

立法會
Legislative Council

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**Paper for the House Committee meeting
of 15 March 2019**

**Questions scheduled for the
Legislative Council meeting of 20 March 2019**

Questions by:

- | | | |
|------|------------------------|-----------------|
| (1) | Hon Claudia MO | (Oral reply) |
| (2) | Hon WU Chi-wai | (Oral reply) |
| (3) | Hon Wilson OR | (Oral reply) |
| (4) | Hon LAU Kwok-fan | (Oral reply) |
| (5) | Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan | (Oral reply) |
| (6) | Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG | (Oral reply) |
| (7) | Hon CHAN Hoi-yan | (Written reply) |
| (8) | Hon Michael TIEN | (Written reply) |
| (9) | Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG | (Written reply) |
| (10) | Hon CHAN Han-pan | (Written reply) |
| (11) | Dr Hon Pierre CHAN | (Written reply) |
| (12) | Hon Alice MAK | (Written reply) |
| (13) | Hon CHAN Chi-chuen | (Written reply) |
| (14) | Hon YUNG Hoi-yan | (Written reply) |
| (15) | Hon Mrs Regina IP | (Written reply) |
| (16) | Hon Kenneth LAU | (Written reply) |
| (17) | Hon Dennis KWOK | (Written reply) |
| (18) | Hon SHIU Ka-chun | (Written reply) |
| (19) | Hon LAM Cheuk-ting | (Written reply) |
| (20) | Hon Holden CHOW | (Written reply) |
| (21) | Hon Tony TSE | (Written reply) |
| (22) | Hon Charles Peter MOK | (Written reply) |

註 :

NOTE :

議員將採用這種語言提出質詢

Member will ask the question in this language

Mainland residents coming to Hong Kong for settlement

(1) Hon Claudia MO (Oral reply)

Since 1997, a total of over a million Mainland residents have come to Hong Kong for settlement on Permits for Proceeding to Hong Kong and Macao (commonly known as “One-way Permits”) (“OWPs”). Some members of the public have pointed out that a large number of Mainland residents settling in Hong Kong has put a heavy burden on Hong Kong’s public services such as social welfare, housing, education and healthcare. Recently, the representatives of some doctor groups have claimed that the public healthcare system is on the verge of collapse. They have therefore called for the cessation of OWP issuance. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) given that Mainland residents may apply for OWPs for the reason, apart from family reunion, that they must come to Hong Kong for settlement due to other special circumstances, and some of those who have come to Hong Kong on OWPs do not have any close relatives in Hong Kong, of the number of people who came to Hong Kong for settlement on OWPs each year since 1997, with a breakdown by the age group to which they belonged, their gender, and whether they were issued OWPs on grounds of family reunion; whether the Government assessed, in the past three years, the pressure on Hong Kong’s public resources brought about by people coming to Hong Kong for settlement on OWPs; if so, of the outcome;
- (2) whether the Government will, in order to alleviate the pressure on public services, set up an inter-departmental steering committee to be led by the Chief Secretary for Administration to study feasible options for reducing the OWP quota progressively; if so, of the details and timetable; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (3) whether it will discuss with the relevant Mainland departments the SAR Government’s participation by phases in, and its eventual assumption of full responsibility for, the vetting and approval of OWP applications, so as to prevent Mainland residents from coming to Hong Kong for settlement on OWPs obtained through bogus marriages; if so, of the details and timetable; if not, the reasons for that?

Issuance of Permits for Proceeding to Hong Kong and Macao

(2) Hon WU Chi-wai (Oral reply)

According to Article 22 of the Basic Law and the relevant Interpretation by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress in 1999 ("NPCSC's Interpretation"), Mainland residents who wish to enter the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") must apply for approval in accordance with the relevant laws, and must hold valid documents issued by the Mainland authorities (e.g. Permits for Proceeding to Hong Kong and Macao which are commonly known as "One-way Permits" ("OWPs")) before they may enter HKSAR. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) given that the HKSAR Government currently may, of its own accord, vet and approve Mainland residents' applications for entry into Hong Kong under the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals and the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (including the setting of point-based tests and selection of applicants), if it has studied, from a legal perspective, whether the HKSAR Government's participation in the vetting and approval of OWP applications would not violate Article 22 of the Basic Law and NPCSC's Interpretation;
- (2) given that Mainland residents may apply for OWPs for the reason, apart from family reunion, that they must come to Hong Kong for settlement due to other special circumstances, of the circumstances that are included under "other special circumstances"; and
- (3) in each of the past 10 years,
 - (i) of the number of Mainland residents who came to Hong Kong for settlement on OWPs, broken down by the following categories of OWP holders:
 - holders of Certificate of Entitlement;
 - spouses separated for 10 years or more and their accompanying children;
 - persons of other categories (set out one by one); and
 - persons who must come to Hong Kong for settlement due to other special circumstances; and
 - (ii) whether there were unused quotas in respect of the OWPs applicable to different types of persons; if so, whether the Government will request the Central Authorities to reduce the quotas concerned in accordance with the actual demand?

The Environmentally Friendly Linkage System for Kowloon East

(3) Hon Wilson OR (Oral reply)

The Environmentally Friendly Linkage System for Kowloon East (“EFLS”) proposed by the Government is an elevated monorail which will start and end respectively at the Kowloon Bay Station and the Kwun Tong Station of the MTR Kwun Tong Line, run through the Kai Tak Development Area and connect the Kai Tak Station of the Shatin to Central Link. The Government is currently conducting the second-stage detailed feasibility study for EFLS. As the passenger throughput of the Kwun Tong Line during peak hours has reached the maximum capacity at present, some members of the public are worried that the Kwun Tong Line can hardly cope with the additional patronage to be brought about by EFLS upon its commissioning. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it knows the estimated passenger throughput and passenger loading of the Kwun Tong Line during the peak hours between 2019 and 2021; whether it has requested the MTR Corporation Limited to conduct a study on increasing the carrying capacity of the Kwun Tong Line; if so, of the details of the study;
- (2) whether the study for the next stage to be conducted for EFLS will comprise simulation tests for estimating the capabilities of Kowloon Bay Station, Kai Tak Station and Kwun Tong Station in coping with additional passenger flows; and
- (3) of the respective expected dates for the completion of the study for the next stage, confirmation of the final proposal, works commencement and commissioning for EFLS; when it will submit the relevant funding applications to the Finance Committee of this Council?

Mainland tourists visiting Hong Kong

(4) Hon LAU Kwok-fan (Oral reply)

Under the Individual Visit Scheme (“IVS”), Mainland residents living in cities covered by IVS may visit Hong Kong after obtaining an endorsement for individual visit (i.e. “the G endorsement”) issued by the Mainland’s Public Security Bureau Office, while residents in other Mainland places visiting Hong Kong are required to obtain an endorsement for group visit (i.e. “the L endorsement”) and enter Hong Kong in tour groups. However, the Mainland authorities have not imposed a requirement on the minimum number of persons constituting an inbound Mainland tour group (“IMTG”), such that one person may also constitute a tour group. Besides, it has been reported that same as IVS visitors, Mainland residents with the L endorsement may now visit Hong Kong on their own and are no longer required to enter Hong Kong in tour groups (such as tour groups organized in Shenzhen on an ad hoc basis). The aforesaid arrangements have rendered the L endorsement tantamount to the G endorsement. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it has assessed the pressure on the tourist facilities in Hong Kong brought about by the arrangements of not imposing a requirement on the minimum number of persons constituting an IMTG and allowing Mainland residents with the L endorsement to visit Hong Kong on their own; if so, of the outcome; if not, the reasons for that;
- (2) as the Government indicated in July last year that it would relay to the Mainland authorities concerns of Hong Kong people about such arrangements, of the replies received and follow-up actions taken by the Government; and
- (3) as the Government indicated in January this year that it had all along maintained close liaison with the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong to understand the situation of IMTG, of the details of the liaison work (including the frequency and scope); whether it will discuss with the Mainland authorities the setting up of a reciprocal notification mechanism between government departments so as to grasp right away the information relating to Mainland tourists visiting Hong Kong?

The Belt and Road Office

(5) Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (Oral reply)

In order to help Hong Kong grasp the opportunities brought by the “Belt and Road” Initiative, the Government set up a Belt and Road Office (“the Office”) in 2016 to take forward the relevant work effectively and on a sustained basis. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) in respect of the Office, of its current staffing establishment, whether there will be any increase in its future manpower, its annual expenditure since establishment, and its future estimated expenditure;
- (2) whether it has assessed the effectiveness of the work of the Office since its establishment and if the anticipated results have been achieved; if it has assessed, of the outcome, including the achievements of the work of the Office on aspects such as liaising with mainland institutions and ministries, promoting Hong Kong to the countries along the Belt and Road, and seeking business opportunities that Hong Kong businessmen need; and
- (3) whether it has set the future work targets and plans for the Office; if so, of the details and timetable; if not, the reasons for that?

Emergency respite and emergency home care services
for the elderly and persons with disabilities

(6) Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG (Oral reply)

Some carers of the elderly and persons with disabilities (“PWDs”) have relayed to me that currently, there is a lack of emergency respite and emergency home care services for the elderly and PWDs, resulting in some carers who were taken ill during late hours having to give up receiving treatment in hospitals. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it will examine the provision of subsidized emergency respite and emergency home care services for the elderly and PWDs (including persons with severe disabilities) to be operated round-the-clock in all districts in Hong Kong; if so, of the details (including the timetable); if not, the reasons for that; and
- (2) given that subsidized residential care homes (“RCHs”) often refuse, on grounds of their inability to provide medical care services, to provide respite care service for those who need intensive medical care or those who suffer from impaired consciousness (such as persons with severe dementia and vegetative persons), whether the Government will request the Hospital Authority to provide such service or help subsidized RCHs obtain the relevant resources to provide such service; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Supply of housing

(7) Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (Written reply)

Regarding the supply of housing, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the respective numbers and vacancy rates of the various types of public and private residential units at present;
- (2) whether it knows, regarding the residential developments the acquisition of which respectively by (i) the Urban Renewal Authority (“URA”) and (ii) the Hong Kong Housing Society (“HKHS”) has been completed and are awaiting redevelopment at present, the number of years for which they have been left vacant, as well as the timetable for the relevant redevelopment projects and the number of units to be supplied;
- (3) whether it knows, regarding the vacated rental estates under HKHS which are awaiting redevelopment at present, the number of years for which they have been left vacant, as well as the timetable for the relevant redevelopment projects and the number of units to be supplied;
- (4) of the number of transitional housing projects successfully facilitated by the Task Force on Transitional Housing since its establishment and the number of such kind of projects currently receiving support from the Task Force, and set out their locations, site areas, number of units to be supplied, average floor area of such units, as well as the number of years for which the relevant lands may be used for transitional housing; and
- (5) whether it will form a working group with URA and HKHS to explore the provision of transitional housing by making use of vacant lands and vacant properties; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Noise emitted by motor vehicles

(8) Hon Michael TIEN (Written reply)

At present, the Noise Control (Motor Vehicles) Regulation (Cap. 400 sub. leg. I) requires that every vehicle first registered must conform to the noise emission standards prescribed under the Regulation. Also, the Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations (Cap. 374 sub. leg. A) require that every vehicle propelled by an internal combustion engine must be fitted with a silencer maintained in good and efficient working order, and must not be altered or replaced in such a way that makes the noise greater. However, quite a number of members of the public have relayed that they often find vehicles, suspected of having been modified illegally, running on the expressways near their residences and emitting annoying noise. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council whether it will amend the legislation to empower the Police, where they suspect that the noise emitted by a moving vehicle has exceeded the prescribed standards, to stop the vehicle and have the vehicle towed to a vehicle examination centre for a noise test and, upon confirmation that the noise has exceeded the prescribed standards, to institute prosecution against, and issue a vehicle repair order to, the vehicle owner concerned; if so, of the work schedule; if not, the reasons for that?

Civil servants' training on national studies and the Basic Law

(9) Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG (Written reply)

According to the existing policy, bureaux and government departments ("B&Ds") should make arrangements for the middle-level civil servants (i.e. officers at Master Pay Scale ("MPS") Point 34 to 44 or equivalent) under the B/Ds to attend national studies programmes within six years from the time when they reach the relevant MPS Point/pay point threshold. Nevertheless, Report No. 71 of the Director of Audit ("the Report"), published in October last year, has pointed out that due to insufficient places for such programmes, it is unlikely that such training time schedule can be adhered to. Besides, the Report has recommended that the Government should enhance the tracking of the progress of civil servants' training on the Basic Law. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of (i) the number of training places and (ii) the number of participants for the national studies programmes, in each of the past three years; the projected number of places for such programmes in each of the coming three years;
- (2) whether it has, in accordance with the recommendations made in the Report, (i) reviewed the aforesaid training time schedule, (ii) discussed with those Mainland universities currently organizing such programmes to increase the number of places for the programmes, (iii) commissioned more Mainland universities to organize such programmes, and (iv) promoted B&Ds to nominate more middle-level civil servants to attend such programmes so as to fully utilize the training places; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- (3) given that the Government has, since the latter half of last year, extended the national studies programmes to civil servants at MPS Point 28 to 33, of (i) the existing number of civil servants whose salaries are within this salary range, and (ii) the number of places to be made available for them to attend the national studies programmes in each of the coming three years; whether it has conducted a review on such training arrangement having regard to the comments made in the Report; if so, of the outcome; and
- (4) as the Government has indicated that it will strengthen the content of Basic Law training for civil servants so as to incorporate the relationship between the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and the Basic Law, of the progress of the relevant work, including (i) the measures put in place for training civil servants to understand the Constitution and (ii) the number of training activities held so far; the new measures in the coming three years to strengthen the training in this respect?

Construction of roadside bus stops with shelters

(10) Hon CHAN Han-pan (Written reply)

Quite a number of members of the public have pointed out to me that as currently a large number of quite heavily used roadside bus stops do not have any shelters, passengers waiting for buses there have to put up with the scorching heat of the sun or lashing rains. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the respective numbers and percentages of roadside bus stops with and without shelters at present, with a breakdown by District Council district;
- (2) whether it has issued guidelines to the franchised bus companies on the construction of bus stops with shelters; if so, of the details, and how the Government handles the situation where a bus company has breached such guidelines;
- (3) of the procedure for vetting and approval of applications for the construction of bus stops with shelters, including which government departments are involved, what items require approval, and the time taken in general;
- (4) as the construction of shelters for some bus stops is infeasible due to the presence of underground public utilities there, whether the Government has coordinated the public utilities companies concerned to make complementary arrangements, so that works for the construction of shelters can be carried out; and
- (5) of the current number of bus stops with shelters that are fitted with advertising lightboxes, and the percentage of such number in the total number of bus stops; the procedure for the franchised bus companies to apply for the construction of bus stops with shelters fitted with advertising lightboxes?

Seasonal influenza vaccination

(11) Dr Hon Pierre CHAN (Written reply)

The Government provides eligible groups with free and subsidized seasonal influenza vaccination through the “Government Vaccination Programme” and the “Vaccination Subsidy Scheme” (“VSS”) respectively. In addition, the Department of Health (“DH”) introduced in October last year the “School Outreach Vaccination Pilot Programme” (“Pilot Programme”) as well as the “Enhanced Vaccination Subsidy Scheme Outreach Vaccination” (“Enhanced VSS”) under VSS, to enhance the seasonal influenza vaccination uptake rate among schoolchildren. Regarding the provision of seasonal influenza vaccination to members of the public, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the respective up-to-date numbers of primary schools which have (i) participated in and (ii) conducted vaccination activities under the Pilot Programme in the current school year; the average number of days between the submission of applications for joining the Programme and the conduct of vaccination activities at schools by healthcare workers;
- (2) of the respective up-to-date numbers of (a) primary schools and (b) kindergartens/child care centres which have (i) participated in and (ii) conducted vaccination activities under Enhanced VSS in the current school year; the average number of days between healthcare workers’ receiving invitations and their conducting vaccination activities at schools;
- (3) of (i) the amount of expenditure incurred by the Government for procuring seasonal influenza vaccines (“SIV”) and (ii) the total amount of subsidy claimed by private doctors participating in VSS, in the past five years;
- (4) of the respective numbers of persons from the various groups set out in the table below who received injectable SIV and their uptake rates, in each of the past five years (set out separately in tables of the same format as the table below);

Year: _____

Group	Number of people receiving vaccinations	Uptake rate
Children between 6 months and 5 years old		
Children aged between 6 and 11		
Persons aged between 12 and 49		
Persons aged between 50 and 64		
Persons aged 65 or above		
Pregnant women		
Persons with chronic health problems		
Overall population		

- (5) of (i) the quantity of nasal SIV procured by DH and the amount of expenditure so incurred and (ii) the respective numbers of persons from the various groups set out in the aforesaid table who received such SIV, since April last year; whether it has compared the efficacy of injectable SIV with nasal SIV, and whether it will switch to using nasal SIV in providing influenza vaccination services for children;
- (6) of (i) the quantities, general expiry dates and the stock to date of the SIV procured and (ii) the quantities of expired or damaged SIV discarded, by DH and the Hospital Authority respectively in each of the past five years; and
- (7) whether it has stipulated in the procurement contracts for SIV that the Government has the rights to (i) return to the suppliers a certain quantity/percentage of unused vaccines and (ii) adjust the quantity of the vaccines procured on the basis of actual needs; if so, of the quantities concerned?

Provision of transitional housing

(12) Hon Alice MAK (Written reply)

The Government has earlier set up a task force to provide one-stop support for various community-led transitional housing projects. In addition, the Financial Secretary has set aside \$2 billion in the Budget for the next financial year to support non-governmental organizations (“NGOs”) in taking forward transitional housing projects. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it will set a specific target on the number of transitional housing projects commencing within the coming three years;
- (2) whether it will consider providing NGOs with loan guarantees to facilitate their raising funds for transitional housing projects;
- (3) whether it knows the current unit cost of and the time needed for converting the existing housing units into transitional housing; of the measures in place to assist NGOs in persuading more property owners to let their idle units be used as transitional housing and expediting the relevant conversion works;
- (4) whether it knows the current unit cost of modular transitional housing built by modular integrated construction methods; how the Government currently assists NGOs financially and technically in saving construction costs and expediting the works, and whether it will consider helping those NGOs jointly procure prefabricated parts in order to reduce costs;
- (5) how the Government financially supports the Hong Kong Housing Authority, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Urban Renewal Authority to take forward transitional housing projects; whether the aforesaid task force will provide any assistance to such projects; and
- (6) whether it will formulate a long-term policy that regards transitional housing as a supplementary source of housing for the short and medium terms, and make relevant legislative amendments to provide for the technical standards for the construction, specifications and safety standards in respect of transitional housing?

Repair of traffic signs

(13) Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Written reply)

Some members of the public have relayed that quite a number of large traffic signs for giving route directions to motorists have not been repaired since they were damaged during the onslaught of super typhoon Mangkhut in Hong Kong in September last year, which causes inconvenience to motorists. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the number of traffic signs damaged during the onslaught of Mangkhut in Hong Kong and, among them, the number of those for which the repair works were not yet completed as at 16 February this year and the reasons for that; and
- (2) whether it has measures in place to shorten the time needed for repairing traffic signs?

Conditions of and repair works for the surfaces of footpaths

(14) Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (Written reply)

I have received a number of complaints alleging that in Hong Kong, quite a number of footpaths have uneven surfaces and footpaths paved with paving blocks have paving blocks loosened and damaged, which make pedestrians (especially the elderly, children and persons with disabilities) prone to trip and fall. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of (i) the number of complaints or reports received by the Government about the surfaces of footpaths being uneven or damaged, (ii) the number of incidents with casualties arising from such situations, and (iii) the number of claims lodged by members of the public for compensation of such casualties and the amount of compensations involved, in each of the past three years, with a breakdown by District Council district;
- (2) of the Government's follow-up procedure and work upon receipt of the complaints or reports mentioned in (1), and the performance pledge it has set in this regard; the respective numbers of cases in the past three years in which the performance pledge was met and was not met, the reasons why the performance pledge was not met in some cases, and the improvement measures put in place;
- (3) of the (i) arrangements (including the numbers of scheduled and unscheduled inspections), (ii) staffing establishment and (iii) annual expenditure in respect of the inspections on the conditions of footpaths and the relevant repair works currently undertaken by the Highways Department; the respective dates on which the last and the next reviews of the relevant work arrangements was/will be conducted;
- (4) whether it will allocate additional resources and manpower in the coming three years to step up the inspections on the conditions of footpaths and the relevant repair works; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (5) whether it has examined the main causes for the uneven and damaged surfaces of footpaths, as well as the correlation between such situations and the workmanship of and materials used in the construction of footpaths; if so, of the outcome, and the specific improvement measures put in place; if not, the reasons for that?

Grade structure review for disciplined services grades

(15) Hon Mrs Regina IP (Written reply)

Some trade unions of the disciplined services have relayed to me that as compared with civilian staff, disciplined services staff are required to have better physical fitness, have a higher sense of discipline and work shifts more frequently, while the work of disciplined services is more dangerous than that of civilian staff. However, the current remuneration packages for disciplined services staff have not sufficiently reflected such factors. For instance, the maximum pay point for Customs Officers is lower than that for Assistant Clerical Officers, whose entry requirement on academic qualifications is similar. Moreover, the pay difference between successive pay points in the pay scale for the former is smaller than that for the latter. Given that the Government is conducting a grade structure review for the disciplined services grades, will the Government inform this Council whether the review includes examining the raising of the pay levels for disciplined services staff (particularly for the rank and file), and widening the pay difference between successive pay points in their pay scales; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Vetting and approval of applications for construction
or redevelopment of small houses

(16) Hon Kenneth LAU (Written reply)

Quite a number of villagers have relayed to me that the time taken for vetting and approval of their applications for construction or redevelopment of small houses, which they submitted to the Government in accordance with the New Territories Small House Policy, is rather long, taking seven to 10 years in general and in some cases even 20-odd years. As the construction costs have risen incessantly during the period when the applications are awaiting vetting and approval, the financial burden on those villagers has become increasingly heavy. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the respective numbers of applications for (i) construction and (ii) redevelopment of small houses which were (a) received, (b) approved, (c) being processed and (d) rejected by various District Lands Offices of the Lands Department in each of the past five years (set out in tables of the same format as the table below);

District Lands Office: _____

Year	(a)		(b)		(c)		(d)	
	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)
2014								
2015								
2016								
2017								
2018								

- (2) of the respective average, shortest and longest time taken to vet and approve those applications which were approved in each of the past five years; if such figures are not available, of the reasons for that, and whether it will consider compiling such statistics; and
- (3) whether the Government conducted in the past five years any study on streamlining the relevant vetting and approval procedure with a view to shortening the vetting and approval time needed; if so, of the outcome; if not, the reasons for that?

Management of water resources

(17) Hon Dennis KWOK (Written reply)

At present, around 70% to 80% of Hong Kong's fresh water supply comes from Dongjiang while the remainder comes from local catchments. In reply to a question raised by a Member of this Council on 27 June last year, the Government said that the first stage of Tseung Kwan O ("TKO") desalination plant under construction was expected to be completed by 2022. The fresh water production capacity of the desalination plant will be 135 000 cubic metres per day (equivalent to around 5% of the fresh water consumption of Hong Kong) and can ultimately be increased to 270 000 cubic metres per day. However, the Government indicated that it had no plan to set a target percentage of the fresh water production capacity of desalination plants at 30% of Hong Kong's water consumption. Regarding the management of water resources, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) as there are views that pollution of water sources that may be caused and the additional demand for fresh water generated by the rapid development of the Mainland economy and climate change may lead to an unstable Dongjiang water supply, but seawater desalination as a sustainable source of water supply will not be affected by such problems, of the reasons why the Government has no plan to set a target percentage of the fresh water production capacity of desalination plants at 30% of Hong Kong's water consumption;
- (2) apart from TKO desalination plant, whether the Government has studied the implementation of other seawater desalination projects; if so, of the outcome (including fresh water production capacity); if not, the reasons for that;
- (3) as the Government indicated last year that it would supply in phases reclaimed water for toilet flushing in the northeast New Territories, and that it planned to launch a public consultation and commence the legislative amendment work on the supply of reclaimed water, of the progress of such work; whether it has studied the supply of reclaimed water to other districts; if so, of the outcome (including the timetable); if not, the reasons for that;
- (4) as the Government is taking forward the Inter-Reservoirs Transfer Scheme, under which a tunnel connecting the Kowloon Byewash Reservoir and the Lower Shing Mun Reservoir is to be built to reduce overflow from the Kowloon Group of Reservoirs and increase water resources, of the progress of the Scheme; and
- (5) of the number of government buildings currently installed with a grey water reuse system or rainwater harvesting system, and set out by building name the volume of grey water used and rainwater harvested last year; if such statistics are unavailable, of the reasons for that;

whether it has plans to install such systems in all government buildings; if so, of the details (including the timetable); if not, the reasons for that?

Pilot Scheme on Home Care and Support for Elderly Persons
with Mild Impairment

(18) Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Written reply)

In December 2017, the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) launched a three-year Pilot Scheme on Home Care and Support for Elderly Persons with Mild Impairment (“the Pilot Scheme”) to provide, on a co-payment basis, home care and support services to the elderly persons on the waiting list for the Integrated Home Care Services (“IHCS”) (Ordinary Cases). The Pilot Scheme offers 4 000 service places. SWD has commissioned a consultant to formulate a standardized assessment tool for use by the IHCS teams to conduct assessments on elderly persons, with a view to identifying elderly persons eligible for taking part in the Pilot Scheme. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the reasons for limiting the number of service places for the Pilot Scheme at 4 000;
- (2) as SWD has commissioned a consultant to conduct a review on the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme, of (i) the number, name list and qualifications of the members in the consultant team responsible for such task, (ii) the consultant fees involved, and (iii) the timetable for the review and whether the review will include public engagement activities;
- (3) regarding the Pilot Scheme, of (i) the cumulative total amount of expenditure to date and the details of the various expenditure items, (ii) the expenditures for the previous and the current financial years, and (iii) the estimated expenditure for the next financial year; the cumulative total amount of funds allocated to date to service providers taking part in the Pilot Scheme, as well as the average cost per service session for each item of the services provided under the Pilot Scheme;
- (4) of the details of the assessment tool, including the criteria adopted and a list of the items in the tool (with the whole assessment tool attached);
- (5) of (i) the number of runs and (ii) the dates of the training programme on the use of the assessment tool conducted by SWD for members of the IHCS teams;
- (6) of the respective numbers of elderly persons, since the introduction of the Pilot Scheme, who have (i) applied for joining the Scheme, (ii) undergone assessment, (iii) been assessed as being eligible for joining the Scheme, (iv) used the services provided under the Scheme (with a breakdown by the co-payment category to which they belonged), and (v) withdrawn from the Scheme, together with a tabulated breakdown by District Council district; the respective numbers of persons currently on the waiting lists for the various items of the services provided under the Scheme;

- (7) of a breakdown of the number of elderly persons who have withdrawn from the Pilot Scheme by the reasons for withdrawal as set out in Table 1;

Table 1

Reason for withdrawal	Number of persons
(i) No suitable service providers/service packages	
(ii) Expiry of the service period	
(iii) To be/Having been admitted to subsidized community care services or subsidized/private residential care services, or to receive/receiving such services	
(iv) Deceased	
(v) Having carers such as family members or domestic helpers	
(vi) Others (including hospitalization and having left Hong Kong)	
Total:	

- (8) in respect of each item of services provided under the Pilot Scheme, of (i) the number of elderly persons who are currently using the service, (ii) the percentage of such number in the total number of users of the various services under the Pilot Scheme, (iii) the average monthly number of users for the service, and (iv) the number of user-times to date for the service (set out in Table 2);

Table 2

Service item	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
a. Escort service (for going out/medical appointments)				
b. Meal service (meal delivery)				
c. Personal care				
d. Simple nursing care				
e. Physical exercise				
f. Home-making				
g. Home safety assessment and health management				
h. Purchase and delivery of daily necessities				
i. Other services (e.g. support for carers)				
Total user-times:				

- (9) of (i) the average waiting time for the various items of services provided under the Pilot Scheme and (ii) the average time per person for which they are used; and
- (10) of the criteria adopted by SWD for setting the charges for meal service and other services provided under the Pilot Scheme at \$54 per meal and \$131 per hour respectively?

Wastage of the Administrative Officer and
Executive Officer grades staff

(19) Hon LAM Cheuk-ting (Written reply)

Regarding the wastage of the Administrative Officer (“AO”) and Executive Officer (“EO”) grades staff, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) of the wastage of (a) directorate and (b) non-directorate officers in the two grades in the past three financial years, with a breakdown by reason for departure (i.e. retirement and other reasons) (set out in the table below); and

Financial Year	AO grade						EO grade					
	Retirement		Other reasons		Total		Retirement		Other reasons		Total	
	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)
2015-2016												
2016-2017												
2017-2018												

(2) of the measures in place to reduce the wastage of staff in the two grades?

Implementation of the sanctions decided by
the Security Council of the United Nations

(20) Hon Holden CHOW (Written reply)

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development indicated in reply to a question raised by a Member of this Council on 23 January this year that the Government had all along been implementing and enforcing the sanctions or restrictions imposed by the United Nations Security Council against 14 places and two organizations through the United Nations Sanctions Ordinance (Cap. 537) and the regulations made under that Ordinance by the Chief Executive. In the past five years, the Hong Kong Police Force (“HKPF”) and the Customs and Excise Department (“C&ED”) investigated 201 and 99 suspected cases of sanctions violations respectively. The manpower responsible for the relevant law enforcement work includes 69 staff members from the relevant investigation division of HKPF and 47 staff members from the Trade Controls Branch of C&ED. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of a breakdown of the aforesaid cases by the places/organizations under sanction they involved (set out in a table);
- (2) whether it has assessed the adequacy of the current law enforcement manpower; if so, of the outcome; whether it has plans to increase the manpower; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (3) whether the current deployment of law enforcement manpower is based on the places/organizations under sanction; if so, of the details, and whether it has deployed law enforcement manpower based on the risk of the occurrence of sanctions violations; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Enforcement of the smoking ban

(21) Hon Tony TSE (Written reply)

Although the legislation banning smoking in the indoor areas of restaurants has come into operation for over one decade, some members of the public currently still find, from time to time at present, patrons blatantly smoking in the indoor areas of restaurants. This, coupled with the fact that there are often patrons and staff members of restaurants smoking in the open-air areas of restaurants and in the areas outside restaurant entrances, has caused nuisances to other patrons. Regarding the enforcement of the smoking ban, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the number of staff members in the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office (“TACO”) under the Department of Health who are currently responsible for the enforcement of the smoking ban; whether there are plans to increase such manpower;
- (2) of the respective numbers of (i) complaints received in the past five years and (ii) prosecutions instituted last year, by the authorities in respect of smoking offences, with a breakdown by type of no smoking areas;
- (3) whether TACO has proactively deployed staff to conduct inspections at restaurants; if so, set out by year the respective numbers of routine and surprise inspections conducted during daytime and night-time in the past five years;
- (4) whether the authorities received complaints in the past five years about law enforcement officers in TACO suspected of being absent from duty without authorization; if so, of the number of such complaints and, among them, the number of those found to be substantiated, as well as the penalties imposed on the officers concerned;
- (5) whether it has uncovered cases of restaurant operators condoning or giving tacit consent to patrons smoking in the indoor areas of restaurants; if so, of the measures to deal with the situation; and
- (6) whether it will consider designating the following areas as statutory no smoking areas: (i) areas within a reasonable distance outside the entrances of restaurants and (ii) open-air areas of restaurants which are within a reasonable distance from the indoor areas of the restaurants; whether, in the long run, it will, by drawing reference from the anti-smoking policies adopted in certain overseas countries, switch from the current practice of designating statutory no smoking areas to imposing a total ban on smoking in open-air public areas (except designated smoking areas)?

Capability of children and youths to exercise self-control
in using mobile phones and browsing social media

(22) Hon Charles Peter MOK (Written reply)

The findings of some surveys indicate that children and youths generally have lower self-control over the use of mobile phones, and they are prone to developing depression and anxiety once they have become addicted to browsing the Internet. Some concern groups have pointed out that prolonged use of mobile phones and browsing social media by children and youths may affect their work and rest routines, physical and mental health as well as interpersonal relationships, and they also have a higher chance of encountering cyber frauds and bullying as well as being exposed to harmful and false information. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the number of requests for assistance received in the past three years by the Education Bureau and subvented social welfare organizations concerning the addiction of children and youths to browsing the Internet or social media, with a breakdown by the age group to which they belonged;
- (2) whether, in the past three years, it (i) conducted statistical surveys on the habits of children and youths on using mobile phones and browsing social media as well as the impacts of such habits on their physical and mental well-being, and (ii) formulated, in collaboration with the various stakeholders, guidelines to assist parents in strengthening their children's capability to exercise self-control in using mobile phones and browsing social media; and
- (3) whether it will allocate additional resources to (i) offer counselling to children and youths and (ii) provide support to teachers, parents and community organizations in order to help children and youths strengthen their capability to exercise self-control in using mobile phones and browsing social media; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?