

**Chapter 8 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 65
Management of the public lighting system**

Written questions for reply

REPLY FROM EMSD

Q1.

The special lighting engineering services provided by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund (EMSTF) to Highways Department (HyD) is different from general road lighting engineering work, in that special lighting work requires specialized skills such as mechanical engineering involved in maintaining the winch of high mast lighting, and electronic engineering involved in maintaining underpass lighting control system. EMSTF is operating with a greater flexibility and is fully making use of the market resource to complement our professional team which is equipped with specialized skills and has profound experience. This enables us to provide comprehensive and cost-effective engineering services for special lighting installations.

We believe that HyD, like other client departments of EMSTF, has taken into consideration operational needs and cost-effectiveness in entrusting the engineering services of special lightings to EMSTF. EMSTF is the engineering work agent of HyD on special lightings, and contractors employed by EMSTF are managed directly by EMSTF.

Q2.

Following the Audit recommendation, EMSTF has already incorporated the 99.5% monthly availability requirement in the coming general special lighting subcontract to ensure subsequent execution by the subcontractor.

The 22 footbridges/subways/walkways mentioned in the Report were left out of regular patrol due to mismatch in the data records of HyD, EMSTF and the subcontractors. In October 2015, we already added these installations to the SLA and subcontract, and regular patrol already commenced since then. Thereafter, we will timely include the information of newly added installations to our database and the scope of subcontract to ensure that the regular patrol will include these newly added installations during the SLA period. We will also perform data matching among the databases of HyD, EMSTF and the subcontractors on a quarterly basis to ensure their accuracy and consistency.

5 January 2016