



Our Ref.: (5) in L/M(8) in FEHD CI&PC 32-35/60/15

Your Ref.: Re: Panel on Manpower

Two Lists for the meeting on 18.6.2019

21 June 2019

Clerk to Panel on Manpower  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Attention: Miss Betty MA)

Dear Miss MA,

**LegCo Panel on Manpower**  
**Employment Terms and Conditions as well as Working**  
**Arrangements for Government Outsourced Workers Performing**  
**Cleansing Duties in Public Toilets**

Regarding the captioned subject at the Panel meeting on 21 May 2019, our response is as follows:

- (a) In the past three years (2016-2018), there were six referrals to the Labour Department (LD) for follow-up actions regarding non-compliance with the Standard Employment Contract (SEC) by street cleansing contractors of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). Of these referrals, no conviction record has been received from the LD so far. The FEHD does not keep records on the number of referrals to the LD regarding non-compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance.
- (b) If paid meal breaks are to be included in the SEC for all non-skilled employees engaged under FEHD's government service contracts performing cleansing duties, the additional annual cost will be over \$140 million.

- (c) When refurbishing public toilets, the FEHD will improve their design in a number of ways and provide user-friendly facilities based on patrons' needs. These improved facilities include sensor-activated taps and flushing facilities, coat hooks and facilities for baby. The FEHD, in collaboration with Architectural Services Department, will decide on the exterior, fitments and materials of each public toilet having regard to the actual circumstances so as to ensure that the design could blend well with the surrounding environment and keep up with the times, as well as to make the public toilets hygienic, clean, safe and decent.

The FEHD will, having regard to the actual circumstances of individual toilets, adjust the scope of works for toilet refurbishment projects, including exterior design, materials, ventilation system, lighting and installation of the following facilities:

- (1) sensor-activated water tap and soap dispenser for each wash hand basin;
- (2) sensor-activated flushing system for each toilet cubicle if circumstances permit;
- (3) electric hand dryers (with a drip tray) at suitable places in the common areas;
- (4) waterproof power sockets at suitable places in the common areas;
- (5) lockable stainless steel toilet paper holders to provide jumbo roll tissue in toilet compartments;
- (6) electric fans and blower fans, with timer installed, to keep floor dry;
- (7) LED lighting to replace conventional ones;
- (8) manhole covers of public toilets will be placed at inconspicuous locations and away from the toilet entrances as far as practicable; and
- (9) drinking water dispensers outside PTs if circumstances permit.

We will as far as possible make available attendant rooms and improve facilities for toilet attendants when the public toilets are refurbished. Lockers, exhaust fans, power sockets, oscillating fans as well as ventilation

and lighting will be installed in attendant rooms, facilities for attendants to take rest and change clothes will also be provided. In parallel, the FEHD is reviewing the facilities in existing attendant rooms of public toilets. If circumstances permit, we will install oscillating fans, exhaust fans, power sockets, etc. in existing attendant rooms to improve their environment.

Yours sincerely,

(POON Ping-yeung)  
for Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

c.c.: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury  
Secretary for Food and Health  
Commissioner for Labour