

**Legislative Council
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

Follow-up on the Meeting of 14 September 2021

At the meeting of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council on 14 September 2021, Members requested supplementary information on the “improvement of management and hygiene conditions of public toilets”, which is set out below –

- (a) In the 2019-20 Budget, the Government announced that it would make an additional allocation of over \$600 million to implement the Enhanced Public Toilet Refurbishment Programme (EPTRP) for refurbishing or facelifting about 240 public toilets under the management of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) by phases in five years (i.e. from 2019-20 to 2023-24). Under the close co-operation between the FEHD and the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD), the refurbishment or facelifting works for 141 public toilets were rolled out in the first three years of the EPTRP. The refurbishment or facelifting works for 50 of these public toilets have been completed¹. The works for the remaining 99 public toilets will commence in 2023-24 or before as scheduled.

To expedite the progress of improvement works for public toilets, the FEHD will continue to work with the ArchSD to actively take forward the remaining works under the EPTRP. We will streamline work procedures and apply new construction methods such as Modular Integrated Construction and Design for Manufacture and Assembly, with a view to shortening on-site construction time and the closure period of public toilets. We will also prioritise the public toilets for inclusion into the EPTRP having regard to their utilisation rates, locations, maintenance conditions and the time lapse since they were last refurbished.

The ArchSD expects that the aforementioned construction methods can be piloted in the improvement works for several public toilets in rural areas and new public toilet projects in 2022-23, so as to evaluate their effectiveness and assess the feasibility of applying the technology in the improvement works for other public toilets in rural areas, as well as the construction of new public toilets or reprovisioning works of public

¹ As at 30 September 2021

toilets in urban areas. If the results are satisfactory, we will consider phasing in the construction methods from 2023-24 in the improvement works of more public toilets in rural areas and new public toilet projects, with a view to further expediting the progress of public toilet improvement programme.

The FEHD will review the progress and effectiveness of the EPTRP in a timely manner. Apart from speeding up the refurbishment or facelifting works for the remaining public toilets under the EPTRP, it will consider expanding the EPTRP to include other suitable public toilets by phases.

- (b)-(c) The FEHD has implemented a pilot scheme on “smart public toilet system” with the objective of studying, developing and constructing a prototype of smart public toilet system for enhancing the management and service quality of public toilets. The system can collect a range of useful data on the operation of public toilets, including their usage, environmental parameters, usage of consumables, operating status of electrical and mechanical equipment, users’ feedback, etc., in order to monitor their daily operation. It also serves as a useful reference for refurbishment of public toilets or improvement of toilet facilities, such that public toilet services can better meet the public needs. The FEHD has been piloting for one year the “smart public toilet system” in the Tsim Sha Tsui East Public Transport Interchange Public Toilet and the Southorn Centre Public Toilet in Wan Chai through the application of Internet of Things (IoT) solutions. The FEHD will all along evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the system, and will review and follow up as appropriate in a timely manner.

At the same time, the FEHD is working with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to consider making use of the Government-Wide IoT Network for launching a “smart toilet pilot programme”, and to develop a smart public toilet system and IoT solutions applicable to public toilets. This would pave the way for further exploring the feasibility of introducing such a system for better management, service quality and user experience of public toilets. Installation and testing of the relevant devices at 10 FEHD public toilets (as tabulated below) over the territory has commenced from the third quarter of this year on a one-year basis. The pilot programme will collect useful information and data for better efficacy of cleansing, housekeeping and maintenance. It will also provide members of the public with the occupancy status of the toilets and useful information.

Public Toilets	Region
Canal Road Public Toilet	Wan Chai
Tsim Sha Tsui Ferry Concourse Public Toilet	Yau Tsim
Tak Wan Park Public Toilet	Tsuen Wan
Tong Shui Road Public Toilet	Eastern District
Apliu Street Public Toilet	Sham Shui Po
Chuen Lung Village Public Toilet	Tsuen Wan
Fuk Hang Tsuen Public Toilet	Tuen Mun
Po Lo Che Road Public Toilet	Sai Kung
Old Peak Road Public Toilet	Central & Western District
Ho Sheung Heung Old Village Public Toilet (II)	North District

Through the above pilot schemes, the FEHD will actively explore and examine the introduction of smart public toilet system. It is expected that the management and maintenance efficiency, service quality and long-term planning of public toilets can be enhanced through the application of new technologies. The FEHD will, having regard to the results of the pilot schemes, consider deploying the system in other public toilets to enhance their management and service quality.

Food and Health Bureau
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
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