planning purposes.

In determining the priority for implementation of the recommended village sewerage projects, we would consider various factors including the extent of the environmental problems and the benefits of the new sewerage, future development of the area, population projections, proximity to trunk sewers, cost-effectiveness, project readiness and local views and support.

The detailed scope and extent of sewerage works, the villages to be covered, the facilities to be constructed and the realistic delivery programme for each of the recommended sewerage projects would be examined and developed during the design stage of the projects.

Since the early project planning stage to the construction stage, the relevant departments, including the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), Drainage Services Department (DSD) and Home Affairs Department, would arrange a series of consultation meetings and briefing sessions through the District Councils (DCs), Rural Committees (RCs), village representatives and the Heung Yee Kuk as necessary, to strengthen communication with affected villagers. This includes explaining to the villagers the usual problems encountered during the construction of village sewerage systems, provision of general information on sewerage projects which would cover the responsibility for sewer connections and sewage charges, and informing them of the works programme, for a better understanding of the project details, to forge consensus, to minimise nuisance to the villagers during works implementation, and to

avoid impacts regarding traditional culture and Feng Shui matters, etc. Based on past experience, the village sewerage projects are generally supported by the relevant DCs, RCs and villagers such that the projects could proceed smoothly. While objections could be raised against works gazetted under the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance (Cap. 370) as applied by section 26 of the Water Pollution Control (Sewerage) Regulation (Cap. 358AL) (WPC(S)R), the Administration would seek to resolve objections through communication and meeting with the objectors as well as amendment of the gazetted works where appropriate. We will continue to consult the concerned stakeholders as necessary in taking forward the village sewerage projects.

#### **Arrangement for village sewer connection**

Once public sewers have been laid in an area under the village sewerage programme, village house owners will be required under the WPC(S)R to convey wastewater arising from their premises to the public sewers. Proper connection of village houses to the public sewerage network will significantly improve the environmental and sanitary conditions of unsewered areas and reduce pollution to our rivers and coastal waters.

During construction of public sewers in villages, we will provide a tapping point along the new public sewer for each village house to be connected. The location of the tapping point will normally adjoin the future location of terminal manhole and will be agreed with the concerned lot owner on a case by case basis as far as possible. The public sewer will be extended to the agreed location with the tapping point, which for most of the cases is located within one metre from the lot boundary of the concerned village house. In some cases, where the terminal manhole for individual village houses has to be located on Government land for some reasons, the tapping point may be placed farther away from the lot boundary of the village house, but would normally be within a metre from the future terminal manhole. The typical village sewerage layout design is shown in **Enclosure**.

Under the existing practice, when the public village sewers are ready for connection, we will invite the village representatives and house owners to briefing sessions with a view to explaining the legal and technical requirements and details of making the connection. Advisory letters will then be issued to the house owners

concerned requesting them to complete the sewer connection works before a deadline. A time period of about 6 to 12 months is usually allowed for completing the connection works.

To facilitate house owners in carrying out the connection works, we will visit individual households to identify if there are any technical constraints and offer assistance where necessary. The concerned village representatives, RC and DC members often play an important part in facilitating connection works. Up to end February 2012, a total of some 6 300 village houses have been connected to public sewers, representing a connection rate of 88%<sup>1</sup>. In case of uncooperative house owners who show no intention to carry out the connection works after the specified period, EPD will consider serving statutory notices to them under Section 3 of the WPC(S)R. Up to end March 2012, we have issued a total of about 8 000 advisory letters and 1 500 statutory notices. As evidenced by the overall connection rate of 88% for village houses covered by public sewers, most of the house owners served with statutory notices had completed the connection works.

### **Village sewerage implementation in Islands and Mui Wo**

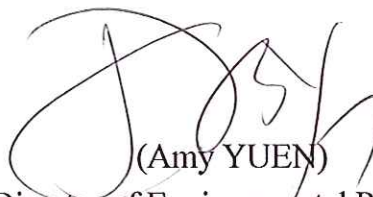
As at end February 2012 and excluding village houses that were not connected due to technical reasons, the connection rate for the 602 village houses covered by public sewers in the Islands District is 70% (410 houses). This is lower than the territory-wide figure in particular due to the inclusion of village houses in Peng Chau for which the public sewerage works were partly completed in 2011 and the sewer connection work has just begun. As to ongoing sewerage works at other areas in Mui Wo that a Member had raised at the meeting on 18 April 2012, these are being implemented under block allocation **Subhead 4100DX** "Drainage works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme". Under that project, sewer connection at Chung Hau should commence shortly while that at Pak Ngan Heung is not yet ready with discussion with the villagers on the tapping points for sewer connection in process.

---

<sup>1</sup> Village houses that were not connected to the public sewerage due to technical reasons such as limited space, inadequate hydraulic gradient, costly pumping requirement, obstruction from underground utilities, land resumption issues and encroachment on other's private land, etc., are excluded. Villages with house connections in progress are included, with houses not yet connected counting against the connection rate.

The part of **353DS** “Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 2 – upgrading of Mui Wo village sewerage phase 2 and Mui Wo sewage treatment works” that we are proposing for upgrading to Category A includes also the upgrading of the existing Mui Wo sewage treatment works and gravity trunk sewers in Mui Wo town centre to meet with the long-term sewerage need of the entire Mui Wo area. Of the total estimated cost, \$7.3 million (in September 2011 prices) is specifically for the construction of village sewerage in Wang Tong and Yue Kwong Chuen. From 2008 to 2011 when we were carrying out the detailed design of the proposed village sewerage works at Wang Tong and Yue Kwong Chuen under **353DS**, we conducted a series of consultation. Apart from consulting the Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environmental Hygiene Committee under the Islands District Council and the Mui Wo Rural Committee, we also consulted the village representatives and concerned villagers regarding the project scope and sewer alignment, and explained to them the sewer connection arrangement in future and their responsibility. We gazetted the proposed works in August 2009 and received three objections to the proposed land resumption area. After consultation with the objectors, all the objections had been resolved and the proposed works were authorized in March 2011. Through this series of public consultation, we understand that the local villagers support the proposed village sewerage works and would like to have the works commenced as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



(Amy YUEN)

for Director of Environmental Protection

c.c. SFST	(Attn.: Ms Joyce HO)	(Fax.: 2523 5722)
DDS	(Attn.: Mr TY YUEN)	(Fax.: 2827 9352)

