



康樂及文化事務署  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

電話 TEL: 2601 8966  
圖文傳真 FAX NO: 2602 1480  
本署檔號 OUR REF: (4) in L/M(2) to LCS 1/HQ 802/15  
來函檔號 YOUR REF:

16 January 2019

Clerk to the Panel on Public Service  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road, Central  
Hong Kong  
(Attn.: Ms Mina CHAN)

Dear Ms CHAN,

**Legislative Council Panel on Public Service  
Follow-up to meeting on 17 December 2018**

Regarding the supplementary information requested by Members at the meeting on 17 December 2018, I enclose the relevant information at Annex for Members' information.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Doris FOK)

for Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

**Legislative Council Panel on Public Service  
Meeting on 17 December 2018  
Supplementary Information**

**Purpose**

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Public Service on 17 December 2018, Members asked the Government to provide the following information in relation to **lifeguards of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)**:

- (a) details of programmes on skin diving and scuba diving training provided by LCSD for its lifeguards;
  - (b) if the above programmes were not compulsory for LCSD's lifeguards, reasons why; and
  - (c) whether LCSD's lifeguards were expected to use the skin diving and/or scuba diving skills in their daily work.
2. This paper provides the required information.

**Training programme on skin diving and scuba diving provided to lifeguards of LCSD**

3. All civil service lifeguards of LCSD possess the Pool Lifeguard Award and Beach Lifeguard Award. As underwater rescue by skin diving is already an item assessed for the relevant Lifeguard Awards, all lifeguards have already possessed the skin diving skills for underwater rescue operation to perform daily lifesaving tasks. Besides, LCSD provides course on advanced skills of skin diving rescue to all newly recruited lifeguards and serving civil service lifeguards so as to enhance their skills in skin diving and underwater search and rescue, and familiarise them with the relevant safety rules and the use of skin diving gear, such as fins, diving masks, snorkels, etc. The course on advanced skills of skin diving rescue is one of the induction training programme for lifeguards. Starting from 2019, LCSD will arrange for newly appointed civil service lifeguards and non-civil service contract (NCSC) lifeguards on long-term employment to complete part of the induction training programme before assuming duties, including the course on advanced skills of skin diving rescue. Upon completion of the department's course on advanced skills of skin diving rescue and after passing a 5-metre depth diving test, coupled with regular drills at swimming pools/beaches, lifeguards should possess sufficient skin diving skills and be physically competent to work as a team to carry out search and rescue operation at swimming pools/beaches.



4. Although scuba diving is not one of the major responsibilities of lifeguards, under urgent circumstances, say before the arrival of diving personnel of the Fire Services Department (FSD), trained and qualified lifeguards will carry out emergency underwater search for drowning victim(s) using scuba diving equipment under the supervision and instruction of senior lifeguards while awaiting the arrival of the diving personnel of FSD. LCSD does not require lifeguards to possess any qualification on scuba diving. To enhance the knowledge and skills of lifeguards, LCSD provides course on rescue skills with scuba diving to serving civil service lifeguards. The course aims at providing lifeguards with training in scuba diving skills and skills in underwater search and rescue using scuba diving equipment. It also covers knowledge in marine environment, the relevant safety rules and contingency measures, etc. LCSD has been providing adequate training places for courses on scuba diving rescue for serving civil service lifeguards. The actual number of training places depends on the number of applicants for the courses. Civil service lifeguards posted to beaches and water sports centres have priority in joining such courses.

#### **Diving tasks of lifeguards of LCSD**

5. The major responsibilities of civil service lifeguards of LCSD include performing lifesaving and first aid duties, assisting in law enforcement and maintenance of order and assisting in cleansing work. While the major responsibilities of full-time NCSC seasonal lifeguards include ensuring swimmers' safety, performing lifesaving duties, maintenance of order and assisting in cleansing work.

6. Lifeguards normally deploy skills taught and assessed in the training associated with the lifeguard qualifications (including underwater rescue by skin diving, etc.) in drowning incidents. Upon receiving a report of missing swimmer in beach water, officer in-charge of venue will report to the Police immediately asking the FSD to deploy firemen to the scene to take charge the search. The incident will be handled as set out in paragraph 4 above. Lifeguards on duty at beaches without relevant training will not be deployed to carry out scuba diving in search operations for drowning victim(s).

7. As scuba diving is not part of the normal duties of lifeguards of LCSD, contractors are normally hired by LCSD for other tasks requiring diving for prolonged periods, e.g. underwater inspection or maintenance of facilities, etc. For instance, two professional contractors have been hired for inspection and maintenance of shark prevention nets respectively. The inspection contractor will deploy professional divers to conduct inspections to ensure proper maintenance of the shark prevention nets by the maintenance contractor. LCSD may, as and when necessary, require the contractors concerned to conduct comprehensive inspection or carry out comprehensive maintenance of the shark prevention nets above and under water in accordance with the contract

requirements. The diving tasks required for the inspection of the seabed conditions and the clearance work in the aftermath of the passage of Typhoon Mangkhut are undertaken by the outsourced contractors.

Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
January 2019