

Index Page

Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Session No. : 19

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Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
SB001	1387	CHAN Chun-ying	151	(3) Immigration Control
SB002	1388	CHAN Chun-ying	151	
SB003	1915	CHAN Hak-kan	151	(1) Director of Bureau's Office
SB004	3047	CHAN Hak-kan	151	(3) Immigration Control
SB005	12	CHENG Chung-tai	151	(1) Director of Bureau's Office
SB006	2832	CHENG Chung-tai	151	(3) Immigration Control
SB007	2838	CHENG Chung-tai	151	(3) Immigration Control
SB008	2868	CHENG Chung-tai	151	(1) Director of Bureau's Office
SB009	2144	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	151	(2) Internal Security
SB010	2299	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	151	(2) Internal Security
SB011	1104	CHUNG Kwok-pan	151	(2) Internal Security
SB012	1542	HO Kwan-yiu, Junius	151	(3) Immigration Control
SB013	663	KWOK Wai-keung	151	
SB014	2065	LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth	151	(3) Immigration Control
SB015	1848	LEE Wai-king, Starry	151	(3) Immigration Control
SB016	2474	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	151	
SB017	2487	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	151	(3) Immigration Control
SB018	2496	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	151	
SB019	2587	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	151	
SB020	3138	MA Fung-kwok	151	(1) Director of Bureau's Office
SB021	2191	MAK Mei-kuen, Alice	151	(2) Internal Security
SB022	3248	MAK Mei-kuen, Alice	151	
SB023	308	NG Wing-ka, Jimmy	151	(3) Immigration Control
SB024	351	NG Wing-ka, Jimmy	151	(2) Internal Security
SB025	654	NG Wing-ka, Jimmy	151	(2) Internal Security
SB026	655	NG Wing-ka, Jimmy	151	(3) Immigration Control
SB027	925	QUAT Elizabeth	151	(3) Immigration Control
SB028	1223	TSE Wai-chun, Paul	151	(1) Director of Bureau's Office

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
SB029	1416	TSE Wai-chun, Paul	151	
SB030	959	WONG Kwok-kin	151	(2) Internal Security
SB031	980	WONG Kwok-kin	151	(3) Immigration Control
SB032	1948	CHAN Hak-kan	122	(1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
SB033	1976	CHAN Hak-kan	122	(1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
SB034	3060	CHAN Hak-kan	122	(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
SB035	16	CHENG Chung-tai	122	
SB036	524	CHENG Chung-tai	122	(3) Road Safety
SB037	762	CHENG Chung-tai	122	(1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
SB038	771	CHENG Chung-tai	122	(1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
SB039	2775	CHENG Chung-tai	122	(4) Operations
SB040	2829	CHENG Chung-tai	122	(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
SB041	1417	CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher	122	
SB042	1428	CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher	122	(4) Operations
SB043	3232	CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher	122	(3) Road Safety
SB044	1649	CHOW Ho-ding, Holden	122	(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
SB045	1650	CHOW Ho-ding, Holden	122	(1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
SB046	1096	CHUNG Kwok-pan	122	
SB047	828	HO Chun-yin, Steven	122	
SB048	889	HO Chun-yin, Steven	122	
SB049	1538	HO Kwan-yiu, Junius	122	(1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
SB050	1539	HO Kwan-yiu, Junius	122	(4) Operations
SB051	1540	HO Kwan-yiu, Junius	122	(1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
SB052	1541	HO Kwan-yiu, Junius	122	(1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
SB053	2066	LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth	122	(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
SB054	2067	LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth	122	(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
SB055	1572	LAU Kwok-fan	122	(1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
SB056	1870	LEE Wai-king, Starry	122	
SB057	1871	LEE Wai-king, Starry	122	
SB058	365	LEUNG Che-cheung	122	(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
SB059	2448	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	122	
SB060	2482	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	122	
SB061	2488	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	122	
SB062	2491	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	122	
SB063	2492	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	122	
SB064	2506	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	122	
SB065	2509	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	122	
SB066	2510	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	122	
SB067	2511	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	122	
SB068	2512	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	122	(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
SB069	2579	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	122	
SB070	2590	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	122	
SB071	2591	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	122	
SB072	2593	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	122	
SB073	2605	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	122	
SB074	2609	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	122	(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
SB075	3015	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	122	
SB076	1278	LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin	122	(4) Operations
SB077	2355	MA Fung-kwok	122	(4) Operations
SB078	311	NG Wing-ka, Jimmy	122	
SB079	1765	NG Wing-ka, Jimmy	122	(1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
SB080	1148	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	122	(3) Road Safety

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
SB081	2411	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	122	(1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
SB082	2432	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	122	(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
SB083	3150	TIEN Puk-sun, Michael	122	
SB084	102	TSE Wai-chuen, Tony	122	(1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
SB085	103	TSE Wai-chuen, Tony	122	(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
SB086	104	TSE Wai-chuen, Tony	122	(4) Operations
SB087	105	TSE Wai-chuen, Tony	122	
SB088	156	TSE Wai-chuen, Tony	122	(3) Road Safety
SB089	1421	TSE Wai-chun, Paul	122	(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
SB090	3095	TSE Wai-chun, Paul	122	(1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
SB091	3096	TSE Wai-chun, Paul	122	(3) Road Safety
SB092	631	YICK Chi-ming, Frankie	122	(1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
SB093	632	YICK Chi-ming, Frankie	122	(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
SB094	634	YICK Chi-ming, Frankie	122	(3) Road Safety
SB095	635	YICK Chi-ming, Frankie	122	(3) Road Safety
SB096	990	YIU Si-wing	122	(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
SB097	3090	YUNG Hoi-yan	122	(1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
SB098	1910	CHAN Hak-kan	70	(1) Pre-entry Control
SB099	1911	CHAN Hak-kan	70	(4) Personal Documentation
SB100	1912	CHAN Hak-kan	70	(5) Nationality and Assistance to HKSAR Residents outside Hong Kong
SB101	1913	CHAN Hak-kan	70	(5) Nationality and Assistance to HKSAR Residents outside Hong Kong
SB102	1914	CHAN Hak-kan	70	(4) Personal Documentation
SB103	1977	CHAN Hak-kan	70	(2) Control upon Entry
SB104	763	CHENG Chung-tai	70	(1) Pre-entry Control (2) Control upon Entry
SB105	764	CHENG Chung-tai	70	(5) Nationality and Assistance to HKSAR Residents outside Hong Kong
SB106	765	CHENG Chung-tai	70	(3) Control after Entry

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
SB107	766	CHENG Chung-tai	70	(1) Pre-entry Control
SB108	2774	CHENG Chung-tai	70	(5) Nationality and Assistance to HKSAR Residents outside Hong Kong
SB109	2833	CHENG Chung-tai	70	(3) Control after Entry
SB110	2834	CHENG Chung-tai	70	(3) Control after Entry
SB111	2835	CHENG Chung-tai	70	(3) Control after Entry
SB112	2836	CHENG Chung-tai	70	(3) Control after Entry
SB113	2837	CHENG Chung-tai	70	(3) Control after Entry
SB114	2839	CHENG Chung-tai	70	(3) Control after Entry
SB115	2106	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	70	(1) Pre-entry Control
SB116	2107	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	70	(3) Control after Entry
SB117	1651	CHOW Ho-ding, Holden	70	(3) Control after Entry
SB118	1652	CHOW Ho-ding, Holden	70	
SB119	1339	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	70	(4) Personal Documentation
SB120	1346	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	70	(1) Pre-entry Control
SB121	1347	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	70	(3) Control after Entry
SB122	2984	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	70	(4) Personal Documentation
SB123	1849	LEE Wai-king, Starry	70	(3) Control after Entry
SB124	1613	LEUNG Che-cheung	70	(3) Control after Entry
SB125	2413	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	70	
SB126	2638	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	70	(1) Pre-entry Control
SB127	2639	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	70	(1) Pre-entry Control
SB128	1088	POON Siu-ping	70	(1) Pre-entry Control
SB129	1089	POON Siu-ping	70	(1) Pre-entry Control
SB130	1215	TSE Wai-chun, Paul	70	(3) Control after Entry
SB131	901	WONG Kwok-kin	70	(1) Pre-entry Control
SB132	972	WONG Kwok-kin	70	(1) Pre-entry Control
SB133	976	WONG Kwok-kin	70	(1) Pre-entry Control
SB134	977	WONG Kwok-kin	70	(1) Pre-entry Control
SB135	978	WONG Kwok-kin	70	(1) Pre-entry Control
SB136	979	WONG Kwok-kin	70	(3) Control after Entry
SB137	981	WONG Kwok-kin	70	(3) Control after Entry
SB138	1401	CHAN Chun-ying	45	(1) Fire Service

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
SB139	1406	CHAN Chun-ying	45	(1) Fire Service (2) Fire Protection and Prevention (3) Ambulance Service
SB140	1408	CHAN Chun-ying	45	(3) Ambulance Service
SB141	2884	CHENG Chung-tai	45	(3) Ambulance Service
SB142	871	HO Chun-yin, Steven	45	(1) Fire Service (2) Fire Protection and Prevention
SB143	1330	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	45	(3) Ambulance Service
SB144	1340	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	45	(1) Fire Service
SB145	1341	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	45	(3) Ambulance Service
SB146	1573	LAU Kwok-fan	45	(3) Ambulance Service
SB147	1854	LEE Wai-king, Starry	45	(2) Fire Protection and Prevention
SB148	2471	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	45	
SB149	2597	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	45	(2) Fire Protection and Prevention
SB150	2356	MA Fung-kwok	45	(1) Fire Service
SB151	2412	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	45	(3) Ambulance Service
SB152	2431	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	45	(2) Fire Protection and Prevention
SB153	1422	POON Siu-ping	45	
SB154	1596	SHIU Ka-fai	45	(2) Fire Protection and Prevention
SB155	106	TSE Wai-chuen, Tony	45	(2) Fire Protection and Prevention
SB156	107	TSE Wai-chuen, Tony	45	(2) Fire Protection and Prevention
SB157	1452	YUNG Hoi-yan	45	(2) Fire Protection and Prevention
SB158	523	CHENG Chung-tai	30	(1) Prison Management
SB159	767	CHENG Chung-tai	30	(1) Prison Management
SB160	768	CHENG Chung-tai	30	(1) Prison Management
SB161	769	CHENG Chung-tai	30	(1) Prison Management
SB162	770	CHENG Chung-tai	30	(1) Prison Management (2) Re-integration
SB163	2776	CHENG Chung-tai	30	(1) Prison Management
SB164	1653	CHOW Ho-ding, Holden	30	(2) Re-integration
SB165	1655	CHOW Ho-ding, Holden	30	
SB166	2063	LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth	30	(2) Re-integration

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
SB167	2064	LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth	30	(2) Re-integration
SB168	2507	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	30	
SB169	2508	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	30	(2) Re-integration
SB170	428	NG Wing-ka, Jimmy	30	
SB171	682	QUAT Elizabeth	30	(2) Re-integration
SB172	683	QUAT Elizabeth	30	(2) Re-integration
SB173	3040	YUNG Hoi-yan	30	(1) Prison Management
SB174	3066	YUNG Hoi-yan	30	(1) Prison Management
SB175	3084	YUNG Hoi-yan	30	(2) Re-integration
SB176	1656	CHOW Ho-ding, Holden	31	(2) Anti-narcotics Investigation
SB177	1657	CHOW Ho-ding, Holden	31	
SB178	1577	LAU Kwok-fan	31	(1) Control and Enforcement
SB179	214	NG Wing-ka, Jimmy	31	(2) Anti-narcotics Investigation
SB180	301	NG Wing-ka, Jimmy	31	(1) Control and Enforcement
SB181	418	NG Wing-ka, Jimmy	31	(1) Control and Enforcement
SB182	1588	SHIU Ka-fai	31	(1) Control and Enforcement
SB183	3085	YUNG Hoi-yan	31	(2) Anti-narcotics Investigation
SB184	2604	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	166	(1) Government Flying Service
SB185	2359	MA Fung-kwok	166	(1) Government Flying Service
SB186	2390	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	166	(1) Government Flying Service
SB187	2391	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	166	(1) Government Flying Service
SB188	695	QUAT Elizabeth	166	(1) Government Flying Service
SB189	772	CHENG Chung-tai	37	
SB190	2409	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	37	
SB191	678	QUAT Elizabeth	23	(1) Auxiliary Medical Service
SB192	679	QUAT Elizabeth	27	
SB193	2397	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	48	(3) Forensic Science Services
SB194	2051	LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth	121	(1) Police Complaints Administration

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB001****(Question Serial No. 1387)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Immigration ControlControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Under Programme (3), provision for 2021-22 is 62.2% higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to a net increase of 6 posts and increased expenses for providing publicly-funded legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants. Please advise on the following:

- 1) the expenditure involved in the above 6 posts;
- 2) the estimated expenditure on providing publicly-funded legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants; and
- 3) the estimated number of claimants to be provided with service.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)Reply:

- 1) Details of the 6 posts created in the Security Bureau under Programme (3) in 2021-22 are tabulated below:

Post title	Number	Major duties	Notional annual mid-point salary (\$)
Senior Executive Officer	1	Providing administrative support for the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) in handling appeals lodged by unsuccessful non-refoulement claimants under the Unified Screening Mechanism	1,124,520
Executive Officer I	4		3,230,160
Executive Officer I	1	Providing administrative support for the formulation of policy on immigration control	807,540

2-3) The Government will provide non-refoulement claimants in need with publicly-funded legal assistance in order to achieve the high standards of fairness required by the Court. The

estimate for providing publicly-funded legal assistance for claimants in 2021-22 is \$184 million. All in all, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic has resulted in delay in commencement of the screening procedures of some claims, as well as the work progress of the Immigration Department in screening claims and TCAB in handling appeals, thus the expenditure on publicly-funded legal assistance for 2020-21 was less than the original estimate. In order to cope with the backlogged claims due to the pandemic and the slight increase in newly received claims in recent months, the service capacity of publicly-funded legal assistance has increased gradually, with the daily quota increased from 5 to 8 in late October 2020, which will increase to 13 in April 2021. Having regard to the actual circumstances, the Government will further increase the quota in 2021-22 and thus the estimate for publicly-funded legal assistance will increase in 2021-22.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB002

(Question Serial No. 1388)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The estimate of the amount required for this year for the salaries and expenses of the Security Bureau is \$319,370,000 higher than the revised estimate for last year. For departmental expenses, there are significant increases in “Honoraria for members of committees” and “General departmental expenses”. Please advise on the following:

- 1) the number of committees involved and the changes in the number of their members; and
- 2) details of the increase of nearly \$120 million in “General departmental expenses”.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

1) There are in total 10 committees under the Security Bureau (SB) which provide honoraria for their members, namely Security and Guarding Services Industry Authority (SGSIA), Registration of Persons Tribunal, Immigration Tribunal, HKSAR Passports Appeal Board, Civil Celebrant of Marriages Appointment Appeal Board, Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB), Long-term Prison Sentences Review Board, Release under Supervision Board, Post-Release Supervision Board as well as Appeal Board on Public Meetings and Processions.

In 2021-22, SB's estimate for “Honoraria for members of committees” (\$110.6 million) is \$42.62 million higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21 (\$68 million). This is mainly due to the number of meetings reduced under the special work arrangement amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in the lower than usual expenditure on honoraria for members of committees in 2020-21. The estimate for 2021-22, which is prepared based on normal work arrangement, is slightly higher than the approved estimate for 2020-21 (\$109.3 million) by \$1.27 million. It is mainly to cope with backlog due to the pandemic.

SGSIA is established under the Security and Guarding Services Ordinance. Honoraria are paid according to the number of days that a member attends meetings or hearings. The number of its members this year remains the same as last year.

For Registration of Persons Tribunal, Immigration Tribunal, HKSAR Passports Appeal Board and Civil Celebrant of Marriages Appointment Appeal Board, honoraria are determined based on the number of tribunal/board hearings held and the attendance rate of individual adjudicator/member. The number of adjudicators at Registration of Persons Tribunal has reduced from 81 on 1 April 2020 to 78 on 28 February 2021; the number of adjudicators at Immigration Tribunal has dropped from 31 on 1 April 2020 to 30 on 28 February 2021; whereas the numbers of members of HKSAR Passports Appeal Board and Civil Celebrant of Marriages Appointment Appeal Board remain the same as last year.

The statutory TCAB handles appeals lodged by unsuccessful non-refoulement claimants under the unified screening mechanism. Upon the completion of appeal cases pending handling by TCAB in phases, the number of its members has gradually decreased from 95 on 1 April 2020 to 76 on 28 February 2021. Subject to the need for handling appeals, the Government will appoint suitable individuals to TCAB in a timely manner.

For Long-term Prison Sentences Review Board, Release under Supervision Board and Post-Release Supervision Board, honoraria are paid according to the number of meetings or special meetings attended by a member. The numbers of members of these 3 boards this year remain the same as last year.

For Appeal Board on Public Meetings and Processions, honoraria are paid according to the number of hearings attended by a member. The number of its members this year remains the same as last year.

Membership of various committees and the numbers of their members are available on SB's website.

2) In 2021-22, SB's estimate for "General departmental expenses" (\$217.3 million) is \$117.9 million higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21 (\$99.46 million). The breakdown is as follows:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| - Increased expenditure on legal advice, translation and interpretation service fees and other hire of service fees | \$31.95 million |
| - Increased expenditure on other operational expenses (including acquisition or replacement of office equipment and computer hardware and software, office rentals, remuneration for contract staff, etc.) | \$45.95 million |
| - Contingency fund for emergencies | \$40 million |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB003

(Question Serial No. 1915)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. In the past 3 financial years and the estimates for 2021-22, what were/will be the number of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff appointed in the Director of Bureau's Office, the expenditures involved and their areas of work?
2. Are there any limits on staff establishment and expenditure in the appointment of NCSC staff by the Secretary? If yes, what are the limits to the staff establishment and expenditure and the restrictions to their areas of work? If not, why are the relevant limitations not being imposed?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

No non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff were appointed in the Office of the Secretary for Security in the past 3 financial years from 2018-19 to 2020-21. The Office also has no plan to appoint NCSC staff in 2021-22.

As regards the overall mechanism, the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) has set a ceiling for the number of NCSC staff for each bureau/department (B/D) and requires a B/D to seek approval from CSB for the employment of NCSC staff above the prescribed ceiling.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB004****(Question Serial No. 3047)**

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Immigration Department receives and handles quite a number of non-refoulement claims every year. In the past 3 years,

1. how many claims were received? What were the nationalities of claimants?
2. how many claims were determined?
3. how many claims were withdrawn?
4. how many claims were under screening?
5. how many claims were pending judicial review?
6. what were the numbers of people under screening involved in crime broken down by police district and crime category?
7. what were the Government's expenditure (including legal assistance, accommodation allowance and food assistance) and staffing arrangement for handling non-refoulement claimants, as well as details of its work?
8. what were the average administrative fee and legal costs of handling each of these cases?
9. what measures did the Government have in place to combat the abuse of the mechanism concerned?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 55)

Reply:

1-4. The Government implemented the Unified Screening Mechanism (USM) in March 2014 to screen non-refoulement claims on all applicable grounds in one go. As at the end of February 2021, the number of non-refoulement claims handled by the Immigration Department (ImmD) is set out in the below table. Due to the special work arrangements during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, only limited publicly-funded legal assistance could be provided to claimants, which delayed the commencement of the screening procedures of some claims. As at the end of February 2021, apart from 713 claims

pending completion of screening by ImmD, there were some 700 claims of which the screening procedures had yet to commence due to the pandemic.

Year	Claims received	Claims determined	Claims withdrawn or no further action can be taken	Pending claims
Commencement of USM				6 699
Mar to Dec 2014	4 634	826	889	9 618
2015	5 053	2 339	1 410	10 922
2016	3 838	3 218	1 561	9 981
2017	1 843	4 182	1 743	5 899
2018	1 216	5 467	1 102	546
2019	1 213	1 344	149	266
2020	1 223	857	69	563
Jan to Feb 2021	353	195	8	713
Total	19 373	18 428	6 931	

As at the end of February 2021, ImmD received 19 373 claims and the breakdown by nationality is as follows:

Nationality	No. of claims	Percentage
Vietnam	4 807	25%
India	3 483	18%
Pakistan	2 606	14%
Indonesia	2 494	13%
Bangladesh	1 766	9%
The Philippines	1 432	7%
Nepal	470	2%
Sri Lanka	234	1%
Nigeria	217	1%
Other countries	1 864	10%
Total	19 373	100%

5. According to the Judiciary, there were 2 851, 3 727 and 2 367 applications for leave to apply for judicial review related to non-refoulement claims filed in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively. The Judiciary has all along been adopting a stringent approach in handling leave applications for judicial review. As at 31 January 2021, among these applications, 2 231 cases were disposed. Leave was granted in only 74 cases, representing 3.3% of the cases disposed.

6. According to the Police's record, the numbers of non-ethnic Chinese (NEC) persons on recognizance and issued with Form No. 8 (mostly non-refoulement claimants) who were arrested for criminal offences since 2018 are tabulated below with breakdown by police region/police district:

Police region/police district	2018	2019	2020	2021 (Jan to Feb)
Hong Kong Island Region	182	121	167	26
Central District	73	40	31	3
Wan Chai District	61	49	80	7
Western District	20	18	34	4
Eastern District	28	14	22	12
Kowloon East Region	48	26	22	7
Wong Tai Sin District	24	6	9	1
Sau Mau Ping District	2	2	4	1
Kwun Tong District	15	8	3	3
Tseung Kwan O District	7	10	6	2
Kowloon West Region	698	389	564	83
Yau Tsim District	326	183	243	26
Mong Kok District	100	62	107	20
Sham Shui Po District	198	103	149	20
Kowloon City District	74	41	65	17
New Territories North Region	175	76	137	30
Border District	2	0	5	0
Yuen Long District	111	48	102	27
Tuen Mun District	46	24	28	2
Tai Po District	16	4	2	1
New Territories South Region	45	45	43	6
Tsuen Wan District	17	6	21	2
Shatin District	5	12	9	3
Kwai Tsing District	14	15	11	1
Lantau District	7	3	2	0
Airport District	2	9	0	0
Marine Region	2	0	1	0
Hong Kong overall	1 150	657	934	152

The numbers of NEC persons on recognizance and issued with Form No. 8 (mostly non-refoulement claimants) who were arrested for criminal offences are tabulated below with breakdown by crime category:

Offence	2018	2019	2020	2021 (Jan to Feb)
Shop theft	239	200	250	64
Serious drug offences	207	86	112	15

Miscellaneous thefts	139	58	98	18
Wounding and serious assault	115	59	92	17
Serious immigration offences (Note 1)	80	49	38	7
Criminal damage	41	29	36	4
Burglary	22	17	36	3
Others (Note 2)	307	159	272	24
Total	1 150	657	934	152

Note 1: “Serious immigration offences” include aiding and abetting illegal immigrants, arranging passage of unauthorised entrants to Hong Kong, using an identity card relating to another person, etc.

Note 2: “Others” include forgery and coinage, offences against public order, pickpocketing, disorder /fighting in public places, possession of offensive weapon, etc.

In addition, according to ImmD’s records, the numbers of NEC persons on recognizance (mostly non-refoulement claimants) arrested for taking up unlawful employment contrary to section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance since 2018 are tabulated below:

Year	No. of persons arrested
2018	332
2019	215
2020	156
2021 (Jan to Feb)	43

7-8. Major expenditures on handling non-refoulement claims and related work since 2018- 19 are tabulated below:

Year	Screening of claims and handling of appeals/petitions (\$ million)	Repatriation of rejected claimants# (\$ million)	Publicly-funded legal assistance (\$ million)	Humanitarian assistance (\$ million)	Total* (\$ million)
2018-19	401	-	207	531	1 138
2019-20	344	45^	93	482	964
2020-21 (Revised estimate)	335	47^	101	533	1 015
2021-22 (Estimate)	335	47^	184	706	1 272

ImmD has deployed dedicated manpower to speed up the repatriation of rejected claimants to their places of origin since 2019-20.

* Individual items may not add up to total due to rounding up.

^ Only the expenditure on the dedicated manpower for the repatriation of non-refoulement claimants and relevant work is included. As other expenditures are incurred by duties (e.g. arrangement for air tickets and application for documents) which form part of ImmD’s overall repatriation work, we do not maintain a separate breakdown relating to the claimants.

All in all, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in delay in commencement of the screening procedures of some claims, as well as the work progress of ImmD in screening claims and the

Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) in handling appeals, thus the expenditure on publicly-funded legal assistance for 2020-21 was less than the original estimate. In order to cope with the backlogged claims due to the pandemic and the slight increase in newly received claims in recent months, the service capacity of publicly-funded legal assistance has increased gradually, with the daily quota increased from 5 to 8 in late October 2020, which will increase to 13 in April 2021. Having regard to the actual circumstances, the Government will further increase the quota in 2021-22 and thus the estimate for publicly-funded legal assistance will increase in 2021-22.

The Security Bureau does not maintain information about the specific expenditure on the publicly-funded legal assistance for each case.

As regards manpower, the number of posts in ImmD responsible for work related to screening claims, the number of TCAB members and the number of posts in TCAB Secretariat since 2018-19 are tabulated below:

Year	Number of posts in ImmD for screening claims, handling appeals and relevant legal proceedings	Number of posts in ImmD for repatriating claimants[#]	Number of TCAB members	Number of posts in TCAB Secretariat
2018-19	288	-	102	35
2019-20	207	72	95	36
2020-21	207	72	76 [^]	36
2021-22 (Estimate)	207	72	76 [^]	36

[#] ImmD has deployed dedicated manpower to speed up the repatriation of rejected claimants to their places of origin since 2019-20.

[^] The number of members as at 28 February 2021, which is subject to adjustment as necessary.

In 2021-22, there are 34 staff under the Duty Lawyer Service (including 1 Chief Court Liaison Officer, 2 Assistant Chief Court Liaison Officers, 5 Senior Court Liaison Officers, 17 Court Liaison Officers, 2 Senior Personal Secretaries, 4 Personal Secretaries II, 1 Senior Accounting Officer, 1 Accounting Officer and 1 Office Assistant). The civil service establishment of the Pilot Scheme Office (PSO) for Provision of Publicly-funded Legal Assistance for Non-refoulement Claimants (Pilot Scheme) since 2018-19 is as follows:

Rank	Number of posts in 2018-19	Number of posts in 2019-20	Number of posts in 2020-21	Number of posts in 2021-22
Chief Executive Officer	1	1	1	1
Senior Executive Officer	1	1	1	1
Executive Officer I	7	3	3	3
Assistant Clerical Officer	11	4	4	4
Workman II	2	2	2	1
Total	22	11	11	10

In addition, there are 5 non-civil service posts in PSO at present. As the daily quota for handling claims under the Pilot Scheme will increase gradually in 2021-22, PSO will create additional non-civil service posts based on the operational needs in a timely manner.

9. Since the commencement of the comprehensive review of the strategy of handling non-refoulement claims in 2016, the Government has implemented a number of measures, including preventing claimants from entering Hong Kong as far as possible; expediting the screening of pending claims; shortening the time for screening each claim; increasing the number of members and secretariat staff of TCAB; expediting the removal of rejected claimants from Hong Kong; as well as stepping up law enforcement actions against crimes such as unlawful employment. These measures have achieved positive progress, with the number of NEC illegal immigrants dropped by over 80%. ImmD basically completed the screening of previous backlogged claims in early 2019, and TCAB expects to determine all pending appeals by this year the soonest. Meanwhile, the Government has introduced the Immigration (Amendment) Bill 2020 (the Bill) into the Legislative Council (LegCo) with a view to improving the screening procedures, preventing the various delaying tactics by claimants, improving the procedures and functions of TCAB, and strengthening ImmD's powers in law enforcement, removal and detention. It is expected that LegCo would make a decision on the Bill, which is now under scrutiny by the Bills Committee, by mid this year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB005

(Question Serial No. 0012)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please list the estimated expenditure on the emoluments and allowances for the Secretary for Security (S for S), the Under Secretary for Security and the Political Assistant to S for S in 2021-22.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

For compiling the estimates, we have reserved \$4.07 million, \$3.13 million and \$1.46 million (the figures exclude the Government's Mandatory Provident Fund contribution) in 2021-22 for the remuneration for the Secretary for Security, Under Secretary for Security and Political Assistant to Secretary for Security respectively. There is no reserved provision for the allowances payable to the above positions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB006****(Question Serial No. 2832)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (3) Immigration ControlControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide information on the number of (1) arrests and (2) convictions involving non-refoulement claimants from 2014 to 2020 with breakdown by the type of offence.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 203)

Reply:

According to the Police's record, the numbers of non-ethnic Chinese (NEC) persons on recognizance and issued with Form No.8 (mostly non-refoulement claimants) who were arrested for criminal offences are tabulated below with breakdown by the type of crime:

Crime	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Shop theft	147	277	463	428	239	200	250
Serious drug offences	79	159	179	200	207	86	112
Miscellaneous thefts	86	110	161	170	139	58	98
Wounding and serious assault	67	100	117	173	115	59	92
Serious immigration offences (Note 1)	34	85	117	111	80	49	38
Criminal damage	30	33	55	62	41	29	36
Burglary	17	21	24	33	22	17	36
Others (Note 2)	205	328	390	365	307	159	272
Total	665	1 113	1 506	1 542	1 150	657	934

Note 1: "Serious immigration offences" include aiding and abetting illegal immigrants, arranging passage to Hong Kong of unauthorised entrants, using an identity card relating to another person, etc.

Note 2: "Others" include forgery and coinage, offence against public order, pickpocketing, disorder/fighting in public places, possession of offensive weapon, etc.

In addition, according to the Immigration Department's record, the numbers of NEC persons on recognizance (mostly non-refoulement claimants) arrested for taking up unlawful employment contrary to section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance since 2014 are tabulated below:

Year	No. of persons arrested
2014	166
2015	232
2016	302
2017	381
2018	332
2019	215
2020	156

The law enforcement departments have not maintained figures relating to prosecution and conviction involving non-refoulement claimants.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB007

(Question Serial No. 2838)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the number of domestic and cohabitation-related violence cases reported by non-refoulement claimants, the number of prosecutions arising from these reports and the number of convictions from 2010-2020.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 209)

Reply:

The Security Bureau and the Hong Kong Police Force do not maintain the figures requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB008****(Question Serial No. 2868)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (1) Director of Bureau's OfficeControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide a list of the destinations, dates and number of duty visits outside Hong Kong made by the Secretary last year and the actual expenditures incurred.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 257)Reply:

Details of duty visits outside Hong Kong made by the Secretary for Security in 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) are as follows:

Date	Destinations	Number of times	Total expenditure (HK\$)
1 April 2020 to 28 February 2021	Beijing, Macao, Shenzhen	5	\$21,800

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB009

(Question Serial No. 2144)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

With a funding of \$5.5 billion, 2 rounds of the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme were implemented in 2018 and 2020 respectively to assist owners in need to undertake fire safety enhancement measures as required by the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572). A total of 2 520 applications were received in the first round, and 900 applications were received by the end of the second round, which was expected to benefit 3 500 buildings. Please advise this Committee on the following:

1. What are the numbers of applications received, cases approved for subsidy, works projects in progress and works projects completed in the first round, broken down by 18 districts?
2. What are the numbers of applications received, cases approved for subsidy, works projects in progress and works projects completed in the second round, broken down by 18 districts?
3. Have there been delays in progress and completion of the enhancement works for cases approved in the first round amid the COVID-19 pandemic? If so, what are the details?
4. Among the applications received and approved in these 2 rounds, what is the number of cases involving “three-nil buildings”?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)

Reply:

1. The first round of the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme (FSWS) was open for application from July to October 2018. As at end-February 2021, the number of applications received, the number of applications issued with letter of Approval-in-principle (AIP), the number of applications with works in progress, as well as the number of applications with works completed and Fire Safety Directions (Directions) complied with in the first round are tabulated by District Council district as follows:

District Council district	Number of applications received*	Number of applications issued with AIP	Number of applications with works in progress	Number of applications with works completed and Directions complied with
Central and Western	283	155	80	4
Wan Chai	216	131	79	16
Eastern	169	86	44	1
Southern	58	28	17	5
Yau Tsim Mong	626	404	191	14
Sham Shui Po	424	288	124	7
Kowloon City	267	166	93	8
Wong Tai Sin	92	64	31	2
Kwun Tong	57	38	20	1
Tsuen Wan	104	72	45	1
Tuen Mun	27	13	6	0
Yuen Long	128	64	40	0
North	16	7	4	0
Tai Po	51	17	10	0
Sai Kung	1	1	0	0
Sha Tin	25	9	4	0
Islands	1	0	0	0
Kwai Tsing	27	17	12	0
Total	2 572	1 560	800	59

* The number of applications received includes the 209 applications cancelled for failing to meet the basic application requirements.

2. The second round of FSWS was open for application from July to October 2020. The number of applications received in the second round is tabulated by District Council district as follows:

District Council district	Number of applications received*
Central and Western	109
Wan Chai	95
Eastern	86
Southern	30
Yau Tsim Mong	197
Sham Shui Po	104
Kowloon City	93
Wong Tai Sin	22

District Council district	Number of applications received*
Kwun Tong	23
Tsuen Wan	41
Tuen Mun	9
Yuen Long	34
North	11
Tai Po	24
Sai Kung	2
Sha Tin	6
Islands	4
Kwai Tsing	13
Total	903

* The number of applications received includes the 58 applications cancelled for failing to meet the basic application requirements (as at end-February 2021).

It is expected that the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) will start issuing AIPs in batches no later than September 2021 to eligible applicants in the second round of application.

3. Based on preliminary estimation, over half of the first-round applicants had to delay or cancel their owners' corporation (OC) meetings or owners' general meetings in 2020 due to the pandemic, or were unable to convene these meetings to discuss matters relating to the improvement works as their OCs had failed to book a venue (e.g. community hall, school, etc.). Reasons as such have caused delay to the progress of works.

4. The URA does not maintain information on the number of cases involving three-nil buildings among the applications received and approved[^]. Regarding whether the buildings under application have OCs, among the 2 572 applications received in the first round, 87 applications were without OCs^{*} and 38 of them were issued with AIP[#]. On the other hand, among the 903 applications received in the second round, 130 applications were without OCs^{*} and 126 of them met the basic application requirements[#].

[^] Three-nil buildings are buildings which have no OCs or residents' organisations and have not engaged any property management company. The URA does not maintain information on whether the buildings under application have residents' organisations or have engaged any property management company.

^{*} For a building without an OC, application must be made to the URA with all its owners as the applicant.

[#] As at end-February 2021.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB010****(Question Serial No. 2299)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Internal SecurityControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department (BD) have always been responsible for enforcing the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) to ensure enhancement in fire safety of the composite buildings and domestic buildings constructed in or before 1987 as required by the Ordinance. The fire on Canton Road, Yau Ma Tei in November last year revealed the complete lack of fire safety equipment in old buildings. The Government has subsequently accepted the proposal to consider amending the Ordinance, thereby empowering FSD and BD to carry out fire safety works for building owners who are incapable of complying with the requirements of the Ordinance and to recover the costs from them afterwards. Please inform this Committee of:

- 1 a breakdown by the 18 districts in the past 3 years regarding the total number of composite and domestic buildings inspected and the total number of fire safety directions issued by FSD and BD for enforcing Cap. 572, the number of cases not yet in compliance or to be followed up, the number of cases in compliance, and the number of cases which have completed fire safety improvement works;
- 2 the number of buildings in complete lack of fire safety equipment among the 10 000 recently inspected buildings. What measures does the Government have to tackle the problem?
- 3 the feasibility of the proposal on improving standpipes for immediate connection to 5-storey domestic buildings in case of fire, as the high cost of installing a water tank for a building has all along been blamed for the reluctance of building owners to commit to enhancing fire safety equipment. If not feasible, what are the reasons?
- 4 whether the Government will consider launching the third round of Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme, as building owners have to bear the costs for fire safety improvement works when the relevant government departments recover such costs from them after carrying out the works. If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

1. Since the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (the Ordinance) came into force in July 2007, the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department (BD) have been conducting joint inspections of the target buildings in stages as scheduled. About 10 500 composite buildings would be inspected in the first stage, and about 3 000 domestic buildings will be inspected in the second stage. The two departments are now conducting the first stage of inspection. The numbers of buildings inspected by the FSD and the BD with a breakdown by District Council (DC) district in the past 3 years are as follows:

DC district	As at end-2018 [cumulative number of buildings]	As at end-2019 [cumulative number of buildings]	As at end-2020 [cumulative number of buildings]
Central and Western	1 103	1 129	1 190
Wan Chai	806	816	843
Eastern	638	668	711
Southern	217	235	242
Yau Tsim Mong	1 809	1 824	1 867
Sham Shui Po	1 182	1 275	1 307
Kowloon City	1 022	1 059	1 093
Wong Tai Sin	265	292	295
Kwun Tong	252	259	265
Tsuen Wan	332	338	376
Tuen Mun	91	122	149
Yuen Long	384	397	416
North	302	316	326
Tai Po	210	223	234
Sai Kung	21	21	27
Sha Tin	111	145	166
Islands	51	52	54
Kwai Tsing	121	146	156
<u>Total</u>	<u>8 917</u>	<u>9 317</u>	<u>9 717</u>

The numbers of Fire Safety Directions (Directions) issued by the FSD and the BD as well as the state of compliance involved are as follows:

	2018		2019		2020		As at end-2020 [cumulative no.]	
	FSD	BD	FSD	BD	FSD	BD	FSD	BD
No. of Directions issued to owners and/or occupiers	21 375	4 337	24 485	3 617	13 717	3 305	212 952	68 402
No. of Directions complied with by owners and/or occupiers/ discharged*	7 827	1 912	12 839	1 815	11 152	1 239	85 830	18 770
No. of Directions which have yet to be complied with by owners and/or occupiers	13 548	2 425	11 646	1 802	2 565	2 066	127 122	49 632

*: Directions that are discharged include Directions of demolished buildings, as well as buildings that have been approved to adopt facilitation measures.

The FSD and the BD do not maintain a separate breakdown by DC district in respect of the number of Directions issued to owners and/or occupiers, the number of Directions which have yet to be complied with by owners and/or occupiers as well as the number of Directions complied with by owners and/or occupiers/discharged.

2. The FSD and the BD do not maintain the statistics requested in the question. All buildings regulated under the Ordinance meet the fire safety standards prevailing at the time of their construction, and relevant fire safety equipment is not necessary for some old buildings under the requirements prevailing at the time of their construction. With the change of times, the fire safety standards required at the time of construction have also been enhanced.

Since the Ordinance came into force in July 2007, the FSD and the BD have been conducting joint inspections of the target buildings in stages as scheduled. Under the Ordinance, the enforcement authority on fire safety measures in relation to planning, design and construction of buildings is the Director of Buildings, while the enforcement authority in relation to fire service installations and equipment (FSIs) is the Director of Fire Services. The FSD and the BD will issue Directions to owners and/or occupiers with regard to fire safety measures of buildings under their respective purview and specify the required fire safety improvement works.

Before issuing any Directions, the FSD and the BD will deploy officers to conduct joint inspections of the target buildings. Direction(s) will be issued to owners and/or occupiers in light of the actual condition of the building and in accordance with the Ordinance, requiring them to provide appropriate FSIs and/or carry out works in relation to fire safety construction, with a view to enhancing the fire safety standards of their buildings.

The Government understands that some owners may face certain difficulties in complying with the requirements of the Ordinance. In this regard, the Government has provided technical support and adopted a flexible and pragmatic approach in handling individual cases without compromising basic fire safety. Besides, case officers of the FSD and the BD often meet with the owners concerned to explain the contents of the Directions and assist them in solving potential problems associated with the works. The FSD has currently launched various facilitation measures. For instance, the "Improvised Hose Reel System" has been introduced for buildings of 3 storeys or less, sparing the installation of fire service water tanks and pumps, whereas in the case of buildings of 4 storeys or above, the capacity requirements for fire service water tanks have been lowered.

On financial support, the Government, in partnership with the Urban Renewal Authority (URA), has implemented the \$2 billion Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme (FSWS) since 2018 to subsidise owners of eligible old target composite buildings in carrying out the required fire safety improvement works in complying with the requirements pursuant to the Ordinance. Subsequently, the Government has further injected \$3.5 billion to the FSWS. It is anticipated that the entire FSWS can benefit around 6 000 to 6 500 buildings.

3. The FSD has currently launched a number of facilitation measures. For instance, the "Improvised Hose Reel System" has been introduced for buildings of three storeys or less, sparing the installation of fire service water tanks and pumps, whereas in the case of buildings of 4 storeys or above, the capacity requirements for fire service water tanks have been lowered. These measures have resolved the spatial and structural constraints in installing fire service water tanks at the rooftops of most target buildings.

The facilitation measures must meet the basic requirements for water flow and water pressure required for firefighting. In view of this, the FSD has been maintaining close contact with the Water Supplies Department and the BD, and will consider enforcing the requirements for hose reels in individual old buildings flexibly on the premise of not compromising basic fire safety. In addition, the FSD, together with relevant departments, will continue to explore how to resolve the problems encountered when adding fire service water tanks and other alternatives.

4. The Government has to emphasise that it is owners' responsibility to timely repair and properly maintain private buildings, including carrying out the required fire safety improvement works to enhance the fire safety standards of the buildings according to the Directions.

However, the Government understands that, due to the lack of technical knowledge and/or ability to co-ordinate, etc., some owners may face certain difficulties in complying with the requirements of the Ordinance. The Chief Executive announced at the Question and Answer Session of the Legislative Council on 4 February 2021 that having regard to the experience of BD in carrying out work related to building safety, the Government agreed that there was a need to consider amending the Ordinance to empower the FSD and the BD to carry out fire safety improvement works for the owners of old buildings who were incapable of complying with the requirements of the Ordinance, and to recover the costs incurred from such owners upon completion of the works. The Government would make reference to a similar mechanism and its implementation under the existing Buildings Ordinance, and would do its best to resolve the legal and enforcement issues involved. It is expected that a public consultation will be launched in the second half of 2021 in order to formulate a suitable mechanism and amend the legislation to empower relevant departments to carry out the related work.

As regards the FSWS, the second round of application started on 2 July 2020 and closed on 30 October 2020. The URA is informing the applicants of the results gradually. If necessary, the Government and the URA will consider launching a new round of application in due course.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB011****(Question Serial No. 1104)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Internal SecurityControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Under this Programme, the Security Bureau's provision for 2021-22 is \$180.9 million (27.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to increased provision for the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme (FSWS), salary increment and other operational expenses. Please inform this Committee of the details of the increased provision. The Government has expressed that it will continue to implement the FSWS and strive to enhance the FSWS through the allocation of additional resources. What were the achievements over the past year? What was the expenditure? What is the estimated expenditure for 2021-22? What are the performance targets?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)Reply:

Under Programme (2) Internal Security, the estimate of expenditure for 2021-22 is \$180.9 million (27.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. The breakdown is as follows:

- Implementation of the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme	\$100 million
- Salary increment of civil servants and staff	\$4.23 million
- Increased expenditure on remunerations of committee members	\$16 million
- Increased expenditure on legal/translation/interpretation service fees and other hire of service fees	\$11.9 million
- Increased expenditure on minor plant/works	\$5.38 million
- Increased expenditure on other operational expenses	\$43.39 million

The \$2-billion Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme (FSWS) was open for application from July to October 2018 (first round of the FSWS), during which the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) received a total of 2 363 applications (involving 2 495 target composite buildings (TCBs)) which met the basic requirements. The URA expects that the funding of \$2 billion will be sufficient to cover all eligible applications. In view of the

positive response to the FSWS, we allocated an additional funding of \$3.5 billion to the the FSWS in 2020-21, increasing the total amount of funding to \$5.5 billion. It is anticipated that the number of buildings that can benefit could increase by about 3 500 to 4 000.

Of the 2 363 applications received which met the basic requirements in the first round of the FSWS, the persons in charge of 1 560 applications were issued with the letters of Approval-in-principle (AIP) and contacted by the URA about the commencement of fire safety improvement works. As for the remaining 803 applications, it is expected that the letters of AIP will be issued to all applicants by December 2021. Regarding the amount of funding, as at the end of February 2021, about \$2.3 million were disbursed to the owners of 5 buildings.

Following the allocation of an additional \$3.5 billion to the FSWS, the second round of application commenced on 2 July 2020 and ended on 30 October 2020. A total of 845 applications which met the basic requirements (involving 811 TCBs) were received by the URA in this round and the applicants concerned are being notified gradually that their applications met the basic requirements. We expect that the URA will start to issue the letters of AIP in batches no later than September 2021 to the eligible applicants in the second round.

In accordance with the estimated cash flow requirements of the FSWS, the Government disbursed \$460 million to the URA in 2020-21 and is planning to disburse another \$560 million to the URA in 2021-22.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB012

(Question Serial No. 1542)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In recent years, “bogus refugees” have abused the mechanism for non-refoulement claims to remain in Hong Kong, thereby endangering local law and order. Non-refoulement claimants have become a major problem in our society, and have incurred almost \$1.4 billion on living allowance and free legal assistance alone. To combat their abuse of the mechanism for claims to remain in Hong Kong, will the Government consider the following suggestions:

1. Will the Government consider setting up closed camps in such remote areas as Whitehead and Chi Ma Wan for detaining claimants in order to reduce their incentives to come to Hong Kong?
2. Will the Government consider amending the law to empower the authorities concerned to repatriate claimants to their country of origin immediately upon conviction? If yes, what are the details? If no, why?
3. As most claimants are from Southeast Asian countries, will the Government consider introducing the relevant measures to facilitate the Immigration Department to seek the assistance of local ethnic minority police officers for tackling crimes involving claimants more effectively? If yes, what are the details? If no, why?
4. What are the average, shortest and longest periods of time taken by the authorities concerned to process a claim in each of the past 3 financial years?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

Reply:

(1) In considering setting up reception centres or closed camps to detain claimants, other than matters to be handled on the legal front, the Government has to take into account various practical issues on land, infrastructure, manpower, management, etc., including whether sufficient formed land could be identified for immediate use for constructing detention centres

to accommodate thousands of detainees, and whether the site comes with adequate supporting infrastructure (such as roads, fresh water, electricity and drainage facilities). We also have to carefully strike a balance with other more pressing demands for land (such as housing). Apart from the issue of land supply and the time required for construction, we also have to take into account the fact that the claimants come from different countries. Their different backgrounds in terms of culture, religion, etc. might bring about considerable challenges on security and management, which will need to be handled carefully. Drawing from the experience of handling Vietnamese boat-people in the past, details of the detention treatment and operational arrangements also have to be explicitly stated in statute.

In considering different options and policies for dealing with the situation, the Government has to evaluate the feasibility of various policies carefully and whether the resources deployed are put to good use for meeting the policy objectives and serving the public interests. At present, the Government considers it most effective to address the problems arising from claimants by amending the Immigration Ordinance as soon as possible to further enhance the screening procedures, and strengthen the measures on intercepting illegal immigrants at source, as well as Immigration Department (ImmD)'s powers of enforcement, removal and detention, while making use of the existing detention facilities as far as possible to focus on detaining claimants posing higher security risks to society. At present, the detention capacity of the Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre under ImmD is up to 500 persons. The newly refurbished Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution, with a detention capacity of 160 persons, will also be used as a new detention facility, increasing the overall detention capacity by about one-third, thereby expanding ImmD's capacity for handling more detention cases.

(2) In accordance with the judgment laid down by the Court of Final Appeal in 2012 for the *Ubamaka* case, the Government cannot remove any person, no matter how dangerous or undesirable his conduct is, to another state where he faces a genuine and substantial risk of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In other words, even if a claimant has been convicted of an offence, ImmD still has to complete all the screening procedures (including appeals) before proceeding with removal. At present, ImmD and the Torture Claims Appeal Board has expedited the handling of claims and appeals, particularly those of claimants with criminal records, so as to complete the screening before the full sentence is served, thus enabling early commencement of the repatriation work. Meanwhile, ImmD will continue to expedite the removal procedures, including discussing the relevant arrangements with governments of major source countries and airlines, to enhance the overall efficiency in removal and remove all rejected claimants from Hong Kong as soon as possible.

(3) The Hong Kong Police Force (Police) has all along been concerning about the commission of crimes and participation in triad activities in Hong Kong by non-ethnic Chinese (NEC) persons (including non-refoulement claimants), and has been deploying manpower to step up patrol in light of the crime trends in various districts for prevention and detection of crimes.

To examine the relevant issues in a focused manner, formulate the relevant strategies and coordinate law enforcement actions, the Police have set up the "Working Group on NEC Involvement in Organized Crime and Triad Activities". Its terms of reference include monitoring the trend of NEC persons' participation in organized crimes and triad activities; developing strategies for the Police; coordinating law enforcement actions and enhancing the intelligence gathering capability.

On combating crimes at the district level, the Organized Crime and Triad Bureau introduced new strategies in 2017 to tackle crimes committed by NEC persons, with emphasis on four aspects, namely training, intelligence gathering and sharing, multi-agency cooperation and enhanced law enforcement actions.

In addition, the Police have been maintaining liaison with local and overseas law enforcement agencies, consulates in Hong Kong and NEC communities, and will take timely actions against any illegal act or trend.

All persons, irrespective of their background, nationality or race, shall abide by the laws of Hong Kong. The Police will, in light of the relevant crime trends and operational needs, continue to formulate effective measures and take actions for maintaining law and order.

(4) To expedite the handling of claims, the ImmD ensures that the screening procedures are highly efficient and achieve the high standards of fairness through flexible staff deployment and optimised workflow. ImmD's handling time for each claim (from commencement of the screening procedures to determination by ImmD) has been shortened from about 25 weeks on average in the early implementation of the Unified Screening Mechanism to the current average of about 10 weeks.

The timing required to screen each claim may vary depending on the complexity of the case. According to ImmD's records, in the past 3 financial years, the shortest time required for screening claims was 2 weeks while the longest was 49 months.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB013****(Question Serial No. 0663)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Manpower Resource ManagementControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the employment situation of the disciplined services departments, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the numbers of staff in each disciplined services department in the past 3 years, with breakdown by years of service and post;
- (2) the numbers of vacancies in each disciplined services department in the past 3 years, with breakdown by post;
- (3) the numbers of staff who left the service and the wastage rates in each disciplined services department in the past 3 years, with breakdown by post, years of service and reason of leaving the service; and
- (4) whether a new publicity strategy has been developed in 2021-22 to encourage young people to join the disciplined services departments; if yes, the details of the strategy and the estimated expenditure involved; if no, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 60)Reply:

- (1) The numbers of staff in each disciplined service from 2018-19 to 2020-21 are as follows:

Department	Rank	Length of service	No. of staff ^{Note 1}		
			2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Correctional Services Department (CSD) <small>Note 2 Note 3</small>	Commander	≤ 10 years	9	7	-
		11-20 years			-
		21-30 years			2
		> 30 years			5
	Officer	≤ 10 years	1 079	1 077	533
		11-20 years			340
		21-30 years			176
		> 30 years			47
	Rank and File	≤ 10 years	4 751	4 575	2 138

Department	Rank	Length of service	No. of staff ^{Note 1}		
			2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
		11-20 years			418
		21-30 years			1 752
		> 30 years			265
Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) ^{Note 2}	Commander	≤ 10 years	6	7	6
		11-20 years			
		21-30 years			
		> 30 years			
	Inspector	≤ 10 years	1 021	1 069	1 049
		11-20 years			
		21-30 years			
		> 30 years			
	Rank and File	≤ 10 years	4 139	4 789	4 950
		11-20 years			
		21-30 years			
		> 30 years			
Fire Services Department (FSD) ^{Note 2}	Commander	≤ 10 years	19	21	18
		11-20 years			
		21-30 years			
		> 30 years			
	Officer	≤ 10 years	1 271	1 289	1 285
		11-20 years			
		21-30 years			
		> 30 years			
	Rank and File	≤ 10 years	8 557	8 704	8 685
		11-20 years			
		21-30 years			
		> 30 years			
Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) ^{Note 4}	Gazetted Officer	≤ 10 years	3	2	1
		11-20 years	91	89	80
		21-30 years	268	274	296
		> 30 years	85	94	86
	Inspector	≤ 10 years	1 416	1 497	1 501
		11-20 years	476	508	553
		21-30 years	352	327	306
		> 30 years	209	190	173
	Rank and File	≤ 10 years	10 374	10 377	9 851
		11-20 years	4 791	4 679	4 433
		21-30 years	8 551	8 541	8 357
		> 30 years	2 761	2 855	3 301
Immigration Department (ImmD)	Commander	≤ 10 years	0	0	0
		11-20 years	0	0	0
		21-30 years	0	0	0
		> 30 years	6	8	7
	Officer	≤ 10 years	1 104	1 306	1 318

Department	Rank	Length of service	No. of staff ^{Note 1}		
			2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
		11-20 years	555	523	599
		21-30 years	316	180	133
		> 30 years	165	289	244
	Rank and File	≤ 10 years	1 791	2 362	2 499
		11-20 years	777	621	700
		21-30 years	1 337	1 352	1 181
		> 30 years	323	383	468
Government Flying Service (GFS)	Commander	≤ 10 years	0	0	0
		11-20 years	1	1	1
		21-30 years	4	3	3
		> 30 years	0	1	1
	Officer	≤ 10 years	105	110	139
		11-20 years	11	10	11
		21-30 years	73	68	58
		> 30 years	2	1	4

Note 1: Number of staff refers to strength of the department as at 1 April of the respective year.

Note 2: CSD, C&ED and FSD do not maintain breakdowns of staff by length of service.

Note 3: Technical Instructors and Instructors are not included.

Note 4: Gazetted Officers are officers of Superintendent rank or above.

(2) The numbers of vacancies in each disciplined service from 2018-19 to 2020-21 are as follows:

Department	Rank	No. of vacancies per year (as at 28 February 2021)		
		2018-19 ^{Note 5}	2019-20 ^{Note 5}	2020-21
CSD ^{Note 6}	Commander	3	4	2
	Officer	44	32	32
	Rank and File	405	359	476
C&ED	Commander	2	2	1
	Inspector	38	79	78
	Rank and File	59	124	129
FSD	Commander	0	0	0
	Officer	143	148	112
	Rank and File	281	458	380
HKPF	Gazetted Officer ^{Note 4}	0	0	47
	Inspector	98	126	467
	Rank and File	1 342	2 109	4 744
ImmD	Commander	4	5	4
	Officer	178	130	194
	Rank and File	101	85	185
GFS	Commander	0	0	0

Department	Rank	No. of vacancies per year (as at 28 February 2021)		
		2018-19 ^{Note 5}	2019-20 ^{Note 5}	2020-21
	Officer	27	23	39

Note 5: Number of vacancies as at 31 March of the respective year.

Note 6: Technical Instructors and Instructors are not included.

(3) The numbers of leavers and wastage rates ^{Note 7} in each disciplined service from 2018-19 to 2020-21 are as follows:

By length of service:

Department	Rank	Length of Service	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	
			No. of Leavers	Wastage rate	No. of Leavers	Wastage rate	No. of Leavers	Wastage rate
CSD ^{Note 8}	Commander	≤ 10 years	0	-	0	-	0	-
		11-20 years	0	-	0	-	0	-
		21-30 years	0	-	1	14.3%	1	14.3%
		> 30 years	4	44.4%	3	42.9%	1	14.3%
	Officer	≤ 10 years	14	1.3%	13	1.2%	4	0.4%
		11-20 years	-	-	2	0.2%	3	0.3%
		21-30 years	35	3.2%	26	2.4%	15	1.4%
		> 30 years	29	2.7%	25	2.3%	17	1.6%
	Rank and File	≤ 10 years	154	3.2%	80	1.7%	151	3.3%
		11-20 years	1	0.0%	7	0.2%	8	0.2%
		21-30 years	60	1.3%	59	1.3%	58	1.3%
		> 30 years	160	3.4%	95	2.1%	63	1.4%
C&ED ^{Note 9}	Commander	≤ 10 years	-	-	1	14.3%	1	16.7%
		11-20 years						
		21-30 years						
		> 30 years						
	Inspector	≤ 10 years	30	2.9%	30	2.8%	32	3.1%
		11-20 years						
		21-30 years						
		> 30 years						
	Rank and File	≤ 10 years	223	5.4%	175	3.7%	169	3.4%
		11-20 years						
		21-30 years						
		> 30 years						
FSD ^{Note 9}	Commander	≤ 10 years	1	5.3%	5	23.8%	0	-
		11-20 years						
		21-30 years						
		> 30 years						
	Officer	≤ 10 years	63	5.0%	59	4.6%	48	3.7%

Department	Rank	Length of Service	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	
			No. of Leavers	Wastage rate	No. of Leavers	Wastage rate	No. of Leavers	Wastage rate
		11-20 years						
		21-30 years						
		> 30 years						
	Rank and File	≤ 10 years	409	4.8%	373	4.3%	381	4.4%
		11-20 years						
		21-30 years						
		> 30 years						
HKPF	Gazetted Officer Note 4	≤ 10 years	0	-	0	-	1	0.2%
		11-20 years	0	-	0	-	0	-
		21-30 years	17	3.8%	13	2.8%	12	2.6%
		> 30 years	35	7.8%	42	9.2%	32	6.9%
	Inspector	≤ 10 years	21	0.9%	26	1.0%	26	1.0%
		11-20 years	4	0.2%	6	0.2%	1	0.0%
		21-30 years	16	0.7%	18	0.7%	11	0.4%
		> 30 years	44	1.8%	47	1.9%	52	2.1%
	Rank and File	≤ 10 years	273	1.0%	367	1.4%	212	0.8%
		11-20 years	51	0.2%	50	0.2%	30	0.1%
		21-30 years	146	0.6%	124	0.5%	105	0.4%
		> 30 years	640	2.4%	620	2.3%	437	1.7%
ImmD	Commander	≤ 10 years	0	-	0	-	0	-
		11-20 years	0	-	0	-	0	-
		21-30 years	0	-	0	-	0	-
		> 30 years	0	-	3	37.5%	2	28.6%
	Officer	≤ 10 years	27	1.3%	12	0.5%	10	0.4%
		11-20 years	1	0.0%	4	0.2%	5	0.2%
		21-30 years	23	1.1%	2	0.1%	2	0.1%
		> 30 years	61	2.9%	93	4.0%	83	3.6%
	Rank and File	≤ 10 years	60	1.4%	28	0.6%	35	0.7%
		11-20 years	4	0.1%	3	0.1%	3	0.1%
		21-30 years	6	0.1%	5	0.1%	2	0.0%
		> 30 years	108	2.6%	78	1.7%	87	1.8%
GFS	Commander	≤ 10 years	0	-	0	-	0	-
		11-20 years	0	-	0	-	0	-
		21-30 years	1	20%	0	-	1	20%
		> 30 years	0	-	0	-	0	-
	Officer	≤ 10 years	4	2.1%	3	1.6%	4	1.9%
		11-20 years	0	-	0	-	0	-
		21-30 years	5	2.6%	12	6.3%	8	3.8%
		> 30 years	1	0.5%	1	0.5%	1	0.5%

Note 7: Wastage rate = wastage figure (including wastage due to retirement or completion of agreement as well as unnatural wastage)/strength of that rank of the department as at 1 April of the respective year.

Note 8: Technical Instructors and Instructors are not included.

Note 9: C&ED and FSD do not maintain breakdowns of staff by length of service.

By reason for leaving:

Department	Rank	Reason for leaving	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	
			No. of Leavers	Wastage rate ^{Note 10}	No. of Leavers	Wastage rate ^{Note 10}	No. of Leavers	Wastage rate ^{Note 10}
CSD ^{Note 11}	Commander	Retirement or completion of agreement	4	44.4%	4	57.1%	2	28.6%
		Resignation	0	-	0	-	0	-
		Others ^{Note 12}	0	-	0	-	0	-
	Officer	Retirement or completion of agreement	63	5.8%	50	4.6%	32	2.9%
		Resignation	6	0.6%	11	1.0%	5	0.5%
		Others ^{Note 12}	9	0.8%	5	0.5%	2	0.2%
	Rank and File	Retirement or completion of agreement	214	4.5%	152	3.3%	117	2.6%
		Resignation	51	1.1%	39	0.9%	58	1.3%
		Others ^{Note 12}	110	2.3%	50	1.1%	105	2.3%
C&ED	Commander	Retirement or completion of agreement	-	-	1	14.3%	1	16.7%
		Resignation	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Others ^{Note 12}	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Inspector	Retirement or completion of agreement	28	2.7%	27	2.5%	22	2.1%
		Resignation	-	-	3	0.3%	8	0.8%
		Others ^{Note 12}	2	0.2%	-	-	2	0.2%
	Rank and File	Retirement or completion of agreement	126	3.0%	116	2.4%	85	1.7%
		Resignation	27	0.7%	32	0.7%	39	0.8%
		Others ^{Note 12}	70	1.7%	27	0.6%	45	0.9%
FSD	Commander	Retirement or completion of agreement	1	5.3%	5	23.8%	0	-
		Resignation	0	-	0	-	0	-
		Others ^{Note 12}	0	-	0	-	0	-
	Officer	Retirement or completion of agreement	35	2.8%	44	3.4%	37	2.9%
		Resignation	19	1.5%	9	0.7%	8	0.6%
		Others ^{Note 12}	9	0.7%	6	0.5%	3	0.2%

Department	Rank	Reason for leaving	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	
			No. of Leavers	Wastage rate ^{Note 10}	No. of Leavers	Wastage rate ^{Note 10}	No. of Leavers	Wastage rate ^{Note 10}
HKPF	Rank and File	Retirement or completion of agreement	260	3.0%	277	3.2%	277	3.2%
		Resignation	73	0.9%	62	0.7%	58	0.7%
		Others ^{Note 12}	76	0.9%	34	0.4%	46	0.5%
	Gazetted Officer ^{Note 4}	Retirement or completion of agreement	50	11.2%	54	11.8%	41	8.9%
		Resignation	1	0.2%	1	0.2%	2	0.4%
		Others ^{Note 12}	1	0.2%	0	-	2	0.4%
	Inspector	Retirement or completion of agreement	56	2.3%	62	2.5%	60	2.4%
		Resignation	17	0.7%	28	1.1%	26	1.0%
		Others ^{Note 12}	12	0.5%	7	0.3%	4	0.2%
ImmD	Commander	Retirement or completion of agreement	754	2.8%	708	2.7%	501	1.9%
		Resignation	240	0.9%	362	1.4%	192	0.7%
		Others ^{Note 12}	116	0.4%	91	0.3%	91	0.4%
	Officer	Retirement or completion of agreement	0	-	3	37.5%	2	28.6%
		Resignation	0	-	0	-	0	-
		Others ^{Note 12}	0	-	0	-	0	-
	Rank and File	Retirement or completion of agreement	82	3.8%	95	4.1%	85	3.7%
		Resignation	24	1.1%	11	0.5%	13	0.6%
		Others ^{Note 12}	6	0.3%	5	0.2%	2	0.1%
GFS	Commander	Retirement or completion of agreement	110	2.6%	79	1.7%	87	1.8%
		Resignation	46	1.1%	14	0.3%	29	0.6%
		Others ^{Note 12}	22	0.5%	21	0.4%	11	0.2%
	Commander	Retirement or completion of agreement	1	20%	0	-	1	20%
		Resignation	0	-	0	-	0	-
		Others ^{Note 12}	0	-	0	-	0	-

Department	Rank	Reason for leaving	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	
			No. of Leavers	Wastage rate ^{Note 10}	No. of Leavers	Wastage rate ^{Note 10}	No. of Leavers	Wastage rate ^{Note 10}
	Officer	Retirement or completion of agreement	6	3.1%	13	6.9%	9	4.2%
		Resignation	3	1.6%	3	1.6%	0	-
		Others ^{Note 12}	1	0.5%	0	-	4	1.9%

Note 10: Wastage rate = wastage figure/strength of that rank of the department (regardless of length of service) as at 1 April of the respective year.

Note 11: Technical Instructors and Instructors are not included.

Note 12: Other reasons for leaving include transfer, termination of service, death, etc.

(4) Details of the publicity strategy to be adopted by each disciplined service in 2021-22 for recruiting young people are as follows:

CSD: CSD will continue to organise career talks of different scale in collaboration with institutions and recruitment agencies, step up recruitment publicity in newspapers, as well as introduce different CSD posts, institutions, facilities, etc. in magazines. Furthermore, CSD launched an official Facebook page on 31 December last year to strengthen connection with young people, thereby attracting more of them to join CSD. To help young non-ethnic Chinese (NEC) seeking to start a career in law enforcement find their career path, CSD's Ethnic Minority Relation Team (EMRT) was set up in August 2019. Working closely with various support service centres for ethnic minorities and schools, EMRT implements Project NOVA, a programme specifically designed for young NEC, to provide them with guidance on life planning and advice on job hunting. As work relating to the publicity strategy is part of CSD's routine duties, the resources involved cannot be calculated separately.

C&ED: C&ED proactively works with youth services groups and organisations to conduct online career talks and sends officers to different tertiary institutions and secondary schools to introduce the work of C&ED. "Customs YES" is a youth-oriented programme launched by C&ED to promote communication with young people and enhance their understanding of the department through education-oriented activities. The aim is to bolster the image of C&ED among the youth. The resources involved in the work above have been subsumed under the general operating expenditure. A breakdown of the figures is not available.

FSD: In 2021-22, FSD plans to upgrade its recruitment website, participate in Education & Careers Expo, step up recruitment publicity targeting overseas Hong Kong students, as well as promote young NEC's interest in applying for FSD posts. FSD will also organise career talks in collaboration with institutions and organisations as well as place advertisements on multiple platforms to encourage more young people to join the department. The resources involved in the work above have been subsumed under the general operating expenditure and therefore cannot be separately identified.

HKPF: HKPF has been adopting a proactive recruitment strategy to attract high calibre young candidates who possess the required competencies to join the Force. The publicity channels employed include advertisements, Recruitment Days, Education & Careers Expo and a series of youth-oriented programmes. HKPF will adjust its publicity strategy in the light of general

social conditions such as the economic situation and demand in the labour market. It is currently reviewing and assessing the effectiveness of different publicity channels. The estimated expenditure on recruitment publicity for the coming year is not available at this stage.

ImmD: To support business development and manpower needs, ImmD is working to enhance its recruitment processes to attract suitable candidates. In addition to the annual recruitment exercise for Immigration Officers, ImmD began to recruit Immigration Assistants on a year-round basis in February 2017, with a view to attracting talent on a wider scale, so that aspiring young people could join the Immigration Service as soon as possible. ImmD will also organise career talks in collaboration with institutions and organisations as well as place advertisements on multiple platforms to encourage more young people to join the department. ImmD has deployed its internal manpower and resources to conduct the recruitment exercises. A breakdown of the figures is not available.

GFS: In 2021-22, GFS will press ahead with the publicity and recruitment drives by organising career talks in collaboration with institutions and organisations as well as placing advertisements on multiple platforms, in order to attract young people with commitment to serve the community to join the service. The resources involved in the work above have been subsumed under the general operating expenditure and therefore cannot be separately identified.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB014****(Question Serial No. 2065)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Immigration ControlControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Provision for the estimated expenditure on immigration control work in 2021-22 is 62.2% significantly higher than that of last year. In this connection, please advise on the following:

- (a) the rank and job nature of the net increase of 6 posts;
- (b) the total number of non-refoulement cases received in the past 3 years;
- (c) the average expenditure on providing publicly-funded legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants in the past 3 years; and
- (d) the estimated expenditure on screening non-refoulement claims and the staff establishment involved.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 47)Reply:

- (a) Details of the 6 posts created in the Security Bureau under Programme (3) in 2021-22 are tabulated below:

Post title	Number	Major duties
Senior Executive Officer	1	Providing administrative support for the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) in handling the appeals lodged by unsuccessful non-refoulement claimants under the Unified Screening Mechanism (USM)
Executive Officer I	4	
Executive Officer I	1	Providing administrative support for the formulation of policy on immigration control

(b) The Government implemented the USM in March 2014 to screen non-refoulement claims on all applicable grounds in one go. As at the end of February 2021, the number of non-refoulement claims handled by the Immigration Department (ImmD) is set out in the below table. Due to the special work arrangements during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, only limited publicly-funded legal assistance could be provided to claimants, which delayed the commencement of the screening procedure of some claims. As at the end of February 2021, apart from 713 claims pending completion of screening by ImmD, there were some 700 claims of which the screening procedure had yet to commence due to the pandemic.

Year	Claims received	Claims determined	Claims withdrawn or no further action can be taken	Pending claims
Commencement of the USM				6 699
Mar to Dec 2014	4 634	826	889	9 618
2015	5 053	2 339	1 410	10 922
2016	3 838	3 218	1 561	9 981
2017	1 843	4 182	1 743	5 899
2018	1 216	5 467	1 102	546
2019	1 213	1 344	149	266
2020	1 223	857	69	563
Jan to Feb 2021	353	195	8	713
Total	19 373	18 428	6 931	

(c)-(d) Major expenditures on handling non-refoulement claims and related work since 2018-19 are tabulated below:

Year	Screening of claims and handling of appeals/petitions (\$ million)	Repatriation of rejected claimants[#] (\$ million)	Publicly-funded legal assistance (\$ million)	Humanitarian assistance (\$ million)	Total* (\$ million)
2018-19	401	-	207	531	1 138
2019-20	344	45 [^]	93	482	964
2020-21 (Revised estimate)	335	47 [^]	101	533	1 015
2021-22 (Estimate)	335	47 [^]	184	706	1 272

[#] ImmD has deployed dedicated manpower to speed up the repatriation of rejected claimants to their places of origin since 2019-20.

* Individual items may not add up to total due to rounding up.

[^] Only the expenditure on the dedicated manpower for the repatriation of non-refoulement claimants and relevant work is included. As other expenditures are incurred by duties (e.g. arrangement for air tickets and application for documents) which form part of ImmD's overall repatriation work, we do not maintain a separate breakdown relating to the claimants.

All in all, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in delay in commencement of the screening procedure of some claims, as well as the work progress of ImmD in screening claims and TCAB in handling appeals, thus the expenditure on publicly-funded legal assistance for 2020- 21 was less than the original estimate. In order to cope with the backlogged claims due to the pandemic and the slight increase in newly received claims in recent months, the service capacity of publicly-funded legal assistance has increased gradually, with the daily quota increased from 5 to 8 in late October 2020, which will increase to 13 in April 2021. Having regard to the actual circumstances, the Government will further increase the quota in 2021- 22 and thus the estimate for publicly-funded legal assistance will increase in 2021-22.

The Security Bureau does not maintain the specific expenditure on publicly-funded legal assistance for each case.

As regards manpower, the number of posts in ImmD responsible for work related to screening claims, the number of TCAB members and the number of posts in TCAB Secretariat since 2018-19 are tabulated below:

Year	Number of posts in ImmD for screening claims, handling appeals and relevant legal proceedings	Number of posts in ImmD for repatriating claimants[#]	Number of TCAB members	Number of posts in TCAB Secretariat
2018-19	288	-	102	35
2019-20	207	72	95	36
2020-21	207	72	76 [^]	36
2021-22 (Estimate)	207	72	76 [^]	36

[#] ImmD has deployed dedicated manpower to speed up the repatriation of rejected claimants to their places of origin since 2019-20.

[^] The number of members as at 28 February 2021, which is subject to adjustment as necessary.

In 2021-22, there are 34 staff under the Duty Lawyer Service (including 1 Chief Court Liaison Officer, 2 Assistant Chief Court Liaison Officers, 5 Senior Court Liaison Officers, 17 Court Liaison Officers, 2 Senior Personal Secretaries, 4 Personal Secretaries II, 1 Senior Accounting Officer, 1 Accounting Officer and 1 Office Assistant). As regards the Pilot Scheme Office (PSO) for Provision of Publicly-funded Legal Assistance for Non-refoulement Claimants (Pilot Scheme), the civil service establishment since 2018-19 is as follows:

Rank	Number of posts in 2018-19	Number of posts in 2019-20	Number of posts in 2020-21	Number of posts in 2021-22
Chief Executive Officer	1	1	1	1
Senior Executive Officer	1	1	1	1
Executive Officers I	7	3	3	3
Assistant Clerical Officer	11	4	4	4
Workman II	2	2	2	1
Total	22	11	11	10

In addition, there are 5 non-civil service posts in PSO at present. As the daily quota for handling claims under the Pilot Scheme will increase gradually in 2021-22, the office will create additional non-civil service posts based on the operational needs in a timely manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB015

(Question Serial No. 1848)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide a breakdown by country of the numbers of torture claims received and cases substantiated; the major expenditures on handling non-refoulement claims and related work; the amount of publicly-funded legal assistance provided to torture claimants; and the average processing time for screening torture claims in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

The Government implemented the Unified Screening Mechanism (USM) in March 2014 to screen non-refoulement claims on all applicable grounds in one go. As at the end of February 2021, the number of non-refoulement claims handled by the Immigration Department (ImmD) is set out in the below table. Due to the special work arrangements during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, only limited publicly-funded legal assistance could be provided to claimants, which delayed the commencement of the screening procedure of some claims. As at the end of February 2021, apart from 713 claims pending completion of screening by ImmD, there were some 700 claims of which the screening procedure had yet to commence due to the pandemic.

Year	Claims received	Claims determined	Claims withdrawn or no further action can be taken	Pending claims
Commencement of the USM				6 699
Mar to Dec 2014	4 634	826	889	9 618
2015	5 053	2 339	1 410	10 922
2016	3 838	3 218	1 561	9 981
2017	1 843	4 182	1 743	5 899
2018	1 216	5 467	1 102	546
2019	1 213	1 344	149	266
2020	1 223	857	69	563
Jan to Feb 2021	353	195	8	713
Total	19 373	18 428	6 931	

Among the 18 428 claims determined by ImmD, 219 were substantiated (including 134 claims substantiated by the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) on appeal). The breakdown by nationality is as follows:

Nationality	Substantiated non-refoulement claims
(Republic of) Yemen	33
Pakistan	26
Rwanda	20
Somalia	19
Egypt	15
(Democratic Republic of) Congo	13
Bangladesh	12
Cameroon	12
Burundi	9
Indonesia	9
Afghanistan	7
Nepal	7
Ethiopia	6
Sri Lanka	5
Iran	4
Central African Republic	3
Uganda	3
Gambia	2
India	2
Nigeria	2
Sudan	2
Venezuela	2
Eritrea	1
The Philippines	1

Niger	1
Syria	1
Thailand	1
Vietnam	1
Total	219

As for the 18 343 non-refoulement claims found unsubstantiated by ImmD (including 134 claims later substantiated by TCAB), the breakdown by nationality is as follows:

Nationality	Non-refoulement claims found unsubstantiated by ImmD
Pakistan	3 421
India	3 262
Vietnam	3 216
Bangladesh	2 225
Indonesia	2 035
The Philippines	1 268
Nepal	662
Sri Lanka	381
Nigeria	327
Gambia	180
Others	1 366
Total	18 343

Major expenditures on handling non-refoulement claims and related work since 2018-19 are tabulated below:

Year	Screening of claims and handling of appeals/petitions (\$ million)	Repatriation of rejected claimants[#] (\$ million)	Publicly-funded legal assistance (\$ million)	Humanitarian assistance (\$ million)	Total* (\$ million)
2018-19	401	-	207	531	1 138
2019-20	344	45 [^]	93	482	964
2020-21 (Revised estimate)	335	47 [^]	101	533	1 015
2021-22 (Estimate)	335	47 [^]	184	706	1 272

[#] ImmD has deployed dedicated manpower to speed up the repatriation of rejected claimants to their places of origin since 2019-20.

* Individual items may not add up to total due to rounding up.

[^] Only the expenditure on the dedicated manpower for the repatriation of non-refoulement claimants and relevant work is included. As other expenditures are incurred by duties (e.g. arrangement for air tickets and application for documents) which form part of ImmD's overall repatriation work, we do not maintain a separate breakdown relating to the claimants.

All in all, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in delay in commencement of the screening procedure of some claims, as well as the work progress of ImmD in screening claims and TCAB in handling appeals, thus the expenditure on publicly-funded legal assistance for 2020- 21 was less than the original estimate. In order to cope with the backlogged claims due to the pandemic and the slight increase in newly received claims in recent months, the service capacity of publicly-funded legal assistance has increased gradually, with the daily quota increased from 5 to 8 in late October 2020, which will increase to 13 in April 2021. Having regard to the actual circumstances, the Government will further increase the quota in 2021-22 and thus the estimate for publicly-funded legal assistance will increase in 2021-22.

As regards the time for handling each claim, ImmD ensures that the screening procedures are highly efficient and achieve high standards of fairness through flexible staff deployment and optimised workflow. ImmD's handling time for each claim (from commencement of the screening procedures to determination by ImmD) has been shortened from about 25 weeks on average at the early implementation of the USM to the current average of about 10 weeks.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB016

(Question Serial No. 2474)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Which bureau/department coordinates the Government's efforts in promoting national security among the public? What were/are the Security Bureau's staff establishment, emolument expenditure and total expenditure for such promotion in each of the past 3 years and the coming year? How many promotional events were subsidised each year? What were the subsidised organisations, names of events and amounts of subsidy? How much subsidy has been earmarked for the coming year?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 92)

Reply:

Since the adoption of the Hong Kong National Security Law and its promulgation for implementation in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on 30 June 2020, the HKSAR Government has been introducing the Hong Kong National Security Law to various sectors and responding to concerns raised through different channels and means (including publishing pamphlets, issuing press releases, placing newspapers advertisements, and officials taking part in interviews on television, radio, webinars and other media, etc.), as well as through the economic and trade offices. Moreover, the Government has been enhancing Hong Kong people's understanding of national development and national security through education in schools and different means. In this regard, the Government will roll out a series of promotional and educational activities on this year's National Security Education Day on 15 April. In the days ahead, the HKSAR Government will continue to strengthen publicity and education, so as to enhance Hong Kong people's understanding of national security and law-abiding awareness, and also deepen the understanding of the international community on the Hong Kong National Security Law and its positive messages.

Besides, the Hong Kong National Security Law is a national law listed in Annex III to the Basic Law (BL), and links closely with the Constitution and the BL. The Government will make good use of the platform of the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC) chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, and coordinate with the BLPSC members

the formulation of strategies and plans for promoting the Constitution, the BL and the Hong Kong National Security Law. The Secretary for Security has joined the BLPSC as a member, and will offer views and necessary support for the effective promotion of the Hong Kong National Security Law.

The Security Bureau's expenditure involved in promoting the Hong Kong National Security Law is part of its overall expenditure and no specific breakdown is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB017

(Question Serial No. 2487)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. In each of the past 3 years, how many claims were received under the Unified Screening Mechanism? How many claims were determined, withdrawn or unable to be followed up, and pending screening? How many substantiated and unsubstantiated claims were there? How many appeals on unsubstantiated claims were received? How many appeals were determined, withdrawn or unable to be followed up, and pending screening?
2. How many applications for leave for judicial review on non-refoulement claims were filed, and how many were granted leave in each of the past 3 years?
3. What was the situation of non-refoulement claimants being arrested, prosecuted and convicted for committing crimes during their stay in Hong Kong in the past 3 years? Please provide a breakdown by category of offence.
4. What were/are the staff establishment for handling non-refoulement claims and related work, the respective expenditures on repatriation of rejected claimants, publicly-funded legal assistance and humanitarian assistance, as well as the total expenditures in each of the past 3 years and the coming year?
5. What is the average handling time for each of these claims?
6. How the efficiency of the handling of non-refoulement claims is expected to be improved upon endorsement of the Immigration (Amendment) Bill 2020 by the Legislative Council?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 137)

Reply:

1. The Government implemented the Unified Screening Mechanism (USM) in March 2014 to screen non-refoulement claims on all applicable grounds in one go. As at the end of February 2021, the number of non-refoulement claims handled by the Immigration Department (ImmD) is set out in the below table. Due to the special work arrangements during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, only limited publicly-funded legal assistance could be provided to claimants, which delayed the commencement of the screening procedures of some claims. As at the end of February 2021, apart from 713 claims

pending completion of screening by ImmD, there were some 700 claims of which the screening procedures had yet to commence due to the pandemic.

Year	Claims received	Claims determined	Claims withdrawn or no further action can be taken	Pending claims
Commencement of USM				6 699
Mar to Dec 2014	4 634	826	889	9 618
2015	5 053	2 339	1 410	10 922
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2017	1 843	4 182	1 743	5 899
2018	1 216	5 467	1 102	546
2019	1 213	1 344	149	266
2020	1 223	857	69	563
Jan to Feb 2021	353	195	8	713
Total	19 373	18 428	6 931	

Among the 18 428 claims determined by ImmD, 85 were substantiated and 18 343 were unsubstantiated.

As for the claims found unsubstantiated by ImmD, around 95% of the claimants have lodged an appeal. 134 of those claims were substantiated by the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB). As at the end of February 2021, the number of appeals handled by TCAB is as follows:

Year	Appeals received	Appeals determined	Appeals withdrawn or no further action can be taken	Pending appeals
Mar to Dec 2014	646	51	19	576
2015	2 209	374	203	2 208
2016	2 803	574	326	4 111
2017	4 993	2 732	546	5 826
2018	5 404	3 916	794	6 520
2019	1 487	4 285	561	3 161
2020	867	2 218	139	1 671
Jan to Feb 2021	177	196	17	1 635
Total	18 586	14 346	2 605	

Note 1: The figures do not include the appeals which had been handled prior to the commencement of USM in March 2014.

Note 2: The figures include late appeals, but not appeals lodged to re-open claims.

Note 3: Among the 18 343 claims found unsubstantiated by ImmD, 17 406 claimants have lodged an appeal (around 95%). Among them, there are 1 180 appeals for which the appeals in respect of their rights under Article 2 of the Hong Kong Bill of Rights being threatened and their original appeals lodged earlier on other applicable grounds had to be handled separately under the prevailing arrangement during the early implementation of USM. Therefore, TCAB had to handle a total of 18 586 appeals.

2. According to the Judiciary, there were 2 851, 3 727 and 2 367 applications for leave to apply for judicial review related to non-refoulement claims filed in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively. The Judiciary has all along been adopting a stringent approach in handling leave applications for judicial review. As at 31 January 2021, among these applications, 2 231 cases were disposed. Leave was granted in only 74 cases, representing 3.3% of the cases disposed.

3. The number of non-ethnic Chinese (NEC) on recognizance and issued with Form No. 8 (mostly non-refoulement claimants) who were arrested for criminal offences is tabulated below with a breakdown by category of offence:

Offence	2018	2019	2020	2021 (Jan to Feb)
Shop theft	239	200	250	64
Serious drug offences	207	86	112	15
Miscellaneous thefts	139	58	98	18
Wounding and serious assault	115	59	92	17
Serious immigration offences (Note 1)	80	49	38	7
Criminal damage	41	29	36	4
Burglary	22	17	36	3
Others (Note 2)	307	159	272	24
Total	1 150	657	934	152

Note 1: “Serious immigration offences” include aiding and abetting illegal immigrants, arranging passage of unauthorised entrants to Hong Kong, using an identity card relating to another person, etc.

Note 2: “Others” include forgery and coinage, offences against public order, pickpocketing, disorder/fighting in public places, possession of offensive weapon, etc.

In addition, according to ImmD’s records, the number of NEC on recognizance (mostly non-refoulement claimants) arrested for taking up unlawful employment contrary to section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance since 2018 is tabulated below:

Year	No. of persons arrested
2018	332
2019	215
2020	156
2021 (up to Feb)	43

4. Major expenditures on handling non-refoulement claims and related work since 2018-19 are tabulated below:

Year	Screening of claims and handling of appeals/petitions (\$ million)	Repatriation of rejected claimants[#] (\$ million)	Publicly-funded legal assistance (\$ million)	Humanitarian assistance (\$ million)	Total* (\$ million)
2018-19	401	-	207	531	1 138
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ImmD has deployed dedicated manpower to speed up the repatriation of rejected claimants to their places of origin since 2019-20.

** Individual items may not add up to total due to rounding up.*

^ Only the expenditure on the dedicated manpower for the repatriation of non-refoulement claimants and relevant work is included. As other expenditures are incurred by duties (e.g. arrangement for air tickets and application for documents) which form part of ImmD's overall repatriation work, we do not maintain a separate breakdown relating to the claimants.

All in all, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in delay in commencement of the screening procedures of some claims, as well as the work progress of ImmD in screening claims and TCAB in handling appeals, thus the expenditure on publicly-funded legal assistance for 2020-21 was less than the original estimate. In order to cope with the backlogged claims due to the pandemic and the slight increase in newly received claims in recent months, the service capacity of publicly-funded legal assistance has increased gradually, with the daily quota increased from 5 to 8 in late October 2020, which will increase to 13 in April 2021. Having regard to the actual circumstances, the Government will further increase the quota in 2021-22 and thus the estimate for publicly-funded legal assistance will increase in 2021-22.

As regards manpower, the number of posts in ImmD responsible for work related to screening claims, the number of TCAB members and the number of posts in TCAB Secretariat since 2018-19 are tabulated below:

Year	Number of posts in ImmD for screening claims, handling appeals and relevant legal proceedings	Number of posts in ImmD for repatriating claimants[#]	Number of TCAB members	Number of posts in TCAB Secretariat
2018-19	288	-	102	35
2019-20	207	72	95	36
2020-21	207	72	76 [^]	36
2021-22 (Estimate)	207	72	76 [^]	36

ImmD has deployed dedicated manpower to speed up the repatriation of rejected claimants to their places of origin since 2019-20.

^ The number of members as at 28 February 2021, which is subject to adjustment as necessary.

In 2021-22, there are 34 staff under the Duty Lawyer Service (including 1 Chief Court Liaison Officer, 2 Assistant Chief Court Liaison Officers, 5 Senior Court Liaison Officers, 17 Court Liaison Officers, 2 Senior Personal Secretaries, 4 Personal Secretaries II, 1 Senior Accounting Officer, 1 Accounting Officer and 1 Office Assistant). The civil service establishment of the Pilot Scheme Office (PSO) for Provision of Publicly-funded Legal Assistance for Non-refoulement Claimants (Pilot Scheme) since 2018-19 is as follows:

Rank	Number of posts in 2018-19	Number of posts in 2019-20	Number of posts in 2020-21	Number of posts in 2021-22
Chief Executive Officer	1	1	1	1
Senior Executive Officer	1	1	1	1
Executive Officer I	7	3	3	3
Assistant Clerical Officer	11	4	4	4
Workman II	2	2	2	1
Total	22	11	11	10

In addition, there are 5 non-civil service posts in PSO at present. As the daily quota for handling claims under the Pilot Scheme will increase gradually in 2021-22, PSO will create additional non-civil service posts based on the operational needs in a timely manner.

5. To expedite the handling of claims, ImmD ensures that the screening procedures are highly efficient and achieve the high standards of fairness through flexible staff deployment and optimised workflow. ImmD's handling time for each claim (from commencement of the screening procedures to determination by ImmD) has been shortened from about 25 weeks on average in the early implementation of the USM to the current average of about 10 weeks.

6. The Government has introduced the Immigration (Amendment) Bill 2020 (the Bill) into the Legislative Council (LegCo) with a view to improving the screening procedures, preventing the various delaying tactics by claimants, improving the procedures and functions of TCAB, and strengthening ImmD's powers in law enforcement, removal and detention. It is expected that LegCo would make a decision on the Bill, which is now under scrutiny by the Bills Committee, by mid this year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB018****(Question Serial No. 2496)**

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has on a number of occasions arranged chartered flights to bring back Hong Kong residents stranded overseas. In respect of each operation, please advise on the location involved, the number of participating officers from various bureaux or departments, the number of flights arranged, the number of Hong Kong residents brought back, the number of non-Hong Kong residents (e.g. Mainland or Macao residents) taking the chartered flights, as well as the expenditure involved.

Also, how many requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents stranded overseas were received by the Security Bureau/Immigration Department in 2019 and 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic? Please provide a breakdown by country and region.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 155)

Reply:

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 to 31 December 2020, the Government has arranged or coordinated a total of 51 chartered flights or commercial flights to bring back a total of 7 547 Hong Kong residents to Hong Kong. Details are as follows:

(1) Diamond Princess in Japan

The Government chartered 3 flights from 19 to 23 February 2020 to bring back a total of 193 Hong Kong passengers on board the Diamond Princess cruise ship from Japan to Hong Kong. The expenditure of the operations mainly involved the cost of arranging chartered flights and the travelling expenses incurred by operational personnel, and was absorbed by the existing resources of the Security Bureau (SB), Immigration Department (ImmD), Department of Health (DH) and Hospital Authority (HA). The total expenditure was about \$6.26 million.

The operations between 19 and 23 February 2020 were led by the Under Secretary for Security and the Director of Immigration, with a total of 75 team members from SB, ImmD,

DH and HA joining. Furthermore, ImmD and DH sent another 38 officers in batches to Japan to assist Hong Kong residents and their families who were still on treatment or under quarantine there.

(2) Hubei Province

On 4, 5, 25 and 26 March 2020, the Government sent 8 chartered flights in two batches to bring a total of 1 027 Hong Kong residents in Hubei Province back to Hong Kong. The cost for arranging two batches of chartered flights between Hong Kong and Wuhan and the related expenses amounted to around \$14.54 million, which was absorbed by the existing resources of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB).

A total of 66 staff members from the CMAB, ImmD, DH, Information Services Department and HA took the chartered flights and joined the above operations. Staff members from various bureaux and departments also provided local and logistic support to the operations, including officers of the Economic and Trade Office of the HKSAR Government in Wuhan who stayed in Wuhan to liaise with the Hubei Provincial Government, and planned and handled all local arrangements. As numerous staff members were involved in providing local and logistic support, we do not have the relevant detailed figures.

(3) Other countries / territories

Besides, the Government has arranged or coordinated a total of 40 chartered flights or commercial flights from April to December 2020 to bring back 6 327 Hong Kong residents to Hong Kong as detailed below:

Country	Period	Number of flights	Number of passengers
Peru	April	1	65
Morocco	April	1	27
Pakistan	April	1	319
India	May to December	22	4 273
Nepal	May to September	8	1 337
Myanmar	June to September	3	60
Bangladesh	June to December	4	246
Total	-	40	6 327

The listed flights were arranged on a user-pays principle, with the expenses paid by the passengers. As the Government did not dispatch any officers to those countries, no Government expenses were incurred.

In the past 2 years, the breakdown by region of assistance requests received by the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit of the ImmD from Hong Kong residents seeking assistance outside Hong Kong is tabulated as follows.

Region where Hong Kong residents seeking assistance outside Hong Kong were in distress	Number of assistance seekers in 2019	Number of assistance seekers in 2020
India	5	6 872
Mainland China	634	4 720
Pakistan	5	2 167
Nepal	3	1 449
Japan	416	502
United Kingdom	511	409
Vietnam	47	292
South Africa	9	278
Philippines	30	210
Others	2 308	1 612
Total	3 968 ⁽¹⁾	18 511 ⁽²⁾

Remarks:

(1) No assistance case was related to the COVID-19.

(2) 17 110 assistance cases were related to case subjects being stranded outside Hong Kong due to the COVID-19.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB019

(Question Serial No. 2587)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. What were the respective staff establishment and expenditures for promoting anti-drug messages to young people and students in the past 3 years?
2. What were the number of projects funded and funding approved (broken down by project type) under the Beat Drugs Fund in each of the past 3 years? How much of the funding was spent on promoting anti-drug messages to young people and students?
3. How many visitors did the Hong Kong Jockey Club Drug InfoCentre (DIC) receive in each of the past 3 years? Regarding the closing of DIC since 1 February 2021 for renovation works lasting 1.5 years, please advise on the relevant details and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 129)

Reply:

1&2 The Narcotics Division (ND) of the Security Bureau (SB) has been in collaboration with the Action Committee Against Narcotics, various policy bureaux/departments or agencies (including the Education Bureau, the Department of Health, the Hospital Authority, the Social Welfare Department, the Hong Kong Police Force, the Customs and Excise Department, the Correctional Services Department, etc.) and other stakeholders to combat the drug problem holistically under the multi-pronged strategy, including preventive education and publicity (PE&P), treatment and rehabilitation (T&R), legislation and law enforcement, external co-operation and research.

Moreover, the Government has established the Beat Drugs Fund (BDF) with a capital base of \$3.35 billion to support various sectors of the community to carry out anti-drug projects so as to sustain the fight against the drug problem. Funding schemes of BDF mainly cover PE&P, T&R and research. The disbursement of fund under BDF is outside the scope of the Appropriation Bill or the estimates of the General Revenue Account. In the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21), funding support to over 630

projects was approved under BDF, with a total funding amount of about \$650 million. The number of projects by project type and amount of funding are as follows –

Project Type	2018-19 (Number of Projects)	2019-20 (Number of Projects)	2020-21 (Number of Projects)
PE&P	\$105 million (194)	\$53.47 million (158)	\$161 million (156)
T&R	\$25.18 million (14)	\$64.98 million (20)	\$36.78 million (15)
Research	\$18.63 million (8)	\$5.5 million (5)	\$4.47 million (2)
Mixed-type (i.e. including more than one type)	\$54.27 million (18)	\$51 million (16)	\$75.15 million (26)

Schools are an important platform for anti-drug PE&P targeting young people and students. PE&P projects supported by BDF included the Healthy School Programme with a Drug Testing Component (HSP(DT)) and the “Participate in Sports, Stay Away from Drugs” Programme in secondary schools. HSP(DT) aims to help students develop healthy lifestyles and positive values, enhance their ability to resist drugs and overcome adversity, as well as promote a drug-free school culture. In addition, the “Participate in Sports, Stay Away from Drugs” Programme aims to promote healthy lifestyles and an anti-drug culture in secondary schools through students’ participation in the organisation of sports-related and/or health-related activities, and in supporting student athletes taking part in sports competitions. Funding approved under HSP(DT) and “Participate in Sports, Stay Away from Drugs” Programme of BDF over the past 3 years is as follows –

	2018-19 (Number of Projects)	2019-20 (Number of Projects)	2020-21 (Number of Projects)
HSP(DT)	\$76.14 million (37)	\$32.13 million (22)	\$123 million (37)
“Participate in Sports, Stay Away from Drugs” Programme	\$2.7 million (136)	\$2.44 million (122)	\$2 million (100)

Funding support is also provided under BDF to other different groups and organisations (e.g. non-governmental organisations (NGOs)) for implementing other PE&P projects targeting different groups. In the past 3 years, funding was approved for a total of 54 other PE&P projects, amounting to around \$80.3 million; as well as for 59 mixed-type projects with PE&P elements, amounting to around \$175 million. We do not maintain a breakdown of expenditures among funded projects in respect of disseminating anti-drug messages to young people and students.

ND of SB has also been working with NGOs to provide preventive education for upper primary and international school students by conveying anti-drug knowledge through diversified learning and/or interactive drama programmes, so that they may learn the common drug types, harms of drug abuse, techniques of refusing drugs and serious consequences of committing drug offences. ND's total expenditure on the above initiatives over the past 3 years was about \$5.5 million.

In addition, ND of SB is responsible for operating the Hong Kong Jockey Club Drug InfoCentre (DIC) in Admiralty. DIC, as the hub for anti-drug education and publicity activities, has been rolling out various types of projects for different target groups, including exhibitions and sharing sessions promoting healthy lifestyles among young people, as well as visits and anti-drug seminars arranged for students, parents and anti-drug partners. Meanwhile, ND of SB is also committed to disseminating anti-drug messages through other different media and channels, launching suitable anti-drug programmes, enhancing community awareness (including those of young people and students) of drug harms, promoting early identification of hidden drug abusers and encouraging early help-seeking. The relevant work is part of the regular operation of ND of SB and we do not maintain a breakdown of expenditures.

3. The attendance of DIC over the past 3 years (2018-2020) is as follows –

Year	2018	2019	2020
Attendance	39 100	30 788	3 221 (Note)

Note: In view of the COVID-19 epidemic, DIC was closed for various periods in 2020.

In order to further enhance the role and function of DIC, **the Government is taking forward** “Fitting-out works at Hong Kong Jockey Club Drug InfoCentre, Admiralty” (Project Number: HQ110) through block allocations under the Capital Works Reserve Fund (Subhead 3101GX under Head 703 – Buildings), in order **to strengthen DIC’s functions of anti-drug education and enriching visitation experience of members of the public.** The above works project formally commenced since the closure of DIC from 1 February 2021, and is expected to last for about one and a half years, with a project estimate of about HK\$29 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB020

(Question Serial No. 3138)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please list the following Fund's balance, amount of injections by the Government, total amounts of investment or other incomes and expenditure in 2019-20. If there are other funds within the purview of the Bureau, please also provide information as per the items above.

1. Beat Drugs Fund

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 71)

Reply:

The Beat Drugs Fund (BDF) was established in 1996 by Government funds with a capital base of \$350 million. With the injection of \$3 billion by the Government in 2010, the capital base of BDF has increased to \$3.35 billion. There has been no further capital injection since then. In 2019-20, the total income of BDF from investment and interest, etc. was around minus \$183 million, while the total expenditure (except for basic operating expenses, most of which was used for funding anti-drug projects) was around \$208 million. The annual balance stood at around \$4.2 billion (including the capital base and the amount of grants approved but not yet released). The disbursement of fund under BDF is outside the scope of the Appropriation Bill or the estimates of the General Revenue Account.

There are no other funds under the management of the Security Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB021

(Question Serial No. 2191)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Security Bureau's main responsibilities are to formulate and implement government security policies. Implemented last year, the National Security Law does not fully cover the provisions under Article 23 of the Basic Law. For example, treason, sedition, conduct of political activities in Hong Kong by foreign political bodies, theft of state secrets and establishment of ties with foreign political organizations by local political bodies are not included in the National Security Law. Thus it is still necessary to enact legislation on Article 23. Would the Government inform this Committee whether it will enact legislation on Article 23 of the Basic Law in 2021-22? If yes, what are the staff establishment and expenditure involved? What will be the legislative timetable?

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (LegCo internal reference no.: 95)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been carrying out relevant work in respect of the enactment of legislation on Article 23 of the Basic Law (BL23). Such work includes examining the bill submitted by the HKSAR Government to the Legislative Council in 2003 and conducting legal research related to national security.

Having regard to the work and scope involved in the enactment of legislation on BL23, the relevant considerations and complexity, etc., and the requirements under the Basic Law and the Hong Kong National Security Law, the HKSAR Government will complete the legislation on BL23 as early as possible, but it would be difficult to finalise the timetable at this stage.

The manpower and expenditure of the Security Bureau in respect of the legislative work on BL23 is part of the manpower and expenditure for safeguarding national security and no breakdown is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB022****(Question Serial No. 3248)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the waiting situation for disciplined services quarters, will the Government inform this Committee of the number of members of each disciplined services waiting for the allocation of quarters and the average waiting time in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (LegCo internal reference no.: 94)Reply:

The number of staff, with a breakdown by disciplined services, waiting for the allocation of quarters and the average waiting time in the past 3 financial years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21 (as at 1 March 2021)	
Disciplined services	Number of staff waiting for the allocation of quarters	Average waiting time	Number of staff waiting for the allocation of quarters	Average waiting time	Number of staff waiting for the allocation of quarters	Average waiting time
Correctional Services Department	315	3.1 years	203	2.6 years	216	2.6 years
Customs and Excise Department	641	5.2 years	644	4.9 years	707	3.7 years
Fire Services Department	1 857	2.6 years	1 706	3.0 years	1 839	2.6 years
Government Flying Service	13	0.8 year	21	1.7 years	14	1.7 years
Hong Kong Police Force	3 383	5.4 years	3 247	5.3 years	3 371	4.7 years
Immigration Department	916	5.9 years	680	6.1 years	708	4.0 years

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB023****(Question Serial No. 0308)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Immigration ControlControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Under Programme (3) Immigration Control, the estimate of expenditure for 2021-22 is 62.2% higher than the revised estimate for last year. Would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (i) the breakdown of and the reasons for the above expenditure;
- (ii) the figures of non-refoulement claims received and handled by the Immigration Department and the amount of the publicly-funded legal assistance provided to non-refoulement claimants in the past 5 years;
- (iii) the operating expenditure of implementing various admission schemes for talent, professionals and entrepreneurs in the past 5 years;
- (iv) regarding staffing establishment, 6 posts will be created in 2021-22. Would the Bureau please advise this Committee of the major responsibilities of the posts and the expenditure on salaries?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 75)

Reply:

1) Under Programme (3) Immigration Control, the estimate of expenditure for 2021-22 is \$138 million (62.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. The breakdown is as follows:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| - Net increase of 6 posts and annual salary increment of civil servants and staff | \$16.1 million |
| - Increased expenditure on the legal assistance scheme for non-refoulement claimants operated by the Duty Lawyer Service (DLS) | \$31.88 million |
| - Increased expenditure for the remunerations of committee members handling appeals/petitions lodged by unsuccessful non-refoulement claimants and other committee members | \$26.62 million |
| - Increased expenditure for legal advice/translation/interpretation services and other hired service costs | \$20.05 million |
| - Increase in other operational expenses | \$43.37 million |

2) The Government implemented the Unified Screening Mechanism (USM) in March 2014 to screen non-refoulement claims on all applicable grounds in one go. As at the end of February 2021, the numbers on non-refoulement claims handled by the Immigration Department (ImmD) are set out in the below table. Due to the special work arrangements during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, only limited publicly-funded legal assistance could be provided to claimants, which delayed the commencement of screening procedure of some claims. As at the end of February 2021, apart from 713 claims pending the completion of screening by ImmD, there were some 700 claims of which the screening procedure had yet to commence due to the pandemic.

Year	Claims received	Claims determined	Claims withdrawn or no further action can be taken	Pending claims
Commencement of the USM				6 699
Mar to Dec 2014	4 634	826	889	9 618
2015	5 053	2 339	1 410	10 922
2016	3 838	3 218	1 561	9 981
2017	1 843	4 182	1 743	5 899
2018	1 216	5 467	1 102	546
2019	1 213	1 344	149	266
2020	1 223	857	69	563
Jan to Feb 2021	353	195	8	713
Total	19 373	18 428	6 931	

The expenditures for the provision of publicly-funded legal assistance for non-refoulement claimants since 2016-17 are tabulated below:

Year	Publicly-funded legal assistance (\$ million)
2016-17	122
2017-18	152
2018-19	207
2019-20	93
2020-21 (Revised estimate)	101
2021-22 (Estimate)	184

The entirety of the aforementioned expenditures for 2016-17 was on the Legal Assistance Scheme for Non-refoulement Claimants operated under the DLS. From 2017-18 onward, the expenditure has also included costs of the Pilot Scheme for Provision of Publicly-funded Legal Assistance for Non-refoulement Claimants (Pilot Scheme) implemented since September 2017. The revised estimate for 2020-21 and the estimate for 2021-22 for the publicly-funded assistance for non-refoulement claimants are \$101 million and \$184 million respectively.

All in all, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in delay in commencement of the screening procedure of some claims, as well as the work progress of ImmD in screening claims and the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) in handling appeals, thus the expenditure on publicly-funded legal assistance for 2020-21 was less than the original estimate. In order to cope with the backlogged claims due to the pandemic and the slight increase in newly received claims in recent months, the service capacity of publicly-funded legal assistance has increased gradually, with the daily quota increased from 5 to 8 in late October 2020, which will increase to 13 in April 2021. Having regard to the actual circumstances, the Government will further increase the quota in 2021-22 and thus the estimate for publicly-funded legal assistance will increase in 2021-22.

3) The salary costs of ImmD for processing applications under the General Employment Policy, the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals, the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme and the Technology Talent Admission Scheme[^] in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	Salary costs* (\$'000)
2016 - 17	35,830
2017 - 18	37,460
2018 - 19	43,730
2019 - 20	45,660
2020 - 21	51,770

[^] The Technology Talent Admission Scheme was launched on 25 June 2018.

* Calculated based on the notional annual mid-point salary.

4) Details of the 6 posts created in the Security Bureau under Programme (3) in 2021-22 are tabulated below:

Post title	Number	Major duties	Notional annual mid-point salary (\$)
Senior Executive Officer	1	Providing administrative support for TCAB in handling appeals lodged by unsuccessful non-refoulement claimants under the USM	1,124,520
Executive Officer I	4		3,230,160
Executive Officer I	1	Providing administrative support for the formulation of policy on immigration control	807,540

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB024****(Question Serial No. 0351)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Internal SecurityControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

The estimated provision under Programme (2) Internal Security in 2021-22 is 27.6% higher than that of last year. Please inform this Committee of:

- 1) the breakdown of the above provision and the reasons for increase; and
- 2) the operational expenditures for combating drug trafficking and drug abuse, as well as for conducting preventive education and publicity in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 74)Reply:

1) Under Programme (2) Internal Security, the estimate of expenditure for 2021-22 is \$180.9 million (27.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. The breakdown is as follows:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| - Implementation of the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme | \$100 million |
| - Annual salary increment of civil servants and staff | \$4.23 million |
| - Increased expenditure on remunerations of committee members | \$16 million |
| - Increased expenditure on legal advice/translation/interpretation services and other hired service costs | \$11.9 million |
| - Increase in minor plant/works expenditure | \$5.38 million |
| - Increase in other operating expenses | \$43.39 million |

2) The Narcotics Division (ND) of Security Bureau (SB) has been in collaboration with the Action Committee Against Narcotics, various bureaux/departments or agencies (including the Education Bureau, the Department of Health, the Hospital Authority, the Social Welfare Department, the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED), the Correctional Services Department, etc.) and other stakeholders to combat the drug problem holistically under the multi-pronged strategy, including preventive education

and publicity (PE&P), treatment and rehabilitation (T&R), legislation and law enforcement, external co-operation and research. The expenditures on the multi-pronged strategy implemented by ND of SB has been reflected under Programme (2): Internal Security of the relevant Controlling Officer's Reports of SB. We do not maintain breakdowns of expenditures by the above areas.

As the major law enforcement agencies, HKPF and C&ED actively combat drug trafficking and drug abuse. The relevant expenditures of HKPF has mainly been reflected under Programme (2): Prevention and Detection of Crime of its Controlling Officer's Reports (Head 122). The relevant expenditures of C&ED has been reflected under Programme (1): Control and Enforcement and Programme (2): Anti-narcotics Investigation, of its Controlling Officer's Reports (Head 31).

Moreover, the Government has established the Beat Drugs Fund (BDF) with a capital base of \$3.35 billion to support various sectors of the community to carry out anti-drug projects so as to sustain the fight against the drug problem. Funding schemes of BDF mainly cover PE&P, T&R and research. The disbursement of fund under BDF is outside the scope of the Appropriation Bill or the estimates of the General Revenue Account. In the past 5 years (2016-17 to 2020-21), funding to 920 projects was approved under BDF, with a total funding amount of about \$1.1 billion. The details are set out in the table below.

Project Type	Number of Projects Approved	Relevant Funding Amount
PE&P	705	About \$510 million
T&R	93	About \$243 million
Research	25	About \$44.54 million
Mixed-type (i.e. including more than one type)	97	About \$296 million
Total	920	\$1.095 billion

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB025****(Question Serial No. 0654)**

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In recent years, there have been quite a number of large-scale terrorist attacks all over the world including the Asia Pacific Region. Given the alarming frequency with which these attacks occur, Hong Kong must take necessary precautions. Together with other relevant departments, the Inter-departmental Counter-terrorism Unit will tackle the issue in 5 aspects, namely strengthening intelligence gathering, enhancing professional training, deploying counter-terrorism exercises for synergy, enhancing recovery capabilities and educating the public, so as to safeguard Hong Kong against terrorist attacks on all fronts. What is the estimated expenditure on these 5 aspects for next year? Besides, what new measures will the Government introduce to prevent terrorist attacks? Will additional manpower and resources be deployed for the prevention of such attacks? Noting that most terrorist attacks have been organised via computer networks in recent years, will the Government improve its computer hardware and software facilities and step up its efforts in gathering cyber intelligence?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 80)

Reply:

The Inter-departmental Counter-terrorism Unit (ICTU) comprises members from the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), the Immigration Department (ImmD), the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED), the Correctional Services Department (CSD), the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Government Flying Service (GFS). The relevant expenditures are reflected in the estimates of respective departments. No specific breakdown is available.

Between 2019 and 2020, some 10 cases involving explosives and firearms have taken place in Hong Kong, posing a serious threat to public safety. ICTU has been coordinating the efforts of its member departments to focus on promoting counter-terrorism (CT) awareness and education among the public. In order to enhance public awareness against suspected explosives, ICTU produced a promotion video and a leaflet entitled "Stay Vigilant to Bomb" in April 2020 to educate the public on identification and handling of suspicious objects. In addition, ICTU conducted training and briefing on many occasions for stakeholders in

different sectors, in particular the security and property management industries, to enhance their awareness on the prevention and response against suspicious objects and explosives. ICTU has also promoted the advisories of “Run, Hide and Report” in order to remind the general public of the proper response in the event of terrorist or violent attacks.

ICTU will continue to provide CT training and coordinate joint-departmental CT exercises for its member departments, with a view to enhancing the CT awareness of frontline officers and strengthening their capability in handling and reporting suspected terrorist incidents.

ICTU will closely monitor global terrorism trends, as well as review the manpower and resources needs of each member department so as to ensure Hong Kong’s CT capability is adequate in dealing with the terrorism threats.

Regarding the deployment of manpower and resources for the prevention of terrorist attacks, HKPF, as the forefront department against terrorism, will continue to remain highly vigilant of terrorist activities at all times and make appropriate deployment of manpower and resources as well as preparation in light of current threat assessments. In 2021-22, HKPF will continue to strengthen its capabilities in gathering and analysing cyber terrorist intelligence, formulate suitable response strategies, and continue to enhance co-operation with other government departments as well as local and overseas stakeholders, so as to protect the information systems of critical infrastructure and analyse relevant intelligence to counter cyber attacks.

Regarding the various crimes committed through computer networks, since the establishment of the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau in January 2015, HKPF has continued to improve the reliability of information system networks of critical infrastructure and enhance Hong Kong’s capabilities in protecting relevant information system networks and defending against cyberattacks.

Besides, in order to strengthen the coordination and response capability among police units and other stakeholders against cyber and physical terrorist incidents, and enhance the awareness of the public in CT, HKPF conducted the first counter-cyber and physical terrorism exercise with the Hong Kong Airport Authority in the Hong Kong International Airport in August 2020. Similar exercises will continue to be conducted in the future.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB026

(Question Serial No. 0655)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the combat against parallel trading activities, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the total amount of resources deployed by the Bureau to combating such activities in various districts in the past 5 years, with a detailed list of the manpower involved, effectiveness of its operations and prosecutions instituted; and
- (2) the Bureau's estimated expenditure and staff establishment for combating such activities in the coming year. As a number of control points are currently closed due to the epidemic, there is a significant reduction of such activities. Will the manpower be correspondingly deployed for other duties? What are the relevant details?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 81)

Reply:

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the HKSAR Government) is very concerned about the nuisance of parallel trading activities caused to the daily lives of residents. Since September 2012, law enforcement agencies and relevant organisations have implemented a series of measures to improve the order at railway stations and boundary control points, as well as to mitigate the nuisance to the daily lives of residents and any impact on environmental hygiene.

- (1) The Immigration Department, the Hong Kong Police Force and the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) have mounted large-scale joint enforcement operations, including the operations codenamed "Windsand" and "Riptide". As at end February 2021, 814 such joint operations were mounted;
- (2) C&ED has been mounting special operations with the Mainland Customs to combat parallel trading activities;

(3) District Lands Offices in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long and North District under the Lands Department have set up special operation teams to target cases that breach lease conditions by converting industrial building units into retail shops;

(4) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has enhanced street cleansing services and stepped up removal of discarded items at parallel trading black spots so as to keep the community clean and tidy; and

(5) In view of fire safety hazards potentially caused by parallel trading activities, the Fire Services Department has been taking enforcement action against cases in contravention of fire services legislation or detrimental to fire safety in buildings, and referring cases which involve unauthorised change of building use to relevant departments for follow-up action.

The HKSAR Government will continue to take targeted measures against parallel trading activities, as well as to enhance cooperation among departments and with relevant Mainland authorities. As the staff concerned in each department undertake other duties as well, the HKSAR Government does not have a separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved in combatting parallel trading activities. Departments concerned will flexibly deploy and timely adjust the related manpower based on the actual circumstances.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB027****(Question Serial No. 0925)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Immigration ControlControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

What are the Government's estimates for screening non-refoulement claims and handling related appeals/petitions and judicial reviews in 2021-22? And what are the staff establishment and expenditures on administration and legal assistance involved? What measures are put in place to further prevent and combat the abuse of non-refoulement claims?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 80)Reply:

Major expenditures on handling non-refoulement claims and related work in 2021-22 are tabulated below:

Year	Screening of claims and handling of appeals/petitions (\$ million)	Repatriation of rejected claimants[#] (\$ million)	Publicly-funded legal assistance (\$ million)	Humanitarian assistance (\$ million)	Total* (\$ million)
2021-22 (Estimate)	335	47 [^]	184	706	1 272

[#] The Immigration Department (ImmD) has deployed dedicated manpower to speed up the repatriation of rejected claimants to their places of origin since 2019-20.

^{*} Individual items may not add up to total due to rounding up.

[^] Only the expenditure on the dedicated manpower for the repatriation of non-refoulement claimants and relevant work is included. As other expenditures are incurred by duties (e.g. arrangement for air tickets and application for documents) which form part of ImmD's overall repatriation work, we do not maintain a separate breakdown relating to the claimants. All in all, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic has resulted in delay in commencement of the screening procedure of some claims, as well as the work progress of ImmD in screening claims and the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) in handling appeals, thus the

expenditure on publicly-funded legal assistance for 2020-21 was less than the original estimate. In order to cope with the backlogged claims due to the pandemic and the slight increase in newly received claims in recent months, the service capacity of publicly-funded legal assistance has increased gradually, with the daily quota increased from 5 to 8 in late October 2020, which will increase to 13 in April 2021. Having regard to the actual circumstances, the Government will further increase the quota in 2021-22 and thus the estimate for publicly-funded legal assistance will increase in 2021-22.

As regards manpower, the number of posts in ImmD responsible for work related to screening claims, the number of TCAB members and the number of posts in TCAB Secretariat in 2021-22 are tabulated below:

Year	Number of posts in ImmD for screening claims, handling appeals and relevant legal proceedings	Number of posts in ImmD for repatriating claimants[#]	Number of TCAB members	Number of posts in TCAB Secretariat
2021-22 (Estimate)	207	72	76 [^]	36

ImmD has deployed dedicated manpower to speed up the repatriation of rejected claimants to their places of origin since 2019-20.

^ The number of members as at 28 February 2021, which is subject to adjustment as necessary.

Furthermore, in 2021-22, there are 34 staff under the Duty Lawyer Service (including 1 Chief Court Liaison Officer, 2 Assistant Chief Court Liaison Officers, 5 Senior Court Liaison Officers, 17 Court Liaison Officers, 2 Senior Personal Secretaries, 4 Personal Secretaries II, 1 Senior Accounting Officer, 1 Accounting Officer and 1 Office Assistant). As for the Pilot Scheme for Provision of Publicly-funded Legal Assistance for Non-refoulement Claimants (Pilot Scheme), there are 10 civil service staff (including 1 Chief Executive Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 3 Executive Officers I, 4 Assistant Clerical Officers and 1 Workman II) and 5 non-civil service posts in its office in 2021-22. As the daily quota for handling claims under the Pilot Scheme will increase gradually in 2021-22, the office will create additional non-civil service posts based on the operational needs in a timely manner.

Since the commencement of the comprehensive review of the strategy of handling non-refoulement claims in 2016, the Government has implemented a number of measures, including preventing claimants from entering Hong Kong as far as possible; expediting the screening of pending claims; shortening the time for screening each claim; increasing the number of members and secretariat staff of TCAB; expediting the removal of rejected claimants from Hong Kong; as well as stepping up law enforcement actions against crimes such as unlawful employment. These measures have achieved positive progress, with the number of non-ethnic Chinese illegal immigrants dropped by over 80%. ImmD basically completed the screening of previous backlog claims in early 2019, and TCAB expects to determine all the pending appeals by this year the soonest. Meanwhile, the Government has introduced the Immigration (Amendment) Bill 2020 (the Bill) into the Legislative Council

(LegCo) with a view to improving the screening procedures, preventing the various delaying tactics by claimants, improving the procedures and functions of TCAB, and strengthening ImmD's powers in law enforcement, removal and detention. It is expected that LegCo would make a decision on the Bill, which is now under scrutiny by the Bills Committee, by mid this year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB028

(Question Serial No. 1223)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What assistance did the Security Bureau provide in the past financial year to Mr TANG Lung-wai, a Hong Kong permanent resident being wrongly jailed for long-term imprisonment in the Philippines?

COVID-19 continues to rage in the new financial year. The number of newly infected cases is on the increase in the Philippines. How much manpower and resources will be allocated by the Bureau in the new financial year to assist Mr TANG Lung-wai and help him as far as possible to prevent infection?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR Government) always attaches great importance to cases in which Hong Kong residents are detained or imprisoned overseas. It also attaches importance to the legal rights of these Hong Kong people and is committed to providing assistance to them. In general, when the HKSAR Government receives requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents who are detained or imprisoned overseas, or when the Chinese Diplomatic and Consular Missions (CDCMs) inform the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit (AHU) of the Immigration Department about Hong Kong residents being detained or imprisoned overseas, the AHU will liaise with the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR (OCMFA), the CDCMs and other relevant departments to understand the cases. Having regard to the nature and circumstances of individual cases as well as the wishes of the assistance seekers, the AHU will provide practicable and appropriate assistance. The HKSAR Government and the CDCMs are obliged to respect and abide by the local judicial systems when following up the requests for assistance.

In respect of the case mentioned in the question, upon receipt of the request for assistance in 2003, AHU has maintained contact with OCMFA and the Chinese Embassy in the Philippines

(the Embassy) over the years. Whenever receiving a request for assistance from the subject or his family, AHU would, having regard to the circumstances and nature of the request, immediately follow up on the case or make relevant arrangements through the Embassy. Attaching great importance to the case, the Embassy had not only sent officials to visit the subject and provide him with daily necessities and food for several times, but also approached the local judicial authorities to understand the case progress as well as to urge for prompt, fair and impartial hearings in accordance with the local laws. Moreover, the Embassy had, according to the subject's wishes, assisted in conveying to the Philippine Government his requests numerous times, which include ensuring the subject is provided with basic necessities in prison and translation services in relation to the case. Besides, the Embassy had also co-ordinated with the local Chinese community to assist the subject to employ an interpreter.

In August 2018, the Chief Executive (CE) sent a letter to the President of the Philippines to urge the Philippine side for impartial hearings regarding the subject's case in accordance with the local laws, and striving to provide the travel records requested by the subject to the Philippine Government. The Secretary for Security had also sent a letter to the Philippine immigration authorities asking for an early response to the above requests; and also letters to OCMFA and the Consul-General of the Philippine Consulate in Hong Kong for rendering assistance to the subject through various channels. Subsequently, with the assistance of various parties, the subject successfully obtained the travel records from the Philippine authorities and submitted them to the relevant authorities of the Philippine side for lodging an appeal. In September 2020, AHU learned that the appeal of subject's case had been dismissed by the Philippine side. AHU will continue to liaise with his family to ascertain the wishes of subject and follow up on the case. AHU will also continue to provide practicable assistance while upholding the principle of respecting the local jurisdiction. The HKSAR Government will continue to pay close attention to this case and maintain close contact with OCMFA and the Embassy to provide all practicable assistance to the subject.

In the past year, AHU has been liaising with the Embassy with regard to the treatment of the subject in prison, including the request for anti-epidemic supplies and the situation in respect of testing for COVID-19, to gain an understanding of the subject's well-being in prison and to convey the requests of the subject's family. We learned that the Embassy supplied masks to Chinese citizens in the prison concerned. The prison authorities have also established a medical centre to provide instant medical assistance to the prisoners. AHU has informed the subject's family of the arrangements.

Providing assistance to Hong Kong residents outside Hong Kong in distress and their family is part of the regular duties of the AHU. The information of manpower and expenditure involved in handling individual cases are not maintained.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB029

(Question Serial No. 1416)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

A number of Hong Kong permanent residents imprisoned over 20 years in the Philippines had applied for returning to Hong Kong to serve their sentences via the “Agreement on the Exchange of Prisoners” years ago. Yet, to date, there is no successful case.

(1) What are the numbers of applications for Exchange of Prisoners who are detained in the Philippines received; the numbers of cases approved, not approved and being processed formally in the past 3 financial years?

(2) In the new financial year, will the Security Bureau have measures and policy to bring the prisoners who are detained in the Philippines back to Hong Kong to serve their sentences as early as possible? If yes, what are the manpower and expenditure to be involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

- (1) In the past 3 financial years, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government did not receive any new application for transfer of Hong Kong residents sentenced in the Philippines to Hong Kong or for transfer of Filipinos sentenced in Hong Kong to the Philippines to serve their remaining sentences (collectively known as “transfer applications”), and there were no transfer applications completed or not approved. Moreover, the HKSAR Government has been processing 7 transfer applications from Hong Kong residents sentenced in the Philippines and 5 from Filipinos sentenced in Hong Kong.
- (2) The HKSAR Government processes transfer applications made by Hong Kong residents sentenced in the Philippines in accordance with the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Ordinance (Cap. 513) and the agreement signed with the Philippine Government. In general, each application has to satisfy the following main conditions:

- (i) the act, on which the sentence has been imposed, would also constitute a criminal offence according to the laws of Hong Kong if it had been committed in Hong Kong;
- (ii) the sentenced person is a permanent resident of Hong Kong;
- (iii) the judgment is final and no further proceedings relating to the offence or any other offence in relation to the sentenced person are pending in the Philippines; and
- (iv) there is a tripartite consent to the transfer given by the HKSAR Government, the Philippine Government and the sentenced person.

The HKSAR Government has been actively following up with the Philippine Government on the transfer applications by Hong Kong residents serving prison sentence in the Philippines, with a view to obtaining the information necessary for confirming if the abovementioned conditions are satisfied, so as to facilitate our decision to proceed with the transfer procedures.

Staff of the Security Bureau and various departments (including the Department of Justice, Correctional Services Department, Hong Kong Police Force, Immigration Department, and Customs and Excise Department) involved in processing applications for transfer of sentenced persons have to undertake other duties as well. Therefore, we do not have a breakdown of the expenditure and manpower involved in the work. In 2021-22, we will continue to handle the work with existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB030****(Question Serial No. 0959)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Internal SecurityControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Owners of old composite buildings were subsidised in complying with the requirements on enhancing the fire safety pursuant to the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572). Since the launch of the scheme, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the numbers of applications and the approved applications, with a breakdown by district;
2. the amount of subvention on each item, with a breakdown by Fire Safety Improvement Works and consultancy fee;
3. the staff establishment and expenditure required for handling the applications;
4. the average processing time from an application received to its approval?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)Reply:

1. The first round of the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme (FSWS) was open for application from July to October 2018, while the second round was open for application from July to October 2020. The number of applications received in the first and second rounds and the number of first-round applications issued with the letter of Approval-in-principle (AIP) are tabulated by District Council district below:

District Council district	Number of applications ¹		Number of applications issued with AIP ²
	First-round application	Second-round application	First-round application
Central and Western	283	109	155
Wan Chai	216	95	131
Eastern	169	86	86
Southern	58	30	28

Yau Tsim Mong	626	197	404
Sham Shui Po	424	104	288
Kowloon City	267	93	166
Wong Tai Sin	92	22	64
Kwun Tong	57	23	38
Tsuen Wan	104	41	72
Tuen Mun	27	9	13
Yuen Long	128	34	64
North	16	11	7
Tai Po	51	24	17
Sai Kung	1	2	1
Shatin	25	6	9
Islands	1	4	0
Kwai Tsing	27	13	17
Total	2 572	903	1 560

Notes:

- 1) The number of applications includes those which were cancelled for failing to meet the basic application requirements (209 applications in the first round and 58 in the second).
 - 2) The Urban Renewal Authority is expected to start issuing AIP in batches no later than September 2021 to eligible applicants in the second round of application.
2. The subsidy of the FSWS is applicable to works required to be carried out in the common areas of buildings for compliance with the Fire Safety Directions issued under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance and/or their related Fire Safety Compliance Orders. The amount of subsidy for eligible building owners can be up to a maximum of 60% of the costs of works and consultancy fees, or the corresponding subsidy ceiling for the relevant category of buildings, whichever is the less. Since the works required and the associated costs of different buildings may be affected by factors such as the number of storeys and escape staircases of the buildings, the Government sets a corresponding subsidy ceiling for each category of buildings having regard to the estimated costs of works for different kinds of buildings. The details are set out in the table below.

Number of storeys	Subsidy ceiling (HK\$)
1-3	230,000
4-6	470,000
7-12	790,000
Over 13	1.26 million

The Urban Renewal Authority (URA) will conduct an overall assessment based on the completed works and the related consultancies for calculating the subsidy amount. Therefore, the URA does not maintain a breakdown of the amount of subsidy granted for the works and the related consultancies.

3. As the Government's partner in implementing the FSWS, the URA is responsible for administering the scheme, and it bears the costs of staffing, office accommodation and outsourced independent consultancy service fees as well as other related expenditures with its own resources.
4. The first round of the FSWS was open for application from July to October 2018, while the second round was open for application from July to October 2020. After vetting the applications, the URA started notifying relevant applicants of the first and second rounds of their applications meeting the basic requirements within the first quarter of 2019 and 2021 respectively.

Taking into consideration the supply of the relevant works contractors in the market, the URA will issue AIP to eligible applicants in phases, so as to avoid affecting the balance of the market for building repair and maintenance works and the costs of works due to the implementation of a large number of new works at one time.

Among the 2 363 applications meeting the basic requirements in the first round of the FSWS, the URA has issued AIP to 1 560 applicants and approached them for commencement of fire safety improvement works. For the 803 remaining applications, it is estimated that the URA can issue AIP to all the applicants by December 2021.

As for the second round of application, the URA has received a total of 845 applications which meet the basic requirements, and notifications are being sent to the relevant applicants gradually. The URA is expected to start issuing AIP to the applicants in batches no later than September 2021.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB031****(Question Serial No. 0980)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Immigration ControlControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Provision for 2021-22 is \$138 million (62.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. It is mentioned that the reasons for increased provision include the provision of publicly-funded legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants. Would the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the expenditure for providing publicly-funded legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants in each of the past 3 years;
2. the estimate for providing publicly-funded legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants for 2021-22; and
3. the related staff establishment and expenditure for 2021-22?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)Reply:

1-3. The expenditures for providing publicly-funded legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants since 2018-19 are tabulated below:

Year	Publicly-funded legal assistance (\$ million)
2018-19	207
2019-20	93
2020-21 (Revised estimate)	101
2021-22 (Estimate)	184

All in all, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic has resulted in delay in commencement of the screening procedures of some claims, as well as the work progress of the Immigration Department in screening claims and the Torture Claims Appeal Board in handling appeals, thus the expenditure on publicly-funded legal assistance for 2020-21 was less than the original estimate. In order to cope with the backlogged claims due to the pandemic and the slight increase in newly received claims in recent months, the service capacity of publicly-funded legal assistance has increased gradually, with the daily quota increased from 5 to 8 in late October 2020, which will increase to 13 in April 2021. Having regard to the actual circumstances, the Government will further increase the quota in 2021-22 and thus the estimate for publicly-funded legal assistance will increase in 2021-22.

As regards manpower, in 2021-22, there are 34 staff under the Duty Lawyer Service (including 1 Chief Court Liaison Officer, 2 Assistant Chief Court Liaison Officers, 5 Senior Court Liaison Officers, 17 Court Liaison Officers, 2 Senior Personal Secretaries, 4 Personal Secretaries II, 1 Senior Accounting Officer, 1 Accounting Officer and 1 Office Assistant). The civil service establishment of the Pilot Scheme Office (PSO) for Provision of Publicly-funded Legal Assistance for Non-refoulement Claimants since 2018-19 is as follows:

Rank	Number of posts in 2018-19	Number of posts in 2019-20	Number of posts in 2020-21	Number of posts in 2021-22
Chief Executive Officer	1	1	1	1
Senior Executive Officer	1	1	1	1
Executive Officer I	7	3	3	3
Assistant Clerical Officer	11	4	4	4
Workman II	2	2	2	1
Total	22	11	11	10

In addition, there are 5 non-civil service posts in PSO at present. As the daily quota for handling claims under the Pilot Scheme will increase gradually in 2021-22, PSO will create additional non-civil service posts based on the operational needs in a timely manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB032

(Question Serial No. 1948)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Police announced in April 2018 that dedicated investigation teams had been set up in the 22 Police Districts with criminal investigation teams across the territory to handle cases of animal cruelty. Please provide the following numbers and the expenditure involved in respect of each dedicated investigation team:

1. the number of officers involved in handling cases of cruelty to animals in each Police District;
2. whether the Police will set up an animal police team; if affirmative, please provide the details and timetable;
3. the numbers of cases received, handled and prosecuted so far;
4. the training courses attended by the investigation teams and their contents;
5. the operation of the Animal Watch Scheme;
6. the expenditure and manpower of the Animal Watchers Programme?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

1. To best reflect the positioning of the dedicated criminal investigation teams for handling the animal cruelty cases in different Police Districts, these dedicated teams have been officially named "Animal Crime Police Teams" from 28 February 2021. The establishment of the Animal Crime Police Teams varies in different Police Districts. The Police Force will review the manpower deployment from time to time and make appropriate deployment to meet operational needs.

2. The “Animal Crime Police Teams” are comprised of officers with experience and skills in investigating and handling other serious crimes. A sharing platform is available among the Animal Crime Police Teams of different Police Districts for them to share their investigative experience. The Force also provides specialised trainings on handling of cases of animal cruelty to the investigating officers to ensure the officers can carry out comprehensive investigations into these cases. In addition, the Force, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) have established a co-operation mechanism whereby AFCD and SPCA officers provide professional advice and assist in investigation at the scene of an animal cruelty case where necessary.
3. From 2018 to 2020, the numbers of cases received by the Force for involvement in cruelty to animals were 105, 60 and 70 respectively. The numbers of persons prosecuted by the Force under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance are listed in the following table:

	2018	2019	2020 (as at September)
Persons prosecuted	27	27	11

4. On education and training, the Force invites officers from AFCD and SPCA to explain to the trainees of foundation training programme and Criminal Investigation Course the laws related to cruelty to animals, skills in handling animals, experience in case investigation, and the inter-departmental co-operation mechanism in handling relevant cases. The Force also organises seminars from time to time and invites relevant officers from AFCD, SPCA and the Animal Crime Police Teams to share their experience so that the officers of the Animal Crime Police Teams can have a better grasp of the latest situation and trend of cruelty to animals.
5. In collaboration with AFCD, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, SPCA, veterinarian associations and animal concern groups, the Force introduced the Animal Watch Scheme (the Scheme) in 2011 to combat cruelty to animals through a four-pronged approach of education training, publicity, intelligence gathering and investigation. The Scheme aims at consolidating co-operation among various stakeholders and enhancing the efficacy of the Force’s efforts in the investigation of such cases. In 2017, the College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences of City University of Hong Kong was also invited to join the Scheme.

The majority of the cases of cruelty to animals are now reported by members of the public, who provide information for investigation on their own initiative. This reflects that the Scheme has prominent results in strengthening police-community co-operation and raising public awareness of combating cruelty to animals.

6. To enlist public support and assistance in combating acts of cruelty to animals, the Force is implementing the Animal Watchers Programme, with a view to agglomerating the strengths of animal lovers at the community level in the 4 directions of education, publicity, investigation and intelligence-gathering; raising public awareness on

prevention of cruelty to animals; and encouraging the public to report in a timely manner and provide information that could help investigations.

The Force has created 14 permanent posts for the Animal Watchers Programme, including 1 Inspector, 6 Sergeants and 7 Police Constables.

The expenditure involved falls under the Programme of “Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community”. No specific breakdown is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB033

(Question Serial No. 1976)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the crime arising from the social turmoil since June 2019, how many cases are still under investigation? How many of them are expected to have the investigation completed this year? Have the Police's Body Worn Video Cameras and live footage captured played a useful role in the submission of evidence?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 99)

Reply:

From 9 June 2019 to 28 February 2021, the Police Force arrested a total of 10 242 persons, aged between 11 and 84, in relation to the "anti-extradition amendment bill" related incident for offences including "taking part in a riot", "unlawful assembly", "wounding", "assault occasioning actual bodily harm", "common assault", "arson", "criminal damage", "assaulting police officer", "obstructing a police officer in the execution of the officer's duty" and "in possession of offensive weapons", etc.

As at 28 February 2021, among the 10 242 arrestees, 2 521 persons already entered into or were in the course of legal proceedings. 883 of them had to bear legal consequences (including 614 convicted, 261 bound over, 4 under a Care and Protection Order and 4 penalised in civil proceedings for contempt of court); 50 persons had the charges against them withdrawn; 186 were acquitted after trial; and the rest were still in the course of legal proceedings. The Force will make every effort to collect evidence and complete the investigations of the remaining cases as soon as possible.

Since June 2019, the Force has used Body Worn Video Cameras (BWVCs) in over 910 cases and taken more than 1 030 video clips. Among these video clips, 330 clips have been used for investigation or as evidence. In circumstances where confrontational scenarios or a breach of the peace are likely to occur, the use of BWVCs by the Force can yield a de-escalating and restraining effect, thereby preventing illegal acts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB034

(Question Serial No. 3060)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The number of stolen vehicles has increased significantly. Please provide information on the geographical distribution of such cases across various districts of the territory, parking locations before the vehicles went missing (such as private car parks, public car parks and parking meters) and number of vehicles recovered. It is learnt that the prices of precious metals, such as platinum, rhodium and palladium, have seen a persistent surge recently, and criminals overseas may have stolen cars for the internal catalytic converters made of precious metals instead of the automobiles. As far as the Hong Kong Police is aware, have similar developments been identified in the territory? Will the Police mount special operations targeting vehicle theft?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 100)

Reply:

The following tables set out the numbers of stolen vehicles and those recovered, and their parking locations before theft in different Police Districts in 2020:

Police District	Number of stolen vehicles	Number of recovered vehicles
Central	5	3
Wan Chai	10	8
Western	11	9
Eastern	24	18
Wong Tai Sin	34	21
Sau Mau Ping	43	34
Kwun Tong	22	13
Tseung Kwan O	14	11
Yau Tsim	39	27
Mong Kok	51	34
Sham Shui Po	67	46
Kowloon City	51	29
Border	26	13
Yuen Long	242	113
Tuen Mun	44	21
Tai Po	53	26
Tsuen Wan	43	26
Sha Tin	28	21
Kwai Tsing	65	50
Lantau	23	12
Total	895	535

Parking location before theft	Number of vehicles
On the streets (including parking meters)	743
Car parks	71
Others	81

There is currently no evidence showing that criminals are stealing vehicles in Hong Kong for the internal catalytic converters made of precious metals.

The Police Force will continue to monitor crime trends closely and take intelligence-led law enforcement actions when appropriate in a determined effort to clamp down on vehicle theft. Moreover, the Force will promote anti-theft awareness among vehicle owners through publicity campaigns and work with the relevant sectors, including car park operators and organisations of the freight forwarding and logistic industry, to explore measures to combat vehicle theft effectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB035****(Question Serial No. 0016)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please list the estimated expenditure on the salaries and allowances for the Commissioner of Police in 2021-22.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)Reply:

The salary level of the Commissioner of Police is listed in the following table:

Rank	Salary point of police officer	Monthly salary for the rank in HK\$ (from 1 April 2019)
Commissioner of Police	PPS 59	295,150 – 303,950

The Police Force does not maintain the estimated expenditure on allowances requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB036****(Question Serial No. 0524)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (3) Road SafetyControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

Please list the numbers of fixed penalty tickets for illegal parking issued for the past 3 years by Police Region.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 69)

Reply:

The figures on fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) for illegal parking issued by the Police Force under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) by Police Region for the past 3 years are listed in the following table:

Police Region	Number of FPTs for illegal parking issued		
	2018	2019	2020
Hong Kong Island	385 196	287 149	599 218
Kowloon East	351 968	251 430	489 901
Kowloon West	517 842	339 549	631 593
New Territories South	396 975	296 732	512 831
New Territories North	374 532	249 884	474 326
Total	2 026 513	1 424 744	2 707 869

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB037****(Question Serial No. 0762)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the CommunityControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide the recruitment targets, numbers of applicants and numbers of new recruits for the posts of inspectorate officers and junior police officers in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 58)Reply:

The recruitment targets, numbers of applicants and numbers of new recruits of the Police Force in the past 3 financial years are set out below:

Financial Year	Recruitment Target		Number of Applicants		Number of New Recruits	
	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable
2018-19	230	1 620	7 350	10 578	220	1 121
2019-20	195	1 620	5 223	6 751	169	705
2020-21 (As at 28 February 2021)	225	1 620	4 611	6 074	132	460

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB038

(Question Serial No. 0771)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the respective numbers of regular police officers who were interdicted and arrested due to suspected involvement in criminal offences in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 68)

Reply:

The numbers of police officers who were interdicted due to suspected involvement in criminal offences were 37, 25 and 46 from 2018 to 2020 respectively.

Besides, the numbers of regular police officers arrested by the Police Force were 38, 16 and 39 from 2018 to 2020 respectively. Among them, 30, 13 and 33 officers respectively were suspected of having committed criminal offences, the nature of which was defined by the Force as more serious. In addition, the Force learned that 7, 8 and 6 regular police officers were arrested by other law enforcement departments (e.g. the Independent Commission Against Corruption, the Customs and Excise Department) from 2018 to 2020 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB039

(Question Serial No. 2775)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please inform this Committee of the following matters about police officers of various ranks in the past year:

1. Regarding training in human rights and the rights protected by the constitution (including but not limited to the rights under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights), what are the expenditure involved, the contents of the relevant training, the number of police officers trained (please provide a breakdown by grade, rank and nature of work) and the estimated expenditure allocated to the relevant training for the coming year.
2. Regarding training in the handling of people of different sexual orientation or gender identity and the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, what are the expenditure involved, the contents of the relevant training, the number of police officers trained and the hours of training (please provide a breakdown by grade, rank and nature of work) and the estimated expenditure allocated to the relevant training for the coming year; and

Regarding training in the handling of ethnic minorities and the Race Discrimination Ordinance, what are the expenditure involved, the contents of the relevant training, the number of police officers trained and the hours of training (please provide a breakdown by grade, rank and nature of work) and the estimated expenditure allocated to the relevant training for the coming year.

3. Please provide the number of complaints received by the Complaints Against Police Office about the involvement of police officers in discrimination on grounds of sex, sexual orientation, disability and race respectively in the past 3 years, and the number of such complaints that have been substantiated.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 137)

Reply:

1-2. Through the foundation training and continuous development training courses as well as a diversity of learning modes (such as workshops, seminars, sharing sessions, training days and training packages), the Police Force has been organising courses relating to human rights and civil rights, the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, the Race Discrimination Ordinance and equal opportunities for new recruits and serving police officers. The contents of the courses broadly include:

- (1) the relevant legislation (including the Basic Law, Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance (Cap. 383), Crimes (Torture) Ordinance (Cap. 427), Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487) and Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480));
- (2) Force Values (including integrity management, equal opportunities, service quality, professionalism), aiming to heighten the sensitivity of all frontline staff so that they will discharge duties and responsibilities based on the principles of fairness, justice, impartiality, dignity, respect for human rights, and the standard of conduct required of law enforcement agencies, irrespective of gender, disability, race, age or sexual orientation, etc.; and
- (3) the execution of policing work (including courses on the rules and directions for the questioning of suspects and the taking of statements; legal obligations and Force procedures including stop and search, arrest, detention, bail, care and custody of detained persons; the rights of detained persons; the Victim of Crime Charter; and handling of public order events).

Moreover, the Force regularly conducts Training Days on different topics for frontline police officers and produces relevant training materials.

Given the operational needs of the Force and the severity of COVID-19 over the past year, the attendance figures of departmental training were affected, with around 2 200 police officers receiving relevant training.

The training expenditure on relevant topics is part of the day-to-day training expenditure of the Police College. No specific breakdown is available.

3. The Complaints Against Police Office does not maintain the numbers requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB040

(Question Serial No. 2829)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

On 20 January 2021, a woman who was eight months pregnant was pinned to the ground by four police officers in To Kwa Wan, resulting in premature delivery. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

1. the objective of the Police operation on that day, the number and ranks of police officers involved, the duration of the whole operation, the number of police officers from each division, total hours of overtime (OT) work and total expenditure on OT work;
2. the number of complaints received by the Complaints Against Police Office in relation to the operation;
3. the number of police officers punished for the misconduct on the day of the operation; and
4. the details of improvement plans of the Police for similar operations in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

1. On 20 January 2021, the Police Force mounted an enforcement operation to crack down on illegal immigrants and overstayers in the district mentioned in the question. It is inappropriate to disclose the information requested as it involves the Force's operational details.
2. & 3. As at 28 February 2021, the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) had received 1 "reportable complaint" and 1 "notifiable complaint" about the Force's operation conducted on 20 January 2021. These complaints are still under investigation. In line with the established mechanism, the CAPO will launch a fair investigation into and actively follow up the complaints.

4. Having regard to practical needs, the Force will review its plans for enforcement actions from time to time, with a view to enhancing its operational effectiveness.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB041****(Question Serial No. 1417)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

1. The establishment of the Police as at end of March 2021 will be 38 406 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of 16 posts in 2021-22. Please list in detail the ranks and emoluments involved in the reduction of posts.
2. There was a significant increase in manpower of the Police in the past 2 years. Have the recruitment exercises for all the vacancies been completed? Have the Police conducted a review on whether the current establishment is sufficient for maintaining stability in Hong Kong?
3. Please provide information on natural wastage of the Police in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)Reply:

1. The Police Force will have a net decrease of 16 posts in 2021-22. The information related to the changes in the number of posts is as follows:

Rank	Net increase/decrease in number of posts	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)/ Model Scale I Pay Scale (MOD)	Monthly salary of the rank in HK\$ (From 1 April 2019)
Chief Inspector of Police	-4	PPS 43 – 48	91,615 – 110,110
Station Sergeant	-13	PPS 22 – 31	43,870 – 62,340
Sergeant	-21	PPS 15 – 24	36,290 – 46,295
Police Constable	39	PPS 3 – 16	25,380 – 36,290
Senior Government Counsel	2	MPS 45 – 49	117,580 – 135,470
Analyst/Programmer II	1	MPS 16 – 27	33,350 – 55,995
Assistant Clerical Officer	1	MPS 3 – 15	15,560 – 31,750
Workman II	-21	MOD 0 – 8	13,730 – 16,175
Total	-16		

2. The recruitment targets of the Force and the numbers of officers recruited in the past 2 financial years are as follows:

Financial Year	Recruitment target		Number of officers recruited	
	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable
2019-20	195	1 620	169	705
2020-21 (As at 28 February 2021)	225	1 620	132	460

The Force has devised a thorough human resources plan and made strategic plans to step up efforts in recruitment, staff training and career development. Officers are also encouraged to make self-advancement and strengthen their own professional capacity so as to contribute to the Force and serve the community more effectively. Vacancies which arise will be filled through promotion, recruitment and a number of measures to extend the years of service.

3. The natural wastage figures (i.e. retirement figures) of the Force in the past 3 financial years are as follows:

Financial Year	Natural wastage figures
2018-19	860
2019-20	824
2020-21 (As at 28 February 2021)	602

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB042****(Question Serial No. 1428)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

A provision of \$413 million under Subhead 695 Police specialised vehicles (block vote) is for procurement of new and replacement of police specialised vehicles. The increase of 179.4% over the revised estimates for 2020-21 is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for new and replacement of police specialised vehicles. Please list out the details of the scheduled procurement and replacement of specialised vehicles. Also, please provide the years of service of the specialised vehicles to be replaced.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

The Police Force's replacement and procurement of specialised vehicles fall under the Programme of "Operations". To meet the developmental and overall operational needs in the coming year, the provision under Subhead 695 "Police specialised vehicles (block vote)" will be used for replacing and acquiring 596 specialised vehicles in 2021-22. Details are as follows:

<u>Type of Vehicle</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Replacement of Police Large Van	55
Replacement of Police Large Van ^(note)	238
Replacement of Police Large Motorcycle	48
Replacement of Police Large Estate Car	32
Replacement and procurement of Police Large Estate Car ^(note)	20
Replacement of Cross-country Vehicle	1
Replacement of VIP Protection Saloon	2
Replacement of Police Small Patrol Car	3
Replacement of PTU Bus	68
Replacement of Large Saloon (Special Duties)	2
Replacement of Armoured Tactical Intervention Vehicle ^(note)	4
Replacement and procurement of Police Small Motorcycle ^(note)	12
Procurement of Police Large Van	7

Procurement of Police Large Motorcycle	4
Procurement of Cross-country Vehicle	2
Procurement of High-performance Medium Saloon	2
Procurement of Police Large Van ^(note)	5
Procurement of PTU Bus ^(note)	24
Procurement of Specialised Crowd Management Vehicle ^(note)	3
Procurement of Police Multi-passenger Carrier ^(note)	64
Total	<hr/> 596

(Note: Replacement / acquisition work that have been allocated funding before 2021-22 and will continue in 2021-22)

The police vehicles are mainly used in patrols, traffic duties, VIP protection, emergency calls, transportation of officers and other special operations.

The average lifespan of the vehicles to be replaced by the Force in 2021-22 is around 7 to 8 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB043****(Question Serial No. 3232)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Road SafetyControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

1. The Police issued 2.69 million fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) for parking offences in 2020. Please list the figures by Police District.
2. There was a significant increase in the number of FPTs issued for parking offences by the Police in 2020. What are the reasons?
3. In districts where illegal parking is serious and traffic is affected, the Police will tow away the illegally parked vehicles concerned. What were the figures on such enforcement actions by the Police in the past 3 years?
4. The Police have made active use of technological solutions such as mobile video recording in law enforcement to address traffic offences in recent years. Have the Police reviewed the effectiveness of enforcement with technological solutions? Will more equipment be provided to help police officers take enforcement actions?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)Reply:

1. The figures on fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) for illegal parking issued by the Police Force under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) by Police Region in 2020 are listed in the following table:

Police Region	Number of FPTs for illegal parking issued in 2020
Hong Kong Island	599 218
Kowloon East	489 901
Kowloon West	631 593
New Territories South	512 831
New Territories North	474 326
Total	2 707 869

2. The social incidents since mid-2019 lasted for months. The Force's priority then was to stop violence and curb disorder, so there was a decrease in the traffic enforcement figures in 2019. As social tensions eased in 2020, Police Districts have redeployed resources to strengthen traffic enforcement actions since then. That year therefore saw a marked rebound in the enforcement figures.

3. In 2018, 2019 and 2020, there were 1 189, 1 243 and 3 226 cases in which vehicles parked illegally were towed away by the Force respectively.

4. The Force is committed to adopting technological solutions for traffic enforcement. It will also continue to maintain liaison with law enforcement agencies around the world and make reference to their experience to explore the use of new technologies in enhancing the effectiveness of traffic enforcement against illegal parking and road traffic congestion. In March 2020, the Force began to implement a pilot scheme on Electronic Fixed Penalty Tickets (FPTs) in all Police Districts by phases. The frontline law enforcement officers have since been able to access data on vehicles parked illegally via their mobile smart devices and print out FPTs without delay, with enhanced accuracy and efficiency in enforcement.

Building on the success of the pilot scheme, the Force plans to develop a new Traffic e-Enforcement System to facilitate the processing of FPTs and applications for traffic summonses by electronic means in order to enhance enforcement accuracy and efficiency of the Force. This in turn would help ensure the proper use of limited road space more effectively, enhance road safety and alleviate traffic congestion. The Force plans to consult the Panel on Transport of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on the proposed system in April 2021. It expects to seek funding support from the Finance Committee of the LegCo in this legislative session, with a view to launching the first phase of the system in the first quarter of 2023. Full commissioning of the system is targeted in January 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB044

(Question Serial No. 1649)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Police Force mentions under Programme (2) that the quantities of No. 4 Heroin, Cannabis, Methamphetamine (ice), Ketamine as well as Ecstasy-type tablets seized by the Force in 2020 were significantly larger compared to those in 2019. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please list the number of persons arrested for drug offences (including serious and minor drug offences) last year.
2. Further to the above question, how many of the persons arrested were young persons aged between 10 and 20? How old was the youngest person arrested?
3. What measures will the Force take to combat smuggling, manufacturing, transport and trafficking of drugs, and prevent and reduce drug abuse among young people?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

1. In 2020, a total of 3 587 persons were arrested for drug offences (including serious and minor drug offences).
2. A total of 472 young persons aged between 10 and 20 were among the above arrestees, and the youngest one was only 12 years old.
3. "Combating dangerous drugs" remains one of the Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2021. The work mainly includes: (i) enhancing co-operation with other law enforcement agencies to interdict the flow of illicit drugs into Hong Kong; (ii) targeting drug traffickers, especially those exploiting students and youths; (iii) taking proactive measures to investigate and confiscate proceeds of drug trafficking; and (iv) promoting awareness and preventing the abuse of drugs by students and youths through a multi-agency and community-based approach.

The Police Force will continue to conduct anti-drug operations and carry out intelligence-led operations against drug trafficking, including enhancing intelligence-gathering targeting those who use the Internet and social media for drug trafficking, and exchanging intelligence with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies with a view to conducting timely joint operations.

On the exploitation of students and youths for drug trafficking, the Force will endeavour to track down drug syndicates exploiting youngsters and invoke section 56A of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134) to seek enhanced sentencing on the persons so exploiting, hence achieving a stronger deterrent effect.

In addition, the Force will actively conduct investigations and apply to the court for confiscating proceeds of drug trafficking under the Drug Trafficking (Recovery of Proceeds) Ordinance (Cap. 405) and the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 455).

On tackling the problem of youth drug abuse, the Force will continue to work with stakeholders including other Government departments, schools, Parent-Teacher Associations and non-governmental organisations, etc., for joint efforts to put in place measures targeting youth drug trafficking and drug abuse.

Through different channels such as the Force's online platforms, Junior Police Call, various crime prevention activities and seminars, etc., the Force will continue to remind members of the public, especially the youths, not to abuse drugs or deliver drugs or articles from unknown sources for other people. The Force will also continue to, through the Police School Liaison Officers, enhance students' awareness of drug harms as well as deepen teachers' and parents' understanding of the involvement of youths in drugs so as to enhance their ability to identify relevant situations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB045****(Question Serial No. 1650)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the CommunityControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

In Programme (1), the Hong Kong Police Force mentions that it would launch recruitment campaign through the Recruitment Days and Education and Careers Expo, advertisements and various publicity channels to attract people with potential to join the Force, as well as to foster the Force's positive image. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. In each of the past 3 years, how many police officers retired and resigned?
2. Please list by age and gender the numbers of applicants for police constables, probationary inspectors, civilian staff and auxiliary police officers in the past 3 years.
3. Please list by age and gender the numbers of applicants successfully recruited as police constables, probationary inspectors, civilian staff and auxiliary police officers in the past 3 years.
4. In the coming financial year, what are the numbers of police constables, probationary inspectors, civilian staff and auxiliary police officers that the Force expects to recruit?
5. In the coming financial year, what are the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved in the Force's recruitment exercises?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)Reply:

1. The wastage figures of officers of the Police Force in the past 3 years are set out below:

Financial Year	Number of leavers (The figure in brackets denotes the number of retired officers)(Note 1)
2018-19	1 247 (860)
2019-20	1 313 (824)
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	919 (602)

Note 1: "Leavers" include cases of retirement and unnatural wastage.

2. A breakdown of the number of applicants for police and auxiliary police posts in the past 3 years by age is set out in the following table:

Age	2018-19			2019-20			2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)		
	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable	Auxiliary Police Officer	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable	Auxiliary Police Officer	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable	Auxiliary Police Officer
20 or below	313	2 309	1 131 (Note 2)	132	747	140	117	698	228
21-25	4 395	5 578		2 363	3 022	359	1 865	2 192	363
26-30	1 875	2 110		1 518	1 757	427	1 328	1 631	320
Above 30	767	581		1 210	1 225	1 307	1 301	1 553	1 247

Note 2: The Force does not maintain the breakdown by age as requested in the question.

A breakdown of the number of applicants for police and auxiliary police posts in the past 3 years by gender is set out in the following table:

Financial Year	Probationary Inspector		Police Constable		Auxiliary Police Officer	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2018-19	5 335	2 015	8 886	1 692	777	354
2019-20	3 921	1 302	5 544	1 207	1 652	581
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	3 326	1 285	4 928	1 146	1 533	625

The numbers of applicants for civilian posts in the Force in the past 3 years are set out in the following table:

Financial Year	Number of applicants (Note 3)
2018-19	13 210
2019-20	3 284
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	11 075

Note 3: The Force does not maintain the breakdown by age and gender as requested in the question.

3. A breakdown of the number of police officers and auxiliary police officers successfully recruited in the past 3 years by age is set out in the following table:

Age	2018-19			2019-20			2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)		
	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable	Auxiliary Police Officer	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable	Auxiliary Police Officer	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable	Auxiliary Police Officer
20 or below	0	120	52	0	90	50	0	50	25
21-25	115	666	71	83	371	78	52	190	51
26-30	67	275	38	27	191	31	33	132	39
Above 30	38	60	38	59	53	64	47	88	116

A breakdown of the number of police officers and auxiliary police officers successfully recruited in the past 3 years by gender is set out in the following table:

Financial Year	Probationary Inspector		Police Constable		Auxiliary Police Officer	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2018-19	152	68	893	228	145	54
2019-20	127	42	561	144	151	72
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	93	39	346	114	153	78

The numbers of civilian officers in the Force successfully recruited in the past 3 years are set out in the following table:

Financial Year	Number of civilian officers successfully recruited (Note 4)
2018-19	125
2019-20	146
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	113

Note 4: The Force does not maintain the breakdown by age and gender as requested in the question.

4. The recruitment targets for probationary inspectors, police constables, civilian officers and auxiliary police officers in 2021-22 are 165, 1 350, 244 and 400 respectively.
5. The Force has been adopting a proactive recruitment strategy to attract high calibre candidates who possess the required competencies to join the Force. The Force is currently reviewing and assessing the effectiveness of its use of resources. The actual staff establishment and estimated expenditures for the coming year are not available yet.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB046

(Question Serial No. 1096)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the financial provision for 2021-22 of the 4 Programmes of the Police Force, namely "Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community", "Prevention and Detection of Crime", "Road Safety" and "Operations", there are respective increases of \$630.2 million (5.5%), \$299.2 million (6.2%), \$152.9 million (6.5%) and \$720.2 million (15.3%) over the revised estimates for 2020-21. Please inform this Committee of the details of the work and items involved in the increased expenditures.

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

Regarding Programme (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community, the main duty is to maintain law and order through the deployment of uniformed officers throughout the land and waters of Hong Kong. The estimate for 2021-22 is higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to an increased provision for operating expenses and cash flow requirement for capital items, partly offset by the net decrease of 16 posts.

Programme (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime is a Force-wide priority with various crime units. The major duties involve investigations, developing the Police Force's various information and intelligence systems to strengthen its crime investigation capabilities, and mounting crime prevention publicity programmes. The estimate for 2021-22 is higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to an increased provision for operating expenses and cash flow requirement for capital items, partly offset by the net decrease of six posts.

Regarding Programme (3) Road Safety, the main duties include introducing and monitoring the effectiveness of road safety initiatives, enforcing road traffic legislation and carrying out traffic control duties, with a view to enhancing road safety by reducing traffic accidents and maintaining a smooth and safe traffic flow in Hong Kong. The estimate for 2021-22 is higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to the net increase of nine posts for strengthening operational capability, an increased provision for operating expenses and cash flow requirement for capital items.

Regarding Programme (4) Operations, the main duties include preventing and detecting illegal immigration and smuggling, conducting major security and crowd management operations and maintaining readiness to cope with major incidents, civil disturbances or terrorist incidents, with a view to ensuring public safety and order. The estimate for 2021-22 is higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to an increased provision for operating expenses and cash flow requirement for capital items, partly offset by the net decrease of three posts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB047****(Question Serial No. 0828)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the illegal trans-boundary operations by Mainland oyster farmers at Deep Bay, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) At present, what are the manpower deployed by the Government to patrol in the waters around Urmston Road, the numbers of patrols conducted and the division of work?
- (b) What were the numbers of enforcement actions against illegal activities by Mainland oyster farmers and their effectiveness over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)? What were the penalties and fines imposed?
- (c) In this regard, how does the inter-departmental working group set up by the Government operate? What are the present situation, progress and effectiveness of its work?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 55)

Reply:

- (a) The Deep Bay Sub-unit of Marine West Division of the Police Force is responsible for regular patrol and law enforcement in the waters in question. There are a total of 86 police officers in its establishment, comprising 2 Inspectors, 3 Station Sergeants, 15 Sergeants and 66 Police Constables, who are deployed to the Tsim Bei Tsui Marine Police Post, 2 Police barges and their respective patrol craft.

The numbers of anti-illegal immigration patrols carried out by the Deep Bay Sub-unit in 2019, 2020 and the first 2 months of 2021 are as follows:

2019	219 patrols
2020	286 patrols
2021 (as at 28 February 2021)	53 patrols

- (b) The numbers of arrests of Mainland illegal immigrants made by the Deep Bay Sub-unit

in 2019, 2020 and the first two months of 2021 are as follows:

Year	Number of persons arrested	Supplementary notes
2019	7	All illegal immigrants have been referred to the Immigration Department for action. In addition, 12 refusal notices (ID122) were issued to Mainland fishermen and oyster farmers who were suspected of breaching the requirements.
2020	3	All illegal immigrants have been referred to the Immigration Department for action. *No refusal notices (ID122) were issued to Mainland fishermen and oyster farmers who were suspected of breaching the requirements.
2021 (as at 28 February 2021)	1	All illegal immigrants have been referred to the Immigration Department for action. *No refusal notices (ID122) were issued to Mainland fishermen and oyster farmers who were suspected of breaching the requirements.

*Note:

The number of Mainland fishermen and oyster farmers entering the border of Hong Kong has decreased as Hong Kong and Guangdong have tightened border control in light of the COVID-19 outbreak since January 2020.

- (c) The Force, Marine Department, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Lands Department and Home Affairs Department have set up an inter-departmental working group (the working group). Regular meetings are conducted on issues such as illegal immigrants/illegal labour, sea safety, oyster cultivation support and unlawful occupation of government land to explore ways to regulate fishermen and oyster farmers effectively. Appropriate law enforcement actions have also been taken. Besides, the working group has been liaising with related fishermen and oyster farmer associations, advising the fishermen and oyster farmers to put up contact information on the oyster rafts for identification purpose and enhanced management of their respective rafts. The working group also conducts publicity and educational programmes for the members of the industry through various channels.

Since its establishment, the above working group has reviewed the existing mechanism in order to explore ways to effectively monitor the oyster-farming industry. It will continue to explore and implement various improvement measures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB048

(Question Serial No. 0889)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding efforts to combat absconding, please provide information on the following matters:

- (a) the numbers of persons arrested, convicted and currently wanted for absconding since the National Security Law (NSL) took effect, with a breakdown by month; and
- (b) the most severe sentence handed down to those convicted of absconding since the enactment of the NSL, and the maximum and minimum penalties applicable.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)

Reply:

- (a)-(b) Every individual must and should take responsibilities, including legal liabilities, for his or her action. The Police Force strongly condemns attempts to evade legal liabilities by jumping bail and absconding. In light of the actual circumstances, the Force will do their utmost to track down the whereabouts of the fugitive offenders through various means in accordance with the law and pursue them. The culprits will be held legally accountable for jumping bail and the investigation of the original cases will be carried on.

Section 9L of the Criminal Procedure Ordinance (Cap. 221) stipulates that a person admitted to bail who, without reasonable cause, fails to surrender to custody as shall have been appointed by a court, commits an offence which renders the person liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$75,000 and to imprisonment for 6 months, and on conviction upon indictment to a fine of any amount and to imprisonment for 12 months.

The Force does not maintain the statistics requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB049

(Question Serial No. 1538)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

During the social unrest with “black-clad rioters”, some mentally immature children were incited to go to the front line as “child reporters”. As a result, two such “child reporters”, aged 12 and 16 respectively, were taken to the police station for investigation. The incitement of minors to engage in such activities was extremely irresponsible behaviour in disregard for children’s safety. To stop the impersonation of reporters as a way of obstructing police officers from performing their duties, the Police have amended the definition of “Media Representatives” under the Police General Orders, with the implication that the membership cards issued by the Hong Kong Journalists Association and the Hong Kong Press Photographers Association would no longer be accepted. This measure certainly helps frontline officers to effectively identify media representatives who operate in line with the law and relevant protocols. Bona fide press workers will also be able to cover frontline developments in a more successful, objective and efficient manner! In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Will the authorities consider implementing a “licensing regime for journalists” under which the Police will handle the registration procedure to further safeguard the freedom of reporting of legitimate and law-abiding media organisations and reporters in accordance with the law?
2. How will the Government prevent the false information and values disseminated by the media from producing negative effects on youngsters?
3. Will the authorities carry out a detailed study into measures for combating and preventing juvenile crimes this year? If yes, what will be the details of the study?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

1. Regarding the suggestion of establishing an official organisation responsible for issuing press identification, the Police Force understands that the Government has no plan to set up such an organisation for this purpose.
2. The Force has the responsibility to explain the facts and police work to the public. As such, the Force has been proactive in enhancing its work transparency, repeatedly clarifying various unfounded reports and information and handling fabricated news. Apart from sending letters to media organisations, the Force also disseminates information and dismisses unfounded claims through press conferences and press releases, as well as on social media platforms. The Force will continue to enhance public understanding of police work and earn the support and trust of the citizens, including young people, through various channels.

With the continuous development of technologies such as the internet and smart phones, the use of social media has become increasingly popular among young people. In recent years, the Force has also actively explored the use of online platforms and social media, including the Hong Kong Police Mobile Application, the Hong Kong Police YouTube Channel, the Hong Kong Police Facebook page, the Hong Kong Police Instagram page, the Hong Kong Police Force Weibo and Hong Kong Police Force Twitter, to provide the public with the Force's latest information. The Force will continue to explore the ways to extend the service coverage of its social media platforms so as to strengthen its communication with young people with a view to improving its service quality.

3. The Force attaches great importance to juvenile crimes. It combats juvenile crimes and enhances the law-abiding awareness of juveniles by adopting a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approach to achieve the dual purposes of deterring first offenders and reducing recidivism. On the enforcement front, the Force will continue to conduct anti-crime patrols in places frequented by juveniles to prevent them from being influenced by bad people. In response to the situations and trends of crimes in various districts, the Force takes intelligence-led action to tackle criminals who manipulate young people into committing crimes. In addition, through close collaboration with parents, social workers and schools, the Force will refer suitable arrested juveniles to relevant agencies for follow-up action and rehabilitation with the consent of their parents or guardians. The Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme is preferred as an alternative to prosecution where appropriate with the provision of after-care services for cautioned youths to minimise the chance of re-offending.

On the prevention front, the Force has been closely co-operating with stakeholders like other government departments and non-governmental organisations to jointly formulate policies and plans, so as to enhance the law-abiding awareness of the youth. The Force will continue to disseminate crime prevention messages and highlight the serious consequences of breaking the law through different channels. Besides, the Force has appointed School Liaison Officers to serve as a bridge between the Force and schools, and also the students. Through their efforts, community and educational projects are organised in collaboration with departments and organisations in various districts, with

a view to raising the civic awareness of young people and encouraging them to participate in healthy community activities, helping them to cultivate positive values.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB050****(Question Serial No. 1539)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Our police officers have worked with dedication and diligence in stopping violence and curbing disorder in accordance with the law. They hold the line of defence maintaining the rule of law and stability in Hong Kong, thereby earning respect and praise from the majority of the citizens. Nonetheless, quite a number of people “hold anti-central authority sentiments and seek disorder in Hong Kong”. They have engaged in standoffs with frontline police officers, making radical comments, demonstrating recalcitrant behaviour and even using extremely offensive language. They blatantly insulted police officers and launched a full-blown attack on their character for the sole purpose of creating social rifts and inciting hatred. Those who have committed such immoral misconducts should not only come under severe public censure, but also be held accountable for their actions. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Given that law enforcement has been caught in the crosshairs of politics and hence frontline police officers have to bear the brunt, will the Government consider introducing legislation on the offence of insulting a police officer and the offence of insulting a public officer so that the interests and personal safety of police officers can be safeguarded? If so, is there any preliminary legislative timetable? If not, what are the reasons?
2. Please set out in a table all the processions and meetings arising from the “anti-extradition amendment bill” related incident and “violent riots”, both lawful and unlawful, handled by the Police since June 2019.
3. Please set out in a table the numbers of all persons arrested, prosecuted and convicted for illegal behaviour in activities arising from the “anti-extradition amendment bill” related incident and “violent riots” since June 2019.
4. Further to the above question, what are the respective numbers of tertiary students arrested and charged? (Please list the respective numbers by university.)

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

1. The Security Bureau is studying the proposal to legislate against insulting public officers. The Department of Justice is being consulted on this subject. The Chief Executive has indicated earlier that the work in this regard is yet to reach an advanced stage. The Government also has to deal with a number of pressing items. Therefore, this is not among the priority legislative proposals on the Government's agenda. In considering this issue, the Government needs to proceed with caution so as to strike a proper balance between freedom of speech and protection for frontline public officers.
2. Relevant information is tabulated below:

Year	Number of public meetings/ public processions with Notice of No Objection issued	Number of public meetings/ public processions prohibited
2019 (June to December)	490	47
2020	87	42

The Police Force does not maintain the other information requested in the question.

- 3-4. From 9 June 2019 to 28 February 2021, the Force arrested a total of 10 242 persons in relation to the “anti-extradition amendment bill” related incident, for offences including “taking part in a riot”, “unlawful assembly”, “wounding”, “assault occasioning actual bodily harm”, “common assault”, “arson”, “criminal damage”, “assaulting police officer”, “obstructing a police officer in the execution of the officer’s duty” and “in possession of offensive weapons”, etc.

As at 28 February 2021, 2 521 persons already entered into or were in the course of legal proceedings. 883 of them had to bear legal consequences (including 614 convicted, 261 bound over, 4 under a Care or Protection Order and 4 penalised in civil proceedings for contempt of court); 50 persons had the charges against them withdrawn; 186 persons were acquitted after trial; and the rest were still in the course of legal proceedings. Another 22 persons were released under the Police Superintendent’s Discretion Scheme.

Among the 10 242 persons arrested, 3 998 claimed to be students, including 2 202 tertiary students. 573 of them already entered into or were in the course of legal proceedings.

The Force does not maintain other statistical breakdowns requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB051

(Question Serial No. 1540)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Since the black-clad mob unrest, quite a number of people with ulterior motives have made use of social platforms to incite the youth. They have employed despicable means such as spreading rumours and smearing in an attempt to undermine police-community relations, vilifying the law enforcers who are dedicated to curbing social unrest. Earlier on, the Police published a special supplement in the latest issue of Offbeat to fight against “fake news” by revealing the truth in a timely manner. Rumours and slander were squarely refuted so that the public would say “no” to false information instead of being misled again by those with ulterior motives. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. While recent years saw an improvement in public satisfaction with the Force when compared to the preceding year, those of a younger age tend to have a rather negative perception of police officers. Do the Police have any measures to improve its current situation?
2. The Police have issued more than a hundred letters to Apple Daily for clarification and refutation in order to stop the newspaper from smearing the Police through respective means. Will the Police consider instituting legal proceedings against the newspaper?
3. The Complaints Against Police Office, an independent department set up by the Police, and the Independent Police Complaints Council are both effective statutory channels for lodging complaints against the Police. How can the Police ensure the public is aware that each complaint against the Police is handled in a fair and just manner?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 46)

Reply:

1. Good police-community relations are vital to policing work. The Police Force maintains close co-operation with the community, seeking to gain trust and support from the public. The Force has always adopted a proactive and comprehensive public relations strategy to demonstrate the Force's positive, professional and caring image.

With the continuous advancement of technologies such as the internet and smartphones, the use of social media has become increasingly popular among young people. In recent years, the Force has actively explored the use of online platforms and social media to provide the public with the Force's latest information and broaden the engagement with the public, including the Hong Kong Police Mobile Application, the Hong Kong Police YouTube Channel, the Hong Kong Police Facebook page, the Hong Kong Police Instagram page, the Hong Kong Police Force Weibo and Hong Kong Police Force Twitter. The Force will continue to explore the ways to extend the service coverage of the Force's social media platforms so as to strengthen its communication with the public with a view to improving its service quality.

2. The Force has the responsibility to explain the facts so as to avoid public misunderstanding of the police work. As such, the Force has been proactive in enhancing its work transparency, repeatedly clarifying various unfounded reports and information and handling fabricated news. The purpose of issuing letters to media organisations is to tell the truth and set the record straight, allowing the media organisations concerned to understand the work of the Force, and helping the public discern fact from fiction to avoid being misled. Apart from sending letters to media organisations, the Force also disseminates information and dismisses unfounded claims through press conferences and press releases, as well as on social media platforms. The Force will continue to enhance public understanding of police work and earn their support and trust through various channels.
3. The mechanism of complaint against the Police is a well-established two-tier statutory framework. The first tier is the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) of the Force which receives and investigates complaints; and the second tier is the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) which is a statutory body. The two-tier complaint mechanism operates effectively under the Independent Police Complaints Council Ordinance (Cap. 604), which provides a clear legal basis for the mechanism.

The CAPO deals with each complaint in line with established procedures and submits a detailed investigation report to the IPCC for examination once the investigation of a reportable complaint is completed. Should the IPCC have any queries on the investigation or findings of the CAPO, it may ask the CAPO for clarification or more information, and may interview the complainants, police officers and witnesses concerned. The IPCC may also ask the CAPO to re-investigate the complaint or change the classification of investigation results, as well as advise and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Police and the Chief Executive. Besides, the IPCC will arrange its members and observers to conduct surprise observations on the interviews and evidence-collection work for reportable complaints of the CAPO. It will also make recommendations to the Police in accordance with its statutory functions with a view to improving existing police procedures. As an independent statutory body, the IPCC will scrutinise the CAPO's investigation result and recommendation of each complaint to ensure that the complaint is handled fairly and impartially. If there is any case of breach of the law or discipline, the Force will follow up in a serious and impartial manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB052

(Question Serial No. 1541)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Policing is tough and dangerous, and involves long working hours. Besides, since the incidents related to black-clad rioters, some misunderstanding of the Police has been caused, leading to a drop in the number of applications for jobs in the Police. Mr TANG Ping-keung, the Commissioner of Police, stated earlier that the number of applicants had rebounded as the social order has gradually been restored. In face of the wave of retirement, however, the Police Force needs to expedite the recruitment process. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What was the number of frontline police officers that the Force successfully recruited in the past financial year, with a breakdown by age, gender and education level?
2. In a number of operations mounted to handle the “black-clad rioters”, quite some police officers were seriously injured because of inadequate equipment or being separated from their colleagues. Will the Force explore or consider procuring equipment of the Mainland armed police or public security officers so as to reduce the chance of injury to the frontline officers?
3. In the recruitment exercises conducted during the last 6 months, the slogan “It’s Never Too Late” was used to attract elder applicants. Please tabulate the number of police officers that the Force successfully recruited in the past financial year by age group (e.g. 30 to 35, 36 to 40, and above 40) and rank.

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 47)

Reply:

- 1.&3. A breakdown of the number of police officers the Police Force recruited in 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) by age and gender is set out in the following table:

Age	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable
20 or below	0	50
21-25	52	190
26-30	33	132
31-35	18	67
36-40	15	20
41 or above	14	1

Probationary Inspector		Police Constable	
Male	Female	Male	Female
93 (70%)	39 (30%)	346 (75%)	114 (25%)

The educational qualifications of the police officers recruited in 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) were comparable to those of the police officers recruited last year. All of the newly recruited probationary inspectors possessed educational qualification at university level or above. Among the police constables recruited, about 23% possessed educational qualification at university level or above, 21% at post-secondary level, 12% at secondary level and 44% were holders of Yi Jin Diploma.

2. The Force has from time to time reviewed the equipment of frontline officers to ensure that their equipment can meet the actual operational needs. The Force always keeps watch on the equipment of various kinds available in the world and will procure suitable equipment in accordance with the operational needs and the established procurement procedures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB053****(Question Serial No. 2066)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of CrimeControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the “adoption of a multi-agency approach to address the problems of juvenile delinquency”, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the respective numbers of juveniles involved in criminal and drug offences in the past 3 years?
- (b) What measures will be taken to tackle juvenile delinquency and youth involvement in drugs in the financial year 2021-22?
- (c) How many anti-crime activities are expected to be organised in the financial year 2021-22?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)Reply:

- (a) The number of youths arrested for criminal offences over the past three years are set out below:

Year	2018	2019	2020
Offences against public order	71	1 600	894
Wounding and serious assault	422	360	521
Shop theft	361	287	347
Serious drug offences	202	144	318
Criminal damage	185	348	302
Miscellaneous theft	367	243	256
Fraud	124	97	177
Disorderly conduct/fight in a public place	122	105	142
Robbery	55	44	94
Indecent assault	122	116	73
Unlawful society offences	110	50	57
Others	628	874	806
Total number of youths arrested	2 769	4 268	3 987

The number of youths arrested for drug-related offences (including serious and minor drug offences) over the past three years are set out below:

	2018	2019	2020
Total number of youths arrested for drug-related offences	293	212 (Note)	472

Note: Since June 2019, as the Police Force needed to deploy substantial manpower to handle cases of large-scale public order events, the number of persons arrested for drug offences in 2019 may not have fully reflected the situation of drug crimes in the year.

- (b) The Force attaches great importance to juvenile crimes. It combats juvenile crimes and enhances the law-abiding awareness of juveniles by adopting a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approach to achieve the dual purposes of deterring first offenders and reducing recidivism. On the enforcement front, the Force will continue to conduct anti-crime patrols in places frequented by juveniles to prevent them from being influenced by bad people. In response to the situations and trends of crimes in various districts, the Force takes intelligence-led action to tackle criminals who manipulate young people into committing crimes. In addition, through close collaboration with parents, social workers and schools, the Force will refer suitable arrested juveniles to relevant agencies for follow-up action and rehabilitation with the consent of their parents or guardians. The Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme is preferred as an alternative to prosecution where appropriate with the provision of after-care services for cautioned youths to minimise the chance of re-offending.

On the prevention front, the Force has been closely co-operating with stakeholders like other government departments and non-governmental organisations to jointly formulate policies and plans, so as to enhance the law-abiding awareness of the youth. The Force will continue to disseminate crime prevention messages and highlight the serious consequences of breaking the law through different channels. Besides, the Force has appointed School Liaison Officers to serve as a bridge between the Force and schools, and also the students. Through their efforts, community and educational projects are organised in collaboration with departments and organisations in various districts, with a view to raising the civic awareness of young people and encouraging them to participate in healthy community activities, helping them to cultivate positive values.

- (c) The Force devises its anti-crime initiatives taking into account the crime trends and the actual situations. Resources will be distributed flexibly. Through the Junior Police Call (JPC) Scheme and the Police School Liaison Programme, the Force will continue to collaborate with schools, the Education Bureau and other stakeholders in strengthening the communication with young people and promoting active engagement of the youth, with a view to nurturing their law-abiding awareness and preventing them from being misled into committing crimes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB054

(Question Serial No. 2067)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

At present, the terrorist threat level of Hong Kong remains “moderate”, i.e. it might be attacked, but there is no specific intelligence indicating that Hong Kong may become the target of terrorist attacks. Regarding efforts to tackle the threat of terrorism, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the amount of expenditure spent on the work of counter-terrorism in each of the past three years;
- (b) the number of counter-terrorism exercises conducted and the number of participants involved in the past three years; and
- (c) what measures will be taken to enhance the public response and preparedness for terrorist attacks in 2021-22.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 49)

Reply:

(a) and (b)

In the past 3 years (2018-2020), the Police Force conducted 29 counter-terrorism (CT) exercises, which mostly are joint exercises with other government departments and public organisations. These exercises generally comprised intelligence gathering and analysis as well as simulated serial terrorist attacks to test the CT response capabilities and the contingency plans of various government departments and organisations; optimise the co-ordination and readiness of various units in light of experience gained; as well as to heighten the public's CT awareness through education and publicity.

The above work falls under the Programme of “Operations”. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure.

- (c) In 2021-22, the Force will continue to conduct CT and major incident exercises with relevant government departments and public organisations to ensure the operational and

coordination capabilities in responding to terrorist attacks or emergencies. The exercises will reinforce training of frontline officers on “Immediate Tactical Intervention” such that those arriving earliest at the scene are capable of making swift responses to provide members of the public with immediate care for the sake of their safety. In addition, the Force will also engage the public in the exercises where appropriate to enhance public alertness and awareness about terrorist attacks and major incidents. Through publicity and education, members of the public are also reminded to take the three steps to “Run (away from danger), Hide (in a safe place) and Report (to the Police)” as appropriate in light of the actual situation, in order to protect their personal safety in the event of a terrorist attack.

The above work falls under the Programme of “Operations”. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the relevant manpower and expenditure.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB055****(Question Serial No. 1572)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the CommunityControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the launch of the “Animal Watch Scheme” mentioned in “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22”, will the Police Force inform this Committee of the following:

(A) What were the numbers of requests or inquiries relating to suspected cruelty to animals received by the Force, as well as the type of cases and the latest situation and trend in handling them in the past 3 years? Please provide a breakdown by 18 districts.

(B) Apart from the requests received, please provide the number and way of inspections as well as number of prosecutions in the past 3 years.

(C) Is the 6 months' period enough for collecting evidence? Since animal victims cannot speak, it will be generally more difficult to collect evidence for the cases. Will the Force consider extending the period? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)Reply:

(A) From 2018 to 2020, the numbers of cases received by the Police Force for involvement in cruelty to animals were 105, 60 and 70 respectively. The Force does not maintain other information as mentioned in the question.

(B) The numbers of persons prosecuted by the Force under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance are listed in the following table:

	2018	2019	2020 (as at September)
Persons prosecuted	27	27	11

The Force does not maintain other information as mentioned in the question.

- (C) Under the existing legislative framework, both the Force and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will investigate cases of cruelty to animals and institute prosecutions. The Force has always demonstrated professionalism, handling and investigating all cases of suspected cruelty to animals in a timely and comprehensive manner. It will institute prosecutions if there is sufficient evidence. To combat acts of cruelty to animals, the Force has since 2018 established dedicated crime investigation teams in 22 police districts to handle animal cruelty cases. In order to best reflect their positioning, these dedicated teams were officially named “Animal Crime Police Team” with effect from 28 February 2021. The “Animal Crime Police Teams”, comprising officers with experiences and skills in investigating and handling other serious crimes, take up the animal cruelty cases in their respective districts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB056

(Question Serial No. 1870)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

There have been numerous violent incidents including arson, road blockade and wounding since the anti-extradition bill disturbances broke out in June 2019. Will the Government inform this Committee of the number of persons arrested in the cases related to the disturbances, and among them the number of persons prosecuted with the respective offences, and also the number of persons convicted as well as the penalties concerned?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 61)

Reply:

From 9 June 2019 to 28 February 2021, the Police Force arrested a total of 10 242 persons, aged between 11 and 84, in relation to the “anti-extradition amendment bill” related incident for offences including “taking part in a riot”, “unlawful assembly”, “wounding”, “assault occasioning actual bodily harm”, “common assault”, “arson”, “criminal damage”, “assaulting police officer”, “obstructing a police officer in the execution of the officer’s duty” and “in possession of offensive weapons”, etc.

As at 28 February 2021, among the 10 242 arrestees, 2 521 persons already entered into or were in the course of legal proceedings. 883 of them had to bear legal consequences (including 614 convicted, 261 bound over, 4 under a Care and Protection Order and 4 penalised for contempt of court in civil proceedings) and the most serious sentence so far was 5.5 years’ imprisonment. Besides, 50 persons had the charges against them withdrawn, 186 were acquitted after trial and the rest were still in the course of legal proceedings.

The Force does not maintain other statistical breakdowns requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB057

(Question Serial No. 1871)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

There have been numerous violent incidents including arson, road blockade and wounding since the anti-extradition bill disturbances broke out in June last year. Will the Government inform this Committee of the number of persons arrested in the cases related to the disturbances, the number of the arrestees claiming to be students, the number of students prosecuted with the respective offences, and also the number of students convicted as well as the penalties concerned?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 62)

Reply:

From 9 June 2019 to 28 February 2021, the Police Force arrested a total of 10 242 persons (of which 3 998 persons claimed to be students) in relation to the “anti-extradition amendment bill” related incident for offences including “taking part in a riot”, “unlawful assembly”, “wounding”, “assault occasioning actual bodily harm”, “common assault”, “arson”, “criminal damage”, “assaulting police officer”, “obstructing a police officer in the execution of the officer’s duty” and “in possession of offensive weapons”, etc.

As at 28 February 2021, among the 3 998 arrestees who claimed to be students, 1 029 persons already entered into or were in the course of legal proceedings. 358 of them had to bear legal consequences (including 215 convicted, 139 bound over and 4 under a Care and Protection Order). Another 22 persons were released under the Police Superintendent’s Discretion Scheme.

The Force does not maintain other statistical breakdowns requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB058****(Question Serial No. 0365)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of CrimeControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide the numbers of child abuse cases and elder abuse cases investigated and successfully prosecuted for the past 3 years with a breakdown by type of crimes.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)Reply:Child abuse

The number of child abuse cases received by the Police Force in the past 3 years are set out below:

	2018	2019	2020
Sexual abuse against children (Note 1)	456	422	386
Physical abuse against children (Note 2)	437	391	383
Total	893	813	769

Note 1: "Sexual abuse against children" refers to such sexual crimes as rape, indecent assault and unlawful sexual intercourse involving a victim who is under 17 years of age, irrespective of the nature of relationship between the victim and the offender, as well as crimes involving an offender who has blood relationship with the victim as specified under other legislation, such as incest.

Note 2: "Physical abuse against children" refers to such crimes as murder, manslaughter, wounding and serious assault involving a victim who is under 14 years of age, irrespective of the nature of relationship between the victim and the offender, as well as crimes involving an offender who has the care or charge of the victim as specified under other legislation, such as ill-treatment or neglect by those in charge of the child or young person (under 16 years of age).

The Force does not maintain the prosecution figures requested in the question.

Elder abuse

The number of elder abuse cases (Note 3) received by the Force in the past 3 years are set out below:

	2018	2019	2020
Physical abuse (Note 4)	186	138	182
Embezzlement of property (Note 5)	90	86	52
Psychological abuse (Note 6)	37	29	24
Sexual abuse (Note 7)	1	1	1
Total	314	254	259

Note 3: “Elder abuse” refers to the commission or omission of any act that endangers the welfare or safety of an elder with the abused elders and abusers being known to each other or involving abusers who are responsible for the care of the abused elders. “Elders” are defined as persons aged 60 or above.

Note 4: “Physical abuse” includes murder/attempt to murder, wounding, serious assault, administering poison so as to inflict bodily harm, etc.

Note 5: “Embezzlement of property” includes robbery, theft, deception, blackmail, using false instruments and uttering forged banknotes and coins, etc.

Note 6: “Psychological abuse” refers to criminal intimidation.

Note 7: “Sexual abuse” includes indecent assault, rape, etc.

The Force does not maintain the prosecution figures requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB059****(Question Serial No. 2448)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

A provision of \$413.512 million is allocated under Police specialised vehicles in 2021-22. How many such vehicles does the Force currently have? How many new specialised vehicles will be procured and how many existing ones will be replaced in the coming year? Please provide a breakdown by vehicle type. Has the procurement of such vehicles been affected by the so-called “sanctions” and “embargoes” imposed by countries such as the United States of America on Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The Police Force's replacement and procurement of specialised vehicles fall under the Programme of “Operations”. To meet the developmental and overall operational needs in the coming year, the provision under Subhead 695 “Police specialised vehicles (block vote)” will be used for replacing and acquiring 596 specialised vehicles in 2021-22. Details are as follows:

<u>Type of Vehicle</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Replacement of Police Large Van	55
Replacement of Police Large Van ^(note)	238
Replacement of Police Large Motorcycle	48
Replacement of Police Large Estate Car	32
Replacement and procurement of Police Large Estate Car ^(note)	20
Replacement of Cross-country Vehicle	1
Replacement of VIP Protection Saloon	2
Replacement of Police Small Patrol Car	3
Replacement of PTU Bus	68
Replacement of Large Saloon (Special Duties)	2
Replacement of Armoured Tactical Intervention Vehicle ^(note)	4
Replacement and procurement of Police Small Motorcycle ^(note)	12
Procurement of Police Large Van	7

Procurement of Police Large Motorcycle	4
Procurement of Cross-country Vehicle	2
Procurement of High-performance Medium Saloon	2
Procurement of Police Large Van ^(note)	5
Procurement of PTU Bus ^(note)	24
Procurement of Specialised Crowd Management Vehicle ^(note)	3
Procurement of Police Multi-passenger Carrier ^(note)	64
Total	<hr/> 596

(Note: Replacement / acquisition work that has been allocated funding before 2021-22 and will continue in 2021-22)

The Force always keeps watch on the supply of equipment from all around the world and will procure suitable equipment in accordance with the operational needs and the established procurement procedures. The restrictions on the export of weapons imposed by individual nations or areas will not affect the day-to-day operations and the enforcement capabilities of the Force.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB060****(Question Serial No. 2482)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide the figures on public assemblies/processions organised with prior notice given to the Police, public assemblies/processions organised without giving prior notice to the Police as required and public assemblies/processions prohibited by the Police in the past three years.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 116)Reply:

The relevant details are set out in the following table:

Year	Number of public assemblies with a notice given to the Police Force	Number of public processions with a notice given to the Force	Public assemblies/processions organised without giving prior notice to the Force as required	Number of public assemblies which were prohibited though with a notice given to the Force	Number of public processions which were objected to though with a notice given to the Force
2018	723	784	36	0	0
2019	858	766	604	26	21
2020	121	89	180	26	16

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB061****(Question Serial No. 2488)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

What are the strength and expenditure of the Complaints Against Police Office in the past 2 years and the coming year?

Of the complaints received in the past 3 years, how many were related to the large-scale public order events which started in June 2019? (Please provide a breakdown by nature of complaint.)

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 138)

Reply:

The establishment and expenditure of the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) in the past 2 years and the coming year are as follows:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2021-22</u> (Estimate)
<u>CAPO</u>			
Senior Superintendent	1	1	1
Superintendent	4	6	6
Chief Inspector	17	17	17
Inspector/Senior Inspector	32	32	32
Station Sergeant	14	16	16
Sergeant	58	65	65
Police Constable	14	18	18
Assistant Clerical Officer	2	2	2
Clerical Assistant	1	1	1
Personal Secretary II	1	1	1
<u>Complaints and Internal Investigation Branch</u>			
Executive, Statistical and Translation Officers	31	32	32
Total	175	191	191

	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2021-22</u>
	<u>Actual expenditure</u>	<u>Revised estimated expenditure</u>	<u>Estimated expenditure</u>
Expenditure	\$117.36 million	\$127.13 million	\$127.13 million

In 2018, 2019 and 2020, CAPO received 1 501, 1 643 and 1 211 “reportable complaint cases” respectively. The main accusations included “neglect of duty”, “misconduct/improper manner/offensive language”, “assault”, etc.

As at 31 December 2020, CAPO received a total of 1 947 cases of complaints regarding public order events that are related to the anti-extradition movements. Among them, there were 623 “reportable complaint cases” and 1 324 “notifiable complaint cases”. The main accusations included “misconduct/improper manner/offensive language”, “neglect of duty”, “abuse of authority”, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB062****(Question Serial No. 2491)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

1. The establishment of the Police will be slightly reduced from 38 406 posts to 38 390 posts. Please provide a breakdown of the salary expenditures by rank.
2. The revised estimate on specialist supplies and equipment for 2020-21 is reduced to \$380,000,000 from the original estimate of \$612,000,000. The estimate for 2021-22 is reduced to \$290,000,000. What are the details and the breakdown of the supplies and equipment?
3. The estimate on general departmental expenses is increased to \$3,676,292,000 from the revised estimate for 2020-21 of \$2,766,469,000. What are the details and the breakdown by type of expenditure?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 146)Reply:

1. The Police Force will have a net decrease of 16 posts in 2021-22. The information related to the changes in the number of posts are as follows:

Rank	Number of net increase/decrease	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)/ Model Scale I Pay Scale (MOD)	Monthly salary of the rank in HK\$ (From 1 April 2019)
Chief Inspector of Police	-4	PPS 43 – 48	91,615 – 110,110
Station Sergeant	-13	PPS 22 – 31	43,870 – 62,340
Sergeant	-21	PPS 15 – 24	36,290 – 46,295
Police Constable	39	PPS 3 – 16	25,380 – 36,290
Senior Government Counsel	2	MPS 45 – 49	117,580 – 135,470
Analyst/Programmer II	1	MPS 16 – 27	33,350 – 55,995
Assistant Clerical Officer	1	MPS 3 – 15	15,560 – 31,750
Workman II	-21	MOD 0 – 8	13,730 – 16,175
Total	-16		

2. The provision for “Specialist supplies and equipment” under the Force’s Subhead 000 (Operational expenses) is mainly for the procurement of the following 3 types of equipment:

- (1) operational gear and supplies for supporting the front line, including firearms and ammunition, handcuffs, shields, communications equipment, mills barrier, food and supplies for police dogs, etc.;
- (2) protective gear, including life jackets, safety helmets, medicines and equipment for sea rescue emergency operations, etc.; and
- (3) equipment for law enforcement and gathering evidence, including traffic cones, forensic equipment, printing pads and ink for collecting fingerprints, etc.

The estimate for “Specialist supplies and equipment” in 2021-22 is lower than the original and revised estimates for 2020-21. This is mainly due to a decrease in estimated expenditures on gear as a result of fewer public order events.

3. The provision for “General departmental expenses” under the Force’s Subhead 000 (Operational expenses) is mainly for the day-to-day operating expenses of the department, including electricity charges, various fuel expenses (vehicles and vessels), various contractual payments (maintenance, cleaning, security, contract staff, and the maintenance contracts of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund), telecommunications service charges, payments in relation to uniform, office furniture and equipment, etc.

The estimate for “General departmental expenses” in 2021-22 is higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to delays in some procurement exercises as a result of the epidemic.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB063

(Question Serial No. 2492)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The social unrest since June 2019 has posed formidable challenges to the work of the Force and given rise to hostility towards police officers and their family members. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. How many police officers were injured in each month in 2019-20 and 2020-21 as a result of handling the anti-extradition amendment bill movement? Among these officers, how many sustained minor injuries? How many were seriously injured? What kinds of support has the Force offered these officers? What are the additional expenditures incurred?
2. What equipment did the Force procure in 2020-21 to enhance its law enforcement capability and ensure the safety of officers on duty, especially in relation to the capability to handle large-scale incidents? What equipment will be procured in the coming year? What are the additional expenditures incurred (please provide a breakdown by type of equipment)?
3. Police officers and their family members have been maliciously targeted. For example, officers have been doxxed and cyberbullied; some have been followed and ambushed after going off duty; disciplined services quarters have been vandalised; their children have been bullied at school. In response to these situations, how many requests for assistance did the Police receive over the past two years? What kinds of support were offered? What are the additional expenditures incurred (please provide a breakdown by type of equipment)?
4. The Security Bureau will propose legislation to prohibit acts of insulting public officers. Has the Police Force explored whether the enactment of such legislation can protect police officers from insults and provocations? Has the Force also looked into the technical difficulties that may arise in enforcing the legislation? If affirmative, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 147)

Reply:

1. The numbers of police officers injured in each month as a result of handling the anti-extradition amendment bill movement since June 2019 are set out in the following table:

Month (2019)	Number of officers with minor injuries (no hospital stay needed)	Number of officers who needed a hospital stay	Total number of injured officers
June	30	4	34
July	78	8	86
August	97	7	104
September	60	2	62
October	85	14	99
November	109	12	121
December	40	7	47
(2020)			
January	23	4	27
February	11	3	14
March	4	-	4
April	4	-	4
May	12	3	15
June	-	2	2
July	5	3	8
August	1	-	1
September	-	-	-
October*	1	-	1
Total	560	69	629

* No new case of injury has been recorded since October 2020 in relation to the anti-extradition amendment bill movement.

The Police Force has a well-established system of welfare and support services through which it offers appropriate assistance to injured police officers and their family members. The expenditure on the above items is part of the day-to-day operating expenditure of the Force. No specific breakdown of the relevant expenditure is available.

2. The Force reviews its equipment for officers from time to time and will acquire new and replace existing equipment as required in light of operational needs. The expenditure and relevant information on various equipment procured by the Force are part of the Force's operational deployment details, which cannot be disclosed.
3. As at 28 February 2021, over 3 800 police officers and their relatives and friends had their personal data improperly disseminated on the internet or social media platforms. Therefore, since June 2019, the Force has set up a 24-hour hotline for reporting cyber-bullying against police officers. Upon the Force's applications, the High Court has granted injunction orders prohibiting encouragement of violence and publication of content that incites or threatens the use of violence online, as well as doxxing and harassment against police officers, Special Constables and their families. The Force

will also investigate further or take the appropriate enforcement actions in the light of the circumstances of each case.

Since mid-2019, the Welfare Services Group under the Personnel Wing of the Force has offered immediate counselling service and welfare support for police officers and their families who request assistance as a result of being maliciously targeted in ways such as doxxing, bullying of their family members and vandalism of police quarters.

As for police children allegedly bullied at school, the Force management and the Education Bureau have established a notification mechanism to address the issues and take follow-up actions, with a view to protecting the children of officers. The Force management has also made every effort to help arrange school transfers for the targeted children.

In view of the unprecedented pressure faced by frontline police officers in handling violent incidents in recent years, the Psychological Services Group (PSG) of the Force has provided a range of counselling services and supportive services to the affected police officers and their families or those in need to provide outlets for emotional relief. The scope of services includes the following:

- (i) To provide professional counselling service for individuals, including police officers and their family members;
- (ii) To organise workshops and seminars on parent-child emotional communication with the aim to teach parents how to help their children cope with the emotional challenges arising from social dissension;
- (iii) Regarding the attack on police quarters, the clinical psychologists and welfare officers of the Force visited various quarters and offered psychological supportive service to the families affected. The PSG also conducted a series of workshops on art therapy for the spouses and children of the police officers to help them cope with the emotional pressure brought by social unrest;
- (iv) To provide critical incident psychological support services to the affected police officers after major incidents had happened;
- (v) To make phone calls to follow up cases of cyber bullying or harassment;
- (vi) To visit injured police officers in hospitals; and
- (vii) The clinical psychologists have set up rest corners in police officers' stand-down rooms and organised various activities for frontline police officers so as to help them release their emotional pressure.

To help officers understand social conflicts through the lens of psychology and facilitate their swift return to routine policing duties of serving the public, the PSG has launched a series of workshops called "Tideriders: Know Yourself and Know the Others" for 5 600 frontline officers since May 2020. Preparations are underway for the production of the relevant training packages for Training Days.

Moreover, the Force has created 3 additional posts of clinical psychologist, on top of the current establishment of 2 senior clinical psychologists and 11 clinical psychologists, and recruited psychology assistants under outsourcing arrangements in 2020-21 to enhance the psychological support for police officers.

The expenditure on the above items is part of the day-to-day operating expenditure of the Force. No specific breakdown is available.

4. The Security Bureau is studying the proposal to legislate against insulting public officers. The Department of Justice is being consulted on this subject. The Chief Executive has indicated earlier that the work in this regard is yet to reach an advanced stage. The Government also has to deal with a number of pressing items. Therefore, this is not among the priority legislative proposals on the Government's agenda. In considering this issue, the Government needs to proceed with caution so as to strike a proper balance between freedom of speech and protection for frontline public officers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB064****(Question Serial No. 2506)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

What were the numbers of application and intake for Police Constables and Inspectors of Police in the past 3 years? How many non-ethnic Chinese citizens were among the applicants and those recruited? What were the numbers of unnatural wastage cases among the police officers at various ranks who have left the Force?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 177)Reply:

The numbers of applicants and numbers of new recruits at the Police Force in the past 3 financial years are as follows:

Financial Year	Number of applicants		Number of new recruits	
	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable
2018-19	7 350	10 578	220	1 121
2019-20	5 223	6 751	169	705
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	4 611	6 074	132	460

The Force welcomes all eligible and devoted persons to join the Force. Any individuals meeting the entry requirements, regardless of gender and nationality, are welcome to join the Force. Ethnicity is not a relevant factor for consideration in the selection process. As an employer promoting and practising equal opportunities, the Force does not require any applicants or serving police officers to declare their ethnic origins. However, according to the names shown in the relevant information and the voluntary declarations, the numbers of applicants and numbers of new recruits concerning non-ethnic Chinese applicants in the past 3 financial years are as follows:

Financial Year	Number of applicants		Number of new recruits	
	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable
2018-19	25	53	4	11
2019-20	35	36	2	6
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	35	36	1	7

The wastage of officers at various ranks in the Force in the past 3 financial years is as follows:

Rank	Number of leavers each year (Note)		
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)
	Number of leavers (The number in brackets denotes the unnatural wastage figure)	Number of leavers (The number in brackets denotes the unnatural wastage figure)	Number of leavers (The number in brackets denotes the unnatural wastage figure)
Commissioner	-	-	1
Deputy Commissioner	2	1	-
Senior Assistant Commissioner	-	-	1
Assistant Commissioner	4	4	3
Chief Superintendent	10	10 (1)	4
Senior Superintendent	15	14	11
Superintendent	21 (2)	26	25 (4)
Chief Inspector	30 (3)	36 (4)	24 (2)
Inspector/ Senior Inspector	55 (26)	61 (31)	66 (28)
Station Sergeant	179 (6)	170 (3)	135 (2)
Sergeant	240 (12)	221 (12)	198 (12)
Police Constable/ Senior Police Constable	691 (338)	770 (438)	451 (269)
Total	1 247 (387)	1 313 (489)	919 (317)

Note: "Leavers" include cases of retirement and unnatural wastage.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB065****(Question Serial No. 2509)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide the number of intelligence reports received through the “Anti-violence Hotline” each month by the Police since September 2019 and among them the number of cases with follow-up criminal investigations conducted by the Police, and also the numbers of people arrested, prosecuted and convicted in 2019-20 and 2020-21. Please advise the details and types of offences involved in cases of conviction.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 180)Reply:

Since 8 October 2019, the Police Force has received more than 1.2 million messages from citizens through “Anti-violence Hotline”. The information is tabulated as follows:

	Number of messages received
October 2019 (Starting from 8 October)	247 191
November 2019	487 975
December 2019	103 203
January 2020	49 084
February 2020	47 238
March 2020	47 309
April 2020	27 768
May 2020	67 896
June 2020	31 171

	Number of messages received
July 2020	37 542
August 2020	26 531
September 2020	19 404
October 2020	19 234
November 2020	8 064
December 2020	7 987
January 2021	7 803
February 2021	7 713
Total	1 243 113

The Force will analyse and follow up all the messages received. As the other information requested in the question involves the Force's operational details, it is inappropriate to disclose such information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB066****(Question Serial No. 2510)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

What is the establishment of the Social Media Communication Division under the Police Public Relations Branch (PPRB) in the past 3 years and the coming year, with a breakdown of the expenditures on salaries by rank and the total expenditures involved?

What are the total number of downloads of the Hong Kong Police Mobile Application and the total number of “page likes”, “page followers”, “fans” and “channel subscription” of the Force’s social media platforms?

What are the additional expenditures incurred by the Force’s new theme song “Safeguard Hong Kong”, which was released in 2020, and the promotional video “Guarding Our City” premiered in 2021?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 181)Reply:

The social media platforms of the Police Force are mainly managed by the Social Media Communication Division of the Police Public Relations Branch, which currently has 30 members including 28 police officers and 2 contract staff members:

Rank	Number of officers
Superintendent	1
Chief Inspector	2
Inspector/ Senior Inspector	4
Station Sergeant	1
Sergeant	8
Police Constable/ Senior Police Constable	12
Contract New Media Writer	1
Contract New Media Designer	1
Total	30

The Force deploys existing resources for managing the social media platforms concerned. No specific breakdown of the relevant expenditures is available.

Since the launch of the Hong Kong Police Mobile Application in July 2012 (as at 25 February 2021), more than 187 000 users have downloaded the application.

Since the launch of the Hong Kong Police YouTube Channel in March 2013 (as at 25 February 2021), more than 155 000 subscribers have been attracted.

Since the launch of the Hong Kong Police Facebook page in October 2015, more than 320 000 “page likes” and 500 000 “page followers” have been attracted. The figures as at 25 February 2021 are as follows:

- i) The post with the highest reach has reached over 3.2 million users;
- ii) The post with the lowest reach has reached about 2 500 users;
- iii) A total of 5 414 posts have been posted with an average reach of about 115 000 users per post.

Since the launch of the Hong Kong Police Instagram page in November 2016, about 69 000 “page followers” have been attracted. The figures as at 25 February 2021 are as follows:

- i) The post with the highest reach has reached over 130 000 users;
- ii) The post with the lowest reach has reached about 2 500 users;
- iii) A total of 1 975 posts have been posted with an average reach of about 13 300 users per post.

Since the launch of the Hong Kong Police Twitter page in January 2019, more than 85 000 “page followers” have been attracted. The figures as at 25 February 2021 are as follows:

- i) The post with the highest reach has reached over 2.13 million users;
- ii) The post with the lowest reach has reached about 400 users;
- iii) A total of 2 779 posts have been posted with an average reach of about 13 000 users per post.

Since the launch of the Hong Kong Police Weibo page in January 2019, more than 420 000 “fans” have been attracted. The figures as at 25 February 2021 are as follows:

- i) The post with the highest reach has reached over 21 million users;
- ii) The post with the lowest reach has reached about 23 000 users;
- iii) A total of 1 727 posts have been posted with an average reach of about 290 000 users per post.

The Force has been enhancing its professional image as law enforcement officers in various ways. A new theme song “Safeguard Hong Kong” was released and a promotional video “Guarding Our City” was premiered in 2020. The professional capability of the Force was highlighted through the engagement of a professional production team and police officers. As the theme song was funded by members of the public, no expenditure of the Force was involved. Meanwhile, a third party was involved in the production of the promotional video. To respect the spirit of contract, the Force would not disclose the expenditure involved. The production cost incurred has been included in the Force’s annual estimate for publicity, and relevant services have been acquired in accordance with the existing government

requirements and procedures. The Force will allocate manpower and resources in light of the actual needs to ensure proper use of resources and public funds.

The theme song “Safeguard Hong Kong” and the promotional video “Guarding Our City” have been broadcast on various platforms (including social media, TV channels, music platforms, etc.) to reach out widely to the general public, giving them an understanding of the Force’s determination to protect Hong Kong and safeguard the life and properties of Hong Kong people.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB067****(Question Serial No. 2511)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

1. In the past 3 years, how many police officers attended development and training programmes in the Mainland and overseas? Please provide a breakdown by officer rank and training location.
2. What were the actual expenditures incurred for development and training programmes in the past 3 years? What is the estimated expenditure for such initiatives in the coming year?
3. Has any overseas law enforcement agency or academic institution terminated its partnership with the Force as a result of the latest international developments? If affirmative, has the Force made any changes to its training plans to ensure continued access for police officers to quality development and training programmes?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 182)Reply:

1. The numbers of Hong Kong police officers who attended development and training programmes in the Mainland and overseas over the past 3 years are set out in the following table:

Year	Mainland China			Overseas		
	Junior police officers	Inspectorate officers or above	Total	Junior police officers	Inspectorate officers or above	Total
2018-19	199	159	358	27	108	135
2019-20	67	81	148	30	58	88
2020-21	0	0	0	0	1	1

2. The actual expenditures incurred by the Hong Kong Police College for development and training programmes overseas and in the Mainland over the past 3 years and the estimated expenditure for the coming year are set out in the following table:

Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 (estimate)
Expenditure (\$)	10,147,137	5,421,940	2,595,937	10,051,201

3. As for collaboration with overseas training institutions, the only such organisation that has suspended training for the Hong Kong Police Force is the International Law Enforcement Academies (ILEAs), with funding from the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs under the Department of State of the United States of America (US) and training services from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, the US Drug Enforcement Administration and the US Department of Homeland Security. The ILEAs stopped training activities for the Force in July 2020 due to the acts and orders signed by the then US President. In fact, since September 2019, the Force has proactively scaled back overseas development and training programmes for officers due to operational needs and the epidemic. Therefore, the impact of the discontinuation of training has been minimal for the Force.

While maintaining co-operation with a wide range of training partners all over the world, the Force will continue to identify suitable training and exchange opportunities to enhance its enforcement efficiency and service quality.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB068

(Question Serial No. 2512)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. In each of the past three years, how many Police requests for court warrants were granted to examine the content of mobile phones belonging to arrestees? How many arrestees and mobile phones were involved in such Police examination under the warrants granted?
2. In each of the past three years, how many arrestees had their mobile phones scrutinised for their content by the Police without a warrant? How many mobile phones were involved?
3. In each of the past three years, how many smart phones were cracked (i) by the Police or (ii) through service providers to access their content? What were the additional expenditures incurred for engaging the service providers?
4. Media reports suggest that some overseas technology firms which had helped the Police crack smart phones stopped offering such services due to the so-called “sanctions” imposed by the United States of America. In light of the latest international developments, what measures have been, are being, or will be taken by the Police to ensure adequate capability in unlocking smart phones for their content with a view to preventing and detecting crime?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 183)

Reply:

- 1-2. The Police Force has the statutory duty to prevent and detect crimes. Where necessary, the Force would exercise the powers conferred by the relevant legislation to search for, seize and examine objects allegedly linked to cases, including mobile phones and other similar devices. Generally, the Force would only conduct digital forensic examination on mobile phones after obtaining court warrants. In a judgment handed down in April 2020 for a case of judicial review regarding the Force's power to access mobile phones, the Court of Appeal ruled that a police officer may conduct an immediate mobile phone search for its digital contents when it is not reasonably practicable to obtain such warrant before a search is conducted and the police officer has a reasonable basis for having to conduct the search immediately as being necessary for the investigation of the offence(s) for which the arrested person is involved or for the protection of the safety of persons.

The Force does not maintain the figures requested in the question.

- 3-4. Disclosing such information may reveal to criminals details of the operations of law enforcement agencies (LEAs), thus allowing criminals to take advantage by undermining LEAs' capabilities in combating serious crimes and maintaining public safety. As such, it is inappropriate to disclose the information.

The Force always keeps watch on various kinds of equipment available in the world and will procure suitable equipment in accordance with the operational needs and the established procurement procedures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB069

(Question Serial No. 2579)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide information on the number of applications for society registration received and approved by the Police Force in each of the past three years and the average processing time (number of days).

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 115)

Reply:

From 2018 to 2020, the Police Force approved a total of 3 740 applications for society registration/exemption from society registration.

The processing time required for each application for society registration/exemption from society registration varies from case to case, depending on whether the information provided by the applicant is complete and sufficient.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB070****(Question Serial No. 2590)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide the number of applications for Certificates of No Criminal Conviction processed by the Police Force and the staff establishment and salary expenditure involved in the past 3 years. It was reported that the bookings were always full in the fourth quarter of 2020. In this connection, will the Force deploy additional manpower to handle the applications?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 135)Reply:

The statistics on applications for Certificates of No Criminal Conviction (CNCC) processed by the Police Force in the past 3 years are set out below:

Year	2018	2019	2020
Total	23 524	33 252	29 251

The staff establishment and expenditure involved in processing CNCC falls under the Force's Programme of "Prevention and Detection of Crime". No specific breakdown is available.

To address the issue of full bookings for CNCC, the Force has already redeployed additional staff to handle the increased applications since July 2020. Moreover, 10 additional officers have been employed under the "Post-retirement Service Contract Scheme" to handle the applications since early 2021. The CNCC office will soon start to extend the opening hours of its counter service to facilitate submission of applications by the public.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB071

(Question Serial No. 2591)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

“Police Magazine”, a programme produced in collaboration with Radio Television Hong Kong, ceased to air in August 2020. Since then, what measures have the Police taken to promote crime prevention and police-community co-operation?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 136)

Reply:

The Police Force has always endeavoured to provide the public with crime prevention information through a variety of channels. The rise of social media in the midst of technological advancements in recent years has led to a shift in the way citizens access information.

In October 2020, the Force created a new programme titled “OffBeat On Air” to replace “Police Magazine”, the long-running show on television. “OffBeat On Air” is broadcast live every Thursday on the “Hong Kong Police Facebook page” and the “Hong Kong Police YouTube Channel”. With fighting and preventing crime remaining its main message, the new programme will continue to appeal to the public to come forward with crime leads and introduce the work of different police units. To enhance interaction with the public and transparency of the Force’s work, chat segments are also featured in the new programme where viewers can put questions to the guests and hosts in real time.

The Force will continue to disseminate crime updates and Force information through different platforms, including its official social media platforms.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB072

(Question Serial No. 2593)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2019-20 and 2020-21, how many temporary police officers and Special Constables did the Force appoint under section 24 of the Police Force Ordinance and section 40 of the Public Order Ordinance respectively? How many of them were from other bureaux, departments and disciplined services (please provide a breakdown by department)?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 141)

Reply:

Since mid-November 2019, the Commissioner of Police, in accordance with section 40 of the Public Order Ordinance (Cap. 245), has appointed officers of the Correctional Services Department, Immigration Department, Customs and Excise Department, Hong Kong Fire Services Department and Government Flying Service as Special Constables.

The Police Force will appoint Special Constables having regard to its manpower needs and development of the social events. As the number of officers appointed is part of the operational details and reflects the Force's enforcement capabilities, it is inappropriate to disclose such information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB073****(Question Serial No. 2605)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide the number of cases of cruelty to animals received by the Police Force in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively, and among them the number of cases prosecuted and convicted. In addition to enforcement operations, what other measures have been/are being/will be taken by the Force to promote the message of caring for animals and preventing cruelty to animals?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 166)

Reply:

From 2018 to 2020, the numbers of cases received by the Police Force for involvement in cruelty to animals were 105, 60 and 70 respectively. The numbers of persons prosecuted by the Force and the numbers of persons later convicted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance are listed in the following table:

	2018	2019	2020 (as at September)
Persons prosecuted	27	27	11
Persons convicted	21	23	8

To enlist public support and assistance in combating acts of cruelty to animals, the Force is implementing the Animal Watchers Programme, with a view to agglomerating the strengths of animal lovers at the community level in the 4 directions of education, publicity, investigation and intelligence-gathering; raising public awareness on prevention of cruelty to animals; and encouraging the public to report in a timely manner and provide information that could help investigations.

Participants of the Programme could disseminate to the community the messages of caring for animals and preventing cruelty to animals through organising and participating in various activities promoting animal welfare.

In addition, to combat acts of cruelty to animals, the Force has since 2018 established dedicated crime investigation teams in 22 police districts to handle animal cruelty cases. In order to best reflect their positioning, these dedicated teams were officially named “Animal Crime Police Team” with effect from 28 February 2021. The Animal Crime Police Teams, comprising officers with experience and skills in investigating and handling other serious crimes, take up the animal cruelty cases in their respective districts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB074

(Question Serial No. 2609)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

How many reports did the Police receive each year through the hotline set up under the RenoSafe Scheme in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively? How many persons have been prosecuted and convicted as a result?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 176)

Reply:

In collaboration with relevant departments and organisations, the Police Force launched the RenoSafe Scheme (RenoSafe) in 2013 to tackle crime arising from building renovation by adopting a cross-departmental and multi-disciplinary approach. RenoSafe aims at preventing any person such as consultants, contractors, or any other person from using unlawful means to affect the tendering or the conduct of building management or renovations, and invites participants to provide information of any unlawful act to the Force and other participating law enforcement agencies including the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the Competition Commission. Under RenoSafe, a 24-hour hotline has been set up by the Government to let members of the public make enquiries or report on suspected irregularities.

Through the RenoSafe hotline, the Force received 17, 13 and 6 enquiries or reports in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively. The Force does not maintain the other figures requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB075****(Question Serial No. 3015)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the number of minors arrested, prosecuted and convicted in the anti-extradition bill disturbances since 9 June 2019 with a breakdown by age group (aged 12 or below, aged 13, 14, 15, 16, 17) and category of crime. Among them, how many arrestees were handled by means of the Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme or had the charges against them withdrawn and were offered a bind over arrangement? How many arrestees were sentenced to imprisonment for less than 3 months or fined less than \$10,000, which means the arrestees' criminal records will be regarded as spent if they have not been convicted of an offence again within 3 years.

Please provide figures related to the measures taken/to be taken by the Police Force to help rehabilitate juvenile arrestees and minimise the chance of recidivating (e.g. the number of juvenile arrestees being referred to social welfare organisations for follow-up action).

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 117)

Reply:

From 9 June 2019 to 28 February 2021, the Police Force arrested a total of 10 242 persons, aged between 11 and 84, in relation to the "anti-extradition amendment bill" related incident for offences including "taking part in a riot", "unlawful assembly", "wounding", "assault occasioning actual bodily harm", "common assault", "arson", "criminal damage", "assaulting police officer", "obstructing a police officer in the execution of the officer's duty" and "in possession of offensive weapons", etc.

As at 28 February 2021, among the 10 242 arrestees, 1 752 persons were under the age of 18. 462 of them already entered into or were in the course of legal proceedings, comprising 209 who had to bear legal consequences (including 115 convicted, 90 bound over and 4 under a Care and Protection Order). Another 22 persons were released under the Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme (PSDS).

To facilitate the rehabilitation of the arrested youth, the Force will refer those aged below 18 to the Community Support Service Scheme (CSSS) as soon as possible upon the consent of

the youth and their parents/guardians, regardless of whether they will be prosecuted or cautioned under the PSDS. CSSS is operated under the subvention of the Social Welfare Department with the participation of non-government organisations, which provide supporting and follow-up services to the arrestees aged below 18, with a view to assisting them in rehabilitation and minimising the chance of re-offending.

The Force does not maintain other statistical breakdowns requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB076

(Question Serial No. 1278)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The work of the Police Force involves maintaining readiness to respond swiftly and effectively to cope with major incidents, civil disturbances or terrorist activities, as well as conducting major security and crowd management operations to ensure public safety and order.

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22, the Force will continue to maintain the Government's overall capability in response to major incidents by way of aligned response plans, inter-departmental exercises, close liaison with key public and private sector stakeholders as well as benchmarking against the experience of overseas emergency services.

Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Given the impact of the novel coronavirus, how many inter-departmental exercises were conducted in 2020-21? What were the scale and effectiveness of such exercises? What were the manpower deployed and expenditure involved?
- (2) Will private sector stakeholders be involved in the inter-departmental exercises planned for 2021-22? If affirmative, what are the details? What are the manpower deployment and estimated expenditure involved?
- (3) Has the Government enhanced its measures in response to major incidents by drawing on the experience of overseas emergency services? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 78)

Reply:

- (1) In 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021), the Police Force conducted a total of 62 joint exercises with other government departments and public organisations. These exercises generally comprised counter-terrorism (CT) and major incident contingency drills in order to test the CT response capabilities and the contingency plans of various

government departments and organisations; optimise the co-ordination and readiness of various units in light of the experience gained; as well as heighten the public's CT awareness through relevant education and publicity.

The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the relevant manpower and expenditure.

- (2) In 2021-22, the Force will continue to conduct CT and major incident exercises with relevant government departments and public organisations to ensure the operational and co-ordination capabilities in responding to terrorist attacks or emergencies. The exercises will reinforce training of frontline officers on "Immediate Tactical Intervention" to such that those arriving earliest at the scene are capable of making a swift response to provide members of the public with immediate care for the sake of their safety. In addition, the Force will also engage the public in the exercises where appropriate to enhance public alertness and awareness about terrorist attacks and major incidents.

The above is an integral part of departmental work. The Force does not maintain the breakdowns in this aspect.

- (3) The Force has always endeavoured to refine its measures and enhance its officers' capability to respond to major incidents. The Operations Wing regularly reviews and optimises Force's strategies for handling major incidents, including maintaining readiness, offering swift responses and strengthening recovery capabilities. Based on these strategies, the Force provides officers from relevant formations with multi-faceted training covering deployment strategies and tactics to build up their capacity for dealing with contingencies. Mechanisms have also been established to mobilise sufficient police manpower at short notice to handle unforeseen major incidents. In addition, the Force consistently reviews and improves its weapons and equipment to ensure that frontline officers are fully capable of handling violent incidents.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB077****(Question Serial No. 2355)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (4) OperationsControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the various replacement plans of the Marine Police launches, please provide the types, basic features (total length/crew members/speed), estimated commissioning time, and estimates of expenditure of the launches to be procured, as well as the types of serving police launches that will be replaced by the new ones.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 65)Reply:

Details of the launch replacement programmes are set out in the following table:

Type of police launch to be procured	Basic features (Length Overall (LOA)/ Operational Manning Standard (OMS)/speed)	Estimated commissioning time	Total estimate	Type of serving police launch to be replaced
Multi-Mission Interceptor	LOA: 10.7 metres OMS: 3 crew Speed: minimum 55 knots	Commissioned in 2019-2020	94.56 million (8 vessels)	Fast Pursuit Craft
Deep Bay Hovercraft	LOA: 8.6 metres OMS: 4 crew Speed: minimum 30 knots	Delivered in the fourth quarter of 2020	19.995 million (2 vessels)	Searider 5.4 RHIB Craft and Anda RH Craft
High-speed Interception Training Boat	LOA: 11.9 metres OMS: 3 crew Speed: minimum 55 knots	Delivered in the first quarter of 2021	9.898 million (1 vessel)	Confiscated "Tai Fei" Speedboat
Deep Bay High-speed Craft	LOA: 8.5 metres OMS: 2 crew Speed: minimum 40 knots	Scheduled for delivery in batches from the second quarter	43.086 million (10 vessels)	Searider 5.4 RHIB Craft and Anda RH Craft

Type of police launch to be procured	Basic features (Length Overall (LOA)/ Operational Manning Standard (OMS)/speed)	Estimated commissioning time	Total estimate	Type of serving police launch to be replaced
		to the fourth quarter of 2021		
High-speed Interceptor	LOA: 13-16 metres OMS: 5 crew Speed: minimum 66 knots	Contract expected to be signed in the second quarter of 2021; scheduled for delivery in batches from the third quarter of 2022	126.31 million (5 vessels)	Damen Cougartek Sea Stalker
Versatile Patrol Units	LOA: 35-37 metres OMS: 16 crew (including one Cook) Speed: minimum 25 knots	Contract expected to be signed in the second quarter of 2022; scheduled for delivery in 2024-2027	1,869.16 million (12 vessels)	Divisional Command Launch and Keka Launch
Mobile Response and Command Platform	LOA: 40 metres OMS: 19 crew (including one Cook) Speed: minimum 25 knots	Invitation to Tender expected to be gazetted in the second quarter of 2021; scheduled for delivery in 2025-2026	239.03 million (2 vessels)	Regional Training Launch
Divisional Logistic Launch	LOA: 12-14 metres OMS: 4 crew Speed: minimum 35 knots	Invitation to Tender expected to be gazetted in 2022; scheduled for delivery in 2024-2025	114.9 million (11 vessels)	Seaspray Police Launch
Inshore Patrol Launch	LOA: 8-11 metres OMS: 3 crew Speed: minimum 45 knots	Invitation to Tender expected to be gazetted in 2022; scheduled for delivery in 2024-2025	39.08 million (7 vessels)	Boston Whaler Inshore Patrol Launch
Inshore Patrol Craft	LOA: 14-16 metres OMS: 4 crew Speed: minimum 45 knots	Invitation to Tender expected to be gazetted in 2023; scheduled	213.3 million (6 vessels)	Inshore Patrol Craft

Type of police launch to be procured	Basic features (Length Overall (LOA)/ Operational Manning Standard (OMS)/speed)	Estimated commissioning time	Total estimate	Type of serving police launch to be replaced
		for delivery in 2025-2026		
The Fifth Police Barge Operating Platform	LOA: 30 metres OMS: 4 crew	Invitation to Tender expected to be gazetted in 2023; scheduled for delivery in 2025	35.762 million (1 vessel)	New item

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB078

(Question Serial No. 0311)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

According to the information from the Police Force, the overall number of crimes reported in 2020 was 63 232 cases, representing an increase of 6.8% when compared with 2019. It is of the public concern that criminal intimidation, blackmail, rape, deception and triad-related cases rose by 18.7%, 2.4 folds, 28%, 89.3% and 30.2% respectively. In this connection, will the Force tackle the above-mentioned crime cases and prevent the law and order situation from worsening through increased manpower and resources? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 82)

Reply:

The overall number of crimes reported in Hong Kong in 2020 was 63 232 cases, representing an increase of 6.8% when compared with 2019. The detection rates for overall crimes rose slightly in 2020 by 0.7 percentage points from 37.1% to 37.8%.

The Police Force will, having regard to the actual situations and crime trends, flexibly deploy manpower to fight and prevent crime. These efforts include targeted intelligence-led enforcement actions and publicity work for crime prevention with the aim to reduce crime and prevent the law and order situation from worsening.

To improve the law and order situation effectively, the Force will continue to deploy increased manpower and resources for intelligence-led operation and stringent enforcement of law, with a view to maintaining social order. In addition, the Force strives to work closely with the community and make good use of technology to combat crime, so as to ensure that Hong Kong remains one of the safest and most stable societies in the world.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB079

(Question Serial No. 1765)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

According to Programme (1), the Force will continue to adopt a multi-agency approach to address the problems of juvenile delinquency and youth involvement in drug for the coming year. What are the manpower and expenditure involved respectively? It is mentioned in the 2020 Policy Address that in connection with the disturbances arising from the legislative exercise of the Fugitive Offenders Bill, for arrestees under the age of 18 who have expressed contrition and are not involved in serious offences, the Police is prepared to consider handling the cases with measures conducive to their rehabilitation as appropriate, for example, by cautioning them under the Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme or imposing bind over orders. What is the number of persons under the age of 18 who have admitted their wrongdoings in light of this, and how many of them have been handled with the above rehabilitation measures?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 88)

Reply:

The Police Force adopts an inter-departmental and multi-agency approach in combating juvenile delinquency in various fronts, including prevention and publicity, strengthened law enforcement actions, graduated sanction and rehabilitation programme, with a view to achieving a dual purpose of deterring first offenders and minimising the chance of re-offending by young people.

Regarding prevention and publicity, the Force maintains close co-operation with other government departments and relevant stakeholders, such as non-governmental organisations, to formulate policies and plans in order to prevent youth involvement in crime. The Force will continue to disseminate crime prevention messages to young people via different channels. In addition, the Police School Liaison Officers serve as bridges between the Force, schools and students. They organise community and educational programmes in various police districts jointly with other departments/agencies so as to enhance civil awareness of the youths, and promote participation in healthy community activities to cultivate positive values.

The Force will continue to conduct anti-crime patrols in places frequented by juveniles, with a view to preventing negative influence exerted on juveniles through bad association. Having regard to the situation of each police district and crime trends, intelligence-led operations will be taken to combat juvenile delinquency and target syndicates who exploit students and youths for drug trafficking.

In addition, the Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme (PSDS) is preferred as an alternative to prosecution as appropriate. The PSDS is a substitute for prosecution procedure for arrestees under the age of 18 who have expressed contrition and are not involved in serious offences. An officer at the rank of Superintendent can exercise his discretion in considering the issue of a caution to a juvenile offender in place of criminal prosecution to provide an opportunity for rehabilitation and to promote law-abiding awareness. With the consent of parents or guardians, cautioned youths will be referred to the Juvenile Protection Sections for post-caution visits with the provision of after-care services to minimise the chance of re-offending. The Force will also consider referring the arrested youths to relevant organisations (including the Social Welfare Department, the Education Bureau and/or non-governmental organisations running the Community Support Service Scheme, etc.), with their parents' or guardians' consent, for follow-up action and rehabilitation.

In 2020, a total of 402 youths arrested for criminal offences were cautioned. Among the youths who were arrested in relation to the "anti-extradition amendment bill" related incident, 22 were cautioned from June 2019 to 28 February 2021.

The expenditure on the above items falls under the Programmes of "Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community" and "Prevention and Detection of Crime". No specific breakdown is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB080

(Question Serial No. 1148)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22, the Police Force will enhance the efficiency and overall accuracy of traffic enforcement through the wider use of technology including e-Ticketing. In this connection, please provide the number of electronic fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) issued in 2020 and the percentage of electronic FPTs in the total number of FPTs.

At present, how many mobile smart devices (smart phones and portable printers) for issuing electronic FPTs are there in Hong Kong? How many such devices are to be provided by the Police Force in the coming three years?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

Starting from March 2020, the Police Force has been implementing a pilot scheme on Electronic Fixed Penalty Tickets (FPTs) in all Police Districts by phases. The frontline law enforcement officers have since been able to access data on vehicles parked illegally via their mobile smart devices and print out FPTs without delay, with enhanced accuracy and efficiency in enforcement.

In 2020, the Force issued a total of 1 068 795 electronic FPTs for illegal parking in accordance with the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contravention) Ordinance (Cap. 237), accounting for around 40% of the total number of FPTs for illegal parking.

At present, there are 800 set of mobile smart devices for issuing Electronic FPTs.

Building on the success of the pilot scheme, the Force plans to develop a new Traffic e-Enforcement System to facilitate the processing of FPTs and applications for traffic summonses by electronic means in order to enhance enforcement accuracy and efficiency of the Force. This in turn would help ensure the proper use of limited road space more effectively, enhance road safety and alleviate traffic congestion. The Force plans to consult the Panel on Transport of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on the proposed system in April 2021. It expects to seek funding support from the Finance Committee of the LegCo in this legislative session, with a view to launching the first phase of the system in the first quarter of 2023. Full commissioning of the system is targeted in January 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB081

(Question Serial No. 2411)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Under the Brief Description in the Controlling Officer's Report, it is stated that the Police provided anti-epidemic support to the Department of Health amidst the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, including rendering assistance in managing quarantine centres, contact-tracing and taking enforcement actions under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599).

In 2020, how many man-hours of police officers were devoted to assistance in managing quarantine centres and contact tracing respectively? How many enforcement operations were mounted by the Police under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance in 2020? How many persons were arrested in total for contravention of the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance? What are the percentages of arrestees who have been charged and convicted?

In the coming year, how much manpower will the Police allocate to provide anti-epidemic support? Will dedicated teams be formed in different Police Districts to support such duties so as to balance various responsibilities of the Police Districts in enforcing law and order?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

To tie in with the implementation of the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I) in 2020, the Police Force has deployed additional manpower for patrols in various districts and reminded the public to comply with the requirements of these regulations by verbal explanation, advice or warning.

To help fight the COVID-19 pandemic, the Force has made use of the Major Incident Investigation and Disaster Support System (MIIDSS), with 63 officers dedicated to assisting in case analysis and 40 officers on loan to the Contact Tracing Office under the Department

of Health at the peak of the epidemic. Over 100 000 man-hours were involved in helping with contact-tracing as at December 2020.

In 2020, the Force had conducted around 70 000 inspections in total to enforce the relevant anti-epidemic regulations, with around 350 persons arrested or served with summonses, and more than 9 000 fixed penalty tickets issued during the operations. The Force will follow up every case and prosecute the persons involved after investigating the matter and gathering sufficient evidence. The Force does not maintain the number of convictions for related cases.

In 2020, the Force also assisted other government departments in mounting 6 operations related to “restriction-testing declarations” and “compulsory testing notices” at various high-risk premises across the territory. Over 600 officers in total were deployed in such operations.

In light of the flaring up of the epidemic, the Force will deploy resources and manpower in a flexible manner, having regard to the actual circumstances. While maintaining law and order, officers will continue to provide anti-epidemic support in various ways, including carrying out the above law enforcement duties in relation to anti-epidemic measures, ensuring the security of quarantine centres, facilitating the implementation of quarantine orders at immigration control points, calling and conducting spot checks on persons under mandatory quarantine, and helping relevant departments with contact-tracing analysis.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB082

(Question Serial No. 2432)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the enforcement work against animal abuse, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (a) the permanent establishment and expenditure involved (by rank) in the dedicated investigation teams ("investigation teams") under the Hong Kong Police Force for handling cases of cruelty to animals in the past 3 years;
- (b) the numbers of patrols proactively carried out by the investigation teams in the past 3 years apart from response actions to the reports on suspected cases of animal cruelty. If no proactive patrols were carried out, what were the reasons?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 70)

Reply:

- (a) To best reflect the positioning of the dedicated criminal investigation teams for handling the animal cruelty cases in different Police Districts, these dedicated teams have been officially named "Animal Crime Police Teams" from 28 February 2021. The establishment of the "Animal Crime Police Teams" varies in different Police Districts. The Police Force will review the manpower deployment from time to time and make appropriate deployment to meet operational needs.

The expenditure of the Force for investigating such cases falls under the Programme of "Prevention and Detection of Crime". No specific breakdown is available.

- (b) The "Animal Crime Police Teams", comprising officers with experience and skills in investigating and handling other serious crimes, take up the animal cruelty cases in their respective districts. The Force, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) have established a co-operation mechanism whereby AFCD and SPCA officers will provide professional advice and assist in investigation at the scene of an animal cruelty case where necessary.

To enlist public support and assistance in combating acts of cruelty to animals, the Force is implementing the Animal Watchers Programme, with a view to agglomerating the strengths of animal lovers at the community level in the 4 directions of education, publicity, investigation and intelligence-gathering; raising public awareness on prevention of cruelty to animals; and encouraging the public to report in a timely manner and provide information that could help investigations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB083

(Question Serial No. 3150)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

On 18 March last year, the Police formally launched a pilot scheme on Electronic Fixed Penalty Tickets (FPTs) to record the registration numbers or scan the QR codes on vehicle licences of illegally parked vehicles with a mobile phone application, and issue FPTs by printing out the tickets using a mobile printer without delay.

1. How many electronic FPTs have been issued in the 18 districts respectively since the scheme was launched?
2. How many handwritten FPTs have been issued in the 18 districts respectively since the scheme was launched?
3. What is the total expenditure involved in the scheme?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

1. to 3.

Starting from March 2020, the Police Force has been implementing a pilot scheme on Electronic Fixed Penalty Tickets (FPTs) in all Police Districts by phases. The frontline law enforcement officers have since been able to access data on vehicles parked illegally via their mobile smart devices and print out FPTs without delay, with enhanced accuracy and efficiency in enforcement. The expenditure on this scheme is about HK\$18 million.

The Force handles information on FPTs for illegal parking by Police Region, and therefore does not maintain the prosecution figures by District Council district. In 2020, the figures

on FPTs for illegal parking issued by the Force under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) by Police Region are listed in the following table:

	Electronic FPTs	Handwritten FPTs	Total
Hong Kong Island	305 209	294 009	599 218
Kowloon East	172 358	317 543	489 901
Kowloon West	284 267	347 326	631 593
New Territories South	144 007	368 824	512 831
New Territories North	162 954	311 372	474 326
Total	1 068 795	1 639 074	2 707 869

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB084

(Question Serial No. 0102)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Disinformation, bogus news and scurrilous rumours have been spread in relation to black-clad rioters and Police enforcement operations, undermining the image of the Hong Kong Police Force and its enforcement effectiveness and also weakening the law-abiding awareness among certain people. What new strategies and specific work plans does the Force have for 2021-22 in terms of pursuing the police public relations strategy, media strategy and social media strategy to project a positive image of the Force with a view to maintaining a high level of public support and participation in upholding law and order in the community, and producing multi-media programmes with a view to enhancing the public's knowledge of and confidence in police services? Are there plans to increase the Force's manpower and expenditures accordingly?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 110)

Reply:

The Police Force has the responsibility to explain the facts and police work to the public. As such, the Force has been proactive in enhancing its work transparency, repeatedly clarifying various unfounded reports and information and handling fabricated news. Apart from sending letters to media organisations, the Force also disseminates information and dismisses unfounded claims through press conferences and press releases, as well as on social media platforms. The Force will continue to enhance public understanding of police work and earn the support and trust of the citizens, including young people, through various channels.

Moreover, the Force will continue to provide the public with its latest information through active use of online platforms and social media, including the Hong Kong Police Mobile Application, the Hong Kong Police YouTube Channel, the Hong Kong Police Facebook page, the Hong Kong Police Instagram page, the Hong Kong Police Force Weibo and Hong Kong Police Force Twitter. The Force will continue to explore the ways to extend the service coverage of its social media platforms so as to strengthen its communication with the public with a view to improving its service quality.

In mid-2020, the Force commenced the preparations for the production of a new series of publicity videos showcasing its professional capabilities to the public. In October 2020, the Force also created a new programme titled “OffBeat On Air” to replace “Police Magazine”, the long-running show on television. “OffBeat On Air” is broadcast live every Thursday on the Hong Kong Police Facebook page and the Hong Kong Police YouTube Channel. With fighting and preventing crime remaining its main message, the new programme will continue to appeal to the public to come forward with crime leads and introduce the work of different police units. To enhance interaction with the public and transparency of the Force’s work, chat segments are also featured in the new programme where viewers can put questions to the guests and hosts in real time.

To keep abreast of the times, the Force will review and improve from time to time the social media platforms to strengthen the communication and interaction with different clusters in the community. The Police Public Relations Branch will also review the manpower involved and the distribution of resources in light of the actual needs, with a view to providing the public with the Force’s latest information in a timely, direct and effective manner. It is aimed to project a positive image in a bid to enhance the police-community relations and the public trust in the Force.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB085

(Question Serial No. 0103)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 of Programme (2), the Hong Kong Police Force states that it will enhance the Force's capability in tackling technology crime and financial investigation, including the expansion of the Joint Financial Intelligence Unit. Please provide the relevant details, including the work plans, performance indicators, manpower and expenditures involved. In particular, what new strategies and measures does the Force have to better protect the public from online investment frauds, which have become increasingly rampant, and step up the investigation into such cases?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 111)

Reply:

Technology Crime

The year 2020 saw a total of 12 916 technology crimes reported, representing a rise of 55.2% compared with the 8 322 cases in 2019.

The Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) of the Police Force is responsible for co-ordinating the Force's efforts in combating technology crime, as well as enhancing and expanding the capabilities in combating technology crime and handling cyber security incidents, including detecting syndicated and highly sophisticated technology crimes, conducting timely cyber threat audits and analysis, enhancing response capability to major cyber security incidents or massive cyber attacks and strengthening relevant thematic researches, and strengthening partnership and information exchange with local stakeholders and overseas law enforcement agencies. The work of the CSTCB has attained certain results in curbing technology crime.

In the past year, the CSTCB created additional posts to strengthen its capabilities in digital forensics, cyber security incidents and cyber threat audits.

“Cyber Security and Technology Crime” continues to be one of the Commissioner’s Operational Priorities 2021. In the coming year, the CSTCB will continue to adopt a multi-agency approach to promote public awareness of computer and cyber security and the risks associated with the use of the internet and social media, and will also continue to strengthen partnership with other law enforcement agencies and relevant stakeholders, including the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and the Hong Kong Computer Emergency Response Team Co-ordination Centre under the Hong Kong Productivity Council, to combat technology crime. The Force will also strive to maintain professional competence and advanced capability in computer forensics, and enhance frontline officers’ awareness of and investigation skills in technology crime through training. Besides, the CSTCB will continue to work closely with INTERPOL in sharing and exchanging intelligence as well as information on the latest development of and investigation skills in technology crime.

In collaboration with other stakeholders in the public and private sectors, the CSTCB also organises a variety of activities, including the “Cyber Security Competition 2020/21”, the yearlong territory-wide campaign “Cyberthon 2021” and other publicity and education initiatives, to deliver cyber security messages to the community through different channels with a view to raising awareness of technology crime.

Financial Investigation

The cases of money laundering decreased by 5.9% from 1 158 cases in 2019 to 1 090 cases in 2020.

On tackling money laundering, the Force will increase manpower in the relevant formations, such as the Joint Financial Intelligence Unit and the Financial Investigation Group. It will also continue to adopt different measures to enhance the capabilities of police officers in analysing financial intelligence and financial investigation, including enhancing the awareness and investigation skills of police officers and the relevant industries in financial investigation and optimising the co-operation mechanism with local financial institutions as well as international organisations, Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies to combat money laundering.

The Force’s expenditure and estimated expenditure on combating technology crime and conducting financial investigation fall under the Programme of “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. No specific breakdown is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB086

(Question Serial No. 0104)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the staff establishment and expenditure of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Bureau (EODB) of the Hong Kong Police Force from 2019-20 to 2021-22? Given the rise of explosives cases and suspected explosives cases related to violence, has the Force increased the manpower, equipment and training appropriately for the officers of EODB, and enhanced the training and safety awareness of frontline officers in handling suspected explosives cases?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 113)

Reply:

There has been a rising trend in explosives-related cases since 2019-20. As such, the staff establishment, expenditure, equipment and training of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Bureau (EODB) have been increased appropriately. The Police Force will also strengthen the training of frontline officers in handling cases of suspected explosives so as to enhance their safety awareness. EODB will continue to maintain high professional standard in supporting frontline police work. As staff establishment involves operational details, it is inappropriate to disclose such information. The Force does not maintain the breakdowns requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB087****(Question Serial No. 0105)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): (603) Plant, vehicles and equipment

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In the estimate for 2021-22, more than \$400 million is planned to be used for procurement of new and replacement of police specialised vehicles up to \$10 million, representing an increase of 179.4% over the estimate for 2020-21. At the same time, the Police Force plans to replace 6 armoured personnel carriers with an estimated cost of \$12.776 million each. Please provide the breakdown of relevant vehicles and justifications.

Some European and American countries have imposed unreasonable restrictions on the export of police supplies to Hong Kong due to misunderstanding or for political reasons. Does the Force have any measures to minimise the impact of such restrictions on the Force's procurement (including options available and costs) and the repair and maintenance of the existing equipment?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 114)

Reply:

The Police Force's replacement and procurement of specialised vehicles fall under the Programme of "Operations". To meet the developmental and overall operational needs in the coming year, the provision for 2021-22 under Subhead 695 "Police specialised vehicles (block vote)" will be used for replacing and procuring 596 specialised vehicles. Details are as follows:

<u>Type of Vehicle</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Replacement of Police Large Van	55
Replacement of Police Large Van ^(note)	238
Replacement of Police Large Motorcycle	48
Replacement of Police Large Estate Car	32
Replacement and Procurement of Police Large Estate Car ^(note)	20
Replacement of Cross-country Vehicle	1
Replacement of VIP Protection Saloon	2
Replacement of Police Small Patrol Car	3

Replacement of PTU Bus	68
Replacement of Large Saloon (Special Duties)	2
Replacement of Armoured Tactical Intervention Vehicle ^(note)	4
Replacement and Procurement of Police Small Motorcycle ^(note)	12
Procurement of Police Large Van	7
Procurement of Police Large Motorcycle	4
Procurement of Cross-country Vehicle	2
Procurement of High-performance Medium Saloon	2
Procurement of Police Large Van ^(note)	5
Procurement of PTU Bus ^(note)	24
Procurement of Specialised Crowd Management Vehicle ^(note)	3
Procurement of Police Multi-passenger Carrier ^(note)	64
Total	<hr/> 596

(Note: Replacement/acquisition work that have been allocated funding before 2021-22 and will continue in 2021-22.)

The Force's specialised vehicles are mainly used in patrols, traffic duties, VIP protection, emergency calls, transportation of officers and other special operations.

The 6 serving "Unimog" armoured personnel carriers have been in service for more than 12 years since their commissioning in February 2009. After examining the vehicles in early 2019, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department confirmed that replacements were necessary. Therefore, the Force planned to replace all the 6 armoured personnel carriers and the funding commitment was approved under the "Appropriation Bill 2020". The new vehicles will be commissioned in 2023. The replacement of armoured personnel carriers is considered to be normal and necessary.

The Force always keeps watch on the supply of firearms and weapons from around the world and will procure suitable equipment in accordance with the operational needs and the established procurement procedures. The restrictions on the export of weapons imposed by individual nations or areas will not affect the day-to-day operations and the enforcement capabilities of the Force.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB088

(Question Serial No. 0156)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

Under Programme (3), the Police Force states that it will enhance the efficiency and overall accuracy of traffic enforcement through the wider use of technology, including e-Ticketing, and work closely with relevant agencies and government departments to identify technological solutions to address serious parking offences. Please provide the relevant details, including the specific work plans, implementation timetables, performance indicators, manpower and expenditures involved.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 112)

Reply:

Starting from March 2020, the Police Force has been implementing a pilot scheme on Electronic Fixed Penalty Tickets (FPTs) in all Police Districts by phases. The frontline law enforcement officers have since been able to access data on vehicles parked illegally via their mobile smart devices and print out FPTs without delay, with enhanced accuracy and efficiency in enforcement. The expenditure on this scheme is about HK\$18 million. No additional manpower is involved.

Building on the success of the pilot scheme, the Force plans to develop a new Traffic e-Enforcement System to facilitate the processing of FPTs and applications for traffic summonses by electronic means in order to enhance enforcement accuracy and efficiency of the Force. This in turn would help ensure the proper use of limited road space more effectively, enhance road safety and alleviate traffic congestion. The Force plans to consult the Panel on Transport of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on the proposed system in April 2021. It expects to seek funding support from the Finance Committee of the LegCo in this legislative session, with a view to launching the first phase of the system in the first quarter of 2023. Full commissioning of the system is targeted in January 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB089****(Question Serial No. 1421)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of CrimeControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

In an economic downturn caused by COVID-19, all sectors in Hong Kong are affected. Waves of layoffs, borrowings from loan sharks and harassment cases by finance companies are likely to occur one after another. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. How many reports of harassment cases by finance companies did the Police receive in the past 3 financial years?
2. Numerous citizens, hounded by finance companies that sought to recover debts, reported such incidents to the Police. They demanded the Police to accept the cases, only to have their requests refused. Will the Police undertake to treat these cases seriously by stepping up efforts to protect the personal safety of those subjected to unreasonable intimidation by finance companies?
3. In the new financial year, will the Force allocate more manpower resources to handle cases of harassment by finance companies as mentioned above? If yes, what is the estimated increase in manpower?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)Reply:

1. The numbers of cases related to debt collection activities received by the Police Force in the past 3 years are as follows:

	2018	2019	2020
Crime Case (Note 1)	1 568	1 913	2 916
Non-Crime Case (Note 2)	8 042	7 970	8 084

Note 1: Mainly including criminal damage, blackmail, criminal intimidation, etc.

Note 2: Mainly including harassment by telephone calls, harassment by visits, etc.

2. The Force attaches great importance to combating loansharking and illegal debt collection activities, and adopts pro-active measures to enhance the effectiveness of their law enforcement actions.

The Force has set up a dedicated team to closely monitor the trend of improper debt collection practices in various districts, and formulate comprehensive preventive and operational strategies in the light of specific circumstances. In addition, the Force will continue to step up patrol and co-operate with property management companies in respective districts through distribution of leaflets at residential buildings and request for assistance from management companies of public housing estates and private residential estates, in a bid to prevent loansharking syndicates from launching promotion or displaying advertisements in housing estates or within the building areas, and to thwart debt collection agencies' illegal or improper debt collection activities therein. On another front, the Force will enhance communication with stakeholders, while continuing to disseminate messages against improper debt collection practices through the media and publicising successful law enforcement and prosecution actions as deterrence.

In handling individual cases, the Force will refer cases that involve criminal offences, such as those relating to criminal damage or intimidation, to dedicated criminal investigation teams for investigation and evidence gathering, as well as instituting criminal prosecution in accordance with the law.

In dealing with reports that may not involve criminal offences at the moment, the Force will, having regard to the circumstances, assess whether there is any possibility that such debt collection practices may turn into criminal offences, and will then classify such cases as "high threat" or "low threat" cases. Every "high threat" case will be referred to the criminal investigation teams for follow-up. For "low threat" cases, the Force will continue to monitor their developments. In case there are signs that the seriousness of the case has heightened, the criminal investigation teams will take over the investigation.

3. The Force will continue to monitor closely relevant crime trends and deploy resources and manpower to enhance the efficiency in law enforcement whenever necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB090

(Question Serial No. 3095)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned in Programme (1) of the Estimates that the Police Force took enforcement actions under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance in 2020. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Please provide the total number of fixed penalty tickets and verbal warnings issued for breaching the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation in the last financial year.
- (2) Some residents and representatives of owners' corporations in Kwun Tong complained that quite some sex workers continued to work in the old buildings in Hong Ning Road and Fu Yan Street in Kwun Tong despite the severe epidemic situation and the mandatory requirements on prohibition of group gathering, mask-wearing and closure of entertainment premises announced by the Government. The clients of the sex workers also ignored the requirements and took off their masks to smoke while queuing for sex service. It was likely that the virus would spread further.

Please advise whether the Force has received relevant complaints or reports. If yes, what were the follow-up actions? If not, will the Force follow up such cases in the coming financial year?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

Reply:

- (1) In 2020, more than 9 000 fixed penalty tickets and more than 4 200 verbal warnings were issued under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap 599G) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap 599I). Upon the implementation of relevant regulations, the Police Force stepped up patrols in all districts to remind the public to comply with the requirements of the Regulations by verbal explanation, advice or warning. In addition, the Force conducted joint operations with other Government departments to proactively

inspect catering business and other scheduled premises. The Force, having regard to the actual circumstances, will continue to provide support to anti-epidemic work by deploying resources and manpower flexibly on the premise that law and order can be maintained.

- (2) The Force conducted altogether 4 operations against street prostitution in Kwun Tong District in 2020. 35 persons were arrested for “breaching the conditions of stay” and “soliciting for immoral purposes” during the operations. The Force will remain committed to combating prostitution activities in collaboration with various agencies through intelligence-led operations in a proactive manner. At present, the epidemic situation is still severe. The Force will continue to fight against the virus together with other Government departments and take enforcement actions under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB091

(Question Serial No. 3096)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

Programme (3) mentions that the Police will enhance enforcement actions against red light and speeding offences assisted by the Red Light and Speed Enforcement Camera Systems. In the vicinity of New Clear Water Bay Road, according to the complainants including Shun Lee residents and local District Council member Ms FU Pik-chun, the problem of suspected illegal road racing is extremely serious late in the night. Sports cars travelling at high speed produce high decibel noises which wake residents nearby every night, making them sleepless and disrupting their normal lives. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) How many enforcement actions against speeding offences have the Police taken at the above location in the past 2 financial years?
- (2) How many speeding drivers have been arrested and prosecuted in total and how many fixed penalty tickets have been issued in those actions?
- (3) In the coming financial year, what new measures or strategies (e.g. installation of Speed Enforcement Camera Systems) will the Police adopt to tackle the above traffic offences so as to restore a quiet and liveable environment?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 49)

Reply:

- (1) and (2) In 2020, the Police Force's enforcement figures on speeding by Police Region are listed in the following table:

Police Region	Hong Kong Island	Kowloon East	Kowloon West	New Territories South	New Territories North	Total for 2020
Enforcement figures on speeding	29 102	53 567	31 647	81 166	50 512	245 994

The Force does not maintain enforcement figures in respect of individual locations.

- (3) Combating speeding is one of the Force's "Selected Traffic Enforcement Priorities". The Force will continue to take stringent enforcement against dangerous driving behaviour such as speeding by conducting operations on an irregular basis. The aim of the operations is to change and combat drivers' unsafe and irresponsible driving behaviour so as to protect their lives and enhance the safety of other road users.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB092

(Question Serial No. 0631)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

How many enforcement operations were taken by the Police against the offence of illegal carriage of passengers for reward in the past two years (2019 and 2020)? How many persons were prosecuted and convicted? What plans do the Police have to step up the clampdown on such offence in 2021-22? What are the estimated manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

The Police Force has been closely monitoring the situation regarding illegal carriage of passengers for reward and following up relevant complaints. It will take appropriate enforcement actions if there is sufficient evidence. In 2019 and 2020, 233 enforcement actions were taken in relation to illegal carriage of passengers for reward. The Force does not maintain the number of successful convictions.

The Force's combat against illegal carriage of passengers for reward is part of the day-to-day traffic enforcement. The manpower and resources deployed fall under the Programme "Road Safety". No specific breakdown in this respect is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB093

(Question Serial No. 0632)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

To prevent citizens from being misled by ride-hailing platforms and falling into the pitfall of illegal carriage of passengers for reward or taking illegal white licence cars without hire car permits, which may render the insurance policy invalid, what work plans do the Police have to curb illegal carriage of passengers for reward in 2021-22? What are the manpower and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

The Police Force has been closely monitoring the situation regarding illegal carriage of passengers for reward and following up relevant complaints. It will take appropriate enforcement actions if there is sufficient evidence.

The Force's combat against illegal carriage of passengers for reward is part of the day-to-day traffic enforcement. The manpower and resources deployed fall under the Programme "Road Safety". No specific breakdown in this respect is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB094

(Question Serial No. 0634)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

During 2021-22, the Force will continue to alleviate traffic congestion strategically and identify technological solutions to address serious parking offences in partnership with other agencies and government departments. What are the latest progress of the work involved, and the manpower and estimated expenditure involved in the plans for 2021-22?

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

The Police Force is committed to adopting technological solutions for traffic enforcement. It will also continue to maintain liaison with law enforcement agencies around the world and make reference to their experience to explore the use of new technologies in enhancing the effectiveness of traffic enforcement against illegal parking and road traffic congestion.

Starting from March 2020, the Force has been implementing a pilot scheme on Electronic Fixed Penalty Tickets (FPTs) in all Police Districts by phases. The frontline law enforcement officers have since been able to access data on vehicles parked illegally via their mobile smart devices and print out FPTs without delay, with enhanced accuracy and efficiency in enforcement. The expenditure on this scheme is about HK\$18 million. No additional manpower is involved.

Building on the success of the pilot scheme, the Force plans to develop a new Traffic e-Enforcement System to facilitate the processing of FPTs and applications for traffic summonses by electronic means in order to enhance enforcement accuracy and efficiency of the Force. This in turn would help ensure the proper use of limited road space more effectively, enhance road safety and alleviate traffic congestion. The Force plans to consult

the Panel on Transport of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on the proposed system in April 2021. It expects to seek funding support from the Finance Committee of the LegCo in this legislative session, with a view to launching the first phase of the system in the first quarter of 2023. Full commissioning of the system is targeted in January 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB095

(Question Serial No. 0635)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

The Police issued 2.6 million fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) for illegal parking in 2020, representing a sharp increase of 90% as compared with 1.4 million FPTs in 2019. What are the reasons? Please provide information on FPTs for illegal parking by 18 districts and type of vehicle. With regard to the Police's work of handling illegal parking in 2021-22, what are the manpower and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

Road safety is one of the Police Force's operational priorities, and changing the irresponsible behaviour of road users that obstructs traffic flow is also among the Force's Selected Traffic Enforcement Priorities. The Force has been very concerned with the illegal parking situation. The Force aims to change the undesirable behaviour of road users that obstructs traffic flow through publicity and education, and address parking offences through patrols and enforcement actions.

The social incidents since mid-2019 lasted for months. The Force's priority then was to stop violence and curb disorder, so there was a decrease in the traffic enforcement figures in 2019. As social tensions eased in 2020, Police Districts have redeployed resources to strengthen traffic enforcement actions since then.

The Force handles information on fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) for illegal parking by Police Region, and therefore does not maintain the prosecution figures by District Council district. In the past 2 years, the figures on FPTs for illegal parking issued by the Force under the Fixed

Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) by Police Region are listed in the following table:

Police Region	Number of FPTs for illegal parking issued	
	2019	2020
Hong Kong Island	287 149	599 218
Kowloon East	251 430	489 901
Kowloon West	339 549	631 593
New Territories South	296 732	512 831
New Territories North	249 884	474 326
Total	1 424 744	2 707 869

The Force does not maintain any breakdown of prosecution figures for illegal parking by type of vehicle.

The Force's manpower and expenditure on tackling illegal parking fall under the Programme of "Road Safety". No specific breakdown is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB096

(Question Serial No. 0990)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Crime figures in the territory rose last year, with frauds and telephone deception registering the most significant jumps, culminating in losses amounting to HK\$780 million. Will the Police inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Have the Police increased its establishment and equipment over the past year for handling various types of deception cases, including e-shopping frauds, phone scams, "Guess Who I Am?" and online romance scams? If affirmative, what are the details and expenditure involved?
- (2) In the future, will the Police continue to devote additional resources to tackling scams, which have become increasingly rampant?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

- (1) The Police Force has all along been committed to tackling telephone, internet and social media deception. Two related initiatives, i.e. "Quick Cash Crime" and "Cyber Security and Technology Crime", are also on the list of the Commissioner's Operational Priorities 2020. As always, the Force co-ordinates resources from different sources, adopting all-round strategies to combat frauds on various fronts, including intelligence exchanges, law enforcement actions, collaboration with overseas partners, cross-agency co-operation and enhanced publicity and education, etc.

To reinforce the combat against deception and raise the public awareness of anti-deception, the Commercial Crime Bureau of the Force established the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) in July 2017 to provide round-the-clock service. The ADCC is tasked with monitoring and analysing deception trends with a view to formulating and implementing anti-scam strategies, including:

- (i) managing and operating the 24-hour "Anti-Scam Helpline 18222" to facilitate public enquiries and provide citizens with timely assistance;
- (ii) co-operating with the banking sector and overseas law enforcement agencies to intercept payments to fraudsters so as to minimise the victims' loss;

- (iii) mounting intelligence-led law enforcement operations;
- (iv) clamping down on frauds through proactive collaboration with relevant stakeholders; and
- (v) co-ordinating anti-deception publicity work.

To step up the efforts to combat frauds, the ADCC set up an Intelligence and Scam Response Team in October 2020. The officers concerned are responsible for analysing the money-laundering networks of criminal gangs and cracking down on these perpetrators effectively through enhanced law enforcement operations.

In addition, the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) is also committed to combating frauds related to technology crime, including e-shopping frauds, online romance scams, etc. In the past year, the CSTCB created additional posts to strengthen its capabilities in digital forensics, handling of cyber security incidents and cyber threat audits.

The expenditures of the ADCC and the CSTCB form part of the total expenditure under the Programme of “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. The Force does not maintain the breakdown of the expenditures involved.

- (2) The Force will review the manpower and resources allocated to various formations from time to time. Having regard to the prevailing policing needs, it will adjust the establishment to cope with the challenges effectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB097

(Question Serial No. 3090)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What specific measures will the Police Force adopt to rationalise disciplined manpower on administrative duties? What are the details and expenditures of such measures, and the innovative technologies and administrative duties involved? Has the Force set any clear objectives on the manpower to be freed up for deployment to operations through rationalisation of disciplined manpower on administrative duties in 2021-22?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

It is the established target of the Police Force to rationalise disciplined manpower on administrative duties. Officers at various levels will study and adopt feasible measures within their ambit for more effective deployment of the disciplined officers to perform frontline operational duties.

The Force has assigned most of the administrative duties that are not related to operations or investigation of cases to the civilian staff, with a view to reducing disciplined manpower deployed for clerical duties and the time required.

Moreover, the Force has always been exploring technology-based solutions with the potential to enhance frontline officers' efficiency by reducing reliance on paper-based processes and procedures. For example, the electronic licensing system was enhanced in 2020 to accept electronic application for certain licences. The Force also plans to launch more electronic services in the future, with the aim of further streamlining work flows through technology and freeing up manpower for deployment to operations.

The Force does not maintain the other information requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB098****(Question Serial No. 1910)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Pre-entry ControlControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

1. Regarding foreign visitors whose applications for entry to Hong Kong were refused in the past 3 years, please list their nationalities and the types of entry visas or permits required.
2. Regarding the above foreign visitors who were required to apply for an entry visa or permit for entry to Hong Kong but were refused entry in the past 3 years, what was the average number of days between the receipt and refusal of an application for entry?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)Reply:

1. The breakdown statistics on foreigners whose visit/transit visa applications were refused by the Immigration Department (ImmD) in the past 3 years by nationality of applicants are tabulated as follows:

Nationality	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (As at February 2021)
Pakistani	1 580	1 196	114
Nigerian	408	653	33
Nepalese	122	91	31
Vietnamese	864	1 284	20
Indian	1 257	840	20
Others	940	691	21
Total	5 171	4 755	239

The ImmD does not maintain other breakdown statistics mentioned in the question.

2. The ImmD does not maintain the breakdown statistics mentioned in the question. Under normal circumstances, the ImmD can complete the processing of a visit/transit visa application within 4 weeks upon receipt of all the required documents.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB099

(Question Serial No. 1911)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Personal Documentation

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. Regarding Hong Kong permanent residents of ethnic minority origin who applied for a Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passport or other travel document in the past 3 years, please list their ethnicities, the average numbers of days between their application for and the issuance of a passport or travel document, and the numbers of applications refused.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

At present, the Immigration Department (ImmD) may issue Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) passports, HKSAR Documents of Identity for Visa Purposes (Doc/Is), Re-entry Permits and Seaman's Identity Books to eligible applicants. The relevant eligibility criteria for application are as follows:

HKSAR passport

An HKSAR passport may be issued to an applicant only when he has satisfied all of the following conditions:

- (a) he is a Chinese citizen;
- (b) he is a permanent resident of the HKSAR; and
- (c) he is a holder of a valid HKSAR permanent identity card (HKPIC).

Doc/I

- (a) he is on limit of stay in the HKSAR but is unable to obtain a national passport or a travel document of any other country or territory;
- (b) he is on unconditional stay but does not have the right of abode in the HKSAR, and is unable to obtain a national passport or a travel document of any other country or territory; or
- (c) he is not a person of Chinese nationality who has the right of abode in the HKSAR and holds a HKPIC but is unable to obtain a national passport or a travel document of any other country or territory.

Re-entry Permit

- (a) he is a Chinese citizen who has either acquired the right of abode or been granted unconditional stay in the HKSAR; or
- (b) he is not a person of Chinese nationality who has been granted unconditional stay in the HKSAR but cannot obtain a national passport or a travel document of any other country or territory.

Seaman's Identity Book

- (a) he is a Chinese citizen who either has the right of abode or is on unconditional stay in the HKSAR; or
- (b) he is an HKSAR resident not of Chinese nationality who either has the right of abode or is on unconditional stay in the HKSAR but is unable to obtain a national passport or a travel document of any other country or territory.

The number of applications refused in the past 3 years due to failure to satisfy the above eligibility criteria is tabulated as follows:

Travel Document	Number of applications refused		
	2018	2019	2020
HKSAR passport	30	22	11
Doc/I	12	1	0
Re-entry Permit	0	0	0
Seaman's Identity Book	0	0	0

The ImmD adopts the same principle in processing all applications without regard to the race of the applicant. For applicants who have satisfied the above conditions for applying for an HKSAR passport or a Doc/I, the processing of their applications can normally be completed within 5 working days after receiving all the necessary documents. Children aged under 11 who have not applied for an HKPIC must apply for an HKPIC when they apply for an HKSAR passport. The processing time of such applications is within 10 working days. A Re-entry Permit and a Seaman's Identity Book can normally be issued on the day of application upon submission of all the necessary documents by the applicant.

Under the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Passports Ordinance (Cap. 539), one of the conditions for the issuance of an HKSAR passport is that the applicant must be a Chinese citizen. Therefore, Hong Kong permanent residents who are ethnic minorities are not eligible to apply for an HKSAR passport if they are not Chinese citizens. If they wish to be issued with an HKSAR passport, they should first apply for naturalisation as a Chinese national, and they can apply for an HKSAR passport after their applications for naturalisation as a Chinese national have been approved.

The ImmD does not maintain other breakdown statistics mentioned in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB100****(Question Serial No. 1912)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (5) Nationality and Assistance to HKSAR Residents outside Hong KongControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

1. With reference to the information on applications for naturalisation as a Chinese national from persons who are ethnic minorities in Hong Kong for the past 3 years, please list the respective numbers of applications received, approved and rejected by ethnicity or nationality of applicants.
2. With regard to the rejected applications mentioned above, what were the numbers of applicants who had resided in Hong Kong for 7 years or more?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)Reply:

1. The number of applications for naturalisation as a Chinese national received and approved by the Immigration Department (ImmD) in the past 3 years with a breakdown by the original nationality of applicants is as follows:

Original nationality of applicants	2018		2019		2020	
	Number of applications	Number of applications approved	Number of applications	Number of applications approved	Number of applications	Number of applications approved
Indian	603	403	605	481	247	510
Pakistani	400	383	368	343	204	324
Indonesian	235	252	193	254	48	129
Vietnamese	133	92	87	98	44	111
Filipino	145	123	101	141	63	113
Others	289	184	284	202	150	221
Total	1 805	1 437	1 638	1 519	756	1 408

Note: The number of applications approved does not correspond to the number of applications received in a particular year since the date of receipt and that of completion of processing of an application may not fall in the same year.

The statistic on applications for naturalisation as a Chinese national not approved in the past 3 years are as follows:

	2018	2019	2020
Number of applications not approved	123	208	70

The ImmD does not maintain a breakdown of the number of persons not approved for naturalisation as a Chinese national by ethnicity or nationality.

2. In processing an application for naturalisation as a Chinese national, the ImmD will not only consider whether the applicant meets the relevant requirements stipulated in the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China, but also consider each application on its own merits. In general, the factors to be considered include the following without regard to the race, colour or religion of an applicant:

- whether the applicant has a near relative who is a Chinese national having the right of abode in Hong Kong;
- whether the applicant has the right of abode in Hong Kong;
- whether the applicant's habitual residence is in Hong Kong;
- whether the principal members of the applicant's family (spouse and minor children) are in Hong Kong;
- whether the applicant has a reasonable income to support himself/herself and his/her family;
- whether the applicant has paid taxes in accordance with the law;
- whether the applicant is of good character and sound mind;
- whether the applicant has sufficient knowledge of the Chinese language;
- whether the applicant intends to continue to live in Hong Kong in case the naturalisation application is approved; and
- whether there are other legitimate reasons to support the application.

The ImmD does not maintain the statistics mentioned in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB101

(Question Serial No. 1913)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Nationality and Assistance to HKSAR Residents outside Hong Kong

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. What were the numbers of enquiries received in connection with matters on Chinese nationality in the past 3 years?
2. Among the above enquiries, how many involved matters relating to application for an HKSAR passport?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1 and 2. According to Article 18 of and Annex III to the Basic Law, the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China (CNL) shall be applied in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) from 1 July 1997. The Explanations of Some Questions Concerning the Implementation of the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Explanations) have been adopted by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and the HKSAR Government is authorised to designate its Immigration Department (ImmD) to handle applications relating to Chinese nationality in the HKSAR in accordance with the CNL and the Explanations. Furthermore, under the authority of Article 154 of the Basic Law, the ImmD is responsible for issuing HKSAR passports. Relevant information on Chinese nationality and application procedures for an HKSAR passport has been uploaded onto the ImmD's website for public access. The ImmD does not maintain the relevant numbers of enquiries.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB102

(Question Serial No. 1914)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Personal Documentation

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. With regard to the non-recognition of the British National (Overseas) Passport as a proof of identity and travel document by the HKSAR Government, does the estimates for 2020-21 cover the manpower and resources for coping with the possible increase in the number of applications for HKSAR passports?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

1. In 2020-21, the manpower and salary costs involved in providing eligible Hong Kong residents with HKSAR passports or other travel documents by the Immigration Department (ImmD) were 286 posts and \$108.53 million respectively.

The ImmD will continue to optimise the application process of HKSAR passports and flexibly deploy manpower and resources to handle the related work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB103

(Question Serial No. 1977)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The number of persons arrested for aiding and abetting illegal immigrants last year, and the occupation of the arrested persons.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 101)

Reply:

In 2020, the Immigration Department (ImmD) and the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) arrested a total of 116 persons suspected of committing offences relating to aiding and abetting illegal immigrants, in contravention of the Immigration Ordinance. ImmD and the HKPF do not maintain a breakdown of the number of arrested persons by occupational group.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB104

(Question Serial No. 0763)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Pre-entry Control, (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please list the monthly numbers of departures and arrivals at various control points in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 59)

Reply:

The numbers of inbound and outbound passenger trips at various immigration control points in the past 3 years are set out at the Annex.

The numbers of inbound and outbound passenger trips at various immigration control points

Control point	2018											
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Airport	4 252 321	4 077 305	4 555 913	4 522 141	4 347 788	4 478 708	4 703 500	4 835 155	3 977 848	4 468 731	4 361 087	4 797 094
Lo Wu	7 099 810	6 595 624	7 144 460	7 351 912	6 910 874	6 803 190	7 379 578	7 526 481	6 694 012	7 201 760	6 840 835	7 566 827
Hung Hom	326 653	353 483	334 664	380 806	337 004	323 014	378 729	399 461	272 541	258 852	220 049	241 566
Lok Ma Chau Spur Line	4 908 602	4 189 795	4 847 594	4 942 205	4 749 828	4 568 636	4 891 239	4 900 931	4 452 233	4 615 316	4 432 362	4 824 756
West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link ^{Note1}	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	376 137	1 609 740	1 467 710	1 816 502
Lok Ma Chau	2 480 735	2 095 956	2 472 856	2 513 381	2 436 087	2 278 287	2 507 175	2 547 220	2 142 898	2 362 344	2 344 756	2 444 156
Man Kam To	420 754	332 894	401 690	391 428	378 826	346 289	322 910	291 849	330 778	372 282	353 369	352 933
Sha Tau Kok	268 811	259 503	273 950	277 137	255 708	246 190	251 723	249 500	238 909	270 748	245 390	253 786
Shenzhen Bay	3 675 381	3 617 527	3 617 992	3 835 813	3 539 789	3 502 253	3 758 189	3 891 120	3 424 766	3 822 504	3 602 036	4 000 725
Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port ^{Note2}	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	385 368	2 214 485	2 217 855
Harbour Control	4 428	3 526	5 644	4 152	4 817	3 874	4 349	4 662	4 217	4 876	6 014	4 153
Macau Ferry Terminal	1 377 756	1 347 914	1 446 423	1 493 479	1 396 499	1 325 339	1 519 559	1 596 273	1 198 326	1 344 692	1 089 598	1 157 129
China Ferry Terminal	594 173	636 152	581 301	630 024	568 987	547 514	635 681	684 962	485 122	545 194	443 182	486 184
Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal	50 641	64 463	65 054	72 400	59 565	62 235	70 834	73 200	55 340	57 787	49 783	53 608
River Trade Terminal	7	14	15	6	25	6	1	11	16	2	1	8

Kai Tak Cruise Terminal ^{Note3}	114 243	110 725	154 085	156 540	168 993	155 395	143 298	179 529	100 775	151 816	146 320	151 081
Total	25 574 315	23 684 881	25 901 641	26 571 424	25 154 790	24 640 930	26 566 765	27 180 354	23 753 918	27 472 012	27 816 977	30 368 363

Note 1: Officially commissioned on 23 September 2018.

Note 2: Officially commissioned on 24 October 2018.

Note 3: The numbers of inbound and outbound passenger trips also included trips made by passengers of cruise liners berthing at other anchorages, as well as trips made by passengers on board Hong Kong-based passenger liners running regular daily high seas trips.

Control point	2019											
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Airport	4 461 048	4 133 772	4 458 066	4 764 790	4 450 663	4 471 217	4 608 752	3 972 027	3 130 656	3 529 944	3 267 739	3 749 155
Lo Wu	7 658 072	6 264 483	7 160 816	7 357 597	7 278 893	6 949 736	6 858 304	6 096 105	6 140 795	5 460 361	4 611 818	6 397 243
Hung Hom	237 229	229 402	203 720	247 847	203 338	180 479	181 992	143 201	111 813	106 262	43 829	100 190
Lok Ma Chau Spur Line	4 999 533	3 770 254	4 722 748	4 668 069	4 852 888	4 505 900	4 218 127	3 578 646	3 829 770	3 745 912	3 278 632	3 985 956
West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link ^{Note1}	1 682 274	1 761 439	1 533 498	1 757 524	1 657 157	1 473 949	1 568 832	1 166 323	917 769	1 038 032	1 044 371	1 131 260
Lok Ma Chau	2 379 333	1 899 852	2 331 125	2 361 195	2 230 382	2 071 473	2 172 629	1 847 089	1 672 734	1 990 194	2 010 083	1 835 860
Man Kam To	406 923	267 597	349 302	324 986	356 968	307 481	257 575	196 772	276 024	321 093	289 552	271 034
Sha Tau Kok	269 219	223 799	253 054	245 627	239 852	224 085	213 148	181 957	208 762	216 115	196 986	208 902
Shenzhen Bay	4 148 515	3 271 354	3 592 509	3 571 227	3 549 341	3 313 763	3 149 508	2 647 728	2 732 481	2 883 202	2 670 517	2 995 887
Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port ^{Note2}	1 645 699	2 078 364	1 952 346	2 176 682	1 857 604	1 656 372	1 826 105	1 453 601	1 046 415	1 185 061	1 154 510	1 390 537
Harbour Control	4 239	3 383	5 089	4 676	4 703	4 187	4 040	5 220	3 136	4 326	3 631	4 785
Macau Ferry Terminal	952 464	1 018 582	945 370	997 599	915 510	893 190	882 092	798 662	698 155	676 720	645 860	753 450
China Ferry Terminal	419 756	434 649	371 289	396 432	338 756	315 319	328 644	262 425	212 423	235 716	203 890	241 067

Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal	41 519	54 038	44 186	51 754	39 838	42 009	44 073	49 143	39 470	37 000	37 881	39 390
River Trade Terminal	11	14	19	4	15	9	4	6	14	12	21	5
Kai Tak Cruise Terminal ^{Note3}	110 327	117 554	171 531	173 530	127 452	121 986	162 278	158 241	104 491	108 221	83 419	146 899
Total	29 416 161	25 528 536	28 094 668	29 099 539	28 103 360	26 531 155	26 476 103	22 557 146	21 124 908	21 538 171	19 542 739	23 251 620

Control point ^{Note4}	2020											
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Airport	3 609 200	1 207 509	393 875	29 069	34 064	51 315	77 348	67 687	73 061	53 614	52 398	59 925
Lo Wu	5 345 436	110 457	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hung Hom	108 537	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lok Ma Chau Spur Line ^{Note5}	3 385 228	88 142	0	0	0	27 822	15 550	0	0	0	0	0
West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link ^{Note1}	975 897	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lok Ma Chau	1 568 132	53 025	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Man Kam To	243 202	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sha Tau Kok	191 046	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shenzhen Bay ^{Note5}	2 686 251	371 551	127 648	29 299	48 570	60 229	76 327	48 911	65 702	54 901	54 223	90 133
Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port ^{Note2}	1 058 980	205 300	315 131	2 425	4 065	4 578	10 647	7 559	7 342	6 318	7 342	11 866

Heung Yuen Wai ^{Note6}	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0
Harbour Control	5 626	2 263	2 936	1 145	1 760	6 109	15 717	3 183	2 773	2 056	1 899	2 504
Macau Ferry Terminal	598 276	22 628	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
China Ferry Terminal	196 733	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal	28 724	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
River Trade Terminal	12	1	4	0	0	5	14	0	5	1	0	0
Kai Tak Cruise Terminal ^{Note3}	124 131	11 733	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	20 125 411	2 072 609	839 594	61 938	88 459	150 058	195 603	127 340	148 883	116 890	115 862	164 428

Note 4: In response to the development of the COVID-19 epidemic, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has suspended passenger clearance services at most of the control points by phases with effect from end-January 2020:

- West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, Hung Hom, Man Kam To, Sha Tau Kok, China Ferry Terminal and Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal (with effect from 30 January 2020);
- Lo Wu, Lok Ma Chau Spur Line, Lok Ma Chau and Hong Kong Macau Ferry Terminal (with effect from 4 February 2020); and
- Kai Tak Cruise Terminal (with effect from the afternoon of 5 February 2020).

Note 5: According to the special arrangements made by the HKSAR Government and Shenzhen Municipal Government, Secondary 3 to Secondary 5 cross-boundary students entered and exited Hong Kong via Shenzhen Bay Control Point or Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Control Point during designated periods from Monday to Friday between 15 June and 17 July 2020 (except public holidays).

Note 6: Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point commenced operation on 26 August 2020, with only cargo clearance service available at this stage (i.e. no passenger clearance service for the time being).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB105****(Question Serial No. 0764)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (5) Nationality and Assistance to HKSAR Residents outside Hong KongControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please list the numbers of requests for assistance received by the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit in the past 3 years by location where the assistance were sought and by nature of the cases.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 60)Reply:

In the past 3 years, the breakdown by nature of the cases and region of assistance requests received by the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit of the Immigration Department from Hong Kong residents seeking assistance outside Hong Kong is tabulated as follows:

Nature of the case	Number of assistance seekers in 2018	Number of assistance seekers in 2019	Number of assistance seekers in 2020
Loss of Travel Document	2 413	2 846	603
Traffic Accident	22	11	2
Hospitalisation, Illness and/or Death	679	648	472
Others (such as missing, being detained, etc.)	478	463	17 434*
Total	3 592	3 968	18 511

* 17 110 assistance cases were related to case subjects being stranded outside Hong Kong due to COVID-19.

Region where Hong Kong residents seeking assistance outside Hong Kong	Number of assistance seekers in 2018	Number of assistance seekers in 2019	Number of assistance seekers in 2020
India	8	5	6 872
Mainland China	563	634	4 720
Pakistan	7	5	2 167
Nepal	4	3	1 449
Japan	552	416	502
United Kingdom	363	511	409
Vietnam	48	47	292
South Africa	3	9	278
The Philippines	41	30	210
Others	2 003	2 308	1 612
Total	3 592	3 968	18 511

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB106****(Question Serial No. 0765)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (3) Control after EntryControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please give a breakdown of the numbers of entrants holding One-way Permits in the past 3 years by gender, age and type of visa.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 61)Reply:

The breakdown statistics on holders of One-way Permits (OWPs) (i.e. Permits for Proceeding to Hong Kong and Macao) entering Hong Kong from 2018 to 2020 by gender and age are tabulated as follows:

Age group	Gender	2018	2019	2020
0-4	Male	1 386	1 484	412
	Female	1 264	1 431	331
5-14	Male	2 453	2 542	736
	Female	2 226	2 245	681
15-24	Male	3 336	2 929	737
	Female	2 995	2 649	702
25-34	Male	2 331	2 201	611
	Female	7 051	6 095	1 500
35-44	Male	3 369	2 885	670
	Female	6 110	5 186	1 296
45-54	Male	2 773	2 532	664
	Female	3 442	3 230	882
55-64	Male	1 160	1 144	269
	Female	1 455	1 423	356
Over 65	Male	550	559	150
	Female	430	525	137
Total	Male	17 358	16 276	4 249
	Female	24 973	22 784	5 885
	Total	42 331	39 060	10 134

Note: OWP holders are generally allowed to enter Hong Kong via the Lo Wu Control Point only. In response to the developments of COVID-19, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR Government) has suspended the operation of the Lo Wu Control Point since 4 February 2020. As a result, persons who had been issued with OWPs could not enter Hong Kong via the Lo Wu Control Point. As the pandemic continues, there is no concrete plan to resume the operation of the Lo Wu Control Point yet. Since the need of OWP holders for coming to Hong Kong for family reunion remains, upon discussion between the HKSAR Government and the Mainland authorities, OWP holders who had not been able to come to Hong Kong due to the suspended operation of the Lo Wu Control Point have been allowed to enter Hong Kong via the Shenzhen Bay Control Point since 8 June 2020.

The breakdown statistics on holders of OWPs entering Hong Kong from 2018 to 2020 by category are tabulated as follows:

Category	2018	2019	2020
(a) Holders of Certificate of Entitlement to the Right of Abode	2 407	2 860	891
(b) Spouses separated for 10 years or more and their accompanying children	573	791	189
(c) Spouses separated for less than 10 years and their accompanying children	31 513	28 080	7 369
(d) Joining parents in Hong Kong ¹	6 681	6 009	1 369
(e) Joining children in Hong Kong ²	1 143	1 303	309
(f) Others ³	14	17	7
Total	42 331	39 060	10 134

Notes:

1 Excluding accompanying children whose parents joined their spouses in Hong Kong in items (b) and (c) of the above table, but including “overage children”.

2 Including unsupported elderly people coming to Hong Kong to join their children settled in Hong Kong.

3 Exceptional cases such as unsupported elderly people coming to join their relatives, etc.

4 The above figures are compiled from the statistics based on the information provided voluntarily by holders of OWPs upon their entry into Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB107

(Question Serial No. 0766)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please list the numbers of applications approved for admission to Hong Kong under the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals in the past 3 years by industry, monthly remuneration and employment period.

Please list the numbers of applications approved for admission to Hong Kong under the Technology Talent Admission Scheme in the past 3 years by region, industry, monthly remuneration and employment period.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 62)

Reply:

The breakdown statistics on applications approved for admission to Hong Kong under the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals in the past 3 years by industry/sector, monthly remuneration and employment period of applicants are tabulated as follows:

Industry/Sector	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Academic Research and Education	2 420	2 133	1 696
Financial Services	2 205	2 053	1 525
Engineering and Construction	598	665	1 168
Commerce and Trade	809	704	726
Information Technology	433	441	448
Arts/Culture	4 573	3 455	97
Legal Services	121	121	64
Recreation and Sports	435	258	21
Others	2 589	2 167	1 129
Total	14 183	11 997	6 874

Monthly Remuneration	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Below \$20,000	6 095	5 100	1 501
\$20,000 - \$39,999	4 190	3 645	3 046
\$40,000 - \$79,999	2 580	2 207	1 623
\$80,000 or above	1 318	1 045	704
Total	14 183	11 997	6 874

Employment Period	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Short-term employment*	8 466	6 723	1 670
Long-term employment	5 717	5 274	5 204
Total	14 183	11 997	6 874

* Short-term employment refers to applications with an employment period of less than 12 months.

The Government launched the Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS) in June 2018. The breakdown statistics on applications approved for admission to Hong Kong under TechTAS by region, industry/sector, monthly remuneration and employment period of applicants are tabulated as follows:

Region	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Mainland China	34	45	68
South Korea	1	3	25
Taiwan	3	2	4
United Kingdom	0	1	3
Australia	1	0	2
U.S.A.	1	4	1
Malaysia	2	1	1
Others	6	6	10
Total	48	62	114

Industry/Sector	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Artificial Intelligence	10	14	24
Biotechnology	2	6	17
Data Analytics	4	8	15
Financial Technologies	14	10	14
Material Science	10	11	11
Cybersecurity	3	5	8
Robotics	5	8	7
5G Communications	Not applicable*	0	11
The Internet of Things		0	4
Integrated Circuit Design		0	2
Green Technology		0	1
Digital Entertainment		0	0
Microelectronics		0	0
Total	48	62	114

* In January 2020, the Government expanded the coverage of TechTAS to include 6 new technology areas (i.e. 5G communications, the Internet of Things, integrated circuit design, green technology, digital entertainment and microelectronics).

Monthly Remuneration	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Below \$20,000	0	0	3
\$20,000 - \$39,999	22	32	64
\$40,000 - \$79,999	21	21	36
\$80,000 or above	5	9	11
Total	48	62	114

Employment Period	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Short-term employment*	0	1	0
Long-term employment	48	61	114
Total	48	62	114

* Short-term employment refers to applications with an employment period of less than 12 months.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB108

(Question Serial No. 2774)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (5) Nationality and Assistance to HKSAR Residents outside Hong Kong

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Some ethnic minority residents in Hong Kong have complained that the process and criteria for vetting and approving applications for an HKSAR passport lack transparency, causing suspicion of unfair treatment. With regard to the efficiency in handling matters on naturalisation, fairness of treatment to the applicants and the amount of resources used, please provide the following information:

1. in each of the past 5 years, how many people applied for naturalisation as a Chinese national and for renunciation and restoration of Chinese nationality? What was the amount of resources spent on this area of work? How many applications were successful or unsuccessful? Please provide breakdown statistics on the applications and on successful and unsuccessful cases by ethnicity of applicants;
2. in each of the past 5 years, how many appeal cases were there? What was their nature (if any)? How many successful and unsuccessful appeal cases were there?
3. in each of the past 5 years, how many of the complaint cases were there? What was their nature (if any)? How many of the complaint cases were substantiated? What were the reasons for complaint?
4. What is the amount of resources to be granted to the Immigration Department for implementing specific administrative measures to ensure that applicants of all ethnicities are treated fairly in the naturalisation process?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 136)

Reply:

1. The number of applications for naturalisation as a Chinese national received and approved by the Immigration Department (ImmD) in the past 5 years with a breakdown by the original nationality of applicants is as follows:

Original nationality of applicants	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Number of applications	Number of applications approved	Number of applications	Number of applications approved	Number of applications	Number of applications approved	Number of applications	Number of applications approved	Number of applications	Number of applications approved
Indian	397	301	442	297	603	403	605	481	247	510
Pakistani	464	271	350	276	400	383	368	343	204	324
Indonesian	291	287	239	257	235	252	193	254	48	129
Vietnamese	130	150	133	119	133	92	87	98	44	111
Filipino	139	124	133	109	145	123	101	141	63	113
Others	210	187	237	113	289	184	284	202	150	221
Total	1 631	1 320	1 534	1 171	1 805	1 437	1 638	1 519	756	1 408

Note: The number of applications approved does not correspond to the number of applications received in a particular year since the date of receipt and that of completion of processing of an application may not fall in the same year.

The statistics on applications for naturalisation as a Chinese national not approved in the past 5 years are as follows:

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of applications not approved	114	122	123	208	70

The ImmD does not maintain breakdown statistics on applications not approved by the original nationality of applicants.

The statistics on applications for renunciation of Chinese nationality in the past 5 years are as follows:

2016			2017			2018			2019			2020		
No. of applications	No. of applications approved	No. of applications not approved	No. of applications	No. of applications approved	No. of applications not approved	No. of applications	No. of applications approved	No. of applications not approved	No. of applications	No. of applications approved	No. of applications not approved	No. of applications	No. of applications approved	No. of applications not approved
129	132	0	160	153	0	188	191	2	207	206	0	299	275	0

Note: The number of applications approved and not approved does not correspond to the number of applications received in a particular year since the date of receipt and that of completion of processing of an application may not fall in the same year.

The statistics on applications for restoration of Chinese nationality in the past 5 years are as follows:

2016			2017			2018			2019			2020		
No. of applications	No. of applications approved	No. of applications not approved	No. of applications	No. of applications approved	No. of applications not approved	No. of applications	No. of applications approved	No. of applications not approved	No. of applications	No. of applications approved	No. of applications not approved	No. of applications	No. of applications approved	No. of applications not approved
8	3	0	3	4	1	4	6	0	2	2	0	4	1	0

Note: The number of applications approved and not approved does not correspond to the number of applications received in a particular year since the date of receipt and that of completion of processing of an application may not fall in the same year.

The ImmD does not maintain breakdown statistics on applications for restoration of Chinese nationality by the original nationality of applicants.

The Travel Documents and Nationality (Application) Section of the ImmD is responsible for handling applications regarding Chinese nationality. In 2021-22, the establishment and salary costs involved in the relevant work are 6 posts and \$3.47 million (in terms of the notional annual mid-point salary) respectively.

2. According to Section 5(1)(b) of the Chinese Nationality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, any decision to approve or refuse the nationality application in the exercise of the discretion shall not be subject to appeal to any court.

3. In the past 5 years, the ImmD received a total of 3 complaints about the application for naturalisation as a Chinese national. 3 applicants lodged complaints with the Office of The Ombudsman against the ImmD in 2016, 2018 and 2019 respectively about the long processing time of their applications for naturalisation as a Chinese national and its failure to provide reasons for rejecting their applications. After investigation, the Office of The Ombudsman considered the 3 complaints unsubstantiated.

4. In processing an application for naturalisation as a Chinese national, the ImmD will not only consider whether the applicant meets the relevant requirements stipulated in the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China, but also consider each application on its own merits. In general, the factors to be considered include the following:

- whether the applicant has a near relative who is a Chinese national having the right of abode in Hong Kong;
- whether the applicant has the right of abode in Hong Kong;
- whether the applicant's habitual residence is in Hong Kong;
- whether the principal members of the applicant's family (spouse and minor children) are in Hong Kong;
- whether the applicant has a reasonable income to support himself/herself and his/her family;
- whether the applicant has paid taxes in accordance with the law;
- whether the applicant is of good character and sound mind;
- whether the applicant has sufficient knowledge of the Chinese language;
- whether the applicant intends to continue to live in Hong Kong in case the naturalisation application is approved; and
- whether there are other legitimate reasons to support the application.

The ImmD always processes applications for naturalisation as a Chinese national professionally in a fair and impartial manner, and in strict accordance with the relevant laws and procedures. The race, colour, religion, etc. of an applicant are not among the factors to be considered. Moreover, an internal mechanism is in place to conduct spot checks from time to time on different types of applications to ensure that applications are properly handled according to the relevant requirements. As such work is part of the regular duties of the ImmD, the resources involved are not calculated separately.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB109****(Question Serial No. 2833)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (3) Control after EntryControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide the operational expenditure of maintaining all places of detention managed by the Immigration Department in the last 5 years, with breakdown by:

- (1) the Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre;
- (2) the Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre and
- (3) Other places of detention per Cap. 115B Immigration (Places of Detention) Order

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 204)Reply:

(1) The Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre (MTKDC) is located on the first and second floors of the Ma Tau Kok Road Government Offices, and is under the command of the Deportation and Removal Section (the Section) of the Immigration Department (ImmD). In addition to the management of daily operation of the MTKDC, the Section is responsible for handling matters relating to deportation. The day-to-day operational expenses of the Section also covers other offices and facilities located in the same building.

The costs of meals and staff remuneration of the MTKDC for the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

	MTKDC				
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Costs of meals for detainees (\$ million)	1.44	1.47	1.25	0.97	1.54 ^{Note 1}
Staff remuneration ^{Note 2} (\$ million)	17.05	17.85	18.36	19.18	20.19

Note 1: As at end-February 2021.

Note 2: In terms of the notional annual mid-point salary.

The ImmD does not maintain a breakdown of all other operational expenses of the MTKDC.

(2) The operational expenses of the Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre (CIC) in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (As at end- February 2021)
Costs of meals for detainees (\$ million)	11.02	11.27	10.86	10.43	8.26
Staff remuneration (\$ million)	61.83	70.49	77.48	80.20	89.91
Management of facilities (\$ million)	5.94	5.52	5.42	6.05	8.72
Medical costs of detainees (\$ million)	8.85	8.86	8.86	9.26	8.92
Other costs relating to treatment of detainees (\$ million)	3.40	4.21	3.05	3.72	4.45
Total cost (\$ million)	91.04	100.35	105.67	109.66	120.26
Average daily cost per detainee (\$) ^{Note 3} & Note 4	671	715	786	773	1,106

Note 3: The average daily cost per detainee is calculated by dividing the total cost by the total number of days of overnight detention at the CIC during the respective financial year.

Note 4: In view of COVID-19 and in order to reduce the potential risk of transmission, the actual number of detainees at the CIC is about half of its detention capacity. Therefore, the average daily number of detainees in 2020-21 is lower than those of the previous 4 financial years. Moreover, with increased overall operational costs arising from additional manpower allocated to the CIC in 2020-21 to enhance its daily management and the replacement work for large-scale facilities carried out in the same year, the average daily cost per detainee is higher in 2020-21.

(3) The places of detention specified in the Immigration (Places of Detention) Order (Cap. 115B) and located in various control points/offices of the ImmD are part of the daily operation of the respective control points/offices. The ImmD does not maintain a breakdown of the operational expenses incurred for the operation of the places of detention. The cost of remuneration of the staff establishment for handling the daily operation of individual places of detention for the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Annual remuneration cost (\$ million) ^{Note 5} Control point ^{Note 7/} Office	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 ^{Note 6}	2020-21
Airport	25.23	26.41	27.18	28.41	29.90
Lok Ma Chau Spur Line	2.07	2.17	2.24	2.34	2.46
Shenzhen Bay	2.49	2.60	2.68	2.80	2.95
Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port	Not applicable ^{Note 8}		9.07	9.48	9.98
Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point	Not applicable ^{Note 9}				3.78
Kai Tak Cruise Terminal	0.52	0.54	0.56	0.58	0.62
San Uk Ling Holding Centre ^{Note 10}	4.71	4.93	5.06	5.29	5.56

Note 5: In terms of the notional annual mid-point salary.

Note 6: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has suspended passenger clearance services at most of the control points in phases with effect from end-January 2020:

- West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, Hung Hom, Man Kam To, Sha Tau Kok, China Ferry Terminal and Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal (with effect from 30 January 2020);
- Lo Wu, Lok Ma Chau Spur Line, Lok Ma Chau and Hong Kong Macau Ferry Terminal (with effect from 4 February 2020); and
- Kai Tak Cruise Terminal (with effect from the afternoon of 5 February 2020).

Note 7: The ImmD does not maintain a breakdown of the staff establishment of places of detention located inside the following control points:

- Macau Ferry Terminal, China Ferry Terminal, Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal, River Trade Terminal, Harbour Control, and West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link.

Note 8: The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge was officially commissioned on 24 October 2018.

Note 9: The Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point commenced operation on 26 August 2020, with only cargo clearance service available at this stage.

Note 10: The San Uk Ling Holding Centre (SULHC) is a place of detention specified in the Immigration (Places of Detention) Order (Cap. 115B) and falls under the purview of Ta Kwu Ling Divisional Police Station of the Hong Kong Police Force. The ImmD has a clearance centre in SULHC for the repatriation of persons entering Hong Kong illegally from the Mainland.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB110

(Question Serial No. 2834)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of the following expenditure relating to the cost of maintaining immigration detention centres in the last 5 years:

- (1) Meals and basic necessities
- (2) Staff remuneration
- (3) Facilities and maintenance
- (4) Medical expenses
- (5) Other overhead expenses (please specify)

Please provide the average daily gross cost (including the costs of meals, basic necessities, staff, facilities and maintenance, healthcare and overhead expenses) of detaining a person at an immigration detention centre in the last 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 205)

Reply:

At present, the detention centres managed by the Immigration Department (ImmD) are (1) the Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre (MTKDC) and (2) the Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre (CIC).

(1) MTKDC

The MTKDC is located on the first and second floors of the Ma Tau Kok Road Government Offices, and is under the command of the Deportation and Removal Section (the Section) of the ImmD. In addition to the management of daily operation of the MTKDC, the Section is responsible for handling matters relating to deportation. The day-to-day operational expenses of the Section also covers other offices and facilities located in the same building.

The costs of meals and staff remuneration of the MTKDC for the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

	MTKDC				
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Costs of meals for detainees (\$ million)	1.44	1.47	1.25	0.97	1.54 ^{Note 1}
Staff remuneration ^{Note 2} (\$ million)	17.05	17.85	18.36	19.18	20.19

Note 1: As at end-February 2021.

Note 2: In terms of the notional annual mid-point salary.

As for the “facilities and maintenance” and “other overhead expenses” of the MTKDC, both are part of the day-to-day operational expenses of the Section. The ImmD does not maintain a breakdown of the relevant expenses. For “medical expenses”, the ImmD would transfer detainees at the MTKDC to public hospitals for treatment where necessary. The Hospital Authority does not charge the ImmD for the medical expenses incurred.

As the ImmD does not maintain a breakdown of the operational expenses of the MTKDC, figures on the average daily cost per detainee are not available.

(2) CIC

The operational expenses of detention at the CIC in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (As at end-February 2021)
Costs of meals for detainees (\$ million)	11.02	11.27	10.86	10.43	8.26
Staff remuneration (\$ million)	61.83	70.49	77.48	80.20	89.91
Management of facilities (\$ million)	5.94	5.52	5.42	6.05	8.72
Medical costs of detainees (\$ million)	8.85	8.86	8.86	9.26	8.92
Other costs relating to treatment of detainees (\$ million)	3.40	4.21	3.05	3.72	4.45
Total cost (\$ million)	91.04	100.35	105.67	109.66	120.26
Average daily cost per detainee (\$) ^{Note 3} & Note 4	671	715	786	773	1,106

Note 3: The average daily cost per detainee is calculated by dividing the total cost by the total number of days of overnight detention at the CIC during the respective financial year.

Note 4: In view of COVID-19 and in order to reduce the potential risk of transmission, the actual number of detainees at the CIC is about half of its detention capacity. Therefore, the average daily number of detainees in 2020-21 is lower than those of the previous 4 financial years. Moreover, with the increased overall operational costs arising from additional manpower allocated to the CIC in 2020-21 to enhance its daily management and the replacement work for large-scale facilities carried out in the same year, the average daily cost per detainee is higher in 2020-21.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB111

(Question Serial No. 2835)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide information on the following:

The number of applications made by Immigration Department staff to the Commissioner of Police for exemption to possess firearms and ammunition under the Firearms and Ammunition Ordinance (Cap. 238) from 2010 -2020.

The number of each of the following categories of firearms and/or ammunition provided to Immigration Department staff from 2010 - 2020:

- (a) firearm capable of discharging live shots or bullets
- (b) arms capable of discharging less-lethal projectiles (e.g. bean bag rounds, plastic bullets)
- (c) CS-spray/ pepper spray/ other weapons for the discharge of noxious substance
- (d) stun guns or device designed to discharge electric shock
- (e) other firearms and/or ammunition (please specify)

The number of Immigration Department staff stationed at places of immigration detention who were granted exemption to possess firearms and ammunition from 2010 - 2020, with breakdown by:

- (1) the Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre;
- (2) the Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre and
- (3) Other places of detention per Cap. 115B Immigration (Places of Detention) Order

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 206)

Reply:

At present, officers deployed at the Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre (CIC) of the Immigration Department (ImmD) are equipped with suitable anti-riot equipment, including pepper sprays which are carried by duty officers, and pepper ball launchers, anti-riot grenades and 37 mm single shot launchers which are to be used when necessary, to cope with possible emergency situations. Under the Firearms and Ammunition Ordinance (Cap. 238), officers of the ImmD are required to apply to the Commissioner of Police (CP) on a personal and case-by-case basis for an exemption in respect of the possession and use of the above anti-riot equipment. At present, about 210 officers of the ImmD stationed at the CIC have been

granted such an exemption.

In addition, to meet the actual operational needs of the ImmD, about 330 officers of the ImmD, including officers working at the Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre and other places of detention specified in the Immigration (Places of Detention) Order (Cap. 115B), have applied for and been granted an exemption by the CP which allows them to possess and use pepper sprays.

The information on the various types of anti-riot equipment of the ImmD is part of the Department's operational details. For security reasons, it is considered inappropriate to disclose such information.

The ImmD does not maintain other breakdown statistics mentioned in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB112

(Question Serial No. 2836)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide information on the following, for each 12-month period from 2010 - 2020:

1. The number of cases of physical confrontation involving detainees at the Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre ("CIC") and Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre (MTKDC) respectively
2. The nature of such physical confrontation at the CIC and MTKDC respectively, including:
Detainee-on-detainee assaults
Detainee-on-staff assaults
Others (please specify)
3. The number of cases in which immigration officers used force on immigration detainees at the CIC and the MTKDC respectively
4. The reason for immigration officers to use force on immigration detainees at the CIC and the MTKDC respectively, including:
(a) to prevent detainee-on-detainee assaults
(b) to prevent detainee-on-staff assaults
(c) to prevent self-harm incidents
(d) Others (please specify)
5. The type of force used on detainees at the CIC and the MTKDC respectively, including:
(a) empty-hand control
(b) use of pepper spray/ oleoresin capsicum spray
(c) use of 37 mm single shot launcher
(d) Others (please specify)

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 207)

Reply:

1. and 2. The number of cases of physical confrontation involving detainees at the Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre (CIC) and the Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre (MTKDC) from 2010 to 2020 by nature of the cases is tabulated as follows:

Year	CIC			MTKDC		
	Detainee-on-detainee assaults	Detainee-on-staff assaults	Total	Detainee-on-detainee assaults	Detainee-on-staff assaults	Total
2010*	11	3	14	0	0	0
2011	24	3	27	0	0	0
2012	23	1	24	0	0	0
2013	19	2	21	0	0	0
2014	15	0	15	1	0	1
2015	26	0	26	0	0	0
2016	37	1	38	0	0	0
2017	24	0	24	1	0	1
2018	14	1	15	0	0	0
2019	13	1	14	0	0	0
2020	25	0	25	0	0	0

*The Immigration Department (ImmD) has taken over the management of the CIC from the Correctional Services Department since 15 April 2010. The above table covers the relevant figures of the CIC for the period from 15 April 2010 to 31 December 2020 only.

3. and 4. According to departmental guidelines, in the event of a special incident (such as a physical confrontation incident involving detainee(s)) at the CIC or the MTKDC, duty officers will first assess the urgency and severity of the incident having regard to the actual circumstances at that time, and then use appropriate and necessary force to prevent deterioration of the incident and ensure the safety of the detainees and staff. Moreover, where the situation permits, duty officers will give a warning to the attacker(s) prior to the use of force to allow the attacker(s) to stop the aggressive behaviour and obey the orders. Duty officers will use force only if the attacker(s) continue with the aggressive behaviour and do not obey the orders. The ImmD does not maintain the statistics mentioned in the question.

5. When carrying out regular duties such as custodial and escort duties and the handling of physical confrontations, staff of the ImmD will handle the situations by means of verbal instructions/orders or empty-hand control as appropriate. Since taking over of the management of the CIC on 15 April 2010, staff of the CIC had used pepper spray in 2011, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 for dealing with cases of physical confrontation involving detainees. Although they are equipped with other anti-riot equipment (including 37 mm single shot launchers, pepper ball launchers and anti-riot grenades), such equipment has never been used. In addition, staff of the MTKDC are equipped with oleoresin capsicum foam to cope with possible violent or emergency situations. They had never used oleoresin capsicum foam over the past 10 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB113****(Question Serial No. 2837)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (3) Control after EntryControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide the number of persons who lodged a non-refoulement claim and who entered Hong Kong on a foreign domestic helper visa, for each year from 2010-2020.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 208)Reply:

The Government implemented the Unified Screening Mechanism in March 2014 to screen non-refoulement claims on all applicable grounds in one go. As at the end of February 2021, the number of non-refoulement claims involving former foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) is as follows:

Year	Number of non-refoulement claims lodged by former FDHs
Mar to Dec 2014	749
2015	482
2016	520
2017	441
2018	353
2019	223
2020	234
Jan to Feb 2021	125

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB114****(Question Serial No. 2839)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (3) Control after EntryControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide information on the following:

1. The number of people intercepted by the authorities for entering Hong Kong illegally with breakdown by their nationalities, from 2014 – 2020.

The number of people intercepted for entering Hong Kong illegally who applied for non-refoulement protection with breakdown by their nationalities, from 2014 – 2020.

2. In exercising its power to remove or deport these people intercepted for entering Hong Kong illegally, whether the authorities performed any screening to determine whether they are victims of human trafficking and/or in need of non-refoulement protection.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 210)Reply:

1. The numbers of non-ethnic Chinese illegal immigrants intercepted between 2014 and February 2021 are tabulated by nationality as follows:

Nationality Year	Vietnamese	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Indian	Nepalese	Others	Total
2014	1 180	358	342	60	24	20	1 984
2015	2 278	686	414	380	31	30	3 819
2016	1 073	685	155	241	50	17	2 221
2017	598	132	85	47	19	12	893
2018	408	116	61	39	6	9	639
2019	512	207	80	28	21	11	859
2020	693	211	146	57	4	10	1 121
2021 (as at end-February)	126	31	7	16	0	0	180

The Government implemented the Unified Screening Mechanism (USM) in March 2014 to screen non-refoulement claims on all applicable grounds in one go. As at the end of February 2021, the Immigration Department (ImmD) received a cumulative total of 19 373 non-refoulement claims, of which 8 897 claims were lodged by illegal immigrants and the breakdown by nationality is tabulated as follows:

Nationality	Non-refoulement claims lodged by illegal immigrants
Vietnamese	4 442
Pakistani	2 255
Bangladeshi	1 099
Indian	826
Nepalese	131
Others	144
Total	8 897

2. Before effecting repatriation, ImmD officers will conduct interviews with the persons to be repatriated and take follow up action in accordance with the relevant mechanism, including ascertaining whether the screening of the non-refoulement claims concerned have been completed under the USM. Moreover, like other law enforcement agencies, ImmD officers will conduct screening of vulnerable persons (including illegal immigrants) who are arrested or who put themselves forward to the authorities through the trafficking in persons (TIP) victim screening mechanism, so as to ascertain whether the persons concerned are TIP victims.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB115

(Question Serial No. 2106)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Immigration Department (ImmD) processes applications for entry into Hong Kong for employment, investment, training, residence and study in accordance with prevailing policies and procedures. Please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Would the authorities provide information on the number of foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) who, under the impact of the pandemic, were unable to come to work in Hong Kong according to schedule in the past financial year? Please provide a breakdown by their type of employment and nationality.
2. It is learnt that the ImmD set up a special duties team in June 2013. In assessing FDH visa applications, the ImmD will refer suspected cases to the special duties team for investigation, including scrutinising the number of and reasons for premature termination of employment contracts by the applicants.
 - a. How many cases of FDH visa applications were referred to the special duties team for follow-up action on suspicion of “job-hopping” in each of the past 3 years?
 - b. Among the above cases, how many involved FDHs whose applications for entry were rejected? (Please provide a breakdown by year)
 - c. Please list the relevant immigration measures that were adjusted due to COVID-19 and the number of FDH cases affected for the past financial year.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

1. The Immigration Department (ImmD) handles applications for visas/entry permits for employment in Hong Kong under various immigration policies and schemes. Among these applications, the ImmD approved 229 193 applications for extension of stay in respect of employment visas for foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) in 2020-21 (as at February 2021). The relevant figures are tabulated as follows:

FDHs' applications for extension of stay	Number of applications approved
Further employment of FDHs (Note 1)	196 897
Change of employers after completion of contracts	21 775
Change of employers after premature termination of contracts (Note 2)	10 521
Total	229 193

Note 1: In view of COVID-19, the Government has launched a series of special measures to assist FDHs and employers to cope with the pandemic, including allowing employers to apply for extending the validity period of FDHs' existing contracts with effect from 4 February 2020, and allowing FDHs to apply for a further deferral of home leave with effect from 21 March 2020. The above number of approved applications for further employment of FDHs includes FDHs' applications for contract renewal with the same employer, employers' applications for extending the validity period of FDHs' existing contracts under the special arrangement, and FDHs' applications for a further deferral of home leave. The ImmD does not maintain the relevant breakdown statistics.

Note 2: Including applications for extension of stay in respect of change of employers after premature contract termination under general exceptional circumstances that the ImmD considered reasonable (including where the employer was unable to continue with the contract owing to external transfer, migration, death or financial reasons, or where there was evidence that the FDH had been abused or exploited).

In addition, during the same period, the ImmD approved 42 919 applications for entry visas from FDHs who came to work from abroad. Under the exceptional circumstances of COVID-19, the ImmD also approved 18 090 applications for change of employers in Hong Kong from FDHs whose contracts were prematurely terminated. A breakdown of the number of the FDHs concerned by nationality is tabulated as follows:

Nationality	Number of applications approved
Filipino	37 560
Indonesian	21 989
Indian	786

Thai	242
Others	432
Total	61 009

FDHs shall only perform duties as per the Schedule of Accommodation and Domestic Duties annexed to the Standard Employment Contract.

The ImmD does not maintain other breakdown statistics requested in the question.

2.

(a) and (b)

The ImmD has all along been combating FDHs' "job hopping" proactively and set up a special duties team in June 2013. In assessing visa applications, the ImmD will refer suspected cases to the special duties team for investigation, including scrutinising the number of and reasons for premature termination of employment contracts by the applicants.

The numbers of cases of FDH visa applications referred to the special duties team for investigation on suspicion of "job-hopping", the numbers of such applications rejected, and the numbers of applications withdrawn by the applicants or which could not be processed further in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Number of referral cases	1 279	1 697	2 207
Number of applications rejected	220	240	628
Number of applications withdrawn by the applicants or which could not be processed further	194	126	239

The number of applications rejected by the special duties team in 2020-21 (as at February 2021) increased by 185% as compared to that in 2018-19.

(c)

In view of COVID-19, the Government has launched a series of measures to assist FDHs and employers to cope with the pandemic, including allowing employers to apply for extending the validity period of FDHs' existing contracts, and FDHs to apply for a further deferral of home leave with effect from 4 February and 21 March 2020 respectively. The number of applications approved under these measures has been included in the figures on further

employment of FDHs in part 1 above.

Moreover, the Government announced on 21 March 2020 that flexible consideration would be given to FDHs' applications for extension of their limit of stay for not more than 1 month in Hong Kong as a visitor. The policy intent of the measure was to respond to the demands of employers who need to employ FDHs and to reduce FDHs' risk of COVID-19 infection due to travelling to and from their places of origin. In view of the abuse of the measure by individual FDHs for "job-hopping", as well as the concern about the increased risks of infection of FDHs who stay in boarding facilities, the Government adjusted the measure concerned on 30 December 2020 to prohibit FDHs whose contracts are prematurely terminated from applying for extension of their limit of stay in Hong Kong as a visitor, and require them to leave Hong Kong within 2 weeks upon premature contract termination in accordance with the prevailing policy, so as to prevent the abuse of the mechanism by individual FDHs for "job-hopping". In 2020-21 (as at February 2021), the ImmD approved 27 922 applications from FDHs for extension of their limit of stay in Hong Kong as a visitor upon expiry or termination of their contracts.

The ImmD does not maintain other breakdown statistics on the facilitation measures concerned.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB116

(Question Serial No. 2107)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In the past year, what was the number of applications for extension of stay in respect of foreign domestic helpers that were handled by the authorities in the midst of the pandemic? Please provide a breakdown by type of employment and nationality.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

In 2020-21 (as at February 2021), the Immigration Department (ImmD) approved 229 193 applications for extension of stay in respect of employment visas for foreign domestic helpers (FDHs). The relevant figures are tabulated as follows:

FDHs' applications for extension of stay	Number of applications approved
Further employment of FDHs (Note 1)	196 897
Change of employers after completion of contracts	21 775
Change of employers after premature termination of contracts (Note 2)	10 521
Total	229 193

Note 1: In view of COVID-19, the Government has launched a series of special measures to assist FDHs and employers to cope with the pandemic, including allowing employers to apply for extending the validity period of FDHs' existing contracts with effect from 4 February 2020, and allowing FDHs to apply for a further deferral of home leave with effect from 21 March 2020. The above number of approved applications for further employment of FDHs includes FDHs' applications for contract renewal with the same employer, employers' applications for extending the validity period of FDHs' existing contracts under the special arrangement, and FDHs' applications for a further deferral of home leave. The ImmD does not maintain the relevant breakdown statistics.

Note 2: Including applications for extension of stay in respect of change of employers after premature contract termination under general exceptional circumstances that the ImmD considered reasonable (including where the employer was unable to continue with the contract owing to external transfer, migration, death or financial reasons, or where there was evidence that the FDH had been abused or exploited).

In addition, during the same period, the ImmD approved 42 919 applications for entry visas from FDHs who came to work from abroad. Under the exceptional circumstances of COVID-19, the ImmD also approved 18 090 applications for change of employers in Hong Kong from FDHs whose contracts were prematurely terminated. A breakdown of the number of the FDHs concerned by nationality is tabulated as follows:

Nationality	Number of applications approved
Filipino	37 560
Indonesian	21 989
Indian	786
Thai	242
Others	432
Total	61 009

Moreover, the Government announced on 21 March 2020 that flexible consideration would be given to FDHs' applications for extension of their limit of stay for not more than 1 month in Hong Kong as a visitor. The policy intent of the measure was to respond to the demands of employers who need to employ FDHs and to reduce FDHs' risk of COVID-19 infection due to travelling to and from their places of origin. In view of the abuse of the measure by individual FDHs for "job-hopping", as well as the concern about the increased risks of infection of FDHs who stay in boarding facilities, the Government adjusted the measure concerned on 30 December 2020 to prohibit FDHs whose contracts are prematurely terminated from applying for extension of their limit of stay in Hong Kong as a visitor, and require them to leave Hong Kong within 2 weeks upon premature contract termination in accordance with the prevailing policy, so as to prevent the abuse of the mechanism by individual FDHs for "job-hopping". In 2020-21 (as at February 2021), the ImmD approved 27 922 applications from FDHs for extension of their limit of stay in Hong Kong as a visitor upon expiry or termination of their contracts.

FDHs shall only perform duties as per the Schedule of Accommodation and Domestic Duties annexed to the Standard Employment Contract.

The ImmD does not maintain other breakdown statistics mentioned in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB117****(Question Serial No. 1651)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Control after EntryControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

As mentioned under Programme (3), the Immigration Department (ImmD) will arrest overstayers, illegal immigrants, illegal workers and other immigration offenders. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please list the total numbers of overstayers, illegal immigrants, illegal workers and other immigration offenders arrested by the ImmD in the past 3 years.
2. In connection with the above question, what were the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)Reply:

1. The numbers of arrests involving overstaying, illegal entry, unlawful employment and other immigration offences in the past 3 years are tabulated by year as follows:

Year	Number of arrests*			
	Overstayers^	Illegal immigrants	Illegal workers# (excluding sex workers)	Other immigration offenders
2018	3 118	1 194	1 783	5 462
2019	2 919	1 143	1 688	4 849
2020@	2 860	1 949	825	1 283

* The above figures include arrested persons who were involved in more than one offence.

^ Those allowed to leave Hong Kong with the extension of stay formalities completed are excluded.

- # Including illegal immigrants, visitors, foreign domestic helpers and other non-permanent residents of Hong Kong.
 - @ Due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the number of visitors to Hong Kong in 2020 declined substantially as compared with that in 2019, which may have led to the drop in the statistical figures on overstaying, unlawful employment and other immigration offences as compared with previous years. On the other hand, owing to entry restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic, some persons might have run the risk of entering Hong Kong by unlawful means, resulting in the higher number of arrests involving illegal immigrants as compared with previous years.
2. As the investigation of immigration offences is part of the regular duties of the Immigration Department (ImmD), ImmD does not maintain a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved as mentioned in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB118

(Question Serial No. 1652)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Immigration Department (ImmD) mentioned under its Operating Account that the establishment of the ImmD as at 31 March 2021 will be 9 208 posts. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. How many staff members of the ImmD retired in each of the past 3 years?
2. What were the respective numbers of candidates for the posts of Immigration Assistant and Immigration Officer in the past 3 years? Please list the numbers by age, sex and academic qualification.
3. What were the respective numbers of persons appointed by the ImmD as Immigration Assistants and Immigration Officers in the past 3 years? Please list the numbers by age, sex and academic qualification.
4. How many Immigration Assistants and Immigration Officers are expected to be recruited in the next financial year?
5. What is the ImmD's staff establishment and estimated expenditure to be incurred for handling recruitment work for the next financial year?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

1. The number of staff members of the Immigration Department (ImmD) who retired in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Financial Year	Rank	Number of Retirees
2018-19	Commander	0
	Officer	82
	Rank and File	110
2019-20	Commander	3
	Officer	95
	Rank and File	79
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	Commander	2
	Officer	85
	Rank and File	87

2. A breakdown of the number of candidates for the posts of Immigration Officer and Immigration Assistant in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

The number of applicants for the posts of Immigration Officer and Immigration Assistant

Financial Year	Post	Number of Applicants
2018-19	Immigration Officer	14 958
	Immigration Assistant	20 423
2019-20	Immigration Officer	537 ^{Note}
	Immigration Assistant	14 040
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	Immigration Officer	9 711
	Immigration Assistant	16 781

Note: Only in-service appointment of Immigration Officers was made in 2019-20, while open recruitment was conducted in 2020-21. Therefore, the number of applicants for the post of Immigration Officer in 2019-20 was significantly lower.

Breakdown by age

Financial Year	Post	Aged 25 or below	Aged 26-30	Aged 31-35	Aged 36-40	Aged 41 or above
2018-19	Immigration Officer	5 590	6 107	2 217	726	318
	Immigration Assistant	11 117	5 750	2 014	863	679
2019-20	Immigration Officer	22	192	170	101	52
	Immigration Assistant	7 687	3 874	1 372	587	520
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	Immigration Officer	3 289	4 172	1 527	465	258
	Immigration Assistant	8 400	4 463	1 860	1 006	1 052

Breakdown by sex

Financial Year	Post	Male	Female
2018-19	Immigration Officer	9 619	5 339
	Immigration Assistant	13 807	6 616
2019-20	Immigration Officer	390	147
	Immigration Assistant	9 823	4 217
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	Immigration Officer	6 274	3 437
	Immigration Assistant	10 868	5 913

Breakdown by academic qualification

Financial Year	Post	Bachelor's Degree or above	Other Academic Qualifications
2018-19	Immigration Officer	13 273	1 685
	Immigration Assistant	10 048	10 375
2019-20	Immigration Officer	428	109
	Immigration Assistant	7 794	6 246
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	Immigration Officer	8 859	852
	Immigration Assistant	9 514	7 267

3. A breakdown of the number of persons appointed by the ImmD as Immigration Officers and Immigration Assistants in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

The number of persons appointed as Immigration Officers and Immigration Assistants

Financial Year	Post	Number of Persons Appointed
2018-19	Immigration Officer	252
	Immigration Assistant	595
2019-20	Immigration Officer	105
	Immigration Assistant	274
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	Immigration Officer	42 ^{Note}
	Immigration Assistant	122

Note: Only the number of persons appointed as Immigration Officers through in-service appointment is included, as the final interview of the open recruitment of Immigration Officers is still in progress.

Breakdown by age

Financial Year	Post	Aged 25 or below	Aged 26-30	Aged 31-35	Aged 36-40	Aged 41 or above
2018-19	Immigration Officer	138	82	17	10	5
	Immigration Assistant	523	72	0	0	0
2019-20	Immigration Officer	60	23	7	7	8
	Immigration Assistant	252	22	0	0	0
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	Immigration Officer	0	9	11	11	11
	Immigration Assistant	105	17	0	0	0

Breakdown by sex

Financial Year	Post	Male	Female
2018-19	Immigration Officer	159	93
	Immigration Assistant	371	224
2019-20	Immigration Officer	62	43
	Immigration Assistant	179	95
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	Immigration Officer	35	7
	Immigration Assistant	78	44

Breakdown by academic qualification

Financial Year	Post	Bachelor's Degree or above	Other Academic Qualifications
2018-19	Immigration Officer	240	12
	Immigration Assistant	471	124
2019-20	Immigration Officer	99	6
	Immigration Assistant	229	45

2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	Immigration Officer	32	10
	Immigration Assistant	102	20

4. The ImmD plans to recruit approximately 100 Immigration Officers and 200 Immigration Assistants in 2021-22.

5. The Recruitment and Training Research Section is tasked with the recruitment of Immigration Service staff. It has a staff establishment of 11, including 6 Immigration Service and 5 civilian staff members. The estimated expenditure on recruitment work for 2021-22 is around \$1.5 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1339)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (4) Personal Documentation

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

With regard to the introduction of the four-year Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise (Replacement Exercise) by the Immigration Department, please inform this Committee of:

- 1.) the progress of the Replacement Exercise and the expenditure and manpower involved in the past 3 years;
- 2.) the respective numbers of persons who should, have had and have yet to have their identity cards replaced in the past 3 years, and their age distribution;
- 3.) the details of the Government's publicity work in promoting identity card replacement and the expenditure and manpower involved/to be involved in the past year and the next 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

The Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise (Replacement Exercise) was launched on 27 December 2018 and is expected to be complete by end-2022. As at end-February 2021, around 3.11 million identity card holders have already replaced their identity cards under the Replacement Exercise. Identity card holders who have been called up for identity card replacement and whose call-up periods have expired belong to the age groups of 1955 to 1969 and 1985 to 1986. Among them, over 86% have already replaced their identity cards. Identity card holders who were born between 1970 and 1976 are now being called up for replacement of their identity cards.

To perform the work relating to the Replacement Exercise, the Immigration Department (ImmD) was approved to create 956 posts (including 353 time-limited civil service posts and 603 contract staff members). The total expenditures on the Replacement Exercise in the past 3 financial years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$million)
2018-19	224
2019-20	442
2020-21	463 (estimated)

Regarding the publicity work of the Replacement Exercise, the ImmD promotes the Replacement Exercise and provides the relevant details to members of the public through various channels, including television, radio, train and bus bodies, large outdoor billboards, newspapers, magazines, websites, social media, mobile apps, posters, leaflets, press releases and press conferences, etc. Since the publicity work is part of the daily work of the Replacement Exercise, the ImmD does not keep a breakdown of the manpower involved. The estimated expenditures on publicity work in the past financial year and the next 2 financial years^{Note} are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$million)
2020-21	15
2021-22	16
2022-23	11

Note As the Replacement Exercise is expected to be complete by end-2022, the estimated expenditure for 2023-24 is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB120****(Question Serial No. 1346)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Pre-entry ControlControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

What were the respective numbers of applications approved and refused under various talent admission schemes in the past 3 years?

Immigration scheme/policy	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
	No. of applications approved	No. of applications refused	No. of applications approved	No. of applications refused	No. of applications approved	No. of applications refused

What is the number of applications approved for each profession since the introduction of the Talent List of Hong Kong?

Please provide the distribution of professionals admitted to Hong Kong under the above schemes in the past 3 years by age and academic qualification.

Immigration scheme/policy	Age			Academic Qualification		
	Below 30 years old	30-45 years old	Above 45 years old	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree or above	Other Professional Qualifications

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

The relevant statistics on applications for admission to Hong Kong under various talent admission schemes/policies in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Immigration scheme/policy	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21 (As at February 2021)	
	No. of applications approved	No. of applications refused	No. of applications approved	No. of applications refused	No. of applications approved	No. of applications refused
General Employment Policy (GEP)	41 793	966	35 194	1 097	12 315	897
Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMTP)	14 183	250	11 997	381	6 874	429
Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS)	592^	1 096	716^	1 960	1 709^	3 019
Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG)	10 318	1	10 320	1	7 198	16
Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents (ASSG)	62	0	50	0	38	1
Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS)*	48	0	62	0	114	0

^ Figures denote the numbers of quotas allotted.

* TechTAS was launched on 25 June 2018.

Following the promulgation of the first Talent List of Hong Kong by the Government on 28 August 2018, as at February 2021, a total of 116 applications under the QMAS have met the eligibility criteria under the Talent List. Among them, 99 have been allotted quotas whereas the remaining 17 are being processed. The breakdown statistics on the quotas allotted are as follows:

Profession	No. of quotas allotted
Data Scientists and Cyber Security Specialists	32
Innovation and Technology Experts	23
Creative Industries Professionals	14
Fintech Professionals	13
Marine Engineers and Superintendents of Ships	5
Actuaries	4
Asset Management Professionals	2
Marine Insurance Professionals	2
Naval Architects	2
Dispute Resolution Professionals & Transactional Lawyers	2
Total	99

The breakdown statistics on persons approved for admission to Hong Kong under various talent admission schemes/policies in the past 3 years by academic qualification of applicants are tabulated as follows:

(1) GEP

Academic Qualification	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (As at February 2021)
Doctorate	2 603	2 057	775
Master's Degree	5 797	5 094	2 506
Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent	14 323	13 069	5 730
Other Academic Qualifications	19 070	14 974	3 304
Total	41 793	35 194	12 315

(2) ASMTF

Academic Qualification	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (As at February 2021)
Doctorate	1 379	1 114	825
Master's Degree	3 088	2 788	2 067
Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent	3 486	3 117	2 569
Other Academic Qualifications	6 230	4 978	1 413
Total	14 183	11 997	6 874

(3) QMAS

Academic Qualification	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (As at February 2021)
Doctorate/2 Master's Degrees or more	167	216	548
Master's Degree/2 Bachelor's Degrees or more	321	396	955
Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent	73	78	179
Other Academic Qualifications	31	26	27
Total	592	716	1 709

(4) IANG

Academic Qualification	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (As at February 2021)
Doctorate	1 288	1 066	1 101
Master's Degree	7 285	7 468	4 287
Bachelor's Degree	1 730	1 765	1 782
Other Academic Qualifications at Degree Level or Equivalent	15	21	28
Total	10 318	10 320	7 198

(5) ASSG

Academic Qualification	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (As at February 2021)
Doctorate	0	0	0
Master's Degree	14	8	6
Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent	48	42	31
Other Academic Qualifications	0	0	1
Total	62	50	38

(6) TechTAS

Academic Qualification	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (As at February 2021)
Doctorate	16	22	28
Master's Degree	17	19	27
Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent	14	19	59
Other Academic Qualifications	1	2	0
Total	48	62	114

For applicants who were allotted quotas under the QMAS in the past 3 years, 536, 639 and 1 512 were aged between 18 and 44 while 56, 77 and 197 were aged 45 or above in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively.

In addition, entrants to be admitted to Hong Kong under the ASSG have to be aged between 18 and 40 at the time of application.

The Immigration Department does not maintain other breakdown statistics mentioned in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB121****(Question Serial No. 1347)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Control after EntryControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Would the Government inform this Committee of:

	2018	2019	2020
the number of non-refoulement claims lodged			
the number of substantiated non-refoulement claims			
the number of unsubstantiated non-refoulement claims			
the number of claimants removed			
the total expenditure on removal of claimants			
the number of days for handling each claim on average			
the number of arrest operations conducted against overstayers, illegal immigrants and illegal workers			
the number of successful prosecutions against overstayers, illegal immigrants and illegal workers			

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)Reply:

The Government implemented the Unified Screening Mechanism (USM) in March 2014 to screen non-refoulement claims on all applicable grounds in one go. As at the end of February 2021, the numbers of non-refoulement claims handled by the Immigration Department (ImmD) are set out in the below table. Due to the special work arrangements during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, only limited publicly-funded legal assistance could be provided to claimants, which delayed the commencement of the screening procedure of some claims. As at the end of February 2021, apart from 713 claims pending completion of screening by ImmD, there were over 700 cases of which the screening procedure had yet to commence due to the pandemic.

Year	Claims received	Claims determined	Claims withdrawn or no further action can be taken	Pending claims
Commencement of the USM				6 699
2014 (Mar to Dec)	4 634	826	889	9 618
2015	5 053	2 339	1 410	10 922
2016	3 838	3 218	1 561	9 981
2017	1 843	4 182	1 743	5 899
2018	1 216	5 467	1 102	546
2019	1 213	1 344	149	266
2020	1 223	857	69	563
2021 (Jan to Feb)	353	195	8	713
Total	19 373	18 428	6 931	

During the same period, ImmD determined a total of 18 428 claims and 219 of them were substantiated (including those substantiated by the Torture Claims Appeal Board on appeal).

As regards the time for handling each claim, ImmD ensures that the screening procedures are highly efficient and achieve high standards of fairness through flexible staff deployment and optimised workflow. ImmD's handling time for each claim (from commencement of the screening procedures to determination by ImmD) has been shortened from about 25 weeks on average at the early implementation of the USM to the current average of about 10 weeks.

The numbers of claimants removed in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of persons removed
2018	2 527
2019^	1 618
2020^	632

[^] *The removal of rejected non-refoulement claimants could be affected by various factors, which include applications for leave to apply for judicial review to the Court lodged by quite a number of rejected claimants in recent years. As the judicial review proceedings concerning the persons have not been completed, ImmD will suspend the removal arrangements under the prevailing policy. In addition, owing to flight or other restrictions imposed by some countries or regions during the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of persons removed in 2020 is lower than those in previous years.*

The numbers of arrest operations conducted by ImmD against overstayers, illegal immigrants and illegal workers in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Number of operations
2018	16 108
2019	14 147
2020	13 612

The numbers of successful prosecutions instituted by ImmD against overstayers, illegal immigrants and illegal workers in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Number of prosecutions
2018	4 062
2019	3 947
2020#	3 361

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of visitors to Hong Kong in 2020 declined substantially as compared with that in 2019, which may have led to the lower number of illegal workers arrested as compared with previous years.

ImmD's expenditures on manpower for repatriation of rejected claimants in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Repatriation of rejected claimants[#] (\$Million)
2018-19	-
2019-20	45 [^]
2020-21 (Revised estimate)	47 [^]
2021-22 (Estimate)	47 [^]

ImmD has deployed dedicated manpower to speed up the repatriation of rejected claimants to their places of origin since 2019-20.

[^] *Only the expenditure on dedicated manpower for the repatriation of non-refoulement claimants and related work is included. As other expenditures are incurred by duties (e.g. arrangement for air tickets and application for documents) which form part of ImmD's overall repatriation work, we do not maintain a separate breakdown for the claimants.*

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB122

(Question Serial No. 2984)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (4) Personal Documentation

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned that the Registration of Persons Division of the Immigration Department is responsible for the assessment of claims to right of abode, the issue of identity cards and the maintenance of identity card records. Please inform this Committee of:

- 1.) the details of the expenditure and manpower involved in providing identity cards and related services to legal residents in the past 3 years;
- 2.) the details of the expenditure and manpower involved in providing eligible Hong Kong residents with HKSAR passports or other travel documents in the past 3 years;

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

1 and 2)

The manpower and expenditure involved in providing identity cards and related services, and in providing eligible Hong Kong residents with HKSAR passports or other travel documents by the Immigration Department (ImmD) in the past 3 financial years are tabulated as follows:

Issuance of identity cards and related services:

Financial year	Number of posts ^{Note1}	Salary costs (\$million)
2018-19	1 295	255 ^{Note2}
2019-20	1 303	469
2020-21	1 305	497

Note 1: The ImmD was approved to create 956 posts (including 353 time-limited civil service posts and 603 contract staff members) for the Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise.

Note 2: The Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise was launched on 27 December 2018. The manpower expenditure for the financial year 2018-19 was calculated on the basis of the actual number of working months.

Services relating to application for HKSAR passports or other travel documents:

Financial year	Number of posts	Salary costs (\$million)
2018-19	271	95.20
2019-20	281	100.43
2020-21	286	108.53

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB123****(Question Serial No. 1849)**

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What was the number of asylum seekers who had been granted permission to stay and work temporarily in Hong Kong under the screening mechanism for torture claims/non-refoulement claims in each of the past 5 years? What are the nationalities of those claimants? How many cases were found substantiated and how many were found to be false? How many of those claimants still remain in Hong Kong pending completion of screening procedures? What was the annual expenditure on the screening mechanism and on supporting those claimants remaining in Hong Kong for each year?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

The 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol have never applied to Hong Kong, and illegal immigrants seeking non-refoulement in Hong Kong will not be treated as “asylum seekers” or “refugees”. The HKSAR Government maintains a firm policy of not granting asylum and not determining or recognising refugee status of anyone. Regardless of the outcome of their torture/non-refoulement claims, the Immigration Department (ImmD) will not permit the claimants to remain in Hong Kong. If their claims are rejected or the risks they face cease, ImmD will remove them to their places of origin.

The Government implemented the Unified Screening Mechanism (USM) in March 2014 to screen non-refoulement claims on all applicable grounds in one go. As at the end of February 2021, the number of non-refoulement claims handled by ImmD is set out in the below table. Due to the special work arrangements during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, only limited publicly-funded legal assistance could be provided to claimants, which delayed the commencement of the screening procedure of some claims. As at the end of February 2021, apart from 713 claims pending completion of screening by ImmD, there were over 700 cases of which the screening procedure had yet to commence due to the pandemic.

Year	Claims received	Claims determined	Claims withdrawn or no further action can be taken	Pending claims
Commencement of the USM				6 699
2014 (Mar to Dec)	4 634	826	889	9 618
2015	5 053	2 339	1 410	10 922
2016	3 838	3 218	1 561	9 981
2017	1 843	4 182	1 743	5 899
2018	1 216	5 467	1 102	546
2019	1 213	1 344	149	266
2020	1 223	857	69	563
2021 (Jan to Feb)	353	195	8	713
Total	19 373	18 428	6 931	

During the same period, ImmD determined a total of 18 428 claims and 219 of them were substantiated (including those substantiated by the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) on appeal).

As at the end of February 2021, among the 713 non-refoulement claims pending screening, about 96% of the claimants were from South Asian or Southeast Asian countries, including Vietnam (24%), Indonesia (23%), Bangladesh (12%), Pakistan (12%), the Philippines (12%) and India (9%). Moreover, among the claims found unsubstantiated by ImmD, 1 727 claimants had lodged an appeal against ImmD's decision to TCAB or were those who were within the 14-day time limit for lodging an appeal, 8 544 claimants had applied to the Court for leave to apply for judicial review against the decision of ImmD or TCAB or were those whose applications for judicial review were pending handling by the Court, 1 248 claimants remained in Hong Kong for other reasons (e.g. being imprisoned, remanded, involved in ongoing prosecution or investigation process, or having absconded, etc.), while removal from Hong Kong was being arranged for the remaining 1 252 persons. In addition, 24 torture claims were substantiated before the commencement of the USM.

Non-refoulement claimants are illegal immigrants, overstayers or persons who were refused landing upon arrival in Hong Kong who do not have legal status to remain in Hong Kong. They do not have the right to work in Hong Kong regardless of the outcome of their claims. The Director of Immigration may exercise his discretion exceptionally and on a case-by-case basis to approve applications by substantiated claimants or persons whose refugee status has been recognised by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for permission to take employment. As at the end of February 2021, ImmD received a total of 368 applications, among which 187 were lodged by substantiated claimants whereas 181 were lodged by persons whose refugee status had been recognised by UNHCR. Among the 368 applications received, 295 were approved, 10 were rejected, 4 were pending further information from the applicants and 59 were withdrawn or where no further action could be taken.

Major expenditures on handling non-refoulement claims and related work since 2016-17 are tabulated below:

Financial year	Screening of claims and handling of appeals/petitions (\$Million)	Repatriation of rejected claimants[#] (\$Million)	Publicly-funded legal assistance (\$Million)	Humanitarian assistance (\$Million)	Total* (\$Million)
2016-17	281	-	122	729	1,132
2017-18	336	-	152	587	1,074
2018-19	401	-	207	531	1,138
2019-20	344	45 [^]	93	482	964
2020-21 (Revised estimate)	335	47 [^]	101	533	1,015
2021-22 (Estimate)	335	47 [^]	184	706	1,272

[#] *ImmD has deployed dedicated manpower to speed up the repatriation of rejected claimants to their places of origin since 2019-20.*

^{*} *Individual items may not add up to total due to rounding up.*

[^] *Only the expenditure on dedicated manpower for the repatriation of non-refoulement claimants and related work is included. As other expenditures are incurred by duties (e.g. arrangement for air tickets and application for documents) which form part of ImmD's overall repatriation work, we do not maintain a separate breakdown for the claimants.*

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB124****(Question Serial No. 1613)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Control after EntryControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Not specifiedQuestion:

- (1) What are the respective cumulative numbers of non-refoulement claims and appeals lodged?
- (2) What was the time taken to complete the removal process against persons whose non-refoulement claims had been rejected or withdrawn in each of the 3 years from 2018 to 2020?

	2018 (No. of days)	2019 (No. of days)	2020 (No. of days)
Time taken to complete the removal process			

- (3) What is the progress of the review on expediting the removal process?
- (4) What was the manpower for handling work relating to the removal process in each of the 3 years from 2018 to 2020?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (LegCo internal reference no.: 73)Reply:

(1) The Government implemented the Unified Screening Mechanism (USM) in March 2014 to screen non-refoulement claims on all applicable grounds in one go. As at the end of February 2021, the Immigration Department (ImmD) received a cumulative total of 19 373 non-refoulement claims. Due to the special work arrangements during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic, only limited publicly-funded legal assistance could be provided to claimants, which delayed the commencement of the screening procedure of some claims. As at February 2021, there were a total of 713 claims pending completion of screening by ImmD. In addition, there were over 700 cases of which the screening procedure had yet to commence due to the pandemic. During the same period, the cumulative total number of appeals received by the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) was 18 586, and the number of pending appeals was about 1 600 as at February 2021.

(2) and (3) ImmD will continue to address the issues relating to non-refoulement claims through multi-pronged approaches, including discussing the relevant arrangements with governments of major source countries and airlines with a view to further enhancing the overall efficiency in removal, such as requesting relevant governments to streamline and expedite the procedures, conducting removal operations by special flights, etc. Meanwhile, the Government has introduced the Immigration (Amendment) Bill 2020 (the Bill) into the Legislative Council (LegCo) with a view to improving the screening procedures, preventing the various delaying tactics by claimants, improving the procedures and functions of TCAB, and strengthening ImmD's powers in law enforcement, removal and detention. It is expected that LegCo would make a decision on the Bill, which is now under scrutiny by the Bills Committee, by mid this year.

ImmD does not maintain statistics on the time required between the lodging of claims by claimants and arrangement for repatriation upon rejection or withdrawal of their claims.

(4) Since 2019-20, there have been 279 posts in ImmD deployed for handling matters relating to non-refoulement claims, of which 72 posts are dedicated to handling the repatriation of rejected claimants to their places of origin.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB125

(Question Serial No. 2413)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In each of the past 5 years, what were the number of cases of premature termination of employment contracts between Hong Kong employers and foreign domestic helpers (FDHs), and the number of FDHs who did not leave Hong Kong upon expiry of their limit of stay, in breach of the requirement of remaining in Hong Kong for not more than 2 weeks after contract termination?

In addition, what was the number of “applications for change of employer in Hong Kong from FDHs within their two-year contract period” in each of the past 5 years? How many of them were approved and how many were rejected? Currently, how many FDHs who have been to Hong Kong have been put on the list of FDHs not allowed to come to Hong Kong to work as an FDH again?

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, how many FDHs whose “contracts have been prematurely terminated” have obtained a new employment visa by changing their employer in Hong Kong directly (please provide a breakdown by month)? During the period, what was the highest number of times for which an FDH terminated his/her contract prematurely?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

In 2020-21 (as at February 2021), the Immigration Department (ImmD) approved 229 193 applications for extension of stay in respect of employment visas for foreign domestic helpers (FDHs). The relevant figures are tabulated as follows:

FDHs' applications for extension of stay	Number of applications approved
Further employment of FDHs (Note 1)	196 897
Change of employers after completion of contracts	21 775
Change of employers after premature termination of contracts (Note 2)	10 521
Total	229 193

Note 1: In view of COVID-19, the Government has launched a series of special measures to assist FDHs and employers to cope with the pandemic, including allowing employers to apply for extending the validity period of FDHs' existing contracts with effect from 4 February 2020, and allowing FDHs to apply for a further deferral of home leave with effect from 21 March 2020. The above number of approved applications for further employment of FDHs includes FDHs' applications for contract renewal with the same employer, employers' applications for extending the validity period of FDHs' existing contracts under the special arrangement, and FDHs' applications for a further deferral of home leave. The ImmD does not maintain the relevant breakdown statistics.

Note 2: Including applications for extension of stay in respect of change of employers after premature contract termination under general exceptional circumstances that the ImmD considered reasonable (including where the employer was unable to continue with the contract owing to external transfer, migration, death or financial reasons, or where there was evidence that the FDH had been abused or exploited).

In addition, during the same period, the ImmD approved 42 919 applications for entry visas from FDHs who came to work from abroad. Under the exceptional circumstances of COVID-19, the ImmD also approved 18 090 applications for change of employers in Hong Kong from FDHs whose contracts were prematurely terminated.

Under the prevailing policy, applications for change of employers in Hong Kong from FDHs within their two-year contract period will not normally be approved except under the above exceptional circumstances that the ImmD considered as reasonable (see Note 2). The numbers of FDHs' applications for change of employers in Hong Kong under the above exceptional circumstances after premature contract termination in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Number of applications received	7 796	7 693	7 637	8 710	10 831
Number of applications approved	6 729	7 062	6 860	7 404	10 521
Number of applications rejected	128	100	82	105	32

Note: Applications received in a financial year may not totally be the applications processed in the same year.

In view of COVID-19, the Government has launched a series of measures to assist FDHs and employers to cope with the pandemic, including announcing on 21 March 2020 that flexible consideration would be given to FDHs' applications for extension of their limit of stay for not more than 1 month in Hong Kong as a visitor. The policy intent of the measure was to respond to the demand of employers who need to employ FDHs and to reduce FDHs' risk of COVID-19 infection due to travelling to and from their places of origin. In view of the abuse of the measure by individual FDHs for "job-hopping", as well as the concern about the increased risks of infection of FDHs who stay in boarding facilities, the Government made adjustments to the measure concerned on 30 December 2020 to prohibit FDHs whose contracts are prematurely terminated from applying for extension of their limit of stay in Hong Kong as a visitor again, and require them to leave Hong Kong within 2 weeks upon premature contract termination in accordance with the prevailing policy, so as to prevent the abuse of the mechanism by individual FDHs for "job-hopping". As mentioned above, the number of FDHs' applications approved by the ImmD for change of employers in Hong Kong under the exceptional circumstances of COVID-19 after premature contract termination in the past year is tabulated as follows:

Month	Number of applications approved
April 2020	-
May 2020	153
June 2020	462
July 2020	615
August 2020	1 731
September 2020	3 177
October 2020	2 128
November 2020	3 326
December 2020	2 516
January 2021	1 874
February 2021	2 108
Total	18 090

The numbers of FDHs arrested for overstaying in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Financial year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Number of FDHs arrested for overstaying	607	445	425	343	642

The ImmD has all along been combating FDHs' "job hopping" proactively and set up a special duties team in June 2013. In assessing visa applications, the ImmD will refer suspected cases to the special duties team for investigation, including scrutinising the number of and reasons for premature termination of employment contracts by the applicants. The numbers of cases of FDH visa applications referred to the special duties team for investigation on suspicion of "job-hopping", the numbers of such applications rejected, and the numbers of applications withdrawn by the applicants or which could not be processed further in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Number of referral cases	1 637	1 084	1 279	1 697	2 207
Number of applications rejected	764	274	220	240	628
Number of applications withdrawn by the applicants or which could not be processed further	363	191	194	126	239

The ImmD does not maintain other breakdown statistics mentioned in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB126

(Question Serial No. 2638)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. How many employment visas were issued by the Immigration Department in each of the past 5 years? (Please provide a breakdown by type of visa)
2. Among these cases, how many were new applications and how many were renewals? (Please provide a breakdown by year)
3. Which countries or regions did these applicants come from? (Please provide a breakdown by year)

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 103)

Reply:

1. and 2.

The numbers of new applications for employment visas/entry permits and applications for extension of stay under various immigration policies/schemes which were approved by the Immigration Department (ImmD) in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Immigration policy/scheme	Type of applications	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
General Employment Policy	New	36 523	41 260	41 793	35 194	12 315
	Extension of stay	24 225	20 865	23 201	20 861	17 713
Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals	New	10 723	12 748	14 183	11 997	6 874
	Extension of stay	6 047	4 978	6 643	5 999	4 726
Entry for Training in Hong Kong	New	7 777	7 199	8 183	6 890	1 414
	Extension of stay	336	281	313	182	152
Technology Talent Admission Scheme*	New	Not applicable	Not applicable	48	62	114
	Extension of stay			2	8	9
Supplementary Labour Scheme	New	4 121	3 494	3 873	3 978	4 668
	Extension of stay	2 005	2 259	2 283	2 661	2 614
Foreign Domestic Helpers	New	93 718	96 789	99 362	95 749	61 009**
	Extension of stay	142 591	141 579	143 823	143 872	229 193

* The Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS) has been implemented since 25 June 2018.

** Including applications for an entry visa from 42 919 foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) who came to work from abroad, and applications for change of employer in Hong Kong which were approved by the ImmD under the exceptional circumstances of COVID-19 from 18 090 FDHs whose contracts were prematurely terminated.

3. The breakdown statistics on the approved new applications for employment visas/entry permits shown above by region of applicants are tabulated as follows:

General Employment Policy

Region	Number of new applications approved				
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
United Kingdom	5 012	5 354	5 367	4 535	1 526
Japan	2 826	3 269	4 396	3 331	1 064
U.S.A.	4 011	4 237	4 272	3 569	1 040
India	2 674	2 931	2 789	2 351	912
South Korea	2 963	3 344	3 223	2 197	897
France	2 034	2 212	2 103	1 790	845
Australia	1 826	1 862	1 852	1 454	486
Taiwan	2 180	2 622	2 797	2 805	415
Canada	935	1 012	1 093	792	355
Philippines	1 159	1 307	1 398	1 195	281
Others	10 903	13 110	12 503	11 175	4 494
Total	36 523	41 260	41 793	35 194	12 315

Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals

The Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals is only applicable to Mainland residents. Therefore, all applicants are Mainland residents.

Entry for Training in Hong Kong

Region	Number of new applications approved				
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Mainland China	2 551	2 320	2 668	2 186	384
France	577	568	592	471	163
U.S.A.	687	555	551	552	56
South Korea	197	175	182	164	42
Japan	144	120	157	122	40
United Kingdom	332	319	341	278	37
Canada	154	171	134	103	29
Philippines	162	213	220	87	21
India	311	349	288	242	17
Australia	167	175	171	125	10
Thailand	74	76	94	63	9
Others	2 421	2 158	2 785	2 497	606
Total	7 777	7 199	8 183	6 890	1 414

Supplementary Labour Scheme

Region	Number of new applications approved				
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Mainland China	4 034	3 317	3 729	3 832	4 535
Thailand	35	107	92	59	59
India	23	29	28	34	37
Philippines	24	33	11	32	23
Others	5	8	13	21	14
Total	4 121	3 494	3 873	3 978	4 668

Foreign Domestic Helpers

Region	Number of new applications approved				
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Philippines	46 968	50 752	50 567	48 052	37 560
Indonesia	43 921	43 115	45 883	44 726	21 989
India	1 418	1 492	1 575	1 700	786
Thailand	635	644	540	449	242
Sri Lanka	456	454	444	420	149
Bangladesh	216	232	178	207	105
Myanmar	18	13	11	15	12
Others	86	87	164	180	166
Total	93 718	96 789	99 362	95 749	61 009

Technology Talent Admission Scheme

Region	Number of new applications approved				
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19*	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Mainland China	Not applicable*		34	45	68
South Korea			1	3	25
Taiwan			3	2	4
United Kingdom			0	1	3
Australia			1	0	2
U.S.A.			1	4	1
Malaysia			2	1	1
Others			6	6	10
Total			48	62	114

* TechTAS has been implemented since 25 June 2018.

The ImmD does not maintain other breakdown statistics mentioned in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB127

(Question Serial No. 2639)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. In the past 5 years, what were the numbers of non-local students who pursued programmes at degree level or above in Hong Kong? (Please provide a breakdown by place of origin and type of degrees)
2. In the past 5 years, what were the respective numbers of non-local graduates who stayed in/returned to Hong Kong to work? (Please provide a breakdown by place of origin)

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 104)

Reply:

1. The statistics on non-local students permitted to come to study programmes at degree level or above in Hong Kong in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

(a) Breakdown by region:

Region	Number of applications approved				
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Mainland China	18 883	20 361	24 932	28 911	32 332
South Korea	1 065	1 054	1 296	1 176	1 094
India	388	454	557	513	292
Taiwan	444	586	684	675	285
U.S.A.	1 507	1 667	2 015	1 424	161
France	474	500	531	504	104
Germany	580	565	561	493	103
United Kingdom	459	553	530	480	62
Canada	407	414	443	355	55
Singapore	328	315	334	256	30
Others	3 822	4 377	4 907	4 593	1 790
Total	28 357	30 846	36 790	39 380	36 308

(b) Breakdown by level of programme:

Programme	Number of applications approved				
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Degree level	3 928	4 448	5 660	6 118	6 758
Postgraduate level	15 628	16 869	20 363	23 271	29 072
Others [^]	8 801	9 529	10 767	9 991	478
Total	28 357	30 846	36 790	39 380	36 308

[^] Including exchange programmes at degree level or above and short-term programmes run by local higher education institutions with degree-awarding powers

2. The statistics on applications approved under the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Region	Number of applications approved				
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Mainland China	8 691	8 385	9 383	9 316	6 173
India	96	125	144	156	215
South Korea	86	139	114	125	117
Malaysia	61	89	72	88	96
Taiwan	68	90	130	105	76
Pakistan	14	37	42	46	43
U.S.A.	31	35	37	43	43
Macao SAR	29	37	49	42	33
Canada	26	27	30	28	27
France	11	12	18	11	10
Others	288	307	299	360	365
Total	9 401	9 283	10 318	10 320	7 198

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB128

(Question Serial No. 1088)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the work of the Immigration Department (ImmD) on processing applications for entry into Hong Kong for employment, investment, training, residence and study, please provide the following information on various immigration schemes (including the General Employment Policy (GEP) (Employment Stream), the GEP (Investment Stream), the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMTP), the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS), the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG), the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme (CIES) and the Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS)) for the financial years of 2019-20 and 2020-21:

1. a breakdown of the numbers of applications received and approved by immigration scheme and month; and
2. the breakdown statistics on the local industries, monthly remuneration, academic qualifications, nationalities and employment periods of the applicants of successful applications by immigration scheme and month.

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

1.

The number of applications received and approved for admission to Hong Kong under the General Employment Policy (GEP) (Employment Stream), the GEP (Investment Stream), the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMTTP), the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS), the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG), the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme (CIES) and the Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS) in the past 2 years is tabulated as follows:

GEP (Employment Stream)

Month		No. of applications received	No. of applications approved
2019-20	April	3 376	3 087
	May	3 867	3 192
	June	3 766	3 092
	July	4 368	4 183
	August	4 147	3 950
	September	3 750	3 370
	October	4 416	3 934
	November	3 442	3 435
	December	2 850	2 597
	January	2 450	2 314
	February	1 048	77
	March	1 904	1 831
	Total	39 384	35 062
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	779	58
	May	1 691	1 891
	June	1 748	1 461
	July	1 237	906
	August	1 170	1 202
	September	1 784	1 623
	October	1 216	1 131
	November	1 321	1 198
	December	1 091	780
	January	1 293	1 030
	February	1 085	898
	Total	14 415	12 178

Note: Applications approved in a financial year may not totally be the applications received in the same year.

GEP (Investment Stream)

Month		No. of applications received	No. of applications approved
2019-20	April	15	9
	May	24	20
	June	20	11
	July	30	16
	August	16	10
	September	19	8
	October	17	10
	November	19	11
	December	16	9
	January	14	10
	February	8	0
	March	24	18
	Total	222	132
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	20	1
	May	23	26
	June	42	30
	July	17	15
	August	12	5
	September	21	6
	October	26	6
	November	28	14
	December	14	14
	January	33	12
	February	28	8
	Total	264	137

Note: Applications approved in a financial year may not totally be the applications received in the same year.

ASMTTP

Month		No. of applications received	No. of applications approved
2019-20	April	1 289	1 143
	May	1 544	1 413
	June	1 422	1 224
	July	1 626	1 497
	August	1 531	1 271
	September	1 362	1 168
	October	1 703	1 248
	November	1 202	1 006
	December	866	658
	January	883	917
	February	481	0
	March	665	452
	Total	14 574	11 997
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	485	41
	May	884	982
	June	867	678
	July	753	570
	August	685	692
	September	897	672
	October	976	706
	November	823	766
	December	627	519
	January	772	587
	February	881	661
	Total	8 650	6 874

Note: Applications approved in a financial year may not totally be the applications received in the same year.

QMAS

Month		No. of applications received	No. of applications approved*
2019-20	April	318	0
	May	442	0
	June	322	193
	July	644	0
	August	671	0
	September	585	286
	October	665	0
	November	696	0
	December	618	237
	January	239	0
	February	346	0
	March	282	0
	Total	5 828	716
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	434	293
	May	308	0
	June	384	442
	July	274	0
	August	330	0
	September	398	0
	October	265	514
	November	335	0
	December	371	460
	January	338	0
	February	318	0
	Total	3 755	1 709

* Figures denote the number of quotas allotted. Selection exercises of the QMAS will be conducted on a regular basis for quota allocation to applicants.

Note: Applications with quotas allotted in a financial year may not totally be the ones received in the same year.

IANG

Month		No. of applications received	No. of applications approved
2019-20	April	190	184
	May	224	194
	June	859	823
	July	3 171	3 096
	August	2 564	2 571
	September	1 354	1 365
	October	788	787
	November	448	428
	December	291	288
	January	259	242
	February	107	68
	March	278	274
	Total	10 533	10 320
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	139	69
	May	264	287
	June	217	214
	July	1 230	1 051
	August	2 259	2 172
	September	1 302	1 266
	October	760	687
	November	561	570
	December	268	254
	January	336	300
	February	401	328
	Total	7 737	7 198

Note: Applications approved in a financial year may not totally be the applications received in the same year.

CIES

Month		No. of applications received	No. of applications approved
2019-20	April	0	38
	May	0	39
	June	0	33
	July	0	14
	August	0	23
	September	0	3
	October	0	12
	November	0	1
	December	0	4
	January	0	0
	February	0	0
	March	0	4
	Total	0	171
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	0	4
	May	0	4
	June	0	4
	July	0	0
	August	0	0
	September	0	0
	October	0	1
	November	0	1
	December	0	2
	January	0	1
	February	0	2
	Total	0	19

Note: Applications under the CIES have been suspended with effect from 15 January 2015. However, the Immigration Department (ImmD) will continue to process the applications received before the suspension in accordance with the rules of the Scheme.

TechTAS

Month		No. of applications received	No. of applications approved
2019-20	April	2	5
	May	4	4
	June	6	5
	July	16	5
	August	7	12
	September	6	7
	October	4	7
	November	3	1
	December	7	5
	January	2	3
	February	6	0
	March	11	8
	Total	74	62
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	3	2
	May	14	22
	June	13	10
	July	12	6
	August	16	12
	September	26	25
	October	17	17
	November	10	8
	December	1	3
	January	6	6
	February	7	3
	Total	125	114

Note: Applications approved in a financial year may not totally be the applications received in the same year.

2.

The breakdown statistics on applications approved for admission to Hong Kong under the GEP (including Employment Stream and Investment Stream) in the past 2 years by industry/sector, monthly remuneration, academic qualification, region and employment period of applicants are tabulated as follows:

Industry/Sector

Month		Recreation and Sports	Commerce and Trade	Arts/Culture	Academic Research and Education	Financial Services	Information Technology	Engineering and Construction	Legal Services	Others	Total
2019-20	April	661	466	305	328	341	119	90	25	761	3 096
	May	326	441	288	497	504	155	123	32	846	3 212
	June	479	414	220	439	398	144	114	37	858	3 103
	July	673	618	245	547	510	148	169	45	1 244	4 199
	August	586	560	422	555	511	134	146	53	993	3 960
	September	493	650	335	354	402	157	126	62	799	3 378
	October	601	602	645	382	422	169	147	62	914	3 944
	November	637	424	846	294	287	103	101	27	727	3 446
	December	333	341	598	276	262	90	181	19	506	2 606
	January	500	297	424	208	247	95	88	13	452	2 324
	February	23	3	11	7	1	0	1	3	28	77
	March	134	311	38	218	360	104	141	21	522	1 849
	Total	5 446	5 127	4 377	4 105	4 245	1 418	1 427	399	8 650	35 194
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	2	4	1	2	9	0	14	2	25	59
	May	55	357	9	328	436	110	126	19	477	1 917
	June	41	282	9	356	242	66	76	14	405	1 491
	July	59	131	5	178	166	41	81	15	245	921
	August	29	201	4	223	261	37	87	25	340	1 207
	September	61	268	18	259	253	59	123	24	564	1 629

	October	73	176	10	160	157	42	113	15	391	1 137
	November	164	166	14	131	180	58	137	15	347	1 212
	December	48	129	13	88	136	40	98	8	234	794
	January	67	151	10	97	167	56	148	13	333	1 042
	February	27	123	11	88	165	39	155	7	291	906
	Total	626	1 988	104	1 910	2 172	548	1 158	157	3 652	12 315

Monthly Remuneration

Month		Below \$20,000	\$20,000 - \$39,999	\$40,000 - \$79,999	\$80,000 or above	Total
2019-20	April	913	978	675	530	3 096
	May	1 024	952	786	450	3 212
	June	1 013	821	728	541	3 103
	July	1 425	1 342	861	571	4 199
	August	1 324	1 189	929	518	3 960
	September	1 075	1 074	801	428	3 378
	October	1 497	1 076	827	544	3 944
	November	1 134	1 167	799	346	3 446
	December	922	726	629	329	2 606
	January	884	767	417	256	2 324
	February	20	41	15	1	77
	March	278	738	506	327	1 849
	Total	11 509	10 871	7 973	4 841	35 194
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	7	22	23	7	59
	May	155	674	673	415	1 917
	June	150	552	485	304	1 491
	July	114	380	268	159	921
	August	121	512	330	244	1 207
	September	144	723	444	318	1 629
	October	111	444	339	243	1 137
	November	224	473	319	196	1 212
	December	85	334	219	156	794
	January	137	368	328	209	1 042
	February	103	325	272	206	906
	Total	1 351	4 807	3 700	2 457	12 315

Academic Qualification

Month		Doctorate	Master's Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent	Other Academic Qualifications	Total
2019-20	April	198	396	1 021	1 481	3 096
	May	213	539	1 330	1 130	3 212
	June	195	471	1 216	1 221	3 103
	July	185	591	1 626	1 797	4 199
	August	303	605	1 617	1 435	3 960
	September	192	488	1 252	1 446	3 378
	October	216	586	1 450	1 692	3 944
	November	172	363	1 007	1 904	3 446
	December	170	400	859	1 177	2 606
	January	133	312	731	1 148	2 324
	February	0	5	21	51	77
	March	80	338	939	492	1 849
	Total	2 057	5 094	13 069	14 974	35 194
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	0	10	24	25	59
	May	128	454	982	353	1 917
	June	91	323	764	313	1 491
	July	55	171	438	257	921
	August	84	264	573	286	1 207
	September	101	326	771	431	1 629
	October	71	228	528	310	1 137
	November	82	211	445	474	1 212
	December	47	157	348	242	794
	January	64	184	484	310	1 042
	February	52	178	373	303	906
	Total	775	2 506	5 730	3 304	12 315

Region

Month		United Kingdom	U.S.A.	Japan	Taiwan	India	South Korea	France	Australia	Philippines	Canada	Others	Total
2019-20	April	412	358	378	375	187	231	130	128	116	71	710	3 096
	May	323	398	370	296	225	150	158	133	97	85	977	3 212
	June	311	305	249	209	209	304	133	125	86	74	1 098	3 103
	July	513	409	468	264	251	511	201	138	137	79	1 228	4 199
	August	622	349	269	695	200	187	171	134	172	78	1 083	3 960
	September	466	291	332	208	247	117	221	149	186	94	1 067	3 378
	October	525	334	338	275	359	161	176	172	74	118	1 412	3 944
	November	504	434	301	244	171	178	161	205	86	51	1 111	3 446
	December	336	265	199	91	162	136	158	100	64	57	1 038	2 606
	January	271	277	192	87	182	115	153	98	89	46	814	2 324
	February	15	11	4	0	6	3	0	1	2	0	35	77
	March	237	138	231	61	152	104	128	71	86	39	602	1 849
	Total	4 535	3 569	3 331	2 805	2 351	2 197	1 790	1 454	1 195	792	11 175	35 194
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	12	6	2	2	0	6	2	1	0	0	28	59
	May	229	181	202	89	158	132	119	94	35	59	619	1 917
	June	241	141	135	58	91	91	104	58	24	45	503	1 491
	July	130	84	51	38	39	81	80	37	35	27	319	921
	August	175	91	78	59	107	72	58	38	22	37	470	1 207
	September	218	148	128	41	105	123	122	70	38	46	590	1 629
	October	125	97	105	24	93	71	75	58	27	38	424	1 137
	November	114	81	163	29	77	69	88	54	35	35	467	1 212
	December	91	52	54	24	64	97	59	24	16	24	289	794
	January	102	99	66	29	99	101	65	28	38	25	390	1 042
	February	89	60	80	22	79	54	73	24	11	19	395	906
	Total	1 526	1 040	1 064	415	912	897	845	486	281	355	4 494	12 315

Employment Period

Month		Short-term employment*	Long-term employment	Total
2019-20	April	2 000	1 096	3 096
	May	1 868	1 344	3 212
	June	1 830	1 273	3 103
	July	2 403	1 796	4 199
	August	2 213	1 747	3 960
	September	2 072	1 306	3 378
	October	2 541	1 403	3 944
	November	2 394	1 052	3 446
	December	1 593	1 013	2 606
	January	1 488	836	2 324
	February	63	14	77
	March	677	1 172	1 849
	Total	21 142	14 052	35 194
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	25	34	59
	May	333	1 584	1 917
	June	305	1 186	1 491
	July	235	686	921
	August	332	875	1 207
	September	391	1 238	1 629
	October	274	863	1 137
	November	407	805	1 212
	December	234	560	794
	January	267	775	1 042
	February	298	608	906
	Total	3 101	9 214	12 315

* Short-term employment refers to applications with an employment period of less than 12 months.

The breakdown statistics on applications approved for admission to Hong Kong under the ASMTP in the past 2 years by industry/sector, monthly remuneration, academic qualification and employment period of applicants are tabulated as follows:

Industry/Sector

Month		Recreation and Sports	Commerce and Trade	Arts/Culture	Academic Research and Education	Financial Services	Information Technology	Engineering and Construction	Legal Services	Others	Total
2019-20	April	28	70	392	125	174	43	54	14	243	1 143
	May	24	82	424	277	204	49	38	9	306	1 413
	June	5	68	309	191	235	35	43	16	322	1 224
	July	23	73	478	262	275	52	53	14	267	1 497
	August	44	68	259	296	236	44	56	12	256	1 271
	September	7	68	287	203	204	55	95	11	238	1 168
	October	44	79	412	207	203	41	104	17	141	1 248
	November	44	50	360	179	140	36	72	11	114	1 006
	December	0	44	167	155	110	36	34	8	104	658
	January	31	51	353	122	133	23	65	4	135	917
	February	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	March	8	51	14	116	139	27	51	5	41	452
	Total	258	704	3 455	2 133	2 053	441	665	121	2 167	11 997
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	0	1	0	1	2	0	30	0	7	41
	May	5	134	15	257	289	59	116	7	100	982
	June	2	94	22	174	194	47	73	2	70	678
	July	1	27	5	137	86	23	66	11	214	570
	August	3	52	7	134	139	55	73	6	223	692
	September	4	77	4	205	146	41	61	5	129	672
	October	1	73	11	225	124	75	144	9	44	706
	November	0	60	13	209	147	48	173	6	110	766
	December	0	41	9	140	99	28	119	7	76	519
	January	3	60	6	127	95	26	184	5	81	587
	February	2	107	5	87	204	46	129	6	75	661
	Total	21	726	97	1 696	1 525	448	1 168	64	1 129	6 874

Monthly Remuneration

Month		Below \$20,000	\$20,000 - \$39,999	\$40,000 - \$79,999	\$80,000 or above	Total
2019-20	April	479	347	222	95	1 143
	May	678	395	240	100	1 413
	June	437	391	280	116	1 224
	July	524	510	287	176	1 497
	August	562	407	223	79	1 271
	September	535	340	181	112	1 168
	October	573	354	202	119	1 248
	November	503	264	170	69	1 006
	December	269	202	128	59	658
	January	444	264	145	64	917
	February	0	0	0	0	0
	March	96	171	129	56	452
	Total	5 100	3 645	2 207	1 045	11 997
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	3	35	1	2	41
	May	232	318	276	156	982
	June	116	259	225	78	678
	July	92	343	109	26	570
	August	209	319	108	56	692
	September	188	290	129	65	672
	October	159	324	153	70	706
	November	200	349	160	57	766
	December	95	263	124	37	519
	January	130	266	143	48	587
	February	77	280	195	109	661
	Total	1 501	3 046	1 623	704	6 874

Academic Qualification

Month		Doctorate	Master's Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent	Other Academic Qualifications	Total
2019-20	April	74	233	290	546	1 143
	May	165	309	341	598	1 413
	June	99	288	364	473	1 224
	July	105	378	431	583	1 497
	August	131	349	354	437	1 271
	September	108	276	328	456	1 168
	October	107	292	305	544	1 248
	November	98	198	223	487	1 006
	December	85	158	167	248	658
	January	76	164	163	514	917
	February	0	0	0	0	0
	March	66	143	151	92	452
	Total	1 114	2 788	3 117	4 978	11 997
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	1	1	4	35	41
	May	117	358	355	152	982
	June	89	204	264	121	678
	July	49	154	247	120	570
	August	45	223	262	162	692
	September	94	223	245	110	672
	October	114	204	259	129	706
	November	118	189	273	186	766
	December	89	120	239	71	519
	January	62	150	200	175	587
	February	47	241	221	152	661
	Total	825	2 067	2 569	1 413	6 874

Employment Period

Month		Short-term employment*	Long-term employment	Total
2019-20	April	687	456	1 143
	May	879	534	1 413
	June	675	549	1 224
	July	828	669	1 497
	August	606	665	1 271
	September	613	555	1 168
	October	730	518	1 248
	November	619	387	1 006
	December	338	320	658
	January	603	314	917
	February	0	0	0
	March	145	307	452
	Total	6 723	5 274	11 997
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	34	7	41
	May	246	736	982
	June	166	512	678
	July	101	469	570
	August	162	530	692
	September	177	495	672
	October	205	501	706
	November	184	582	766
	December	139	380	519
	January	145	442	587
	February	111	550	661
	Total	1 670	5 204	6 874

* Short-term employment refers to applications with an employment period of less than 12 months.

The ASMTP is only applicable to Mainland residents. Therefore, all applicants are Mainland residents.

The breakdown statistics on applications approved under the QMAS in the past 2 years by industry/sector, academic qualification and region of applicants are tabulated as follows:

Industry/Sector

Month		Financial and Accounting Services	Information Technology and Telecommunications	Commerce and Trade	Architecture, Surveying, Engineering and Construction	Arts and Culture	Others	Total
2019-20	April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	June	50	50	11	9	9	64	193
	July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	September	97	46	18	20	6	99	286
	October	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	December	66	63	19	18	3	68	237
	January	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	February	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	March	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	213	159	48	47	18	231	716
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	97	48	12	16	6	114	293
	May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	June	150	77	31	23	5	156	442
	July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	September	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	October	89	178	19	39	1	188	514
	November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	December	138	116	36	21	2	147	460
	January	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	February	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	474	419	98	99	14	605	1 709

Note: Figures denote the numbers of quotas allotted.

Academic Qualification

Month		Doctorate/2 Master's Degrees or more	Master's Degree/2 Bachelor's Degrees or more	Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent	Other Academic Qualifications	Total
2019-20	April	0	0	0	0	0
	May	0	0	0	0	0
	June	66	101	19	7	193
	July	0	0	0	0	0
	August	0	0	0	0	0
	September	88	156	33	9	286
	October	0	0	0	0	0
	November	0	0	0	0	0
	December	62	139	26	10	237
	January	0	0	0	0	0
	February	0	0	0	0	0
	March	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	216	396	78	26	716
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	97	149	41	6	293
	May	0	0	0	0	0
	June	153	241	41	7	442
	July	0	0	0	0	0
	August	0	0	0	0	0
	September	0	0	0	0	0
	October	158	284	61	11	514
	November	0	0	0	0	0
	December	140	281	36	3	460
	January	0	0	0	0	0
	February	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	548	955	179	27	1 709

Note: Figures denote the numbers of quotas allotted.

Region

Month		Mainland China	U.S.A.	Canada	Australia	Others	Total
2019-20	April	0	0	0	0	0	0
	May	0	0	0	0	0	0
	June	178	3	3	2	7	193
	July	0	0	0	0	0	0
	August	0	0	0	0	0	0
	September	265	6	6	2	7	286
	October	0	0	0	0	0	0
	November	0	0	0	0	0	0
	December	223	3	2	2	7	237
	January	0	0	0	0	0	0
	February	0	0	0	0	0	0
	March	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	666	12	11	6	21	716
2020-21 (As at February 2021)	April	276	3	6	1	7	293
	May	0	0	0	0	0	0
	June	418	5	4	4	11	442
	July	0	0	0	0	0	0
	August	0	0	0	0	0	0
	September	0	0	0	0	0	0
	October	495	6	7	1	5	514
	November	0	0	0	0	0	0
	December	435	5	8	4	8	460
	January	0	0	0	0	0	0
	February	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	1 624	19	25	10	31	1 709

Note: Figures denote the numbers of quotas allotted.

The ImmD does not maintain other breakdown statistics on the QMAS mentioned in the question.

The breakdown statistics on applications approved for admission to Hong Kong under the IANG in the past 2 years by academic qualification and region of applicants are tabulated as follows:

Academic Qualification

Month		Doctorate	Master's Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent	Other Academic Qualifications	Total
2019-20	April	52	104	27	1	184
	May	65	90	38	1	194
	June	55	498	269	1	823
	July	94	2 370	629	3	3 096
	August	165	2 005	387	14	2 571
	September	213	1 005	147	0	1 365
	October	154	556	77	0	787
	November	67	327	34	0	428
	December	65	203	20	0	288
	January	59	159	24	0	242
	February	24	16	27	1	68
	March	53	135	86	0	274
	Total	1 066	7 468	1 765	21	10 320
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	30	32	7	0	69
	May	68	149	69	1	287
	June	54	98	62	0	214
	July	80	529	439	3	1 051
	August	219	1 341	600	12	2 172
	September	235	800	224	7	1 266
	October	125	456	104	2	687
	November	81	390	97	2	570
	December	62	151	41	0	254
	January	78	167	55	0	300
	February	69	174	84	1	328
	Total	1 101	4 287	1 782	28	7 198

Region

Month		Mainland China	India	South Korea	Taiwan	Malaysia	Pakistan	U.S.A.	Macao SAR	Canada	France	Others	Total
2019-20	April	163	2	4	2	0	2	2	1	0	1	7	184
	May	169	3	7	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	8	194
	June	701	15	17	15	21	1	4	5	0	2	42	823
	July	2 842	52	40	34	24	4	7	11	4	2	76	3 096
	August	2 380	26	14	17	19	7	4	7	5	0	92	2 571
	September	1 240	17	12	9	7	10	4	4	8	3	51	1 365
	October	708	11	5	4	3	7	6	3	4	0	36	787
	November	381	11	4	2	0	4	5	3	1	0	17	428
	December	251	5	1	6	3	1	5	4	5	0	7	288
	January	221	4	2	2	0	4	2	0	0	0	7	242
	February	44	3	3	8	2	3	1	0	0	1	3	68
	March	216	7	16	6	9	1	2	2	0	1	14	274
	Total	9 316	156	125	105	88	46	43	42	28	11	360	10 320
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	65	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	69
	May	245	9	6	7	1	1	3	0	1	0	14	287
	June	180	3	2	2	4	1	1	5	0	0	16	214
	July	831	49	31	16	24	6	3	3	5	1	82	1 051
	August	1 893	61	35	19	30	8	13	11	7	4	91	2 172
	September	1 091	34	15	16	16	13	8	4	3	1	65	1 266
	October	624	16	5	5	9	1	3	3	0	2	19	687
	November	492	17	7	2	4	5	4	3	5	2	29	570
	December	223	6	1	2	2	0	3	3	3	0	11	254
	January	255	9	5	2	3	1	1	1	3	0	20	300
	February	274	10	10	5	3	5	4	0	0	0	17	328
	Total	6 173	215	117	76	96	43	43	33	27	10	365	7 198

Note: The Immd does not maintain other breakdown statistics on the IANG mentioned in the question.

The breakdown statistics on applications approved for admission to Hong Kong under the CIES in the past 2 years by region of applicants are tabulated as follows:

Month		Chinese nationals with permanent residence overseas	Canada	Japan	Indonesia	Philippines	Taiwan	Malaysia	Others	Total
2019-20	April	36	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	38
	May	37	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
	June	31	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	33
	July	13	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	14
	August	21	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	23
	September	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	October	11	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	12
	November	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	December	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	January	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	February	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	March	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Total	161	3	1	1	2	1	2	0	171
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	May	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	June	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	September	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	October	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	November	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	December	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
	January	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	February	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Total	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	19

Note: Applications under the CIES have been suspended with effect from 15 January 2015. However, the ImmD will continue to process the applications received before the suspension in accordance with the rules of the Scheme.

The ImmD does not maintain other breakdown statistics on the CIES mentioned in the question.

The breakdown statistics on applications approved for admission to Hong Kong under TechTAS in the past 2 years by industry/sector, monthly remuneration, academic qualification, region and employment period of applicants are tabulated as follows:

Industry/Sector

Month		Artificial Intelligence	Biotechnology	Data Analytics	Financial Technologies	Material Science	Cybersecurity	Robotics	5G Communications	The Internet of Things	Integrated Circuit Design	Green Technology	Digital Entertainment	Microelectronics	Total
2019-20	April	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	Not applicable*						5
	May	0	0	0	1	2	0	1							4
	June	1	1	0	2	1	0	0							5
	July	1	0	1	2	1	0	0							5
	August	1	0	1	0	3	5	2							12
	September	4	1	0	0	2	0	0							7
	October	2	3	2	0	0	0	0							7
	November	0	0	0	1	0	0	0							1
	December	2	0	2	0	0	0	1							5
	January	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	February	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	March	2	0	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
	Total	14	6	8	10	11	5	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	62
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
	May	4	0	2	3	5	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	22
	June	2	3	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	10
	July	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6

	August	2	0	3	4	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	12
	September	5	6	2	3	1	1	2	4	0	1	0	0	0	25
	October	4	5	1	1	1	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	17
	November	2	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	8
	December	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	January	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	February	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Total	24	17	15	14	11	8	7	11	4	2	1	0	0	114

* In January 2020, the Government expanded the coverage of TechTAS to include 6 new technology areas (i.e. 5G communications, the Internet of Things, integrated circuit design, green technology, digital entertainment and microelectronics).

Monthly Remuneration

Month		Below \$20,000	\$20,000 - \$39,999	\$40,000 - \$79,999	\$80,000 or above	Total
2019-20	April	0	4	1	0	5
	May	0	1	3	0	4
	June	0	2	2	1	5
	July	0	4	1	0	5
	August	0	7	3	2	12
	September	0	3	2	2	7
	October	0	4	2	1	7
	November	0	0	0	1	1
	December	0	2	1	2	5
	January	0	1	2	0	3
	February	0	0	0	0	0
	March	0	4	4	0	8
	Total	0	32	21	9	62
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	0	1	0	1	2
	May	0	18	3	1	22
	June	0	6	4	0	10
	July	0	4	1	1	6
	August	0	5	3	4	12
	September	2	14	7	2	25
	October	1	5	11	0	17
	November	0	5	2	1	8
	December	0	2	1	0	3
	January	0	2	3	1	6
	February	0	2	1	0	3
	Total	3	64	36	11	114

Academic Qualification

Month		Doctorate	Master's Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent	Other Academic Qualifications	Total
2019-20	April	2	1	1	1	5
	May	3	0	1	0	4
	June	4	0	1	0	5
	July	3	2	0	0	5
	August	2	6	4	0	12
	September	3	1	3	0	7
	October	2	3	1	1	7
	November	0	0	1	0	1
	December	2	0	3	0	5
	January	0	3	0	0	3
	February	0	0	0	0	0
	March	1	3	4	0	8
	Total	22	19	19	2	62
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	1	0	1	0	2
	May	4	8	10	0	22
	June	2	1	7	0	10
	July	1	1	4	0	6
	August	1	2	9	0	12
	September	8	11	6	0	25
	October	5	1	11	0	17
	November	2	3	3	0	8
	December	2	0	1	0	3
	January	1	0	5	0	6
	February	1	0	2	0	3
	Total	28	27	59	0	114

Region

Month		Mainland China	South Korea	Taiwan	United Kingdom	Australia	U.S.A.	Malaysia	Others	Total
2019-20	April	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
	May	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	June	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
	July	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	5
	August	11	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	12
	September	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	7
	October	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	7
	November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	December	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5
	January	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	February	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	March	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	8
	Total	45	3	2	1	0	4	1	6	62
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
	May	17	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	22
	June	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
	July	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	6
	August	8	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	12
	September	19	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	25
	October	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	3	17
	November	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	8
	December	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
	January	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	6
	February	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Total	68	25	4	3	2	1	1	10	114

Employment Period

Month		Short-term employment*	Long-term employment	Total
2019-20	April	0	5	5
	May	0	4	4
	June	0	5	5
	July	0	5	5
	August	0	12	12
	September	0	7	7
	October	0	7	7
	November	1	0	1
	December	0	5	5
	January	0	3	3
	February	0	0	0
	March	0	8	8
	Total	1	61	62
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	April	0	2	2
	May	0	22	22
	June	0	10	10
	July	0	6	6
	August	0	12	12
	September	0	25	25
	October	0	17	17
	November	0	8	8
	December	0	3	3
	January	0	6	6
	February	0	3	3
	Total	0	114	114

* Short-term employment refers to applications with an employment period of less than 12 months.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB129****(Question Serial No. 1089)**

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

To follow the policy direction of upholding priority employment of local workers, when processing applications made under various admission schemes, the Immigration Department (ImmD) will consult the Labour Department (LD) during vetting and approval of certain applications. In this connection, what were the numbers of applications made under various admission schemes on which the ImmD had consulted the LD in the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21? How many of them were approved applications for admission to Hong Kong? Please provide the figures on each admission scheme by industry, job title, remuneration and academic qualification.

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

It has been the Government's established policy to uphold priority employment of the local workforce. Only overseas and Mainland professionals who possess special skills, knowledge and/or experience of value to and not readily available in Hong Kong are eligible to apply to the Immigration Department (ImmD) for employment in Hong Kong under the General Employment Policy or the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals respectively. Both schemes are non-sector specific. Non-local professionals who wish to come to work in Hong Kong via the above admission schemes will be considered only if they meet the following main criteria:

- (a) having a good education background, normally a first degree in the relevant field;
- (b) having a confirmed offer of employment and being employed in a job relevant to their academic qualifications or work experience that cannot be readily taken up by the local workforce; and
- (c) the remuneration package is broadly commensurate with and not inferior to the local prevailing market level.

In processing each application, the ImmD will critically examine whether the applicant meets the specific eligibility criteria under the admission scheme concerned and the normal immigration requirements in accordance with relevant legislation and policies. The ImmD will take into account the individual circumstances of each application, so as to ensure that only applicants who meet the relevant immigration policies will be admitted into or permitted to stay in Hong Kong for employment. In addition, the ImmD will consult the Labour Department (LD), other relevant government departments or professional bodies on individual cases as necessary.

To uphold priority employment of local workers, the ImmD will also consult the LD on applications for importation of workers offering wage levels significantly lower than those of similar job titles in the labour market; applications for importation of a considerable number of workers; or applications which involve job titles with a possible substantial overlap with technicians imported under the Supplementary Labour Scheme administered by the LD.

The ImmD does not maintain the statistics mentioned in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB130

(Question Serial No. 1215)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 under Programme (3) that the Immigration Department (ImmD) will “continue to step up enforcement actions against persons seeking entry into Hong Kong under the disguise of marriages with Hong Kong residents”.

In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) how many cases of bogus marriages were detected in the past 3 financial years?
- (2) in connection with the above question, how many of them were reported by members of the public and how many of them were investigated and detected by the ImmD? What were the numbers of cases of conviction and the year-on-year changes?
- (3) at present, what are the main ways in which the ImmD investigates into suspected offences relating to bogus marriages committed by Hong Kong residents who married Mainlanders?
- (4) how will the authorities step up enforcement actions against bogus marriages in the new financial year? What are the additional staff establishment and financial resources required for the relevant policy or measures?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

(1) and (2) The numbers of reports of bogus marriages received by the Immigration Department (ImmD) and the numbers of cases, arrests and convictions in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Number of reports	Number of cases investigated	Number of persons arrested	Number of persons convicted	Year-on-year change in the number of persons convicted
2018	901	565	986	67	-
2019	749	644	1 095	71	+6.0%
2020 ^{Note}	538	292	798	45	-36.6%

Note As part of the Government's anti-epidemic measures against COVID-19, passenger clearance services at most of the control points in Hong Kong have been suspended since end-January 2020. As a result, the number of visitors to Hong Kong in 2020 decreased substantially as compared with that in 2019, which may have led to the drop in the statistical figures mentioned in the question as compared with those of previous years.

The ImmD does not maintain other breakdown statistics mentioned in the question.

(3) and (4) The Special Task Force of the ImmD for the investigation of bogus marriages has always been collecting intelligence of suspected bogus marriages through various channels as well as investigating into and detecting bogus marriage cases. It also takes active enforcement action against persons seeking entry into Hong Kong by means of bogus marriages with Hong Kong residents through multi-pronged measures. The specific measures include:

(i) to step up immigration examination on arrivals

When conducting immigration examination on arriving passengers, the ImmD will critically scrutinise doubtful visitors coming to visit their spouses in Hong Kong on the strength of "Tanqin" (visiting relatives) exit endorsements and refuse their entry if their purposes of visit are in doubt. If any person is suspected to have committed an offence, such as making a false representation to an ImmD officer, in-depth investigations will be conducted by enforcement officers of the ImmD and prosecution actions will be taken.

(ii) to conduct anti-illegal worker operations

Many involved in bogus marriages in the past aimed at taking up unlawful employment in Hong Kong. The ImmD therefore pays particular attention to Mainland residents holding "Tanqin" exit endorsements during anti-illegal worker operations. In-depth investigations will be mounted into any suspected cases of "Tanqin" exit endorsements obtained by means of bogus marriages.

(iii) to step up operations against intermediaries

Many bogus marriage cases in the past involved intermediaries arranging for Mainland residents to contract bogus marriages with Hong Kong residents and then apply for the requisite documents to enter Hong Kong. The ImmD has all along been paying attention to and conducting investigations into suspected intermediaries. It also cooperates with the Mainland authorities through intelligence exchanges, with a view to combating intermediaries and syndicates involved in cross-border crimes.

Besides, the Special Task Force also keeps track of the trend of bogus marriages and collects intelligence from various channels, including advertisements with wordings such as “quick money” and “cross-boundary matchmaking” in instant messaging and social networking mobile applications, newspapers, webpages, etc. It will conduct in-depth investigations into suspicious marriage intermediaries.

(iv) to step up checking of doubtful marriage registration cases

Apart from the Special Task Force, Marriage Registries of the ImmD are also involved in combating bogus marriages. Marriage Registries have stepped up checking on each of the suspicious marriage registration cases to more effectively identify dubious cases of suspected double marriages in the Mainland and Hong Kong. Meanwhile, the Investigation Sub-division of the ImmD also initiates investigations into any suspected bogus marriage cases. With these measures in place, a number of suspected cases were swiftly detected and successfully prosecuted.

(v) to exchange intelligence and cooperate with the Mainland authorities

The ImmD will notify the Mainland authorities of information on Mainland residents who have committed offences relating to bogus marriages. This enables the Mainland authorities to strictly scrutinise their future applications for exit endorsements. The Mainland authorities will also refer cases of suspected bogus marriages to the ImmD for follow-up action. The ImmD will conduct joint enforcement operations with the Mainland authorities when necessary.

(vi) to prevent singly non-permanent residents to give birth in Hong Kong by means of bogus marriages

The ImmD analyses and investigates the delivery booking records obtained from private hospitals, so as to deter attempts of Mainland pregnant women to give birth in Hong Kong by obtaining the “Confirmation Certificate on Delivery Booking” through bogus marriages.

Apart from the Special Task Force, the ImmD also carries out investigations of bogus marriages in control points, birth and marriage registries and visa offices. The ImmD will continue to flexibly deploy manpower to carry out the related work in combating bogus marriages having regard to the effectiveness of the above measures and its operational needs.

The above work is part of the regular duties of the ImmD, which does not involve additional manpower or resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB131****(Question Serial No. 0901)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Pre-entry ControlControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the adoption of an open immigration regime to facilitate entry of talent, professionals and entrepreneurs, would the Government please list the following statistics of the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme for each of the past 3 years:

1. the numbers of applications received and approved;
2. the numbers of applicants for each industry/sector by nationality;
3. the numbers of applicants for each industry/sector by monthly remuneration (below \$20,000; \$20,000-\$39,999; \$40,000-\$79,999; and \$80,000 or above);
4. the numbers of applicants for each industry/sector by post/rank;
5. the numbers of applicants for each industry/sector by education level; and
6. the numbers of approved applications for dependant visas/entry permits by the dependants' age group?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)Reply:

1. The numbers of applications received and approved by the Immigration Department (ImmD) under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS) in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Number of applications received	3 707	5 828	3 755
Number of applications approved	592	716	1 709

Note 1: Applications approved in a financial year may not totally be the applications received in the same year.

Note 2: Numbers of applications approved are numbers of quotas allotted.

Note 3: The annual quota under the QMAS has been increased from 1 000 to 2 000 since September 2020.

2. to 5. The breakdown statistics on the numbers of applications approved under the QMAS in the past 3 years by region, industry/sector and academic qualification of applicants are tabulated as follows:

By region of applicants:

Region	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Mainland China	528	666	1 624
Canada	6	11	25
U.S.A.	10	12	19
Australia	7	6	10
Others	41	21	31
Total	592	716	1 709

By industry/sector of applicants:

Industry/Sector	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Financial and Accounting Services	141	213	474
Information Technology and Telecommunications	163	159	419
Architecture, Surveying, Engineering and Construction	27	47	99
Commerce and Trade	30	48	98
Arts and Culture	26	18	14
Others	205	231	605
Total	592	716	1 709

By academic qualification of applicants:

Academic Qualification	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Doctorate/2 Master's Degrees or more	167	216	548
Master's Degree/2 Bachelor's Degrees or more	321	396	955
Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent	73	78	179
Other Academic Qualifications	31	26	27
Total	592	716	1 709

The ImmD does not maintain other breakdown statistics mentioned in the question.

6. The statistics on dependant visas/entry permits approved in relation to the QMAS in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Number of applications approved	800	891	444

The ImmD does not maintain other breakdown statistics mentioned in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB132****(Question Serial No. 0972)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Pre-entry ControlControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

With regard to supporting the policy objective of attracting and retaining outside talent, professionals and entrepreneurs, would the Government please list the following statistics on the General Employment Policy for each of the past 3 years:

1. the numbers of applications received and approved;
2. the numbers of applicants for each industry/sector by nationality;
3. the numbers of applicants for each industry/sector by monthly remuneration (below \$20,000; \$20,000-\$39,999; \$40,000-\$79,999; and \$80,000 or above);
4. the numbers of applicants for each industry/sector by post/rank;
5. the numbers of applicants for each industry/sector by academic qualification; and
6. the numbers of approved applications for dependant visas/entry permits by the dependants' age group?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)Reply:

1. The statistics on applications received and approved for admission to Hong Kong under the General Employment Policy (GEP) in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Number of applications received	45 301	39 606	14 679
Number of applications approved	41 793	35 194	12 315

Note: Applications approved in a financial year may not totally be the applications received in the same year.

2. to 5. The breakdown statistics on applications approved for admission to Hong Kong under the GEP in the past 3 years by region, industry/sector, monthly remuneration and academic qualification of applicants are tabulated as follows:

Region	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
United Kingdom	5 367	4 535	1 526
Japan	4 396	3 331	1 064
U.S.A.	4 272	3 569	1 040
India	2 789	2 351	912
South Korea	3 223	2 197	897
France	2 103	1 790	845
Taiwan	2 797	2 805	415
Australia	1 852	1 454	486
Canada	1 093	792	355
Philippines	1 398	1 195	281
Others	12 503	11 175	4 494
Total	41 793	35 194	12 315

Industry/Sector of Applicants	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Financial Services	5 119	4 245	2 172
Commerce and Trade	7 604	5 127	1 988
Academic Research and Education	4 970	4 105	1 910
Engineering and Construction	1 227	1 427	1 158
Recreation and Sports	5 489	5 446	626
Information Technology	1 491	1 418	548
Legal Services	497	399	157
Arts/Culture	3 654	4 377	104
Others	11 742	8 650	3 652
Total	41 793	35 194	12 315

Monthly Remuneration	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Below \$20,000	11 636	11 509	1 351
\$20,000 - \$39,999	13 411	10 871	4 807
\$40,000 - \$79,999	10 222	7 973	3 700
\$80,000 or above	6 524	4 841	2 457
Total	41 793	35 194	12 315

Academic Qualification	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Doctorate	2 603	2 057	775
Master's Degree	5 797	5 094	2 506
Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent	14 323	13 069	5 730
Other Academic Qualifications	19 070	14 974	3 304
Total	41 793	35 194	12 315

6. The statistics on dependant visas/entry permits approved in relation to the GEP in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Number of applications approved	9 567	8 254	6 440

The Immigration Department does not maintain other breakdown statistics mentioned in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB133

(Question Serial No. 0976)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the adoption of an open immigration regime to facilitate entry of talent, professionals and entrepreneurs, would the Government inform this Committee of the numbers of applications received and approved under the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG) in the past 3 years? Please list the numbers by industry or sector and by monthly remuneration. Have the authorities maintained statistics on applicants who have stayed in Hong Kong for employment for more than 2 years since the launch of the IANG? If yes, what are the details? If no, would consideration be given to conducting a research in the next financial year to evaluate the effectiveness of the IANG?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

The statistics on applications received and approved under the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG) in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Number of applications received	10 458	10 533	7 737
Number of applications approved	10 318	10 320	7 198

Note: Applications approved in a financial year may not totally be the applications received in the same year.

Non-local graduates who submit applications to the Immigration Department (ImmD) within 6 months after the date of their graduation (i.e. the date shown on their graduation certificates) are regarded as non-local fresh graduates. They are not required to have secured an offer of employment upon application and may be granted 12 months' stay on time limitation only without other conditions of stay, provided that they meet the normal immigration requirements. They are free to take up and change employment during their permitted stay without the need to seek prior approval from the ImmD.

On the other hand, those who submit applications beyond 6 months of the date of their graduation are regarded as returning non-local graduates. If they wish to return to work in Hong Kong, they are required to have secured an offer of employment upon application with the job at a level commonly taken up by degree holders and the remuneration package commensurate with prevailing market level. They will be granted 12 months' stay on time limitation only without other conditions of stay if they meet the normal immigration requirements.

As over 90% of those coming or staying in Hong Kong under the IANG are non-local fresh graduates who are not required to have secured an offer of employment upon application, the ImmD does not maintain statistics on the industries or income levels of entrants admitted under the IANG at the time of application.

In addition, for those permitted to stay and work in Hong Kong under the IANG, if they wish to apply for extension of stay before their limit of stay expires, they are required to have secured an offer of employment which is at a level commonly taken up by degree holders and the remuneration package commensurate with prevailing market level. For those who have established or joined in business in Hong Kong, they are required to produce proof of their business.

The breakdown statistics on successful applications for extension of stay under the IANG in the past 3 years by employment sector and monthly remuneration of applicants are tabulated as follows:

Employment sector	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Financial services	4 252	4 728	4 862
Academic research and education	1 662	1 673	1 538
Commerce and trade	1 369	1 620	1 423
Information technology	413	630	576
Engineering and construction	288	379	383
Telecommunications	175	255	291
Legal services	216	253	199
Arts/Culture	82	254	194
Architecture/Surveying	79	153	141
Manufacturing	23	65	77
Others	2 847	1 509	756
Total	11 406	11 519	10 440

Monthly remuneration	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Below \$20,000	4 541	4 041	3 540
\$20,000 - \$39,999	5 194	5 482	5 169
\$40,000 - \$79,999	1 263	1 503	1 394
\$80,000 or above	408	493	337
Total	11 406	11 519	10 440

The ImmD does not maintain other breakdown statistics mentioned in the question. However, the Department will continue to review the implementation and effectiveness of various talent admission schemes in a timely manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB134

(Question Serial No. 0977)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Pre-entry Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

With regard to the policy objective of attracting and retaining outside talent, professionals and entrepreneurs, would the Government inform this Committee of the numbers of applications received and approved under the Technology Talent Admission Scheme in the past 3 years? Please list the numbers by institute, nationality, industry/sector, monthly remuneration and education level.

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

The Government launched the Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS) in June 2018. The breakdown statistics on the applications received and approved for admission to Hong Kong under TechTAS by employing company/institute, region, technology area, monthly remuneration and academic qualification of applicants are tabulated as follows:

Type of employing company/institute	2018-19 (since June 2018)		2019-20		2020-21 (as at February 2021)	
	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved
Tenants/incubatees/grantees/occupants of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation	29	24	53	45	43	44
Tenants/incubatees/grantees/occupants of the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited	29	24	21	17	48	45
Other companies conducting research and development activities in the 13 designated technology areas in Hong Kong*	Not applicable^		0	0	34	25
Total	58	48	74	62	125	114

* The 13 designated technology areas are artificial intelligence, biotechnology, data analytics, financial technologies, material science, cybersecurity, robotics, 5G communications, the Internet of Things, integrated circuit design, green technology, digital entertainment and microelectronics

- ^ In January 2020, the Government expanded the coverage of TechTAS to include all companies conducting research and development activities in the 13 designated technology areas in Hong Kong.

Region	2018-19 (since June 2018)		2019-20		2020-21 (as at February 2021)	
	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved
Mainland China	42	34	53	45	77	68
South Korea	2	1	4	3	24	25
Taiwan	3	3	4	2	2	4
United Kingdom	0	0	1	1	3	3
Australia	1	1	1	0	1	2
U.S.A.	1	1	4	4	1	1
Malaysia	2	2	1	1	2	1
Others	7	6	6	6	15	10
Total	58	48	74	62	125	114

Industry/ Sector	2018-19 (since June 2018)		2019-20		2020-21 (as at February 2021)	
	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved
Artificial Intelligence	11	10	17	14	31	24
Biotechnology	2	2	6	6	17	17
Data Analytics	6	4	9	8	14	15
Financial Technologies	18	14	11	10	12	14
Material Science	12	10	13	11	13	11
Cybersecurity	4	3	7	5	8	8
Robotics	5	5	10	8	8	7
5G Communications	Not applicable*		1	0	14	11
The Internet of Things			0	0	4	4

Integrated Circuit Design			0	0	2	2
Green Technology			0	0	1	1
Digital Entertainment			0	0	1	0
Microelectronics			0	0	0	0
Total	58	48	74	62	125	114

* In January 2020, the Government expanded the coverage of TechTAS to include 6 new technology areas, namely 5G communications, the Internet of Things, integrated circuit design, green technology, digital entertainment and microelectronics.

Monthly Remuneration	2018-19 (since June 2018)		2019-20		2020-21 (as at February 2021)	
	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved
Below \$20,000	0	0	0	0	3	3
\$20,000 - \$39,999	28	22	38	32	68	64
\$40,000 - \$79,999	25	21	25	21	41	36
\$80,000 or above	5	5	11	9	13	11
Total	58	48	74	62	125	114

Academic Qualification	2018-19 (since June 2018)		2019-20		2020-21 (as at February 2021)	
	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved
Doctorate	19	16	26	22	29	28
Master's Degree	18	17	25	19	28	27
Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent	19	14	22	19	68	59
Other Academic Qualifications	2	1	1	2	0	0
Total	58	48	74	62	125	114

Note: Applications approved in a financial year may not totally be the applications received in the same year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB135****(Question Serial No. 0978)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Pre-entry ControlControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

With regard to the policy objective of attracting and retaining outside talent, professionals and entrepreneurs, would the Government inform this Committee of the numbers of applications received and approved under the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals in the past 3 years? Please list the numbers by institute, nationality, industry/sector, monthly remuneration and education level.

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)Reply:

The numbers of applications received and approved by the Immigration Department (ImmD) under the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMTP) in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Number of applications received	15 907	14 574	8 650
Number of applications approved	14 183	11 997	6 874

Note: Applications approved in a financial year may not totally be the applications received in the same year.

The breakdown statistics on applications approved for admission to Hong Kong under the ASMTP in the past 3 years by industry/sector, monthly remuneration and academic qualification of applicants are tabulated as follows:

Industry/Sector	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Academic Research and Education	2 420	2 133	1 696
Financial Services	2 205	2 053	1 525
Engineering and Construction	598	665	1 168
Commerce and Trade	809	704	726
Information Technology	433	441	448
Arts/Culture	4 573	3 455	97
Legal Services	121	121	64
Recreation and Sports	435	258	21
Others	2 589	2 167	1 129
Total	14 183	11 997	6 874

Monthly Remuneration	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Below \$20,000	6 095	5 100	1 501
\$20,000 - \$39,999	4 190	3 645	3 046
\$40,000 - \$79,999	2 580	2 207	1 623
\$80,000 or above	1 318	1 045	704
Total	14 183	11 997	6 874

Academic Qualification	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Doctorate	1 379	1 114	825
Master's Degree	3 088	2 788	2 067
Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent	3 486	3 117	2 569
Other Academic Qualifications	6 230	4 978	1 413
Total	14 183	11 997	6 874

The ASMTP is only applicable to Mainland residents. Therefore, all applicants are Mainland residents.

The ImmD does not maintain other breakdown statistics mentioned in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB136

(Question Serial No. 0979)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding repatriation conducted by the Immigration Department in the past 3 years, would the Government inform this Committee of the numbers and nationalities of persons repatriated, and the major reason(s) for their repatriation?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

In the past 3 years, the Immigration Department (ImmD) removed 8 300, 7 056 and 3 615 persons to their countries/territories of origin respectively. The top 10 destinations for repatriation in terms of the number of persons removed are tabulated as follows:

	2018		2019		2020#	
	Country/territory of origin	Number of persons	Country/territory of origin	Number of persons	Country/territory of origin	Number of persons
1	Mainland China	4 294	Mainland China	4 152	Mainland China	2 224
2	Vietnam	1 298	Vietnam	598	Indonesia	238
3	Indonesia	628	Indonesia	446	Thailand	234
4	India	370	India	408	India	209
5	Pakistan	348	Thailand	299	Pakistan	149
6	The Philippines	318	The Philippines	281	The Philippines	141
7	Thailand	293	Pakistan	260	Bangladesh	73
8	Bangladesh	157	Bangladesh	153	Nepal	34
9	Nepal	95	Nepal	66	Tanzania	32
10	Sri Lanka	72	Sri Lanka	49	Taiwan	30

Some countries or territories imposed flight or other restrictions during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic , hence the lower number of persons removed in 2020 as compared with those in previous years.

ImmD does not maintain other breakdown statistics mentioned in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB137

(Question Serial No. 0981)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Control after Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Would the Government inform this Committee of the following statistics for each of the past 3 years (please list by industry):

1. the number of reports of illegal workers received;
2. the nationalities of illegal workers;
3. the number of operations conducted;
4. the number of persons arrested in each operation;
5. the number of illegal workers successfully prosecuted; and
6. the number of employers successfully prosecuted?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. The numbers of reports against illegal workers received by the Immigration Department (ImmD) in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Number of reports
2018	6 511
2019	6 167
2020	4 288

2. to 4. The numbers of operations conducted by ImmD against unlawful employment and the numbers of persons arrested in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of operations	Number of persons arrested			
		Illegal workers* (excluding sex workers)			Employers
		Mainland China	Others^	Total	
2018	16 108	1 164	619	1 783	660
2019	14 147	1 241	447	1 688	674
2020#	13 612	448	377	825	486

* Breakdown statistics by country/territory of origin.

^ ImmD does not maintain breakdown statistics on those who come from other countries/territories.

Due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the number of visitors to Hong Kong in 2020 declined substantially as compared with that in 2019, which may have led to the lower number of illegal workers arrested as compared with previous years.

5. and 6. The numbers of illegal workers and employers successfully prosecuted by ImmD in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of persons successfully prosecuted	
	Illegal workers (excluding sex workers)	Employers
2018	1 152	184
2019	1 095	196
2020#	555	104

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of visitors to Hong Kong in 2020 declined substantially as compared with that in 2019, which may have led to the lower number of illegal workers arrested as compared with previous years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB138****(Question Serial No. 1401)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (1) Fire ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

The estimate for this year is \$411 million higher than the revised estimate for last year. One of the reasons is the net increase of 95 posts. Please provide the details on the posts proposed to be added and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) estimates that there will be a net increase of 95 posts under Programme (1) Fire Service in 2021-22, involving an estimated annual expenditure of about \$50 million. The posts to be created and deleted are detailed as follows:

Programme	Rank	No. of posts
(1) Fire Service	Chief Fire Officer (supernumerary post)	1
	Divisional Officer	2
	Assistant Divisional Officer	7
	Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	3
	Principal Fireman	14
	Principal Fireman (Control)	6
	Senior Fireman	14
	Senior Fireman (Control)	8
	Senior Fireman (Workshops)	4
	Fireman	63
	Fireman (Workshops)	4
	Assistant Supplies Officer	1
	Assistant Clerical Officer	1
	Deleted posts	(33)
	Total:	95

() The figure in bracket denotes the number of posts to be deleted to offset the new posts created by the department in response to operational need

Remark: The created posts listed above include 3 Senior Station Officer/Station Officer posts, 3 Principal Fireman posts, 6 Senior Fireman posts and 6 Fireman posts, which are time-limited posts until 31 March 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB139

(Question Serial No. 1406)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (661) Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)

Programme: (1) Fire Service, (2) Fire Protection and Prevention,
(3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The estimate for this year is as high as \$427 million, which represents an increase of 256.5% over the revised estimate for last year. The rise is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for fire appliances and equipment. Please provide a breakdown of the estimated cash flow requirement for fire appliances and equipment this year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

In 2021-22, the Fire Services Department (FSD) will spend an estimate of \$427 million on the procurement and replacement of fire appliances, vessels and associated equipment. About \$372 million of the amount will be used to cover part of the expenditure of approved items in the previous financial years while the remaining sum of about \$55 million will be spent on new approved items, including the procurement of a few firefighting and rescue appliances for proposed new fire service facilities and the replacement of some frontline appliances and vessels, etc..

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB140****(Question Serial No. 1408)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (690) Town ambulances (block vote).Programme: (3) Ambulance ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

The estimate for this item is about \$217 million this year, which represents an increase of 78.5% over the revised estimate of last year. The increase is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for town ambulances. Regarding the procurement of new and replacement of ambulances each costing up to \$10 million, please provide:

1. the types of ambulances under the Fire Services Department and their respective numbers;
2. the number of ambulances procured and replaced last year and the number of ambulances scheduled to be procured and replaced this year, and their respective percentages of the fleet of ambulances.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)Reply:

1. As at 4 March 2021, the types of town ambulances under Subhead 690 "Town ambulances (block vote)" under the Fire Services Department (FSD) and their respective numbers are as follows:

Type of Ambulances*	Number
Ambulance	405
Cross Country Ambulance	2
Light Ambulance	12
Total	419

*Village ambulance is not included as a type of town ambulances under Subhead 690 "Town ambulances (block vote)".

2. In 2020-21 (as at 4 March 2021), the FSD has 27 newly procured town ambulances and

24 replacement town ambulances, accounting for 12.2% of the fleet of town ambulances (419) in the year. In 2021-22, the FSD expects that there will be 17 newly procured town ambulances and 50 replacement town ambulances, accounting for 15.4 % of the fleet of town ambulances (estimated to be 436) in that year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2884)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In respect of the ambulance service of the Fire Services Department, please provide information on the following:

1. In each month from January 2011 to September 2018, the respective numbers of relevant calls received from Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre and Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre.
2. In each month from January 2011 to September 2018, the respective numbers of relevant calls received from Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre and Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre by the 6 common types of conditions of injuries and sicknesses covered by the Fire Services Department's post-dispatch advice (PDA) service, namely:
 - (i) bleeding,
 - (ii) burns,
 - (iii) fracture/dislocation of limbs,
 - (iv) convulsion,
 - (v) heat exposure, and
 - (vi) hypothermia.
3. In each month from September 2018 to December 2020, the respective numbers of relevant calls received from Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre and Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre.
4. In each month from September 2018 to December 2020, the respective numbers of relevant calls received from Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre and Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre by the 32 types of conditions of injuries and sicknesses covered by the Fire Services Department's PDA service.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 211)

Reply:

1. The numbers of incidents involving emergency ambulance service for Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre and Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre from January 2014 to September 2018 are tabulated by month below:

	Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre											
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	2	1	1	1
2015	3	2	1	3	1	5	2	4	2	3	0	2
2016	0	0	1	1	2	0	6	4	1	3	0	3
2017	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	3	7	2	3	3
2018	3	1	1	7	1	5	5	4	1			

	Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre											
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	0	0	0	2	3	1	4	0	1	1	1	0
2015	0	1	1	3	0	2	3	1	0	2	0	1
2016	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	2
2017	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	3	0	2	0	2
2018	1	0	0	1	3	3	3	4	0			

2. The Fire Services Department (FSD) officially launched the new post-dispatch advice (PDA) service in October 2018, and did not keep statistics under the relevant categorisation before launching the service.
3. The numbers of incidents involving emergency ambulance service for Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre and Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre from October 2018 to December 2020 (Note) are tabulated by month below:

	Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre											
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018										4	4	6
2019	3	3	2	2	5	2	3	2	2	1	1	0
2020	3	3	2	3	1	3	1	4	4	7	7	4

	Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre											
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018										1	0	0
2019	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	0
2020	1	1	3	1	2	1	3	0	2	2	2	3

Note: The question also asks for the figure for September 2018. The relevant information is provided in the first part of this reply.

4. The FSD officially launched the new PDA service in October 2018. The number of incidents involving emergency ambulance service for Castle Peak Bay Immigration

Centre and Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre from October 2018 to December 2020, by month and type of conditions of injuries and sicknesses covered by the PDA service, are tabulated below:

Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre																					
Type (Note 1)		Abdominal pain	Assault	Back pain	Breathing problems	Cardiac or respiratory arrest	Chest pain	Convulsions / seizures	Falls	Headache	Heart problems	Hemorrhage	Overdose	Pregnancy	Psychiatric	Sick person	Stroke	Traumatic injuries	Unconscious	Others (Note 2)	Total
2018	Oct				1		1											1		1	4
	Nov							1				1			1			1			4
	Dec							2										2	2		6
2019	Jan							1								1		1			3
	Feb	1						1				1									3
	Mar						1												1		2
	Apr										1								1		2
	May		1							1				1		2					5
	Jun							1					1								2
	Jul													1		2					3
	Aug						1											1			2
	Sep							1												1	2
	Oct	1																			1
	Nov										1										1
	Dec																				0
2020	Jan												1		1			1			3
	Feb															1		1	1		3
	Mar					1												1			2
	Apr							1	1											1	3
	May								1												1
	Jun															1		1		1	3
	Jul																		1		1
	Aug						1	1								1				1	4
	Sep	1							1							1				1	4
	Oct		1				1				1					3			1		7
	Nov	1												1		2	1			2	7
	Dec			1												2		1			4

Note 1: The FSD received no requests for emergency ambulance service from Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre for incidents involving the other 14 types of conditions of injuries or sicknesses (i.e. allergies, animal bites, burns, carbon monoxide/inhalation, choking, diabetic problems, drowning, electrocution, eye problems, heat/cold exposure, inaccessible incident, stab, traffic/transportation incidents and unknown problems) from October 2018 to December 2020.

Note 2: It usually refers to cases in which the caller hung up or was unable to offer help as he/she was not by the patient's side.

Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre														
Type (Note 3)		Abdominal pain	Breathing problems	Cardiac or respiratory arrest	Chest pain	Convulsions / seizures	Heart problems	Overdose	Psychiatric	Sick person	Traumatic injuries	Unconscious	Others (Note 4)	Total
2018	Oct												1	1
	Nov													0
	Dec													0
2019	Jan											1		1
	Feb												1	1
	Mar													0
	Apr													0
	May								1	1				2
	Jun											1		1
	Jul											1		1
	Aug													0
	Sep									2				2
	Oct													0
	Nov													0
	Dec													0
2020	Jan				1									1
	Feb		1											1
	Mar						1			1		1		3
	Apr									1				1
	May					1					1			2
	Jun									1				1
	Jul			1				1					1	3
	Aug													0
	Sep	1	1											2
	Oct									1			1	2
	Nov	1								1				2
	Dec	1	1									1		3

Note 3: The FSD received no requests for emergency ambulance service from Ma Tau Kok Detention Centre for incidents involving the other 21 types of conditions of injuries or sicknesses (i.e. allergies, animal bites, assault, back pain, burns, carbon monoxide/inhalation, choking, diabetic problems, drowning, electrocution, eye problems, falls, headache, heat/cold exposure, hemorrhage, inaccessible incident, pregnancy, stab, stroke, traffic/transportation incidents and unknown problems) from October 2018 to December 2020.

Note 4: It usually refers to cases in which the caller hung up or was unable to offer help as he/she was not by the patient's side.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB142****(Question Serial No. 0871)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Fire Service, (2) Fire Protection and PreventionControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding marine fire prevention strategies, please advise on the following:

1. How long does it generally take for fireboats and fire speedboats to arrive at various typhoon shelters or bays from their respective berths? (Set out the time in Annex 1 and put a slash "/" for areas beyond the respective service areas of the vessels.)

Typhoon shelter	Fireboat								Fire speedboat
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Aberdeen West Typhoon Shelter									
Aberdeen South Typhoon Shelter									
Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter									
Cheung Chau Typhoon Shelter									
Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter									
New Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter									
Sam Ka Tsuen Typhoon Shelter									
Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter									
To Kwa Wan Typhoon Shelter									
Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter									
Yim Tin Tsai Typhoon Shelter									
Tai O									
River Trade Terminal (Tuen Mun)									
Chai Wan Public Cargo Working Area									
Cafeteria Beach, Tuen Mun									

2. What were the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved in the fire prevention work for typhoon shelters in each of the past 3 years (from 2018-19 to 2020-21)?
3. What will be the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved in the fire prevention work for typhoon shelters in 2021-22?

4. What strategies does the Government have to expedite the arrival of fireboats and fire speedboats at the scenes of incidents in the future?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

1. The estimated journey times (in minutes) generally required for fire vessels, including fireboats and fire speedboats, to arrive at various typhoon shelters or bays within their main service areas from their respective stand-by berths are set out in the table below#:

Typhoon shelter/Bay	Fireboat									Fire speed boat
	1	2*	3	4	5	6 [@]	7 [^]	8	10*	
Aberdeen West Typhoon Shelter	/	/	/	1.5	/	/	/	/	/	19
Aberdeen South Typhoon Shelter	/	/	/	6	/	/	/	/	/	25
Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter	10	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	12
Cheung Chau Typhoon Shelter	/	/	3	/	/	/	/	/	/	29
Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	7	/	17
New Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter	20	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	3.5
Sam Ka Tsuen Typhoon Shelter	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	7	/	16
Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	8	/	16
To Kwa Wan Typhoon Shelter	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	8	/	12
Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter	/	/	/	/	15	/	/	/	/	13
Yim Tin Tsai Typhoon Shelter	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	45	/	10
Tai O	/	/	/	/	46	/	/	/	/	5
River Trade Terminal (Tuen Mun)	/	/	/	/	10	/	/	/	/	8
Chai Wan Public Cargo Working Area	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	12	/	19
Cafeteria Beach, Tuen Mun	/	/	/	/	15	/	/	/	/	12

Note:

- # The actual time taken for a fire vessel to arrive at the scene of a marine fire is affected by various factors, for example, whether the vessel is engaged in other operations (including participation in regular navigation training, exercise and inspection, or handling other emergency incident, etc.) when the fire call is received, and the marine traffic, waves, currents, wind direction, visibility and so forth at the time of the incident. Generally speaking, when the Fire Services Department (FSD) receives a call of marine fire incident, it will deploy at least 2 fireboats nearest to the incident scene for operation. In addition, on-shore fire stations in the vicinity will promptly deploy fire appliances to nearby piers, where

on-shore fire personnel carrying portable fire pumps and other firefighting equipment will board police launches or Marine Department (MD) vessels and head for the incident scene to provide support.

- * Fireboats No. 2 and No. 10 (i.e. the former Fireboat No. 7) are reserve fireboats, which mainly serve as substitutes for fireboats under maintenance and repair. They therefore do not have specific service areas.
- @ Fireboat No. 6 is deployed at Tsing Yi Fireboat Station and is responsible for waters near Tsing Yi and Ma Wan, including the oil terminals, oil tanker berths, dockyards, etc. in Tsing Yi District. The typhoon shelters and bays listed above are not within its service area.
- ^ The new Fireboat No. 7 was put into service in mid-October 2020. It is currently berthed at Central Fireboat Station, alternating with Fireboat No. 1 to provide fire and rescue services to the Victoria Harbour and the Hong Kong water areas.

In addition, the FSD has 2 command boats and 8 speedboats stationed at the East and West Rescue Boat Berths of the airport. They are dedicated to handling incidents in the waters near the airport.

2. & 3. The firefighting, rescue and fire prevention education work in respect of typhoon shelters is mainly taken up by the personnel responsible for marine matters under the Marine and Diving Division of the FSD, with support from personnel of fire stations near the typhoon shelters. The FSD does not maintain separate statistics on the expenditure for fire prevention work for typhoon shelters. The establishment of the disciplined grade staff responsible for marine matters under the Marine and Diving Division of the FSD from 2018-19 to 2020-21 and in 2021-22 (estimate) is tabulated as follows:

Rank	Establishment			
Year (as at 31 March)	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 (Estimate)
Senior Divisional Officer	1	1	1	1
Divisional Officer	2	2	2	2
Assistant Divisional Officer	4	4	4	4
Senior Station Officer/ Station Officer	11	11	11	15*
Principal Fireman	53	53	53	61*
Senior Fireman	72	73	73	84*
Fireman	118	118	118	141*

- * To enhance its operational efficiency in the waters of Hong Kong, the Department is in the process of procuring 1 fireboat. The establishment of the Marine and Diving Division is expected to increase correspondingly in 2021-22, with the addition of 4 Station Officers, 8 Principal Firemen, 11 Senior Firemen and 23

Firemen. The FSD will provide training to personnel concerned in advance for immediate deployment to the new fireboat upon its commissioning.

4. The FSD reviews from time to time its marine firefighting and rescue strategies in Hong Kong as well as the related equipment, and conducts risk assessments for different water areas, taking into account factors including the distribution of vessels, utilisation of shipping channels, existence of high-risk facilities at sea and along coastal areas, etc., in deciding the location of fireboat stations and deployment of fire vessels (e.g. fireboats and fire speedboats).

Every year, the fishing moratorium in the South China Sea and traditional festivals (such as the Lunar New Year, Ching Ming Festival, Tin Hau Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival and Chung Yeung Festival) often see an increase of fishermen berthing their fishing vessels at major typhoon shelters, causing an increase in fire risks. In this light, the FSD will adopt corresponding measures during the aforementioned periods, including the deployment of 2 fire speedboats with firefighting equipment at the temporary deployment points located near the Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter and Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter respectively for stand-by duties, so as to further enhance the efficiency of firefighting and rescue operations in these areas.

The FSD will continue to closely monitor the demand for marine emergency service and keep under review the relevant firefighting and rescue resources to meet operational needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB143

(Question Serial No. 1330)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2020, among the ambulance calls received, how many actually turned out to be non-emergency cases? What was the expenditure incurred? Will the Department conduct a review of the misuse of ambulance services to ensure the effective use of public resources?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) conducts analyses regularly on cases of emergency ambulance calls in order to understand the use of emergency ambulance service by the public. In the analysis conducted in 2019, about 1.6% of some 10 000 randomly selected cases were found to have no obvious need for emergency ambulance service. This revealed a continuous downward trend in the percentage of such cases as against 10.3%, 4.2%, 2.7%, 2.2% and 2.0% recorded in similar analyses conducted in 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017 respectively. The FSD did not conduct such similar analysis in 2020.

The above figures show that the FSD's efforts in educating the public on the proper use of ambulance service in the past few years have yielded positive results. The FSD's revised estimated expenditure on ambulance service for 2020-21 is about \$2.2 billion. There is no separate estimate for the expenditure involved in handling the abovementioned type of cases with no obvious need for emergency ambulance service. To ensure the effective use of public resources, the FSD will continue to closely monitor the need for and the use of emergency ambulance service, and to proactively publicise the message of proper use of ambulance service to the public through various channels.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB144****(Question Serial No. 1340)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (1) Fire ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the key performance measures in respect of the provision of fire service by the Fire Services Department (FSD), the Government's 3 planned targets for 2021-22, namely "total building fire calls met within graded response time", "fire calls met within graded response time of six minutes for built-up areas", and "fire calls met within graded response time of nine to 23 minutes for more dispersed risk/isolated developments", are all lower than those of the previous 2 years. Will the Government inform this committee of the following:

1. The operating expenditure, details and manpower deployment for maintaining emergency services in response to fire calls in the past 3 years;
2. The justifications and supporting data for lowering the above 3 targets;
3. The operating expenditure and staff costs for providing refresher and tactical training to all service staff to ensure that all fire fighting and rescue units are in an immediate state of readiness; and
4. The expenditure and manpower for upgrading the FSD's mobilising system and maintaining the existing equipment in the past 3 years and next 3 years?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)Reply:

1. In the past 3 years, the staff establishment of the Fire Services Department (FSD) to maintain effective fire fighting and rescue services is as follows:

Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Staff establishment	7 202	7 221	7 281

The relevant expenditure on maintaining effective fire fighting and rescue services is as follows:

2018-19 (Actual) (\$m)	2019-20 (Actual) (\$m)	2020-21 (Revised Estimate) (\$m)
3,970.4	4,198.8	4,332.5

- Currently, the performance pledges of the FSD on the provision of fire services in response to building fire calls within the graded response time are (i) fire personnel will arrive at the fire scenes within 6 minutes for 92.5% of such calls in built-up areas; and (ii) fire personnel will arrive at the fire scenes within 9 to 23 minutes for 94.5% of such calls in areas of more dispersed risk/isolated developments. The actual number meeting the targets is affected by the number of fire calls and the traffic conditions, etc. The FSD will continue to maintain the above targets in 2021.

- Refresher and training in fire fighting and rescue techniques are mainly undertaken by the personnel of the Fire Services Training Unit and the Technical Rescue Unit in the Fire and Ambulance Services Academy, and the staff establishment of the units is tabulated below:

Fire and Ambulance Services Academy		
Unit	Fire Services Training	Technical Rescue
Staff establishment	89	165

In 2021-22, the estimated staff cost is about \$170 million.

- Upgrading and maintenance of the current mobilising system (i.e. the Third Generation Mobilising System) is mainly undertaken by the Information Technology Management Unit, and the staff establishment of the unit in the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Staff establishment	15	18	22

In the past 3 years, the expenditure on the upgrading and maintenance of the current mobilising system (including staff cost and expenditure on maintenance) is as follows:

2018-19 (Actual) (\$m)	2019-20 (Actual) (\$m)	2020-21 (Revised Estimate) (\$m)
88.4	112.1	108.5

Regarding the replacement of the mobilising system, the FSD was allocated a funding of \$1.7 billion in 2017 for developing the Fourth Generation Mobilising System (4GMS) to replace the current mobilising system, and the 4GMS is scheduled to be put into service in the first quarter of 2023. The new system will include a function which identifies location of mobile phone caller, along with an enhanced geographic information system and a newly introduced real-time traffic information system; these will enable a more accurate identification of the location of an incident and allow fire appliances and ambulances to arrive at the scene more promptly. The replacement of the mobilising system is mainly undertaken by the 4GMS Unit. The staff establishment of the unit in the past 3 years is as follows:

Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Staff establishment	23	23	26

In the past 3 years, the staff cost on the replacement of the mobilising system is as follows:

2018-19 (Actual) (\$m)	2019-20 (Actual) (\$m)	2020-21 (Revised Estimate) (\$m)
18.0	18.9	21.5

The staff establishment and staff cost for the upgrading and maintenance of the current mobilising system and replacement of the mobilising system in the next 3 years will depend on the actual situation. The FSD will bid for resources, if necessary, in a timely manner according to established mechanism.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB145****(Question Serial No. 1341)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (010) Recruiting ExpensesProgramme: (3) Ambulance ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the provision of an efficient and effective paramedic emergency ambulance service to meet public demand, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The staff establishment and wastage of ambulance personnel in the past 3 years;
2. The operating expenditure and staff cost involved in the recruitment and training of ambulance personnel;
3. The operating expenditure and staff cost involved in the upgrading and maintenance of ambulances and equipment?
4. The Government states that the Rapid Response Vehicle Scheme will be implemented in 2021-22. Please set out the details and expenditure of the scheme together with an elaboration of how the scheme can effectively enhance the delivery of paramedic ambulance service and quality assurance.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)Reply:

1. The staff establishment and wastage of personnel of the Ambulance Stream of the Fire Services Department (FSD) in the past 3 financial years are tabulated below:

	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
	Staff establishment	Wastage	Staff establishment	Wastage	Staff establishment	Wastage*
Ambulance Stream (including Programmes (1), (2) and (3))	3 117	137	3 207	128	3 309	113

*As at 28 February 2021

2. The FSD's recruitment and training of personnel of the Ambulance Stream involve, among others, placing recruitment advertisements, conducting relevant assessments and physical fitness tests for applicants, as well as providing foundation training and other in-service training for personnel of the Ambulance Stream. The operating expenditure and staff cost involved in the relevant work in the past 3 financial years are tabulated below:

2018-19 (\$million)	2019-20 (\$million)	2020-21 (revised estimate) (\$million)
26.0	27.7	27.4

3. Upgrading and maintenance of ambulances and associated equipment involve, among others, corrective repairs, preventive maintenance and accident repairs. The operating expenditure and staff cost involved in the relevant work in the past 3 financial years are tabulated below:

2018-19 (\$million)	2019-20 (\$million)	2020-21 (revised estimate) (\$million)
74.6	75.2	88.4

4. The FSD launched the Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) Scheme in November 2006. The RRVs provide operational support to frontline personnel by rendering support for emergency calls and engaging in command duties during major incidents, etc. while strengthening frontline management through conducting inspections of FSD facilities and public hospitals under the Hospital Authority, the overall operational efficiency of paramedic ambulance services can thus be enhanced. In terms of quality assurance of ambulance service, the RRVs ensure that the overall quality of ambulance services is maintained at a high level via enhancement of auditing on different fronts, including field auditing and auditing of the quality of inter-hospital transfer service and patient-transfer procedures at hospital.

The RRVs provide round-the-clock service and each of them is manned by 1 Ambulance Officer. The number of RRVs has been increased from 4 originally to 5 since the second quarter of 2020. They are deployed to Pok Fu Lam Ambulance Depot, Wong Tai Sin Ambulance Depot, Tsim Tung Ambulance Depot, Tsuen Wan Ambulance Depot and Sheung Shui Ambulance Depot respectively. In 2020, the RRVs provided support for a total of 13 179 emergency calls, and conducted 13 459 field audits of emergency ambulance cases and 19 859 inspections of FSD facilities and public hospitals under the Hospital Authority. At present, the RRV Scheme involves a total of 24 Ambulance Officer posts. The estimated staff cost for 2021-22 is about \$16.26 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB146****(Question Serial No. 1573)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (3) Ambulance ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

In times of inclement weather, such as typhoon, rescue operations are reported from time to time in the press. In this connection, will the department inform this Committee of the following:

1. Details of the calls for assistance involving rescue operations in inclement weather during typhoons received by the department in the past 3 years, including, among others, the numbers and types of the operations and manpower deployment arrangements;
2. The utilisation rate of the department's emergency rescue equipment and the number of upgrades made to them in the past 3 years; and
3. The measures put in place to protect the safety of rescue personnel under adverse conditions?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)Reply:

1. In the past 3 years, the numbers of emergency calls received by the Fire Services Department (FSD) during the hoisting of No.8 Gale or Storm Signal or above are as follows:

Year	2018	2019	2020	
Name of Typhoon	Mangkhut	Wipha	Higos	Nangka
Duration for which No. 8 Gale or Storm Signal or above was in force	16 September (1:10 a.m.)	31 July (1:40 p.m.)	18 August (10:40 p.m.)	13 October (5:40 a.m.)
	to 17 September (5:20 a.m.)	to 31 July (11:40 p.m.)	to 19 August (11:10 a.m.)	to 13 October (7:40 p.m.)

Number of emergency calls	Fire	535	99	100	49
	Special Service	972	100	102	63
	Emergency Ambulance Service	2 329	840	565	987
	Non-emergency Ambulance Service	24	41	15	53
No. of frontline personnel involved (No. of personnel mobilised)		19 440	5 011	4 001	4 431

2. The FSD does not keep data on the utilisation rate of emergency rescue equipment and the number of upgrades made to them.
3. To cope with the possibility of more frequent occurrence of extreme weather (such as super typhoons or chilling weather etc.) in Hong Kong in the future, the FSD's Reviewing Committee on Operation Strategies for Rescue Operations for Extreme Weather (the Committee) reviews the adequacy of relevant training, tools and equipment to meet the operational needs arising from the possible increase in the frequency or severity of incidents caused by extreme weather. The FSD will, with due regard to the recommendations of the Committee, enhance the provision of training, tools and equipment to frontline personnel for handling such incidents.

In addition, the FSD has introduced various new tools and equipment for use by frontline personnel, including multi-function uniforms, personal floatation devices, extendable reach and rescue poles, inflatable boats as well as light chainsaws etc., with a view to enhancing their protection and efficiency during operations.

The Department will also continue to review its various types of tools and equipment from time to time and keep abreast of the latest development in the market as well as the prevailing international standards of the relevant equipment. It will introduce suitable equipment to ensure frontline personnel's safety and efficiency during operations in accordance with the principle of prudent use of public money and relevant Government requirements.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB147****(Question Serial No. 1854)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Fire Protection and PreventionControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

The Chief Executive the Honourable Mrs Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor pointed out earlier at the Question and Answer Session of the Legislative Council that building safety and fire hazards in old buildings were an issue of great social concern, and that the Government considered making legislative amendments to empower the Fire Services Department and the Buildings Department to carry out fire safety improvement works for the owners of old buildings who were incapable of complying with the requirements of the legislation on fire protection. Will the Government inform this Committee of the total number of fire safety directions issued by the Government in each of the past 3 years requiring buildings to carry out fire safety improvement works; the number of non-compliance cases due to financial problems as claimed by the owners; and the progress and schedule of the legislative work?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)Reply:

In the past 3 years, the numbers of Fire Safety Directions (the Directions) issued by the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department (BD) to the owners and/or occupiers of composite buildings and domestic buildings regulated by the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) (the Ordinance) are tabulated as follows:

	2018	2019	2020
FSD	21 375	24 485	13 717
BD	4 337	3 617	3 305

There may be various factors accounting for owners' non-compliance with the Directions, including co-ordination issues among owners, technical constraints and financial difficulties. The FSD does not keep statistics of the various reasons.

In terms of financial support, to assist owners of private buildings in maintaining and repairing their buildings, the Government and the Urban Renewal Authority have been implementing various financial assistance schemes for owners in need, including, among others, the Building Safety Loan Scheme and the Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Needy Owners. Fire safety improvement works pertaining to the Ordinance have been incorporated into the scope of works eligible for subsidies or loans under these schemes. To further assist owners of old buildings, the Government allocated \$2 billion to launch the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme (the FSWS) in 2018 to subsidise eligible owners of old target composite buildings in carrying out necessary fire safety improvement works for compliance with the requirements of the Ordinance. The allocation was subsequently increased to \$5.5 billion. It is anticipated that the entire FSWS can benefit around 6 000 to 6 500 buildings.

The Chief Executive announced at the Question and Answer Session of the Legislative Council on 4 February 2021 that having regard to the experience of BD in carrying out work related to building safety, the Government agreed that there was a need to consider amending the Ordinance to empower the FSD and the BD to carry out fire safety improvement works for the owners of old buildings who were incapable of complying with the requirements of the Ordinance, and to recover the costs incurred from such owners upon completion of the works. The Government would make reference to a similar mechanism and its implementation under the existing Buildings Ordinance, and would do its best to resolve the legal and enforcement issues involved. It is expected that a public consultation will be launched in the second half of 2021 in order to formulate a suitable mechanism and amend the legislation to empower relevant departments to carry out the related work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB148

(Question Serial No. 2471)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. As at the end of 2018, 2019 and 2020, how many target buildings regulated under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (the Ordinance) were inspected by the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department (BD)? How many of them were issued with Fire Safety Directions (the Directions) and among them, how many have complied with the Directions or have had the Directions discharged? (Please provide a breakdown by 18 District Councils.)
2. In 2018, 2019 and 2020, how many people were prosecuted and convicted for non-compliance with the Directions issued under the Ordinance?
3. To date, how many applications for the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme have been received? (Please provide a breakdown by 18 District Councils.)
4. What were/will be the staff establishments, expenditures on remuneration and total expenditures for the FSD and the BD to enforce the Ordinance in the past 3 years and the coming year?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 89)

Reply:

1. Since the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (the Ordinance) came into effect in July 2007, the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department (BD) have started joint inspections of target buildings in stages according to schedule. About 10 500 composite buildings would be inspected in the first stage, and about 3 000 domestic buildings would be inspected in the second stage. The FSD and the BD are now conducting the first stage of inspection. The numbers of buildings inspected/issued with Fire Safety Directions (the Directions) by the FSD and the BD in the past 3 years by District Council district are tabulated as follows:

	As at the end of 2018 [accumulated no.]		As at the end of 2019 [accumulated no.]		As at the end of 2020 [accumulated no.]	
District Council district	No. of buildings inspected	No. of buildings issued with the Directions	No. of buildings inspected	No. of buildings issued with the Directions	No. of buildings inspected	No. of buildings issued with the Directions
Central and Western	1 103	820	1 129	895	1 190	989
Wan Chai	806	669	816	703	843	743
Eastern	638	532	668	575	711	629
Southern	217	171	235	195	242	207
Yau Tsim Mong	1 809	1 542	1 824	1 605	1 867	1 675
Sham Shui Po	1 182	1 025	1 275	1 184	1 307	1 228
Kowloon City	1 022	849	1 059	919	1 093	964
Wong Tai Sin	265	220	292	262	295	267
Kwun Tong	252	183	259	207	265	218
Tsuen Wan	332	264	338	293	376	336
Tuen Mun	91	59	122	107	149	129
Yuen Long	384	311	397	341	416	374
North	302	263	316	281	326	292
Tai Po	210	186	223	200	234	221
Sai Kung	21	12	21	12	27	26
Sha Tin	111	55	145	112	166	146
Islands	51	42	52	44	54	47
Kwai Tsing	121	89	146	127	156	134
Total	8 917	7 292	9 317	8 062	9 717	8 625

The numbers of buildings which have complied with the Directions issued by the FSD and the BD or have had the Directions discharged due to demolition of the buildings by District Council district are tabulated as follows:

District Council district	As at the end of 2018 [accumulated no. of building]		As at the end of 2019 [accumulated no. of building]		As at the end of 2020 [accumulated no. of building]	
	FSD	BD	FSD	BD	FSD	BD
Central and Western	57	54	87	60	105	66
Wan Chai	39	38	60	49	84	54
Eastern	55	54	63	55	69	59
Southern	6	7	8	7	14	9

Yau Tsim Mong	81	70	99	85	108	89
Sham Shui Po	39	40	51	53	58	57
Kowloon City	46	42	49	57	59	64
Wong Tai Sin	2	1	3	2	7	2
Kwun Tong	8	20	13	25	16	25
Tsuen Wan	5	8	11	8	13	10
Tuen Mun	0	0	0	0	4	0
Yuen Long	1	3	1	6	4	6
North	0	0	0	2	3	3
Tai Po	4	1	5	2	6	2
Sai Kung	0	1	0	2	0	3
Sha Tin	3	1	3	1	3	3
Islands	4	0	21	3	21	3
Kwai Tsing	0	0	2	0	3	0
Total	350	340	476	417	577	455

2. The numbers of relevant prosecution and conviction cases in respect of the FSD and the BD in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	2018		2019		2020	
	FSD	BD	FSD	BD	FSD	BD
No. of cases in which owners and/or occupiers were prosecuted	113	26	147	22	298	26
No. of cases in which owners and/or occupiers were convicted	109	33	140	16	295	21

3. The first round of application for the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme (FSWS) was opened from July to October 2018, and the second round from July to October 2020. The numbers of applications in the two rounds by District Council district are tabulated as follows:

	No. of applications (Note)	
District Council district	First round of application	Second round of application
Central and Western	283	109

Wan Chai	216	95
Eastern	169	86
Southern	58	30
Yau Tsim Mong	626	197
Sham Shui Po	424	104
Kowloon City	267	93
Wong Tai Sin	92	22
Kwun Tong	57	23
Tsuen Wan	104	41
Tuen Mun	27	9
Yuen Long	128	34
North	16	11
Tai Po	51	24
Sai Kung	1	2
Sha Tin	25	6
Islands	1	4
Kwai Tsing	27	13
Total	2 572	903

Note: The numbers of applications include those cancelled for failing to meet the basic application requirements (There were 209 such applications in the first round and 58 in the second round).

4. The numbers of staff and associated expenditures on remuneration for the FSD and the BD to enforce the Ordinance in the past 3 years and the coming year are tabulated as follows:

Year	FSD		BD ¹	
	No. of staff	Associated expenditure on remuneration (\$million)	No. of staff	Associated expenditure on remuneration (\$million)
2021-22	208	140	150	78
2020-21	208	140	150	78
2019-20	210	140	126	66
2018-19	209	130	126	63

Note¹: The numbers of staff and associated expenditures on remuneration for the BD are the overall figures in respect of its Fire Safety Section (the Section). Enforcement of the Ordinance is one of the duties of the Section. Apart from the Ordinance, the Section is also responsible for enforcing the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance (Cap. 502) and the Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 636). As such, the BD is not able to provide separate breakdowns for the number of staff and associated expenditures on remuneration involved in the enforcement of the Ordinance.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB149****(Question Serial No. 2597)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Fire Protection and PreventionControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

1. As at the end of 2018, 2019, and 2020, what were the numbers of old industrial buildings not installed with automatic sprinkler systems across the territory (provide a breakdown by District Council district);
2. In the past 3 years and the coming year, what were/will be the staff establishment, expenditures on remuneration and total expenditures of the Fire Services Department in relation to the improvement of the fire safety of industrial buildings; and
3. What were the numbers of fire safety inspections conducted to old industrial buildings, and the numbers of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices issued to the persons concerned, by the Government in the past 3 years?

Asked by: LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 148)Reply:

1. According to the records of the Fire Services Department (FSD), as at the end of 2018, 2019 and 2020, the numbers of old industrial buildings not installed with automatic sprinkler systems across the territory remained unchanged. The relevant distribution by District Council district is tabulated as follows:

District Council district	No. of old industrial buildings not installed with automatic sprinkler systems
Central and Western	3
Wan Chai	1
Eastern	19
Southern	12
Yau Tsim Mong	38
Sham Shui Po	30

Kowloon City	31
Wong Tai Sin	31
Kwun Tong	83
Tsuen Wan	29
Tuen Mun	4
Yuen Long	9
North	4
Tai Po	0
Sai Kung	2
Sha Tin	2
Islands	2
Kwai Tsing	44
Total	344

2. The staff establishment and relevant expenditures on remuneration of FSD in relation to the improvement of the fire safety of industrial buildings in the past 3 years and the coming year are tabulated below:

Year	Staff establishment	Relevant expenditures on remuneration (\$m)
2021-22	41	31.12
2020-21	31	21.45
2019-20	19	13.79
2018-19	15	10.73

Note: The Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance (the Ordinance) was gazetted and came into effect on 19 June 2020. The Ordinance aims to enhance the fire safety of old industrial buildings and provide better protection for occupants and users of, and visitors to, industrial buildings constructed or with building plans first submitted to the Building Authority for approval on or before 1 March 1987. The posts for implementing the Ordinance are included in the staff establishment in 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Apart from the relevant expenditures on remuneration, the total expenditures on the improvement of fire safety of industrial buildings also cover search fees, duty transport and travelling expenses, general office administration expenses, etc. The FSD does not keep separate statistics on the total expenditures on the improvement of fire safety of industrial buildings.

3. The numbers of fire safety inspections to industrial buildings across the territory conducted, and the numbers of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices (FHANs) issued by the FSD in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

	2018	2019	2020
No. of fire safety inspections conducted	12 844	13 084	5 366
No. of FHANs issued	2 722	2 007	1 075

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB150****(Question Serial No. 2356)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (1) Fire ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

1. Please tabulate the numbers of duty and maintenance hours for Fireboats No. 1 to No. 8 in 2020-21.
2. Please provide the progress and budget updates on the replacement of the following fireboats.

	Basic features (total length/ crew capacity/speed)	Time of replacement	Builder (if any)	Budget
Acquisition of 1 fireboat				
Acquisition of 1 fast rescue vessel				
Replacement of Fireboat No. 2				
Replacement of Command Boat No. 1				
Replacement of Command Boat No. 2				

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 66)Reply:

1. Fireboats No. 1 to No. 8 and No.10 (i.e. former Fireboat No. 7) perform duties, including attending vessel fires or rescue operations, undertaking regular drills, promoting public education on vessel fire prevention, conducting inspections and navigation training in

the respective waters they serve or on standby duty, while not under regular maintenance inspection or repair. The maintenance time of each fireboat in 2020-21 is as follows:

Fireboat	Maintenance time (no. of days)
	2020-21 (as at 4 March 2021)
Fireboat No. 1	111.5
Fireboat No. 2#	10.5*
Fireboat No. 3	15.5*
Fireboat No. 4	81.5
Fireboat No. 5	67.5
Fireboat No. 6	28.5*
Fireboat No. 7^	81
Fireboat No. 8	63
Fireboat No. 10# [@]	52.5

Fireboats No. 2 and No. 10 are reserve fireboats, which mainly serve as substitutes for fireboats under maintenance.

^ The new Fireboat No. 7 was put into service in mid-October 2020. It is currently berthed at Central Fireboat Station, alternating with Fireboat No. 1 in operation.

@ The former Fireboat No. 7 is renamed as Fireboat No. 10.

* No major routine maintenance inspection was required for Fireboats No. 2, No. 3 and No. 6 in 2020-21.

- The relevant information regarding the replacement and acquisition of vessels mentioned in the question is tabulated as follows:

	Basic features (total length/ crew capacity/speed)	Target replacement time*	Builder (if any)	Approved commitment (\$million)
Acquisition of 1 fireboat	36 metres/ 12 persons/ 25 knots	Scheduled to be delivered to Hong Kong in the third quarter of 2022.	Lung Teh Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., Taiwan	125
Acquisition of 1 fast rescue vessel	17-19.5 metres/ 4 persons/ 40 knots	Scheduled to be delivered to Hong Kong in November 2021.	Marine Alutech Oy Ab	40

Replacement of Fireboat No. 2	29-32 metres/ 7 persons/ 25 knots	Construction scheduled to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2023.	The Marine Department (MD) is in the process of assessing the tenders.	97.5
Replacement of Command Boat No. 1	34-36 metres/ 8 persons/ 35 knots	Construction scheduled to be completed in the third quarter of 2023.	The MD is in the process of assessing the tenders.	120
Replacement of Command Boat No. 2	34-36 metres/ 8 persons/ 35 knots	Construction scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2024.	The MD is in the process of assessing the tenders.	120

* The actual time for the new vessels to come into service depends on factors including, among others, the acceptance and performance tests upon completion of construction.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB151****(Question Serial No. 2412)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (3) Ambulance ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22, it is stated that the Fire Services Department (FSD) will continue to implement the "Rapid Response Vehicle Scheme" to enhance the delivery of paramedic ambulance service and quality assurance.

How many Rapid Response Vehicles (RRVs) and Mobile Casualty Treatment Centres (MCTCs) are there at present? To which stations are each of the RRVs and MCTCs deployed? How many calls involving operations by each of the RRVs were there in each of the past 5 years? Does the FSD have the need and plan to increase the number of RRVs and MCTCs in the future?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

The current numbers of Rapid Response Vehicles (RRVs) and Mobile Casualty Treatment Centres (MCTCs) of the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the locations to which they are deployed are set out below:

Type of vehicles	Number	Locations to which the vehicles are deployed
RRV	5	Pok Fu Lam Ambulance Depot, Wong Tai Sin Ambulance Depot, Tsim Tung Ambulance Depot, Tsuen Wan Ambulance Depot and Sheung Shui Ambulance Depot
MCTC	4	Sai Wan Ho Ambulance Depot, Ho Man Tin Ambulance Depot, Sheung Shui Ambulance Depot and Tsing Yi Ambulance Depot

The FSD launched the RRV Scheme in November 2006 mainly for providing support to frontline personnel and performing service quality assurance duties so as to enhance frontline

management and operational efficiency. The number of times each RRV provided support for emergency ambulance calls in the past 5 years is as follows:-

	RRV (at Wong Tai Sin Ambulance Depot)	RRV (at Sheung Shui Ambulance Depot)	RRV (at Pok Fu Lam Ambulance Depot)*	RRV (at Tsuen Wan Ambulance Depot)*	RRV (at Tsim Tung Ambulance Depot)#	Total
2016	2 244	2 254	-	-	-	4 498
2017	2 265	2 218	-	-	-	4 483
2018	2 515	2 480	1 641	1 638	-	8 274
2019	2 874	2 953	2 933	2 942	-	11 702
2020	2 952	2 977	2 908	2 610	1 732	13 179

*The 2 RRVs have been in service since May 2018.

#The RRV has been in service since June 2020.

The FSD will continue to closely monitor the demand for emergency ambulance service and review relevant resources from time to time. If necessary, the FSD will seek resources according to established procedures to meet operational needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB152

(Question Serial No. 2431)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding public education on the proper use of ambulance service, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What were the specific initiatives or activities put forward by the Fire Services Department (FSD) in educating the public on the proper use of emergency ambulance service in the past 3 years? Besides, will there be any new initiative or activity proposed by the FSD in future?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 69)

Reply:

Through a wide array of measures and activities, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has been committed to disseminating information on community emergency preparedness and ambulance service, among others the message of “Use the Ambulance Service Properly” and its importance, to different social groups over the years.

The FSD organises “Ambulance Service” roving exhibitions in local communities to publicise practical and important information on ambulance service to the public. This apart, the Ambulance Service Education Vehicle is also deployed to various housing estates and local communities in the territory, to promote ambulance service-related messages.

In addition, the FSD deploys staff to the kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, which have joined the “Community Emergency Preparedness – School-based Education Programme”, to provide free education sessions and enhance promotion, including talks on “Use the Ambulance Service Properly”. The FSD also organises activities such as singing contests for children and comic drawing competitions to convey the message of “Use the Ambulance Service Properly” to the public, with a view to further spreading the message among children and young people.

As regards information dissemination, the FSD makes good use of various media such as social media platforms, public transport facilities, radio and television stations, to publish information on ambulance service and bring important messages to different social groups via multiple channels.

The FSD will continue to closely monitor the need for and the use of emergency ambulance service. It will also step up its efforts to convey the message of the proper use of ambulance service to the public through various channels and ensure the effective use of public resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB153****(Question Serial No. 1422)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (-) Not specifiedControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

The Fire Services Department expects a net increase of 112 posts including 1 supernumerary post in 2021-22 under the Operating Account, which represents the largest increase among disciplinary forces. Please provide information on manpower planning as follows:

1. The figures on posts to be deleted and created in the department by rank and function; and
2. The figures on the establishment, strength, wastage and retirees of each rank in 2020-21 and the estimated figures for 2021-22 by Programme.

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) estimates that there will be an increase of 112 posts in 2021-22. The posts to be created are detailed as follows:

Programme	Rank	No. of posts	Reason
(1) Fire Service	Chief Fire Officer (supernumerary post)	1	To strengthen supervision, direction and management of the operation of the New Territories Command.
	Divisional Officer	1	
	Divisional Officer	1	To strengthen manpower of the Tactical Support Unit to cope with major emergencies
	Assistant Divisional Officer	2	
	Principal Fireman (Control)	2	

Programme	Rank	No. of posts	Reason
	Senior Fireman (Control)	4	To set up an additional duty fitter team to provide emergency repair service in call-out cases arising from major emergencies.
	Senior Fireman (Workshops)	4	
	Fireman (Workshops)	4	
	Assistant Divisional Officer	1	To strengthen manpower for enhancing efficiency in procurement.
	Assistant Supplies Officer	1	
	Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	3	To maintain a high level of preparedness for public order events. (time-limited posts until 31 March 2024)
	Principal Fireman	3	
	Senior Fireman	6	
	Fireman	6	
	Assistant Divisional Officer	4	To provide manpower for the airside fire station at Western Support Area for the Three-Runway System (3RS) of the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA).
	Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	(4)	
	Principal Fireman	11	
	Senior Fireman	8	
	Fireman	57	
	Assistant Clerical Officer	1	
	Principal Fireman (Control)	4	To provide necessary manpower for the new rescue control room of the airside fire station at Western Support Area for the 3RS of the HKIA.
	Senior Fireman (Control)	4	
	Office Assistant	(3)	Posts deleted to offset the new posts created by the department in response to operational need.
	Cook	(18)	
	Typist	(1)	
	Workman II	(5)	
	Property Attendant	(2)	
(2) Fire Protection and Prevention	Senior Divisional Officer	1	To set up a dedicated enforcement team and strengthen the manpower of the prosecution team to enforce the Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance. (time-limited posts until 31 March 2026)
	Assistant Divisional Officer	2	
	Senior Station Officer/Station Officer	2	
	Senior Fireman	2	
	Building Services Engineer	1	

Programme	Rank	No. of posts	Reason
	Senior Technical Officer	1	
	Senior Building Services Inspector	1	
	Principal Technical Officer	2	To provide manpower to Building Improvement Divisions 1 and 2 for handling regulatory work in relation to the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance and the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance. (time-limited posts until 31 March 2026)
	Senior Technical Officer	6	
	Building Services Inspector	(2)	Posts deleted to offset the new posts created by the department in response to operational need.
	Assistant Building Services Inspector	(3)	
	Clerical Assistant	(3)	
	Motor Driver	(1)	
	Workman II	(1)	
(3) Ambulance Service	Senior Ambulance Officer	1	To set up a specialised team to cope with the outbreak of infectious disease.
	Ambulance Officer	1	
	Senior Ambulanceman	2	
	Ambulanceman	4	
	Senior Ambulance Officer	1	To provide essential management support to Ta Kwu Ling Ambulance Depot. (involving the upgrading of 5 Senior Ambulanceman posts)
	Ambulance Officer	1	
	Principal Ambulanceman	5	
	Senior Ambulanceman	(5)	To upgrade the rank of 1 Senior Ambulanceman for enhancing the management of the new ambulance out-station at Siu Lek Yuen Fire Station.
	Principal Ambulanceman	1	
	Senior Ambulanceman	(1)	To maintain a high level of preparedness for public order events. (time-limited posts until 31 March 2024)
	Senior Ambulanceman	3	
	Ambulanceman	6	Posts deleted to offset the new posts created by the department in response to operational need.
	Workman II	(3)	
	Motor Driver	(7)	
	Total	112	

() The figure in brackets denotes the number of posts to be deleted

2. The establishment and strength of the FSD in 2020-21 are tabulated below:

Grade	Programme (1) Fire Service		Programme (2) Fire Protection and Prevention		Programme (3) Ambulance Service		Total	
	Establish- ment	Strength*	Establish- ment	Strength*	Establish- ment	Strength*	Establish- ment	Strength*
Fire Stream	6 771	6 522	479	477	0	0	7 250	6 999
Ambulance Stream	12	14	18	19	3 279	3 124	3 309	3 157
Civilian, technical and other grades	498	446	232	226	73	61	803	733
Total:	7 281	6 982	729	722	3 352	3 185	11 362	10 889

* Strength as at 1 March 2021 (including staff members on pre-retirement leave)

The estimated establishment of the FSD in 2021-22 are tabulated below. The estimated strength of various grades for 2021-22 is not available as the number of staff members varies from time to time.

Grade	Programme (1) Fire Service	Programme (2) Fire Protection and Prevention	Programme (3) Ambulance Service	Total
Fire Stream	6 893	486	0	7 379
Ambulance Stream	12	18	3 298	3 328
Civilian, technical and other grades	471	233	63	767
Total:	7 376	737	3 361	11 474

The overall wastage of various grades in 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) and the estimated wastage in 2021-22 in the FSD are tabulated below:

Type of wastage	No. of persons							
	2020-21*				2021-22 (Estimate)			
	Fire Stream	Ambulance Stream	Civilian, technical and other grades	Total	Fire Stream	Ambulance Stream	Civilian, technical and other grades	Total
Retirement	243	71	33	347	205	72	104	381
Exit for other reasons@	73	42	66	181	Not predictable			
Total:	316	113	99	528	205	72	104	381

* Wastage as at 28 February 2021

@ Such as resignation and transfer to other grades, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB154

(Question Serial No. 1596)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) stated that it will conduct inspection with a view to enhancing fire protection measures for pre-1987 industrial buildings in 2021-22. Will the Government advise on:

1. the total number of such industrial buildings across the territory and the number of inspections to such buildings conducted in each of the past 3 years;
2. follow-up actions taken after the inspections; and
3. the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1. The purpose of the Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance (the Ordinance) is to enhance the fire safety of industrial buildings constructed or those with building plans first submitted to the Building Authority for approval on or before 1 March 1987, in order to provide better protection for the public. About 1 100 industrial buildings across the territory are currently regulated under the Ordinance. With the Ordinance being gazetted and coming into effect on 19 June 2020, the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department commenced joint inspections at the end of 2020, with a plan to inspect 60 target industrial buildings in each of the coming 3 years. The FSD did not keep statistics on the number of industrial buildings inspected in the past. With the implementation of the Ordinance, the FSD has begun to keep relevant data from 2021.
2. Upon inspection of target industrial buildings, FSD personnel will, depending on the condition of individual industrial buildings, issue Fire Safety Directions to the owners and/or occupiers concerned, requiring them to improve the fire safety standards of their

industrial buildings to the level as required by the Ordinance within a specified time frame. In relation to fire service installations and equipment, depending on the need of individual buildings, improvement works may involve the installation of automatic sprinkler systems, fire hydrant/hose reel systems, fire alarm systems and emergency lighting.

3. The FSD has created 26 time-limited posts to undertake tasks related to the Ordinance. In 2021-22, the expenditure on remuneration for the posts is about \$18.89 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB155

(Question Serial No. 0106)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the vetting and approval of building plans in relation to fire safety, would the Fire Services Department (FSD) provide the following information:

1. The number of building plans processed by the FSD in 2020 (19 178) dropped by nearly 18% as against that in 2019 (23 383). What are the reasons?
2. Has the FSD set any performance pledge for the vetting work to ensure the vetting be completed within a reasonable time? If yes, how were the targets met in the past 3 years; if not, will the FSD consider setting one soon?
3. Has the FSD explored using technology, such as real-time imaging and 3D scanning, to replace some of the on-site inspections and acceptance work in a bid to speed up the vetting process for building plans and, at the same time, reduce the impact of the pandemic and work-from-home arrangement?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 115)

Reply:

1. The number of building plans received by the FSD in 2020 was about 20% lower than that in 2019. This accounts for the decrease in the number of building plans processed.
2. Pursuant to regulation 30(3) of the Building (Administration) Regulations (Cap. 123A), the Building Authority (BA) shall process plans submitted for the first time or with major revision to him for approval within 60 days from their submission dates, and re-submitted plans within 30 days from their submission dates. After the said periods, the BA shall be deemed to have given his approval of plans submitted to him. In this connection, the FSD is committed to working in tandem with the BA to complete the vetting work within the relevant time frames. To support the operational needs of the industry, the FSD gives priority to building plans which are submitted for the first time

for the commencement of building works, and amended plans for acceptance inspection of fire service installations and equipment (FSI). Over the past 3 years, the FSD has been able to complete all vetting work in tandem with the BA within the relevant time frames.

3. The FSD uses electronic digital technology from time to time to conduct video conferences with government departments and consultant firms for various works projects in a bid to speed up the vetting process. As regards the arrangement for acceptance inspection of FSIs of new buildings, since the acceptance procedures involve various tests, such as water supply pressure and air flow rate tests, the FSD's inspection officers have to, under the current practice, conduct on-site inspections and tests to ensure that the buildings have met the fire safety standard as required. Nevertheless, the FSD will keep abreast of any development of technologies which may facilitate the work of acceptance inspection, and explore the use of such technologies where appropriate.

In addition, the FSD is currently engaged in a study together with other departments concerned on the development of the "Electronic Submission Hub" spearheaded by the Buildings Department. The aim is to assist in formulating the relevant technical standards and requirements so as to promote the wider use of building information modelling technology by the industry.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB156

(Question Serial No. 0107)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the work for enhancing building fire safety, would the Fire Services Department (FSD) provide the following information:

1. The number of Fire Safety Directions issued to composite buildings by the FSD in 2020 (13 717) dropped by 44% as against that in 2019 (24 485). It is also expected that the number of Directions to be issued in 2021 (16 000) will drop by 35% as against that in 2019. What are the reasons?
2. The FSD estimates that there will only be 7 500 Fire Safety Directions complied with/discharged in 2021, representing a drop by 30% to 40% as against the numbers in the past 2 years. What are the reasons?
3. The Chief Executive has pledged to amend relevant legislation as soon as possible to authorise the FSD and the Buildings Department to conduct fire safety improvement works directly for problematic old buildings and recover the cost from the owners concerned afterwards. Does the FSD need to increase its manpower and expenditure accordingly? If yes, what are the details?
4. What is the latest progress in pursuing the legislative work for the introduction of the Registered Fire Engineer Scheme?
5. It is mentioned that the FSD will review the legislative provisions regarding fire service installations to promote the adoption of stand-alone fire detectors in buildings. Please provide the details and schedule of such review.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 116)

Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) issued a total of 13 717 Fire Safety Directions (Directions) to owners/occupiers of composite buildings in 2020, representing a drop by 44% as against that in 2019 (24 485). The reasons are as follows:
 - (i) Prior to issuing Directions, the FSD would first arrange for inspections to the buildings concerned. In view of the development of the COVID-19 epidemic, the FSD had adjusted the provision of its public services in 2020 to reduce social interaction and the risk of spreading the epidemic in the community. The reduction in the inspections arranged during this period led to the drop in the number of Directions issued in 2020.
 - (ii) In the light of the risks revealed in the Yau Ma Tei fire incident on 15 November 2020, the FSD and the Buildings Department embarked on a special operation on 23 November 2020, to inspect about 2 800 domestic or composite buildings that are of comparable age as the building involved in the fire incident (namely, those aged 60 or above) by the end of the year. The need of the FSD to deploy internal resources for the special operation also attributed to the drop in the number of Directions issued in 2020.

On the other hand, the estimate for the number of Directions issued in each of the past 3 years was 16 000. In 2019, the actual number of Directions issued was 24 485, about 53% higher than the estimated figure of 16 000. This was mainly because the FSD had issued more than 10 000 Directions to the owners/occupiers of two large housing estates. The number of Directions issued in 2019 was exceptional. The estimate for the numbers of Directions to be issued in 2020 and 2021 remained at 16 000.

2. The FSD has been proactively providing assistance to owners of old buildings, in order to facilitate their early compliance with Directions. The FSD will adopt a flexible and pragmatic approach in handling individual cases on the premise that basic fire safety will not be compromised. Since 2016, the FSD has launched various facilitation measures for owners of buildings meeting relevant requirements, including the introduction of the “Improvised Hose Reel System” to target buildings of three storeys or below, to dispense with the need to install fire service water tanks and pumps, as well as relaxing the capacity requirements of fire service water tanks from 2 000 litres to 500 litres for target buildings of four to six storeys. Regarding target buildings of seven storeys or above, the capacity requirements of fire service water tanks can be further relaxed from 9 000 litres to 4 500 litres. These apart, the Water Supplies Department has agreed in principle to the use of existing fresh water supply systems and fresh water roof tanks for firefighting purpose.

If the target buildings applying to adopt the facilitation measures meet the requirements, the FSD will reassess their fire safety requirements, re-issue a new Direction and discharge the old one.

In the few years following the launch of various facilitation measures in 2016, a total of 3 704 target buildings were found to be eligible for the measures, resulting in a rise in the number of Directions discharged (5 103 in 2017, 6 404 in 2018, 11 633 in 2019). Since most of the target buildings eligible for the facilitation measures have submitted their applications, it is anticipated that the number of target buildings applying for the

measures will gradually drop from 2021 onwards. Hence, the estimate for the number of Directions complied with/discharged in 2021 remains the same as that in 2020 (7 500).

3. The FSD established the Building Improvement Strategy Office (BISO) which is dedicated to reviewing the strategy for improving fire safety in old buildings, including conducting a study on amending the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (the Ordinance), Cap. 572, Laws of Hong Kong. The BISO comprises a Deputy Chief Fire Officer and 5 fire officers. The posts are created through redeployment of internal resources and no additional resources are involved for the time being. In the course of studying the amendment to the Ordinance, the FSD will review the staff establishment from time to time and apply for additional resources under the established mechanism if necessary.
4. Over the past 2 years, the FSD had consulted relevant professional bodies and other stakeholders on the implementation and regulatory details of the Registered Fire Engineer Scheme, such as eligibility criteria, disciplinary code and criminal liability, etc. At present, the FSD is drawing up subsidiary legislation and relevant code of practice and code of ethics, etc. by proactively making reference to the relevant experiences in other countries. The FSD hopes to introduce the relevant draft subsidiary legislation in the coming term of the Legislative Council (LegCo).
5. After analysing some of the fatal building fires in Hong Kong in recent years and making reference to the experience of the mainland and overseas, as well as taking into account the fire safety requirements for various types of local premises, the FSD plans to promote a wider use of stand-alone battery-operated fire detector (stand-alone fire detector). With the use of the device, it is hoped that members of the public would be able to notice a fire early (especially for domestic building fires) and escape as soon as possible, hence enhancing building fire safety.

The promotion of a wider use of stand-alone fire detector involves amendments to the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations (Cap. 95B). The FSD has commenced the relevant preparatory work and will brief members of the Panel on Security of LegCo on the proposed amendments at the Panel meeting in April 2021. It is expected to push forward the relevant work in the second half of 2021.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB157

(Question Serial No. 1452)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung, Joseph)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Has an evaluation been conducted by the Fire Services Department (FSD) on the use of publicly accessible Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) available in government buildings and premises as well as other public places in the community in terms of, among others, the average number of times of the device being used per annum, the number of persons in the relevant premises knowing how to operate the device and public awareness of the use of the device and its importance? If yes, what are the findings of the evaluation and is the FSD satisfied with the use of the AEDs? If no, why not and will such an evaluation be conducted? What specific measures will be taken by the FSD in 2021-22 to raise public awareness of the importance of the device?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

Since 2007, the Fire Service Department (FSD) has been providing the public and various organisations with training courses on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), including organising the CPR Training Programme in Campus, the “Press to shock – Save a life” CPR & AED Course and the Community Emergency Preparedness Education Talk, etc.. The FSD also adopts various promotional strategies to publicise the concepts that “Anyone Can Save Lives” and “Dare to Do, Save a Life”, in a bid to educate more members of the public on the use and importance of CPR and AEDs.

In addition, the FSD encourages owners and property management companies of various premises or buildings to take the initiative to install AEDs, in an effort to enable the public to locate and use an AED nearby in case of cardiac arrest, thereby enhancing rescue efficiency. Currently, AEDs have been voluntarily installed at a number of places in the territory, including government buildings, office buildings, theme parks, schools, large shopping malls, private housing estates, private clubhouses, commercial buildings and nursing homes, etc., for use by staff and members of the public.

Currently, the FSD does not have information on the number or use of AEDs installed at various premises in the community. To further encourage provision of AEDs at different premises in the community, the FSD is inviting the participation of government departments as well as public and private organisations in the new “AED Anywhere for Anyone” Programme. The programme is aimed at increasing the number of publicly accessible AEDs, and collating relevant information for the establishment of a database and an electronic platform. Aided by the platform, members of the public will be able to locate AEDs and access them more easily for increasing the survival rate of persons suffering from cardiac arrest. Preparations for the programme are under way and details will be announced later this year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB158

(Question Serial No. 0523)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please list the canteen items available for purchase by persons in custody and their prices in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 65)

Reply:

The canteen items available for purchase by persons in custody (PICs) and their prices in the past 3 years are listed in **Tables 1** and **2**.

Table 1

Canteen items available for purchase by PICs (Effective from August 2017 to July 2020)					
Item	Description	Price (HK\$)	Item	Description	Price (HK\$)
1	Curry Beef Cube	9.81	37	Plastic Ruler	3.5
2	BBQ Fried Dough	9.6	38	Ball Pen (blue)	2.3
3	Dried Shredded Cuttlefish	7.3	39	Pencil	1.15
4	Dried Pork	8.5	40	Exercise Book	2
5	Salted Fried Peanuts	3.53	41	Envelope (5 pieces)	1.4
6	Nam Yue Peanuts	4.14	42	Writing Paper (10 sheets)	2.9
7	Mixed Nuts	2.9	43	Skin Lotion/Cream	13.9
8	Fried Broad Beans	7.15	44	Lip Balm	13.9
9	Corn Flakes	5.5	45	Baby Powder	13.3
10	Preserved Mandarin Orange Peel	6.42	46	Baby Oil	28.9
11	Liquoriced Red Ginger	2.62	47	Shampoo (400 ml)	25.2
12	Cream Sandwich Biscuits - Chocolate flavour	2.7	48	Shampoo (200 ml)	29.3
13	Cream Sandwich Biscuits - Peanuts flavour	2.7	49	Hair Conditioner	26.1
14	Crispy Fruit Slices/Biscuits	26.59	50	Plastic Hair Comb	2.2
15	Cream Wafers – Coconut flavour	8.6	51	Plastic Soap Box	7.8
16	Sesame Crackers/ Soda Biscuits	5	52	Toilet Soap	4.94
17	Crisp Biscuits – Orange or Lemon flavour	14.19	53	Toothpaste	18.02
18	Saltine Soda Biscuits	8	54	Desensitising Toothpaste	44.99
19	Digestive Biscuits	16.8	55	Tooth Brush (Soft)	9.9
20	Spring Onion Crackers	15.8	56	Tooth Brush (Ultra Soft)	14.3
21	Calcium Crackers	14.7	57	Facial Towel	5.9
22	BBQ Flavoured Potato Chips	3.1	58	Tissue Paper	5.46
23	Cheese Flavoured Snacks	1.4	59	Hair Brush	9.5
24	Shrimp Sticks	2.97	60	Plastic Hair Clip (2 pieces)	8.8
25	Glucose Lemon Flavoured Candies	6.6	61	Sanitary Napkins (10 pieces)	23.2
26	Dairy Chocolate Bar	9.7	62	Ear Plugs (1 pair)	18.5
27	Chocolate Beans	8.8	63	Double-wall Plastic Cup with lid	27.5
28	Milk Naugat	24.51*	64	Battery (AA) (2 pieces)	5.3
29	Coconut Candy	15	65	Battery (AAA) (2 pieces)	5.3
30	Soya Bean Drink	2.6	66	Photo Album (4R)	8.2

31	Malt Soya Bean Drink	3.25	67	Stamps(\$2.0x1+\$0.2x3+\$0.1x3)	2.9
32	Orange Drink	2.8	68	Aerogrammes (2 pieces)	6.8
33	Herbal Tea	2.6	69	Cigarettes (Gentori)	46.45
34	Chrysanthemum Tea	2.6	70	Cigarettes (Wealth)	50.45
35	Lemon Tea	2.8	71	Deodorant	25
36	High Calcium Low Fat Milk	5.05	72	Mosquito Repellent Patches	21.9

Note:* The price of Milk Naugat has been reduced to HK\$15.12 since February 2020 because of the change in package size.

Table 2

Canteen items available for purchase by PICs (Effective from August 2020 to now)					
Item	Description	Price (HK\$)	Item	Description	Price (HK\$)
1	Curry Beef Cube	9.81	39	Pencil	1.25
2	BBQ Fried Dough	9.6	40	Exercise Book	2.15
3	Dried Shredded Cuttlefish	7.3	41	Envelope (5 pieces)	1.5
4	Dried Pork	8.5	42	Writing Paper (10 sheets)	3
5	Salted Fried Peanuts	3.53	43	Skin Lotion/Cream	29.7
6	Nam Yue Peanuts	4.14	44	Lip Balm	14.9
7	Mixed Nuts	2.9	45	Baby Powder	14.3
8	Fried Broad Beans	7.15	46	Baby Oil	28.9
9	Corn Flakes	5.5	47	Shampoo (400 ml)	25.2
10	Preserved Mandarin Orange Peel	6.42	48	Shampoo (200 ml)	29.3
11	Liquoriced Red Ginger	2.62	49	Hair Conditioner	26.7
12	Cream Sandwich Biscuits - Chocolate flavour	2.7	50	Plastic Hair Comb	2.4
13	Cream Sandwich Biscuits - Peanuts flavour	2.7	51	Plastic Soap Box	9.35
14	Crispy Fruit Slices/Biscuits	26.59	52	Toilet Soap	5.17
15	Cream Wafers – Coconut flavour	8.6	53	Toothpaste	18.72
16	Sesame Crackers/ Soda Biscuits	5	54	Desensitising Toothpaste	44.99
17	Crisp Biscuits – Orange or Lemon flavour	14.19	55	Tooth Brush (Soft)	10.2
18	Saltine Soda Biscuits	8	56	Tooth Brush (Ultra Soft)	14.8
19	Digestive Biscuits	16.8	57	Facial Towel	6.4
20	Spring Onion Crackers	15.8	58	Tissue Paper	5.85
21	Calcium Crackers	14.7	59	Hair Brush	9.8
22	BBQ Flavoured Potato Chips	3.1	60	Plastic Hair Clip (2 pieces)	8.9
23	Cheese Flavoured Snacks	1.4	61	Sanitary Napkins (10 pieces)	23.9
24	Shrimp Sticks	2.97	62	Ear Plugs (1 pair)	19.3
25	Glucose Lemon Flavoured Candies	6.6	63	Double-wall Plastic Cup with lid	28.5
26	Dairy Chocolate Bar	9.7	64	Battery (AA) (2 pieces)	5.5
27	Peanut Chocolate Beans	9.32	65	Battery (AAA) (2 pieces)	5.5

28	Vitamin Fruit Chewy Soft Candies	12.52	66	Photo Album (4R)	8.7
29	Seedless Dried Raisins	26	67	Stamps(\$2.0x1+\$0.5x1+\$0.2x1+\$0.1x2)	2.9
30	Soya Bean Drink	2.6	68	Aerogrammes (2 pieces)	6.8
31	Malt Soya Bean Drink	3.25	69	Cigarettes (Gentori)	46.45
32	Orange Drink	2.8	70	Cigarettes (Wealth)	50.45
33	Sugar Cane Drink	2.6	71	Deodorant	2.65
34	Chrysanthemum Tea	2.6	72	Mosquito Repellent Patches	26.4
35	Lemon Tea	2.8	73	Oat Crackers	5.76
36	High Calcium Low Fat Milk	5.05	74	High Calcium Soya Drink – Original flavour	5.05
37	Plastic Ruler	3.7	75	Body Wash	36.6
38	Ball Pen (blue)	2.4	76	Panty Liners (40 pieces)	16.8

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB159****(Question Serial No. 0767)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (1) Prison ManagementControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please list the total expenditures on meals, average meal expenses per year per person in custody (PIC) and numbers of complaints about meals in various correctional institutions in the past 3 years.

Please list the total expenditures on the clothing and bedding (including blankets) for PICs in various correctional institutions in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 63)Reply:

The actual expenditures on "Provisions for institutions" of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Actual expenditure on "Provisions for institutions" (\$ million)	78.83	73.73	70.94

The average cost of food material per day per person in custody (PIC) in the past 3 years was about \$24.6.

The numbers of complaints about meal arrangements lodged by PICs in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	2018	2019	2020
No. of complaints about meal arrangements	93	109	115

The actual expenditures on the clothing and bedding (including blankets) for PICs incurred by CSD in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Expenditure on clothing (\$ million)	16.65	12.63	14.01
Expenditure on bedding (\$ million)	1.31	1.96	2.60
Total expenditure (\$ million)	17.96	14.59	16.61

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB160****(Question Serial No. 0768)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (1) Prison ManagementControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please list the actual expenditures on earnings of persons in custody (PICs) in various correctional institutions in the past 3 years.

Please list the statistics of PICs who had ceased to work for over 4 days due to work injuries in various correctional institutions in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 64)Reply:

The actual expenditures of the Correctional Services Department on the earnings scheme for persons in custody (PICs) in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Actual expenditure (\$ million)	42.83	43.10	43.92

Statistics of PICs rendered unfit for work for 4 or more days due to injuries arising from work accidents in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	2018	2019	2020
Number of accidents	9	7	4

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB161****(Question Serial No. 0769)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (1) Prison ManagementControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide a breakdown, by reason, of the numbers of cases involving the use of force by correctional officers and the numbers of persons in custody injured in these cases in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 66)Reply:

By virtue of the duties and power conferred by law, the Correctional Services Department is committed to ensuring a secure, safe, humane, decent and healthy custodial environment.

Rule 237 of the Prison Rules (Cap. 234A) stipulates that no correctional officer in dealing with persons in custody (PICs) shall use force unnecessarily and, when the application of force to a PIC is necessary, no more force than is necessary shall be used. The appropriate force to be used by correctional officers against PICs should be non-lethal, defensive and minimal to prevent correctional officers themselves, PICs or other persons from being harmed.

The reasons for correctional officers using necessary force on PICs include stopping PICs from self-harm or abnormal behaviour, fighting among themselves and attacking correctional officers or other persons, etc. The numbers of PICs and correctional officers injured due to such incidents which were intervened by correctional officers, and the numbers of cases in which correctional officers used necessary force in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	Number of cases involving the use of necessary force	Number of PICs injured	Number of correctional officers injured
2020	91	117	14
2019	69	93	40
2018	70	64	39

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB162****(Question Serial No. 0770)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (1) Prison Management (2) Re-integrationControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please list the numbers of complaint cases received from persons in custody and entailing comprehensive investigation by the Complaints Investigation Unit (CIU) in the past 3 years.

Please list the numbers of complaint cases received from discharged persons and entailing comprehensive investigation by CIU in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 67)Reply:

The numbers of complaint cases received from persons in custody (PICs) and discharged persons entailing comprehensive investigation by the Complaints Investigation Unit (CIU) in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Cases entailing comprehensive investigation by CIU	2018 (Number of cases)	2019 (Number of cases)	2020 (Number of cases)
Complaints lodged by PICs	58	81	166
Complaints lodged by discharged persons	14	7	5

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB163****(Question Serial No. 2776)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (1) Prison ManagementControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide in tabular form the following information in the past 5 years:

1. the staff establishment of translation officers/staff members dedicated to assisting persons in custody (PICs) of other nationalities and the expenditures involved in various correctional facilities;
2. the respective proportions of local PICs, PICs from the Mainland and PICs of other nationalities in various correctional facilities; and
3. the respective proportions of local PICs by “nationality” as defined in the population census in various correctional facilities.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.:138)Reply:

1. As the management of persons in custody (PICs) of other nationalities is part of the daily management work of the Correctional Services Department, the Department does not maintain a breakdown of the staff establishment and expenditures involved.
2. The breakdown of penal population in the past 5 years (as at 31 December of the year) is as follows:

	Local PICs	PICs from the Mainland, Taiwan or Macao	PICs of other nationalities	Total number of PICs
2020	5 084 (72%)	740(10%)	1 283(18%)	7 107
2019	4 736 (67%)	910(13%)	1 377(20%)	7 023
2018	5 484 (67%)	1 044 (13%)	1 653 (20%)	8 181
2017	5 663 (67%)	1 026 (12%)	1 734 (21%)	8 423
2016	5 958 (69%)	927 (11%)	1 726 (20%)	8 611

3. The Department does not maintain any statistics on the proportion of local PICs by “nationality” as defined in the population census.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB164

(Question Serial No. 1653)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned under Programme (2) that the Correctional Services Department (CSD) will provide opportunities for adult persons in custody (PICs) under the Prison Programme to engage in useful work and vocational training so as to help them develop good working habits and acquire work skills with a view to facilitating their re-integration upon release. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. How many types of vocational training courses are provided by CSD to adult PICs currently?
2. In connection with the above question, please provide a breakdown, by vocational training courses, of the number of adult PICs attending the above-mentioned courses.
3. In connection with the above question, what are the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

In 2020-21, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) continued to collaborate with various training bodies (including the Employees Retraining Board, the Construction Industry Council and the Vocational Training Council, etc.), having regard to the situation of the local employment market, to provide over 40 full-time and part-time vocational training courses with more than 1 400 training places for lawfully residing adult persons in custody (PICs) who are due for discharge within 24 months and eligible for employment to enrol on a voluntary basis and obtain recognised qualifications to enhance their employability and help them enrol in bridging or progressive courses in future with a view to facilitating their smooth re-integration into society after release. These courses covered a wide range of industries such as construction, business, food and beverage, retail, beauty care, transport, logistics, laundry services, computer application and environmental services, etc. In recent years,

CSD has proactively introduced new courses on innovative skills and technologies, including 3D Designing and Printing Skills, Virtual Reality Logistics Management, Virtual Reality Welding and Virtual Reality Visual Merchandising and Retail Management. A course on Virtual Reality Interior Design will also be introduced this year.

Due to the situation of the pandemic, some courses have to be postponed or cancelled. As at the end of February 2021, a total of 899 adult PICs attended various vocational training courses, which was smaller than the number of training places provided. Besides, in 2021-22, CSD's estimated expenditure on vocational training for PICs is about \$30.29 million, including the expenses for the 22 staff on establishment and the provision of courses. As the expenditure and work of the staff on establishment mentioned above cover the arrangement and coordination of all vocational training courses for both adult and young PICs, the Department does not maintain a separate breakdown of the estimated expenditure on courses for adult PICs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB165****(Question Serial No. 1655)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

As stated in the Operating Account, the establishment of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) as at 31 March 2021 will be 7 281 posts and no change in establishment is expected in 2021-22. In this regard, please inform this Committee of:

1. the numbers of correctional officers retired in each of the past 3 years.
2. the respective numbers of applicants for the posts of Assistant Officer and Officer by age, gender and academic qualifications in the past 3 years.
3. the respective numbers of recruits for the posts of Assistant Officer and Officer by age, gender and academic qualifications in the past 3 years.
4. the respective estimated numbers of recruits for the posts of Assistant Officer and Officer in the coming financial year.
5. the establishment and estimated expenditure involved in handling the recruitment work of CSD in the coming financial year.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.:35)Reply:

1. From 2018-19 to 2020-21, the retirement situation of correctional officers is as follows:

Year	Number of retirees (Note ¹)
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	151
2019-20	206
2018-19	281

Note¹: Technical Instructors and Instructors are not included.

2. From 2018-19 to 2020-21, the recruitment situation of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) is as follows:

Post	Number of applicants attending the first round of selection process (i.e. physical fitness test)		
	2018-19 (Note ³)	2019-20	2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)
Officer	1 862	1 604	Note ²
Assistant Officer II	1 790	1 712	1 790

Note²: The physical fitness test for applicants of the Officer post will be held from March to April 2021.

Note³: Year-round recruitment for the post of Assistant Officer II has been implemented since 19 February 2018.

CSD does not maintain any statistics on the age, gender and academic qualifications of applicants.

3. From 2018-19 to 2020-21, the numbers of Officers and Assistant Officers II recruited are as follows:

Post	Number of recruits each year		
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)
Officer	63	54	37
Assistant Officer II	234	309	276

Among the newly-recruited Officers, 82% were males and 18% were females; 74% were under the age of 30 and 26% were aged 30 or above; regarding their education level, all of them were degree holders.

As for the newly-recruited Assistant Officers II, 65% were males and 35% were females; 85% were under the age of 30 and 15% were aged 30 or above; regarding their education level, 30% of them were degree holders, 18% were at sub-degree level or equivalent and the remaining 52% were at Secondary 5 level or equivalent.

4. In the 2021-22 financial year, about 50 Officers are estimated to be recruited and the number of Assistant Officer II to be recruited under the year-round recruitment will continue to be determined by the vacancy position.
5. As the staff members assigned to handle the recruitment work are not only responsible for one single area of work, it is difficult to calculate the staff establishment involved in the recruitment work. Besides, since the recruitment work is part of the daily work of CSD, the Department does not maintain a breakdown of the resources involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB166

(Question Serial No. 2063)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

With regard to the rehabilitation programmes of the Correctional Services Department (CSD), please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Are there any statistics on the numbers of re-offenders who were sentenced to imprisonment again despite having attended various rehabilitation programmes in the past 3 years? If yes, what were the numbers of such re-offenders; if not, how does CSD assess the effectiveness of the rehabilitation programmes?
- (b) The establishment and estimated expenditure in 2021-22.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

Recidivism rate refers to the percentage of re-admissions of local rehabilitated persons to correctional institutions following conviction of new offences within 2 years after discharge. The recidivism rate of rehabilitated persons has been on a downward trend in the recent 3 years, from 24.8% in both 2016 and 2017 to 22.5% in 2018. Besides, in the recent 10 years, such rate has even been reduced significantly from 33% in 2009 to 22.5% in 2018.

In 2021-22, the staff establishment of the Programme of Re-integration of the Correctional Services Department is 1 618 posts and the estimated expenditure is \$1.1923 billion.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB167****(Question Serial No. 2064)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Re-integrationControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

In respect of the management of the Industries Units of the Correctional Services Department, please inform this Committee of:

- (a) the staff establishment in 2021-22;
- (b) the top 3 industries or services in terms of the number of persons in custody employed, and their respective commercial values.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 46)Reply:

- (a) As at 1 March 2021, the staff establishment of the Industries Units of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) is as follows:

	Grade		Total
	Correctional Services Grade	Civilian and Other Grades	
Establishment	285	81	366

- (b) The top 3 industries or services in terms of the number of persons in custody (PICs) employed and their respective commercial values are as follows:

	Trade	Total Commercial Value in 2020 (\$ million)
1	Garment ^{Note 1}	99.67
2	Laundry Service ^{Note 2}	226.79
3	Simple Manual Work (Hard cover file jacket and envelope making)	1.70

^{Note 1} Garment products mainly include staff uniforms for CSD and the Hong Kong Police Force, and staff uniforms and hospital linen for the Hospital Authority.

^{Note 2} The laundry service is mainly for uniforms and linen of public hospitals and clinics, CSD staff and PICs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB168****(Question Serial No. 2507)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

1. Please provide the respective numbers of persons in custody (PICs) having completed programmes or attended examinations recognised under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF) in each of the past 3 years. How many of them were young PICs (please provide a breakdown by programmes or examinations and the HKQF levels);
2. Please provide the respective numbers of PICs being awarded a bachelor's degree, a master's degree or a doctoral degree in each of the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 178)Reply:

In the past 3 years, a total of 62 persons in custody (PICs) completed learning programmes or attended examinations of various Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF) levels, including 36 young PICs taking the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) and 26 adult PICs being awarded 26 degrees in total (2 master's degrees and 24 bachelor's degrees). The numbers of the relevant PICs and the qualification levels attained are tabulated below:

Year	HKQF			Number of Enrolments
	Level 3	Level 5	Level 6	
	HKDSE	Bachelor's Degrees	Master's Degrees	
2020	9	9	-	18
2019	14	5	1	20
2018	16	10	1	27
Total	39 enrolments ^{Note}	24 enrolments	2 enrolments	65 enrolments ^{Note}
	(a total of 36 PICs involved)	(a total of 26 PICs involved)		(a total of 62 PICs involved)

^{Note:} In the past 3 years, a total of 3 young PICs sat for the HKDSE more than once.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB169

(Question Serial No. 2508)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Since a large number of young people have been arrested, prosecuted or sentenced for taking part in the riots against the 2019 extradition amendment bill, will the Correctional Services Department implement correctional work targeting these young persons in custody to assist them in obtaining a correct understanding of the rule of law, so as to reduce the chance of re-offending?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.:179)

Reply:

In managing and rehabilitating young persons in custody (PICs) with extreme thinking and radical behaviour, including those imprisoned for taking part in events opposing the proposed legislative amendments in 2019, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) will make enhanced efforts based on the principles of “correction” and “education”. Apart from ensuring that they strictly observe the institutional discipline, a number of appropriate rehabilitation programmes have also been formulated having regard to their criminogenic mindset and distorted values, so as to assist them to turn over a new leaf and develop positive values.

The Psychological Services Section of CSD is actively establishing the “Youth Lab” in Pik Uk Correctional Institution to provide specialised services for young PICs. The Youth Lab aims to assist young PICs to undergo psychological rehabilitation and rebuilding, learn about themselves, think from multiple perspectives, rectify their criminogenic mindset and behaviours, and enhance their resilience in order to better prepare them for life after release.

With regard to education, apart from basic education programmes, CSD’s Education Unit provides history and civic education to young PICs which help instil positive values into them. For example, various educational activities under “Understanding history is the beginning of knowledge” have been launched, including scholar talks, Virtual Reality (VR) history learning activities, learning history through e-sports activities, and history and culture

workshops, etc. These activities aim to assist young PICs to learn history in an interesting way through a diversified mode of learning, enhance their sense of national identity, help them reflect on the meaning of life, and guide them back on the right track. Besides, to be in line with the curriculum reform, subjects such as Junior Secondary Chinese History are provided, and values education is strengthened, including moral and civic education, Basic Law education and National Security Law education, etc. to enable young PICs to acquire knowledge about the newly-enacted law so as to further enhance their law-abiding awareness.

In addition, CSD is planning to set up a specialised psychological service centre, the Change Lab, in the community to provide community-based psychological counselling for young PICs after release, and assist young people under a supervision order to build confidence and resilience so that they can overcome difficulties, resist temptations and break the cycle of crime.

In respect of community collaboration, CSD and the Hong Kong Police Force have jointly launched the “Walk with YOUth Programme”. Capitalising on the valuable experience and unique strengths of both departments in crime prevention and offender rehabilitation, volunteers from CSD and the Police work hand in hand to organise a series of vibrant and sedentary activities for young PICs to help them establish correct values and rebuild a positive life, thereby enhancing their anti-crime awareness and reducing the recidivism rate. Before the Lunar New Year, an activity entitled “Walk with YOUth, Reunion with Families” was organised in Pik Uk Correctional Institution where volunteers and young PICs made glutinous rice balls together which symbolised “family reunion”. Volunteers travelled around the whole territory to distribute the glutinous rice balls and greeting cards prepared by young PICs to their families on the same day, in a bid to strengthen the ties between young PICs and their families since it would be easier for them to re-integrate into society after release if they have family support. CSD is proactively planning to collaborate with other community stakeholders to organise more anti-crime and rehabilitation activities for young PICs in the future with a view to assisting them to get back onto the right path.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB170

(Question Serial No. 0428)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: ()

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that the Security Bureau will continue to improve ageing correctional facilities and proactively develop the smart prison systems. Will additional resources be set aside for the development of “Health Signs Monitoring System”, “Video Analytic Monitoring System” and “Passage Surveillance System” so as to raise the management efficiency and level of security of institutions? If yes, what are the estimated operating expenses?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 79)

Reply:

With reference to the successful experience obtained from the trial runs of the “Health Signs Monitoring System”, “Video Analytic Monitoring System” and “Passage Surveillance System” in the designated areas of Lo Wu Correctional Institution and Pik Uk Correctional Institution in 2018-19, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) is carrying out enhancement work, and at the same time seeks to introduce and extend more technology projects to different correctional institutions in order to raise their management efficiency and level of security.

The implementation details and estimated expenditures of the related technology projects are tabulated as follows:

Technology project	Correctional institution involved	Non-recurrent expenditure on technological development (\$)	Non-recurrent expenditure on technological development to be involved in 2021-22 (\$)	Estimated annual recurrent expenditure (\$)
(1) “Health Signs Monitoring System” and other related systems				
Health Signs Monitoring System 2.0	2 dormitories and the centre hospital of Stanley Prison, centre hospital of Tai Lam Centre for Women, and the sickbay and geriatric ward of Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre (SLPC)	about \$9.19 million	about \$4.46 million	about \$910,000
Smart Health Sensing System	Centre hospital of Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution (TGCI) (Pilot Scheme)	about \$450,000	Not applicable (System installation was completed in December 2020.)	about \$50,000
Contactless Vital Sign Monitoring System	4 protected rooms of SLPC	about \$680,000	Not applicable (System installation is expected to be completed in March 2021.)	about \$70,000
(2) “Video Analytic Monitoring System” and other related systems				
Video Analytic Monitoring System 2.0	22 dormitories, 6 observation cells and the centre hospital of Pik Uk Prison	about \$5.94 million	about \$5.32 million	about \$590,000
	TGCI	about \$2.52 million	Not applicable (System installation was completed in December 2020.)	about \$250,000
(3) “Passage Surveillance System” and other related systems				
Movement and Location Monitoring System 2.0	Designated areas of TGCI (1 day room and exercise yard) (Pilot Scheme)	about \$3.50 million	Not applicable (System installation was completed in July 2020.)	about \$350,000

Movement and Location Monitoring System 2.0	Other areas of TGCI (e.g. 6 day rooms, dormitories, etc.) (Extension Scheme)	about \$6.90 million	Not applicable (System installation was completed in January 2021.)	about \$600,000
Custodial Management and Movement Tracking System	Category A Complex of Stanley Prison	about \$7.50 million	about \$3.64 million	about \$750,000
Total		about \$36.68 million	about \$13.42 million	about \$3.57 million

Besides, the “video analytic monitoring” function will be included in the “Replacement and enhancement of the closed circuit television system” projects. The details are as follows:

Shek Pik Prison	The total non-recurrent expenditure of “Replacement and enhancement of the closed circuit television system” is about \$120 million, which is included in the bid for funding under the Resource Allocation Exercise (RAE) for 2021-22. The funding is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2021. Besides, the estimated annual recurrent expenditure of the system is about \$13.10 million.
Lai King Correctional Institution/ Chi Lan Rehabilitation Centre	The total non-recurrent expenditure of “Replacement and enhancement of the closed circuit television system” is about \$54.49 million, which is included in the bid for funding under the RAE for 2021-22. The funding is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2021. Besides, the estimated annual recurrent expenditure of the system is about \$5.78 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB171

(Question Serial No. 0682)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

As stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22, publicity and education activities will be organised to appeal for community acceptance of and support for rehabilitated offenders. What are the specific measures? What are the staff establishment and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

In 2021-22, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) will earmark about \$1.175 million to organise publicity and public education activities to appeal for community acceptance of and support for rehabilitated persons. The activities will be organised with the following 4 community groups as target participants:

- (a) Activities targeting students and young people: CSD implements the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project with the objective to convey the messages of leading a law-abiding, drug-free life and supporting offender rehabilitation through a wide range of activities. The activities include educational talks, the Personal Encounter with Prisoners Scheme in which young people are arranged to meet with persons in custody (PICs), the Green Haven Scheme, visits to the Hong Kong Correctional Services Museum, extended training camps, student forums, drama and music performances of the Creation and Rehabilitation Programme, the Reflective Path Programme with simulated imprisonment experience, the Rehabilitation Pioneer Leaders Programme and Mission in Prison, etc. Mission in Prison is a new programme launched in 2021, based on the concept of resolving room challenges with elements of role-playing, problem-solving and team-building, which aims to enhance the participants' understanding of the actual duties of correctional officers and enable them to observe the custodial environment and prison life from another perspective so as to inspire them to reflect on the consequences of committing crimes;

- (b) Activities targeting the general public: Social media (e.g. Facebook page and YouTube channel, etc) are used to foster closer ties with the public and release information. Through broadcasting television and radio announcements of public interest, displaying publicity posters and giant banners, organising certificate presentation ceremonies, holding exhibitions in the Hong Kong Brands and Products Expo etc., PICs' competence and their determination in and outcomes of pursuing self-advancement and rehabilitation are demonstrated to the general public. Besides, outdoor electronic screens are installed in appropriate correctional facilities to enhance publicity effect;
- (c) Activities targeting employers: Institutional visits for employers and business organisations, etc. will be arranged and employers will be invited to attend certificate presentation ceremonies of vocational training courses to facilitate their better understanding of the rehabilitation work, including the vocational training courses of CSD; and
- (d) Activities targeting district and community organisations: CSD will organise the "Non-governmental Organisation Forum" to strengthen the cooperation and exchange between the Department and non-governmental organisations on rehabilitation services. Besides, CSD will conduct district-based rehabilitation publicity activities in collaboration with the District Fight Crime Committees, and continue to arrange institutional visits for local communities or organisations to facilitate their better understanding of the rehabilitation work of the Department.

At present, there are 16 staff on establishment dedicated to implementing the various programmes under the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project. As for the implementation of other community publicity programmes, it is part of the work of the Rehabilitation Section.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB172

(Question Serial No. 0683)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

As stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22, market-oriented and socially recognised vocational training courses will be provided for persons in custody. What are the specific measures? What are the staff establishment and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

In 2021-22, having regard to the situation of the local employment market, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) will continue to collaborate with various training bodies (such as the Employees Retraining Board, the Construction Industry Council (CIC) and the Vocational Training Council) to provide more than 40 full-time and part-time vocational training courses with over 1 400 training places for lawfully residing adult PICs, who are due for discharge within 24 months and eligible for employment, to enrol on a voluntary basis and obtain recognised qualifications, thereby enhancing their employability and helping them enrol in bridging or progressive courses in future with a view to facilitating their smooth re-integration into society after release. These courses cover a wide range of industries, such as construction, business, food and beverage, retail, beauty care, transport, logistics, laundry services, computer application and environmental services, etc. In recent years, CSD has proactively introduced new courses on innovative skills and technologies, including 3D Designing and Printing Skills, Virtual Reality Logistics Management, Virtual Reality Welding, as well as Virtual Reality Visual Merchandising and Retail Management. This year, a course on Virtual Reality Interior Design will also be introduced.

For young PICs under the age of 21, CSD provides them with mandatory half-day education and half-day vocational training. In 2021-22, CSD will provide young PICs with about 20 vocational training courses covering the construction, business and service industries. New course elements such as computer animation design and 3D designing and printing will be included. CSD will also arrange for the trainees to sit for the examinations held by the accreditation bodies, such as the certification examinations of the City and Guilds and the intermediate trade tests of CIC, and take certificate courses offered by various training bodies.

In 2021-22, CSD's estimated expenditure on vocational training for PICs is about \$30.29 million, including the expenses for 22 staff on establishment and the provision of vocational training courses. Furthermore, CSD will continue to work with various training bodies and keep abreast of the market changes and the employment situation of discharged persons through the employment follow-up service provided by these training bodies, thereby further improving its vocational training programmes provided to PICs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB173

(Question Serial No. 3040)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Which correctional institutions will have their perimeter fencing upgraded to strengthen security measures in 2021-22; what are the implementation timetable, manpower and expenditure involved for the whole project to upgrade perimeter fencing; what are the differences between the old and new fencing facilities in terms of material, strength, durability and security level?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.:26)

Reply:

With the assistance of the Architectural Services Department, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) regularly inspects, repairs or replaces the perimeter fencing and facilities of correctional institutions to ensure a secure custodial environment. Due to security consideration, CSD will not disclose the relevant details, including locations of institutions, information on materials and the works progress, etc. As the management of perimeter fencing is part of the maintenance works, CSD does not maintain a breakdown of the staff establishment and expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB174

(Question Serial No. 3066)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Correctional Services Department will step up promotional efforts for anti-smoking among persons in custody in 2021-22. What were the major publicity strategies and specific work in the past? How effective were these strategies and work? Will there be any new strategies, new targets and new publicity work? If yes, what are the specific details, manpower and cost involved, and the implementation schedule?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) is committed to ensuring a secure, safe, humane, decent and healthy custodial environment. For the health of persons in custody (PICs), CSD has proactively supported the Government's policy on tobacco control by setting up the Steering Committee on Smoking Control Measures in Correctional Facilities in 2010 to implement and monitor tobacco control measures. Educational talks and individual counselling are conducted to encourage and assist PICs to quit smoking. Through publicity and education (such as inclusion of a smoking cessation talk in the Induction Programme, as well as the display of posters and organisation of poster design competitions), CSD actively promotes a smoke-free culture among PICs and enhances their awareness of the harmful effects of smoking.

In October 2011, CSD also implemented a smoking cessation counselling programme to provide nicotine patches for use by PICs participated in smoking cessation courses. Besides, Tung Tau Correctional Institution and Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution were officially designated as "No Smoking Correctional Facility" in January 2013 and December 2014 respectively to accommodate only non-smoking PICs. CSD has also progressively set up "Smoke-free Prison Zone" in designated areas of other institutions, and such arrangement has

been in place in Stanley Prison and Lo Wu Correctional Institution. Smoking is not allowed in all institutions for young PICs.

CSD deploys existing resources to carry out anti-smoking publicity work. The revised estimated expenditure for 2020-21 on purchasing nicotine patches for use by PICs participated in smoking cessation courses was \$25,000.

To step up the publicity of anti-smoking, CSD has installed on tablets the Quit Smoking Mobile App launched by the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office of the Department of Health (DH) since 2018 for use by newly admitted adult PICs and those participated in the smoking cessation counselling programme, so as to deepen PICs' understanding of the harmful effects of smoking. Moreover, an Announcement in the Public Interest on smoking cessation prepared by the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office of DH is broadcast before TV programmes to encourage PICs to quit smoking. In October 2018, CSD joined the "Quit to Win" Smoke-free Community Campaign co-organised by the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH), the University of Hong Kong (HKU) School of Nursing and the HKU School of Public Health to encourage and assist PICs to quit smoking. The campaign's expenditure was mainly borne by COSH, the HKU School of Nursing and the HKU School of Public Health, while CSD deployed existing resources to help implement the campaign in the institutions. To further promote a smoke-free culture, CSD incorporates family elements into the campaign by inviting PICs' family members to attend the relevant activities to witness the efforts of PICs in the journey to quitting smoking. In the past 2 years, a total of 103 PICs from 5 institutions participated in the campaign, 62 of them were verified to be successful in quitting smoking by the organiser, representing a success rate of nearly 60%. CSD is actively considering extending the campaign to other correctional institutions in the coming year.

In 2017 and 2020, CSD was awarded the Gold Award in the Hong Kong Smoke-free Leading Company Awards 2016 and the Hong Kong Smoke-free Leading Company Awards 2019 co-organised by COSH and the Occupational Safety and Health Council respectively, as an encouragement to the Department for keeping up its efforts in promoting a smoke-free culture.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3084)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WOO Ying-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

With the changes in the local economy, and the local consumer and labour markets amid the novel coronavirus epidemic, has the Correctional Services Department (CSD) made any corresponding adjustments to its market-oriented vocational training for persons in custody (PICs)? If yes, what are the specific details, including whether CSD will introduce new vocational training, appoint additional instructors and increase the expenses on vocational training for PICs?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) collaborates with various training bodies (including the Employees Retraining Board, the Construction Industry Council and the Vocational Training Council, etc.), having regard to the situation of the local employment market, to provide over 40 full-time and part-time vocational training courses with more than 1 400 training places for lawfully residing adult persons in custody (PICs) who are due for discharge within 24 months and eligible for employment to enrol on a voluntary basis and obtain recognised qualifications to enhance their employability and help them enrol in bridging or progressive courses in future with a view to facilitating their smooth re-integration into society after release. These courses cover a wide range of industries such as construction, business, food and beverage, retail, beauty care, transport, logistics, laundry services, computer application and environmental services, etc. In recent years, CSD has proactively introduced new courses on innovative skills and technologies, including 3D Designing and Printing Skills, Virtual Reality Logistics Management, Virtual Reality Welding and Virtual Reality Visual Merchandising and Retail Management. A course on Virtual Reality Interior Design will also be introduced this year.

For young PICs under the age of 21, CSD provides them with mandatory half-day education and half-day vocational training. About 20 vocational training programmes will be provided to them in 2021-22 covering the engineering, business and service industries, such as building

services, office and commercial practice, coffee making and latte art training, food and beverage service, interior design and 3D rendering, 3D printing skills and digital audio visual production, etc. New course elements such as computer animation design and 3D designing and printing, etc will be included.

In the light of the epidemic, CSD has introduced the anti-epidemic element into its existing cleansing training course, so as to enable PICs to acquire up-to-date skills and knowledge.

In 2021-22, CSD's estimated expenditure on vocational training for PICs is about \$30.29 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB176****(Question Serial No. 1656)**Head: (31) Customs and Excise DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Anti-narcotics InvestigationControlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Hermes TANG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

It is mentioned under Programme (2) that the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) will carry out surveillance, investigations and operations to combat organised drug syndicates and individual drug offenders. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the numbers of cases relating to organised drug syndicates, individual drug offenders, drug manufacturing workshops and drug distribution centres detected by C&ED in the past 3 years;
2. the numbers of persons arrested by C&ED for suspected drug trafficking in the past 3 years; and
3. the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved in relation to the previous question.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)Reply:

1. The numbers of drug manufacturing workshops and distribution centres cracked down by C&ED within Hong Kong in the past 3 years are as follows:

	2018	2019	2020
Drug manufacturing workshops	5	3	4
Distribution centres	14	10	5

2. The numbers of persons arrested by C&ED for suspected drug trafficking in the past 3 years are as follows:

	2018	2019	2020
Number of persons arrested	236	225	120

3. With regard to anti-narcotics investigation, C&ED will continue to closely monitor intelligence and information around the world, and conduct risk assessment and intelligence analysis as well as collaborate with other law enforcement agencies. With respect to the above, C&ED will adopt targeted strategies and deploy manpower flexibly in a timely manner, with a view to enhancing enforcement effectiveness. In 2018-19 and 2019-20, C&ED's actual expenditures under the Programme of "Anti-narcotics Investigation" were \$249 million and \$246 million respectively and the numbers of staff involved were 386 and 383 respectively; in 2020-21, the revised estimated expenditure is \$265 million and the number of staff involved is 383.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB177****(Question Serial No. 1657)**Head: (31) Customs and Excise DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Hermes TANG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

It is mentioned in the Operating Account of the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) that its establishment as at 31 March 2021 would be 7 866 posts. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the total number of C&ED staff members who retired in each of the past 3 years;
2. the respective total numbers of applicants for the posts of Customs Officer and Inspector of Customs and Excise in the past 3 years with breakdowns by age, gender and academic qualification;
3. the respective numbers of persons employed as Customs Officer and Inspector of Customs and Excise in the past 3 years with breakdowns by age, gender and academic qualification;
4. the respective numbers of Customs Officers and Inspectors of Customs and Excise expected to be recruited in the next financial year; and
5. the staff establishment and estimated expenditure to be involved in the recruitment exercises in the next financial year.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. The numbers of staff members in C&ED who retired in the past 3 years are as follows-

Grade	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)
Superintendent/ Inspectorate Grade	28	28	19
Customs Officer Grade	126	116	81
Trade Controls Officer Grade	24	13	18
Other Grades	19	19	21
Total	197	176	139

2. The respective numbers of applicants for the posts of Inspector of Customs and Excise and Customs Officer in the past 3 years are tabulated below. C&ED does not maintain breakdowns of the relevant figures by age, gender and academic qualification.

Post	Number of Applicants		
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)
Inspector of Customs and Excise	No open recruitment was conducted	9 273	7 397
Customs Officer	15 869	12 927	14 345

3. The numbers of Inspectors of Customs and Excise and Customs Officers newly recruited in the past 3 years, with breakdowns by age, are as follows-

Financial Year	Inspector of Customs and Excise (Number)				
	Aged under 25	Aged between 25 and 30	Aged between 31 and 35	Aged above 35	Total
2018-19	26	35	4	0	65
2019-20	4	11	1	0	16
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	13	33	8	0	54

Financial Year	Customs Officer (Number)				
	Aged under 25	Aged between 25 and 30	Aged between 31 and 35	Aged above 35	Total
2018-19	394	444	34	0	872
2019-20	140	185	8	0	333
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	61	91	6	0	158

The numbers of Inspectors of Customs and Excise and Customs Officers newly recruited in the past 3 years, with breakdowns by gender, are as follows-

Financial Year	Inspector of Customs and Excise (Number)		
	Male	Female	Total
2018-19	46	19	65
2019-20	12	4	16
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	37	17	54

Financial Year	Customs Officer (Number)		
	Male	Female	Total
2018-19	723	149	872
2019-20	250	83	333
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	109	49	158

The numbers of Inspectors of Customs and Excise and Customs Officers newly recruited in the past 3 years, with breakdowns by academic qualification, are as follows-

Financial Year	Inspector of Customs and Excise (Number)				
	Local University* Degrees	Non-local University Degrees	Sub-degrees/ Higher Diplomas	Others@	Total
2018-19	61	4	0	0	65
2019-20	14	1	1	0	16
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	48	6	0	0	54

Financial Year	Customs Officer (Number)						
	Local University* Degrees	Non-local University Degrees	Sub-degrees/ Higher Diplomas	Yi Jin Diplomas	Level 2 in Five Subjects in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination	Others@	Total
2018-19	115	101	339	149	147	21	872
2019-20	59	45	106	64	54	5	333
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	24	26	50	28	26	4	158

* Local universities include the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, City University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong Baptist University, Lingnan University, the Open University of Hong Kong, the Education University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Shue Yan University and the Hang Seng University of Hong Kong.

@ Others include university degrees conferred by tertiary education institutions other than local and non-local universities.

4 and 5. C&ED expects that around 90 Inspectors of Customs and Excise and 170 Customs Officers would be recruited in the financial year 2021-22 for filling vacancies. The manpower and resources involved in the recruitment exercises have been subsumed under the general operating expenditure. C&ED does not maintain a breakdown of the relevant figures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB178

(Question Serial No. 1577)

Head: (31) Customs and Excise Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Hermes TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) will “plan for the commissioning of customs clearance services for passengers at Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point”. According to a paper submitted by the Government to the Legislative Council, to ensure no disruption to the operation of cross-boundary goods vehicle trade, the Transport and Housing Bureau/Transport Department will discuss with the Shenzhen authorities to cease the cargo clearance service of Huanggang Port only after the commencement of 24-hour operation at Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Control Point and sufficient supporting facilities at both Shenzhen Bay Port and Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Control Point are available. In this regard, please advise this Committee of whether there is a timetable for the commissioning of customs clearance services for passengers at Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Control Point.

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

The passenger clearance facilities of C&ED at Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point have been installed, and have passed the relevant tests. C&ED will timely provide customs clearance services for passengers at Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point to fully tie in with the arrangements made by the Government.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB179****(Question Serial No. 0214)**

Head: (31) Customs and Excise Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Anti-narcotics Investigation

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Hermes TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

With the growing development of e-commerce, smuggling by using postal packets and express parcels has become the more popular method of drug trafficking in recent years. According to the statistics compiled by the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED), for air cargo alone, a total of 962 cases with 2.51 tonnes of smuggled dangerous drugs worth \$1.37 billion were seized in 2020, representing an increase of 72% and 124% respectively when compared with the number of cases and quantity of seizure in 2019. In this connection, will additional manpower be deployed, including experienced investigators, members of dedicated task force and canine unit, and additional resources be injected, including launching of the Customs Canine Breeding Programme? If yes, what are the staff establishment and the estimated operating expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 77)

Reply:

C&ED has all along been deploying resources flexibly to respond to the changing modus operandi of smuggling. Noting the trend of increase in the number of smuggling cases involving postal packets and express parcels, C&ED started targeting contrabands smuggled through such channels in 2018. Experienced investigators have also been mobilised to form dedicated task forces for intelligence collection, in-depth analysis and enhanced enforcement operations in relation to syndicate-level smuggling. In 2020, with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions were imposed on passenger passage services at boundary control points and the Airport, and more stringent quarantine and monitoring measures were introduced for cross-boundary drivers. Smugglers thus shifted to the use of air and sea cargo shipments for smuggling and drug trafficking. In view of the above, C&ED flexibly redeployed officers from boundary control points to reinforce cargo clearance at different channels and intercept the inflow of dangerous drugs, particularly targeting air and sea cargoes.

Moreover, in 2019, C&ED upgraded its canine units to the Customs Canine Force and started carrying out canine breeding programme and professional training with a view to fostering

the long-term and sustainable development of the Canine Force. In 2020, C&ED launched the Customs Canine Breeding Programme with the birth of the first batch of six self-bred puppies. These dogs will, after receiving training, assist in customs clearance and drug-detection within this year.

C&ED will continue to closely monitor intelligence and information around the world, and conduct risk assessment and intelligence analysis as well as collaborate with other law enforcement agencies. With respect to the above, C&ED will adopt targeted strategies and deploy manpower flexibly in a timely manner and step up enforcement against smuggling and drug trafficking activities, with a view to enhancing enforcement effectiveness. There is no breakdown on the manpower deployed and estimated expenditure.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB180

(Question Serial No. 0301)

Head: (31) Customs and Excise Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Hermes TANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In recent years, there has been an increase in cases involving firearms in Hong Kong. From 2016 to 2019, the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) detected a total of 24 such cases. In the year 2020 alone, the number of cases rocketed to 35, representing a year-on-year increase of 28 cases or 400%, involving over 550 firearm component parts. The situation is worrying. Will the Bureau provide and deploy extra manpower to tackle this issue, or devote additional resources to procure advanced inspection equipment, such as Raman spectrometers, portable trace contraband detectors and density detectors? If yes, what are the manpower establishment and the estimated operating expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 78)

Reply:

C&ED has all along been closely monitoring intelligence around the world with a view to effectively combating the smuggling of firearms and ammunition. In light of the recent surge in the number of smuggling cases involving suspected genuine firearms and their component parts, C&ED has fully enhanced relevant risk profiling and intelligence analysis and stepped up inspection at the air, land, and sea boundary control points to target high-risk incoming and outgoing passengers, cargoes, postal packets and conveyances through flexible deployment of manpower. Meanwhile, C&ED collaborates with local, other regional and international law enforcement agencies and adopts targeted operational strategies in a timely manner, so as to ensure that intelligence on firearms smuggling is followed up immediately. C&ED currently does not plan to seek extra manpower specifically for combating smuggling of firearms and ammunition, but will review operational needs from time to time to ensure enforcement effectiveness.

In addition, C&ED has introduced a variety of advanced inspection devices and equipment in recent years, such as trace contraband detectors, Raman spectrometers and dual-technology X-ray checkers, etc., to assist frontline officers in the detection of various types of contrabands. To further strengthen its capability in detecting firearms, ammunition and other smuggled items, C&ED is also working to introduce firearms detector dogs and procure other advanced inspection equipment, including computed tomography (CT) scanners with

artificial intelligence, and installing auto-detection devices on existing X-ray checkers at boundary control points.

The resources involved in the work above have been subsumed under the general operating expenditure. C&ED does not maintain a breakdown of the relevant figures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB181

(Question Serial No. 0418)

Head: (31) Customs and Excise Department
Subhead: ()
Programme: (1) Control and Enforcement
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Hermes TANG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

According to the statistics of the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED), there was generally an upward trend in the total number of smuggling cases in recent years, with a surge of 48% from 21 021 cases in 2016 to 31 122 cases in 2019. The value of goods and articles seized was around \$1.23 billion in 2016, and rose to around \$1.73 billion in 2019. Will the Department acquire advanced equipment and deploy necessary manpower in the coming year to enforce the law and respond to the changing smuggling trends? If so, what are the staff establishment and the estimated operating expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 76)

Reply:

C&ED has all along been deploying a multi-pronged enforcement strategy to combat smuggling. By adopting a risk-based and intelligence-led mode of operation, C&ED aims to strike a right balance between facilitation of the passenger/cargo flow and effective enforcement. In view of the changing smuggling trends, C&ED will continue to adopt targeted investigation strategies, strengthen its corresponding enforcement efforts and deploy manpower flexibly to support customs clearance at different channels so as to combat various kinds of smuggling activities. C&ED plans to procure advanced inspection devices and equipment in 2021-22, including computed tomography (CT) scanners with artificial intelligence, trace contraband detectors and installing auto-detection devices on existing X-ray checkers at boundary control points, so as to enhance enforcement capabilities and improve the efficiency of customs clearance.

The manpower and resources involved in the work above have been subsumed under the general operating expenditure. C&ED does not maintain a breakdown of the relevant figures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB182****(Question Serial No. 1588)**Head: (31) Customs and Excise DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Control and EnforcementControlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Hermes TANG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

The value of seizures of articles other than dutiable commodities seized by the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) increased from around \$390 million in 2019 to around \$750 million in 2020. Will the Department advise this Committee of -

1. the relevant reasons and whether there was any impact on the workload and staff establishment of the Department, as well as the Government expenditure? If yes, what are the details; and
2. the types and values of the seized articles concerned in the past 2 years in table form?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)Reply:

With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, smugglers shifted to the use of air and sea cargo shipments for larger-scale smuggling for benefit in 2020. C&ED correspondingly stepped up its enforcement efforts and the value of articles seized under the Programme of "Control and Enforcement" increased substantially. The types and values of articles other than dutiable commodities seized in 2019 and 2020 are tabulated as follows -

Type of Articles Seized	Total Value of Seizures	
	2019	2020
Food	Around \$38 million	Around \$175 million
Meat	Around \$68 million	Around \$126 million
Electrical and electronic goods	Around \$62 million	Around \$118 million
Animals and plants (including endangered species)	Around \$132 million	Around \$91 million
Computer products and accessories	Around \$34 million	Around \$53 million
Chemicals, antibiotics and pharmaceutical products	Around \$24 million	Around \$49 million
Cosmetics	Around \$1.44 million	Around \$37 million
Clothing, shoes and leather goods	Around \$5 million	Around \$21 million
Other articles	Around \$26 million	Around \$80 million
Total:	Around \$390 million	Around \$750 million

In view of the changing smuggling trends, C&ED will continue to adopt targeted investigation strategies, strengthen its corresponding enforcement efforts and deploy manpower flexibly to support customs clearance at different channels so as to combat various kinds of smuggling activities. The manpower and resources involved in the work above have been subsumed under the general operating expenditure. C&ED does not maintain a breakdown of the relevant figures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB183****(Question Serial No. 3085)**Head: (31) Customs and Excise DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Anti-narcotics InvestigationControlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Hermes TANG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

The Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) will continue to step up enforcement actions against drug trafficking via airport and land boundary control points through closer co-operation with the Mainland authorities and overseas counterparts. How many drug trafficking cases were detected at the airport and various land boundary control points respectively in 2020-21, and what were the quantities and values of drugs involved? How would the Mainland authorities assist and co-ordinate with C&ED in carrying out the relevant enforcement work? What specific measures are expected to be taken in 2021-22 to step up enforcement actions against drug trafficking via the airport and land boundary control points? What are the details of these measures, and the manpower and expenditure to be involved?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)Reply:

In 2020, the number of dangerous drugs cases detected as well as the quantity and total value of dangerous drugs seized by C&ED at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) and land boundary control points are as follows -

	HKIA	Land Boundary Control Points
Number of Cases	1 002	59
Quantity of Dangerous Drugs Seized	2 672 kg	69 kg
Total Value of Dangerous Drugs Seized	\$1.54 billion	\$54.1 million

C&ED has established designated intelligence liaison points with the Mainland's law enforcement agencies for maintaining close liaison among dedicated officers of relevant parties, and enhancing the efficiency of intelligence exchange on drug trafficking in both places. The Customs authorities on both sides also conduct joint operations at boundary control points from time to time to combat drug trafficking activities. C&ED will continue to closely monitor intelligence and information around the world, and conduct risk assessment and intelligence analysis as well as collaborate with other law enforcement agencies. With respect to the above, C&ED will adopt targeted strategies and deploy manpower flexibly in a timely manner and step up enforcement against drug trafficking activities, with a view to enhancing enforcement effectiveness. The manpower and resources involved in the above work have been subsumed under the general operating expenditure. C&ED does not maintain a breakdown of the relevant figures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB184****(Question Serial No. 2604)**Head: (166) Government Flying ServiceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Government Flying ServiceControlling Officer: Controller, Government Flying Service (Captain West WU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

What were the numbers of operations conducted by the Government Flying Service for assisting in the rescue of hikers over the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 165)Reply:

The numbers of flights conducted by the Government Flying Service for assisting in the rescue of hikers over the past 3 years and the number of flying hours involved are tabulated below:

	2018	2019	2020
Number of flights	435	421	885
Flying hours	435.1	381.1	842.8

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB185

(Question Serial No. 2359)

Head: (166) Government Flying Service

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Government Flying Service

Controlling Officer: Controller, Government Flying Service (Captain West WU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. Please provide the number of exchanges of the Government Flying Service (GFS) with Mainland and overseas organisations (including navies) and the People's Liberation Army Hong Kong Garrison in the past year (excluding the drills or exercises listed in part 2 of the Question).
2. Please provide the number of drills or exercises of GFS jointly conducted with Mainland and overseas organisations (including navies) and the People's Liberation Army Hong Kong Garrison in the past year, the details of such drills or exercises, and the names of the participating organisations.
3. Please provide the respective total flying hours of all fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters of GFS in 2020.
4. How will the remaining 3 AS332 L2 helicopters and 4 EC155B1 helicopters be disposed of upon the new H175 helicopters being put in service?
5. Will the Government retain one of each of the retired AS332 L2 and EC155B1 helicopters for long-term open exhibition at Kai Tak Runway Park, just as how the Jetstream 41 fixed-wing aircraft were disposed of?
6. What is the Government's assessment on the impacts of the sanction imposed by the United on GFS?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 80)

Reply:

- 1&2. The Government Flying Service (GFS) did not conduct any exchange, drill or exercise with Mainland and overseas organisations or the Chinese People's Liberation Army Hong Kong Garrison in 2020-21 (as at 1 March 2021).

3. The total flying hours for all fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters of GFS in 2020 are tabulated below:

Fixed-wing aircraft	Total flying hours
CL 605	1 708
ZLIN 242L	Not applicable#
DA42NG	161
Helicopter	Total flying hours
AS-332 L2 Super Puma	7
EC 155B1	44
H 175	6 069

Retired in 2014, the ZLIN 242L fixed-wing aircraft is stored in the GFS headquarters for the time being.

- 4&5. The 3 AS-332 L2 Super Puma and 2 of the EC 155B1 helicopters retired in mid-2020. Auction through open tender of these retired aircrafts is under preparation according to established procedure. GFS does not rule out other alternative arrangements such as open exhibition. Meanwhile, GFS will temporarily retain the remaining 2 EC 155B1 helicopters for contingency and supporting purpose.
6. The GFS fleet is not manufactured in the United States (US). Currently, the relevant sanction will not affect the day-to-day operation of GFS. GFS is actively liaising with respective aircraft manufacturers and reviewing the relevant technology and components regularly in order to ensure the effective operation and uphold the service level of the GFS.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB186****(Question Serial No. 2390)**Head: (166) Government Flying ServiceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Government Flying ServiceControlling Officer: Controller, Government Flying Service (Captain West WU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

It is mentioned in the Controlling Officer's Report that the helicopter search and rescue (SAR) operation of the Government Flying Service (GFS), the original pledged target for on-scene time for inshore SAR call-outs between 2200 and 0659 hours within 40 minutes where additional crew or specialised equipment not required was 90%, please advise on the reasons for failing to meet the pledged target in 2020 (only 86%); whether it was related to the replacement of helicopters by new models; and the reasons for only the percentage of target met in the small hours of the morning was lower than expected.

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)Reply:

In 2020, the main reasons for the helicopter search and rescue (SAR) operation of the Government Flying Service (GFS) failing to meet the pledged time target are as follows:

Types of operation	Target	2020 (Actual)	Main reasons for failing to meet the target (Number of times)
Helicopter SAR			
On-scene time for inshore SAR call-outs between 2200 and 0659 hours where additional crew or specialised equipment not required be within 40 minutes (%)	90%	86% (6 out-of-pledge cases (out of 43 cases in total) were recorded)	- Aircraft or facility unserviceability (2) - Inclement weather (4)

The top priority for GFS in conducting missions is flight safety. Occasionally, the flight missions of GFS are affected by a number of uncertainties, such as inclement weather, aircraft unserviceability, the need to wait for take-off clearance from Air Traffic Control, extreme range, lead time required for aircrew deployment, installation of equipment and refueling, etc, which may result in out-of-pledge on-scene time of individual missions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB187****(Question Serial No. 2391)**Head: (166) Government Flying ServiceSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (1) Government Flying ServiceControlling Officer: Controller, Government Flying Service (Captain West WU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

The flying hours, persons rescued and number of flights of the Government Flying Service (GFS)'s rescue mission for 2020 were nearly or more than doubled as compared with 2019. Please advise on the reasons for it; and the increase in the respective average operating costs for every additional flight, flying hour and person rescued.

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)Reply:

The surge in the numbers of flying hours, persons rescued and number of flights of the helicopter rescue mission in 2020 is believed to be caused by the increased number of visitors to the countryside amidst COVID-19 pandemic.

GFS does not maintain statistics on the impact on the operating costs of individual flight operations. The hourly direct operating cost (per hour flown) for the helicopters in the recent 5 years are tabulated as follows:

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
AS-322 L2 Super Puma (\$)	45,020	31,550	28,950	25,830	21,470
EC 155B1 (\$)	14,260	23,010	21,960	22,610	22,300
H 175# (\$)	-	-	26,310	22,290	20,590

7 H 175 helicopters came into operation gradually in end-2018.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB188****(Question Serial No. 0695)**Head: (166) Government Flying ServiceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Government Flying ServiceControlling Officer: Controller, Government Flying Service (Captain West WU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that the training and development of frontline staff will be enhanced. What are the specific details? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)Reply:

The Government Flying Service (GFS) is preparing for the establishment of the Flight Simulator Training Centre (FSTC) at the GFS Headquarters and procuring an H 175 helicopter flight simulator training device to provide GFS helicopter pilots with the necessary flight simulation training, which will be conducive to enhancing their training efficiency and technical competency. The establishment of FSTC will reduce the time and cost of deploying helicopter pilots in receiving relevant training overseas every year and provide training that better caters for their operational needs in a more timely manner, thereby enabling GFS to meet service needs more effectively. The approved project estimate for the establishment of FSTC is \$112.1 million while the one-off expenditure for the procurement of the simulator is \$113.97 million.

GFS has obtained approval to create 5 non-directorate posts in 2021-22, including 3 Aircraft Technician grade posts for supporting the operation of FSTC and 2 Air Crewman Officer III posts for strengthening training for the Air Crewman Officer grade. The total annual salary costs involved for the newly created posts are about \$2.9 million (in terms of the notional annual mid-point salary). The relevant details are as below:

Rank	Number of non-directorate posts approved to be created
Chief Aircraft Technician	1
Senior Aircraft Technician	1
Aircraft Technician	1
Air Crewman Officer III	2
Total	5

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB189****(Question Serial No. 0772)**Head: (37) Department of HealthSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (6) Treatment of Drug AbusersControlling Officer: Director of Health (Dr. Constance CHAN)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please list the numbers and average attendance rates of patients registered with methadone clinics in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 70)Reply:

The number of patients registered with methadone clinics and the average attendance rate of registered patients in the past 3 years are as follows:

	2018	2019	2020
No. of patients registered	5 800	5 200	5 300
Average attendance rate of registered patients (%)	76	74	77

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB190****(Question Serial No. 2409)**Head: (37) Department of HealthSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (6) Treatment of Drug AbusersControlling Officer: Director of Health (Dr. Constance CHAN)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

The Department of Health runs 19 methadone clinics across the territory. In this connection, please advise on the total operating expenses and the number of attendances of each methadone clinic in each of the past 3 years, and the ways to increase the average attendance rate of patients registered with methadone clinics to ensure the effective use of public resources.

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)Reply:

- (1) The annual expenditure/revised estimate in respect of the methadone clinic service in the financial years from 2018-19 to 2020-21 is as follows:

<u>Financial Year</u>	<u>Annual Expenditure (\$ million)</u>
2018-19 (Actual)	55.4
2019-20 (Actual)	57.0
2020-21 (Revised estimate)	62.0

The Department of Health (DH) does not maintain a breakdown of expenditure by each clinic.

- (2) The number of attendances of each methadone clinic in the past 3 years is as follows:

	2018	2019	2020
Aberdeen Methadone Clinic	19 419	18 526	19 618
Cheung Chau Methadone Clinic	4 935	5 252	4 778
Eastern Street Methadone Clinic	17 784	16 480	14 863
Hung Hom Methadone Clinic	28 699	22 043	22 803
Ho Man Tin Methadone Clinic	18 255	16 927	16 366

	2018	2019	2020
Kwun Tong Methadone Clinic	85 967	74 414	83 559
Lady Trench Methadone Clinic	171 280	158 626	161 421
Ngau Tau Kok Methadone Clinic	39 775	31 935	32 824
Robert Black Methadone Clinic	213 352	189 893	202 526
Shau Kei Wan Methadone Clinic	25 035	23 326	22 885
Sham Shui Po Methadone Clinic	408 950	353 379	371 327
Sha Tin (Tai Wai) Methadone Clinic	34 481	28 971	31 168
Shek Wu Hui Methadone Clinic	46 393	39 749	41 014
Tuen Mun Methadone Clinic	84 615	77 614	82 424
Tai Po Methadone Clinic	32 191	29 988	28 840
Violet Peel Methadone Clinic	135 078	119 283	115 215
Wu York Yu Methadone Clinic	26 703	26 895	26 970
Yuen Long Methadone Clinic	93 845	81 548	88 161
Yau Ma Tei Methadone Clinic	113 164	100 062	125 489

- (3) The average attendance rates of patients registered with methadone clinics in the past 3 years are as follows:

	2018	2019	2020
Average attendance rate of registered patients (%)	76	74	77

The DH has been closely monitoring the utilisation of methadone clinics and will adjust their services and operation where necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB191

(Question Serial No. 0678)

Head: (23) Auxiliary Medical Service

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Auxiliary Medical Service

Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service (WONG Ying-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-2022, the Government indicated that AMS will provide decontamination training to its members on proper response to nuclear emergencies at various discharge points and contact points in remote areas as well as monitoring centres territory-wide. What are the staff establishment and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

The general regular training of the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) covers topics on radiation decontamination. The relevant courses and exercises are part of the routine training. In AMS, there are a total of 6 Operations and Training Officer grade staff who are responsible for radiation decontamination training and exercises. No breakdown of the estimated expenditure is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB192

(Question Serial No. 0679)

Head: (27) Civil Aid Service

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Civil Aid Service

Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Civil Aid Service (FONG Yiu-tong, Francis)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the details of the acquisition and replacement of equipment under Subhead 661.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

The estimated provision of the Civil Aid Service (CAS) for Subhead 661- Minor plant, vehicles and equipment for 2021-22 is \$10.405 million, which will be mainly used for replacing the facilities of the CAS headquarters building, including the central chiller equipment, central air-conditioning control and monitoring system and central hot water installations, as well as procuring a digital radio communications system to replace the existing one, and providing additional training facilities for the CAS.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2397)

Head: (48) Government Laboratory
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (3) Forensic Science Services
Controlling Officer: Government Chemist (Dr. SIN Wai-mei)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the forensic science services under the Government Laboratory (GL) mentioned in the Budget: (i) cases for illicit drug seizures being completed within 11 working days, (ii) cases for major illicit drug seizures and manufacturing being completed within 44 working days, and (iii) cases for other illegal drug activities being completed within 120 working days, the target performance levels of these 3 services are 90%. However, it is noted that the actual performance levels of these 3 services in 2020 were only 81%, 74% and 84% respectively, far lower than those in 2019. What are the reasons for such decrease? How to ensure that the target performance levels be achieved in 2021?

Asked by: Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

The COVID-19 pandemic had affected the work arrangements of certain operations of GL. In addition, with an increase in the quantity of seized illicit drugs where most cases were submitted in the second half of 2020, and some cases being of greater complexity, the target performance levels of the services concerned were not met in 2020.

GL all along maintains close liaison with relevant departments and reviews its various services from time to time. GL has deployed resources flexibly in a timely manner, and will continue to reprioritise and streamline work processes, with a view to enhancing testing capability and effectiveness and rising to challenges.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB194

(Question Serial No. 2051)

Head: (121) Independent Police Complaints Council

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Police Complaints Administration

Controlling Officer: Secretary-General (Acting), Independent Police Complaints Council
(Daniel MUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

How many cases of police complaints were handled in the 2020-21 fiscal year and what was the staff establishment in that regard? What is the average time for handling a general case, a complicated case and a reviewed case, respectively?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

The Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) currently has a staff establishment of 74. In the 2020-21 financial year (as at 28 February 2021), the IPCC vetted and endorsed the investigation results of 1 240 reportable complaints which involved 2 081 allegations. The average processing time for a case is 172 days. The IPCC has not compiled a breakdown on the processing time for different categories of cases.

- End -