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Replies to initial questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2023-24

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Session No. : 8

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SB163	3423	TIK Chi-yuen	30	(1) Prison Management
SB164	3424	TIK Chi-yuen	30	(1) Prison Management
SB165	3425	TIK Chi-yuen	30	(1) Prison Management

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SB168	3428	TIK Chi-yuen	30	(1) Prison Management
SB169	3429	TIK Chi-yuen	30	(1) Prison Management
SB170	3430	TIK Chi-yuen	30	(1) Prison Management
SB171	3431	TIK Chi-yuen	30	(1) Prison Management
SB172	3432	TIK Chi-yuen	30	(1) Prison Management
SB173	3433	TIK Chi-yuen	30	(1) Prison Management
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SB175	3435	TIK Chi-yuen	30	(1) Prison Management
SB176	3436	TIK Chi-yuen	30	(1) Prison Management
SB177	3437	TIK Chi-yuen	30	(1) Prison Management
SB178	3438	TIK Chi-yuen	30	(1) Prison Management
SB179	3439	TIK Chi-yuen	30	(1) Prison Management
SB180	3440	TIK Chi-yuen	30	(1) Prison Management
SB181	3441	TIK Chi-yuen	30	(1) Prison Management
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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB001****(Question Serial No. 2861)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Immigration ControlControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

According to the Bureau, it uses a large amount of resources on handling non-refoulement claims and related work every year. Please provide the following in respect of the past 3 years:

1. the number of claimants provided with publicly-funded legal assistance and the expenditures involved;
2. the percentages of substantiated and unsubstantiated claims; and
3. the costs of honoraria for members of committees which provide legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants, other hired services and professional fees.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)Reply:

(1), (3) Major expenditures on handling non-refoulement claims and related work since 2020-21 are tabulated below:

Year	Screening of claims and handling of appeals/petitions* (\$ million)	Repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants (\$ million)	Publicly-funded legal assistance (PFLA) (\$ million)	Humanitarian assistance (\$ million)	Total@ (\$ million)
2020-21	311	47^	95	540	992
2021-22	298	47^	142	579	1 067
2022-23 (Revised estimate)	317	50^	111	590	1 068
2023-24 (Estimate)	389	57^	171	784	1 400

* Including staff costs of the Immigration Department (ImmD) in screening claims and expenditures of the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) in handling appeals, etc.

^ Only the expenditure on the dedicated manpower for the repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants and related work is included. As other expenditures are incurred by duties (such as the arrangement for air tickets and application for travel documents) which form part of ImmD's overall repatriation work, ImmD does not maintain a separate breakdown relating to unsubstantiated claimants.

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

The estimate for 2023-24 is 31% more than the revised estimate for 2022-23, which is mainly due to the expedition of processing claim-related appeals by TCAB, from completing around 1 500 appeal cases in 2022 to completing not less than 3 000 appeal cases each year starting from 2023. In addition, taking into account the need to fulfill the relevant legal obligations and to meet the actual demand, the Government allocates more resources to cope with the increase in expenditures of PFLA and humanitarian assistance arising from an increased number of cases. As with other policies, the Government will continue to closely monitor whether the resources deployed are put to good use and conduct review from time to time, with a view to meeting the policy objectives and serving the public interests.

Separately, the Government did not set up any committee concerning PFLA for non-refoulement claimants. From 2017 to 2022, the Government set up an Advisory Committee for the Pilot Scheme for Provision of PFLA for Non-refoulement Claimants (the Pilot Scheme), and the participating members did not receive any honorarium. The Advisory Committee was dissolved in end-December 2022 after completing the review on the operation of the Pilot Scheme.

(2) The Government implemented the Unified Screening Mechanism (USM) in March 2014 to screen non-refoulement claims on all applicable grounds in one go. Among the 22 370 claims determined by ImmD since the implementation of USM till end-February 2023, 1.2% were substantiated (i.e. 269 cases, including 180 cases substantiated by TCAB on appeal).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB002

(Question Serial No. 2863)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Not Specified

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24, the Bureau has expressed that it will continue to sustain the anti-drug momentum. The Government officially listed cannabidiol (CBD) as a dangerous drug on 1 February 2023. Please provide:

1. the expenditure on promoting the control of CBD products last year;
2. the promotional plan and estimated expenditure this year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

Cannabidiol (CBD) is listed as a dangerous drug under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap.134) from 1 February 2023.

During 2022-23, the Narcotics Division (ND) of the Security Bureau (SB) spent about \$6.92 million on promoting the new legislation.

In 2023-24, the ND of SB will continue to enhance public awareness of drugs (including CBD) and drug trafficking issues through publicity, and encourage drug addicts to seek assistance early. To enhance effectiveness, the ND will deploy resources flexibly and adjust publicity strategies timely to respond to latest drug abuse and drug situation. The resources involved in anti-drug publicity have been subsumed in ND's estimated recurrent expenditure and we do not keep breakdown on relevant figures.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB003****(Question Serial No. 0463)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Internal SecurityControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

- 1) Please provide details of the various inter-departmental exercises led/coordinated/participated by the Security Bureau over the past 5 years:

Year	Objectives of the exercises	No. of participants from Government departments	No. of participants from non-Government departments	No. of members of the public participating by invitation (if any)	Expenditure
2018					
2019					
2020					
2021					
2022					

- 2) Was there any inter-departmental exercises held to effectively respond to cross-regional emergencies in the Greater Bay Area (GBA)? If so, what are the details and the expenditure involved?
- 3) In view of the increasingly close ties and development within the GBA, is there any plans to conduct regional inter-departmental contingency exercises to handle cross-regional emergencies so as to enhance communication, coordination and response capabilities? If so, what are the details and the estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)Reply:

- 1) Inter-departmental exercises led/coordinated/participated by the Security Bureau (SB) over the past 5 years are as follows:

Year	Objectives of the exercises	No. of participants from Government departments	No. of participants from non-Government departments	No. of members of the public participating by invitation (if any)	Expenditure
2018 (three exercises in total)	Enhance response capabilities to typhoon situations	72	16	0	No additional expense to SB
	Enhance communication and collaboration in extreme weather situations	30	0	0	No additional expense to SB
	Enhance handling and rescue capabilities in aircraft incidents	Over 1 000	40	0	No additional expense to SB
2019 (three exercises in total)	Strengthen counter-terrorism capabilities and heighten public's awareness of terrorism	270	0	0	No additional expense to SB
	Enhance response capabilities to typhoon situations	34	8	0	No additional expense to SB
	Enhance efficiency in handling fallen trees and broken branches in typhoon season	35	0	0	No additional expense to SB
2020 (three exercises in total)	Enhance response capabilities to typhoon situations	38	7	0	No additional expense to SB
	Enhance efficiency in handling fallen trees and broken branches in typhoon season	41	0	0	No additional expense to SB
	Enhance handling and rescue	400	70	0	No additional

Year	Objectives of the exercises	No. of participants from Government departments	No. of participants from non-Government departments	No. of members of the public participating by invitation (if any)	Expenditure
	capabilities in aircraft incidents				expense to SB
2021 (four exercises in total)	Enhance efficiency in handling fallen trees and broken branches in typhoon season	64	0	0	No additional expense to SB
	Enhance response capabilities to typhoon situations	40	8	0	No additional expense to SB
	Strengthen and coordinate response capabilities to terrorist attacks	338	24	6	No additional expense to SB
	Test for the arrangements and efficiency for the reopening of boundary control points	340	100	0	No additional expense to SB
2022 (seven exercises in total)	Test for the arrangements and efficiency for the reopening of boundary control points	180	60	0	No additional expense to SB
	Test for the operational efficiency of a simulated Community Universal Testing Programme	over 70	0	0	No additional expense to SB
	Enhance efficiency in handling fallen trees and broken branches in typhoon season	63	0	0	No additional expense to SB

Year	Objectives of the exercises	No. of participants from Government departments	No. of participants from non-Government departments	No. of members of the public participating by invitation (if any)	Expenditure
	Test for response capabilities to emergencies and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents	330	50	0	No additional expense to SB
	Test for efficiency and maximum capacity of the COVID-19 testing process in case of further increase in visitors	About 1 000	0	0	No additional expense to SB
	Enhance maritime search and rescue capabilities of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in the Greater Bay Area	About 500	0	0	No additional expense to SB
	Enhance government departments' communication and collaboration in various extreme weather conditions	60	0	0	No additional expense to SB
2023 (two exercises in total)	Test for and enhance Government's preparedness to nuclear incidents	Over 1 200	About 200	0	\$5.87 million
	Participate in the drill under "Government-wide Mobilisation" level organised by the Civil Service Bureau, to test for	About 10 000	0	0	No additional expense to SB

Year	Objectives of the exercises	No. of participants from Government departments	No. of participants from non-Government departments	No. of members of the public participating by invitation (if any)	Expenditure
	the efficiency in mobilising civil servants to cope with major incidents				

2) and 3)

Hong Kong and Guangdong signed the “Agreement to Enhance Co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong in Emergency Management” and established the “Guangdong-Hong Kong Emergency Management Joint Mechanism Task Force” in 2008 and 2009 respectively, to institutionalise information sharing and interconnectivity of emergency management platforms. The Task Force meets regularly to take stock of achievements and prepare for future work plans.

With the above-mentioned co-operation framework, in the event of significant weather changes, such as typhoons, under the steer of the National Meteorological Centre in Beijing, emergency response units in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao will exchange information and get well-prepared for the occurrence. In Oct 2022, the Guangdong Provincial Maritime Search and Rescue Centre invited the Security Bureau (SB), the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre of the Marine Department, and the Marine and Water Bureau of Macao, to conduct a comprehensive maritime search and rescue exercise in order to test and enhance emergency response by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in maritime incidents.

The Government also maintains regular co-operation and communication with the Guangdong province in respect of emergency response to nuclear incidents, and exchange the readings of environmental radiation monitoring if required. The CHECKERBOARD III exercise held on 12 January this year was a large-scale inter-departmental exercise organised by SB that showcased our efforts in ensuring effective response to nuclear incidents at Daya Bay. The exercise comprised of drills for command posts and departmental field operations, involving over 1 400 officers from 37 bureaux, departments and other organisations, as well as some 200 members of the public as volunteers. To raise the professional standard of CHECKERBOARD III, SB invited the Nuclear Emergency Committee Office of Guangdong Province (GDNECO) to design the main technical scenarios and provide simulated data for the exercise. The GDNECO, the Nuclear Emergency Committee Office of Shenzhen Municipality and the Unitary Police Service of the Macao SAR Government also sent representatives to Hong Kong as observers to strengthen exchanges on emergency management among cities in the GBA.

As the community gradually resumes normal after the pandemic, there would be more frequent exchanges among cities in the GBA. We would utilise on the existing co-operation framework to further enhance the overall emergency response capabilities within the GBA and strengthen our collaborations in emergency management, such as holding joint rescue

exercises, compiling joint contingency plans, and strengthening alert notifications between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao ports during emergency rescue operations, etc.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB004

(Question Serial No. 0464)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The total provision for the Security Bureau (SB) for 2023-24 and the estimate under Programme (3) will increase substantially by over 10% and nearly 30% respectively. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. regarding the total provision for 2023-24, the estimated amount involved in providing legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants, other services and administrative expenses;
2. in each of the past 5 years, the amounts involved in providing legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants, other services and administrative expenses. Please provide a breakdown by places of origin of the claimants in descending order;
3. Please provide details of: the proportion of claimants who have filed more than one non-refoulement claim in the past 5 year; among them, the proportion of claimants who were eventually removed; and the amount involved in providing legal assistance to these claimants, other services and administrative expenses. Do the Estimate 2023-24 and the estimates in the past 5 years include implementing effective interception measures to prevent the abusive use of the non-refoulement mechanism or making relevant legislations? If yes, what are they? If not, what are the reasons? Will the Government consider making legislative amendments and putting in place relevant measures?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

(1) - (2) 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 unsubstantiated claimants # (\$ million)	Publicly-funded legal assistance (PFLA) (\$ million)	Humanitarian assistance (\$ million)	Total@ (\$ million)
2018-19	401	-	207	531	1 138
2019-20	344	45^	93	482	964
2020-21	311	47^	95	540	992
2021-22	298	47^	142	579	1 067
2022-23 (Revised estimate)	317	50^	111	590	1 068
2023-24 (Estimate)	389	57^	171	784	1 400

* Including staff costs of the Immigration Department (ImmD) in screening claims and expenditures of the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) in handling appeals, etc.

ImmD has deployed dedicated manpower to expedite the repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants to their places of origin since 2019-20.

^ Only the expenditure on the dedicated manpower for the repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants and related work is included. As other expenditures are incurred by duties (such as the arrangement for air tickets and application for travel documents) which form part of ImmD's overall repatriation work, ImmD does not maintain a separate breakdown relating to unsubstantiated claimants.

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

The estimate for 2023-24 is 31% more than the revised estimate for 2022-23, which is mainly due to the expedition of processing claim-related appeals by TCAB, from completing around 1 500 appeal cases in 2022 to completing not less than 3 000 appeal cases each year starting from 2023. In addition, taking into account the need to fulfill the relevant legal obligations and to meet the actual demand, the Government allocates more resources to cope with the increase in expenditures of PFLA and humanitarian assistance arising from an increased number of cases.

The Government does not maintain the expenditure breakdown by the places of origin of the claimants.

(3) The Government implemented the Unified Screening Mechanism (USM) in March 2014 to screen non-refoulement claims on all applicable grounds in one go. ImmD will continue to maintain high efficiency in the screening procedures and target to commence screening as soon as a new claim is received. As at end-February 2023, the number of non-refoulement claims handled by ImmD is as follows:

Year	Claims received	Claims determined	Claims withdrawn or no further action can be taken	Pending claims
Commencement of USM				6 699

Year	Claims received	Claims determined	Claims withdrawn or no further action can be taken	Pending claims
2014 (March to December)	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	2 528	2 220	130	741
2022	1 257	1 727	70	201
2023 (January to February)	188	190	7	192
Total	22 993	22 370	7 130	

Pursuant to section 37ZO of the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115), a person who has previously made a torture claim must not subsequently make another torture claim. If an unsubstantiated claimant who had been removed to his/her country of origin re-enters Hong Kong and intends to lodge a subsequent claim (SC), his/her request must meet the relevant statutory requirements. Since the implementation of USM and up to end-February 2023, ImmD received a total of 1 876 SC requests. Amongst the 1 835 SC requests processed, 304 (around 17%) were allowed to make SCs and only one of them was substantiated. The number of SC requests received by ImmD since the implementation of USM is tabulated below:

Year	SC requests received
2014 (March to December)	31
2015	33
2016	58
2017	41
2018	50
2019	116
2020	446
2021	510
2022	558
2023 (January to February)	33
Total	1 876

ImmD has flexibly deployed manpower to expedite the processing of SC requests. To curb the situation of claimants whose SC requests have been rejected by ImmD to further abuse the judicial process, ImmD has since early 2021 applied to the High Court under section 27 of the High Court Ordinance (Cap. 4) to request the Court to grant orders to restrict some claimants who have abused the judicial system from commencing any fresh claim-related legal proceedings or continuing with other claim-related legal proceedings previously instituted (Section 27 Order). In addition, the Court has since mid-2021 actively granted

orders under the power conferred by the common law to a number of claimants who have abused court proceedings, in order to restrict the claimants concerned to commence or continue with any claim-related legal proceedings without leave of the Court (Restricted Proceedings Order). As at end-February 2023, the High Court has granted Section 27 Orders or Restricted Proceedings Orders to 403 claimants. Also, as at end-February 2023, ImmD has removed 357 unsubstantiated claimants whose SC requests were rejected. ImmD will continue to endeavour in expediting the removal of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong.

The Government does not maintain the breakdown of the major expenditures of processing the SC requests and related work.

To address the concerns about the burden on the society brought by non-refoulement claimants, the Government briefed the Panel on Security of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in December 2022 on the implementation of further measures to enhance the handling of non-refoulement claims and to expedite the removal of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong, viz.:

- (a) maintain high efficiency in screening non-refoulement claims;
- (b) expedite the processing of claim-related appeals;
- (c) update the removal policy to expedite repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong;
- (d) expand detention capacity and step up management of immigration detainees; and
- (e) strengthen enforcement actions against immigration offences and illegal employment.

In addition, the Secretary for Security has amended the Immigration (Places of Detention) Order (Cap. 115B) and other relevant subsidiary legislation to include the Nei Kwu Correctional Institution (NKCI) as a place of immigration detention. With the redeployment of NKCI, the overall capacity for immigration detainees will increase by about one-third to 900. The Secretary for Security has also made the Immigration (Advance Passenger Information) Regulation to give legal effect to the implementation of the Advance Passenger Information system in Hong Kong, which would facilitate ImmD to prevent undesirables, including potential non-refoulement claimants, from boarding flights heading to Hong Kong. The aforesaid two sets of subsidiary legislation were tabled at LegCo on 29 March 2023 for negative vetting. ImmD will continue to endeavour in removing unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong as soon as practicable, so as to maintain effective immigration control and safeguard public interest.

The above work forms part of the daily operations of ImmD, and thus a breakdown of the resources involved is not maintained.

- End -

SB005

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2387)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Youth groups of various disciplined services under the Security Bureau are established to provide young people with the opportunity to develop self-confidence and civic-mindedness. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. the resources and manpower allocated to each youth group in the past 3 years and the coming year; and
2. whether the youth groups organised any national education activities to deepen members' understanding of the country and their sense of national identity in the past 3 years; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

1. The Security Bureau and its six disciplined services and two auxiliary services departments have all along been promoting youth development. Currently, all disciplined and auxiliary services departments (except the Government Flying Service (GFS)) have established their own youth uniformed groups, while GFS has deepened its collaboration with the Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps.

The resources for organising youth uniformed group activities of the disciplined and auxiliary services are subsumed under the recurrent expenses of the respective departments, while the implementation work of the youth uniformed groups involves numerous staff from different roles, including not only staff specifically tasked to handle the work of youth uniformed groups, but also a large number of staff who share the duties of youth uniformed groups on top of their original duties, contract staff, as well as other on-duty and volunteer staff who take part in or assist in organising various youth activities. As such, the departments concerned do not maintain a breakdown of the resources and manpower in relation to youth uniformed groups.

The disciplined and auxiliary services departments will continue to flexibly deploy resources for youth development work.

2. The disciplined and auxiliary services departments have all along been actively promoting national education. One of the initiatives is that the regular assemblies held by the departments for their youth uniformed group members have already incorporated Chinese-style foot drill and flag-raising training, with a view to cultivating their patriotism. In addition, the departments also organise thematic activities, including seminars on topics like the Basic Law and the National Security Law, viewing of films that foster understanding of our country, Chinese music concerts, activities in celebration of the National Day and the anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, as well as visits to the relevant museums and historical and cultural heritage, in order to raise the sense of national identity and the awareness of national security among members.

In the past three years, due to the epidemic, the disciplined and auxiliary services departments were unable to arrange exchange activities in the Mainland for their members. Following the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the disciplined and auxiliary services are actively organising exchange activities in the Mainland, with a view to strengthening members' patriotism and understanding of our country through first-hand visit and experience. Among them, Junior Police Call and Customs YES already started arranging members to the Greater Bay Area in early to mid-March 2023 for exchange and better understanding of national affairs.

The information on the national education thematic activities organised by the youth uniformed groups since 2020 is tabulated below:

	Number of Thematic Activities	Number of Participants
Junior Police Call	294	11 697
Fire & Ambulance Services Teen Connect	23	740
Immigration Department Youth Leaders Corps	39	1 132
Customs YES	24	707
Rehabilitation Pioneer Leaders of the Correctional Services Department	25	592
Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps	13	396
Civil Aid Service Cadet Corps	64	1 450
Auxiliary Medical Service Cadet Corps	10	965

- End -

SB006

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2343)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Since 1 February 2023, cannabidiol (CBD) has been listed as a dangerous drug under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134). The possession, consumption and manufacture of and trafficking in products containing such a substance are prohibited. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following?

1. Before the control came into effect, what were (a) the expenditure on public education and publicity, (b) the manpower and salary expenditure involved?
2. Before the control came into effect, what were (a) the respective numbers of CBD products collected from (i) CBD disposal boxes and (ii) other channels, (b) the expenditure on handling these products, (c) the manpower and salary expenditure involved?
3. Since the control has come into effect, what are (a) the number of law enforcement operations conducted, (b) the number of CBD products seized, (c) the number of persons arrested for illegal possession, consumption and manufacture of and trafficking in CBD?
4. In view of the legalisation of CBD products in certain countries, has the Customs and Excise Department stepped up searching against persons and goods coming to Hong Kong from these countries, so as to prevent CBD products from entering the local market? If yes, what are the expenditures on additional (a) manpower and (b) equipment?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, JoePHY (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

Cannabidiol (CBD) is listed as a dangerous drug under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap.134) from 1 February 2023.

During 2022-23, the Narcotics Division (ND) of the Security Bureau (SB) spent about \$6.92 million on promoting the new legislation, of which about \$3.48 million was related to

publicity before the control came into effect. The above expenditure has been subsumed in ND's recurrent expenditure. We do not keep breakdown on manpower and salary.

From 27 October 2022 until the new legislation came into effect, the ND of SB received more than 79 000 CBD products disposed by the public, which were mainly skin care products, edible oils, health supplements, etc., amongst which about 3 500 items were collected from disposal boxes. The expenditure on collecting and processing these items was about \$350,000. The above expenditure has been subsumed in ND's recurrent expenditure. We do not keep breakdown on manpower and salary.

As at 28 February 2023, the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) seized a total of 9 items of oil and skin care products suspected of containing CBD, involving 5 cases with 2 persons arrested.

The LEAs will continue the efforts in combatting drug crimes, including those involving CBD. The Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) will closely monitor global drug trends, and strengthen the inspection of travellers, cargoes and mail parcels from high risk regions based on intelligence and risk management, with a view to intercepting the flow of CBD products into Hong Kong. Since the new legislation came into effect, C&ED has flexibly deployed existing manpower and resources to meet the enforcement needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2142)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office, (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Frontier Closed Area and Permits

There are 7 land control points between Hong Kong and Shenzhen. While control points on the Mainland side are directly accessible to passengers and vehicles, there is usually a Frontier Closed Area (FCA) on the Hong Kong side, except for the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point which is directly accessible by passengers and vehicles. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. in view of the proposed joint development of the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Boundary Control Points Economic Belt (SZ-HK BCP Economic Belt), is there any plans to abolish the FCAs and allow direct access by both passengers and vehicles at all control points, so as to further support the proposed development of the SZ-HK BCP Economic Belt?
2. in view of the development of the Northern Metropolis and the policy proposal on the SZ-HK BCP Economic Belt, many Hong Kong deputies to the National People's Congress, members of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Legislative Council Members, representatives of major enterprises and prominent members of the community intend to make a site visit to the Northern Metropolis and the vicinity of control points. Will there be any mechanisms to streamline the handling process of their Closed Area Permit applications?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuet-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

1. Frontier Closed Area (FCA) helps maintain boundary control between Hong Kong and the Mainland by law enforcement agencies so as to combat illegal immigration and other cross-boundary criminal activities. The Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point (BCP) is the first BCP adopting the design of direct access by passengers and vehicles. But its control point area, which comprises of the passenger terminal building and the cargo clearance area, is still within the closed area. When enhancing existing BCPs or developing new BCPs, the HKSAR Government will, as far as

practicable, limit the coverage of the FCA to a size necessary for maintaining public order. It will also consider, among other things, whether to adopt the design of direct access by passengers and vehicles having regard to the planning of individual BCP.

2. According to the existing FCA policy, the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) will only issue Closed Area Permits (CAPs) to persons and vehicles on ground of needs. Applications can be submitted in person, by post, by fax or through the drop-in box at the Closed Area Permit Office.

To ensure effective implementation of boundary security policies, the HKPF will continue to process CAP applications according to established procedures, and review the procedures timely on a need basis.

Details of the existing FCA policy and CAP application have already been uploaded to the HKPF website for public access. Please refer to the link below for details: https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/11_useful_info/licences/cap.html.

In addition, the HKPF is preparing for launching an online application system for CAPs in phases so as to facilitate easier public access, streamline application procedures as well as enhancing service efficiency. The first phase is expected to be launched in the fourth quarter of 2023. Relevant details and arrangements will be announced in due course.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB008

(Question Serial No. 1993)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

With a funding of \$5.5 billion, 2 rounds of applications under the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme were launched in 2018 and 2020 respectively to assist owners in need to undertake fire safety enhancement measures as required under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572). A total of 2 520 applications were received in the first round, and in the second round, which was targeted to benefit 3 500 buildings, 900 applications were received in the end. Invitation of applications for the third round will start in the second quarter of 2023. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. Please set out by 18 districts the numbers of applications received, cases approved for subsidy, works projects in progress and works projects completed in the first round.
2. Please set out by 18 districts the numbers of applications received, cases approved for subsidy, works projects in progress and works projects completed in the second round.
3. Among the applications received and approved in the past 2 rounds, what was the number of cases involving “three-nil buildings”?
4. What is the number of applications yet to be approved? What are the reasons for those applications yet to be approved?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1. The first round of the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme (FSWS) was open for application from July to October 2018. The number of applications received, the number of applications issued with letters 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, with a breakdown by District Council district, are set out in the following table:

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
Central and Western	283	243	70	9
Wan Chai	216	174	57	17
Eastern	169	135	38	1
Southern	58	49	14	4
Yau Tsim Mong	626	578	155	14
Sham Shui Po	424	399	108	15
Kowloon City	267	239	68	10
Wong Tai Sin	92	85	18	2
Kwun Tong	57	51	20	0
Tsuen Wan	104	100	41	1
Tuen Mun	27	27	6	0
Yuen Long	128	124	40	0
North	16	14	4	0
Tai Po	51	50	9	0
Sai Kung	1	1	0	0
Sha Tin	25	22	4	0
Islands	1	1	0	0
Kwai Tsing	27	27	13	0
Total	2 572	2 319	665	73

[#] The number of applications received includes 253 applications cancelled for failing to meet the basic application requirements.

- The second round of the FSWS was open for application from July to October 2020. The number of applications received, the number of applications issued with AIP, the number of applications with works in progress, as well as the number of applications with works completed and Directions complied with in the second round, with a breakdown by District Council district, are set out in the following table:

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
Central and Western	109	89	5	0
Wan Chai	95	71	8	0
Eastern	86	67	11	1
Southern	30	27	1	1

Yau Tsim Mong	197	180	12	0
Sham Shui Po	104	90	4	0
Kowloon City	93	75	2	0
Wong Tai Sin	22	21	1	0
Kwun Tong	23	18	1	0
Tsuen Wan	41	41	3	0
Tuen Mun	10	8	1	0
Yuen Long	34	31	1	0
North	11	8	0	0
Tai Po	24	20	1	0
Sai Kung	2	2	0	0
Sha Tin	6	4	0	0
Islands	4	3	0	0
Kwai Tsing	13	12	0	0
Total	904	767	51	2

The number of applications received include 137 applications cancelled for failing to meet the basic application requirements.

3. The Urban Renewal Authority (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 owners' corporation (OC), among the 2 319 applications issued with AIP in the first round, 86 applications were without OCs*. On the other hand, among the 767 applications issued with AIPs in the second round, 92 applications were without OCs*.

[^] 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, an application must be made to the URA with all its owners as the applicant.

4. There were respectively 2 319 and 767 applications meeting the basic application requirements in the first and second rounds of the FSWS. The URA issued AIP to the applicants of the above 3 086 applications and contacted them about the commencement of fire safety improvement works. Hence, there were no applications yet to be approved in the first and second rounds.

- End -

SB009

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0728)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2022-23, one of the tasks undertaken by the Security Bureau (SB) was to “continue to oversee the operation of the Pilot Scheme for Provision of Publicly-funded Legal Assistance for Non-refoulement Claimants and map out the long-term way forward on the provision of publicly-funded legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants.” It is also mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 that the SB will “sustain the provision of publicly-funded legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants.” In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. the expenditure involved in providing publicly-funded legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants (including lodging appeals) in the past year;
2. the estimated expenditure in relation to non-refoulement claims (including but not limited to screening of claims and handling of appeals, provision of publicly-funded legal assistance and humanitarian assistance to claimants) in the coming year;
3. as at September 2022, there were over 14 900 non-refoulement claimants remaining in Hong Kong. Between January and September, 304 non-ethnic Chinese (NEC) persons issued with “going-out passes” were suspected of taking up unlawful employment contrary to the Immigration Ordinance. Furthermore, among the 528 NEC persons being arrested for criminal offences, most of them were non-refoulement claimants. This shows that their presence poses a certain threat to the law and order of Hong Kong. Yet, the SB still plans to “map out the long-term way forward on the provision of publicly-funded legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants.” Is this a practical measure which serves the overall interests of our society?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

(1) – (2) Major expenditures on handling non-refoulement claims and related work since 2022-23 are tabulated below:

Year	Screening of claims and handling of appeals/petitions* (\$ million)	Repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants (\$ million)	Publicly-funded legal assistance (PFLA) (\$ million)	Humanitarian assistance (\$ million)	Total[@] (\$ million)
2022-23 (Revised estimate)	317	50 [^]	111	590	1 068
2023-24 (Estimate)	389	57 [^]	171	784	1 400

** Including staff costs of the Immigration Department (ImmD) in screening claims and expenditures of the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) in handling appeals, etc.*

[^] Only the expenditure on the dedicated manpower for the repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants and related work is included. As other expenditures are incurred by duties (such as the arrangement for air tickets and application for travel documents) which form part of ImmD's overall repatriation work, ImmD does not maintain a separate breakdown relating to unsubstantiated claimants.

[@] Individual items may not add up to total due to rounding up.

The estimate for 2023-24 is 31% more than the revised estimate for 2022-23, which is mainly due to the expedition of processing claim-related appeals by TCAB, from completing around 1 500 appeal cases in 2022 to completing not less than 3 000 appeal cases each year starting from 2023. In addition, taking into account the need to fulfill the relevant legal obligations and to meet the actual demand, the Government allocates more resources to cope with the increase in expenditures of PFLA and humanitarian assistance arising from an increased number of cases.

(3) The ruling of the High Court in the case of *FB v Director of Immigration and Secretary for Security* ([2009] 2 HKLRD 346) held that the Government must provide, among others, PFLA to claimants during the screening process, so as to meet the high standards of fairness required by the Court. The Government is thus required to provide every claimant with PFLA. We will, taking into account the experience in providing PFLA through the Duty Lawyer Service and the Pilot Scheme for Provision of PFLA for Non-refoulement Claimants, refine the arrangements for PFLA, with a view to flexibly coping with the changes in the number of claims and continuing to safeguard the proper use of public funds at the same time.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB010****(Question Serial No. 1030)**

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the National Security Law) came into effect at 11:00 pm on 30 June 2020 in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). Article 9 of the National Security Law requires that the HKSAR shall strengthen its work on safeguarding national security and prevention of terrorist activities. The HKSAR Government shall take necessary measures to strengthen public communication, guidance, supervision and regulation over matters concerning national security, including those relating to schools, universities, social organisations, the media, and the internet. Article 10 clearly stipulates that the HKSAR shall promote national security education in schools and universities and through social organisations, the media, the internet and other means to raise the awareness of Hong Kong residents of national security and of the obligation to abide by the law. Would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- a) whether the Security Bureau has earmarked funds to promote national security education; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons for that;
- b) whether the Security Bureau has plans to strengthen public communication and promote national security education in schools and universities and through social organisations, the media, the internet and other means?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

Since the promulgation and implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the National Security Law) in the Hong Kong Special Administration Region on 30 June 2020, the Government (including the Security Bureau (SB)) has introduced the National Security Law to different people through different channels and means (including publishing pamphlets and compendium of articles, issuing press releases, placing newspaper advertisements, officials taking part in interviews on television, radio and other media, and organising/attending seminars (including webinars), etc.), as well as through Economic and Trade Offices, and has responded to concerns raised.

At the same time, in July 2021, the SB first launched the “Hong Kong National Security Law online virtual exhibition” covering the importance of the National Security Law, the legal regime, enforcement mechanisms, major provisions and effectiveness, plus introduction of the work of the disciplined services departments in safeguarding national security; mini games were also provided. In July 2022, the SB updated the content of the online virtual exhibition, thereby enriching the substance of the exhibition. The SB has also prepared and distributed a series of souvenirs to bureaux/departments, schools and youth uniformed groups of the disciplined services departments to promote the abovementioned online virtual exhibition.

The SB also organised jointly with the Education Bureau the “2022 Let’s Join Hands in Safeguarding National Security” Programme to encourage participation of teachers and students from all schools in the slogan-cum-poster design competition and online quiz competition. The award presentation ceremony of the Programme was held in late July 2022 to commend winning schools and students, and the winning entries of the slogan-cum-poster design competition were uploaded to the “Hong Kong National Security Law online virtual exhibition”.

Through their youth groups, the disciplined services departments under the SB have all along helped youths cultivate good character, positive thinking and law-abiding awareness, facilitated their understanding of national development and enhanced their sense of national identity. The disciplined services departments will also continue their efforts in taking forward national security education for members of the youth groups, with a view to raising the awareness of national security among youngsters.

Furthermore, the SB has also produced videos for broadcasting on television and radio, as well as at government buildings, online platforms and webinars to highlight the effectiveness of the National Security Law in stopping chaos and restoring order in Hong Kong, and in ensuring steadfast and successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle as well as long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

In future, the SB will continue to allocate resources for its promotional work on the National Security Law through various channels, including online channels, so as to raise the national security and law-abiding awareness of Hong Kong residents. Major initiatives in 2023 include: to enhance the national security awareness of about 10 000 members of youth uniformed groups of disciplined services departments; continue to enrich the content of the “Hong Kong National Security Law online virtual exhibition”; and continue to take forward the “Let’s Join Hands in Safeguarding National Security” Programme.

The expenditure of the SB on promotional and educational work relating to safeguarding national security forms part of its overall expenditure, and a breakdown of the relevant figures has not been maintained. The SB will ensure that sufficient funds are available to take forward the work concerned.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1706)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the undertaking of preparatory work for enhancing the protection of cybersecurity of critical infrastructure, please inform this Committee of:

- 1) the progress of the preparatory work; how the procurement policy will be updated to comprehensively reflect the assessment of the relevant risks;
- 2) whether there will be a dedicated team responsible for it; if yes, the scale of its manpower, its establishment, and the specific qualifications and requirements of each post;
- 3) the level of financial resources to be provided.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

1) To enhance the protection of cybersecurity of critical infrastructure, the Government has proposed to clearly define the cybersecurity obligations of operators of critical infrastructure. In formulating the relevant cybersecurity standards, reference will be made to standards adopted by other jurisdictions and internationally. To take forward the initiative, the Government is drawing up the proposal and consulting relevant stakeholders (including operators of critical infrastructure, the information technology sector and the tertiary education sector).

The Government has been paying close attention to and monitoring the trends of cyber attacks and the associated security threats around the world. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has formulated a comprehensive set of Government IT Security Policy and Guidelines, which is reviewed and updated regularly. All bureaux and departments must abide strictly by it to ensure the security of government data and information systems.

2-3) In 2023-24, we will continue to deploy our existing resources to implement the relevant initiative.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB012****(Question Serial No. 1519)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Internal SecurityControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme (the Scheme), will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the actual expenditure or revised estimated expenditure under the Scheme in each of the past 3 years;
2. the total number of applications under the Scheme, with a breakdown by 18 districts, in each of the past 3 years;
3. the total number of applications issued with letters of Approval-in-principle under the Scheme, with a breakdown by 18 districts, in each of the past 3 years; and
4. the number of applications with fire safety improvement works commenced and completed in each of the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)Reply:

1. According to the estimated cash flow requirements of the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme (FSWS), the funding provided to the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) by the Government in each of the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Year	Funding (\$ million)
2020-21	460
2021-22	560
2022-23	550

- 2&3. The first round of the FSWS was open for application from July to October 2018, and the second round of the FSWS was open for application from July to October 2020. There were respectively 2 319 and 767 applications meeting the basic application requirements in the first and second rounds of the FSWS applications. The URA issued letters of Approval-in-principle (AIP) to the applicants of the above 3 086 applications and contacted them about the commencement of fire safety improvement works.

The numbers of applications in the first and second rounds, as well as the number of applications issued with letters of AIP in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by District Council district, are tabulated below:

District Council district	Number of first-round applications received [#]	Number of second-round applications received [*]	Number of applications issued with AIP each year		
			2020	2021	2022
Central and Western	283	109	41	83	83
Wan Chai	216	95	44	56	49
Eastern	169	86	36	36	76
Southern	58	30	9	19	26
Yau Tsim Mong	626	197	137	174	179
Sham Shui Po	424	104	74	116	74
Kowloon City	267	93	41	93	56
Wong Tai Sin	92	22	24	30	17
Kwun Tong	57	23	5	18	17
Tsuen Wan	104	41	7	34	36
Tuen Mun	27	10	2	12	9
Yuen Long	128	34	18	51	41
North	16	11	6	7	6
Tai Po	51	24	5	31	14
Sai Kung	1	2	0	0	0
Sha Tin	25	6	2	13	4
Islands	1	4	0	2	2
Kwai Tsing	27	13	2	10	9
Total	2 572	904	453	785	698

[#] The number of first-round applications received includes 253 applications cancelled for failing to meet the basic application requirements.

^{*} The number of second-round applications received includes 137 applications cancelled for failing to meet the basic application requirements.

4. In 2020, 2021 and 2022, the respective numbers of applications which had completed the works and complied with the Fire Safety Directions were 18, 22 and 15.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB013

(Question Serial No. 1522)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the Emergency Monitoring and Support Centre under the Security Bureau, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. the respective grades of staff, establishments, strengths and vacancy rates of each unit of the Centre in tabular form;
2. the number of times the Centre was activated in response to emergency incidents in each of the past 3 years; and
3. the names and categories (e.g. typhoon and power outage) of the emergency incidents during which the Centre was activated in each of the past 3 years in tabular form.

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

1. The Emergency Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) has no dedicated posts but its day-to-day management is undertaken by the Emergency Support Unit (ESU) under the Security Bureau (SB). Headed by the Government Security Officer, the ESU comprises of professional and clerical staff with experience in law enforcement, counter-terrorism, internal security, fire-fighting and rescue, and emergency management.

When the EMSC is activated, in addition to the staff of the ESU, SB would usually deploy a Principal Assistant Secretary or Assistant Secretary to be the EMSC Controller. Depending on the nature of the incident, other bureaux and relevant Government departments such as the Hong Kong Police Force, Fire Services Department, Immigration Department, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and Hong Kong Observatory etc., may also deploy liaison officers to assist in the operation of the EMSC. Their duties include gathering information, coordinating actions, keeping the Chief Executive and Principal Officials apprised of the situation, and releasing information.

2. and 3. Details of EMSC's activation in the past 3 years:

	Year/ no. of times activated	Name of emergency incident	Category of emergency incident
1	2020/ 4 times	Black-clad violence	Public order
2		Outbreak of COVID-19 on the Diamond Princess cruise ship	Infectious Disease
3		Typhoon Higos	Typhoon/tropical storm
4		Tropical Storm Nangka	Typhoon/tropical storm
5	2021/ 6 times	Black Rainstorm Warning (June)	Rainstorm warning
6		24th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Lone-wolf Terrorist Attack (the "police stabbing" case)	Public order/terrorist attack
7		Black Rainstorm Warning (October)	Rainstorm warning
8		Tropical Storm Lionrock	Typhoon/tropical storm
9		Typhoon Kompasu	Typhoon/tropical storm
10		2021 Legislative Council Election	Election
11	2022/ 5 times	Fire at the CLP Power Cable Bridge in Yuen Long	Fire
12		25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	Public order/security operation
13		Typhoon Chaba	Typhoon/tropical storm
14		Typhoon Ma-on	Typhoon/tropical storm
15		Severe Tropical Storm Nalgae	Typhoon/tropical storm
16	2023 (as at 14 March)/ 2 times	Resumption of Normal Travel at Boundary Control Points	Public order
17		Search and Rescue Operation in Türkiye	Emergency response outside HK

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB014****(Question Serial No. 1523)**

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Daya Bay Contingency Plan (DBCP) first issued in 1994 was prepared based on a consultancy study undertaken by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) in the late 1980s. It sets out the emergency measures to be taken in Hong Kong in response to different categories of nuclear power station incidents and it is still in force today. While the chance of nuclear incidents is quite remote, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. which bureaux and departments are required to participate in the DBCP; what are the details of their respective work; and what is the manpower involved;
2. how many regular exercises and drills were conducted in the past 3 years to test and ensure the DBCP's continued effectiveness; and
3. apart from the review conducted in 2011 following the nuclear accident in Fukushima, Japan, how many times has the DBCP been reviewed? Have improvements been made to the DBCP? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

1. The Guangdong Daya Bay Nuclear Power Station (GNPS) has a very high standard of performance in nuclear power safety. However, since drawing up a sound contingency plan is a requirement of good emergency management, the Security Bureau (SB) has put in place a comprehensive Daya Bay Contingency Plan (DBCP) to set out appropriate urgent measures to be adopted by departments in the event of nuclear power station emergencies that may affect Hong Kong. A total of 34 bureaux and departments (list at Annex) are required to participate in and implement the work under the DBCP.

In case the HKSAR Government activates the DBCP, the Chief Executive and heads of relevant bureaux and departments will follow the government emergency response structure and, in light of the circumstances at various emergency stages, steer, direct and co-ordinate related actions. The number of staff that have to be mobilised will depend on the actual situation including the nature and severity of the accident as well as the size of

the affected area. The major response measures under the DBCP and the major departments responsible for these measures are as follows:

- (a) The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) will enhance the monitoring of the environmental radiation level of Hong Kong so as to collect timely and detailed radiological data;
 - (b) HKO, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) and the Department of Health (DH) will assess the potential impact of the nuclear incident and the protective actions required to be taken;
 - (c) The Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) and the Marine Department will, where necessary, evacuate the residents and visitors on Tung Ping Chau as well as the vessels in Mirs Bay, which are within 20 kilometres of GNPS;
 - (d) The Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Auxiliary Medical Service will, where necessary, set up monitoring centres at boundary control points and designated public swimming pools to provide radiation monitoring and decontamination services to people in need;
 - (e) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will conduct radiation monitoring of food imported from the relevant regions;
 - (f) The Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) will conduct radiation monitoring of inbound trucks and goods coming from areas within 20 kilometres of the GNPS; and
 - (g) The Information Services Department and relevant bureaux and departments will disseminate correct information to the public to avoid the spread of false rumours leading to panic among the public.
2. To ensure the capabilities of the relevant Government emergency responders in handling nuclear emergencies, the SB co-ordinates a large-scale inter-departmental exercise based on the DBCP every 3 to 5 years. The latest one, codenamed CHECKERBOARD III, was held on 12 January this year and it consisted of command post drills as well as field operations by various departments. All 34 bureaux and departments involved in the DBCP participated in the exercise.

Apart from taking part in the large-scale inter-departmental exercise co-ordinated by the SB, the departments concerned also organise exercises of smaller scale on a regular basis so as to test various operational aspects of the DBCP. Since 2020, various departments have conducted a total of about 80 exercises in relation to the DBCP.

For instance, the HKO conducts about 20 exercises every year covering emergency aerial radiation monitoring (jointly conducted with the Government Flying Service), emergency radiological survey and sample collection (jointly conducted with the FSD and the Civil Aid Service), emergency sample radioactivity measurement in the laboratory, as well as the simulated operation of the HKO Monitoring and Assessment Centre.

Apart from conducting regular exercises with the HKO on emergency radiation monitoring and sample collection, the FSD regularly organises command post drills in relation to the DBCP, as well as field operations simulating the provision of decontamination services for injured persons during chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents. Besides, in the past 3 years, the HKPF and C&ED had also conducted field operations on the evacuation of Tung Ping Chau and the radiation monitoring of inbound trucks respectively.

Apart from organising regular exercises, the HKO also conducts monthly communication tests regarding the notification of nuclear accidents with the Nuclear Emergency Committee Office of Guangdong Province, the CLP Power Hong Kong Limited and relevant government departments, such as the HKPF, EMSD and DH.

3. In response to the severe nuclear accident in Fukushima, Japan in March 2011, the HKSAR Government immediately started a comprehensive review of the DBCP. The revision was completed in March 2012. The latest version was prepared in accordance with the safety guidelines and safety standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Advanced countries around the world also adopt the same standards. In addition, SB and the major relevant departments like HKO, EMSD and DH have been reviewing the HKSAR Government's work in nuclear emergency response on a regular basis. The departments concerned have also updated internal guidelines in a timely manner as needed.

Experts from the relevant Mainland ministries/commissions and overseas came to Hong Kong and observed the CHECKERBOARD III exercise held in January this year. We have reviewed their evaluation and feedback on the exercise and found them to be very positive in general. The experts considered that the exercise fully demonstrated the HKSAR Government's professionalism in nuclear emergency response, which reflects that the current DBCP is practical, effective and able to meet the international standards. To strive for excellence, we will continue to pay attention to the standards and development in nuclear emergency response in the international community, and will follow up with the relevant departments and review the DBCP as appropriate. We will also maintain close exchanges and collaboration with the relevant organisations and experts, with a view to enhancing the public education work in nuclear emergency response and nuclear safety.

Participating Bureaux and Departments
under the Daya Bay Contingency Plan

Government Bureaux

1. Security Bureau
2. Civil Service Bureau
3. Education Bureau
4. Environment and Ecology Bureau
5. Health Bureau
6. Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Government Departments

1. Agricultural, Fisheries and Conservation Department
2. Auxiliary Medical Service
3. Civil Aid Service
4. Civil Aviation Department
5. Customs and Excise Department
6. Drainage Services Department
7. Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
8. Environmental Protection Department
9. Fire Services Department
10. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
11. Government Flying Service
12. Government Laboratory
13. Government Logistics Department
14. Department of Health
15. Home Affairs Department
16. Hong Kong Observatory
17. Hong Kong Police Force
18. Immigration Department
19. Information Services Department
20. Department of Justice
21. Leisure and Cultural Services Department
22. Marine Department
23. Office of the Communications Authority
24. Post Office
25. Social Welfare Department
26. Transport Department
27. Trade and Industry Department
28. Water Services Department

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB015****(Question Serial No. 3078)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (2) Internal SecurityControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

The estimated provision for formulating policies and programmes on law and order and public safety and undertaking preparatory work for enhancing the protection of cybersecurity of critical information infrastructure has increased by 9.2% this year. Please advise this Committee on the following:

- 1) what are the items to which the increased provision will be allocated and a breakdown of the expenditures;
- 2) regarding continuing to put into effect relevant recommendations on anti-money laundering of the Financial Action Task Force with respect to certain designated non-financial businesses and professionals, please set out the manpower and expenditures involved in the past 3 years. Please also explain whether the actions taken are effective in achieving the objectives.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 70)

Reply:

1) Regarding Programme (2) Internal Security, the estimate of expenditure for 2023-24 is \$78.6 million (9.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2022-23. The breakdown is as follows:

- Implementation of the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme	\$100 million
- Annual salary increment of civil servants and staff	\$4.8 million
- Engaging extra contract staff and increase in salary payment	\$8 million
- Increased expenditure on legal advice/ translation/ interpretation services and other hired service costs	\$4.27 million
- Increase in minor plant/works expenditure	\$1.11 million
- Decrease in contingency and other expenses as epidemic situation stabilises	-\$39.58 million

2) Hong Kong completed the fourth round of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) mutual evaluation in 2018-19. As a result of the mutual evaluation, Hong Kong's system has been assessed to be compliant and effective overall, making Hong Kong the first jurisdiction in the Asia-Pacific region to have achieved an overall compliant result.

In the light of FATF's recommendations in the mutual evaluation report, including requesting Hong Kong to regulate dealers in precious metals and stones (DPMS) to enhance our anti-money laundering regime, the Government amended the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance (including establishing a DPMS registration regime) in 2022. The relevant bill was passed in the Legislative Council on 7 December 2022. The amended Ordinance including the DPMS registration regime will take effect from 1 April 2023.

FATF published a follow-up report on Hong Kong's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CTF) system in February this year, recognising Hong Kong's progress and efforts in implementing risk-based AML/CTF supervision for most non-financial businesses and professions (Note 1), in particular trust or company service providers, real estate agents and accounting professionals. FATF also assessed Hong Kong's compliance with the FATF's requirements, including those on DPMS, and noted that Hong Kong had undergone a legislative process for introducing a regulatory regime for DPMS.

Under Head 151, the Security Bureau (SB) will continue to put into effect relevant FATF's recommendations on anti-money laundering with respect to designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs). Since the staff members concerned in the SB have to undertake other duties as well, the relevant resources cannot be calculated and quantified separately.

(Note 1) Designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs) include casinos, real estate agents, solicitors, accountants, trust or company service providers, as well as DPMS. As there is no casino in Hong Kong, the relevant recommendations are only applicable to the remaining 5 sectors.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB016

(Question Serial No. 0600)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. Please provide the recruitment figures, including post titles, numbers of applicants and numbers of new recruits, of various disciplined services in the past 5 years. Among the successful candidates, how many are non-ethnic Chinese in each disciplined service and what is the nationality distribution?
2. Please tabulate the wastage figures and wastage rates of different ranks of staff of the disciplined services in each of the past 5 years.
3. Please tabulate the respective salaries (with percentage change) of different ranks of staff of the disciplined services in each of the past 5 years.
4. Has the Government gained an understanding about the detailed reasons for staff wastage in the disciplined services?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

1. During the period from 2018-19 to 2022-23, the annual recruitment situations of disciplined services were as follows:

Department	Post	Number of applications (Number of new recruits) [as at 28 February 2023]				
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Correctional Services Department (CSD)	Officer of Correctional Services	3 384 (63)	2 974 (54)	3 304 (37)	0 ^{Note 1} (60)	2 380 (6) ^{Note 2}
	Assistant Officer II	7 048 (234)	5 541 (309)	8 001 (306)	4 723 (253)	3 862 (157)
Customs and Excise Department (C&ED)	Inspector of Customs & Excise	0 ^{Note 1} (79)	9 670 (16)	7 397 (114)	5 036 (0)	4 782 (62)
	Customs Officer	15 869 (872)	12 927 (333)	15 387 (158)	8 732 (154)	6 895 (85)
Fire Services Department (FSD)	Station Officer (Operational)	2 149 (69)	2 679 (45)	2 789 (88)	2 547 (31)	1 978 (42)
	Senior Fireman/Firewoman (Control)	0 ^{Note 1} (24)	4 353 (16)	0 ^{Note 1} (12)	6 716 (37)	0 ^{Note 1} (12)
	Fireman/Firewoman (Operational/Marine)	1 461 (340)	2 906 (197)	3 553 (362)	2 874 (272)	1 211 (241)
	Ambulance Officer	2 561 (10)	2 076 (6)	0 ^{Note 1} (15)	1 740 (6)	0 ^{Note 1} (5)
	Ambulanceman/Ambulancewoman	2 952 (179)	4 377 (135)	3 258 (225)	3 691 (272)	958 (119)
Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF)	Inspector	7 350 (220)	5 223 (169)	5 018 (158)	3 400 (170)	3 186 (130)
	Police Constable	10 578 (1 121)	6 751 (705)	6 589 (596)	4 860 (484)	4 392 (437)
Immigration Department (ImmD)	Immigration Officer	14 958 (252)	537 ^{Note 3} (105)	9 711 (42)	7 680 (77)	5 398 (73)
	Immigration Assistant	20 423 (595)	14 040 (274)	18 006 (219)	10 405 (105)	7 758 (236)
Government Flying Service (GFS)	Cadet Pilot	2 602 (7)	2 334 (4)	2 513 (4)	0 ^{Note 1} (4)	1 398 (0) ^{Note 4}
	Air Crewman Officer III	1 166 (0)	0 ^{Note 1} (6)	1 036 (8)	0 ^{Note 1} (0)	0 ^{Note 1} (8)
	Aircraft Engineer	37 (2)	36 (7)	0 ^{Note 1} (4)	0 ^{Note 1} (0)	84 (0) ^{Note 4}
	Aircraft Technician	755 (2)	382 (18)	756 (12)	255 (11)	172 (5) ^{Note 4}

Note 1: There was no recruitment exercise during the year. The number of new recruits was the number of suitable persons identified in the open/in-service recruitment exercise conducted in the previous year.

Note 2: The 2022-23 recruitment exercise for Officer of Correctional Services is still underway.

Note 3: In 2019-20, only in-service recruitment was held for the Immigration Officer post.

Note 4: The 2022-23 recruitment exercises for Cadet Pilot, Aircraft Engineer and Aircraft Technician are still underway.

According to informal statistics (based on the names shown in the staff's particulars and voluntary declaration), the numbers of successful candidates who were non-ethnic Chinese in each disciplined services during the period from 2018-19 to 2022-23 (as at 28 February 2023) are as follows:

Department	Number ^{Note 5}
CSD	25
C&ED	6
FSD	14
HKPF	39
ImmD	0
GFS	1

Note 5: The Departments does not have information on nationalities.

2. During the period from 2018-19 to 2022-23, the annual wastage situations of different ranks of staff of the disciplined services were as follows:

Department	Rank	Wastage figures ^{Note 6} (Wastage rates) ^{Note 7} <i>[as at 28 February 2023]</i>				
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
CSD	Officer	82 (7.5%)	70 (6.5%)	48 (4.4%)	54 (4.9%)	45 (4.0%)
	Rank and file	375 (7.9%)	241 (5.3%)	297 (6.4%)	188 (4.1%)	224 (4.8%)
C&ED	Officer	30 (2.9%)	31 (2.9%)	33 (3.1%)	32 (2.8%)	43 (4.0%)
	Rank and file	223 (5.4%)	175 (3.7%)	181 (3.7%)	206 (4.2%)	223 (4.6%)
FSD	Officer	64 (5.0%)	64 (5.0%)	50 (3.9%)	57 (4.3%)	41 (3.1%)
	Rank and file	409 (4.8%)	373 (4.3%)	408 (4.7%)	435 (4.9%)	431 (4.8%)
HKPF	Officer	137 (0.5%)	152 (0.5%)	141 (0.5%)	114 (0.4%)	71 (0.3%)
	Rank and file	1 110 (3.8%)	1 161 (3.9%)	834 (2.9%)	692 (2.5%)	517 (1.9%)
ImmD	Officer	112 (5.2%)	114 (4.9%)	104 (4.5%)	119 (5.3%)	78 (3.6%)
	Rank and file	178 (4.2%)	114 (2.4%)	144 (3.0%)	213 (4.4%)	233 (4.9%)
GFS	Officer	11 (5.6%)	16 (8.2%)	13 (6.0%)	9 (3.9%)	23 (9.7%)

Note 6: Staff wastage includes natural wastage (retirement) and unnatural wastage (such as resignation, transfer, death, retirement on invaliding, etc.).

Note 7: Wastage rates = Wastage Figure / Department's Actual Number of Staff as at 1 April of the year.

3. During the period from 2018-19 to 2022-23, the salaries (with percentage change) of different ranks of staff of the disciplined services were as follows:

Department	Post	Starting salaries (\$) ^{Note 8} (percentage change) ^{Note 9} <i>[as at 28 February 2023]</i>				
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 ^{Note 10}	2022-23
CSD	Officer of Correctional Services	34,825 (+4.5%)	36,655 (+5.3%)	36,655 (0%)	39,045 (+6.5%)	40,020 (+2.5%)
	Assistant Officer II	20,090 (+4.5%)	21,150 (+5.3%)	21,150 (0%)	21,780 (+3%)	22,325 (+2.5%)
C&ED	Inspector of Customs & Excise	39,310 (+4.5%)	41,380 (+5.3%)	41,380 (0%)	43,745 (+5.7%)	44,840 (+2.5%)
	Customs Officer	21,285 (+4.5%)	22,405 (+5.3%)	22,405 (0%)	23,045 (+2.9%)	23,625 (+2.5%)
FSD	Station Officer (Operational)	39,310 (+4.5%)	41,380 (+5.3%)	41,380 (0%)	43,745 (+5.7%)	44,840 (+2.5%)
	Senior Fireman/Firewoman (Control)	30,315 (+4.5%)	31,910 (+5.3%)	31,910 (0%)	33,760 (+5.8%)	34,605 (+2.5%)
	Fireman/Firewoman (Operational/Marine)	21,285 (+4.5%)	22,405 (+5.3%)	22,405 (0%)	23,045 (+2.9%)	23,625 (+2.5%)
	Ambulance Officer	34,825 (+4.5%)	36,655 (+5.3%)	36,655 (0%)	41,380 (+12.9%)	42,415 (+2.5%)
	Ambulanceman/Ambulancewoman	21,285 (+4.5%)	22,405 (+5.3%)	22,405 (0%)	23,045 (+2.9%)	23,625 (+2.5%)
HKPF	Inspector	42,665 (+4.5%)	44,910 (+5.3%)	44,910 (0%)	47,080 (+4.8%)	48,255 (+2.5%)
	Police Constable	24,110 (+4.5%)	25,380 (+5.3%)	25,380 (0%)	26,190 (+3.2%)	26,845 (+2.5%)
ImmD	Immigration Officer	34,825 (+4.5%)	36,655 (+5.3%)	36,655 (0%)	41,380 (+12.9%)	42,415 (+2.5%)
	Immigration Assistant	20,690 (+4.5%)	21,780 (+5.3%)	21,780 (0%)	22,725 (+4.3%)	23,295 (+2.5%)
GFS	Cadet Pilot	26,075 (+4.5%)	27,445 (+5.3%)	27,445 (0%)	27,445 (0%)	28,130 (+2.5%)
	Air Crewman Officer III	23,535 (+4.5%)	24,775 (+5.3%)	24,775 (0%)	25,650 (+3.5%)	26,290 (+2.5%)
	Aircraft Engineer	72,645 (+4.1%)	76,095 (+4.7%)	76,095 (0%)	78,970 (+3.8%)	80,945 (+2.5%)
	Aircraft Technician	20,690 (+4.5%)	21,780 (+5.3%)	21,780 (0%)	22,405 (+2.9%)	22,970 (+2.5%)

Note 8: It is calculated based on the lowest starting pay point of the post.

Note 9: Percentage change = (Starting Salary of the Year - Starting Salary of Previous Year) / Starting salary of Previous Year.

Note 10: Based on the starting pay points revised by the Grade Structure Review for the Disciplined Services Grades with effect from 1 September 2021.

4. During the period from 2018-19 to 2022-23, the types of staff wastage of various disciplined services were as follows:

Department	Wastage type	Wastage figures [as at 28 February 2023]				
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
CSD	Retirement	279	204	158	143	152
	Resignation	57	50	74	74	77
	Death	7	4	4	5	4
	Dismissal	1	3	0	1	2
	Termination of service	0	0	0	0	2
	Other reasons ^{Note 11}	113	50	109	19	32
C&ED	Retirement	154	144	108	113	111
	Resignation	27	35	54	97	111
	Death	2	3	1	0	1
	Dismissal	1	0	1	2	1
	Termination of service	1	1	4	5	3
	Other reasons ^{Note 11}	68	23	46	21	39
FSD	Retirement	298	326	332	284	247
	Resignation	92	71	74	152	189
	Death	7	3	2	3	4
	Dismissal	0	0	0	4	1
	Termination of service	0	0	1	2	3
	Other reasons ^{Note 11}	76	37	49	47	28

Department	Wastage type	Wastage figures [as at 28 February 2023]				
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
HKPF	Retirement	860	824	637	430	284
	Resignation	258	391	236	252	217
	Death	20	18	18	15	14
	Dismissal	8	5	6	9	14
	Termination of service	6	3	3	5	1
	Other reasons ^{Note 11}	95	72	75	95	58
ImmD	Retirement	192	177	182	188	166
	Resignation	70	25	52	119	128
	Death	2	2	3	0	1
	Dismissal	0	0	0	0	1
	Termination of service	0	0	1	5	1
	Other reasons ^{Note 11}	26	24	10	20	14
GFS	Retirement	7	13	9	6	16
	Resignation	3	3	0	3	7
	Death	0	0	1	0	0
	Dismissal	0	0	1	0	0
	Termination of service	1	0	2	0	0

Note 11: Other reasons include transfer, retirement on invaliding and compulsory retirement, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2234)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The key responsibility of the Security Bureau is to formulate and implement government security policies. The National Security Law has been successfully implemented but it does not fully cover Article 23 of the Basic Law to prohibit, for example, acts of treason, sedition, foreign political bodies from conducting political activities in Hong Kong, theft of state secrets and political bodies of Hong Kong from establishing ties with foreign political organisations. The Chief Executive reiterated earlier that his position on the enactment of legislation on Article 23 of the Basic Law remained unchanged and he aimed to complete the legislation as soon as possible, hopefully within this year or next year. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) What is the latest legislative timetable?
- 2) What are the manpower, expenditure and publicity budget for the legislative exercise?
- 3) Is there any plan to conduct publicity work on the legislation, especially to address the smearing made by some overseas media with ulterior motives?

Asked by: Hon LEE Chun-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

Enacting local legislation on Article 23 of the Basic Law is the constitutional responsibility of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). Besides, there are also practical needs to legislate on Article 23 of the Basic Law. The HKSAR Government will continue to actively press ahead the legislative exercise to implement Article 23 of the Basic Law. We will conduct public consultation at a suitable juncture, and explain to the public and stakeholders the substance of the legislative proposal and the considerations involved. We will also proactively and quickly clarify the smearing on the legislative proposal made by those with ulterior motives.

The work of the Security Bureau related to legislation on Article 23 of the Basic Law is part of the work in safeguarding national security. Breakdown of the relevant manpower and expenditure will not be disclosed. Security Bureau will ensure that there will be sufficient funds to take forward the work concerned.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB018

(Question Serial No. 0902)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In the recent decade, a large number of people who claim to be tortured in their home countries have flocked to Hong Kong and lodged non-refoulement claims here. In this connection, can the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) the current staff establishment and expenditures of the Government for the handling of non-refoulement claims;
- 2) the number of claimants currently stuck in Hong Kong;
- 3) the number of claims received in the past 5 years;
- 4) the number of substantiated claims in the past 5 years, their average processing time and how many of them were substantiated upon appeal and judicial review;
- 5) the number of unsubstantiated claims in the past 5 years, their average processing time, the longest processing time, the number of claimants who had resorted to appeal and judicial review, and how many of them were finally removed;
- 6) a breakdown of the numbers of substantiated and unsubstantiated claimants by gender, age and nationality;
- 7) a breakdown of the number of claimants who were arrested for taking up unlawful employment or committing crimes while waiting for screening, by category of crimes;
- 8) a breakdown of the actual expenditures of the Legal Assistance Scheme for Non-refoulement Claimants in a year and the average expenditure on each claimant; and
- 9) a breakdown of the expenditures incurred by the removal of unsubstantiated claimants in the past 5 years;
- 10) a breakdown of the expenditures on providing humanitarian assistance to claimants and the average assistance received by each claimant per month in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

(1), (8) – (10) 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 unsubstantiated claimants # (\$ million)	Publicly-funded legal assistance (PFLA) (\$ million)	Humanitarian assistance (\$ million)	Total@ (\$ million)
2018-19	401	-	207	531	1 138
2019-20	344	45^	93	482	964
2020-21	311	47^	95	540	992
2021-22	298	47^	142	579	1 067
2022-23 (Revised estimate)	317	50^	111	590	1 068
2023-24 (Estimate)	389	57^	171	784	1 400

* Includes staff costs of the Immigration Department (ImmD) in screening claims and expenditures of the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) in handling appeals, etc.

ImmD has deployed dedicated manpower to expedite the repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants to their places of origin since 2019-20.

^ Only the expenditure on the dedicated manpower for the repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants and related work is included. As other expenditures are incurred by duties (such as the arrangement for air tickets and application for travel documents) which form part of ImmD's overall repatriation work, ImmD does not maintain a separate breakdown relating to unsubstantiated claimants.

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

The estimate for 2023-24 is 31% more than the revised estimate for 2022-23, which is mainly due to the expedition of processing claim-related appeals by TCAB, from completing around 1 500 appeal cases in 2022 to completing not less than 3 000 appeal cases each year starting from 2023. In addition, taking into account the need to fulfill the relevant legal obligations and to meet the actual demand, the Government allocates more resources to cope with the increase in expenditures of PFLA and humanitarian assistance arising from an increased number of cases.

The Government does not maintain information about the specific expenditure on PFLA for each case and the average monthly humanitarian assistance received by each claimant.

As regards manpower, the number of posts in ImmD responsible for work related to screening claims and repatriation, 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 unsubstantiated 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	73	36
2021-22	207	72	73	36
2022-23	207	72	75^	35
2023-24 (Estimate)	207	81	75^	35

* ImmD will, subject to the actual operation, flexibly deploy internal manpower to handle non-refoulement claims.

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

^ Number of members as at 28 February 2023, which is subject to adjustment as necessary.

In 2023-24, 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 PFLA 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	Number of posts in 2022-23	Number of posts in 2023-24 (Estimate)
Chief Executive Officer	1	1	1	1	1	1
Senior Executive Officer	1	1	1	1	1	1
Executive Officer I	7	3	3	3	3	3
Assistant Clerical Officer	11	4	4	4	4	4
Workman II	2	2	2	1	1	1
Total	22	11	11	10	10	10

In addition, there are currently 4 non-civil service posts in PSO.

(2) – (6) The Government implemented the Unified Screening Mechanism (USM) in March 2014 to screen non-refoulement claims on all applicable grounds in one go. ImmD will continue to maintain high efficiency in the screening procedures and target to commence screening as soon as a new claim is received. As at end-February 2023, the number of non-refoulement claims handled by ImmD is as follows:

Year	Claims received	Claims determined	Claims withdrawn or no further action can be taken	Pending claims
Commencement of USM				6 699
2014 (March to December)	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	2 528	2 220	130	741
2022	1 257	1 727	70	201
2023 (January to February)	188	190	7	192
Total	22 993	22 370	7 130	

Among the 22 370 claims determined by ImmD, 269 were substantiated (including 180 substantiated by TCAB on appeal). The breakdown by nationality is as follows:

Nationality	Substantiated non-refoulement claims
Yemeni	43
Pakistani	37
Rwandan	24
Somali	21
Bangladeshi	17
Congolese (Democratic Republic of)	15
Egyptian	15
Burundian	12
Cameroonian	12
Indonesian	10
Afghanistani	8
Nepalese	7
Ethiopian	6
Nationals of Central African Republic	5
Sri Lankan	5
Iranian	4
Ugandan	4
Zimbabwean	4
Gambian	2
Indian	2
Nigerian	2
Sudanese	2
Togolese	2
Venezuelan	2

Nationality	Substantiated non-refoulement claims
Colombian	1
Eritrean	1
Filipino	1
Kenyan	1
Nigerien	1
Syrian	1
Thai	1
Vietnamese	1
Total	269

Among the above claims substantiated by ImmD, as broken down by gender, male and female claimants accounted for 62% and 38% respectively; as broken down by age, 22% of the claimants were aged below 18, 16% aged between 18 and 30, 25% aged between 31 and 40, and 37% aged over 40.

As for the 22 281 non-refoulement claims not substantiated by ImmD (including 180 claims subsequently substantiated by TCAB), the breakdown by nationality is as follows: :

Nationality	Non-refoulement claims not substantiated by ImmD
Vietnamese	4 301
Pakistani	3 651
Indian	3 504
Indonesian	3 396
Bangladeshi	2 434
Filipino	1 773
Nepalese	681
Sri Lankan	415
Nigerian	354
Thai	204
Others	1 568
Total	22 281

Among the above claims not substantiated by ImmD, as broken down by gender, male and female claimants accounted for 63% and 37% respectively; as broken down by age, 7% of the claimants were aged below 18, 12% aged between 18 and 30, 42% aged between 31 and 40, and 39% aged over 40.

As regards the time for handling each claim, ImmD strives to ensure that the screening procedures are highly efficient and achieve the high standards of fairness through flexible staff deployment and optimized workflow. ImmD's handling time for each claim (from commencement of the screening procedures to determination by ImmD) has been expedited from about 25 weeks on average at the early implementation of USM to the current average of average 10 weeks. However, the time required to screen each claim may vary depending on the individual circumstances and complexity of each case. In addition, the Immigration (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 took effect from 1 August 2021, which has further improved

the handling of non-refoulement claims including enhancing efficiency in screening by ImmD and preventing delaying tactics (for instance, ImmD may direct a claimant to communicate in a language that ImmD reasonably considers the claimant being able to understand and communicate in). After the implementation of the improved measures, the longest time required for screening a claim was about 10 months.

Since 2018-19, the number of appeals received by TCAB is as follows:

Year	Number of appeals received
2018	5 472
2019	1 517
2020	870
2021	2 098
2022	1 727

According to the Judiciary, the number of applications for leave to apply for judicial review (JR) related to non-refoulement claims filed with the Court of First Instance (CFI) during 2018 to 2022 is tabulated below:

Year	Number of applications for leave to apply for JR
2018	2 851
2019	3 727
2020	2 367
2021	1 675
2022	1 440

Over the past five years, the number of unsubstantiated claimants removed by ImmD is as follows:

Year	Number of persons repatriated
2018	2 527
2019	1 618
2020	632
2021	753
2022	1 097
2023 (up to February)	236

The removal of unsubstantiated claimants by ImmD is affected by various factors, including very limited or even suspended international flights amidst the pandemic, special requests imposed by countries of origin of unsubstantiated claimants during the pandemic, etc. As at end-February 2023, there were over 14 800 claimants remaining in Hong Kong for different reasons, amongst whom a large proportion had lodged applications for leave to apply for JR after their claims/appeals were rejected, with a view to delaying their removal from Hong Kong. To expedite the removal of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong, the Government updated the removal policy in December 2022, such that subject to any court order, ImmD may generally proceed with removal of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong upon the CFI's dismissal of their applications for leave to apply for JR or the relevant

JR applications pertaining to their non-refoulement claim. With the gradual resumption of international flights, ImmD will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach and maintain close liaison with relevant stakeholders, including consulates and airlines, with a view to expediting removal of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong, including arranging special flights for large-scale removal operations as necessary and as the circumstances so warrant.

(7) According to the Police's record, since 2018, the number of non-ethnic Chinese (NEC) persons on recognizance and issued with Form No. 8 (mainly non-refoulement claimants) who were arrested for criminal offences is tabulated below with breakdown by crime category:

Offence	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (January to February)
Shop theft	239	200	250	254	145	30
Serious drug offences	207	86	112	92	85	9
Miscellaneous thefts	139	58	98	134	99	11
Wounding and serious assault	115	59	92	90	51	13
Serious immigration offences (Note 1)	80	49	38	50	29	0
Criminal damage	41	29	36	37	25	7
Burglary	22	17	36	22	27	2
Others (Note 2)	307	159	272	250	226	37
Total	1 150	657	934	929	687	109

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 record, since 2018, the number of NEC persons on recognizance and issued with Form No. 8 (mainly non-refoulement claimants) who were arrested for taking unlawful employment contrary to section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115) are tabulated below.

Year	Number of persons arrested
2018	332
2019	215
2020	156
2021	438
2022	454
2023 (January to February)	63

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB019

(Question Serial No. 1640)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What were/are the Security Bureau's staff establishment, emolument expenditure and total expenditure for the promotion of national security among the public in each of the past 3 years and the coming year? How many events for promoting national security were subsidised each year? What were the subsidised organisations, names of events and amounts of subsidy? What is the amount of subsidy earmarked for the coming year?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

Since the promulgation and implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the National Security Law) in the Hong Kong Special Administration Region on 30 June 2020, the Government (including the Security Bureau (SB)) has introduced the National Security Law to different people through different channels and means (including publishing pamphlets and compendium of articles, issuing press releases, placing newspaper advertisements, officials taking part in interviews on television, radio and other media, and organising/attending seminars (including webinars), etc.), as well as through Economic and Trade Offices, and has responded to concerns raised.

At the same time, in July 2021, the SB first launched the "Hong Kong National Security Law online virtual exhibition" covering the importance of the National Security Law, the legal regime, enforcement mechanisms, major provisions and effectiveness, plus introduction of the work of the disciplined services departments in safeguarding national security; mini games were also provided. In July 2022, the SB updated the content of the online virtual exhibition, thereby enriching the substance of the exhibition. The SB has also prepared and distributed a series of souvenirs to bureaux/departments, schools and youth uniformed groups of the disciplined services departments to promote the abovementioned online virtual exhibition.

The SB also organised jointly with the Education Bureau the "2022 Let's Join Hands in Safeguarding National Security" Programme to encourage participation of teachers and

students from all schools in the slogan-cum-poster design competition and online quiz competition. The award presentation ceremony of the Programme was held in late July 2022 to commend winning schools and students, and the winning entries of the slogan-cum-poster design competition were uploaded to the “Hong Kong National Security Law online virtual exhibition”.

Through their youth groups, the disciplined services departments under the SB have all along helped youths cultivate good character, positive thinking and law-abiding awareness, facilitated their understanding of national development and enhanced their sense of national identity. The disciplined services departments will also continue their efforts in taking forward national security education for members of the youth groups, with a view to raising the awareness of national security among youngsters.

Furthermore, the SB has also produced videos for broadcasting on television and radio, as well as at government buildings, online platforms and webinars, to highlight the effectiveness of the National Security Law in stopping chaos and restoring order in Hong Kong, and in ensuring steadfast and successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle as well as long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

In future, the SB will continue to allocate resources for its promotional work on the National Security Law through various channels, including online channels, so as to raise the national security and law-abiding awareness of Hong Kong residents. Major initiatives in 2023 include: to enhance the national security awareness of about 10 000 members of youth uniformed groups of disciplined services departments; continue to enrich the content of the “Hong Kong National Security Law online virtual exhibition”; and continue to take forward the “Let’s Join Hands in Safeguarding National Security” Programme.

The expenditure of the SB on promotional and educational work relating to safeguarding national security forms part of its overall expenditure, and a breakdown of the relevant figures has not been maintained. The SB will ensure that sufficient funds are available to take forward the work concerned.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1013)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

One of the matters requiring special attention in 2023-24 is to continue to oversee counter-terrorism policy and the operation of the Inter-departmental Counter-terrorism Unit. In October 2022, the Government stated that it would continue to strengthen its work on national security publicity and education. The law enforcement agencies will also continue to strengthen their work on national security and counter-terrorism intelligence, and will take strict law enforcement actions against acts endangering national security.

In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Since the implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the National Security Law) on 30 June 2020, the Government has stated that domestic terrorism activities have gone underground. What are the details of the estimated manpower and expenditure for strengthening counter-terrorism work in 2023-24?
2. Since the implementation of the National Security Law for almost 3 years, how many law enforcement actions have been mounted by the HKSAR Government against acts endangering national security, and what was the expenditure incurred?
3. What are the estimated manpower and expenditure for strengthening the work on national security publicity and education in 2023-24, and the details of the publicity and education work to be launched?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. After the implementation of the National Security Law, although peace has by and large been restored in the community, the threat of domestic terrorism still exists with a handful of extremists in Hong Kong not giving up and having gone underground or become clandestine in their operations, posing threat to the security of Hong Kong.

In view of the overall security situation, there was an increase of 18 posts in the Inter-departmental Counter-terrorism Unit (ICTU), which is comprised of various disciplined services departments, in the 2022-23 financial year to meet their actual operational needs. The ICTU will continue to coordinate various departments, strengthen their counter-terrorism (CT) intelligence gathering, integration and analysis capabilities, and provide CT training for its member departments and coordinate inter-departmental CT exercises, with a view to enhancing the CT preparedness of its staff and further strengthening the cooperation and synergy among various departments in CT operations. On the other hand, in order to raise the public's awareness of CT and highlight the important role of the public in the prevention of terrorism activities, the ICTU is committed to coordinating the efforts of various departments in promoting public education and publicity on CT.

In 2023-24, the ICTU will allocate more resources to organise different types of public education and community activities, with a view to enhancing the public's awareness of CT. At the same time, the ICTU will continue to provide CT education tailor-made for different sectors in order to strengthen the exchange and cooperation with stakeholders in various sectors and jointly promote a safe community.

The ICTU will closely monitor the global and local trends of terrorism activities, and timely review the manpower and resource requirements of various departments in the ICTU to ensure that Hong Kong has adequate CT capability to cope with the prevailing threats.

With regard to the estimated expenditure of CT work, as internal operational details of government departments are involved, it is not appropriate to disclose such information.

2. Since the implementation of the National Security Law, as at 3 March 2023, 243 persons (189 males and 54 females) aged between 15 and 90 were arrested by the police for suspected acts and activities that endanger national security. In these cases, over 140 persons and 5 companies were charged.

Law enforcement agencies' work relating to law enforcement actions against cases involving suspected acts and activities that endanger national security is part of the work in safeguarding national security, and is not within the scope of Head 151. The expenditure involved will not be disclosed.

3. In future, the Security Bureau (SB) will continue to allocate resources for its promotional work on the National Security Law through various channels, including online channels, so as to raise the national security and law-abiding awareness of Hong Kong residents. Major initiatives in 2023 include: to enhance the national security awareness of about 10 000 members of youth uniformed groups of disciplined services departments; continue to enrich the content of the "Hong Kong National Security Law online virtual exhibition"; and continue to take forward the "Let's Join Hands in Safeguarding National Security" Programme.

The manpower and expenditure of the SB on promotional and educational work relating to safeguarding national security forms part of the overall expenditure, and a breakdown of the relevant figures has not been maintained. The SB will ensure that sufficient funds are available to take forward the work concerned.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB021

(Question Serial No. 0889)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Since 1 February this year, cannabidiol (CBD) has been officially listed as a dangerous drug under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, which is equivalent to narcotics. It is illegal to import, export, possess or consume products containing CBD. Will the Government inform this Council of:

1. the total number of CBD products collected from the disposal boxes set up by the Government at 10 locations in Hong Kong for the public to dispose of CBD products;
2. the amount of expenditure on publicity and education on CBD last year;
3. whether the Government currently has a mechanism to grant licences for the public to use CBD products for medical or legal purposes? If yes, please provide the approved figures under the mechanism.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

Cannabidiol (CBD) is listed as a dangerous drug under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap.134) from 1 February 2023.

From 27 October 2022 until the new legislation came into effect, the Narcotics Division (ND) of the Security Bureau (SB) received more than 79 000 CBD products disposed by the public, which were mainly skin care products, edible oils, health supplements, etc..

During 2022-23, the ND of SB spent about \$6.92 million on promoting the new legislation.

In accordance with the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance (PPO) (Cap. 138), products that fall within the definition of pharmaceutical product (including products containing CBD) must comply with the requirements under the PPO and registered with the Pharmacy and Poisons

Board of Hong Kong before they can be sold or supplied in Hong Kong. Pharmaceutical products containing CBD are prescription drugs under the PPO and can only be supplied by registered doctors, registered dentists or registered veterinarians or in accordance with their prescriptions, being dispensed by registered pharmacies under the supervision of a pharmacist.

According to Department of Health's record, as at 28 February 2023, there is no pharmaceutical product containing CBD registered in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB022****(Question Serial No. 0895)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Immigration ControlControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

1. Please provide the estimated expenditures of the following items in 2022-23:
 - (a) screening of non-refoulement claims and handling of related appeals/petitions;
 - (b) removal of rejected claimants;
 - (c) legal assistance; and
 - (d) humanitarian assistance.
2. What are the staff establishment and administrative expenses involved?
3. What measures are in place to further prevent and combat the abuse of the non-refoulement claim mechanism? In that case, what are the estimates involved?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)Reply:

(1) – (2) Major expenditures on handling non-refoulement claims and related work in 2022-23 are tabulated below:

Year	Screening of claims and handling of appeals/petitions* (\$ million)	Repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants # (\$ million)	Publicly-funded legal assistance (PFLA) (\$ million)	Humanitarian assistance (\$ million)	Total (\$ million)
2022-23 (Revised estimate)	317	50 [^]	111	590	1 068

* Including staff costs of the Immigration Department (ImmD) in screening claims and expenditures of the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) in handling appeals, etc.

[^] Only the expenditure on the dedicated manpower for the repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants and related work is included. As other expenditures are incurred by duties (such as the arrangement for air tickets and application for travel documents) which form part of ImmD's overall repatriation work, ImmD does not maintain a separate breakdown relating to unsubstantiated claimants.

As regards manpower, the number of posts in ImmD responsible for work related to screening claims and repatriation, the number of TCAB members and the number of posts in TCAB Secretariat in 2022-23 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 unsubstantiated claimants *	Number of TCAB members	Number of posts in TCAB Secretariat
2022-23	207	72	75 [^]	35

** ImmD will, subject to the actual operation, flexibly deploy internal manpower to handle non-refoulement claims.*

[^] Number of members as at 28 February 2023, which is subject to adjustment as necessary.

In 2022-23, 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 PFLA for Non-refoulement Claimants in 2022-23 is as follows:

Rank	Number of posts in 2022-23
Chief Executive Officer	1
Senior Executive Officer	1
Executive Officer I	3
Assistant Clerical Officer	4
Workman II	1
Total	10

In addition, there are currently 4 non-civil service posts in PSO.

(3) Over the years, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy in handling non-refoulement claims, which have yielded effective outcomes on multiple fronts. To address the concerns about the burden on the society brought by non-refoulement claimants, the Government briefed the Panel on Security of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in December 2022 on the implementation of further measures to enhance the handling of non-refoulement claims and to expedite the removal of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong, viz.:

- (a) maintain high efficiency in screening non-refoulement claims;
- (b) expedite the processing of claim-related appeals;
- (c) update the removal policy to expedite repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong;
- (d) expand detention capacity and step up management of immigration detainees; and
- (e) strengthen enforcement actions against immigration offences and illegal employment.

In addition, the Secretary for Security has amended the Immigration (Places of Detention) Order (Cap. 115B) and other relevant subsidiary legislation to include the Nei Kwu Correctional Institution (NKCI) as a place of immigration detention. With the redeployment of NKCI, the overall capacity for immigration detainees will increase by about one-third to

900. The Secretary for Security has also made the Immigration (Advance Passenger Information) Regulation to give legal effect to the implementation of the Advance Passenger Information system in Hong Kong, which would facilitate ImmD to prevent undesirables, including potential non-refoulement claimants, from boarding flights heading to Hong Kong. The aforesaid two sets of subsidiary legislation were tabled at LegCo on 29 March 2023 for negative vetting. ImmD will continue to endeavour in removing unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong as soon as practicable, so as to maintain effective immigration control and safeguard public interest.

The above work has been included in the ImmD's daily operating expenditures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0065)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Under this Programme, one of the matters requiring special attention of the Security Bureau in 2023-24 is to “continue to implement the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme”. Please inform this Committee of the expenditure involved in the work on improving fire safety in buildings in the past financial year, including the application and approval status of the last two rounds of the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme, as well as the expenditure involved. What is the estimated expenditure for the new financial year? Has the Government maintained statistics on the number of buildings in Hong Kong that still need to undergo relevant improvement works at present? In which districts are the buildings distributed?

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

To assist owners of old buildings in complying with the requirements of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) (“the Ordinance”), the Government, in partnership with the Urban Renewal Authority (“URA”), implemented a \$2-billion Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme (“FSWS”) in 2018, providing subsidies for carrying out fire safety improvement works. Subsequently, the Government increased the funding for the FSWS to a total of \$5.5 billion. In 2018 and 2020, the URA rolled out 2 rounds of applications involving around 3 200 buildings. The URA has announced the launch of the third round of application, which will accept applications from 1 April this year, to assist more owners in need to enhance the fire safety standard of their buildings.

There were 2 319 and 767 applications meeting the basic application requirements in the first and second rounds of the FSWS applications respectively. For these total 3 086 cases, the URA issued to the applicants letters of Approval-in-principle and contacted them about the commencement of fire safety improvement works. On the amount of subsidy, as at 28 February 2023, the URA disbursed about \$51.15 million of subsidy to the owners of 119 buildings.

In accordance with the estimated cash flow requirements of the FSWS, the Government disbursed \$0.55 billion of funding to the URA in 2022-23 and plans to disburse \$0.65 of funding billion to the URA in 2023-24.

As regards the buildings that need to undergo fire safety improvement works, about 14 000 target buildings are regulated under the Ordinance. As at the end of 2022, the Fire Services Department and the Buildings Department inspected about 10 520 target buildings and issued a total of over 336 200 Fire Safety Directions to specify the required fire safety improvement works. Of these Directions, around 60% have yet to be compiled with or followed up, and relevant fire safety improvement works need to be carried out. The buildings concerned are distributed in all 18 districts in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB024****(Question Serial No. 0509)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Immigration ControlControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the screening of non-refoulement claims in the past 3 years:

1. what are the numbers of claims received and the nationalities concerned;
2. what are the numbers of claims substantiated and unsubstantiated;
3. what are the numbers of claims determined, withdrawn or that no further action could be taken;
4. what are the numbers of claims pending screening; and
5. Since the implementation of the updated removal policy on 7 December 2022, does the removal efficiency regarding unsubstantiated claimants improved? What measures are in place to further prevent and combat the abuse of the non-refoulement claim mechanism?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)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. The Immigration Department (ImmD) will continue to maintain high efficiency in the screening procedures and target to commence screening as soon as a new claim is received. As at end-February 2023, the number of non-refoulement claims handled by ImmD is as follows:

Year	Claims received	Claims determined	Claims withdrawn or no further action can be taken	Pending claims
Commencement of USM				6 699
2014 (March to December)	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

Year	Claims received	Claims determined	Claims withdrawn or no further action can be taken	Pending claims
2018	1 216	5 467	1 102	546
2019	1 213	1 344	149	266
2020	1 223	857	69	563
2021	2 528	2 220	130	741
2022	1 257	1 727	70	201
2023 (January to February)	188	190	7	192
Total	22 993	22 370	7 130	

As at end-February 2023, ImmD received 22 993 claims and the breakdown by nationality is as follows:

Nationality	Number of claims	Percentage*
Vietnamese	5 787	25%
Indonesian	3 866	17%
Indian	3 692	16%
Pakistani	2 756	12%
Bangladeshi	1 909	8%
Filipino	1 895	8%
Nepalese	485	2%
Sri Lankan	264	1%
Thai	260	1%
Other countries	2 079	9%
Total	22 993	100%

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

Among the 22 370 claims determined by ImmD, 269 were substantiated (including 180 substantiated by the Torture Claims Appeal Board on appeal).

(5) Over the years, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy in handling non-refoulement claims, which have yielded effective outcomes on multiple fronts. To address the concerns about the burden on the society brought by non-refoulement claimants, the Government briefed the Panel on Security of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in December 2022 on the implementation of further measures to enhance the handling of non-refoulement claims and to expedite the removal of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong, viz.:

- (a) maintain high efficiency in screening non-refoulement claims;
- (b) expedite the processing of claim-related appeals;
- (c) update the removal policy to expedite repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong;
- (d) expand detention capacity and step up management of immigration detainees; and
- (e) strengthen enforcement actions against immigration offences and illegal employment.

Under the updated removal policy, subject to any court order, ImmD may generally proceed with removal of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong upon the Court of First Instance (CFI)'s dismissal of their applications for leave to apply for judicial review (JR) or the relevant JR applications pertaining to their non-refoulement claim.

ImmD removed 1 097 unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong in 2022, which is around 46% more than that in 2021. From 7 December 2022 (the day that the updated removal policy took effect) to end-February 2023, ImmD removed 301 unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong, including 168 claimants who were removed after their relevant JR cases were dismissed by CFI (among which 27 claimants with outstanding legal proceedings were removed in accordance with the updated removal policy).

In addition, the Secretary for Security has amended the Immigration (Places of Detention) Order (Cap. 115B) and other relevant subsidiary legislation to include the Nei Kwu Correctional Institution (NKCI) as a place of immigration detention. With the redeployment of NKCI, the overall capacity for immigration detainees will increase by about one-third to 900. The Secretary for Security has also made the Immigration (Advance Passenger Information) Regulation to give legal effect to the implementation of the Advance Passenger Information system in Hong Kong, which would facilitate ImmD to prevent undesirables, including potential non-refoulement claimants, from boarding flights heading to Hong Kong. The aforesaid two sets of subsidiary legislation were tabled at LegCo on 29 March 2023 for negative vetting. ImmD will continue to endeavour in removing unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong as soon as practicable, so as to maintain effective immigration control and safeguard public interest.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB025****(Question Serial No. 0510)**

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Currently, while the Immigration Department is processing their claims, non-refoulement claimants (claimants) will be issued with a recognizance form, commonly known as “going-out pass”, and are allowed to temporarily stay in Hong Kong. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the latest number of claimants in Hong Kong, with a breakdown by (i) nationality, (ii) nature of stay (i.e. illegal entry, overstaying or entry refused), and (iii) screening status (e.g. pending screening, pending appeal or pending judicial review);
2. cases of claimants being arrested, prosecuted and convicted for committing crimes during their stay in Hong Kong (please provide a breakdown by police district and category of crimes); and
3. the staff establishment, administrative expenses and expenditure on legal assistance involved.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

(1) According to the information of the Immigration Department (ImmD), as at end-February 2023, there were over 14 800 claimants remaining in Hong Kong, including about 200 claimants with their claims pending determination by ImmD, about 2 400 claimants with their appeals against ImmD's decision pending determination by the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB), about 7 500 claimants with on-going applications to the Court of First Instance for judicial review after their claims/appeals were rejected/dismissed by the ImmD/TCAB or other litigation proceedings, as well as about 1 500 claimants being imprisoned, remanded, involved in ongoing prosecution or investigation process, or remaining in Hong Kong due to other reasons. Removal was being arranged for the remaining some 3 200 claimants. The breakdowns by nationality and status in Hong Kong of the aforesaid non-refoulement claimants are tabulated below:

Nationality	Number of claimants (as at end-February 2023)
Vietnamese	3 040
Indonesian	2 675
Pakistani	2 261
Indian	1 874
Bangladeshi	1 689
Filipino	1 395
Sri Lankan	302
Nepali	282
Nigerian	234
Others	1 114
Total	14 866

Status in Hong Kong	Number of claimants (as at end-February 2023)
Illegal immigrants	6 429
Overstayers	7 135
Others	1 302
Total	14 866

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

Police region/ police district	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (January to February)
Hong Kong Island Region	182	121	167	183	158	21
Central District	73	40	31	36	47	5
Wan Chai District	61	49	80	85	73	11
Western District	20	18	34	31	22	3
Eastern District	28	14	22	31	16	2
Kowloon East Region	48	26	22	45	23	8
Wong Tai Sin District	24	6	9	13	5	1
Sau Mau Ping District	2	2	4	9	6	1
Kwun Tong District	15	8	3	11	5	3
Tseung Kwan O District	7	10	6	12	7	3
Kowloon West Region	698	389	564	514	365	48
Yau Tsim District	326	183	243	226	155	18
Mong Kok District	100	62	107	99	65	8
Sham Shui Po District	198	103	149	117	98	15
Kowloon City District	74	41	65	72	47	7
New Territories North Region	175	76	137	133	121	21
Border District	2	0	5	9	2	0

Police region/ police district	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (January to February)
Yuen Long District	111	48	102	91	89	19
Tuen Mun District	46	24	28	24	27	1
Tai Po District	16	4	2	9	3	1
New Territories South Region	45	45	43	53	19	11
Tsuen Wan District	17	6	21	17	8	3
Shatin District	5	12	9	10	1	1
Kwai Tsing District	14	15	11	17	5	5
Lantau District	7	3	2	8	3	2
Airport District	2	9	0	1	2	0
Marine Region	2	0	1	1	1	0
Hong Kong overall	1 150	657	934	929	687	109

Since 2018, the number of NEC persons on recognizance and issued with Form No. 8 (mainly non-refoulement claimants) who were arrested for criminal offences is tabulated below with breakdown by crime category:

Offence	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (January to February)
Shop theft	239	200	250	254	145	30
Serious drug offences	207	86	112	92	85	9
Miscellaneous thefts	139	58	98	134	99	11
Wounding and serious assault	115	59	92	90	51	13
Serious immigration offences (Note 1)	80	49	38	50	29	0
Criminal damage	41	29	36	37	25	7
Burglary	22	17	36	22	27	2
Others (Note 2)	307	159	272	250	226	37
Total	1 150	657	934	929	687	109

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.

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

In addition, according to ImmD’s record, since 2018, the number of NEC persons on recognizance and issued with Form No. 8 (mainly non-refoulement claimants) who were arrested for taking unlawful employment contrary to section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115) is tabulated below:

Year	Number of persons arrested
2018	332
2019	215
2020	156

Year	Number of persons arrested
2021	438
2022	454
2023 (January to February)	63

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

(3) 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 unsubstantiated claimants # (\$ million)	Publicly-funded legal assistance (PFLA) (\$ million)	Humanitarian assistance (\$ million)	Total@ (\$ million)
2018-19	401	-	207	531	1 138
2019-20	344	45^	93	482	964
2020-21	311	47^	95	540	992
2021-22	298	47^	142	579	1 067
2022-23 (Revised estimate)	317	50^	111	590	1 068
2023-24 (Estimate)	389	57^	171	784	1 400

* Including staff costs of ImmD in screening claims and expenditures of TCAB in handling appeal cases, etc.

ImmD has deployed dedicated manpower to expedite the repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants to their places of origin since 2019-20.

^ Only the expenditure on the dedicated manpower for the repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants and related work is included. As other expenditures are incurred by duties (such as the arrangement for air tickets and application for travel documents) which form part of ImmD's overall repatriation work, ImmD does not maintain a separate breakdown relating to unsubstantiated claimants.

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

The estimate for 2023-24 is 31% more than the revised estimate for 2022-23, which is mainly due to the expedition of processing claim-related appeals by TCAB, from completing around 1 500 appeal cases in 2022 to completing not less than 3 000 appeal cases each year starting from 2023. In addition, taking into account the need to fulfill the relevant legal obligations and to meet the actual demand, the Government allocates more resources to cope with the increase in expenditures of PFLA and humanitarian assistance arising from an increased number of cases.

As regards manpower, the number of posts in ImmD responsible for work related to screening claims and repatriation, 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 unsubstantiated 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	73	36
2021-22	207	72	73	36
2022-23	207	72	75^	35
2023-24 (Estimate)	207	81	75^	35

** ImmD will, subject to the actual operation, flexibly deploy internal manpower to handle non-refoulement claims.*

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

^ Number of members as at 28 February 2023, which is subject to adjustment as necessary.

In 2023-24, 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 PFLA 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	Number of posts in 2022-23	Number of posts in 2023-24 (Estimate)
Chief Executive Officer	1	1	1	1	1	1
Senior Executive Officer	1	1	1	1	1	1
Executive Officer I	7	3	3	3	3	3
Assistant Clerical Officer	11	4	4	4	4	4
Workman II	2	2	2	1	1	1
Total	22	11	11	10	10	10

In addition, there are currently 4 non-civil service posts in PSO.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3035)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

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

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Hong Kong is not a signatory of the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Government maintains a firm policy of neither granting asylum to nor determining the refugee status of anyone. Still, asylum seekers or refugees can lodge a claim for non-refoulement protection in Hong Kong. Although the Immigration Department (ImmD) has improved its handling of non-refoulement claims since last year by enhancing the screening efficiency, preventing the use of delaying tactics by claimants and stepping up law enforcement, there are currently over 14,900 claimants in Hong Kong, which is a huge number. In this connection, can the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. please provide in tabular form the numbers of claims handled, substantiated and unsubstantiated, as well as the number of claimants who were arrested for taking up unlawful employment or committing crimes while awaiting screening by category of crimes?
2. please set out the Government's expenditures on handling the claims in the past 3 financial years and provide a breakdown of the actual expenditures on the Legal Assistance Scheme for Non-refoulement Claimants;
3. it is reported that due to the ImmD's implementation of special work arrangements during the pandemic, only limited publicly-funded legal assistance was provided to claimants between 2020 and early 2021. Thus, there was a delay in the early screening process of some of the cases. As our society has returned to business as usual, will the Bureau promise to expedite the removal of unsubstantiated claimants? What measures are in place to further prevent and combat non-refoulement abuses?
4. it was reported last year that the number of claimants involved in crimes has continually increased. Will the Government consider taking the "immediate repatriation upon arrest" measure to achieve a deterrent effect, as well as stopping bogus refugees from finding excuses to stay in Hong Kong and reducing unnecessary public expenditure?

Asked by: Hon SHANG Hailong (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

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. The Immigration Department (ImmD) will continue to maintain high efficiency in the screening procedures and target to commence screening as soon as a new claim is received. As at end-February 2023, the number of non-refoulement claims handled by ImmD is as follows:

Year	Claims received	Claims determined	Claims withdrawn or no further action can be taken	Pending claims
Commencement of USM				6 699
2014 (March to December)	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	2 528	2 220	130	741
2022	1 257	1 727	70	201
2023 (January to February)	188	190	7	192
Total	22 993	22 370	7 130	

Among the 22 370 claims determined by ImmD, 269 were substantiated (including 180 substantiated by the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) on appeal).

According to the Police's record, since 2020, the number of non-ethnic Chinese (NEC) persons on recognizance and issued with Form No. 8 (mainly non-refoulement claimants) who were arrested for criminal offences is tabulated below with breakdown by crime category:

Offence	2020	2021	2022	2023 (January to February)
Shop theft	250	254	145	30
Serious drug offences	112	92	85	9
Miscellaneous thefts	98	134	99	11
Wounding and serious assault	92	90	51	13
Serious immigration offences (Note 1)	38	50	29	0
Criminal damage	36	37	25	7
Burglary	36	22	27	2
Others (Note 2)	272	250	226	37
Total	934	929	687	109

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.

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

In addition, according to ImmD’s record, since 2020, the number of NEC persons on recognizance and issued with Form No. 8 (mainly non-refoulement claimants) who were arrested for taking unlawful employment contrary to section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115) is tabulated below:

Year	Number of persons arrested
2020	156
2021	438
2022	454
2023 (January to February)	63

(2) Major expenditures on handling non-refoulement claims and related work since 2020-21 are tabulated below:

Year	Screening of claims and handling of appeals/petitions* (\$ million)	Repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants (\$ million)	Publicly-funded legal assistance (PFLA) (\$ million)	Humanitarian assistance (\$ million)	Total@ (\$ million)
2020-21	311	47^	95	540	992
2021-22	298	47^	142	579	1 067
2022-23 (Revised estimate)	317	50^	111	590	1 068
2023-24 (Estimate)	389	57^	171	784	1 400

* Including staff costs of ImmD in screening claims and expenditures of TCAB in handling appeals, etc.

^ Only the expenditure on the dedicated manpower for the repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants and related work is included. As other expenditures are incurred by duties (such as the arrangement for air tickets and application for travel documents) which form part of ImmD’s overall repatriation work, ImmD does not maintain a separate breakdown relating to unsubstantiated claimants.

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

The estimate for 2023-24 is 31% more than the revised estimate for 2022-23, which is mainly due to the expedition of processing claim-related appeals by TCAB, from completing around 1 500 appeal cases in 2022 to completing not less than 3 000 appeal cases each year starting from 2023. In addition, taking into account the need to fulfill the relevant legal obligations and to meet the actual demand, the Government allocates more resources to cope with the increase in expenditures of PFLA and humanitarian assistance arising from an increased number of cases.

(3) Due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, commencement of the screening procedures of some claims were once held back and the number of new claims received also increased during the pandemic. In this regard, ImmD has flexibly deployed manpower and increased resources to expedite the handling of claims. As at end-February 2023, the number of claims pending screening by ImmD was around 200. Currently, all new claims received can be handled instantly.

Over the years, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy in handling non-refoulement claims, which have yielded effective outcomes on multiple fronts. To address the concerns about the burden on the society brought by non-refoulement claimants, the Government briefed the Panel on Security of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in December 2022 on the implementation of further measures to enhance the handling of non-refoulement claims and to expedite the removal of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong, viz.:

- (a) maintain high efficiency in screening non-refoulement claims;
- (b) expedite the processing of claim-related appeals;
- (c) update the removal policy to expedite repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong;
- (d) expand detention capacity and step up management of immigration detainees; and
- (e) strengthen enforcement actions against immigration offences and illegal employment.

Under the updated removal policy, subject to any court order, ImmD may generally proceed with removal of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong upon the Court of First Instance's dismissal of their applications for leave to apply for judicial review (JR) or the relevant JR applications pertaining to their non-refoulement claim.

In addition, the Secretary for Security has amended the Immigration (Places of Detention) Order (Cap. 115B) and other relevant subsidiary legislation to include the Nei Kwu Correctional Institution (NKCI) as a place of immigration detention. With the redeployment of NKCI, the overall capacity for immigration detainees will increase by about one-third to 900. The Secretary for Security has also made the Immigration (Advance Passenger Information) Regulation to give legal effect to the implementation of the Advance Passenger Information system in Hong Kong, which would facilitate ImmD to prevent undesirables, including potential non-refoulement claimants, from boarding flights heading to Hong Kong. The aforesaid two sets of subsidiary legislation were tabled at LegCo on 29 March 2023 for negative vetting. ImmD will continue to endeavour in removing unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong as soon as practicable, so as to maintain effective immigration control and safeguard public interest.

(4) 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, it remains a duty of the Government to meet the Court's requirement to complete all the screening procedures (including appeals) which meet the high standards of fairness before proceeding with repatriation of the claimant. At present, ImmD and TCAB have expedited the handling of claims and appeals, particularly those of claimants with criminal records, so as to complete the screening before completion of service of the full sentence by the claimant, 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 unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong as soon as possible.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB027****(Question Serial No. 0929)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

1. The expenditure on “legal assistance scheme for non-refoulement claimants by the Duty Lawyer Service” has increased significantly from the revised estimate of \$70,000,000 for 2022-23 to \$110,112,000 for the new financial year. Why is that so?
2. What are the detailed purposes of the increased expenditure?
3. How much public money has been spent on the scheme in total since the establishment of the non-refoulement claim mechanism?
4. Has the Security Bureau set key performance indicators for the above legal assistance scheme so as to ensure cost-effectiveness of the expenditure?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)Reply:

(1)-(4) The ruling of the High Court in the case of *FB v Director of Immigration and Secretary for Security* ([2009] 2 HKLRD 346) held that the Government must provide, among others, publicly-funded legal assistance (PFLA) to claimants during the screening process, so as to meet the high standards of fairness required by the Court. The Government is thus required to provide every claimant with PFLA. PFLA is currently provided by “Legal Assistance Scheme for Non-refoulement Claimants by the Duty Lawyer Service” (Duty Lawyer Scheme) and the Pilot Scheme for Provision of PFLA for Non-refoulement Claimants (the Pilot Scheme). The expenditures of the above two schemes since 2014-15 (i.e. after the Government implemented the Unified Screening Mechanism in March 2014) are tabulated below:

Year	Duty Lawyer Scheme's expenditures (\$ million)	The Pilot Scheme's expenditures (\$ million) *	Total PFLA expenditures (The sum of the two schemes) (\$ million) #
2014-15	97	-	97

Year	Duty Lawyer Scheme's expenditures (\$ million)	The Pilot Scheme's expenditures (\$ million) *	Total PFLA expenditures (The sum of the two schemes) (\$ million) #
2015-16	106	-	106
2016-17	122	-	122
2017-18	129	23	152
2018-19	123	84	207
2019-20	68	25	93
2020-21	69	26	95
2021-22	87	56	142
2022-23 (Revised estimate)	70	41	111
2023-24 (Estimate)	110	61	171
Total	981	316	1 296

* *The Pilot Scheme has been providing PFLA to claimants since September 2017.*

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

The estimate for PFLA expenditure in 2023-24 is 54% more than the revised estimate for 2022-23, mainly because of the Immigration Department's forecast that there would be more new claims in 2023 than in 2022, thereby allocating more resources to handle them. The actual expenditure will depend on the number of cases and actual demand.

As with other policies, the Government will continue to closely monitor whether the resources deployed are put to good use and conduct review from time to time, with a view to meeting the policy objectives and serving the public interests.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB028

(Question Serial No. 0930)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding Programme (3), the estimate for 2023-24 will be increased by \$76.1 million (28.5%) to pay for the legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants, honoraria for members of committees, hired services and professional fees. What are the respective amounts they account for? What are the detailed purposes of the expenses?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

Regarding Programme (3) Immigration Control, the estimate of expenditure for 2023-24 is \$76.1 million (28.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2022-23. The major items of increase are set out below:

- Increased expenditure on the legal assistance scheme for non-refoulement claimants operated by the Duty Lawyer Service \$40.11 million
- Increased expenditure on the remunerations of committee members handling appeals/petitions lodged by unsuccessful non-refoulement claimants and other committee members \$37.29 million
- Increased expenditure on legal, translation and interpretation service fee and other hire of service fees \$14.28 million

Meanwhile, we have saved \$15.58 million due to the net decrease of 1 post and the decreased requirement in departmental expenses.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB029****(Question Serial No. 0931)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Immigration ControlControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

1. Since the introduction of the non-refoulement claim scheme, how much public money has been spent on the scheme by the SAR Government?
2. Given that the SAR Government has recorded fiscal deficits in consecutive years, what policies are in place to reduce the expenditure of the above scheme?
3. Will the Government make reference to the United Kingdom's practice of sending asylum seekers to Rwanda to reduce expenditure, or seek to enhance/streamline the non-refoulement claim scheme in a practical and cost-saving manner?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)Reply:

(1) – (3) The Government implemented the Unified Screening Mechanism in March 2014. Major expenditures on handling non-refoulement claims and related work since 2014-15 are tabulated below:

Year	Screening of claims and handling of appeals/petitions* (\$ million)	Repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants # (\$ million)	Publicly-funded legal assistance (PFLA) (\$ million)	Humanitarian assistance (\$ million)	Total@ (\$ million)
2014-15	188	-	97	254	540
2015-16	208	-	106	489	803
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	311	47^	95	540	992
2021-22	298	47^	142	579	1 067

Year	Screening of claims and handling of appeals/petitions* (\$ million)	Repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants # (\$ million)	Publicly-funded legal assistance (PFLA) (\$ million)	Humanitarian assistance (\$ million)	Total@ (\$ million)
2022-23 (Revised estimate)	317	50^	111	590	1 068
2023-24 (Estimate)	389	57^	171	784	1 400

* Including staff costs of the Immigration Department (ImmD) in screening claims and expenditures of the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) in handling appeals, etc.

ImmD has deployed dedicated manpower to expedite the repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants to their places of origin since 2019-20.

^ Only the expenditure on the dedicated manpower for the repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants and related work is included. As other expenditures are incurred by duties (such as the arrangement for air tickets and application for travel documents) which form part of ImmD's overall repatriation work, ImmD does not maintain a separate breakdown relating to unsubstantiated claimants.

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

The estimate for 2023-24 is 31% more than the revised estimate for 2022-23, which is mainly due to the expedition of processing claim-related appeals by TCAB, from completing around 1 500 appeal cases in 2022 to completing not less than 3 000 appeal cases each year starting from 2023. In addition, taking into account the need to fulfill the relevant legal obligations and to meet the actual demand, the Government allocates more resources to cope with the increase in expenditures of PFLA and humanitarian assistance arising from an increased number of cases.

To address the concerns about the burden on the society brought by non-refoulement claimants, the Government briefed the Panel on Security of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in December 2022 on the implementation of further measures to enhance the handling of non-refoulement claims and to expedite the removal of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong, viz.:

- (a) maintain high efficiency in screening non-refoulement claims;
- (d) expedite the processing of claim-related appeals;
- (c) update the removal policy to expedite repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong;
- (d) expand detention capacity and step up management of immigration detainees; and
- (e) strengthen enforcement actions against immigration offences and illegal employment.

Under the updated removal policy, subject to any court order, ImmD may generally proceed with removal of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong upon the Court of First Instance's dismissal of their applications for leave to apply for judicial review (JR) or the relevant JR applications pertaining to their non-refoulement claim. This would expedite the removal of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong. ImmD will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach and maintain close liaison with relevant stakeholders, including consulates and airlines, in order to expedite the removal of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong,

including arranging special flights for large-scale removal operations as necessary and as the circumstances so warrant.

In addition, the Secretary for Security has amended the Immigration (Places of Detention) Order (Cap. 115B) and other relevant subsidiary legislation to include the Nei Kwu Correctional Institution (NKCI) as a place of immigration detention. With the redeployment of NKCI, the overall capacity for immigration detainees will increase by about one-third to 900. The Secretary for Security has also made the Immigration (Advance Passenger Information) Regulation to give legal effect to the implementation of the Advance Passenger Information system in Hong Kong, which would facilitate ImmD to prevent undesirables, including potential non-refoulement claimants, from boarding flights heading to Hong Kong. The aforesaid two sets of subsidiary legislation were tabled at LegCo on 29 March 2023 for negative vetting.

The Government will actively consider the feasibility of different measures (including the relevant legal issues and the effectiveness in meeting the policy objectives and serving the public interest, etc.). The Government will also continue to spare no efforts in addressing the abuse of non-refoulement claims at root. ImmD will, at the same time, continue to endeavour in removing unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong as soon as practicable, so as to maintain effective immigration control and safeguard public interest.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB030****(Question Serial No. 0933)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Immigration ControlControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

1. What is the estimated expenditure on the non-refoulement claim scheme for 2023-24? How does it compare with the previous year?
2. Has the Government considered setting an "annual cap" for the above legal aid scheme, especially in times of fiscal deficits, so as to avoid uncontrolled increases in the relevant legal expenses?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)Reply:

(1) – (2) Major expenditures on handling non-refoulement claims and related work in 2022-23 and 2023-24 are tabulated below:

Year	Screening of claims and handling of appeals/petitions* (\$ million)	Repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants (\$ million)	Publicly-funded legal assistance (PFLA) (\$ million)	Humanitarian assistance (\$ million)	Total@ (\$ million)
2022-23 (Revised estimate)	317	50 [^]	111	590	1 068
2023-24 (Estimate)	389	57 [^]	171	784	1 400

* Including staff costs of the Immigration Department (ImmD) in screening claims and expenditures of the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) in handling appeals, etc.

[^] Only the expenditure on the dedicated manpower for the repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants and related work is included. As other expenditures are incurred by duties (such as the arrangement for air tickets and application for travel documents) which form part of ImmD's overall repatriation work, ImmD does not maintain a separate breakdown relating to unsubstantiated claimants.

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

The estimate for 2023-24 is 31% more than the revised estimate for 2022-23, which is mainly due to the expedition of processing claim-related appeals by TCAB, from completing around 1 500 appeal cases in 2022 to completing not less than 3 000 appeal cases each year starting from 2023. In addition, taking into account the need to fulfill the relevant legal obligations and to meet the actual demand, the Government allocates more resources to cope with the increase in expenditures of PFLA and humanitarian assistance arising from an increased number of cases.

The ruling of the High Court in the case of *FB v Director of Immigration and Secretary for Security* ([2009] 2 HKLRD 346) held that the Government must provide, among others, PFLA to claimants during the screening process, so as to meet the high standards of fairness required by the Court. The Government is thus required to provide every claimant with PFLA. The actual expenditure for such legal assistance depend on various factors including the number of claims received. Coupled with the need to fulfill the relevant legal obligations, it is therefore not appropriate to set a cap on such expenditure.

As with other policies, the Government will continue to closely monitor whether the resources deployed are put to good use and conduct review from time to time, with a view to meeting the policy objectives and serving the public interests.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB031

(Question Serial No. 0936)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In recent years, some media have branded Hong Kong as an international “metropolis of knives” to ridicule the phenomenon of ever-increasing wounding attacks on the streets of Hong Kong. Many offenders of the wounding cases are torture claimants holding going-out passes. Will the Secretary for Security inform this Committee:

1. of the existing number of torture claimants who are staying in Hong Kong with going-out passes;
2. of the expenditure to be spent by the Government to cover the living expenses of the above claimants during their stay in Hong Kong in the new financial year;
3. of the number of torture claimants with going-out passes who had criminal records in Hong Kong in the past 3 financial years; and
4. whether the Government has studied the reasons for the above claimants to commit crimes, and whether there are policies in place to reduce the living expenses of claimants during their stay in Hong Kong (especially when Hong Kong is facing a structural deficit) and prevent claimants from committing crimes and disrupting social order in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

(1) According to the information of the Immigration Department (ImmD), as at end-February 2023, there were over 14 800 non-refoulement claimants remaining in Hong Kong, among which 97% were on recognizance and issued with Form No. 8 (commonly known as “going-out passes”).

(2) – (4) Since 2006, the Government has been providing humanitarian assistance for claimants during their presence in Hong Kong in order to prevent them from becoming destitute, while at the same time not creating a magnet effect which could have serious implications on the long-term sustainability of such assistance and the immigration control of Hong Kong. As with other policies, the Government will continue to closely monitor whether the resources deployed are put to good use and conduct reviews from time to time,

with a view to meeting the policy objectives and serving the public interest. The estimate of humanitarian assistance provided for claimants in 2023-24 amounts to \$784 million.

According to the Police's record, since 2020, the number of non-ethnic Chinese (NEC) persons on recognizance and issued with Form No. 8 (mainly non-refoulement claimants) who were arrested for criminal offences is tabulated below:

Year	Number of persons arrested
2020	934
2021	929
2022	687
2023 (January to February)	109

The Police has all along been concerned about the commission of crimes and participation in triad activities in Hong Kong by 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. 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. The Police does not maintain the statistics of reasons for committing crimes by the concerned persons.

In addition, according to ImmD's record, since 2020, the number of NEC persons on recognizance and issued with Form No. 8 (mainly non-refoulement claimants) who were arrested for taking unlawful employment contrary to section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115) is tabulated below:

Year	Number of persons arrested
2020	156
2021	438
2022	454
2023 (January to February)	63

To address the concerns about the burden on the society brought by non-refoulement claimants, the Government briefed the Panel on Security of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in December 2022 on the implementation of further measures to enhance the handling of non-refoulement claims and to expedite the removal of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong, viz.:

- (a) maintain high efficiency in screening non-refoulement claims;
- (b) expedite the processing of claim-related appeals;
- (c) update the removal policy to expedite repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong;
- (d) expand detention capacity and step up management of immigration detainees; and
- (e) strengthen enforcement actions against immigration offences and illegal employment.

In addition, the Secretary for Security has amended the Immigration (Places of Detention) Order (Cap. 115B) and other relevant subsidiary legislation to include the Nei Kwu Correctional Institution (NKCI) as a place of immigration detention. With the redeployment of NKCI, the overall capacity for immigration detainees will increase by about one-third to

900. The Secretary for Security has also made the Immigration (Advance Passenger Information) Regulation to give legal effect to the implementation of the Advance Passenger Information system in Hong Kong, which would facilitate ImmD to prevent undesirables, including potential non-refoulement claimants, from boarding flights heading to Hong Kong. The aforesaid two sets of subsidiary legislation were tabled at LegCo on 29 March 2023 for negative vetting. ImmD will continue to endeavour in removing unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong as soon as practicable, so as to maintain effective immigration control and safeguard public interest.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB032

(Question Serial No. 0328)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

As regards the Security Bureau's work on overseeing counter-terrorism policy and the operation of the Inter-departmental Counter-terrorism Unit, how does the Bureau assess the current terrorist threat in Hong Kong? The Bureau has indicated that anti-government forces have infiltrated and developed in the community. What strategies will the Government adopt to deal with this, and whether additional resources will be allocated to strengthen counter-terrorism work? If yes, what items will be included?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

After the implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law, although peace has by and large been restored in the community, the threat of domestic terrorism still exists with a handful of extremists in Hong Kong not giving up. Some of them have gone underground or become clandestine in their operations, posing threat to the security of Hong Kong.

In April 2018, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) set up the Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit (ICTU), comprising members from the Hong Kong Police Force, Immigration Department, Customs and Excise Department, Correctional Services Department, Fire Services Department and Government Flying Service. The ICTU's counter-terrorism (CT) strategy focuses on setting up an inter-departmental CT platform on top of the existing CT framework to strengthen the HKSAR Government's overall CT capability in the areas of "prevention", "preparation", "response" and "recovery".

Under the strategy, the ICTU has established a CT intelligence exchange mechanism and work platform for various departments, which has greatly enhanced the integration and analysis of CT intelligence. The ICTU is also committed to providing CT training for its member departments and coordinating inter-departmental CT exercises, with a view to enhancing the CT preparedness of frontline personnel and further strengthening the cooperation and synergy among various departments in CT operations, thereby enhancing the overall CT capability.

In addition, the ICTU coordinates the efforts of various departments in promoting public education on CT in a bid to raise the public's awareness of CT and highlighting the important role of the public in the prevention of terrorism activities. In June 2022, the ICTU launched the CT Reporting Hotline and CT Reward to encourage the public to provide information on terrorism or violence related activities, so as to achieve "whole-of-community" participation in CT.

In recent years, the ICTU has been reaching out to schools and the community, allocating resources to organise different types of public education and community activities to enhance the public's awareness of CT. At the same time, the ICTU will continue to provide CT education tailor-made for different sectors in order to strengthen the exchange and cooperation with stakeholders in various sectors and jointly promote a safe community.

In view of the overall security situation, there was an increase of 18 posts in the 2022-23 financial year to meet their actual operational needs. The ICTU will closely monitor the global and local trends of terrorism activities, and timely review the manpower and resource requirements of various departments in the ICTU to ensure that Hong Kong has adequate CT capability to cope with the prevailing threats.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB033****(Question Serial No. 0333)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Immigration ControlControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

28. Regarding the non-refoulement claims received and their handling by the Immigration Department in the past 3 years, please advise on the following: 1. the numbers of claims received and the nationalities involved; 2. the respective numbers of claims which were determined, withdrawn, are under screening, and are pending judicial review; 3. the numbers of crimes (a breakdown by crime category) that involved claimants under screening; 4. the Government's expenditures (including legal assistance, accommodation allowance and food assistance), manpower arrangement and work details in relation to the handling of non-refoulement claimants; and 5. the average administrative fee and legal costs for handling each non-refoulement case.

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)Reply:

(1) – (2) The Government implemented the Unified Screening Mechanism (USM) in March 2014 to screen non-refoulement claims on all applicable grounds in one go. The Immigration Department (ImmD) will continue to maintain high efficiency in the screening procedures and target to commence screening as soon as a new claim is received. As at end-February 2023, the number of non-refoulement claims handled by ImmD is as follows:

Year	Claims received	Claims determined	Claims withdrawn or no further action can be taken	Pending claims
Commencement of USM				6 699
2014 (March to December)	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

Year	Claims received	Claims determined	Claims withdrawn or no further action can be taken	Pending claims
2020	1 223	857	69	563
2021	2 528	2 220	130	741
2022	1 257	1 727	70	201
2023 (January to February)	188	190	7	192
Total	22 993	22 370	7 130	

As at end-February 2023, ImmD received 22 993 claims and the breakdown by nationality is as follows:

Nationality	Number of claims	Percentage*
Vietnamese	5 787	25%
Indonesian	3 866	17%
Indian	3 692	16%
Pakistani	2 756	12%
Bangladeshi	1 909	8%
Filipino	1 895	8%
Nepalese	485	2%
Sri Lankan	264	1%
Thai	260	1%
Other countries	2 079	9%
Total	22 993	100%

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

According to the Judiciary, there were 2 367, 1 675 and 1 440 applications for leave to apply for judicial review related to non-refoulement claims filed with the Court of First Instance in 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively. The Judiciary has all along been adopting a stringent approach in handling leave applications for judicial review. As at 31 January 2023, among the leave applications to apply for judicial review related to non-refoulement claims filed from 2020 to 2022, 1 092 cases were disposed of, with leave granted in only 19 cases, representing 1.7% of the cases disposed of.

(3) According to the Police's record, since 2020, the number of non-ethnic Chinese (NEC) persons on recognizance and issued with Form No. 8 (mainly non-refoulement claimants) who were arrested for criminal offences is tabulated below with breakdown by crime category:

Offence	2020	2021	2022	2023 (January to February)
Shop theft	250	254	145	30
Serious drug offences	112	92	85	9
Miscellaneous thefts	98	134	99	11

Offence	2020	2021	2022	2023 (January to February)
Wounding and serious assault	92	90	51	13
Serious immigration offences (Note 1)	38	50	29	0
Criminal damage	36	37	25	7
Burglary	36	22	27	2
Others (Note 2)	272	250	226	37
Total	934	929	687	109

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 record, since 2020, the number of NEC persons on recognizance and issued with Form No. 8 (mainly non-refoulement claimants) who were arrested for taking unlawful employment contrary to section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115) is tabulated below:

Year	Number of persons arrested
2020	156
2021	438
2022	454
2023 (January to February)	63

(4) – (5) Major expenditures on handling non-refoulement claims and related work since 2020-21 are tabulated below:

Year	Screening of claims and handling of appeals/petitions* (\$ million)	Repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants (\$ million)	Publicly-funded legal assistance (PFLA) (\$ million)	Humanitarian assistance (\$ million)	Total@ (\$ million)
2020-21	311	47^	95	540	992
2021-22	298	47^	142	579	1 067
2022-23 (Revised estimate)	317	50^	111	590	1 068
2023-24 (Estimate)	389	57^	171	784	1 400

* Including staff costs of ImmD in screening claims and expenditures of the Torture Claims Appeal Board (TCAB) in handling appeals, etc.

^ Only the expenditure on the dedicated manpower for the repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants and related work is included. As other expenditures are incurred by duties (such as the arrangement for air tickets and application for travel documents) which form part of ImmD’s overall repatriation work, ImmD does not maintain a separate breakdown relating to unsubstantiated claimants.

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

The estimate for 2023-24 is 31% more than the revised estimate for 2022-23, which is mainly due to the expedition of processing claim-related appeals by TCAB, from completing around 1 500 appeal cases in 2022 to completing not less than 3 000 appeal cases each year starting from 2023. In addition, taking into account the need to fulfill the relevant legal obligations and to meet the actual demand, the Government allocates more resources to cope with the increase in expenditures of PFLA and humanitarian assistance arising from an increased number of cases. The Government does not maintain information about the specific expenditure on PFLA for each case.

As regards manpower, since 2020-21, the number of posts in ImmD responsible for work related to screening claims and repatriation, the number of TCAB members and the number of posts in TCAB Secretariat 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 unsubstantiated claimants *	Number of TCAB members	Number of posts in TCAB Secretariat
2020-21	207	72	73	36
2021-22	207	72	73	36
2022-23	207	72	75^	35
2023-24 (Estimate)	207	81	75^	35

* *ImmD will, depending on the actual operation, flexibly deploy internal manpower to handle non-refoulement claims.*

^ *Number of members as at 28 February 2023, which is subject to adjustment as necessary.*

In 2023-24, 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 PFLA for Non-refoulement Claimants since 2020-21 is as follows:

Rank	Number of posts in 2020-21	Number of posts in 2021-22	Number of posts in 2022-23	Number of posts in 2023-24 (Estimate)
Chief Executive Officer	1	1	1	1
Senior Executive Officer	1	1	1	1
Executive Officer I	3	3	3	3
Assistant Clerical Officer	4	4	4	4
Workman II	2	1	1	1
Total	11	10	10	10

In addition, there are currently 4 non-civil service posts in PSO.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB034

(Question Serial No. 2890)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
(3) Road Safety
(4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-yee)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

A provision of about \$25.35 billion under this Subhead for 2023-24 is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Hong Kong Police Force. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of 132 posts in 2023-24. In this connection, please provide the lists showing:

1. the posts to be created and the total expenditure to be involved; and
2. the posts to be deleted and the total expenditure to be saved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

1. In 2023-24, there will be a net decrease of 132 posts in the Police Force, involving creation of 175 posts and reduction of 307 posts.

Details on the 175 posts to be created and the salaries involved are set out in the following table:

Rank	Number of posts to be created	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)	Monthly salary for the rank in HK\$ (from 1 April 2022)
Superintendent	2	PPS 50 – 53	124,925-140,410
Chief Inspector	5	PPS 44 – 49	97,405-120,450
Senior Inspector/Inspector	14	PPS 24 – 43	48,255-93,905
Station Sergeant	10	PPS 24 – 33a	48,255-71,275
Sergeant	34	PPS 17 – 28	39,325-56,455
Police Constable	99	PPS 4 – 17	26,845-39,325
Total (police officers)	164		
Systems Manager	1	MPS 34 – 44	76,380-112,925
Analyst/Programmer I	2	MPS 28 – 33	60,100-75,620
Analyst/Programmer II	3	MPS 16 – 27	34,185-57,395
Telecommunications Engineer/ Assistant Telecommunications Engineer	1	MPS 18 – 44	37,685-112,925
Police Telecommunications Inspector	1	MPS 25 – 33	52,370-75,620
Assistant Police Telecommunications Inspector	3	MPS 14 – 24	30,990-50,080
Total (civilian staff)	11		
Total	175		

2. Details on the 307 posts to be reduced and the salaries involved are set out in the following table:

Rank	Number of posts to be reduced	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)	Monthly salary for the rank in HK\$ (from 1 April 2022)
Superintendent	3	PPS 50 – 53	124,925-140,410
Chief Inspector	5	PPS 44 – 49	97,405-120,450
Senior Inspector/Inspector	11	PPS 24 – 43	48,255-93,905
Station Sergeant	4	PPS 24 – 33a	48,255-71,275
Sergeant	34	PPS 17 – 28	39,325-56,455
Police Constable	244	PPS 4 – 17	26,845-39,325
Total (police officers)	301		
Traffic Warden	6	MPS 6 – 12	19,265-27,825
Total (civilian staff)	6		
Total	307		

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB035

(Question Serial No. 0452)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide information on the following items mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24:

1) It is mentioned that the Force will continue to adopt a multi-agency approach to address the problems of juvenile delinquency and youth involvement in crime and drugs. Please set out the organisations approached, the joint programmes and projects undertaken, the number of juveniles participating in such programmes and projects for the past 3 years, as well as the details of the multi-agency approach to be adopted by the Force in the coming year;

2) Regarding the target to enhance the expertise and capability of police officers in addressing juvenile delinquency, please provide information on the seminars, training courses, refresher courses and overseas training attended by police officers for the past 3 years, with a breakdown by the number of participants, key learning areas, amount of subsidies (if any) given to police officers, and the provision for such seminars or training courses.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1) The Police Force attaches great importance to juvenile crimes. The Force has been adopting a multi-agency approach and maintaining close co-operation and communication with the Education Bureau (EDB), school sponsoring bodies, schools, parent-teacher associations, school heads associations and social welfare organisations. Stakeholders from all walks of life are encouraged to make concerted effort to foster the law-abiding awareness among young people and to strengthen the work in prevention of juvenile delinquency.

The Force maintains close liaison with EDB, schools, different disciplined services and other stakeholders in youth services through a variety of youth programmes, including the Junior Police Call (JPC) Scheme and the Police School Liaison Programme. These initiatives help to improve communication with young people and provide a platform for them to engage in a variety of community services to foster their law-abiding

awareness and develop more young people into “future leaders and police fight crime-partners”.

Under the Police Superintendent’s Discretion Scheme, police officers have the discretion to caution, rather than prosecute, arrestees under the age of 18 for minor offences, in order to give young people whose offences are minor the opportunity for rehabilitation through corrective supervision. With the consent of the parents or guardians of arrestees under the age of 18, the Force will also refer them to the Community Support Service Scheme, funded by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), to provide them with support services to help them reintegrate into society and reduce the likelihood of recidivism.

In 2019, the Force Working Group on Community Engagement was established to regularly discuss and exchange views on topics related to youth crime preventions with members from School Heads Associations and Federations of Parent-teacher Associations of 18 districts. The aim is to strengthen the co-operation between the Force and school sponsors to prevent students and youth from going astray or becoming victims of crime.

In 2021, the Force established the Leadership Institute on Narcotics (L.I.O.N.), through which mentees design and implement their own anti-drug activities each year, with the aim of disseminating anti-drug messages to young people and the general public and promoting drug-free culture in schools and society.

In September 2022, the Force and EDB collaborated to publish *A Chronicle of Juvenile Crimes: Strategies for Teachers and Parents*. Copies of this booklet were distributed to primary and secondary schools, school sponsoring bodies and non-governmental organisations working with youths to help teachers and parents better understand the youth crime trend, inform them of the serious consequences of breaking the law and raise the law-abiding and self-protection awareness of young people. The Force also produced a number of short crime prevention video clips for schools to show at morning assemblies, in lessons, and after school hours in order to make it easier for youngsters to understand the relevant information.

Between September and November in 2022, the Force launched the Anti-drugs Campaign, which is a large-scale territory-wide publicity campaign that highlights the harm of drugs and drug trafficking to youths by means of innovation and technology. Besides, the Force launched a series of mini-films and anti-drug promotional animation to encourage young people to say “No” to drugs in a fun way. A promotion truck was also used to spread anti-drug messages throughout the territory.

In the year ahead, the Force will continue to take a multi-agency approach and strengthen collaboration with other government departments and stakeholders from all sectors of the community by organising various activities to raise the law-abiding awareness of young people and assist them in staying away from crime. To raise the youths’ awareness of the law and foster positive values in students, the Force will also continue to strengthen its partnerships with schools, social workers, parents and other stakeholders, making the entire community the Force’s partners in both policing and crime prevention.

- 2) The Force adopts an “inter-departmental” and “multi-disciplinary” strategy in combating juvenile delinquency and reducing recidivism. The strategy focuses on four aspects, namely, prevention, combat, graduated sanction and rehabilitation programme. Juvenile offenders being monitored by the Force’s Juvenile Protection Sections may be referred to the Community Support Service Scheme, the SWD, and/or the EDB for further services when necessary.

To enhance the competence and capabilities in tackling juvenile delinquency, the Force has incorporated training courses on juvenile delinquency into the “foundation training programme”. Training materials including training day packages are also regularly reviewed and updated. The details are as follows:

Induction Training

Probationary Inspectors and Recruit Constables are required to attend a 2-hour lecture on the protection of children and juveniles given by instructors of the Hong Kong Police College (the Police College) and sit for an examination. The number of officers who have received training in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Induction Training	Probationary Inspectors	151	162	159
	Recruit Constables	587	417	426

In-service Training

Police constables who have served for 5 years are required to attend lectures on how to properly inquire about and handle children and juvenile offenders given by instructors of the Police College in order to develop their empathy and professional sensitivity. A total of 1 914 officers have received relevant training in the past 3 years.

The Police College also organises a non-regular 5-day “Youth-In-Need Engagement Course” for junior police officers. In addition to lectures by instructors of the Police College, officers from the Crime Wing, the Labour Department, EDB, SWD and professionals (including doctors and secondary school principals) are invited to explain the latest situation and policies relating to youth. Visits to youth care organisations and facilities are also arranged to broaden and strengthen officers’ awareness of and ability in dealing with young people.

The Police College has included youth-related training in its command courses to enhance officers’ understanding of young people. A total of 46 superintendents and 237 inspectorate officers have received relevant training in the past 3 years.

Apart from the above-mentioned training, the Force also held a training day on “Understanding and Effective Communication with the Youth” in October 2022 in order to familiarise frontline officers with the latest trends in juvenile delinquency and to improve their professional skills in dealing with juvenile offenders.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB036

(Question Serial No. 0453)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide information on the following items mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24:

- 1) regarding the target to utilise social media to disseminate police messages and provide clarifications and rebuttals against misleading information or allegations on police work, please set out the number of posts published, forwarded and responded to by the Force for the past 3 years, with a breakdown by types of the media and the posts;
- 2) regarding the target to enhance the expertise and capability of police officers in using social media, please provide information on the seminars, training courses and refresher courses attended by police officers for the past 3 years, with a breakdown by the number of participants, key learning areas, amount of subsidies (if any) given to police officers, and the provision for such seminars or training courses; and
- 3) future plans and projects to enhance the capability of police officers to utilise social media, including the projects to upgrade and acquire additional hardware and software equipment and the related expenditure.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

- 1) To provide the public with a better understanding of policing, the Police Force has been using 6 major social media platforms (Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Weibo, Twitter, and WeChat) to disseminate information, introduce policing work and clarify false information. The total number of posts published by the Force on social media platforms for the past 3 years are tabulated below:

	Facebook	YouTube	Instagram	Weibo	Twitter	WeChat (launched in January 2022)
Total number of posts published for the past 3 years	7 051	2 177	1 547	4 187	1 932	374

- 2) To enhance the expertise and capability of police officers in using social media, the Force has incorporated the use of social media in a number of training courses, and regularly reviews and updates the relevant training material. The details of the social media training courses are as follows:

Induction Training

Probationary Inspectors must attend a 4-hour lecture delivered by instructors from the Police College, whereas Recruit Police Constables must attend a 2-hour lecture given by the Police College as well as another 2-hour lecture from the Public Relations Wing. They are also required to sit for an examination.

Promotion and In-service Training

To enhance the capabilities in identifying potential risks in using social media, Inspector and Police Constable graduates are required to undergo 1.5 hour and 45 minutes of training respectively on “Personal Use of Social Media” in their refresher courses. Newly promoted Station Sergeants and Sergeants, on the other hand, are required to attend a 1.5-hour lecture given by instructors of the Police College. Constables who have served for 5 years will attend a 1-hour lecture given by instructors from the Police College. The lecture covers the legislation related to social media, with the goal of enhancing their conduct and discipline in using social media.

The total number of attendance for the related training to police officers for the past 3 years is 8 179. The details are tabulated as follows:

		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Induction Training	Probationary Inspector	151	162	159
	Recruit Police Constable	587	417	426
In-service Training	Inspector	187	145	110
	Station Sergeant	40	118	110
	Sergeant	116	411	340
	Police Constable	1 952	1 521	1 227

- 3) To foster interaction with the public and enhance the transparency of policing work, the Force will keep abreast of the times by reviewing developments in the mass and social media, and will disseminate information via more emerging social media platforms when necessary.

The Force will continue to deploy existing resources for managing the social media platforms in the year ahead. No specific breakdown of the relevant expenditure is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB037

(Question Serial No. 0454)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide information on the following items mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24:

- 1) details of the activities organised or co-organised by the Force to promote the Animal Watchers Programme, the organisations or institutions approached, as well as the number of members of the public participating in such activities for the past 3 years;
- 2) whether the Force has organised any activities to enhance police officers' knowledge of animals and heighten their awareness of animal protection; if so, the details of the activities and the number of participants for the past 3 years; if not, the reasons; and
- 3) whether the Force has maintained any statistics on police officers volunteering for animal protection and care groups or organisations; if so, the number of such volunteers.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

- 1) To enlist public support and assistance in combating acts of cruelty to animals, the Police Force implemented the Animal Watchers Programme (AWP) in 2021, with a view to agglomerating the strengths of animals lovers at the community level and on online social media platforms in the 4 directions of education, publicity, intelligence-gathering and investigation; 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. Through organising territory-wide events involving different communities and age groups, AWP aims to strengthen the awareness and care of the general public on the issue of cruelty to animals and animal welfare, as well as to disseminate the message of prevention of cruelty to animals effectively to the public.

In 2021, AWP carried out large-scale events such as the "AWP Fight Poisoning Campaign" crime prevention promotion, "AWP Plank Challenge" video competition

and “AWP Community Mobile Classroom” public educational programme. In 2022, AWP launched a series of educational and promotional activities under “AWP x 25A”, including the “AWP Colours in 25A” colouring and drawing contest, “Animal Care Corner” promotion at schools and “BYOP (Bring Your Own Pet) Treasure Hunt”. Between 2021 and 2022, over 73 000 people physically participated in AWP events, with approximately 6.2 million engagements recorded online (e.g. social media posts). The Force will continue to raise awareness of preventing cruelty to animals through AWP.

- 2) The Force invites officers from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (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 and frontline officers can have a better grasp of the latest situation and trend of cruelty to animals.
- 3) The Force does not maintain the statistics requested.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB038****(Question Serial No. 0455)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of CrimeControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

1. Please provide the number of assaults on police officers for the past 3 years, with a breakdown by police district, rank, type of crime being dealt with at the time of the assault, and the circumstances of the assault.
2. Please advise whether the existing equipment, training and Police General Orders or other guidelines are regularly reviewed in order to better protect the personal safety of police officers on duty; if so, the details.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)Reply:

- 1) The number of assaults on police officers for the past 3 years by police district is tabulated as follows:

Police region/police district	2020	2021	2022
Hong Kong Island Region	44	51	34
Central District	6	18	18
Wan Chai District	19	14	8
Western District	9	12	3
Eastern District	10	7	5
Kowloon East Region	37	18	15
Wong Tai Sin District	8	3	7
Sau Mau Ping District	16	4	3
Kwun Tong District	4	10	3
Tseung Kwan O District	9	1	2
Kowloon West Region	67	43	29
Yau Tsim District	15	12	15
Mong Kok District	24	9	5
Sham Shui Po District	15	14	5
Kowloon City District	13	8	4
New Territories North Region	34	49	22
Border District	1	3	0
Yuen Long District	15	26	12

Tuen Mun District	13	4	3
Tai Po District	5	16	7
New Territories South Region	35	16	17
Tsuen Wan District	6	7	3
Sha Tin District	12	6	6
Kwai Tsing District	10	1	1
Lantau District	5	1	7
Airport District	2	1	0
Marine Region	0	0	0
Total	217	177	117

The Police Force does not maintain statistics on the type of crime being dealt with at the time of the assault, and the circumstances of the assault.

- 2) The Force attaches great importance to the occupational safety of police officers during their execution of duties, and from time to time examines and enhances the protection offered to officers. By purchasing and renewing operation equipment and protective gear, including helmets, anti-stab vests, cut-resistant gloves, etc., we ensure that the personal safety of frontline officers during their execution of duties will be duly protected.

The equipment, training and guidelines involve the Force's operational deployment details. It is inappropriate to disclose such information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB039

(Question Serial No. 0456)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-yee)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- 1) Please provide details of the relevant programmes, training and the target number of participants in order to enhance the capability of police officers in the handling and investigation of domestic and cohabitation-related violence cases, as well as child abuse cases.
- 2) Please advise whether there is any plan to co-operate with community groups or organisations in order to enhance the Force's capability in handling the above violence and child abuse cases; if so, the details and the number of groups or organisations to work with; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

- 1) The Police Force attaches great importance to offences of domestic violence and child abuse. Police officers will handle and investigate such cases with empathy, professionalism, fairness and impartiality.

In order to strengthen frontline police officers' skills and professional sensitivity in handling domestic violence and child abuse cases, as well as their understanding of relevant legislation, the Force has incorporated training courses on skills of handling domestic violence, opposite-sex/same-sex intimate partner relationships, psychology of victims and handling of conflicts into the "Foundation Training Course", "Criminal Investigation Course" and "Promotion and Development Training Course", and regularly reviews and updates the relevant training materials. Details of the training courses on handling and investigating cases of domestic violence are as follows:

Induction Training

Probationary Inspectors must attend a 5-hour lecture delivered by instructors from the Police College, whereas Recruit Constables must attend a 3-hour lecture given by the Police College and another 2-hour lecture from the Crime Wing Headquarters, take a 4-hour scenario-based practical course and sit for an examination. Recruit Constables are

also required to take a 2-hour course titled “Policing Psychology - The Application of Psychological Skills: Handling Conflicts” as well as another 2-hour scenario-based practical course on handling domestic violence and child abuse cases delivered by Honorary College Advisors.

Promotion and In-service Training

Newly promoted Station Sergeants must attend a 3-hour scenario-based practical course, whereas newly promoted Sergeants must attend a 2-hour lecture given by instructors from the Police College and attend a 3-hour scenario-based practical course. Serving Police Constables who have graduated within 2 years are required to attend 3 lectures totalling 2.5 hours delivered by instructors from the Police College and a scenario-based practical course. Meanwhile, serving Police Constables who have been in the service for up to 5 years are required to attend a 1.5-hour lecture given by instructors from the Police College.

Criminal Investigation Training

Inspectors/Senior Inspectors, Sergeants and Constables are required to attend 16 hours of lectures of the “Standard Criminal Investigation Course” given by instructors from the Detective Training Centre of the Police College and honorary lecturers, along with 8 hours of lectures of the “Advanced Criminal Investigation Modules” given by officers from the Crime Wing Headquarters.

The total number of police officers attended the related training for the past 5 years is about 15 490. The details are tabulated as follows:

		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Induction Training	Probationary Inspector	220	163	151	162	159
	Recruit Constable	1 114	703	587	417	426
In-service Training	Station Sergeant	143	58	40	118	110
	Sergeant	479	300	116	411	340
	Police Constable	1 000	648	1 799	1 287	1 263
Criminal Investigation Training	Inspector/Senior Inspector	143	97	126	164	135
	Sergeant	127	90	127	168	94
	Police Constable	496	284	359	509	357

The Force established a secondary duty cadre named the “Vulnerable Witness Support Cadre” in July 2022 with targeted training for about 200 officers to enhance the Force’s professional capability in handling cases involving child abuse. This cadre is responsible for handling vulnerable witnesses, particularly minors. In addition to the “Vulnerable Witness and Child Protection Task Force” jointly set up with the Department of Justice in early 2022, the Force has also been working with the Social

Welfare Department in expediting and enhancing the collection of evidence, prosecution and follow-up on welfare, as well as streamlining the procedures in handling child abuse cases.

- 2) The Force has been adopting a “multi-agency” and “cross-sectoral” collaborative approach in dealing with cases of domestic violence and child abuse, with the twin goals of protecting victims and their families from further abuse and bringing the offenders to justice.

In order to refine the policies and procedures for handling domestic violence and child abuse cases, the Force has been working closely with relevant government departments, NGOs and stakeholders from various professional sectors. Seminars and workshops on the prevention of domestic violence or child abuse have also been organised. Since 2021, the Force has collaborated with related government departments and NGOs to hold the annual “Let’s T.A.L.K.” Child Protection Campaign, with a view to promote public awareness of child protection by means of large-scale education and publicity campaigns, while urging all sectors for early intervention in suspected cases of child abuse.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB040

(Question Serial No. 0457)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In recent months, a number of triad-related violence cases have been reported in various districts in Hong Kong. Knife attacks, in particular, have raised concerns among the general public about their own and the community's safety. Triad-related cases will also tarnish Hong Kong's reputation as one of the world's safest cities. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of triad crimes for the past three years, with a breakdown by police region;
2. whether the Force has conducted any research on the current upward trend in triad crimes;
3. whether the Force will take special actions to solicit additional resources in order to enhance the deterrent effect against triad violence; if so, what those actions will be and how effective they will be; if not, the reason(s);
4. whether the enhancement of the Force Criminal Intelligence System can effectively prevent violence crimes rather than just being used for analysis and investigation; and
5. whether the Force has any plans to strengthen publicity in the community against triad crimes and the related unlawful activities.

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

Reply:

1. The number of triad-related crimes in each Police Region for each of the past 3 years is as follows:

	2020	2021	2022
Hong Kong Island	245	217	340
Kowloon East	302	465	511
Kowloon West	491	566	661
New Territories North	459	381	598
New Territories South	259	255	438
Marine	5	4	6
Total number of cases reported in Hong Kong	1 761	1 888	2 554

- 2-5. In 2022, there were 2 554 cases of triad-related crimes, representing an increase of 666 cases (+35.3%). The surge was mainly attributed to deception cases, serious gambling offences, cases of taking conveyance without authority, cases concerning procuring/controlling of prostitution, etc. Deception, in particular, saw a significant increase of 514 cases (+667.5%), some of which were associated with the sale of bank accounts by triad members for receiving deception crime proceeds. Meanwhile, there was a slight increase of 12 triad-related cases (+3.7%) on wounding and serious assault when compared to 2021.

Combating triads, syndicated and organised crime is listed as one of the Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2023. The Police Force has been maintaining close liaison with local and overseas law enforcement agencies to step up intelligence-led enforcement actions against illegal activities of triads and organised crime syndicates. Meanwhile, proactive measures have been taken to investigate, confiscate and freeze crime proceeds in order to interdict the criminals' sources of income.

The Force has all along been committed to combating triad-related illegal activities. Between May and September 2022, the Force collaborated with Mainland and Macao authorities in an operation codenamed "THUNDERBOLT 2022", during which about 5 500 venues including bars, amusement game centres, cyber cafes and party venues were searched, resulting in the arrest of 3 581 persons and the seizure of \$380 million worth of illicit goods. In November and December 2022, the Force enhanced co-operation with relevant departments and Mainland law enforcement agencies to conduct a large scale anti-triad operation. The Force also carried out an anti-illegal gambling operation codenamed "CROWBEAK cum WINDSHIELD" during the World Cup period, resulting in the arrest of over 1 000 persons, as well as the seizure of betting records valued over \$560 million and over \$10 million cash.

In February 2023, the Force conducted an anti-triad operation codenamed "Levington" and arrested 234 persons suspected of committing various offences, including operating illegal gambling establishment, operating vice establishment, drug trafficking, possession of offensive weapons, criminal damage, criminal intimidation, wounding, using a false instrument, possession of prohibited weapons, carrying on business as a money lender without a licence and money laundering, etc.

On publicity, the Force launched targeted publicity activities in light of crime trends, such as a series of anti-gambling campaigns during the World Cup period, so as to combat triad-related crimes on multiple fronts.

The Force will continue to monitor closely relevant crime trends and take timely intelligence-led enforcement actions against such illegal activities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB041

(Question Serial No. 0458)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-yee)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the prevalence of organised crimes in recent years, will the Government advise on:

1. the number of organised crime cases reported in Hong Kong for the past 3 years (with a breakdown by type of offence);
2. further to the above, the number of cases with investigation concluded and prosecution instituted, the number of cases currently under investigation, and the average time taken to conclude the investigations;
3. the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved for investigating such organised crime cases; and
4. the initiatives to be taken by the Force to strengthen its efforts in combating organised crimes, particularly those involving foreign or sophisticated syndicates.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

- 1-2. The Police Force does not maintain statistics on organised crimes by type of offence.
3. Different police formations are involved in combating organised crime, including the Financial Intelligence and Investigation Bureau, which specialises in investigating organised money laundering; the Commercial Crime Bureau, which specialises in investigating commercial crime; and the Narcotics Bureau, which specialises in investigating organised drug trafficking. As regards triad-related organised crime, investigations are carried out by the anti-triad units of various Police Regions and Districts under the lead of the Organised Crime and Triad Bureau.

The estimated expenditures of the above formations form part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime". The Force does not maintain the breakdown of the expenditures involved.

4. Combating triads, syndicated and organised crime is listed as one of the Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2023. The Force has been maintaining close liaison with local and overseas law enforcement agencies to step up intelligence-led enforcement actions against illegal activities of triads and organised crime syndicates. Meanwhile, proactive measures have been taken to investigate, confiscate and freeze crime proceeds in order to interdict the criminals' sources of income.

Between May and September 2022, the Force collaborated with Mainland and Macao authorities in an operation codenamed "THUNDERBOLT 2022", during which about 5 500 venues including bars, amusement game centres, cyber cafes and party venues were searched, resulting in the arrest of 3 581 persons and the seizure of \$380 million worth of illicit goods. In November and December 2022, the Force enhanced co-operation with relevant departments and Mainland law enforcement agencies to conduct a large scale anti-triad operation. The Force also carried out an anti-illegal gambling operation codenamed "CROWBEAK cum WINDSHIELD" during the World Cup period, resulting in the arrest of over 1 000 persons, as well as the seizure of betting records valued over \$560 million and over \$10 million cash.

In February 2023, the Force conducted an anti-triad operation codenamed "Levington" and arrested 234 persons suspected of committing various offences, including operating illegal gambling establishment, operating vice establishment, drug trafficking, possession of offensive weapons, criminal damage, criminal intimidation, wounding, using a false instrument, possession of prohibited weapons, carrying on business as a money lender without a licence and money laundering, etc.

The Force will continue to monitor closely relevant crime trends and take timely intelligence-led enforcement actions against such illegal activities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB042****(Question Serial No. 1891)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Force has assigned a designated Animal Crime Police Team in each of the 22 police districts with crime investigation units to handle animal cruelty cases across the territory. Please advise this Committee of:

1. the total number of reported cases of cruelty to animals received by the Force in each of the past 5 years and, among such cases, the respective numbers of prosecutions and convicted cases, with a breakdown by type of animals; and
2. the permanent establishment of the Animal Crime Police Teams and the respective expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1. The numbers of cases on cruelty to animals reported to the Police Force, persons arrested, prosecutions instituted and persons convicted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance for the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of cases reported	105	60	70	88	54
Number of persons arrested	41	36	50	55	32
Number of prosecutions instituted	26	27	14	21	15 (as at third quarter)
Number of persons convicted	21	23	13	16	17 (as at third quarter)

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

2. The establishment of Animal Crime Police Team varies in different police districts. In general, a team comprised 1 Inspector, 1 Sergeant and 4 to 6 Police Constables. The 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”, and no specific breakdown is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB043

(Question Serial No. 1892)

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 (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Police attaches great importance to animal welfare and strives to combat all acts of cruelty to animals. Regarding the Animal Watchers Programme mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) the activities organised since the launch of the Programme to enlist public support and assistance in fighting against cruelty to animals, the number of participants and the expenditure involved;
- (2) the number of in-service police dogs and their duties for each of the past 5 years; and
- (3) the expenditure on training police dogs for each of the past 5 years and the respective estimated expenditure for the current financial year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

- (1) To enlist public support and assistance in combating acts of cruelty to animals, the Police Force implemented the Animal Watchers Programme (AWP) in 2021, with a view to agglomerating the strengths of animal lovers at the community level and on online social platforms in the 4 directions of education, publicity, intelligence-gathering and investigation; 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. Through organising territory-wide large-scale events involving different communities and age groups, AWP aims to strengthen the awareness and care of the general public on the issue of cruelty to animals and animal welfare, as well as to disseminate the message of prevention of cruelty to animals effectively to the public.

In 2021, AWP launched a number of large-scale activities, including a crime prevention event titled “AWP Fight Poisoning Campaign”, a video competition named “AWP Plank Challenge” and a public education event named “AWP Community Mobile Classroom”. In 2022, AWP launched a series of educational and promotional activities under

“AWP x 25A”, including the “AWP Colours in 25A” colouring and drawing contest, “Animal Care Corner” promotion at schools and “BYOP (Bring Your Own Pet) Treasure Hunt”. Between 2021 and 2022, over 73 000 people physically participated in AWP events, with approximately 6.2 million engagements (e.g. social media posts) recorded online. The Force will continue to raise public awareness of preventing cruelty to animals through AWP.

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

- (2) The number of serving police dogs for the past 5 years is as follows:

Year	Number of serving police dogs
2019	133
2020	132
2021	137
2022	154
2023	150

Police dogs perform a wide variety of tasks, including patrol, drug detection, tracking, and the detection of explosives, firearms and ammunition, effectively assisting the Force in its day-to-day policing and operations.

- (3) The expenditure of the Police Dog Unit (PDU) includes expenses on the daily operation of PDU bases, dog food, medication and dog training equipment, as well as salaries for dog handlers, supervising officers and civilian staff, and costs for equipment. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure on training police dogs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB044

(Question Serial No. 2338)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the work of the National Security Department (NSD) of the Hong Kong Police Force, will the Government advise this Committee:

1. whether the work of NSD falls under Programme (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime or Programme (4) Operations;
2. in 2022, (a) the number of reports received by NSD; among such cases, the numbers of those (b) further investigated and (c) found to be substantiated after investigation; as well as the numbers of persons (d) arrested and (e) convicted by court; and
3. (a) the staff establishment and (b) the actual number of employees of NSD with breakdown by rank, as well as (c) the estimated operational expenses for 2023-24, of which the expenditure on (i) salary and (ii) the operation of the NSD Reporting Hotline?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, JoePHY (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

Since the implementation of the National Security Law, as at 3 March 2023, 243 persons (189 males and 54 females) aged between 15 and 90 were arrested by the Police on suspicion of engaging in acts and activities endangering national security. In these cases, over 140 persons and 5 companies were charged.

The NSD of the Police Force launched the NSD Reporting Hotline on 5 November 2020. As at 24 February 2023, the Hotline has received more than 400 000 pieces of information in relation to national security.

The NSD of the Police Force is a department established under Article 16 of the National Security Law for safeguarding national security; its duties form part of the work in safeguarding national security and do not fall under Head 122. The manpower and expenditure involved in NSD shall not be disclosed to the public.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB045

(Question Serial No. 2339)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-yee)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

According to the estimates proposed by the Police, the establishment of police officers is expected to reach 38 265 by 2023-24, which is 132 less than the revised estimate of 38 397 for 2022-23. However, the number of police officers available for deployment is 33 505. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the reason(s) for the reduction in the establishment of the Force;
2. the (a) formations, (b) ranks of officers and (c) the expenditure on salaries for the reduced establishment;
3. whether the difference between the establishment and the number of police officers available for deployment indicates that there are vacancies to be filled; and
4. the measures that the Police will implement in 2023-24 to entice members of the public to join the Force, as well as the estimated relevant expenditure on (a) manpower and (b) publicity.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, JoePHY (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

1. In 2023-24, there will be a net decrease of 132 posts in the Police Force, mainly due to the lapse of time-limited posts which were created in previous years.
2. Details on the posts to be reduced are set out in the following table:

Rank	Net increase/decrease of posts	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)	Monthly salary for the rank in HK\$ (from 1 April 2022)
Superintendent	-1	PPS 50 – 53	124,925-140,410
Senior Inspector/Inspector	3	PPS 24 – 43	48,255-93,905
Station Sergeant	6	PPS 24 – 33a	48,255-71,275
Police Constable	-145	PPS 4 – 17	26,845-39,325
Total (police officers)	-137		
Systems Manager	1	MPS 34 – 44	76,380-112,925
Analyst/Programmer I	2	MPS 28 – 33	60,100-75,620
Analyst/Programmer II	3	MPS 16 – 27	34,185-57,395
Telecommunications Engineer/ Assistant Telecommunications Engineer	1	MPS 18 – 44	37,685-112,925
Police Telecommunications Inspector	1	MPS 25 – 33	52,370-75,620
Assistant Police Telecommunications Inspector	3	MPS 14 – 24	30,990-50,080
Traffic Warden	-6	MPS 6 – 12	19,265-27,825
Total (civilian staff)	5		
Total	-132		

The Force will review the manpower and resources allocated to various formations and adjust the establishment in light of policing needs from time to time. For operational effectiveness, it is inappropriate to disclose the details on the reduction of establishment in individual formations.

3. At present, there are approximately 6 000 vacancies in the Force. The Force will continue to proactively strengthen its efforts on recruitment, staff training and career development, etc. Officers are encouraged to make self-advancement and strengthen their own professional capacity so as to serve the Force and members of the public more effectively. Vacancies will be filled through promotion, recruitment and various service extension measures.
4. The Force has been adopting proactive recruitment strategies to attract high calibre candidates who possess the required competencies to join the Force. Meanwhile, the Force has disseminated recruitment and publicity information through various social networking platforms, and has organised regular recruitment activities and projects, such as the Police Recruitment Experience and Assessment Day, Auxiliary Police Recruitment Express, Police Recruitment On-air, Police Mobile Recruitment Station,

Police Mentorship Programme, Auxiliary Undergraduate Scheme, Project ACHIEVE, Police Recruitment Buddies Scheme, Sportsmen's Programme for Recruitment, Experience and Development as well as education and careers expo etc.

To facilitate university students joining the Force, the Force organised the Police University Recruitment Express at 11 local universities between September and October 2022. Moreover, to recruit Hong Kong students in the Mainland and facilitate their early return to Hong Kong for foundation training after graduation, the Force sent a delegation in November 2022 to conduct the first Police University Recruitment Express (Mainland) at Jinan University and Huaqiao University in Guangdong Province and Fujian Province respectively. During the campaign, recruitment information was provided and on-site recruitment selection procedures were initiated.

In October 2022, the Force established the Police Recruitment Centre to provide the public with a channel to learn more about police work and obtain recruitment information. It also facilitates job applications by potential candidates through face-to-face consultation and experience session for selection process. The newly established Police Recruitment Centre provides multiple services, including on-site interviews, appointment making for written examinations or interviews, eye-sight tests and handgrip strength tests, recruitment-related enquiry service as well as virtual reality simulated experience of shooting, etc. Besides, the recruitment centre will arrange regular recruitment talks and police-related thematic exhibitions.

The Force has been adopting a proactive recruitment strategy and will adjust the approach and estimated expenditure of recruitment publicity in light of general social conditions such as the economic situation and demand in the labour market. The Force will review and assess the effectiveness of using different resources, make suitable manpower deployment and make provisions for publicity as appropriate.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB046

(Question Serial No. 2200)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

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

Question:

Regarding the operation of the online traffic offence reporting platform Project PROVE (“the Platform”), will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) the monthly numbers of (i) reported cases received and, among such cases, (ii) those referred to the Regional Traffic Investigation Groups for further action, and (iii) prosecutions instituted since the Platform launched in May 2022, with a breakdown by type of offence (e.g. dangerous and careless driving, failure to comply with traffic signs and road markings, etc.); and
- (2) given that the Platform is a WeChat mini-programme, whether the Government will consider developing a mobile application or operating another platform on other social media exclusively for the reporting of traffic offences; if so, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

- (1) Since the launch of the online traffic offence reporting platform Project PROVE in May 2022, the Police Force has received a total of over 58 000 reports, an average of some 5 200 reports per month. More than 41 000 (about 70%) of the reports, covering offences such as “careless driving”, “crossing a continuous double white line” and “failure to comply with traffic signs and road markings”, were referred to the Regional Traffic Investigation Groups for follow-up. After investigation, either fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) or summonses were issued. As of 31 December 2022, the Force had issued over 12 000 FPTs and instituted more than 1 700 prosecutions by summons for reports submitted through the platform. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the other figures requested in the question.

- (2) The Force is currently conducting a comprehensive review on the effectiveness of Project PROVE to improve the reporting efficiency by refining the reporting platform and internal processing procedures, in order to facilitate the public in reporting suspected traffic offences online, with a view to enhance road safety. The Force will from time to time assess the technical feasibility of implementing Project PROVE on other electronic platforms to further facilitate reporting by the public.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB047

(Question Serial No. 2201)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the Project Guarding Eyes (“the Project”) implemented in Sham Shui Po, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) in respect of the subsidised closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems installed under the Project, (i) the number of buildings involved and, among them, (ii) the number of crimes detected with the help of CCTV systems; and (iii) the expenditure involved for each of the past 5 years;
- (2) (i) the number of buildings in the district which are currently eligible but not yet enrolled in the Project, (ii) the percentage of these buildings to the total number of eligible buildings in the district, and (iii) their reasons for not enrolling in the Project; and
- (3) whether the Project will be extended to more districts; if so, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

The Project Guarding Eyes in Sham Shui Po district is subsidised by members of the local community through the Sham Shui Po District Fight Crime Committee. No additional expenditure has been incurred by the Police Force in relation to the project.

The Sham Shui Po District Fight Crime Committee, Sham Shui Po District Office, Sham Shui Po Police District and the Federation of Hong Kong Electrical and Mechanical Industries Trade Unions (“the Federation”) implemented the Project Guarding Eyes in July 2015 to install CCTV systems in low-security buildings in the district with the consent of the owners’ corporations or representatives, with the aim of enhancing building security, building a safer community and preventing crime.

As part of the project, the Sham Shui Po District Office assists to liaise with owners' corporations or representatives and to compile a list of participating buildings, while members of the local community subsidise the installation work carried out by the Federation.

The installation was completed in May 2019 and no additional expenditure was incurred by the Force. Under the project, a total of 111 buildings in the district were equipped with CCTV systems, which aided investigations or led to the detection of 88 cases of crime.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB048

(Question Serial No. 0725)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The estimated expenditure under this Programme for 2023-24 has increased by 5.1% over the revised estimates for 2022-23. With the number of deception cases surging to 27 923 in 2022, an increase of 45.1% compared to 2021, deception cases such as those relating to online shopping, job search and investment have been rampant. In this connection, will the Government advise on the following:

1. the manpower and expenditure of the Police in 2021-22 and 2022-23 for the prevention and detection of deception cases (including, but not limited to, developing various information and intelligence systems, reviewing anti-crime publicity materials and organising anti-crime publicity activities to address specific crime problems), with a breakdown by type of work;
2. the estimated expenditure of the Police in 2023-24 for the prevention and detection of deception cases, with a breakdown by type of work; also, how much of the estimated increase in expenditure will be spent on preventing and detecting deception cases; and
3. in respect of the anti-crime publicity programmes organised by the Police in 2022 to address specific crime problems, including “Social Media Deception”, “E-shopping Fraud”, “Naked Chat Blackmail”, “Email Scam”, “Online Employment Fraud”, “Online Investment Fraud”, “Telephone Deception” and “Financial Intermediary Deception”, whether the effectiveness has been reviewed and whether there is any scope for improvement, particularly those targeting the above types of deception?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

- 1-2. Combating quick cash crime, enhancing cyber security and fighting technology crime are among Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2023. The Police Force has been taking proactive measures on all fronts to combat deception and technology crimes. The Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) of the Commercial Crime Bureau (CCB), the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) and the crime

investigation units of various Police Regions and Districts are all dedicated to cracking down on scams and technology-related crimes. To further enhance the Force's capabilities in combating deception, the e-Crime Processing and Analysis Hub (e-Hub) was established in September 2022, with the aim of providing a one-stop platform for responding quickly to public reports and expediting the analysis and investigation of scams and technology crimes, thereby allowing the Force to combat criminal activities more effectively.

In 2021-22, the ADCC had an establishment of 40, among which 26 were on permanent establishment and 14 were seconded from different Police formations. In 2022-23, the establishment of ADCC increased to 49, with the number of posts on permanent establishment increased by 6 to 32 and the rest taken up by 17 officers seconded from other Force formations. The Force will review the manpower and resources allocated to various formations and adjust the establishment from time to time.

The expenditure for the CCB, ADCC, CSTCB, e-Hub and crime investigation units of all Police Regions and Districts form part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime". The Force does not maintain the breakdown of the expenditure involved.

3. The Force has been adopting a multi-agency approach by collaborating with other government departments, regulatory agencies and industry stakeholders. Through different platforms and media, the Force has conducted various anti-crime publicity and educational campaigns and large-scale thematic crime prevention activities to raise public awareness of the risks associated with the use of computer, Internet, social media and cyber security, which in turn heighten their alertness to deception.

As part of the Force's ongoing efforts to combat scams, crime prevention messages have been delivered through TV and Radio Announcements in the Public Interest, social media platforms, mass media, public housing estates, public hospitals and major shopping malls. Moreover, anti-scam advertisements have been put up across the city, including in tunnels, on public transport (e.g. MTR train compartments, trams, bus bodies) and on large outdoor advertising displays. In addition to organising activities, talks and seminars on crime prevention for employees of various trades and students of all levels of education (i.e. tertiary, secondary and primary), the Force has also distributed and displayed posters and promotional materials to widely disseminate anti-scam messages and raise public awareness against deception.

Furthermore, to address different types of deception and technology crimes, the Force organised a series of large-scale publicity activities in 2022, including "Anti-Deception Month" in February, "Anti-Deception Season" from May to August, "Emotional Disturbances Faced by Scam Victims" in October and "Anti-Scam Test Across the Territory" from November to December, in a bid to raise public awareness of emerging or prevalent scams. In January 2023, the CSTCB rolled out the "All-round CyberDefence", a cyber security campaign with a variety of activities, including hosting the "Cyber Defenders' Carnival" in the West Kowloon Cultural District and co-organising with the Education Bureau workshops with training kits for secondary and primary school teachers, so as to enhance the public's capability in identifying cyber pitfalls on various fronts. Meanwhile, the ADCC made an effort to reach out to more

people by using new channels, such as broadcasting scam alerts in 17 government-owned tunnels and collaborating with cinemas to run anti-scam trailers prior to movie screenings.

The CSTCB also introduced the “Scameter” in 2022, which allowed users to identify suspicious information such as platform account names or numbers, payment accounts, phone numbers, email addresses, URLs, etc. Its mobile version, “Scameter+”, was later released in February 2023, facilitating the general public to spot deception and online traps.

The Force will continue to enhance its publicity efforts in a bid to raise the public’s awareness to deceptions and technology crimes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB049

(Question Serial No. 0726)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-yee)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

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

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 that the Police will “alleviate traffic congestion strategically and identify technological solutions to address serious parking offences in partnership with other agencies and government departments”. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. the agencies and government departments with which the police have collaborated, the strategies adopted and the expenditure incurred in alleviating traffic congestion for the past year;
2. whether the Police have reviewed and evaluated the effectiveness of the strategies adopted last year, and whether there are any new strategies to be introduced in the coming year to alleviate traffic congestion, given the numerous traffic congestion blackspots identified across the territory;
3. the definition of “serious parking offences”, and the number of “fixed penalty tickets (FPTs)” issued for “serious parking offences” as defined by the Police, out of all FPTs issued for parking offences under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance; and
4. the details, manpower and expenditure involved in identifying technological solutions to address serious parking offences.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. The Police Force has all along adopted a multi-agency approach, working with the Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB), Transport Department and relevant departments as well as District Councils and community stakeholders, to explore and implement

measures to alleviate traffic congestion through public engagement, road engineering and effective enforcement. The expenditure falls under the Programme of “Road Safety”, and no specific breakdown is available.

2. 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. Besides, the Force is also committed to adopting technological solutions for traffic enforcement. It will also continue to maintain liaison with law enforcement agencies worldwide and make reference to their experience to explore the use of new technologies in enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement against illegal parking and road traffic obstruction.

Since March 2020, the Force has launched in phases the e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme in all police districts across the territory. Frontline enforcement officers have since been able to access or input data on illegally parked vehicles via their mobile devices and instantly print out fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) in order to reduce human errors in issuing handwritten FPTs, thereby enhancing the overall enforcement accuracy. In 2021 and 2022, the Force continued to procure additional devices for more frontline officers to issue FPTs accordingly. There are currently around 2 600 portable printers available for use by the Force. In 2022, of the 3 363 471 FPTs issued against illegal parking, 3 075 398 (91.4%) were issued in the above manner, indicating that the enforcement efficiency has been enhanced by the scheme.

3. At present, the Force has not defined what constitutes a “serious parking offence”, and therefore does not maintain any statistics on issuance of FPTs for “serious parking offences”. However, frontline officers will strengthen law enforcement in areas with severe traffic congestion and issuing FPTs without prior warning to vehicles/drivers who commit offences causing serious obstruction and endangering road safety. Where necessary, apart from serving multiple summonses on the offending vehicles and repeatedly prosecuting the drivers concerned, the Force will even tow away the offending vehicles.

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

	2020	2021	2022
Number of FPTs for illegal parking issued	2 707 869	3 302 160	3 363 471
Number of illegal parking cases handled with tow trucks	3 226	2 997	2 987

4. In addition to the e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme mentioned in paragraph (2) above, the Force is currently developing a new Traffic e-Enforcement System to facilitate the electronic processing of FPTs and summons applications for traffic offences. The system will also process all information and data relating to traffic enforcement, which will be

conducive to enhancing the Force's efficiency in traffic management. Meanwhile, the Force will also develop a public-oriented website dedicated to electronic traffic enforcement, through which members of the public can view their electronic FPTs and handle related matters online.

In June 2021, a funding of \$352 million was secured from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the development of the system. The system is currently under preparation and the first phase of the implementation is expected to be launched within 2023.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB050

(Question Serial No. 0192)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding efforts to combat absconding, please advise on:

- (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.: 30)

Reply:

As at December 2022, of the 10 279 persons who were arrested in connection with the black-clad riots in 2019, 33 were wanted for failing to appear before the court and 25 did not report back to the Police Force in accordance with bail conditions. The Force does not maintain other information requested in the question.

Every individual must take responsibilities, including legal liabilities, for his or her action. The 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 arrest 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.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB051****(Question Serial No. 0193)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of CrimeControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the illegal trans-boundary operations by Mainland oyster farmers at Deep Bay, please advise on:

- (a) the manpower currently deployed by the Government to patrol in the waters around Urmston Road, the numbers of patrols conducted and the division of work; and
- (b) the numbers of enforcement actions against illegal activities of Mainland oyster farmers and their effectiveness over the past 3 years (2020-21 to 2022-23), as well as the penalties and fines imposed.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)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 at Deep Bay. The sub-unit currently has an establishment of 66 police officers, comprising 2 Inspectors, 3 Station Sergeants, 18 Sergeants and 43 Police Constables, who are deployed to the Tsim Bei Tsui Marine Police Post, 2 Police barges and their respective patrol craft.
- (b) The numbers of anti-illegal immigration patrols carried out by the Deep Bay Sub-unit in 2020, 2021, 2022 and the first 2 months of 2023 are as follows:

2020	286 patrols
2021	468 patrols
2022	322 patrols
2023 (as at 28 February 2023)	47 patrols

The numbers of Mainland illegal immigrants arrested by the Deep Bay Sub-unit in 2020, 2021, 2022 and the first two months of 2023 are as follows:

Year	Number of persons arrested*	Supplementary notes
2020	3	All illegal immigrants have been referred to the Immigration Department for action. No refusal notice (ID122) was issued to Mainland oyster farmers who were suspected of breaching the requirements.
2021	34	
2022	29	
2023 (as at 28 February 2023)	9	

*Note:

The number of Mainland oyster farmers who illegally entered the territory of Hong Kong has decreased as Hong Kong and Guangdong have tightened border control in light of the COVID-19 outbreak since January 2020. The Marine Outer Waters District, on the other hand, set up a task force in 2021 to strengthen law enforcement actions against illicit cross-border maritime activities arising from prolonged boundary closures, resulting in an increase in the number of persons arrested in 2021 and 2022.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB052

(Question Serial No. 1153)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-yee)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 that the Police Force will promote law abiding awareness through the celebratory campaign of the 50th Anniversary of the Good Citizen Award. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the details and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

The “Good Citizen Award” (GCA) scheme was established in 1973, jointly organised by the Police Force’s Public Relations Wing and the Fight Crime Committee, and sponsored by the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, to honour good citizens who assisted the Force in fighting crime and upholding law and order in the previous year, thereby promoting law-abiding awareness among the general public. Since 2021, the scheme has been revamped by introducing a new “Good Organisation Award” with a specific nomination mechanism for organisations. To maximize the synergy effect in promoting crime prevention, the original one-day award ceremony has also been expanded to a series of GCA roving exhibitions held throughout the city.

The GCA Presentation Ceremony 2022, which was held in February 2023, recognised 80 good citizens and 7 good organisations for their efforts in preventing and combating crime and saving lives. The Force also arranged for a live broadcast of the ceremony on RTHK and its social media platforms, allowing all Hong Kong citizens to share the joy of the awardees and raise law-abiding awareness.

To celebrate the historic 50th anniversary of the scheme in 2023, the Force has produced a video series featuring the stories of good citizens who have won awards over the past 50 years to widely promote the good citizen spirit through various social media platforms. This year, for the first time, the GCA roving exhibitions were held at major shopping arcades in various police regions to interact directly with the public, with the aim of promoting the Good Citizen Spirit.

All GCA awardees each receives a certificate of merit and prize money of \$3,000. Each of the Good Citizen of the Year Award winners, in addition, is presented with a plaque and prize money of \$4,000. More than 4 500 citizens have been commended since the inception of the Scheme in 1973. For organisations, certificates of merit are presented to winners of the “Good Organisation Award”.

The Force will, as always, continue to co-ordinate resources on all fronts and step up publicity efforts to raise public awareness of preventing and combating crime, upholding law and order, and saving lives. The estimated expenditure for these initiatives forms part of the total expenditure under the Programme “Prevention and Detection of Crime” and no specific breakdown is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB053

(Question Serial No. 1158)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

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

Question:

It is mentioned that the Force aims to enhance road safety by reducing traffic accidents and maintaining a smooth and safe traffic flow in Hong Kong. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. the number of fixed penalty tickets issued by the Police for the past 3 years, with a breakdown by Police District;
2. regarding illegally parked vehicles towed away by the Police in areas where parking offences are rampant and have caused traffic obstructions, please provide the number of enforcement actions taken for the past 3 years; and
3. In recent years, the Police have been making significant efforts to combat traffic offences using technology, including taking enforcement actions by means of mobile video recording. Please advise whether the Police have reviewed the effectiveness of using technology for enforcement, and whether additional equipment will be acquired to facilitate enforcement actions by police officers.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

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 for the past 3 years are listed in the following table:

Police Region	Number of FPTs for illegal parking issued		
	2020	2021	2022
Hong Kong Island	599 218	688 592	624 000
Kowloon East	489 901	570 466	555 417
Kowloon West	631 593	862 992	1 011 084
New Territories South	512 831	584 706	570 895
New Territories North	474 326	595 404	602 075
Total	2 707 869	3 302 160	3 363 471

2. The figures on cases in which the Force towed away illegally parked vehicles by Police Region for the past 3 years are listed in the following table:

Police Region	Number of cases in which illegally parked vehicles were towed away		
	2020	2021	2022
Hong Kong Island	919	702	643
Kowloon East	1 129	599	329
Kowloon West	566	921	1 395
New Territories South	482	572	390
New Territories North	130	203	230
Total	3 226	2 997	2 987

3. To enhance the effectiveness and deterrent effect of traffic enforcement, operations of the Mobile Video Teams have been co-ordinated by the Land Regions since 2021. Non-stopper mode has been used and backend processing are handled by Traffic Investigation Groups of respective Regional Traffic Formations.

Since March 2020, the Force has launched in phases the e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme in all police districts across the territory. Frontline enforcement officers have since been able to access or input data on illegally parked vehicles via their mobile devices and instantly print out FPTs in order to reduce human errors in issuing handwritten FPTs, thereby enhancing the overall enforcement accuracy. In 2021 and 2022, the Force continued to procure additional devices for more frontline officers to issue FPTs accordingly. There are currently around 2 600 portable printers available for use by the Force.

Meanwhile, the Force is currently developing a new Traffic e-Enforcement System to facilitate the electronic processing of FPTs and summons applications for traffic offences. The system will also process all information and data relating to traffic enforcement, which will be conducive to enhancing the Force's efficiency in traffic management. The Force will also develop a public-oriented website dedicated to electronic traffic enforcement, through which members of the public can view their electronic FPTs and handle related matters online.

In June 2021, a funding of \$352 million was secured from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the development of the system. The system is currently under preparation and the first phase of the implementation is expected to be launched within 2023.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB054

(Question Serial No. 1161)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): (001) Salaries

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The estimate of the amount required in 2023-24 for the salaries and expenses of the Hong Kong Police Force is \$26,841,055,000. This represents an increase of \$1,537,783,000 over the revised estimate for 2022-23 and \$3,510,884,000 over the actual expenditure in 2021-22. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) the reason(s) for the increase in the revised estimate;
- 2) the Force's recruitment plan for the next 3 years, and the measures being taken in respect of grades experiencing recruitment difficulties; and
- 3) in view of public concerns in recent years about the adequacy of police equipment and facilities to deal with different types of crimes and situations, such as technological crimes, whether the Force will adjust the staffing structure and make provision for upgrading equipment and facilities in light of the latest social situation in Hong Kong and in the international community.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

- 1) The estimated total expenditure of the Police Force for 2023-24 is higher than the revised estimate for 2022-23, mainly due to the increased provision for salaries (including some vacancies expected to be filled in 2023-24) and the increased cash flow requirements for capital items (including the replacement and procurement of plant, crafts, vehicles and equipment). Meanwhile, the estimate for 2023-24 is higher than the actual expenditure for 2021-22, mainly due to the full-year impact on personal emoluments and personnel related expenses arising from the Grade Structure Review for the Disciplined Services Grades which has taken effect from 1 September 2021, and the increased personal emoluments and personnel related expenses arising from the civil service pay adjustment in 2022-23.
- 2) The Force has been adopting proactive recruitment strategies to attract high calibre 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. The Force will adjust its publicity strategy in light of general social conditions such as the economic situation and demand in the labour market.

- 3) The Force regularly reviews its staff establishment and makes flexible deployment to meet the policing needs and the service needs of the community. Equipment and gears will also be procured to meet operational needs.

To illustrate, we note that the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) is a formation of the Force that leads the way in combating technology crime. The Force has been reviewing the latest technological developments worldwide and timely introducing appropriate equipment and devices based on actual needs to further enhance its operational effectiveness. The expenditure of the CSTCB forms part of the total expenditure under the Programme “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. The Force does not maintain the breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB055

(Question Serial No. 0264)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-yee)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned that the Police Force will continue to provide timely clarifications and rebuttals against any misleading information or allegations on police work through multi-media platforms. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the estimated expenditure of the Hong Kong Police Force on tackling false information or rumours for the past 3 years and the coming year, given that the provision for the Information Services Department in respect of public opinion has increased by 7.3% over its original estimate in this year's Budget;
2. the establishment and ranks of the officers currently responsible for monitoring social media platforms;
3. the number of prosecutions instituted by the Force against rumors and false information (with a breakdown by types of cases) for the past 3 years; and
4. the work plans and the daily workflows of the Force on the way ahead in the face of widespread misinformation on the Internet.

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

1. Noting the proliferation of smartphones and social media, the Police Force has been proactively using the Internet and social media to introduce policing work to the public and clarify false information. The Force deploys existing manpower and resources to conduct fact checking and clarifications. Since the expenditure involved falls under the Programme of "Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community", no specific breakdown is available.

2. The duties are mainly undertaken by the fact-checking and clarification centre of the Public Relations Wing, which is currently staffed with 17 members. Its establishment is tabulated as follows:

Rank	Number of officers
Senior Superintendent	1
Superintendent	2
Chief Inspector	2
Inspector/Senior Inspector	5
Sergeant	4
Police Constable/Senior Police Constable	3
Total	17

3. The Force will follow up on any suspected breach of the law. Since 2019, a total of 79 persons were arrested for allegedly committing offences of inciting others on the Internet to engage in illegal acts, including “inciting another to do grievous bodily harm with intent”, “inciting another to commit criminal damage”, and “inciting another to commit arson”.
4. The Force keeps a close watch on the opinions and unforeseen incidents reported on the Internet. If any false or misleading information about the Force goes viral, the Force will proactively provide clarifications through various channels in order to stop the spread of rumours and allay public concerns. In addition to providing explanations through traditional media (such as holding press conferences or briefings and issuing press releases), the Force also actively makes use of the Internet and social media to disseminate information and provide clarifications to the public via the Force’s website and its social media platforms.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB056

(Question Serial No. 2561)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned in the Estimates that the Hong Kong Police Force will continue to adopt a multi-agency approach to address the problems of juvenile delinquency and youth involvement in crime and drugs. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the allocation of resources to combat the problem of youth involvement in drugs?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

Combating dangerous drugs remains one of the Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2023. 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, particularly those who exploit students and youths; (iii) taking proactive measures to investigate and confiscate proceeds of drug trafficking; and (iv) promoting anti-drug awareness and preventing exposure to drugs among students and youths through multi-agency collaboration and community-based approach.

On prevention and law enforcement, the Police Force will keep up its anti-crime patrols in areas where young people gather so as to shield them from drug exposure through the undesirables. The Force will also keep exchanging information with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies, undertake timely intelligence-led operations, and focus in particular on drug trafficking activities on the Internet and social media. Furthermore, the Force will commit to track down drug syndicates exploiting youngsters and will invoke Section 56A of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134) to pursue harsher sentences against such syndicates in order to have a stronger deterrent effect.

On publicity and education, the Force has been working closely with stakeholders like other government departments, schools, parents and teacher associations to collaboratively formulate measures to prevent young people from taking drugs and enhance anti-drug publicity. The Leadership Institute on Narcotics (L.I.O.N.), established by the Force in 2021, provides 100 secondary school and university students each year with a year-long

training in anti-drug knowledge, leadership skills and event planning, with the aim of positively influencing the students and their peers through the participants. In 2022, the Force produced several anti-drug animation clips and videos, as well as a mini-movie “Drug Enticement”, for primary and secondary schools and other stakeholders. In November 2022, the Force also held a large-scale anti-drug exhibition in the West Kowloon Cultural District to actively disseminate anti-drug information to the general public and young people.

The Force will continue to remind young people not to abuse drugs or deliver drugs or items from unknown sources to others through various channels such as online platforms, L.I.O.N., the Junior Police Call and various publicity activities. The Force will also continue to deepen teachers’ and parents’ understanding of youth drug involvement in order to increase the public awareness of the harm caused by drugs and their ability to identify relevant situations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB057****(Question Serial No. 0602)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of CrimeControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

1. Please provide a breakdown of the additional 69 posts under Programme (2) by rank and salary.
2. Please advise on the reason(s) for the increase of posts and the scope of work of the post holders.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)Reply:

To cope with operational needs, there will be a net increase of 69 posts (including 67 disciplined services posts and 2 civilian posts) under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime" in the Police Force in 2023-24, which are mainly responsible for implementing digital policing and handling the mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse cases. A breakdown of the additional posts by rank and salary is set out in the following table:

Rank	Net increase/decrease of posts	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)
Chief Inspector	-1	PPS 44 – 49
Senior Inspector/Inspector	1	PPS 24 – 43
Station Sergeant	3	PPS 24 – 33a
Sergeant	12	PPS 17 – 28
Police Constable	52	PPS 4 – 17
Total (police officers)	67	
Analyst/Programmer II	2	MPS 16 – 27
Total (civilian staff)	2	
Total	69	

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB058

(Question Serial No. 1392)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. It is mentioned under Programme (4) that there is a decrease of 173 posts. Please set out the numbers of the respective posts with a breakdown by rank and salary.
2. Please explain the decrease in the number of posts and whether the service will be affected.
3. It is mentioned that the increase in provision of \$630.9 million or 12.3% over the revised estimate for 2022-23, despite a decrease of 173 posts, is mainly due to the provision for salaries and the cash flow requirement for capital items. Please account for the increase in the cash flow requirement and the provision for salaries despite the reduction in the number of posts. Please explain the reason(s) in detail.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. In 2023-24, there will be a net decrease of 173 posts (i.e. a decrease of 182 disciplined services posts and an increase of 9 civilian posts) under Programme (4) "Operations" in the Police Force. Details on the numbers of posts are set out in the following table:

Rank	Net increase/decrease of posts	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)
Superintendent	1	PPS 50 – 53
Chief Inspector	2	PPS 44 – 49
Senior Inspector/Inspector	4	PPS 24 – 43
Station Sergeant	3	PPS 24 – 33a
Sergeant	-2	PPS 17 – 28
Police Constable	-190	PPS 4 – 17
Total (police officers)	-182	
Systems Manager	1	MPS 34 – 44
Analyst / Programmer I	2	MPS 28 – 33
Analyst / Programmer II	1	MPS 16 – 27
Telecommunications Engineer / Assistant Telecommunications Engineer	1	MPS 18 – 44
Police Telecommunications Inspector	1	MPS 25 – 33
Assistant Police Telecommunications Inspector	3	MPS 14 – 24
Total (civilian staff)	9	
Total	-173	

2. The Force regularly reviews its staff establishment and makes flexible deployment to meet the policing needs and the service needs of the community. Meanwhile, the Force has formulated detailed human resources and strategic plans for staff training, career development, etc. Officers are encouraged to make self-advancement and strengthen their own professional capacity so as to serve members of the public more effectively. In general, policing services will not be affected by the reduction in establishment.
3. The estimate for 2023-24 is higher than the revised estimate for 2022-23, mainly due to the increased provision for salaries (including some vacancies expected to be filled in 2023-24) and the increased cash flow requirements for capital items (including the replacement and procurement of plant, crafts, vehicles and equipment).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB059****(Question Serial No. 2235)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of CrimeControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Given that various telephone scams have occasionally been identified in the community, please advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) in tabular form (i) the number of telephone scams reported last year, (ii) the age range of the victims; (iii) their educational backgrounds; (iv) whether they were residents or non-residents of Hong Kong, and (v) the amount of losses;
- 2) the age of the youngest victim of telephone scams reported last year; and
- 3) the Police's plans to step up enforcement actions against telephone scam in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon LEE Chun-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)Reply:

- 1 – 2. The number of telephone deception cases reported to the Police Force and the amount of losses in 2022 are tabulated as follows:

	Number of cases	Amount of losses (HK\$ million)
Telephone Deception	2 831	1, 076.47
Pretend Officials	1 290	962.3
Guess Who	1 540	114.1
Detained Son	1	0.07

The victims, who ranged in age from 12 to 100, incurred financial losses in 2 625 cases. The Force does not have other information requested in the question.

- 3) The Force has been adopting a multi-agency approach by collaborating with other government departments, law enforcement agencies, regulatory bodies and

industry stakeholders to enhance intelligence exchange, law enforcement and anti-deception publicity on combating and prevention of telephone deception on all fronts.

In July 2017, the Commercial Crime Bureau of the Force established the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) 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, co-ordinating intelligence-led law enforcement operations and planning anti-deception publicity work. In October 2020, the ADCC set up the Intelligence and Scam Response Team, which is responsible for analysing the money-laundering networks of criminal gangs to further combat telephone scams and other frauds through law enforcement operations.

In end-September 2022, the Force, together with the Office of the Communications Authority and mobile network operators, set up a dedicated working group to formulate measures to block telephone scams at the source, including blocking spoofed calls with the prefix “+852” and stopping the provision of services to local mobile phone numbers involved in scams.

The Force will continue to co-ordinate resources and strengthen multi-agency collaboration with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, banking sector, money changers and social media platforms to proactively combat and prevent telephone deception.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB060

(Question Serial No. 2239)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

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

Question:

Illegal parking is a serious problem in Hong Kong and the Police have taken various counter-measures in recent years. In this connection, please inform this Committee:

- 1) given that an estimated revenue of \$1,269,000,000 is expected from the Fixed Penalty System (Traffic Contraventions) in 2023-24, whether the Police have any plans to conduct operations/acquire additional manpower/equipment in order to achieve this target;
- 2) of the black spots of “illegal parking” and “moving offences” in Sha Tin and Tai Po where regular patrols are required, and the respective number of patrols conducted in each of the past 5 years;
- 3) of the number of cases involving “illegal parking”, “moving offences” and “summons or arrest” in Sha Tin and Tai Po in each of the past 5 years; and
- 4) whether the Police have any plans to introduce appropriate technology to help reduce “illegal parking”, “moving offences” or other traffic contraventions; if so, please provide information, in tabular form, on the cost and effectiveness of the equipment/devices to be used.

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

- 1) 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 about the illegal parking situation. The Force aims to change the undesirable behaviour of road

users that obstruct traffic flow through publicity and education, and address parking offences through patrols and enforcement actions.

Since March 2020, the Force has launched in phases the e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme in all police districts across the territory. Frontline enforcement officers have since been able to access or input data on illegally parked vehicles via their mobile devices and instantly print out fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) in order to reduce human errors in issuing handwritten FPTs, thereby enhancing the overall enforcement accuracy. In 2021 and 2022, the Force continued to procure additional devices for more frontline officers to issue FPTs accordingly. There are currently around 2 600 portable printers available for use by the Force.

- 2) At present, the Force has not defined what constitutes an “illegal parking” or “moving offences” blackspot and therefore no relevant data on these blackspots is available. Nevertheless, the Force will be stepping up law enforcement in areas with severe traffic congestion and issuing FPTs without prior warning to vehicles/drivers who commit offences causing serious obstruction and endangering road safety. Where necessary, apart from serving multiple summonses on the offending vehicles and repeatedly prosecuting the drivers concerned, the Force will even tow away the offending vehicles.
- 3) The Force handles information on FPTs for illegal parking and other traffic enforcement by Police Region. Therefore, the prosecution figures by District Council district is not available. In the past 5 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 tables:

Police Region	Number of FPTs for illegal parking issued				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hong Kong Island	385 196	287 149	599 218	688 592	624 000
Kowloon East	351 968	251 430	489 901	570 466	555 417
Kowloon West	517 842	339 549	631 593	862 992	1 011 084
New Territories South	396 975	296 732	512 831	584 706	570 895
New Territories North	374 532	249 884	474 326	595 404	602 075
Total	2 026 513	1 424 744	2 707 869	3 302 160	3 363 471

Police Region	Number of traffic enforcement actions (other than those against illegal parking)				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hong Kong Island	93 425	62 047	73 844	83 493	87 368
Kowloon East	80 274	68 732	94 375	90 541	92 281
Kowloon West	98 089	74 123	87 010	123 004	148 032
New Territories South	134 920	120 253	128 317	130 812	132 212
New Territories North	163 404	154 215	139 264	159 003	143 644
Total	570 112	479 370	522 810	586 853	603 537

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

- 4) In addition to the e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme mentioned in paragraph (1) above, the Force introduced the Mobile Video Teams (MVTs) in 2019 which record footage of contraventions with mobile equipment and institute prosecutions accordingly, so as to tackle traffic contraventions that cause obstruction. Since 2021, operations of MVTs have been co-ordinated by the Land Regions and non-stopper mode has been adopted in law enforcement.

Meanwhile, the Force is currently developing a new Traffic e-Enforcement System to facilitate the electronic processing of FPTs and summons applications for traffic offences. The system will also process all information and data relating to traffic enforcement, which will be conducive to enhancing the Force's efficiency in traffic management. The Force will also develop a public-oriented website dedicated to electronic traffic enforcement, through which members of the public can view their electronic FPTs and handle related matters online.

In June 2021, a funding of \$352 million was secured from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the development of the system. The system is currently under preparation and the first phase of the implementation is expected to be launched within 2023.

The expenditure involved falls under the Programme of "Road Safety", no specific breakdown is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB061****(Question Serial No. 1431)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the CommunityControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

The list of Indicators shows that the number of summonses (other than traffic summonses) issued by the Police Force recorded 3 000 in 2021 but dropped to 2 367 in 2022, and the number of raids also dropped from 4 428 to 3 715 over the same period. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- a) the reason(s) for the significant drop in both cases last year; and
- b) the relevant data, in tabular form, on the same issue in each of the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)Reply:

- a) - b) The number of summonses (other than traffic summonses) issued and the number of raids conducted by the Police Force for the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of summonses	3 878	2 713	3 054	3 000	2 367
Number of raids	11 252	7 955	3 928	4 428	3 715

Since the onset of the fifth wave of COVID-19 epidemic in Hong Kong in February 2022, the Force had mobilised significant manpower to support anti-epidemic efforts throughout the year, including assisting in contact tracing, participating in restriction-testing declaration operations, as well as conducting inspections and enforcement actions against violations of the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (the Ordinance) (Cap. 599). Over 30 000 fixed penalty notices were issued for violations of the Ordinance in 2022, a significant increase of 50% from around 20 000 in 2021, impacting on the work of issuing summonses and conducting raids.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB062

(Question Serial No. 1445)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-yee)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Under the Brief Description, it is mentioned that the Police will continue to organise anti-crime publicity programmes to address specific crime problems, including “Social Media Deception”, “E-shopping Fraud”, “Naked Chat Blackmail”, “Email Scam”, “Online Employment Fraud”, “Online Investment Fraud”, “Telephone Deception” (including Pretend Officials Telephone Deception), “Financial Intermediary Deception” and “Quickcash Crime”, etc. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- a) a tabular breakdown of various types of online/telephone deception cases for the past 5 years;
- b) the specific measures to be taken by the Police to combat crimes related to online/telephone deception; and
- c) the detection rate of online deception cases involving collaboration with overseas and Mainland criminal investigation agencies for the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

- a) The number of cases of online deception, broken down by common types of online scam, and the number of cases of naked chat blackmail reported to the Police Force in each of the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Online Deception	6 354	5 157	10 716	13 859	19 599
Common types of online scam					
Social Media Deception	2 064	1 678	1 988	3 638	3 605
Online Employment Fraud	150	66	236	1 063	2 884
Online Investment Fraud	338	167	544	980	1 884
Email Scam	894	816	767	549	391
Naked Chat Blackmail	281	171	1 009	1 159	1 402

The number of cases of telephone deception, broken down by type of scam, reported to the Force in each of the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Telephone Deception	615	648	1 193	1 140	2 831
Guess Who	262	418	509	497	1 540
Pretend Officials	346	228	683	641	1 290
Detained Son	7	2	1	2	1

- b) The Force has been committed to combating deception and technology crimes. Combating quick cash crime, enhancing cyber security and fighting technology crime are among Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2023. The Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) of the Commercial Crime Bureau, the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) and the crime investigation units of various Police Regions and Districts are all dedicated to cracking down on scams and technology-related crimes.

To further enhance the Force's capabilities in combating deception, the e-Crime Processing and Analysis Hub was established in September 2022, with the aim of providing a one-stop platform for responding quickly to public reports and expediting the analysis and investigation of scams and technology crimes, thereby allowing the Force to combat criminal activities more effectively.

The Force has been proactively collaborating with other government departments, regulatory agencies and industry stakeholders. In September 2022, the Force, together with the Office of the Communications Authority and mobile network operators, set up a dedicated working group to formulate measures to block telephone scams at the source, including blocking spoofed calls with the prefix "+852", assisting users to filter and block hyperlinks involved in cyber deception, and stopping the provision of services to local mobile phone numbers involved in scams. In addition, the Cybercrime Policing Advisory Panel (CPAP) was set up in December 2022, comprising 12 panel members who are experts and leaders from the academia, the education sector, commercial chambers, the financial sector, the information technology sector, the telecommunications sector and various public entities. The CPAP assists the Force in

formulating short, medium and long term strategic directions in order to strengthen the Force's digital policing capabilities in combating cybercrimes.

Through different platforms and media, the Force has conducted various anti-crime publicity and educational campaigns as well as large-scale thematic crime prevention activities to heighten public alertness to deception. These include delivering crime prevention messages through TV and Radio Announcements in the Public Interest, social media platforms, mass media, public housing estates, public hospitals and major shopping malls. Moreover, anti-scam advertisements have been put up across the city, including in tunnels, on public transport (e.g. MTR train compartments, trams, bus bodies) and on large outdoor advertising displays. In addition to organising activities, talks and seminars on crime prevention for employees of various trades and students of all levels of education (i.e. tertiary, secondary and primary), the Force has also distributed and displayed posters and promotional materials to widely disseminate anti-scam messages and raise public awareness against deception.

Furthermore, to address different types of deception and technology crimes, the Force organised a series of large-scale publicity activities in 2022, including "Anti-Deception Month" in February, "Anti-Deception Season" from May to August, "Emotional Disturbances Faced by Scam Victims" in October and "Anti-Scam Test Across the Territory" from November to December, in a bid to raise public awareness of emerging or prevalent scams. In January 2023, the CSTCB rolled out the "All-round CyberDefence", a cyber security campaign with a variety of activities, including hosting the "Cyber Defenders' Carnival" in the West Kowloon Cultural District and co-organising with the Education Bureau workshops with training kits for secondary and primary school teachers, so as to enhance the public's capability in identifying cyber pitfalls on various fronts. Meanwhile, the ADCC made an effort to reach out to more people by using new channels, such as broadcasting scam alerts in 17 government-owned tunnels and collaborating with cinemas to run anti-scam trailers prior to movie screenings.

The CSTCB also introduced the "Scameter" in 2022, which allowed users to identify suspicious information such as platform account names or numbers, payment accounts, phone numbers, email addresses, URLs, etc. Its mobile version, "Scameter+", was later released in February 2023, facilitating the general public to spot deception and online traps.

The Force will continue to co-ordinate resources from different sources and adopt all-around strategies to combat various frauds and technology crimes on multiple fronts, including intelligence exchanges, law enforcement actions, collaboration with overseas partners, cross-agency co-operation and enhanced publicity and education.

- c) Deceptions and technology crimes have no geographical boundaries. Through a close police cooperation mechanism, the Force has been sharing with overseas law enforcement agencies the latest *modi operandi* and information about deception and technology crimes, so as to enable them to take prompt corresponding actions. To strengthen intelligence exchange with the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) and law enforcement agencies of other countries for combating cross-border technology crimes, 1 Superintendent has been seconded to the INTERPOL

General Secretariat in Lyon, France, while 1 Superintendent and 1 Chief Inspector have been seconded to the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation in Singapore.

The Force has been maintaining close co-operation with law enforcement agencies around the world, including those in the Mainland, Macao, Singapore, Malaysia, European countries and the United States. Over the past 5 years, more than 10 intelligence-led joint enforcement operations have been conducted, resulting in the arrest of at least 200 persons worldwide and the neutralisation of multiple cross-border fraud syndicates involving about 210 deception cases in Hong Kong. The Force does not maintain statistics on the detection rate of such crimes.

Moreover, the ADCC has built up collaborations with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies in intercepting crime proceeds. To further enhance the capability, the ADCC established the International Stop-Payment Mechanism with the Financial Crimes Unit of the INTERPOL in October 2019 to enable most member states to make mutual stop-payment requests, thereby facilitating the Force to combat cross-border deception more effectively. As at December 2022, the ADCC has successfully intercepted more than HK\$11.2 billion in 3 732 deception cases where payments had already been made to local and overseas banks.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB063****(Question Serial No. 0878)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (4) OperationsControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)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.: 2)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: 4 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: 3 crew Speed: minimum 40 knots	Delivered in batches from the third quarter to the fourth quarter of 2021	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
High-speed Interceptor	LOA: 13.16 metres OMS: 5 crew Speed: minimum 66 knots	Expected to be delivered in batches from the first quarter to the fourth quarter of 2023	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 third quarter of 2023; scheduled for delivery in 2025-2028	2,218.1 million (12 vessels)	Divisional Command Launch and Keka Launch
Mobile Response and Command Platform	LOA: approximately 40 metres OMS: 19 crew (including one Cook) Speed: minimum 25 knots	Contract expected to be signed in the third quarter of 2023; scheduled for delivery in 2025-2026	375.833 million (2 vessels)	Regional Training Launch
Divisional Logistic Launch	LOA: 12-17 metres OMS: 4 crew Speed: minimum 35 knots	Contract expected to be signed in the first quarter of 2024; scheduled for delivery in 2025-2028	541.9 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 2024; scheduled for delivery in 2026-2027	39.08 million (7 vessels)	Boston Whaler Inshore Patrol Launch
Inshore Patrol Craft	LOA: 16-20 metres OMS: 5 crew Speed: minimum 45 knots	Invitation to Tender expected to be gazetted in the fourth quarter of 2023; scheduled for delivery in 2026	213.3 million (6 vessels)	Inshore Patrol Craft
The Fifth Police Barge Operating Platform	LOA: approximately 30 metres OMS: 4 crew	Invitation to Tender expected to be gazetted in the third quarter of 2023; scheduled for delivery in 2025	35.762 million (1 vessel)	New item

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
Small Boat Divisional Disguised Craft	LOA: approximately 8 metres OMS: 2 crew Speed: minimum 40 knots	Contract expected to be signed in the second quarter of 2023; scheduled for delivery in the third quarter of 2023	1.53 million (1 vessel)	Confiscated Speedboat
Divisional Fast Patrol Craft Mark IV	LOA: 10.5-12 metres OMS: 4 crew Speed: minimum 55 knots	Invitation to Tender expected to be gazetted in the second quarter of 2023; scheduled for delivery in 2025-2026	201.8 million (12 vessels)	Divisional Fast Patrol Craft Mark I and II

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB064

(Question Serial No. 0884)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. The number of posts of the Police Force in the revised estimate for 2023 reaches 38 397, a significant increase of almost 2 500 posts compared to the establishment of 35 784 posts for 2020. Has the Police reviewed whether there is a practical need for the current establishment?
2. It is learnt that the only new department to be established under the Force since 2020 is the National Security Department. What department is the Force planning to expand that will result in a significant increase in its establishment? What are the reasons for that?
3. Please provide the latest establishment and strength of the Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

1. In 2020-21, the Police Force had a net increase of 2 543 posts. This compares to a net decrease of 16 posts and a net increase of 7 posts in 2021-22 and 2022-23 respectively. The Force will regularly review its establishment in light of policing needs and increase or reduce the number of posts in a timely manner to meet the community's demand for policing services.
2. The additional posts (in both disciplined and civilian grades) created in the Force are for implementing the 4 Programmes, namely (1) "Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community", (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime", (3) "Road Safety" and (4) "Operations". The posts are mainly for, among others, enhancing the Force's responsiveness in handling public order events, strengthening Hong Kong's capabilities in anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing, as well as enhancing the Force's intelligence-gathering capabilities and preparedness to combat cyber terrorism.
3. As at 28 February 2023, the establishment and strength of the Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force were 4 501 and 3 151 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB065

(Question Serial No. 0885)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-yee)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Hong Kong is increasingly threatened by home-grown terrorism, with violent acts and terrorist activities going underground and clandestine in the wake of the 2019 black-clad violence. With regard to efforts to address the threat of terrorism, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. whether the security of critical infrastructure computer software and hardware has been strengthened or exercises have been conducted in light of recent cyber attacks by hackers on key infrastructure abroad;
2. the number of counter-terrorism exercises conducted by the Police in the previous year, the government departments involved and the number of officers participating in the exercises; and
3. the expenditure of the Police in the previous year on public education on counter-terrorism, including advertising, school talks, etc., and whether the effectiveness has been evaluated.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

1. One of the key responsibilities of the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) of the Police Force is to protect the information systems of critical infrastructure. The CSTCB works closely with critical infrastructure operators in various sectors so as to enhance its response capability against cyber security incidents and cyber attacks.

In 2022, the CSTCB conducted cyber security exercises with 27 critical infrastructure operators to foster cyber security collaboration between the Force and critical infrastructure operators, as well as to share information on cyber threats and relevant preventive and responding actions in order to enhance critical infrastructure operators'

awareness of prevention and preparedness, as well as their overall defensive capabilities against cyber attacks.

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

2. Last year, the Force conducted 48 counter-terrorism (CT) exercises, which mostly were joint exercises with other government departments and public organisations (such as various disciplined services, Marine Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited, Airport Authority Hong Kong, Aviation Security Company Limited, CLP Power Hong Kong Limited and the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, etc.). These exercises mainly focused on the latest trend of terrorist activities and simulated serial terrorist attacks to test the CT response capabilities and the contingency plans of various government departments and organisations; to optimise the co-ordination and responsiveness of various units; as well as to heighten the public’s CT awareness through publicity and education.

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

3. Through the Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit (ICTU), the Force actively co-ordinates the efforts of member departments, with particular emphasis on the promotion of CT publicity and education to the public, including the important messages regarding “Stay Vigilant to Bomb”, “Run, Hide, Report” and “Spot and Report”.

In the past year, despite the impact of the epidemic, various departments under the ICTU organised dozens of school talks, seminars for different sectors and community activities, reaching out to more than 6 000 people.

In June 2022, the ICTU launched the “CT Reporting Hotline” and “CT reward” to encourage members of the public to provide terrorism or violence-related information and raise public awareness of “Spot and Report”. To enhance promotion of the CT Reporting Hotline and increase the coverage of CT information, the ICTU has promoted the above CT information through various platforms such as television, various mobile applications and websites, public transport, large outdoor television screens and billboards, which have successfully attracted the attention of the general public, allowing them to better understand CT and security messages.

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

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB066

(Question Serial No. 0886)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

New uniforms have been introduced for officers on duty in 3 “counter-terrorism tactical units” of the Police Force from 1 July 2022. Please inform this Committee of:

1. the expenditure incurred in procuring the new uniforms; and
2. the functions and features of the new uniforms, and the advantages of the new uniforms over standard police uniforms in the conduct of counter-terrorism operations.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

1. The expenditure incurred in procuring the new uniforms for the tactical units is part of the Police Force's operational details. It is inappropriate to disclose such information.
2. Officers of the tactical units are required to work in all weather conditions, conduct high-profile patrols in high-risk locations and respond immediately to emergencies. As the original outfits were not designed for tactical use, the Force considered it necessary to design new uniforms for the tactical units with reference to the practices of relevant law enforcement agencies in the Mainland and overseas in order to enhance their utility, comfort and protection, so that the officers can perform their duties under various extreme conditions and thus improve their operational effectiveness.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB067

(Question Serial No. 0887)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. With the resumption of cross-border travel for Hong Kong after three years of the pandemic, please advise whether the Police have any plans to invite police officers from the Mainland or overseas to visit Hong Kong or to send officers abroad for exchange and training; if so, what are the formations involved and the estimated expenditure of the exchange activities.
2. A number of Police's specialised units, including the Counter Terrorism Response Unit and the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Bureau, have participated in exchange and training activities with Western countries ever since their establishment. Please advise whether the unjustified sanctions imposed on Hong Kong by foreign countries in recent years have had any impacts on the exchange and training for police officers, and whether the Police have any plans for regular exchange and training in collaboration with relevant Mainland counterparts.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

1. "Preparing the Workforce to Meet Emerging Challenges" is one of the four strategic directions promulgated by the Police Force. The Force has been actively enhancing national studies training and broadening officers' global perspectives through mutual visits as well as training and exchange activities with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies in order to improve the expertise and capabilities of police officers for coping with various challenges in the future.

As the pandemic subsides, officers have been sent abroad for training since September 2022. With the full resumption of cross-border travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the Force is in the process of resuming Mainland training and exchange programmes, and has been making significant efforts to explore new training opportunities, such as arranging exchange and study tours to Mainland for newly recruited Probationary Inspectors and Recruit Constables to deepen their understanding of national history and current development of China. The formations involved in exchange and training activities on the Mainland and abroad included the Crime Wing,

Operations Wing, Information Systems Wing and Security Wing. In addition, the Force has also resumed command courses organised by the Police College for officers from other local and overseas law enforcement agencies to widen their perspectives.

The Force's estimated expenditure on the Mainland and overseas development and training programmes is about HK\$8 million for the financial year 2023-24.

2. The Force's human resources strategy places a strong emphasis on broadening the horizons of police officers and enhancing their professionalism through exchanges with the Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies. As such, the Force has maintained exchanges with other related organisations in various areas of law enforcement work to enhance the expertise and skills of officers in certain disciplines. The Force will continue to organise regular exchange and training programmes with the Mainland and overseas counterparts, as well as other academic institutions, in order to effectively improve the law enforcement efficiency and professional capabilities of police officers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB068

(Question Serial No. 0888)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Due to the social atmosphere and the decline in labour force, the number of police recruits this year falls to a 3-year low. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the total expenditure last year on various police recruitment campaigns, such as the Police Recruitment Experience and Assessment Days, the Police University Recruitment Express conducted in Hong Kong and the Mainland, the Police Mobile Recruitment Station, and the Sportsmen's Programme for Recruitment, Experience and Development, as well as the effectiveness of these recruitment exercises; and
2. the number of auxiliary police officers appointed as regular police officers since 2020.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

1. The Police Force has been adjusting its publicity strategy in light of general social conditions such as the economic situation and demand in the labour market. Different forms of collaboration have also been adopted in order to make more cost-effective use of resources for promoting recruitment. The Force does not maintain breakdown figures on the expenditure involved.

The Force has been adopting proactive recruitment strategies to attract high calibre candidates who possess the required competencies to join the Force. Meanwhile, the Force has disseminated recruitment and publicity information through various media and social networking platforms, and has organised regular recruitment activities and projects, such as the Police Recruitment Experience and Assessment Day, Auxiliary Police Recruitment Express, Police Recruitment On-air, Police Mobile Recruitment Station, Police Mentorship Programme, Auxiliary Undergraduate Scheme, Project ACHIEVE, Police Recruitment Buddies Scheme, Sportsmen's Programme for Recruitment, Experience and Development as well as education and careers expo, etc.

To facilitate university students joining the Force, the Force organised the Police University Recruitment Express at 11 local universities between September and October 2022. Moreover, to recruit Hong Kong students in the Mainland and facilitate their early return to Hong Kong for foundation training after graduation, the Force sent a delegation in November 2022 to conduct the first Police University Recruitment Express (Mainland) at Jinan University and Huaqiao University in Guangdong Province and Fujian Province respectively. During the campaign, recruitment information was provided and on-site recruitment selection procedures were initiated.

In October 2022, the Force established the Police Recruitment Centre to provide the public with a channel to learn more about police work and obtain recruitment information. It also facilitates job applications by potential candidates through face-to-face consultation and experience sessions for selection process. The newly established Police Recruitment Centre provides multiple services, including on-site interviews, appointment making for written examinations or interviews, eye-sight tests and handgrip strength tests, recruitment-related enquiry service as well as virtual reality simulated experience of shooting, etc. Besides, the recruitment centre will arrange regular recruitment talks and police-related thematic exhibitions.

2. The number of auxiliary police officers appointed as regular police officers since 2020 is tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Number of officers	
	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable
2020-21	21	20
2021-22	24	19
2022-23 (As at 28 February 2023)	21	12

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB069

(Question Serial No. 0961)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. Please set out in tabular form the purchase price, average maintenance cost and operating expenses for the regular and small specialised crowd management vehicles ("SCMVs").
2. Please set out in tabular form the purchase price, average maintenance cost and operating expenses for the Unimog armoured personnel carriers and the new Sabertooth armoured vehicles.
3. Please provide information on the progress of the procurement and replacement of the Police's specialised vehicles, and set out in tabular form the items purchased and the expenditure incurred, as well as the items currently under purchase and the estimated costs.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1. The 3 regular SCMVs and 3 small SCMVs currently in use by the Police Force were commissioned in August 2018 and June 2022 respectively. Since the purchase price, average maintenance cost and operating expenses of these vehicles are part of the restricted tender details, it is inappropriate to disclose such information.
2. The 6 Sabertooth armoured vehicles currently in use by the Force were commissioned in June 2022 to replace all the 6 Unimog armoured personnel carriers. Since the purchase price, average maintenance cost and operating expenses of the Sabertooth armoured vehicles are part of the restricted tender details, it is inappropriate to disclose such information.
3. Details of items and expenditure on the Force's specialised vehicles procured and delivered in 2022-23 are as follows:

<u>Type of Vehicle</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Expenditure</u> <u>(\$ million)</u>
Replacement and Procurement of Police Large Motorcycle	250	91
Replacement and Procurement of PTU Bus	57	99
Replacement of Police Medium Motorcycle	82	24
Procurement of VIP Protection Cross-country Vehicle	2	8
Total	391	222

Since the expenditure for the replacement of the 6 armoured personnel carriers and the procurement of the 3 small SCMV's are part of the restricted tender details, it is inappropriate to disclose such information.

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 procuring 243 specialised vehicles in 2023-24. Details are as follows:

<u>Type of Vehicle</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Replacement and Procurement of Police Large Van	111
Replacement and Procurement of Large Van for the Police Dog Unit	6
Replacement and Procurement of PTU Bus	6
Replacement of Police Large Motorcycle	34
Replacement of Cross-country Vehicle	30
Replacement of Police Small Patrol Car	10
Replacement of Medium Goods Vehicle	3
Replacement of Large Saloon (Special Duties)	2
Replacement of Cross-country Vehicle (Special Duties)	1
Replacement and Procurement of Police Small Motorcycle ^(Note)	36
Procurement of Large Van for the Special Duties Unit (Police Dogs) ^(Note)	1
Procurement of Autotruck ^(Note)	3
Total	243

(Note: Replacement/acquisition work that has been allocated funding before 2023-24 will continue in 2023-24 in accordance with the procurement procedures.)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB070

(Question Serial No. 2622)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Following the “black-clad violence” incidents in 2019, foreign countries have unreasonably sanctioned Hong Kong by banning the sale of various types of firearms to Hong Kong’s disciplinary forces. Additionally, the production of US-made 0.38 calibre Smith and Wesson Model 10 revolvers has been discontinued. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The Police once indicated that they had decided to replace the existing pistols with Chinese-made models. What is the progress of the “firearms replacement exercise” and the estimated total expenditure to be involved?
2. How long is it estimated to take to train frontline police officers to become proficient in the use of Chinese-made pistols after switching to Chinese-made models; and
3. Other Police firearms, such as submachine guns, shotguns and semi-automatic rifles, are all manufactured by Western countries. To avoid the risk of future sanctions by the West, will the Police consider gradually replacing all firearms with those made in China, or using firearms from low-risk origins?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

The Police Force has from time to time reviewed the equipment and training of police officers to ensure that their equipment and training can meet actual operational needs. The Force keeps watch on various types of equipment from around the world, including the Mainland. In light of operational needs, the necessary equipment is procured and appropriate training is provided to officers in accordance with the Government’s established procurement procedures.

The procurement of equipment and provision of relevant training are details of the Force’s operational deployment. It is thus inappropriate to disclose such information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB071

(Question Serial No. 1278)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 under this Programme, it is mentioned that the Hong Kong Police Force will, among others, utilise social media platforms to disseminate crime prevention messages to the public. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the Police Force's expenditure and manpower involved in related work and its effectiveness in 2022-23, the estimated expenditure and manpower to be involved in related work in 2023-24, as well as any specific plans to disseminate crime prevention messages on social media platforms to combat cyber crime.

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

The Police Force has been using 6 social media platforms including Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, Weibo and WeChat to promote crime prevention. To foster interaction with the public, enhance the transparency of policing work and deepen the public's understanding of police initiatives, the Force will keep abreast of the times by reviewing developments in the social media and by keeping track of how social media has been utilised by the general public, and will disseminate information via other social media platforms when necessary. In light of the latest crime trends, the Force has also produced crime prevention videos for broadcast on social media platforms so as to disseminate anti-deception and anti-crime messages in a simple and lively way, with the aims of raising awareness of crime prevention among people of all ages and levels, as well as interacting with the public in the fight against crime.

Making use of social media platforms, the Force has launched different thematic anti-deception and anti-crime campaigns, such as "Anti-Drugs Month", "Anti-Money Laundering Month", "Anti-Deception Season" and "Anti-Scam Test Across the Territory". These activities were organised both online and offline, along with conventional media and support of key opinion leaders on the Internet, to ensure a wider public reach and better publicity.

To help the public identify scams and online pitfalls, the Force has widely promoted anti-scam and anti-crime messages as well as useful tools such as “Scameter” and “Scameter+” through various social media and channels, such that members of the public may immediately assess deception risks and obtain fraud-related information, thereby raising public awareness against deception.

In 2022, the Force published 5 310 posts on 6 social media platforms, namely Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, Weibo and WeChat.

The Hong Kong Police Facebook page was launched in October 2015, attracting more than 520 000 followers (as at 3 March 2023).

The Hong Kong Police YouTube Channel was launched in March 2013, attracting more than 170 000 subscribers (as at 3 March 2023).

The Hong Kong Police Instagram page was launched in November 2016, attracting more than 85 000 followers (as at 3 March 2023).

The Hong Kong Police Twitter page was launched in January 2019, attracting about 92 000 followers (as at 3 March 2023).

The Hong Kong Police Weibo page was launched in January 2019, attracting about 530 000 fans (as at 3 March 2023).

The Hong Kong Police WeChat official account was launched in January 2022, attracting about 100 000 followers (as at 3 March 2023).

The Force’s social media platforms are mainly managed by the Multi-media Communication Division of the Public Relations Wing, which is currently led by 1 Superintendent and staffed with an additional 27 police officers and 2 contract staff members who are responsible for managing the Force’s social media platforms. In the coming financial year, the Force will continue to deploy existing manpower and resources for managing the social media platforms. The expenditure to be involved falls under the Programme of “Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community”, and no specific breakdown is available.

The Force will continue to step up its publicity efforts to provide the public with information on deception and crime prevention through various channels. The effectiveness of publicity campaigns will be reviewed in a timely manner. To better deter deception and prevent crime, the Force will also strengthen collaboration with stakeholders to promote anti-deception and crime prevention for all.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB072

(Question Serial No. 1279)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 under this Programme that the Force will, among others, enhance its capability in tackling technology crime and financial investigation. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the expenditure and manpower involved as well as its effectiveness for 2022-23. Please also advise on the estimated expenditure and manpower to be involved, the respective plans, and whether additional manpower and new equipment will be required for enhancing the Force's capability in tackling technology crime and financial investigation in the coming 2023-24; if so, the details.

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

The Police Force is committed to taking proactive measures to combat technology crime and money laundering activities, primarily through the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) and the Financial Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (FIIB).

In 2022-23, the establishment of CSTCB and FIIB comprise police officers of ranks ranging from Police Constable to Chief Superintendent, with 344 and 216 officers respectively. In 2023-24, the establishment of police officers in CSTCB will increase by 51 to 395, while that of FIIB will remain unchanged. The estimated expenditure for these 2 formations forms part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime". The Force does not maintain breakdown of the expenditure involved.

Enhancing cyber security and combating technology crime are among Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2023. The Force will continue to enhance its capability in combating technology crimes and handling cyber security incidents, as well as stepping up collaboration, intelligence exchange and law enforcement with relevant stakeholders and law enforcement agencies, such as the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and the Hong Kong Productivity Council. In addition, the Cybercrime Policing Advisory Panel (CPAP) of the CSTCB was set up in December 2022, comprising 12 panel members who are experts and leaders from the academia, the education sector, commercial chambers, the

financial sector, the information technology sector, the telecommunications sector and various public entities. The CPAP assists the Force in formulating short, medium and long term strategic directions in order to strengthen the Force's digital policing capabilities in combating cybercrimes.

Meanwhile, the Force has been strengthening its professional capability in financial intelligence analysis and financial investigations, including the founding of the Money Laundering Expert Cadre in October 2022, a volunteer secondary duty cadre with 3 Superintendents, 7 Chief Inspectors and 15 Inspectors to assist the frontline in investigating money laundering cases and to testify as expert witnesses in court hearings. A provision of \$698 million has also been secured from the Legislative Council for the FIIB to develop a Financial Data Analytic Platform that harness advanced technologies and big data analytics tools to strengthen the analytical capabilities of the financial intelligence system. The Force will continue to enhance the knowledge and techniques of police officers and the industry stakeholders in financial investigation, as well as the mechanism for collaborating with local financial institutions, international organisations, and Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies to combat money laundering.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB073

(Question Serial No. 1280)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

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

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention under this Programme that the Hong Kong Police Force will, among others, enhance the efficiency and overall accuracy of traffic enforcement through the wider use of technology, including e-Ticketing; work closely with relevant government departments including the Transport Department and other stakeholders to develop and launch the Traffic e-Enforcement System; and work closely with the Transport Department on the planning and commissioning of the expansion project of the Speed Enforcement Camera System and the Red Light Camera System. In this connection, please advise this Committee, with breakdown statistics and supporting information, of the expenditure and manpower involved in electronic traffic enforcement, its effectiveness, and the extent of growth in enforcement efficiency and enforcement figures for 2022-23. Please also provide information on the estimated expenditure and manpower for 2023-24, plans to improve the efficiency and accuracy of traffic enforcement through wider use of technology, as well as specific plans and performance targets.

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

Since March 2020, the Force has launched in phases the e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme in all police districts across the territory. Frontline enforcement officers have since been able to access or input data on illegally parked vehicles via their mobile devices and instantly print out fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) in order to reduce human errors in issuing handwritten FPTs, thereby enhancing the overall enforcement accuracy. In 2021 and 2022, the Force continued to procure additional devices for more frontline officers to issue FPTs accordingly. The number of electronic FPTs issued has increased from 2 366 658 in 2021 to 3 075 398 in 2022 (up by 30%). In 2022, of the 3 363 471 FPTs issued against illegal parking, 3 075 398 (91.4%) were issued in the above manner, indicating that the enforcement efficiency has been enhanced by the Scheme.

The expenditure involved falls under the Programme of “Road Safety”, and no specific breakdown is available.

Meanwhile, the Force is currently developing a new Traffic e-Enforcement System to facilitate the electronic processing of FPTs and summons applications for traffic offences. The system will also process all information and data relating to traffic enforcement, which will be conducive to enhancing the Force’s efficiency in traffic management. The Force will also develop a public-oriented website dedicated to electronic traffic enforcement, through which members of the public can view their electronic FPTs and handle related matters online.

In June 2021, a funding of \$352 million was secured from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the development of the system. The system is currently under preparation and the first phase of the implementation is expected to be launched within 2023.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB074

(Question Serial No. 0777)

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 (SIU Chak-yee)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Section 4C of the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228) requires that a performance licence (permit) shall be obtained in advance for a dragon/lion dance activity. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- a. the number of applications for permits received by the Police Force and the respective results (e.g. permit issued/application rejected) in each of the past 5 years; and for the applications rejected, the justifications of the Police;
- b. in respect of the activities for which permits were issued in the past 5 years, whether there were illegal acts which breached the conditions of the permit when such activities were conducted; if so, the details and how these cases were handled;
- c. the number of cases in which the dragon/lion dance activities were carried out without licence (including the number of law enforcement actions taken and complaints received) in each of the past 5 years; and the respective results (including a breakdown by the number of persons arrested, prosecuted and convicted, and the penalties imposed, etc.);
- d. in respect of the Government's Licensing E-Service launched in September 2020 that enables organisers to apply for permits and submit required documents through Police's public website and save time from queuing and submitting applications at report rooms, please provide details on the application and handling processes, including the number of application, processing time and workflow; and
- e. whether the Government has any plans to review the existing statutory provisions for regulating dragon/lion dance activities; if so, the details and time of the review; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon NGAN Man-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

- a. The number of applications for dragon/lion dance permits (permits) received by the Police Force in each of the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of applications for permits	Number of permits issued	Number of exemptions granted	Number of applications objected
2018	2 429	2 421	7	0
2019	2 605	2 364	49	0
2020	1 112	989	31	4
2021	133	4	0	21
2022	270	71	17	8

Note : Since the figures are based on the dates when applications are received/permits are issued/applications are objected, the sum of the numbers of permits issued, exemptions granted and applications objected may not equal to the total number of applications for permits in the same year.

There are established procedures and guidelines in the Force for processing permit applications. Each and every application is considered in a holistic manner to determine whether a permit should be issued. The Force will consider an array of relevant factors, including the venue, time and nature of the activity being organised, the impact on traffic and residents, the background of the organiser and its past record, and whether the activity will be used for illegal purposes. If it is satisfied that the activity will not involve lawbreakers and will not jeopardise public order and public safety, a permit will be issued with appropriate conditions for the organiser to follow in managing the dragon/lion dance activity. The Force has put in place an exemption mechanism to grant exemptions for activities that do not involve illegal acts or have no impact on public order, such as those organised by the Government or schools.

- b&c. The Force does not maintain statistics on breaches of permit conditions or cases of dragon/lion dance activities performed without a licence. If violations of permit conditions are identified, the Force will take appropriate enforcement action based on the facts of individual case.
- d. In September 2020, the Force rolled out Licensing E-service, allowing applicants to apply for permits and submit necessary documents via the Police Public Page and save time from queuing and submitting applications at report rooms.

The number of permit applications submitted through Licensing E-service since September 2020 is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of applications
2020 (from September to December)	3
2021	67
2022	160
2023 (from January to February)	241

The performance pledge for processing a permit application is 14 working days.

- e. The Force has been monitoring the existing mechanism and maintaining close liaison with the trade. Reviews will be conducted as appropriate in an effort to refine the application procedures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB075****(Question Serial No. 3036)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The number of deception cases in Hong Kong has continuously hit record highs in recent years. Despite the Police Force's efforts to raise the public's anti-deception awareness through frequent updates on social media and posters across the city, telephone scam remains prevalent, with even highly educated or professional individuals falling victim to scammers using "old tricks in new ways". In 2017, the Police established the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) to specifically combat deception and co-ordinate the publicity efforts of all relevant departments in fighting the crime. In this connection, please inform this Committee:

1. of the number of deception cases, number of victims, amounts involved, as well as the numbers of cases detected and persons arrested for the past 3 financial years, with a breakdown by type of crime (e.g. telephone scam, online scam, etc.);
2. in tabular form, of the number of deception cases involving multi-level marketing and fraudulent financial intermediaries, the amount involved, as well as the numbers of cases detected and persons arrested for the past 3 financial years;
3. in light of the increasingly rampant online scams, whether additional manpower and resources will be solicited for the ADCC in 3 key areas, namely, intelligence sharing and law enforcement, cross-agency collaboration, as well as publicity and education, so as to prevent deception, strengthen law enforcement, intercept fraudulent funds and raise public awareness of anti-deception; if so, the details; if not, the reason(s);
4. of the number of deceptions and frauds related to electronic consumption vouchers reported to the Police and the amounts involved and; among them, the number of cases involving theft of personal data for the collection of vouchers or cashing out vouchers at a discount;
5. further to the above, with the Financial Secretary about to disburse another round of consumption vouchers, whether the Police have formulated targeted strategies to combat

deceptions and frauds related to electronic consumption vouchers; if so, the details; if not, the reason(s); and

6. whether technology should be enhanced to combat deceptions and frauds, for instance, funding can be made available to: A) create a big data analysis platform to gather and analyse relevant data on online scams, such as the time and location of the offence, the modus operandi and the victim profiles, which will promptly identify the patterns and trends of online scam through data analysis and mining, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of enforcement actions; and B) use artificial intelligence technology, such as machine learning and natural language processing, to automatically identify and filter false information and spam, thereby reducing online scams.

Asked by: Hon SHANG Hailong (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. The number of deceptions and frauds reported to the Police Force, the detection rate, the amount involved and the number of persons arrested in each of the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	2020	2021	2022
Number of cases	15 553	19 249	27 923
Detection rate	11.1%	10.6%	12.0%
Amount involved (HK\$)	Note	Over 6.4 billion	Over 4.8 billion
Number of persons arrested	2 058	2 835	4 112

Note: The Force has not maintained statistics on the amount involved in deception cases until 2021.

The common types of deception and fraud reported to the Force as well as the amount involved in each of the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	Number of cases			Amount of losses (HK\$ million)		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Online Deception	10 716	13 859	19 599	2,945.6	2,965.8	3,073.8
Common types of online scam						
E-shopping Fraud	6 678	6 120	8 735	122.3	71.5	74.1
Social Media Deception	1 988	3 638	3 605	259.1	669.4	779.0
Online Employment Fraud	236	1 063	2 884	10.5	85.3	459.1
Online Investment Fraud	544	980	1 884	266.3	472.0	926.5
Email Scam	767	549	391	2,247.4	1,538.8	751.1
Telephone Deception	1 193	1 140	2 831	574.8	811.1	1,076.5
Guess Who	509	497	1 540	26.0	27.5	114.1
Pretend Officials	683	641	1 290	548.8	783.5	962.3
Detained Son	1	2	1	0.01	0.1	0.07

The Force does not maintain any breakdowns on the numbers of victims, arrestees and cases detected by the above-mentioned types of deception and fraud.

2. The number of deceptions and frauds reported to the Force involving financial intermediaries, the number of cases detected, the amount involved and the number of persons arrested in each of the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	2020	2021	2022
Number of cases	446	148	95
Number of cases detected	50	18	11
Amount involved (HK\$ million)	85.4	43.2	38.5
Number of persons arrested	139	96	59

No case of deception and fraud involving multi-level marketing practices has been reported to the Force for the past 3 years.

3. In July 2017, the Commercial Crime Bureau (CCB) of the Force established the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) to provide round-the-clock services. The ADCC is tasked with monitoring and analysing deception trends, formulating and implementing anti-scam strategies and enhancing on-going multi-agency collaboration with relevant law enforcement agencies, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the banking sector, money changers and social media platforms to co-ordinate intelligence-led enforcement operations and plan anti-deception publicity work. As at December 2022, the ADCC has successfully intercepted more than HK\$11.2 billion in 3 732 deception cases where payments had already been made to local and overseas banks. In October 2020, the ADCC set up the Intelligence and Scam Response Team, which is responsible for analysing the money-laundering networks of criminal gangs to further combat telephone scams and other frauds through law enforcement operations.

Furthermore, to address different types of deception and technology crime, the ADCC organised a series of large-scale publicity activities in 2022, including “Anti-Deception Month” in February, “Anti-Deception Season” from May to August, “Emotional Disturbances Faced by Scam Victims” in October and “Anti-Scam Test Across the Territory” from November to December, in a bid to raise public awareness of emerging or prevalent scams. Meanwhile, the ADCC made an effort to reach out to more people by using new channels, such as broadcasting scam alerts in 17 government-owned tunnels and collaborating with cinemas to run anti-scam trailers prior to movie screenings.

At present, the ADCC has an establishment of 49, among which 32 are on permanent establishment and 17 have been seconded from different Force formations. In 2023-24, the permanent establishment will be increased to 37. The Force will timely adjust the manpower and resources for anti-deception publicity in light of the latest crime trends in the coming year.

- 4-5. As at December 2022, a total of 1 332 cases related to consumption vouchers have been reported to the Force. The CCB will continue to maintain close contact with the

Secretariat of the Consumption Voucher Scheme (the Secretariat) and the operators of stored value facilities, so as to exchange information and take timely follow-up actions and law enforcement actions as appropriate. In June and December 2022, the CCB conducted two large-scale law enforcement operations in collaboration with the Secretariat, resulting in the detection of nearly 300 cases and the arrest of 49 persons.

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

6. The Force is committed to taking proactive measures to combat deception and technology crime, including the use of technology to facilitate the detection and prevention of these crimes. In September 2022, the e-Crime Processing and Analysis Hub was established to provide a one-stop platform for the receipt, analysis and referral of electronic reports of technology crime and deception. Correlation analysis has been carried out using an enhanced computer system, which has allowed the Force to respond to public reports more quickly and handle the cases more effectively. Furthermore, the Financial Intelligence and Investigation Bureau secured a funding of \$698 million from the Legislative Council for the development of the Financial Data Analytic Platform, which will use advanced technology and big data analytics tools to enhance the analytical capabilities of the financial intelligence system, thereby fostering the Force's crackdown on fraud-related money laundering activities.

The Force has been proactively using technology to heighten public awareness of anti-deception. In 2022, the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau introduced the "Scameter", which allowed users to identify suspicious information such as platform account names or numbers, payment accounts, phone numbers, email addresses, URLs, etc. Its mobile version, "Scameter+", was later released in February 2023, facilitating the general public to spot deception and online traps.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB076

(Question Serial No. 3039)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Policing is tough, dangerous and involves long working hours. Besides, since the “anti-extradition amendment bill movement”, there has been some misunderstanding about the Police, leading to a drop in the number of applicants joining the Force. With the gradual restoration of social order, the number of applications has rebounded. In order to make the Force more competitive in the job market, the Police announced an adjustment to the entry requirement for new recruits in March last year to align with the practice of other local disciplined services. The requirement to have lived in Hong Kong for at least 7 years has been removed and all Hong Kong permanent residents are eligible to apply. Even still, the vacancy rate stands at 16%, the highest of all government departments. In face of the wave of retirement, the Police Force needs to expedite the recruitment process. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The number of frontline police officers successfully recruited by the Force in the past financial year (including Inspectors of Police and Police Constables), with a breakdown by age, gender, education level and whether they are permanent residents living in Hong Kong for at least 7 years.
2. The slogan “It's Never Too Late” was used by the Police to attract elder applicants in previous recruitment exercises. Please set out in tabular form the number of police officers successfully recruited in the last financial year by age group (e.g., 30 to 35, 36 to 40, and over 40) and rank.
3. Please provide information on measures being taken to increase manpower and lower the persistently high vacancy rate, in addition to the option for officers to choose to retire at the raised retirement age, the Continued Service of Police Officers Beyond Prescribed Retirement Age Scheme, and recruitment measures targeting at Hong Kong students in the Mainland.

Asked by: Hon SHANG Hailong (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1. A breakdown of the number of police officers the Police Force recruited in 2022-23 (as at 28 February 2023) by age and gender is set out in the following table:

Age	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable
20 or below	0	7
21-25	36	121
26-30	36	152
31-35	33	112
36-40	8	32
41 or above	17	13

Probationary Inspector		Police Constable	
Male	Female	Male	Female
86 (66%)	44 (34%)	334 (76%)	103 (24%)

All of the newly recruited probationary inspectors in 2022-23 (as at 28 February 2023) possessed educational qualification at university level or above. Among the police constables recruited, about 22% possessed educational qualification at university level or above, 16% at post-secondary level, 13% at secondary level and 49% were holders of Yi Jin Diploma.

In 2022-23 (as at 28 February 2023), the Force has recruited 2 police constable who have not been permanent residents of Hong Kong for at least 7 years.

2. The number of police officers aged 30 or above upon recruitment in 2022-23 (as at 28 February 2023), by age group and rank, is set out in the following table:

Age	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable
31-35	33	112
36-40	8	32
41 or above	17	13

3. The Force has been adopting proactive recruitment strategies to attract high calibre candidates who possess the required competencies to join the Force. Meanwhile, the Force has disseminated recruitment and publicity information through various media and social networking platforms, and has organised regular recruitment activities and projects, such as the Police Recruitment Experience and Assessment Day, Auxiliary Police Recruitment Express, Police Recruitment On-air, Police Mobile Recruitment Station, Police Mentorship Programme, Auxiliary Undergraduate Scheme, Project ACHIEVE, Police Recruitment Buddies Scheme, Sportsmen's Programme for Recruitment, Experience and Development as well as education and careers expo, etc.

To facilitate university students joining the Force, the Force organised the Police University Recruitment Express at 11 local universities between September and October 2022. Moreover, to recruit Hong Kong students in the Mainland and facilitate their early return to Hong Kong for foundation training after graduation, the Force sent a delegation in November 2022 to conduct the first Police University Recruitment Express (Mainland) at Jinan University and Huaqiao University in Guangdong Province and Fujian Province

respectively. During the campaign, recruitment information was provided and on-site recruitment selection procedures were initiated.

In October 2022, the Force established the Police Recruitment Centre to provide the public with a channel to learn more about police work and obtain recruitment information. It also facilitates job applications by potential candidates through face-to-face consultation and experience sessions for selection process. The newly established Police Recruitment Centre provides multiple services, including on-site interviews, appointment making for written examinations or interviews, eye-sight tests and handgrip strength tests, recruitment-related enquiry service as well as virtual reality simulated experience of shooting, etc. Besides, the recruitment centre will arrange regular recruitment talks and police-related thematic exhibitions. The Force will continue to adopt proactive recruitment strategies based on the human resources situation in the market to attract high calibre candidates who possess the required competence to join the Force.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB077

(Question Serial No. 2092)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-yee)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned that the Police Force will maintain law and order by deploying officers to perform patrol duties and monitor crime trends. In view of the influx of people resulting from the full resumption of social activities and cross-border travel, please advise whether additional resources and manpower will be sought to ensure order and security at and around popular tourist attractions and to deal with cases related to inbound visitors; if so, the details.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

Since normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland fully resumed on 6 February 2023, the Police Force has been closely monitoring the situation in various districts, including the people flow, traffic, and law and order issues. The Force will continue to maintain close liaison with relevant government departments and community stakeholders in order to exchange views and assess the situation in a timely manner, with a view to examining the policing needs and deploying police manpower accordingly.

The Force will continue to provide timely assistance and maintain effective liaison with the Immigration Department, Customs and Excise Department, Tourism Commission, Mainland law enforcement agencies and other relevant departments in handling cases involving inbound visitors.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB078

(Question Serial No. 1857)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-yee)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Prevention and detection of crime is a Force-wide priority with various crime units. Although stability has been generally restored in Hong Kong in more than two and a half years since the implementation of the National Security Law, the Police have noticed that some people with ulterior motives have been inciting others on the Internet to commit acts in contravention of the National Security Law. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. the respective number of arrests and prosecutions, details of the illegal acts involved and the acts of inciting others on the Internet to violate the National Security Law, as well as whether actions are being taken by the Police; if so, the details; if not, the reasons;
2. the number and types of reports received through the National Security Department (NSD) Reporting Hotline launched in 2020 and the Counter-terrorism Reporting Hotline launched last June, as well as how the cases were handled; and
3. the details of implementing the 8 items for the Commissioner's Operational Priorities 2023, which include safeguarding national security, enhancing public safety and strengthening counter-terrorism efforts.

Asked by: Hon TAN Sunny (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. Since the implementation of the National Security Law, as at 3 March 2023, 243 persons (189 males and 54 females) aged between 15 and 90 were arrested by the Police on suspicion of engaging in acts and activities endangering national security. In these cases, over 140 persons and 5 companies were charged.

In a bid to prevent and detect crimes, the Police Force will conduct "online patrols", and will hold the persons or organisations involved in illegal activities liable for their criminal acts. In fact, law enforcement agencies have successfully taken enforcement

actions against a number of cases involving publication (including online publication) of seditious information and suspected of violating the NSL.

2. The National Security Department (NSD) of the Police Force launched the NSD Reporting Hotline on 5 November 2020. As at 24 February 2023, the Hotline has received more than 400 000 pieces of information in relation to national security. The NSD of the Police Force is a department established under Article 16 of the National Security Law for safeguarding national security; its duties form part of the work in safeguarding national security and do not fall under Head 122.

To encourage the public to report incidents of suspected terrorism and violence and to promote the “Spot and Report” campaign, the Force launched the “Counter-terrorism Reporting Hotline 63-666-999” in June 2022. The Hotline, managed by the Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit (ICTU) to enhance the synergy of intelligence across departments, has reporting options via SMS and WeChat. As of end-February 2023, the Hotline had received over 13 000 reporting messages, some of which had even led to the detection of certain cases.

Members of the public can also report to the Force via the ICTU’s website and email.

3. The Commissioner’s Operational Priorities 2023 set out the key operational areas which the Force will accord priority to during the year. They are a continuation of the priorities identified last year with refinements to reflect current operating environment and key challenges in the year ahead. Successful implementation of the priorities will strengthen the Force’s ability to sustain efforts for maintaining a safe and stable Hong Kong. The Commissioner’s Operational Priorities 2023 have been uploaded to the Police Public Page. For details, please visit the following website:
https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/01_about_us/cop.html

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB079

(Question Serial No. 1644)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2022, there has been a significant increase in the number of deceptions and frauds in Hong Kong. Regarding the Police's efforts to combat these rampant crimes, please advise this Committee of:

- 1) the manpower and expenditure involved in the previous year to combat deceptions and frauds;
- 2) whether additional officers will be deployed in the coming year to strengthen efforts to combat deceptions and frauds, as well as the manpower and expenditure to be involved;
- 3) the manpower and expenditure to be involved to step up anti-deception publicity in the coming year; and
- 4) how the overall public awareness of anti-deception will be raised in the coming year, as well as the details of the plan(s).

Asked by: Hon TAN Yueheng (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

- 1) - 3) Combating quick cash crime, enhancing cyber security and fighting technology crime are among Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2023. The Police Force has been taking proactive measures on all fronts to combat deception and technology crimes. The Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) of the Commercial Crime Bureau (CCB), the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) and the crime investigation units of various Police Regions and Districts are all dedicated to cracking down on scams and technology-related crimes. To further enhance the Force's capabilities in combating deception, the e-Crime Processing and Analysis Hub (e-Hub) was established in September 2022, with the aim of providing a one-stop platform for responding quickly to public reports and expediting the analysis and investigation of technology crimes

and scams, thereby allowing the Force to combat criminal activities more effectively.

In 2021-22, the ADCC had an establishment of 40, among which 26 were on permanent establishment and 14 were seconded from different Force formations. In 2022-23, the establishment of ADCC increased to 49, with the number of posts on permanent establishment increased by 6 to 32 and the rest taken up by 17 officers seconded from other Force formations. In 2023-24, the permanent establishment will be increased to 37. The Force will review the manpower and resources allocated to various formations and adjust the establishment from time to time.

The expenditures for the CCB, ADCC, CSTCB, e-Hub and crime investigation units of all Police Regions and Districts form part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. The Force does not maintain the breakdown of the expenditures involved.

- 4) The Force has been adopting a multi-agency approach by collaborating with other government departments, regulatory agencies and industry stakeholders to raise public awareness of the risks associated with the use of computer, Internet, social media and cyber security through large-scale thematic crime prevention activities, which in turn heighten their alertness to deception.

To address different types of deception and technology crimes, the Force organised a series of large-scale thematic publicity activities in 2022, including “Anti-Deception Month” in February, “Anti-Deception Season” and “Anti-Money Laundering Month” from May to August, “Emotional Disturbances Faced by Scam Victims” in October and “Anti-Scam Test Across the Territory” from November to December. The Force also launched a one-stop scam and pitfall search engine, “Scameter”, to help the public identify suspicious information such as platform account names or numbers, payment accounts, phone numbers, email addresses, URLs, etc. Meanwhile, the ADCC made an effort to reach out to more people by using new channels, such as broadcasting scam alerts in 17 government-owned tunnels and collaborating with cinemas to run anti-scam trailers prior to movie screenings.

In 2023, the Force will continue to co-ordinate resources, strengthen collaboration with relevant stakeholders and enhance publicity to raise public awareness of deception. Initiatives promoting anti-deception including the “All-round CyberDefender” campaign and the mobile application “Scameter+” have been kick-started. The Force is planning to organise another round of “Anti-Deception Month” and “Anti-Money Laundering Month”, and is also organising a speech competition and teacher training workshops on the theme of cyber security, as well as producing a simulation game on online scams to continue to raise public awareness of anti-deception on all fronts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB080

(Question Serial No. 1230)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Following the “Animal Watch Scheme” launched in October 2011, the Hong Kong Police Force will continue to implement the “Animal Watchers Programme” in 2023-24 to raise public awareness in the fight against cruelty to animals. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

(a) in tabular form, the numbers of complaints received, investigations concluded, patrols conducted, recommendations made, warnings issued and prosecutions instituted in relation to cruelty to animals for the past 5 years;

(b) the number of activities organised to disseminate messages on caring for animals and prevention of cruelty to animals to the community for the past 5 years and the number of participants in each of the activities; and

(c) whether the effectiveness of “Animal Watchers Programme” has been reviewed; if so, the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

(a) The numbers of cases on cruelty to animals reported to the Police Force, persons arrested, prosecutions instituted and persons convicted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance for the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of cases reported	105	60	70	88	54
Number of persons arrested	41	36	50	55	32
Number of prosecutions instituted	26	27	14	21	15 (as at third quarter)
Number of persons convicted	21	23	13	16	17 (as at third quarter)

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

- (b)-(c) In 2011, the Force launched the Animal Watch Scheme in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation, the Department of Food and Environmental Hygiene, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), veterinary associations and animal welfare groups to combat cruelty to animals in the 4 directions of education, 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 the City University of Hong Kong was also invited to take part in the scheme.

To enlist more proactive public support and assistance in combating acts of cruelty to animals, the Force implemented the Animal Watchers Programme (AWP) in 2021, with a view to agglomerating the strengths of animal lovers at the community level and on online social platforms in the 4 directions of education, publicity, intelligence-gathering and investigation; 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. Through organising territory-wide events involving different communities and age groups, AWP aims to strengthen the awareness and care of the general public on the issue of cruelty to animals and animal welfare, as well as to disseminate the message of prevention of cruelty to animals effectively to the public.

In 2021, AWP carried out large-scale events such as the "AWP Fight Poisoning Campaign" crime prevention promotion, "AWP Plank Challenge" video competition and "AWP Community Mobile Classroom" public educational programme. In 2022, AWP launched a series of educational and promotional activities under "AWP x 25A", including the "AWP Colours in 25A" colouring and drawing contest, "Animal Care Corner" promotion at schools and "BYOP (Bring Your Own Pet) Treasure Hunt". Between 2021 and 2022, over 73 000 people physically participated in AWP events, with approximately 6.2 million engagements recorded online (e.g. social media posts).

The Force will continue to raise public awareness of preventing cruelty to animals through AWP and adopt a multifaceted approach in evaluating its effectiveness by a variety of indicators, including the numbers of cases reported and persons

arrested as well as the level of overall public engagement. At present, most of the cases of cruelty to animals are reported to the Force by members of the public who voluntarily offer information for investigation. This shows that AWP has a significant impact on enhancing police-community co-operation and raising public awareness of combating cruelty to animals.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB081

(Question Serial No. 1244)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-yee)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

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

Question:

It is mentioned that one of the duties of the Police Force is to work closely with relevant agencies and government departments to identify technological solutions to address serious parking offences. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the respective numbers of fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) for illegal parking, both electronic and paper, issued by the Police Force in the 5 Police Regions in each of the past 3 years;
- (b) the number of enforcement actions against illegal road racing conducted and the number of FPTs issued by the Police Force in the 5 Police Regions in each of the past 3 years; and
- (c) regarding the trial scheme on the average speed camera system conducted by the Transport Department which was completed in 2019, the number of speeding cases successfully collected through this trial scheme and whether the scheme will be formally launched; if so, the proposed locations, construction costs and timetable for the installation of the system.

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

- (a) The figures on both electronic and handwritten 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					
	2020		2021		2022	
	Handwritten	Electronic	Handwritten	Electronic	Handwritten	Electronic
Hong Kong Island	294 009	305 209	191 500	497 092	81 520	542 480
Kowloon East	317 543	172 358	195 357	375 109	28 931	526 486
Kowloon West	347 326	284 267	216 708	646 284	76 906	934 178
New Territories South	368 824	144 007	184 200	400 506	52 787	518 108
New Territories North	311 372	162 954	147 737	447 667	47 929	554 146
Total	1 639 074	1 068 795	935 502	2 366 658	288 073	3 075 398

- (b) The enforcement figures on speeding handled by the Force in 2020, 2021 and 2022 are 245 994, 266 333 and 265 283 cases respectively. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the figures on prosecutions for illegal road racing.

The figures on enforcement actions taken by the Force against speeding by Police Region for the past 3 years are listed in the following table:

Police Region	Enforcement figures on speeding		
	2020	2021	2022
Hong Kong Island	29 102	24 563	29 380
Kowloon East	53 567	47 728	43 132
Kowloon West	31 647	49 005	70 508
New Territories South	50 512	50 114	47 211
New Territories North	81 166	94 923	75 052
Total	245 994	266 333	265 283

- (c) The Transport Department (TD) is conducting a trial scheme on the average speed camera system, and the Force is in discussion with TD on details such as system interfacing, technical improvement, workflow and resources. More information will be released in due course when the details are finalised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB082****(Question Serial No. 1251)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of CrimeControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

It is mentioned that the Police Force will, among others, strengthen its response in tackling deceptions and frauds through the e-Crime Processing and Analysis Hub and Anti-Deception Coordination Centre. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- (a) the expenditure of the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre as a percentage of the estimate for Programme (2): Prevention and Detection of Crime;
- (b) the number of deceptions and frauds reported and successfully detected as well as the amount of money intercepted in each of the past 5 years; and
- (c) whether the Police Force will allocate additional resources to crack down on crimes relating to telephone deceptions, corporate-level email scams and online romance scams, provided that the losses are still high and show signs of rising; if so, the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)Reply:

- (a) The expenditure of the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) form part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime". The Police Force does not maintain the breakdown of the expenditure involved.
- (b) The number of deception cases reported to the Force, the number of cases detected and the amount of crime proceeds intercepted in each of the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of deception cases	8 372	8 216	15 553	19 249	27 923
Number of cases detected	1 560	1 082	1 723	2 042	3 347
Amount of crime proceeds intercepted (HK\$ billion)	1.23	3.04	3.07	2.35	1.36

- (c) Combating quick cash crime, enhancing cyber security and fighting technology crime are among Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2023. The Force has been taking proactive measures on all fronts to combat deception and technology crimes.

The ADCC of the Commercial Crime Bureau, the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) and the crime investigation units of various Police Regions and Districts are all dedicated to cracking down on scams and technology crimes. The establishment of ADCC increased from 40 to 49 in 2022-23, with the number of posts on permanent establishment increased by 6 to 32 and the rest taken up by 17 officers seconded from other Force formations. In 2023-24, the permanent establishment will be increased to 37 to further implement the combating strategies and anti-scam publicity. To combat criminal activities more effectively, the e-Crime Processing and Analysis Hub was established in September 2022, with the aim of providing a one-stop platform for responding quickly to public reports and expediting the analysis and investigation of scams and technology crimes.

The Force will continue to adopt a multi-agency approach by keeping close liaison with other government departments, law enforcement bodies, regulatory agencies and industry stakeholders, in a bid to step up intelligence exchange and anti-deception publicity for combating and preventing deception on all fronts.

Through different platforms and media, the Force has conducted various anti-crime publicity and educational campaigns as well as large-scale thematic crime prevention activities to heighten public alertness to deception. These include delivering crime prevention messages through TV and Radio Announcements in the Public Interest, social media platforms, mass media, public housing estates, public hospitals and major shopping malls. Moreover, anti-scam advertisements have been put up across the city, including in tunnels, on public transport (e.g. MTR train compartments, trams, bus bodies) and on large outdoor advertising displays. In addition to organising activities, talks and seminars on crime prevention for employees of various trades and students of all levels of education (i.e. tertiary, secondary and primary), the Force has also distributed and displayed posters and promotional materials to widely disseminate anti-scam messages and raise public awareness against deception.

Furthermore, to address different types of deception and technology crimes, the Force organised a series of large-scale publicity activities in 2022, including "Anti-Deception Month" in February, "Anti-Deception Season" from May to August, "Emotional Disturbances Faced by Scam Victims" in October and "Anti-Scam Test Across the Territory" from November to December, in a bid to raise public awareness of emerging or prevalent scams. In January 2023, the CSTCB rolled out the "All-round CyberDefence", a cyber security campaign with a variety of activities, including hosting the "Cyber Defenders' Carnival" in the West Kowloon Cultural District and co-organising with the Education Bureau workshops with training kits for secondary and primary school teachers, so as to enhance the public's capability in identifying cyber pitfalls on various fronts. Meanwhile, the ADCC made an effort to reach out to more people by using new channels, such as broadcasting scam alerts in 17 government-owned tunnels and collaborating with cinemas to run anti-scam trailers prior to movie screenings.

The CSTCB also introduced the “Scameter” in 2022, which allowed users to identify suspicious information such as platform account names or numbers, payment accounts, phone numbers, email addresses, URLs, etc. Its mobile version, “Scameter+”, was later released in February 2023, facilitating the general public to spot deception and online traps.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB083

(Question Serial No. 1721)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (603) Plant, vehicles and equipment
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-yee)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The expenditure of the Police Force under the capital account for plant, vehicles and equipment for 2023-24 is estimated at \$808 million, much higher than the revised estimate of \$43 million for 2022-23. It is also higher than the original estimate of \$507 million for 2022-23. Please explain the reasons for the significant increase in the estimated expenditure for these items, the reasons why both the actual expenditure and the revised estimate for these items have been much lower than the original estimate in the past two years, and the reasons for the relatively high original estimate, given that both the actual expenditure and the revised estimate for these items have been much lower than the original estimate in the past two years.

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

In preparing the estimates of the capital account for plant, vehicles and equipment, the Police Force has taken into account the actual progress of the project items when assessing the annual cash flow requirements. For the past 2 years, the actual expenditure and revised estimates for the project items have been lower than the original estimates, mainly due to changes in the project progress as compared with the original. The original estimates for 2023-24 is higher than that for 2022-23, mainly due to an increased cash flow requirement for the procurement and replacement of plant, vehicles, and equipment for the Force.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB084****(Question Serial No. 1722)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In view of the current widespread of deceptive advertisements on the Internet impersonating government officials and political or business celebrities, will the Police formulate any specific plans and key performance indicators (KPIs) in 2023-24 to combat such crimes? If so, what are the details and expenditure to be involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) of the Police Force is committed to combating technology crimes. CSTCB conducts regular online patrols and will investigate suspected illegal activity on the Internet and, where appropriate, request Internet service providers and social media platforms to remove relevant content.

The Force has been adopting a multi-agency approach to heighten public alertness to different types of deception by collaborating with other government departments, regulatory agencies and industry stakeholders, and by organising large-scale thematic crime prevention activities. The Force has no plans to formulate KPIs for a specific type of deception.

The Force has been taking proactive measures to raise public alertness to deception through various channels, including delivering crime prevention messages through TV and Radio Announcements in the Public Interest, social media platforms, mass media, public housing estates, public hospitals and major shopping malls. Anti-scam advertisements have also been put up across the city, including in tunnels, on public transport (e.g. MTR train compartments, trams, bus bodies) and on large outdoor advertising displays. In addition to organising activities, talks and seminars on crime prevention for employees of various trades and students of all levels of education (i.e. tertiary, secondary and primary), the Force has also distributed and displayed posters and promotional materials to widely disseminate anti-scam messages and raise public awareness against deception.

Furthermore, to address different types of deception and technology crimes, the Force organised a series of large-scale publicity activities in 2022, including “Anti-Deception

Month” in February, “Anti-Deception Season” from May to August, “Emotional Disturbances Faced by Scam Victims” in October and “Anti-Scam Test Across the Territory” from November to December, in a bid to raise public awareness of emerging or prevalent scams. In January 2023, the CSTCB rolled out the “All-round CyberDefence”, a cyber security campaign with a variety of activities, including hosting the “Cyber Defenders’ Carnival” in the West Kowloon Cultural District, co-organising with the Education Bureau workshops with training kits for secondary and primary school teachers, etc., so as to enhance the public’s capability in identifying cyber pitfalls on various fronts. Meanwhile, the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre made an effort to reach out to more people by using new channels, such as broadcasting scam alerts in 17 government-owned tunnels and collaborating with cinemas to run anti-scam trailers prior to movie screenings.

The CSTCB also introduced the “Scameter” in 2022, which allowed users to identify suspicious information such as platform account names or numbers, payment accounts, phone numbers, email addresses, URLs, etc. Its mobile version, “Scameter+”, was later released in February 2023, facilitating the general public to spot deception and online traps.

The expenditure of the CSTCB forms part of the total expenditure under the Programme (2) “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. The Force does not maintain the breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- End -

SB085

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1723)

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 (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Recently, there have been rumours of alleged attempts to abduct young children in various districts of Hong Kong, causing concern among many parents. How many reports has the Police Force received in the past 3 years on alleged or suspected cases of stealing, abduction, imprisonment and kidnapping of children under 15? How many of these involving possible criminal elements were substantiated for investigation or prosecution, and what were the age, gender and nationality of the suspects being investigated or prosecuted? Have the Police taken any measures to dispel public doubts? If so, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

Between 2020 and February 2023, the Police Force received 1 case involving “kidnapping and child stealing” which occurred in 2021 and was solved. The Force does not have other information requested in the question.

The Force is very concerned about rumours of alleged child abduction attempts and will immediately follow up and investigate such allegations. To allay public concerns, the Force will step up patrols in the vicinity of the incidents and release details of the investigation as soon as possible. Members of the public should immediately report to the Force if they come across any suspicious persons or have any relevant information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB086****(Question Serial No. 1724)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
(2) Prevention and Detection of CrimeControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please advise this Committee of the total number of prosecutions for illegal begging instituted by the Police Force from 1 March 2020 to 1 March 2023 and, among them, the number of Hong Kong non-permanent residents prosecuted, as well as their nationalities and means of entry into Hong Kong.

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)Reply:

The numbers of arrests and prosecutions for illegal begging instituted by the Police Force from 2020 to 1 March 2023 are tabulated as follows:

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023 (As at 1 March)
No. of persons arrested (figures in brackets give the number of Mainlanders with two- way permits)	6 (2)	1 (0)	0 (0)	10 (8)
No. of persons prosecuted	6	0	0	10

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB087****(Question Serial No. 1725)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Police Force has been organising a series of anti-crime publicity programmes from 1 March 2020 to 1 March 2023 to address specific crime problems, including “Social Media Deception”, “E-shopping Fraud”, “Naked Chat Blackmail”, “Email Scam”, “Online Employment Fraud”, “Online Investment Fraud”, “Telephone Deception” (including Pretend Officials Telephone Deception), “Money Laundering”, “Youth Crime”, “Drug Abuse and Trafficking”, “Sexual Assault”, “Financial Intermediary Deception” and “Quickcash Crime”, etc. In this connection, please provide specific information on the publicity work and expenditure involved. Please also indicate whether the effectiveness of the publicity work has been assessed and reviewed, and whether key performance indicators (KPIs) have been set to assess the effectiveness of future publicity work; if so, the findings of the assessments and reviews, as well as the specific KPIs; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

The Police Force has been adopting a multi-agency approach by collaborating with other government departments, regulatory agencies and industry stakeholders. Through different platforms and media, the Force has conducted various anti-crime publicity and educational campaigns and large-scale thematic crime prevention activities to raise public awareness against various crimes including deception, technology crime, money laundering and youth crime.

The Force has disseminated crime prevention information through TV and Radio Announcements in the Public Interest, social media platforms, mass media, public housing estates, public hospitals and major shopping malls. Moreover, anti-scam advertisements have been put up in tunnels, on public transport (e.g. MTR train compartments, trams, bus bodies) and on large outdoor advertising displays. In addition to organising activities, talks and seminars on crime prevention for employees of various trades and students of all levels of education (i.e. tertiary, secondary and primary), the Force has also distributed and displayed posters and promotional materials to raise public awareness against deception.

Other initiatives include broadcasting scam alerts in 17 government-owned tunnels and collaborating with cinemas to run anti-scam trailers prior to movie screenings.

To address different types of crimes, the Force organised a series of large-scale anti-crime publicity activities in 2022, including

- “Anti-Deception Month” and “Anti-Deception Season”;
- “Emotional Disturbances Faced by Scam Victims”, which provided analysis of scammers’ tactics from psychological perspectives;
- “Anti-Money Laundering Month”, which reminded the public not to rent, lend or sell their bank accounts to others for any purposes;
- “Anti-Scam Test Across the Territory”, which attract the public’s attention to defrauding tricks by displaying bogus deceptive advertisements;
- “Scameter”, a scam and pitfall search engine, and its mobile version “Scameter+”, which facilitate the public instantly identify suspicious phone numbers, email addresses, payment accounts, etc. so as to assess the risk of fraud;
- “Anti-Drugs Campaign 2022”, a large-scale anti-drug campaign;
- Second cohort of “Leadership Institute on Narcotics”, which disseminated anti-drug messages to youngsters, with the aim of positively influencing the students and their peers through the participants; and
- “Let’s T.A.L.K.”, the large-scale educational and publicity campaign which arouse awareness on child protection among the industry stakeholders and the public.

As part of its ongoing efforts to raise public awareness of preventing and fighting crime, the Force will continue to step up publicity and take forward more crime prevention initiatives, including the “All-Round CyberDefence”, a cyber security campaign, as well as co-organising with the Education Bureau workshops with training kits for secondary and primary school teachers. The expenditures involved for the above initiatives form part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. The Force does not maintain the breakdown of the expenditures involved.

The Force has no plans to formulate KPIs for a specific type of crime and will, as we have always done, continue to put forward initiatives on crime prevention and detection.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB088

(Question Serial No. 2694)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-yee)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

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

Question:

Regarding the crackdown on illegal parking, please inform this Committee of:

1. the respective numbers of traditional handwritten and electronic fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) issued against illegal parking last year, and the expected timeline for the full implementation of e-Ticketing;
2. the respective numbers of FPTs issued in the past 3 years that were settled before deadlines, overdue with fines being imposed and still unpaid; and
3. the details and estimated expenditure for the Police Force to work closely with relevant agencies and government departments to identify technological solutions to address serious parking offences.

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

1. Since March 2020, the Police Force has launched in phases the e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme in all police districts across the territory. Frontline enforcement officers have since been able to access or input data on illegally parked vehicles via their mobile devices and instantly print out fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) in order to reduce human errors in issuing handwritten FPTs, thereby enhancing the overall enforcement accuracy. In 2022, the Force issued a total of 3 363 471 FPTs for illegal parking, in which the numbers of handwritten and electronic FPTs were 288 073 (8.6%) and 3 075 398 (91.4%) respectively.

Subject to the existing legal framework, the Force is required to issue handwritten tickets/notices demanding payment of fixed penalty for traffic contraventions under Cap. 237 and Cap. 240. Meanwhile, the Transport and Logistics Bureau is planning to introduce a bill into the Legislative Council (LegCo) in 2023 to facilitate the issuance of electronic FPTs.

The implementation timetable for e-Ticketing has yet to be confirmed. To allow flexibility in enforcement, it is recommended that the option of issuing FPTs in paper form be retained after the legislative amendment.

2. For the past 3 years, the Force issued 2 707 869 FPTs for illegal parking under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) in 2020, 3 302 160 in 2021, and 3 363 471 in 2022. The Force does not maintain the other figures requested in the question.
3. In addition to the e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme mentioned in paragraph (1) above, the Force is currently developing a new Traffic e-Enforcement System to facilitate the electronic processing of FPTs and summons applications for traffic offences. The system will also process all information and data relating to traffic enforcement, which will be conducive to enhancing the Force's efficiency in traffic management. The Force will also develop a public-oriented website dedicated to electronic traffic enforcement, through which members of the public can view their electronic FPTs and handle related matters online.

In June 2021, a funding of \$352 million was secured from the Finance Committee of the LegCo for the development of the system. The system is currently under preparation and the first phase of the implementation is expected to be launched within 2023.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB089

(Question Serial No. 0329)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-yee)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. In face of increasingly complicated security situation in Hong Kong, will the Department make enhancements to staff training, equipment, etc.? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
2. Will the Department strengthen its collaboration with the Mainland counterparts in terms of training and equipment, such as sending officers to the Mainland for training and procuring more security equipment from the Mainland? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1. In view of the ever-evolving public order situation in Hong Kong, the Police Force has kept pace with the times by upgrading its training and equipment to ensure that frontline officers are confident and competent in dealing with a wide range of situations.

The Force provides training to both new recruits and serving officers through various means including face-to-face courses, training modules, e-learning platforms, and using technologies such as virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR) and 360-degree panoramic projection, to ensure that police officers perform their duties effectively and use firearms and force appropriately. In light of the surge in technology crimes and deception in recent years, the Force has enhanced the training on criminal investigation to address such crimes. In addition, driving simulators have been introduced to improve officers' skills in operating police vehicles and vessels so that they can more effectively conduct land and maritime enforcement operations and maintain public safety. The Force has also strengthened training on counter-terrorism and national security, and relevant topics have been included in the examinations for police officers.

To enhance police officers' enforcement capabilities in handling major public order events and maintaining public order, all new recruits and promotees of all ranks are

required to undergo relevant training and scenario-based practical courses at the Police College. Legal knowledge, handling of general public order events, media relations, and public safety management are among the topics covered in the trainings. Officers deployed to the Police Tactical Unit are also required to receive specialised training in the handling of major public order events and maintaining public order.

Furthermore, the Force has regularly conducted drills of varying scales and themes to assess the readiness of frontline officers and the interface of the units within and outside the Force.

The Force has from time to time reviewed its equipment to ensure that it copes with the actual operational needs of the officers. The Force always keeps watch on the equipment of various kinds available from the Mainland and elsewhere in the world and will procure suitable equipment in accordance with the operational needs and the government's established procurement procedures. Information on the procurement of equipment is part of the Force's operational deployment details. It is thus inappropriate to disclose such information.

2. To better safeguard law and order, the Force has established and maintained strategic partnerships with Mainland law enforcement agencies, as well as proactively arranging for officers to participate in trainings and exchange programs on the Mainland. With the full resumption of normal travel between the Mainland and Hong Kong, the Force is preparing to resume training programmes and exploring new training opportunities to enhance officers' knowledge of the history and current development of China, furthering their understanding of policing in the Mainland, and thus raising the professional competence of police officers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB090****(Question Serial No. 2928)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of CrimeControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

In relation to crime detection, please advise this Committee of:

- 1) the number of reported vehicle thefts in the past 2 years (i.e. 2021 and 2022), with a breakdown by the location where the vehicle was parked before being stolen and the type of vehicles and, among them, the number of stolen vehicles recovered;
- 2) whether the Police have looked into the reasons for the rise in taxi theft in recent years, as claimed by members of the taxi trade; if so, the details; and
- 3) the measures taken by the Police to combat vehicle theft and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)Reply:

1. The number of vehicles stolen and recovered in Hong Kong and their respective types in 2021 and 2022 are as follows:

	No. of stolen vehicles		No. of recovered vehicles	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
Total	535	769	367	529
Private car	213	326	143	227
Motorcycle	217	290	136	175
Light goods vehicle	45	64	35	47
Taxi	32	62	29	55
Medium goods vehicle	16	15	13	13
Others (including heavy goods vehicle and public light bus)	12	12	11	12

The parking locations of vehicles before theft in 2021 and 2022 are as follows:

	2021	2022
Total	535	769
On the streets (including parking meters)	447	634
Car parks	40	64
Others	48	71

2. In 2022, 62 taxis were reported stolen, an increase of 93.8% as compared to 32 in 2021. Nearly 90% of the taxis were stolen on the streets between dusk and dawn. Some drivers were negligent in keeping their keys properly during changeover, leaving them vulnerable to vehicle theft and theft from vehicle.
3. The Force will continue to closely monitor crime trends, step up patrols as appropriate and take intelligence-led enforcement actions to tackle vehicle theft. The Force will also promote anti-theft awareness among vehicle owners through publicity and education, and liaise with the relevant industry stakeholders, including car park operators and freight forwarding and logistics organisations, to provide them with security advice to enhance the security measures of their premises. Timely crime-prevention announcements will also be broadcast to taxi drivers through taxi consoles to raise awareness among taxi drivers on vehicle theft prevention.

The Force's expenditure and estimated expenditure on combating vehicle theft fall under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime", no specific breakdown is available. The Force will review the manpower and resources allocated to various formations from time to time and, if necessary, adjust the establishment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB091

(Question Serial No. 2929)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-yee)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

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

Question:

In relation to road safety, please provide a breakdown on the number of Fixed Penalty Tickets (FPTs) issued for illegal parking in the past two years (i.e. 2021 and 2022) by Police Region. In addition to law enforcement, please also provide details of the Police's work plans in 2023 for ensuring road safety by reducing road obstruction, as well as the expenditure to be involved.

Please also advise whether, in light of the introduction of electronic FPTs, the "type of vehicle" will be included in the tickets, and whether the data on the FPTs will be shared with the Transport Department for reference in planning parking spaces for different types of vehicles, thereby improving the problem of illegal parking due to lack of parking spaces; if so, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

The numbers of Fixed Penalty Tickets (FPTs) issued by the Police Force under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) by Police Region in the past 2 years are listed in the following table:

Police Region	Number of FPTs for illegal parking issued	
	2021	2022
Hong Kong Island	688 592	624 000
Kowloon East	570 466	555 417
Kowloon West	862 992	1 011 084
New Territories South	584 706	570 895
New Territories North	595 404	602 075
Total	3 302 160	3 363 471

Road safety is one of the 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 Force is also committed to adopting technological solutions for traffic enforcement. It will also continue to maintain liaison with law enforcement agencies worldwide and make reference to their experience to explore the use of new technologies in enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement against illegal parking and road traffic obstruction.

The expenditure involved falls under the Programme of "Road Safety", and no specific breakdown is available.

"Vehicle type" is an item on the FPTs for illegal parking and hence data on the type of vehicle to which an FPT has been issued is readily available to the Force. The Force has been regularly sharing information with the relevant departments for their reference.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2891)

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:

Under the programme, the estimated provision for 2023-24 is \$70.8 million higher than the revised estimate for 2022-23. Such increase in the expenditure is partly offset by a net decrease of 114 posts. Please provide the following lists:

1. the additional posts to be created and the total expenditure to be involved; and
2. the posts to be deleted and the savings achieved in the total expenditure.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

In 2023-24, 25 time-limited posts will be created under Programme (4) "Personal Documentation" by the Immigration Department mainly for assisting in the implementation of the 2023 Consumption Voucher Scheme. For the 139 posts to be deleted in 2023-24 under Programme (4), they are mainly time-limited posts created for 2022-23 for, among others, implementing the Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise and assisting in the implementation of the 2022 Consumption Voucher Scheme.

The total annual salary costs involved in the creation of additional posts and post deletion under Programme (4) "Personal Documentation" are about \$28 million and \$97 million respectively in terms of the notional annual mid-point salary. However, in order to cope with the salary increments for staff, filling of vacancies and operating expenses (including the expenses to be involved in the preparation for new services that will be provided at the new Headquarters under Programme (4)), the estimated provision for 2023-24 under Programme (4), offset by the savings achieved in the expenditure from post deletion, is \$70.8 million higher than the revised estimate for 2022-23.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB093****(Question Serial No. 2892)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (4) Personal DocumentationControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

The Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise (Replacement Exercise) was launched in December 2018, with the setting up of 9 Smart Identity Card Replacement Centres (SIDCCs). As mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 under the Programme, the Replacement Exercise will end in March this year. Please advise of the manpower arrangements for the SIDCCs, the final account of the breakdown of expenditures and the difference between the actual and original estimates.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)Reply:

The Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise (Replacement Exercise) was launched on 27 December 2018 and ended on 3 March 2023. To perform the work relating to the Replacement Exercise, the Immigration Department (ImmD) created a total of 1 028 posts (including 356 time-limited civil service posts and 672 contract staff). The total expenditures involved in the Replacement Exercise, including remuneration, rents, operating expenses and publicity costs, are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Total expenditure (\$ million)
2018-19	224
2019-20	442
2020-21	461
2021-22	438
2022-23	496 (revised estimate)

The Replacement Exercise was originally scheduled for completion in October 2022. In view of the pandemic, the services of the 9 Smart Identity Card Replacement Centres were suspended on several occasions in the past few years. Therefore, the ImmD extended the Replacement Exercise to early 2023 and the On-site Identity Card Replacement Service to end-February 2024. The expenditure involved is \$121 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB094

(Question Serial No. 0461)

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) Please provide information on the Pilot Scheme on Immigration Facilitation for Visitors Participating in Short-term Activities in Designated Sectors, including the numbers of applicants and of those whose applications were approved, the professional qualifications possessed by the visitors, the types of activities participated and the duration of stay in Hong Kong.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The Government launched the Pilot Scheme on Immigration Facilitation for Visitors Participating in Short-term Activities in Designated Sectors (Pilot Scheme) on 1 June 2022 to provide immigration facilitation for visitors participating in short-term activities in designated sectors. Organisations authorised by the relevant government bureaux or departments can issue invitation letters to relevant non-local talents in their sectors. Invited persons may come to Hong Kong to participate in specified short-term activities as visitors without the need to apply for employment visas or entry permits from the Immigration Department (ImmD). On 1 February 2023, the Government expanded the Pilot Scheme to cover 2 new sectors, namely "Finance" and "Development and Construction", and include more authorised organisations and specified short-term activities. At present, the Pilot Scheme covers 12 sectors, viz., Medical and Healthcare, Higher Education, Arts and Culture, Sports, Heritage, Creative Industries, Innovation and Technology, the Hong Kong Laureate Forum, Aviation, International/Mega Events, Finance, and Development and Construction, with a total of some 400 authorised organisations.

Invited non-local talents are talents in shortage or whose participation in specified short-term activities in Hong Kong is conducive to economic development or achieving relevant policy objectives. They may participate in the designated short-term activities for a period of up to 14 days upon each arrival, and receive remuneration for the specified activities concerned.

As of December 2022, the Pilot Scheme had benefited 895 non-local talents, facilitating their coming to Hong Kong as visitors to participate in various short-term events and activities,

such as the Hong Kong Sevens and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra performance. The statistics of the beneficiaries by sector are tabulated below:

Sector	Number of non-local talents who came to Hong Kong to participate in specified short-term activities (As at December 2022)
Medical and Healthcare	7
Higher Education	40
Arts and Culture	124
Sports	689
Heritage	16
Creative Industries	0
Innovation and Technology	10
Hong Kong Laureate Forum ¹	0
Aviation	0
International/Mega Events	9
Finance [^]	Not applicable
Development and Construction [^]	Not applicable
Total	895

Note: The statistics are compiled on a quarterly basis, thus the statistics for the first quarter of 2023 is not yet available.

[^] New sectors after the expansion of the Pilot Scheme on 1 February 2023.

The non-local talents enjoying the Pilot Scheme participated in the relevant short-term activities in Hong Kong for about five days on average. The ImmD does not maintain a breakdown of other statistics mentioned in the question.

- End -

¹ The inaugural Hong Kong Laureate Forum will be held from 13 to 18 November 2023.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB095****(Question Serial No. 0462)**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) Please provide the numbers of applications for change of particulars from entrants admitted to Hong Kong through various talent admission schemes during their stay in Hong Kong in the past 5 years:

- the number of applications for Hong Kong permanent resident status from entrants of respective schemes and their dependants in each year;
- the number of applications for change in marital status by entrants of respective schemes in each year;
- the number of applications for entry of dependants into Hong Kong or addition of dependants from entrants of respective schemes in each year.

Please provide the above figures by talent admission scheme.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

The statistics on entrants admitted to Hong Kong under various talent admission schemes who eventually acquired the right of abode in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Talent admission scheme	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
General Employment Policy (GEP)	5 366	5 377	4 375	4 327	4 125
Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMTF)	1 075	1 161	790	928	1 126

Talent admission scheme	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG)	2 455	3 223	3 117	3 449	3 495
Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS)	148	157	110	139	146
Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents (ASSG)*	0	0	0	0	12
Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS) @	0	0	0	0	0
Top Talent Pass Scheme (TTPS) #	Not applicable				0

Note: The breakdown is maintained in accordance with applicants' status in Hong Kong at the time of application for the right of abode.

* The ASSG was launched on 4 May 2015.

@ The TechTAS was launched on 25 June 2018.

The TTPS was launched on 28 December 2022.

The statistics on dependant visas/entry permits approved under various talent admission schemes in the past 5 years are as follows:

Talent admission scheme	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
GEP	9 488	9 231	6 837	6 548	6 264
ASMP	3 110	3 325	1 889	3 116	4 051
IANG	1 123	1 143	965	1 207	1 851
QMAS	759	964	372	2 449	6 352

Talent admission scheme	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
ASSG	21	13	5	5	9
TechTAS @	17	32	65	48	89
TTPS #	Not applicable				142

@ The TechTAS was launched on 25 June 2018.

The TTPS was launched on 28 December 2022.

The Immigration Department does not maintain a breakdown of other statistics mentioned in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB096****(Question Serial No. 2340)**

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:

According to the paper (CB(2)968/2022(02)) submitted by the Government to the Legislative Council Panel on Security in December 2022, a new policy on the handling of non-refoulement claims had been implemented with effect from 7 December 2022 to expedite the removal of unsubstantiated claimants. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The Immigration Department (ImmD) anticipates that about 5 280 persons will be repatriated in 2023, representing an increase of more than 60% as compared with 3 245 persons in 2022, but the number of deportation/removal orders expected to be issued will only increase by about 12% from 2 131 to 2 395. What are the reasons?
2. It is anticipated that the number of non-refoulement claim cases to be made will increase from 1 238 in 2022 to about 1 800. How is this figure projected? Given that the Government has already introduced the policy to enhance the handling of non-refoulement claims, apart from the alleviation of the pandemic and the resumption of normal cross-boundary travel, are there any other motives expected of the immigrants for staying in Hong Kong illegally by making non-refoulement claims?
3. What are the respective numbers of claimants estimated to be stranded in Hong Kong by the end of 2023 because the claimants are (a) involved in outstanding cases; (b) being retained in the Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre (CIC) or serving sentences in correctional institutions; and (c) awaiting repatriation?
4. Regarding the immigration officers who are responsible for the management of the claimants detained in the CIC, (a) what are the respective numbers of staff members by rank in the establishment; (b) what are the respective numbers of staff members by rank in the strength; and (c) what are the estimated operational expenses for 2023-24, of which (i) how much are the salary costs and (ii) how much are the expenses of detention?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, JoePHY (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

(1)-(2)

The Immigration Department (ImmD) anticipates that the overall number of persons to be repatriated in 2023 will gradually resume to the level before the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic. The main reasons are as follows:

- (I) Given the gradual resumption of international flights and phasing out of the epidemic control measures by various countries following the resumption of normalcy from COVID-19 epidemic around the world, the number of visitors to Hong Kong will increase, and it is expected that the number of cases of repatriation of persons in contravention of the Immigration Ordinance will gradually resume to the level before the epidemic.
- (II) The Government has implemented the updated removal policy from 7 December 2022 onwards to expedite the repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong. Under the updated removal policy, the ImmD may, under normal circumstances, proceed with the removal operations of the unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong upon dismissal of their judicial review cases by the Court of First Instance of the High Court, notwithstanding their outstanding court proceedings. Therefore, it is expected that there will be a rise in the number of unsubstantiated claimants to be repatriated from Hong Kong.

Besides, under the Immigration Ordinance, despite the making of a claim by a claimant, it does not preclude the making of a removal order or a deportation order against the claimant. Therefore, the ImmD has made relevant orders against some of the claimants whose screening has yet to be completed. As the cases in which removal operations are expected to be carried out in 2023 already include cases in which a removal order or a deportation order was issued earlier but the removal has been suspended due to the epidemic or in accordance with the practice before the updated removal policy, and some cases of voluntary repatriation from Hong Kong do not require the making of a removal order against them, the estimated number of persons to be repatriated as mentioned in Question (1) will therefore be higher than the estimated number of deportation orders or removal orders to be issued.

In anticipation of a rise in the number of visitors to Hong Kong, the ImmD estimates that the number of new claims to be made in 2023 will also be higher than that of 2022. Such estimation is made on the basis of the monthly average of about 125 claims in 2022 (excluding individual months which were more susceptible to the epidemic). It is expected that the number of new claims to be made in 2023 will increase to 1 800 (i.e. with the monthly average of about 150 claims). The ImmD will continue to closely monitor the situation of the making of new claims, maintain high efficiency in the screening procedures and handle all new claims received instantly, while expediting the repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong.

(3) As the number of claimants varies from time to time depending on changes in the circumstances of individual cases, and the number of new claims received and the work of repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong are also affected by various factors, the ImmD is unable to project the number of claimants remaining in Hong Kong by the end of 2023. The ImmD will continue to implement various measures to enhance the handling of non-refoulement claims and expedite the repatriation of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong.

(4) The establishment and strength of staff responsible for the management of the claimants detained in the Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre (CIC) by rank as at 1 March 2023 are tabulated as follows:

Rank	Establishment	Strength^{Note}
Assistant Principal Immigration Officer	1	1
Chief Immigration Officer	1	1
Senior Immigration Officer	6	6
Immigration Officer	12	13
Chief Immigration Assistant	15	15
Senior Immigration Assistant	50	69
Immigration Assistant	119	110
Clerical Officer	1	1
Assistant Clerical Officer	3	2
Supplies Supervisor II	1	1
Total	209	219

Note: The strength figure was higher than that of the establishment due to the flexible deployment of internal manpower by the ImmD for meeting operational needs in response to actual operational circumstances.

In 2023-24, the estimated operational expenses of the CIC are about \$126 million. The salary costs are about \$92 million in terms of the notional annual mid-point salary, and the expenses of detention are about \$34 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB097****(Question Serial No. 2341)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Pre-entry ControlControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Under the Pilot Scheme on Immigration Facilitation for Visitors Participating in Short-term Activities in Designated Sectors implemented on 1 June 2022, eligible visitors may come to Hong Kong to participate in specified short-term activities for a period of up to 14 consecutive days without the need to apply for employment visas/entry permits. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the total numbers of (a) applications received and (b) applications approved by the Immigration Department (ImmD) since the implementation of the Pilot Scheme (by sector and place of origin of the applicants in the table below):

Place of origin of the applicants/ Sector	Mainland	Macao	Taiwan	Japan, Korea	ASEAN	South Asia	European Union	United States	Others	Total
Medical and healthcare	b/a	b/a	...							b/a
Higher education	b/a
Arts and cultural	...									
Sports										
Heritage										
Creative industries										
Innovation and technology										
Hong Kong Laureate Forum										
Aviation										
International/mega events										
Finance										
Development and construction										
Total	b/a	...								b/a

2. (a) the manpower to be reserved by the ImmD for processing applications under the Pilot Scheme and (b) the expenditure on remuneration to be involved in 2023-24;
3. whether there are cases of breach of condition of stay in respect of the visitors admitted to Hong Kong under the Scheme since its implementation; if yes, of (a) the number of cases and (b) the maximum penalty imposed by courts;
4. the measures taken/to be taken by the ImmD to prevent the visitors admitted to Hong Kong under the Scheme from taking unlawful employment.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, JoePHY (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

1. The Government launched the Pilot Scheme on Immigration Facilitation for Visitors Participating in Short-term Activities in Designated Sectors (Pilot Scheme) on 1 June 2022 to provide immigration facilitation for visitors participating in short-term activities in designated sectors. Organisations authorised by the relevant government bureaux or departments can issue invitation letters to relevant non-local talents in their sectors. Invited persons may come to Hong Kong to participate in specified short-term activities as visitors without the need to apply for employment visas or entry permits from the Immigration Department (ImmD). On 1 February 2023, the Government expanded the Pilot Scheme to cover 2 new sectors, namely “Finance” and “Development and Construction”, and include more authorised organisations and specified short-term activities. At present, the Pilot Scheme covers 12 sectors, viz., Medical and Healthcare, Higher Education, Arts and Culture, Sports, Heritage, Creative Industries, Innovation and Technology, the Hong Kong Laureate Forum, Aviation, International/Mega Events, Finance, and Development and Construction, with a total of some 400 authorised organisations.

Invited non-local talents are talents in shortage or whose participation in specified short-term activities in Hong Kong is conducive to economic development or achieving relevant policy objectives. They may participate in the designated short-term activities for a period of up to 14 days upon each arrival, and receive remuneration for the specified activities concerned.

As of December 2022, the Pilot Scheme had benefited 895 non-local talents, facilitating their coming to Hong Kong as visitors to participate in various short-term events and activities, such as the Hong Kong Sevens and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra performance. The statistics of the beneficiaries by nationality/region and sector are tabulated below:

Sector	Nationality/region (As at December 2022)											
	United Kingdom	Austria	U.S.A.	Mainland China	Japan	New Zealand	Australia	Egypt	Myanmar	France	Others	Total
Medical and Healthcare	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	7
Higher Education	4	0	6	12	0	0	2	0	0	2	14	40

Sector	Nationality/region (As at December 2022)											
	United Kingdom	Austria	U.S.A.	Mainland China	Japan	New Zealand	Australia	Egypt	Myanmar	France	Others	Total
Arts and Culture	0	72	5	0	12	1	1	0	0	1	32	124
Sports	128	2	36	23	26	34	30	33	30	26	321	689
Heritage	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	16
Creative Industries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Innovation and Technology	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	10
Hong Kong Laureate Forum ²	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aviation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
International/Mega Events	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9
Finance [^]	Not applicable											
Development and Construction [^]	Not applicable											
Total	134	74	52	50	39	35	33	33	30	29	386	895

Note: The statistics by nationality/region and sector are compiled on a quarterly basis, thus the statistics for the first quarter of 2023 is not yet available.

[^] New sectors after the expansion of the Pilot Scheme on 1 February 2023.

2. Under the Pilot Scheme, the invited persons may come to Hong Kong to participate in specified short-term activities as visitors. The ImmD will handle the work relating to the Pilot Scheme through the flexible deployment of its existing manpower and resources.

3. As of February 2023, no case of breach of condition of stay in respect of the visitors to Hong Kong upon invitation under the Pilot Scheme has come to the ImmD's attention.

4. To prevent abuse of the Pilot Scheme, the ImmD has issued guidelines to the relevant bureaux/departments and authorised host organisations. The relevant bureaux/departments must ensure that host organisations invite eligible persons to Hong Kong to participate in specified short-term activities in accordance with the requirements of the Pilot Scheme. Host organisations are responsible for ensuring that the persons invited to Hong Kong comply with the requirements of the Pilot Scheme when participating in specified short-term activities.

² The inaugural Hong Kong Laureate Forum will be held from 13 to 18 November 2023.

The relevant bureaux/departments shall appoint a directorate officer to oversee the utilisation of the Pilot Scheme by their sector(s). To monitor the operation of the Pilot Scheme, host organisations shall report the implementation to the directorate officers of the relevant bureaux/departments under the existing monitoring mechanism, while the relevant bureaux/departments will submit to the ImmD regularly forecasts of the specified short-term activities and quarterly reports, including the particulars of the invited persons and the types of activities concerned.

The ImmD will also conduct random checks on the short-term activities concerned. Should there be any situation involving an immigration offence, the ImmD will handle the case in accordance with the law. If any case of abuse of the Pilot Scheme/violation of the requirements is found, the Security Bureau and the ImmD will consider suspending the host organisation concerned from the Pilot Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB098****(Question Serial No. 1914)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Pre-entry ControlControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below also concerns the policy purview of the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB). The reply was prepared by the Immigration Department and vetted by the LWB.]

Question:

1. What were the respective numbers of successful and unsuccessful applicants under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme, the Technology Talent Admission Scheme and the Global STEM Professorship Scheme in the past 3 years? Among the applicants, how many of them had criminal convictions?
2. Please provide the profile of professionals admitted to Hong Kong under the above schemes in the past 3 years by age and academic qualification.
3. What is the number of applications approved for each profession since the introduction of the Talent List of Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon CHEN Chung-nin, Rock (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)Reply:

1.

The statistics on applications for entry into Hong Kong through the talent admission schemes mentioned in the question in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Talent admission scheme	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23 (As at February 2023)	
	No. of applications approved	No. of applications rejected	No. of applications approved	No. of applications rejected	No. of applications approved	No. of applications rejected
Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS) (Note 1)	2 173	3 307	1 980	3 956	3 556	2 994

Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS) (Note 2)	122	0	53	0	69	0
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Note 1: Figures denote the numbers of applications that passed the selection by the Advisory Committee on Admission of Quality Migrants and Professionals. The annual quota under the QMAS increased from 1 000 to 2 000 in 2020, and further increased to 4 000 in 2021. The Government suspended the annual quota under the QMAS for a period of 2 years with effect from 1 January 2023.

Note 2: In 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 (as at end February 2023), the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) allotted 220, 60 and 105 quotas respectively (The ITC introduced the enhancement measures on 28 December 2022 to extend the quota validity period from 1 year to 2 years). The tabulated figures denote the numbers of applications made to the Immigration Department (ImmD) by companies allotted with quotas for employment visa/entry permit for eligible persons in the relevant years.

According to the information of the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau, the assessment panel of the Global STEM Professorship Scheme had reviewed more than 250 nominations submitted by universities in the first 4 rounds of nomination, of which over 80 scholars were selected. It is expected that the assessment panel would consider more than 40 nominations of the fifth round of nomination within the second quarter of this year.

The ImmD does not maintain a breakdown of other statistics mentioned in the question.

2.

A breakdown of statistics on applicants by the highest academic qualification and age in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

QMAS

Academic Qualification	2020-21[^]	2021-22[^]	2022-23[^] (As at February 2023)
Doctorate/2 or more Master's Degrees	702	617	1 002
Master's Degree/2 or more Bachelor's Degrees	1 187	1 110	2 085
Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent	250	230	453
Other Academic Qualifications	34	23	16
Total	2 173	1 980	3 556

Note : [^] Figures denote the numbers of applications that passed the selection by the Advisory Committee on Admission of Quality Migrants and Professionals.

Age	2020-21[^]	2021-22[^]	2022-23[^] (As at February 2023)
18 - 44	1 917	1 762	3 165
45 or above	256	218	391
Total	2 173	1 980	3 556

Note : [^] Figures denote the numbers of applications that passed the selection by the Advisory Committee on Admission of Quality Migrants and Professionals.

TechTAS

Academic Qualification	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (As at February 2023)
Doctorate	33	22	28
Master's Degree	28	19	20
Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent	61	12	21
Other Academic Qualifications	0	0	0
Total	122	53	69

As for the Global STEM Professorship Scheme, all scholars who were awarded professorships in the first 4 rounds possessed a doctorate degree, of which more than 10 scholars were aged between 30 and 44, while the rest were aged 45 or above.

3.

The applicants under the QMAS who are assessed to be meeting the professional specifications of the Talent List of Hong Kong will be awarded bonus points under the “General Points Test” of the QMAS. During the period from the promulgation of the first Talent List of Hong Kong by the Government in August 2018 to February 2023, a total of 251 applicants under the QMAS have met the criteria under the Talent List and been approved. A breakdown of statistics by profession in the Talent List is as follows:

Profession	Numbers of applications approved[@]
Professionals in Compliance in Asset Management*	2
Financial Professionals in Environmental, Social and Governance*	4
Waste Treatment Specialists	2
Asset Management Professionals	37
Marine Insurance Professionals	7

Profession	Numbers of applications approved [@]
Actuaries	7
Fintech Professionals	51
Data Scientists and Cyber Security Specialists	49
Innovation and Technology Experts	50
Naval Architects	5
Marine Engineers and Superintendents of Ships	6
Creative Industries and Performing Arts Professionals	27
Dispute Resolution Professionals and Transactional Lawyers	4
Total	251

* The professions were incorporated into the Talent List subsequent to the review in October 2021.

@ Figures denote the numbers of applications that passed the selection by the Advisory Committee on Admission of Quality Migrants and Professionals.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB099****(Question Serial No. 0871)**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:

The Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit (AHU) under the Immigration Department (ImmD) is tasked with duties including rendering assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong and their family members. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the number of requests for assistance received by the ImmD in each of the past 5 years by nature of the cases;
2. the number of requests for assistance received by the ImmD in each of the past 5 years by region of the assistance seekers;
3. the specific assistance rendered to Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong in the past 5 years, and the specific figures on such assistance rendered by content of the requests for assistance; and
4. the staff establishment and estimated expenditure of the AHU in 2023-24?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)Reply:

In the past 5 years, the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit (AHU) of the Immigration Department (ImmD) received a total of 30 397 requests for assistance, involving 30 397 persons. A breakdown of the numbers of requests for assistance by nature of the cases and by region where residents outside Hong Kong sought assistance is tabulated as follows:

Nature of the case	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Loss of Travel Document	2 413	2 846	603	148	639
Traffic Accident	22	11	2	1	7
Hospitalisation, Illness and Death	679	648	472	410	344
Others (such as missing, being detained, etc.)	478	463	17 434*	2 088^	689@
Total	3 592	3 968	18 511	2 647	1 679

* 17 110 requests for assistance were related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

^ 1 742 requests for assistance were related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

@ 325 requests for assistance were related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Region where residents outside Hong Kong sought assistance	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Mainland China	563	634	4 720	456	452
United Kingdom	363	511	409	1 120	266
Thailand	227	195	60	32	112
Japan	552	416	502	17	105
U.S.A.	193	217	120	41	92
Australia	192	176	99	33	72
Canada	66	60	42	24	53
France	155	165	61	7	49
South Korea	173	183	50	18	43
India	8	5	6 872	423	22
Pakistan	7	5	2 167	98	15
Nepal	4	3	1 449	41	4
Others	1 089	1 398	1 960	337	394
Total	3 592	3 968	18 511	2 647	1 679

Upon receipt of requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents or their families, the AHU will seek to understand the situation through various channels including the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), the Chinese Diplomatic and Consular Missions, offices of the HKSAR Government in the Mainland and overseas or relevant government departments, and provide practicable assistance to the subjects having regard to the actual circumstances of the cases and their requests.

The staff establishment and total annual salary costs (in terms of the notional annual mid-point salary) of the AHU in the financial year of 2023-24 are as follows:

Year	Staff establishment	Total annual salary costs in terms of the notional annual mid-point salary
2023-24	30*	\$19.7 million

* With the planned creation of 4 additional posts of Senior Immigration Assistant by the ImmD in the financial year of 2023-24, the staff establishment of the AHU will increase from 26 to 30.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB100

(Question Serial No. 1160)

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

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Education Bureau (EDB). The reply was prepared by the Immigration Department and vetted by the EDB.]

Question:

Regarding the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG), would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) The numbers of non-local graduates who graduated from local tertiary institutions in the past 3 years (please list the numbers of these graduates by bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctorate).
- 2) The numbers of applications received from non-local graduates who applied for staying and working in Hong Kong through the IANG in the past 3 years, and the numbers of such applications approved.
- 3) Has the IANG been reviewed in a timely manner so as to assess whether the IANG is effective and meets the policy objective of attracting outstanding talents from outside to stay and work in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

1) According to information provided by the Education Bureau and the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau, a breakdown of the numbers of non-local graduates of publicly-funded programmes in the academic years from 2019/20 to 2021/22 by level of study is as follows:

Level of study	Number of graduates		
	2019/20 Academic Year	2020/21 Academic Year	2021/22 Academic Year
University Grants Committee-funded programmes			
Bachelor's degree programmes	2 545	2 696	2 909
Taught postgraduate programmes	61	50	61
Research postgraduate programmes	1 956	2 163	2 176
(i) <i>Doctor of Philosophy programmes</i>	1 617	1 832	1 849
(ii) <i>Master of Philosophy programmes</i>	339	331	327
Other publicly-funded programmes			
Bachelor's degree programmes	11	20	20
Total	4 573	4 929	5 166

The Government does not maintain statistics on non-local graduates of all self-financing post-secondary programmes.

2) The numbers of applications received and approved under the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG) in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as of February 2023) ³
Number of applications received	8 222	7 668	13 453
Number of applications approved	7 620	7 156	12 764

Note: Applications approved in a year may not totally be the applications received in the same year.

³ The IANG has been extended to cover graduates of Hong Kong universities' campuses in the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area since 28 December 2022. The relevant statistics have included the graduates of Hong Kong universities' campuses in the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

3) In 2008, the Government introduced the IANG to allow non-local students to apply for working in Hong Kong after graduating with a bachelor's degree or higher qualification from post-secondary institutions in Hong Kong, with a view to attracting non-local graduates to stay in Hong Kong for career development, thereby enhancing the quality of Hong Kong's manpower resources and alleviating manpower demand. To further attract quality talents and enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness, the Chief Executive announced in his 2022 Policy Address to extend the limit of stay under the IANG from 12 months to 24 months to facilitate non-local graduates to stay or return to work in Hong Kong, and to extend the IANG on a pilot basis to cover graduates with a bachelor's degree or higher qualification from Hong Kong universities' campuses in the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, so as to attract outstanding talents from these institutions to come to Hong Kong for employment. The pilot scheme on extension of the IANG was launched on 28 December 2022.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB101

(Question Serial No. 2579)

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:

The Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise (Replacement Exercise) will end in March 2023. With regard to the Replacement Exercise, please inform this Committee of the following:

- 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 profile.
- 3) Has the pandemic hindered the progress of the Replacement Exercise? Will the Department deploy additional manpower and resources to process those applications for identity card replacement which are yet to submit?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

The Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise (Replacement Exercise) was launched on 27 December 2018 and ended on 3 March 2023. As at the end date, around 6.84 million identity card holders had replaced their new identity cards through the Replacement Exercise, representing about 85% of the Hong Kong residents who need to have their identity cards replaced. In addition, together with the persons who are required to replace their identity cards, namely new arrivals, young people who have to apply for adult identity cards upon reaching the age of 18, children who need to apply for juvenile identity cards upon reaching the age of 11, persons whose identity cards have been lost, destroyed, damaged or defaced, persons who wish to amend the particulars printed on their identity cards, and holders of Hong Kong identity cards issued before 23 June 2003, the Immigration Department (ImmD) has issued more than 8 million new smart identity cards.

To perform the work relating to the Replacement Exercise, the ImmD created a total of 1 028 posts (including 356 time-limited civil service posts and 672 contract staff). The total expenditures on the Replacement Exercise in the past 3 financial years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Total expenditure (\$ million)
2020-21	461
2021-22	438
2022-23	496 (revised estimate)

In view of the pandemic, the services of the 9 Smart Identity Card Replacement Centres (SIDCCs) were suspended on several occasions in the past few years. Therefore, the ImmD extended the Replacement Exercise to early 2023 and the On-site Identity Card Replacement Service to end-February 2024. The expenditure involved is \$121 million.

With the end of the Replacement Exercise, all SIDCCs ceased operation on 4 March 2023. To allow members of the public who have yet to replace for the new smart identity cards to proceed with the replacement in an orderly manner, the ImmD has flexibly deployed manpower and resources and has, since 6 March 2023, extended the service hours of the Registration of Persons (ROP) - Hong Kong Office, the ROP - Kowloon Office, the ROP - Kwun Tong Office and the ROP - Tuen Mun Office for processing the applications from those who have yet to replace for the new smart identity cards after completion of the Replacement Exercise.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB102

(Question Serial No. 0276)

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

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB). The reply was prepared by the Immigration Department and vetted by the LWB.]

Question:

Regarding the adoption of an open immigration regime to facilitate entry of talent, professionals and entrepreneurs, please advise on:

1. the respective numbers of talent, professionals and entrepreneurs admitted to Hong Kong under the immigration policies of the Immigration Department in each of the past 3 years; and
2. the estimated numbers of talent, professionals and entrepreneurs to be admitted to Hong Kong in 2023-24; the expenditure and manpower to be involved; and the estimated processing time for each application.

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

1. The statistics on applications approved under various talent admission schemes in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Talent admission scheme	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as at end-February 2023)
General Employment Policy (GEP) (Employment Stream)	13 372	12 967	15 016
GEP (Investment Stream)	154	130	100
Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMTP)	7 926	10 168	10 669
Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS)^	2 173	1 980	3 556
Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG)	7 620	7 156	12 764
Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents (ASSG)	40	40	61
Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS)	122	53	69
Top Talent Pass Scheme (TTPS)#	Not applicable		8 797

^ Figures denote the numbers of applications that passed the selection by the Advisory Committee on Admission of Quality Migrants and Professionals (the Advisory Committee).

The TTPS was launched on 28 December 2022.

2. On the admission of talent, the Government has set an overall target for admitting at least 35 000 talents annually with an intended duration of stay in Hong Kong for at least 12 months from 2023 to 2025.

In 2023-24, the establishment and salary costs for processing applications made under various immigration policies/schemes as estimated by the Immigration Department (ImmD) are tabulated as follows:

Talent admission scheme	2023-24
GEP & Establishment (no. of posts)	28

Talent admission scheme		2023-24
	Salary costs* (\$ million)	20.3
ASMTP and TechTAS^	Establishment (no. of posts)	27
	Salary costs* (\$ million)	17.81
QMAS	Establishment (no. of posts)	30
	Salary costs* (\$ million)	21.61
IANG	Establishment (no. of posts)	14
	Salary costs* (\$ million)	8.76
TTPS and ASSG^	Establishment (no. of posts)	22
	Salary costs* (\$ million)	14.28

& Including Employment Stream and Investment Stream.

* In terms of the notional annual mid-point salary.

^ The ImmD handles the work relating to these talent admission schemes through the flexible deployment of its existing manpower and resources.

In 2023-24, the ImmD will create 18 posts for processing applications made under various talent admission schemes, and the salary costs to be involved are \$14.39 million (in terms of the notional annual mid-point salary).

Regarding applications for visas/entry permits submitted under the GEP, the ASMTP, the IANG, the ASSG, the TechTAS and the TTPS, the assessment will normally be completed within 4 weeks upon submission of all the required information and supporting documents by the applicants. The application process of the QMAS involves consultation with the Advisory Committee, etc. during the selection exercise, thus the processing time will be slightly longer and will vary depending on individual circumstances.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB103****(Question Serial No. 0615)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Pre-entry ControlControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below also concerns the policy purview of the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB). The reply was prepared by the Immigration Department and vetted by the LWB.]

Question:

The Government launched a series of measures trawling for talent on 28 December 2022, including the Top Talent Pass Scheme (TTPS) with an aim to attracting three categories of talent. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Has there been any increase in the establishment or the estimated expenditure in the light of the TTPS? If yes, what are the programmes under which the new posts are created, and the respective ranks, job nature and salary costs involved?
2. What were the respective numbers of applications received and approved under the TTPS from 28 December 2022 to 1 March 2023 with a breakdown by the category to which the applicants belonged (i.e. Category A, Category B and Category C), and a breakdown of figures on the successful applicants by nationality, salary, occupation, work experience, academic qualification, age, gender and marital status?
3. The Immigration Department (ImmD) has expressed that it does not keep a breakdown of statistics on occupations of the applicants, will the ImmD consider maintaining such statistics so as to more effectively meet the shortage of local talent supply in the professions on the Talent List?
4. What were the respective numbers of applications rejected and those withdrawn after approval and the reasons involved from 28 December 2022 to 1 March 2023?
5. How will the gate-keeping work be better done in the future to prevent any visas from being obtained by making false representations? Will there be any follow-up measures taken against talent if their coming to Hong Kong is contrary to the objective of the policy?
6. How will the Government evaluate the effectiveness of the TTPS?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

1. The Top Talent Pass Scheme (TTPS) was launched on 28 December 2022. At present, officers handling the TTPS are arranged by the Immigration Department (ImmD) through temporary internal deployment. In 2023-24, the ImmD will create 10 posts designated for processing applications made under the TTPS, including 2 Senior Immigration Officer posts and 8 Immigration Officer posts, and the salary cost for this year (i.e. 2023-24) is \$7.92 million (in terms of the notional annual mid-point salary).

2-4. A breakdown of the numbers of applications and approvals under the TTPS from its launch on 28 December 2022 to 28 February 2023 is as follows:

	Category A	Category B	Category C	Total
Number of applications received#	2 766	7 161	4 313	14 240
Number of applications approved	1 186	4 382	3 229	8 797
Number of applications rejected @	22	209	232	463
Number of applications pending processing	1 411	2 457	696	4 564

Note:

Category A refers to persons with an annual income of HK\$2.5 million or above in the year preceding the application.

Category B refers to persons who have obtained a bachelor's degree from the world's top 100 universities prescribed in the designated aggregate list with at least 3 years of work experience over the past 5 years preceding the application.

Category C refers to persons who have obtained a bachelor's degree from the world's top 100 universities over the past 5 years preceding the application, but with less than 3 years of work experience. An annual quota of 10 000 is set for this category.

The total number of applications includes applications withdrawn by applicants or those with no follow-up action required.

@ Including the number of applications approved but subsequently declared invalid.

A breakdown of statistics on the income levels in the preceding year, work experience, age, gender and marital status of successful applicants is tabulated as follows:

Income in the preceding year (HK\$)	Approved applications		
	Category A	Category B	Category C
2.5 million to less than 3 million	247	Applicants are not required to submit relevant information	
3 million to less than 5 million	517		
5 million to less than 10 million	206		
10 million or above	216		

Work experience	Approved applications		
	Category A	Category B	Category C
Less than 3 years	Applicants are not required to submit relevant information	Not applicable	3 229
3 years to less than 5 years		2 175	Not applicable
5 years to less than 10 years		2 177	
10 years or above		30	

Age	Approved applications			
	Category A	Category B	Category C	Total
18 to 30	53	1 218	3 214	4 485
31 to 40	465	2 303	15	2 783
41 to 50	500	733	0	1 233
51 to 60	155	119	0	274
61 or above	13	9	0	22

Gender	Approved applications			
	Category A	Category B	Category C	Total
Male	857	2 753	1 542	5 152
Female	329	1 629	1 687	3 645

Marital status	Approved applications			
	Category A	Category B	Category C	Total
Single	140	1 597	3 050	4 787
Married	1 024	2 720	165	3 909
Separated/divorced	20	49	4	73
Widowed	1	2	0	3
Not disclosed	1	14	10	25

The nationalities of successful applicants are as follows:

Region	Number of approved applications
Mainland China	8 325
Canada	97
Australia	77
U.S.A.	69
Singapore	38
Others	191
Total	8 797

Regarding academic qualifications, applicants under Category A are not required to provide information on academic qualifications, whereas applicants under Categories B and C are only required to prove their award of a bachelor's degree by the world's top 100 universities, and do not need to declare other academic qualifications. The ImmD adjusted the application procedures on 1 March 2023, requiring applicants with work experience to declare the sectors to which their occupations belong for analysis. The ImmD does not maintain information on the occupations by type in respect of the applications submitted before 1 March 2023.

The reason for rejecting an application under the TTPS is that the applicant fails to meet the eligibility criteria under the scheme. For example, the annual income in the year immediately preceding the application is below HK\$2.5 million (applicants under Category A); the work experience declared is insufficient (applicants under Category B) or the relevant degree is not a bachelor's degree awarded by the world's top 100 universities (applicants under Category B or C).

5. The ImmD has been assessing each visa/entry permit application in a rigorous manner, and will make timely enhancement to immigration policies and measures to cope with social changes and practical needs. An applicant who knowingly and willfully makes a statement or gives information which he/she knows to be false or does not believe to be true when making an application for a visa/entry permit for entry into Hong Kong shall be guilty of an offence. The law enforcement departments concerned will handle these cases seriously. Any such visas/entry permits issued or permissions granted for entry into or remaining in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall have no effect.

6. On the admission of talent, the Government has set a key performance indicator for admitting at least 35 000 talent annually with an intended duration of stay in Hong Kong for at least 12 months from 2023 to 2025. The Government will evaluate the effectiveness of the work against this indicator. The Labour and Welfare Bureau will closely liaise with the ImmD and other relevant bureaux and departments to continually monitor the implementation progress and effectiveness of various measures, review and refine the measures as appropriate in a timely manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB104

(Question Serial No. 2246)

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:

The Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise (Replacement Exercise) is at the final stage. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

- 1) the respective expenditures on the manpower deployment, rents of the replacement centres, operating expenses and publicity costs involved in the Replacement Exercise;
- 2) the respective numbers of new smart identity cards replaced and not yet replaced;
- 3) the number of persons who have brought along family members or friends aged 65 or above or eligible persons with disabilities to replace their identity cards together;
- 4) the increase in operating expenses caused by the extension of the Replacement Exercise; and
- 5) the future use of the premises of the Smart Identity Card Replacement Centres.

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

The Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise (Replacement Exercise) was launched on 27 December 2018 and ended on 3 March 2023. As at the end date, around 6.84 million identity card holders had replaced their new identity cards through the Replacement Exercise, representing about 85% of the Hong Kong residents who need to have their identity cards replaced. In addition, together with the persons who are required to replace their identity cards, namely new arrivals, young people who have to apply for adult identity cards upon reaching the age of 18, children who need to apply for juvenile identity cards upon reaching the age of 11, persons whose identity cards have been lost, destroyed, damaged or defaced, persons who wish to amend the particulars printed on their identity cards, and holders of Hong Kong identity cards issued before 23 June 2003, the Immigration Department (ImmD) has issued more than 8 million new smart identity cards. Besides, the arrangement of "HKIC Replacement with the Elderly" introduced under the Replacement Exercise allowed applicants to bring along elderly persons aged 65 or above or persons with disabilities to replace their identity cards together. So far more than 820 000 persons have benefited from the arrangement.

To perform the work relating to the Replacement Exercise, the ImmD created a total of 1 028 posts (including 356 time-limited civil service posts and 672 contract staff). The total expenditures involved in the Replacement Exercise, including remuneration, rents, operating expenses and publicity costs, are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Total expenditure (\$million)
2018-19	224
2019-20	442
2020-21	461
2021-22	438
2022-23	496 (revised estimate)

The Replacement Exercise was originally scheduled for completion in October 2022. In view of the pandemic, the services of the 9 Smart Identity Card Replacement Centres (SIDCCs) were suspended on several occasions in the past few years. Therefore, the ImmD extended the Replacement Exercise to early 2023 and the On-site Identity Card Replacement Service to end-February 2024. The expenditure involved is \$121 million.

In carrying out the Replacement Exercise, the ImmD rented private properties/offices for the purposes of the SIDCCs. Given that the Replacement Exercise has ended, the premises of the SIDCCs are being reinstated to its original condition and will be surrendered to the landlords in accordance with the tenancy agreements.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB105****(Question Serial No. 3203)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Pre-entry ControlControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below also concerns the policy purview of the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB). The reply was prepared by the Immigration Department and vetted by the LWB.]

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 LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 64)

Reply:

1. and 2.

The numbers of new applications for visas/entry permits and applications for extension of stay which were approved by the Immigration Department (ImmD) under various talent admission schemes as well as the immigration policies for entry into Hong Kong for employment as foreign domestic helpers or imported workers and for training in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Immigration policy/scheme	Type of applications	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as of February 2023)
General	New	41 793	35 194	13 526	13 097	15 116

Immigration policy/scheme	Type of applications	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as of February 2023)
Employment Policy (GEP)	Extension of stay	23 201	20 861	19 361	18 819	14 770
Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMTTP)	New	14 183	11 997	7 926	10 168	10 669
	Extension of stay	6 643	5 999	5 198	6 710	7 272
Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG)	New	10 318	10 320	7 620	7 156	12 764
	Extension of stay	11 406	11 519	10 722	9 639	10 331
Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents (ASSG)	New	62	50	40	40	61
	Extension of stay	84	56	82	50	59
Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS)*	New	48	62	122	53	69
	Extension of stay	2	8	16	48	62
Top Talent Pass Scheme (TTPS)#	New	Not applicable				8 797
	Extension of stay					0
Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS)	New^	592	716	2 173	1 980	3 556
	Extension of stay	489	597	310	547	1 117
Entry for Training in Hong Kong	New	8 183	6 890	1 525	1 986	2 275
	Extension of stay	313	182	157	167	145
Supplementary Labour Scheme	New	3 873	3 978	5 276	5 966	7 557
	Extension of stay	2 283	2 661	2 698	1 480	1 455
Foreign	New	99 362	95 749	65 994	54 691	67 719

Immigration policy/scheme	Type of applications	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as of February 2023)
Domestic Helpers	Extension of stay	143 823	143 872	258 927	318 170	234 974

^ Figures denote the numbers of applications that passed the selection by the Advisory Committee on Admission of Quality Migrants and Professionals (the Advisory Committee).

* The TechTAS has been implemented since 25 June 2018.

The TTPS has been implemented since 28 December 2022.

3. A breakdown of statistics on the new applications for visas/entry permits approved under various talent admission schemes as well as the immigration policies for entry into Hong Kong for employment as foreign domestic helpers or imported workers and for training by region of applicants is tabulated as follows:

GEP

Region	Number of new applications approved				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as of February 2023)
Japan	4 396	3 331	1 241	1 276	1 306
United Kingdom	5 367	4 535	1 648	1 292	1 288
India	2 789	2 351	990	1 037	1 282
South Korea	3 223	2 197	968	788	1 131
U.S.A.	4 272	3 569	1 131	1 046	999
Philippines	1 398	1 195	326	389	835
France	2 103	1 790	914	884	823
Taiwan, China	2 797	2 805	452	423	778
Australia	1 852	1 454	525	414	476
Canada	1 093	792	385	366	345
Others	12 503	11 175	4 946	5 182	5 853
Total	41 793	35 194	13 526	13 097	15 116

ASMTF

The ASMTF is only applicable to Mainland residents. Therefore, all applicants are Mainland residents.

IANG

Region	Number of new applications approved				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as of February 2023)
Mainland China	9 383	9 316	6 537	5 995	11 517
India	144	156	224	185	181
South Korea	114	125	126	129	159
Taiwan, China	130	105	83	118	94
Malaysia	72	88	101	104	80
Pakistan	42	46	46	48	53
Macao, China	49	42	37	39	44
U.S.A.	37	43	44	33	35
Canada	30	28	30	27	35
France	18	11	10	13	17
Others	299	360	382	465	549
Total	10 318	10 320	7 620	7 156	12 764

ASSG

Region	Number of new applications approved				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as of February 2023)
Canada	10	10	8	8	16
United Kingdom	11	8	4	8	15
U.S.A.	17	10	16	11	12
Australia	9	7	4	4	4
Singapore	3	2	1	3	4

Region	Number of new applications approved				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as of February 2023)
Netherlands	3	0	1	1	3
Philippines	3	7	1	0	2
Others	6	6	5	5	5
Total	62	50	40	40	61

TechTAS*

Region	Number of new applications approved				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as of February 2023)
Mainland China	34	45	70	35	53
Taiwan, China	3	2	4	0	2
U.S.A.	1	4	1	7	2
United Kingdom	0	1	3	1	1
Australia	1	0	2	1	1
Malaysia	2	1	2	0	1
South Korea	1	3	26	5	0
Others	6	6	14	4	9
Total	48	62	122	53	69

* The TechTAS has been implemented since 25 June 2018.

TTPS#

Region	Number of new applications approved
	2022-23 (as of February 2023)
Mainland China	8 325
Canada	97
Australia	77
U.S.A.	69

Region	Number of new applications approved
	2022-23 (as of February 2023)
Singapore	38
Others	191
Total	8 797

The TTPS has been implemented since 28 December 2022.

QMAS

Region	Number of new applications approved^				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as of February 2023)
Mainland China	528	666	2 071	1 840	3 412
Australia	7	6	12	26	32
U.S.A.	10	12	22	25	26
Canada	6	11	30	31	36
Others	41	21	38	58	50
Total	592	716	2 173	1 980	3 556

^ Figures denote the numbers of applications that passed the selection by the Advisory Committee.

Entry for Training in Hong Kong

Region	Number of new applications approved				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as of February 2023)
Mainland China	2 668	2 186	404	661	604
Philippines	220	87	26	48	168
France	592	471	170	179	159
South Korea	182	164	47	63	68
United Kingdom	341	278	45	34	61
Australia	171	125	13	24	57

Region	Number of new applications approved				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as of February 2023)
India	288	242	26	58	56
U.S.A.	551	552	66	39	55
Thailand	94	63	7	40	40
Japan	157	122	39	26	25
Canada	134	103	32	24	21
Others	2 785	2 497	650	790	961
Total	8 183	6 890	1 525	1 986	2 275

Supplementary Labour Scheme

Region	Number of new applications approved				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as of February 2023)
Mainland China	3 729	3 832	5 127	5 827	7 354
Thailand	92	59	71	62	117
India	28	34	40	36	49
Philippines	11	32	23	26	13
Others	13	21	15	15	24
Total	3 873	3 978	5 276	5 966	7 557

Foreign Domestic Helpers

Region	Number of new applications approved				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as of February 2023)
Philippines	50 567	48 052	40 442	29 892	36 288
Indonesia	45 883	44 726	23 951	23 058	28 778
India	1 575	1 700	868	1 031	1 592

Region	Number of new applications approved				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as of February 2023)
Thailand	540	449	262	287	415
Sri Lanka	444	420	157	169	300
Bangladesh	178	207	119	94	189
Myanmar	11	15	12	10	24
Others	164	180	183	150	133
Total	99 362	95 749	65 994	54 691	67 719

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB106

(Question Serial No. 3204)

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:

How many residents have collected their new smart identity cards thus far? What were the numbers of identity cards issued locally and overseas respectively?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.:65)

Reply:

The Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise (Replacement Exercise) was launched on 27 December 2018 and ended on 3 March 2023. As at the end date, the Immigration Department issued more than 8 million new smart identity cards, of which about 4 000 were issued for Hong Kong permanent residents being outside Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB107

(Question Serial No. 1015)

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

[Note: The question below also concerns the policy purview of the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB). The reply was prepared by the Immigration Department and vetted by the LWB.]

Question:

The provision for 2023-24 is \$19.1 million (4.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2022-23, in which there will be a net increase of 14 posts for meeting operational needs. Meanwhile, the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 are, among others, to continue to provide immigration facilitation to support the policy objective of attracting and retaining outside talent, professionals and entrepreneurs to support the economic development of Hong Kong.

In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The details of the net increase of the 14 posts and the expenditure involved.
2. On 26 February 2023, the Immigration Department announced that applicants for a visa or an entry permit under 5 schemes for attracting talent, viz. the General Employment Policy, the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals, the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates, the Technology Talent Admission Scheme and the Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents, are required to declare whether they have any criminal convictions. How does the Department verify whether the applicants are making a false statement?
3. For those who have been admitted to the territory through the above 5 schemes, are they required to provide further information on their declaration of any criminal convictions? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1.

In 2023-24, there will be a net increase of 14 posts in the Immigration Department (ImmD) under Programme (1) “Pre-entry Control”. The posts are mainly for processing applications made under the Special Scheme to Import Care Workers for Residential Care Homes, the Top Talent Pass Scheme, the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme and the expanded Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates.

The total annual salary costs involved in the net increase of 14 posts under Programme (1) “Pre-entry Control” are about \$12.5 million in terms of the notional annual mid-point salary.

2. and 3.

The ImmD has all along been assessing each visa/entry permit application in a rigorous manner. An applicant who knowingly and wilfully makes a statement or gives information which he/she knows to be false or does not believe to be true when making an application for a visa/entry permit for entry into Hong Kong shall be guilty of an offence. The law enforcement departments concerned will handle these cases seriously. Any such visas/entry permits issued or permissions granted for entry into or remaining in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall have no effect.

The ImmD has been reviewing its immigration policies and measures, and will make timely enhancement so as to cope with social changes and practical needs. The ImmD adjusted the application procedures for various talent admission schemes in late February 2023, such that applicants must declare whether they have any criminal convictions during their application. Persons who have been granted a visa/entry permit are not required to re-submit information. The ImmD will review whether there are suspicious circumstances and handle the relevant cases on individual merits as appropriate.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB108

(Question Serial No. 1430)

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:

As shown in the Indicators, the numbers of applications for HKSAR passports have multiplied in 2021, 2022 and 2023 (estimate). In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- a) It is estimated that the number of applications for HKSAR passports this year will reach 1.022 million, which is almost double that of last year. Will the Department have sufficient manpower to cope with the sudden surge in the demand for application?
- b) How will the Department deploy its existing manpower to deal with such demand? If temporary manpower is to be provided, has the Department made any assessment of the additional salary costs to be incurred?

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

With much less outbound travel by Hong Kong residents during the pandemic, many of their HKSAR passports have long been expired and pending renewal. The Immigration Department (ImmD) has been reminding members of the public through various channels to check the validity of their HKSAR passports in advance, renew their expired or expiring passports as early as possible, and allow sufficient time for the application for and collection of their new passports such that their future outbound travel will not be affected. With the gradual relaxation of arrival quarantine requirements by the HKSAR Government and other countries, the number of applications for HKSAR passports received by the ImmD has increased significantly since the end of last year. To cope with the substantial increase in the number of applications, the ImmD has allocated extra resources and employed additional manpower, including engaging retired civil servants, to ensure the timely processing of these applications. Meanwhile, the ImmD will closely monitor the service demand, continuously optimise the application process and workflow of HKSAR passports and, having regard to the actual circumstances and needs, make flexible and suitable manpower deployment to handle the related work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB109****(Question Serial No. 1281)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Control after EntryControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 of this Programme, the Immigration Department (ImmD) will, among others, step up enforcement actions against persons seeking entry into Hong Kong under the disguise of marriages with Hong Kong residents. Please inform this Committee of the manpower and expenditure involved in the relevant work in 2022-23. How was its effectiveness? Please provide information on the number of actions taken, prosecution figures, and the places of origin of persons seeking entry into Hong Kong under the disguise of marriages. Has there been a rising trend of the relevant cases in recent years? What will the expenditure and manpower be deployed by the ImmD in 2023-24 to step up enforcement actions? What are the specific plans?

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)Reply:

Over the past 6 years, the numbers of bogus marriage cases investigated by the Immigration Department (ImmD) are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of cases investigated
2017-18	637
2018-19	524
2019-20	617
2020-21	272
2021-22	223
2022-23 (As at 28 February 2023)	420

In 2022-23 (as at 28 February 2023), the ImmD investigated 420 bogus marriage cases. A total of 506 persons were arrested and 59 persons were convicted, including 57 Hong Kong residents and 2 non-Hong Kong residents. The ImmD does not maintain a breakdown of other statistics mentioned in the question.

The ImmD has all along been monitoring the trend of bogus marriage cases and evaluating the effectiveness of enforcement measures. It will also continue to combat bogus marriages by taking various enforcement actions in a timely, appropriate and flexible manner, having regard to the relevant trends, the latest modus operandi adopted by criminal syndicates and the circumstances of individual cases. Furthermore, the Special Task Force of the ImmD for investigating bogus marriages has been collecting intelligence on suspected bogus marriages through various channels as well as investigating into and detecting bogus marriage cases. It has also stepped up publicity and taken 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:

(1) 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 statement to the ImmD, in-depth investigations will be conducted by enforcement officers of the ImmD and prosecution actions will be taken.

(2) 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.

(3) to step up operations against intermediaries

Many bogus marriage cases in the past involved marriage 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 marriage intermediaries. It also cooperates with the Mainland enforcement authorities through intelligence exchanges, with a view to combating intermediaries and syndicates involved in cross-boundary crimes.

Besides, the Special Task Force also keeps track of the trend of bogus marriages and collects intelligence from various channels, including advertisements with wording such as “quick money” and “cross-boundary matchmaking” in social networking and instant messaging mobile applications, newspapers, webpages, etc. It will conduct in-depth investigations into suspicious marriage intermediaries.

(4) to step up checking of doubtful marriage registration cases

Apart from the Special Task Force, Marriage Registries of the ImmD also take part 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 the offenders were successfully prosecuted.

(5) to exchange intelligence and cooperate with the Mainland authorities

The ImmD will notify the Mainland enforcement 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 enforcement 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.

(6) 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.

(7) to step up publicity

The ImmD has from time to time disseminated information on crackdowns on bogus marriage syndicates and successful prosecutions of intermediaries and persons engaged in bogus marriage through press briefings, press releases, media interviews, etc. to remind members of the public, including young people, of the possible consequences of engaging in bogus marriages and the serious implications of committing related offences. In addition, the ImmD will continue to disseminate relevant information through various popular publicity channels by means of, for example, producing publicity video clips and uploading them to the ImmD’s video sharing channel and social media platforms.

Apart from the Special Task Force, the ImmD also carries out investigations of bogus marriages at control points, births 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.

As the above work is part of the regular duties of the ImmD, there is no separate breakdown of the resources involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB110

(Question Serial No. 0764)

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) is responsible for processing applications for entry into Hong Kong for employment, investment, training, residence and study in accordance with prevailing policies and procedures. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- a. What were the numbers of applications for employment visas for foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) received and approved in the past 5 years? Please provide a breakdown by type of work and nationality.
- b. In each of the past 5 years, what were the number of cases of premature termination of employment contracts between employers and foreign domestic helpers, 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?
- c. 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. How many cases were handled by the special duties team in each of the past 5 years and what were the relevant details?

Asked by: Hon NGAN Man-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

- (a) The statistics on the applications from foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) processed by the Immigration Department (ImmD) in the past 5 years with a breakdown by the applicants' nationality are tabulated as follows:

Region	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23 (as of February 2023)	
	No. of applications received	No. of applications approved	No. of applications received	No. of applications approved	No. of applications received	No. of applications approved	No. of applications received	No. of applications approved	No. of applications received	No. of applications approved
Philippines	52 123	50 567	50 456	48 052	41 597	40 442	34 157	29 892	40 875	36 288
Indonesia	47 646	45 883	46 914	44 726	26 557	23 951	24 680	23 058	31 196	28 778
India	1 750	1 575	1 816	1 700	1 174	868	1 309	1 031	1 870	1 592
Thailand	595	540	505	449	361	262	395	287	439	415
Sri Lanka	504	444	458	420	324	157	265	169	359	300
Bangladesh	192	178	218	207	174	119	124	94	207	189
Myanmar	11	11	17	15	15	12	14	10	23	24
Others	200	164	248	180	283	183	262	150	232	133
Total	103 021	99 362	100 632	95 749	70 485	65 994	61 206	54 691	75 201	67 719

Note: Applications approved in a year may not totally be the applications received in the same year.

- (b) The numbers of FDHs arrested for overstaying in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as of February 2023)
Number of FDHs arrested for overstaying	425	343	723	675	960

The ImmD does not maintain other statistics mentioned in the question.

- (c) The numbers of cases of FDH visa applications referred to the special duties team, the numbers of applications rejected, and the numbers of applications withdrawn by the applicants or which could not be further processed in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as of February 2023)
Number of referral cases	1 279	1 697	2 608	5 469	2 131
Number of applications rejected	220	240	796	2 922	1 309
Number of applications withdrawn by the applicants or which could not be further processed	194	126	267	366	103

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB111

(Question Serial No. 0640)

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

[Note: The question below also concerns the policy purview of the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB). The reply was prepared by the Immigration Department and vetted by the LWB.]

Question:

In order to support the policy of competing for talent put forward by the Government, what are the current establishment and expenditure involved for processing applications for entry to Hong Kong from talent, professionals and entrepreneurs? Will additional manpower and resources be deployed to expedite the processing of such applications? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The establishment and salary costs of the Immigration Department (ImmD) for processing applications made under various talent admission schemes in this year (i.e. 2022-23) are tabulated as follows:

Talent admission scheme		2022-23
General Employment Policy ^{&}	Establishment (no. of posts)	28
	Salary costs* (\$ million)	19.8
Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals and Technology Talent Admission Scheme [^]	Establishment (no. of posts)	27
	Salary costs* (\$ million)	17.37
Quality Migrant Admission Scheme	Establishment (no. of posts)	25
	Salary costs* (\$ million)	17.21
Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates	Establishment (no. of posts)	11
	Salary costs* (\$ million)	6.11
Top Talent Pass Scheme (TTPS) and Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents [^]	Establishment (no. of posts)	22 [@]
	Salary costs* (\$ million)	8.13 [#]

[&] Including Employment Stream and Investment Stream.

^{*} In terms of the notional annual mid-point salary.

[@] The TTPS was launched on 28 December 2022. At present, officers handling the TTPS are arranged by the ImmD through temporary internal deployment. The established posts for the TTPS will be created in 2023-24.

[#] The TTPS was launched on 28 December 2022. The salary costs of the manpower involved in processing the applications are calculated on a pro rata basis.

[^] The ImmD handled the work relating to these talent admission schemes through the flexible deployment of its existing manpower and resources.

In 2023-24, the ImmD will create 18 posts for processing the applications made under various talent admission schemes, and the salary costs to be involved are \$14.39 million (in terms of the notional annual mid-point salary).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB112****(Question Serial No. 1643)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Pre-entry ControlControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below also concerns the policy purview of the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB). The reply was prepared by the Immigration Department and vetted by the LWB.]

Question:

The Government launched the Top Talent Pass Scheme (TTPS) in 2022-23. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) What is the number of successful applicants recorded since the launch of the TTPS? What is the number of unsuccessful applicants?
- 2) What is the profile of talent admitted to Hong Kong under the TTPS in terms of age and academic qualification?
- 3) What is the estimated number of talent admitted to Hong Kong under the TTPS in 2023-24?
- 4) Will the background checks on TTPS applicants be stepped up?
- 5) Will penalties be imposed on applicants who make “false statements”? For instance, to ban the persons concerned from applying for residence or employment in Hong Kong through talent admission schemes in the following few years?

Asked by: Hon TAN Yueheng (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. A breakdown of the numbers of applications and approvals under the Top Talent Pass Scheme (TTPS) from its launch on 28 December 2022 up to 28 February 2023 is as follows:

	Category A	Category B	Category C	Total
Number of applications received #	2 766	7 161	4 313	14 240
Number of applications approved	1 186	4 382	3 229	8 797
Number of applications rejected @	22	209	232	463

Number of applications pending processing	1 411	2 457	696	4 564
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Notes:

Category A refers to persons with an annual income of HK\$2.5 million or above in the year preceding the application.

Category B refers to persons who have obtained a bachelor's degree from the world's top 100 universities prescribed in the designated aggregate list with at least 3 years of work experience over the past 5 years preceding the application.

Category C refers to persons who have obtained a bachelor's degree from the world's top 100 universities over the past 5 years preceding the application, but with less than 3 years of work experience. An annual quota of 10 000 is set for this category.

The total number of applications includes applications withdrawn by applicants or those with no follow-up action required.

@ Including the number of applications approved but subsequently declared invalid.

2. A breakdown of statistics on the age of successful applicants is tabulated as follows:

Age	Approved applications			
	Category A	Category B	Category C	Total
18 to 30	53	1 218	3 214	4 485
31 to 40	465	2 303	15	2 783
41 to 50	500	733	0	1 233
51 to 60	155	119	0	274
61 or above	13	9	0	22

Regarding academic qualifications, applicants under Category A are not required to provide information on academic qualifications; whereas applicants under Categories B and C are only required to prove their award of a bachelor's degree by the world's top 100 universities, and do not need to declare other academic qualifications.

3. On the admission of talent, the Government has set an overall target for admitting at least 35 000 talent annually with an intended duration of stay in Hong Kong for at least 12 months from 2023 to 2025. Other than the annual quota of 10 000 set for the applications made under Category C of the TTPS, the Government has not currently set quotas for applications under other talent admission schemes.
4. and 5. The Immigration Department (ImmD) adjusted the application procedures for various talent admission schemes in late February 2023, such that applicants must declare whether they have any criminal convictions during their application.

The ImmD has all along been assessing each visa/entry permit application in a rigorous manner, and will make timely enhancement to immigration policies and measures, so as to cope with social changes and practical needs. An applicant who knowingly and willfully makes a statement or gives information which he/she knows to be false or does not believe to be true when making an application for a

visa/entry permit for entry into Hong Kong shall be guilty of an offence. The law enforcement departments concerned will handle these cases seriously. Any such visas/entry permits issued or permissions granted for entry into or remaining in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall have no effect.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB113****(Question Serial No. 1674)**Head: (70) Immigration DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Control upon EntryControlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:f

With the full resumption of normal travel of persons between Hong Kong and the Mainland, and the proposed extension of the operating hours of the Shenzhen Bay and Heung Yuen Wai Control Points, it is expected that the numbers of inbound and outbound passenger traffic trips at various control points will increase significantly. Please explain why there will be a decrease instead of an increase in the number of posts. What are the relevant expenditure and manpower deployment for various immigration control points?

Asked by: Hon TAN Yueheng (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)Reply:

In 2023-24, 8 time-limited or additional posts are to be extended or created under Programme (2) "Control upon Entry" by the Immigration Department (ImmD) for, among others, providing continuous support to the redevelopment of the Lok Ma Chau Control Point and the Lok Ma Chau Loop Development Project, and establishing the Innovation and Digital Technology Support Team to promote the electronic services of the ImmD. For the 10 posts to be deleted under Programme (2) in 2023-24, they are mainly time-limited posts for handling the daily operation of the data centre in Fanling and supporting the routine operation of the relevant computer systems. Therefore, the ImmD has a net decrease of 2 posts under Programme (2) in 2023-24.

In 2023-24, the staff establishment and salary costs of the ImmD for various immigration control points are set out as follows:

Control point	Number of posts	Salary costs ^{Note} (\$m)
Airport	1 003	517
Lo Wu	737	382
Hung Hom	93	49
Lok Ma Chau Spur Line	250	129

Control point	Number of posts	Salary costs ^{Note} (\$m)
West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link	407	215
Lok Ma Chau	381	190
Man Kam To	87	42
Sha Tau Kok	53	27
Shenzhen Bay	481	240
Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port	503	260
Harbour Control	109	60
Macau Ferry Terminal	189	98
China Ferry Terminal	168	87
River Trade Terminal	70	40
Kai Tak Cruise Terminal	94	48
Heung Yuen Wai	204	108
Total	4 829	2,490

Note: In terms of the notional annual mid-point salary. There may be a slight discrepancy between the sum of individual items and the total as shown in the above table due to rounding.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB114

(Question Serial No. 1675)

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:

The Government introduced new schemes in 2022-23 to attract talents to come to Hong Kong for development, and will relaunch the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme in 2023-24. However, the Immigration Department plans for a net decrease of 114 posts in its units responsible for personal documentation. Why is there a reduction instead of an increase in the manpower of the relevant units? Will the decrease in the number of posts affect the efficiency to assess cases of right of abode?

Asked by: Hon TAN Yueheng (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The net decrease of 114 posts in the Immigration Department (ImmD) under Programme (4) "Personal Documentation" mainly refers to time-limited posts extended in the 2022-23 financial year to continue to carry out the Territory-wide Identity Card Replacement Exercise (Replacement Exercise) in that financial year. Such posts will be deleted following the completion of the Replacement Exercise in the 2023-24 financial year. The deletion of the posts will not affect other duties or services of the ImmD.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB115

(Question Serial No. 0927)

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 2023-24 that the Immigration Department (ImmD) will 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 reports of suspected bogus marriage cases were received by the ImmD during the 3-year pandemic? What were the numbers of conviction cases, non-conviction cases and cases pending investigation, and their respective year-on-year changes?
- (2) What were the age and gender profiles of the persons arrested and convicted?
- (3) What are the measures put in place to investigate suspected offences relating to bogus marriages committed by Hong Kong residents who married Mainlanders?
- (4) What new measures will be adopted in the new financial year to promote among the community the rooting out of offences relating to bogus marriages?
- (5) How will the enforcement actions against bogus marriages be strengthened in the new financial year? What are the manpower and financial resources required to be earmarked for the relevant policy?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

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
2020	538	292	798	45	-
2021	578	227	637	43	-4.4%
2022	844	383	437	67	+55.8%
Total	1 960	902	1 872	155	-

The age and gender profiles of the above 155 persons convicted are tabulated below:

Age \ Gender	Male (Number of persons)	Female (Number of persons)
21 to 30	7	20
31 to 40	22	25
41 to 50	20	12
above 50	32	17
Total	81	74

(3) to (5) The Special Task Force of the ImmD for investigating bogus marriages has been collecting intelligence on suspected bogus marriages through various channels as well as investigating into and detecting bogus marriage cases. It has also stepped up publicity and taken 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:

(1) 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 statement to the ImmD, in-depth investigations will be conducted by enforcement officers of the ImmD and prosecution actions will be taken.

(2) 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.

(3) to step up operations against intermediaries

Many bogus marriage cases in the past involved marriage 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 marriage intermediaries. It also cooperates with the Mainland enforcement authorities through intelligence exchanges, with a view to combating intermediaries and syndicates involved in cross-boundary crimes.

Besides, the Special Task Force also keeps track of the trend of bogus marriages and collects intelligence from various channels, including advertisements with wording such as “quick money” and “cross-boundary matchmaking” in social networking and instant messaging mobile applications, newspapers, webpages, etc. It will conduct in-depth investigations into suspicious marriage intermediaries.

(4) to step up checking of doubtful marriage registration cases

Apart from the Special Task Force, Marriage Registries of the ImmD also take part 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 the offenders were successfully prosecuted.

(5) to exchange intelligence and cooperate with the Mainland authorities

The ImmD will notify the Mainland enforcement 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 enforcement 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.

(6) 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.

(7) to step up publicity

The ImmD has from time to time disseminated information on crackdowns on bogus marriage syndicates and successful prosecutions of intermediaries and persons engaged in bogus marriage through press briefings, press releases, media interviews, etc. to remind members of the public, including young people, of the possible consequences of engaging in bogus marriages and the serious implications of committing related offences. In addition, the ImmD will continue to disseminate relevant information through various popular publicity channels by means of, for example, producing

publicity video clips and uploading them to the ImmD's video sharing channel and social media platforms.

Apart from the Special Task Force, the ImmD also carries out investigations of bogus marriages at control points, births 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.

As the above work is part of the regular duties of the ImmD, there is no separate breakdown of the resources involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB116

(Question Serial No. 0932)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The aims under Programme (2) of the Immigration Department are, among others, to “prevent the entry of undesirable persons and the departure of persons wanted for criminal offences; and facilitate the movement of bona-fide tourists, business visitors and local residents”. According to some media reports, groups of Mainland persons swarming to Hong Kong shortly after the resumption of normal travel between the Mainland and Hong Kong have engaged in begging activities in various districts across the territory, arousing public concern. Please advise this Committee on the following:

- (1) How many people were arrested for the offence of illegal begging in the past 5 financial years? Were syndicates involved in arranging for such persons to come to Hong Kong for begging? If yes, what were the details? What follow-up actions were taken by the Government?
- (2) Has the Government compiled a blacklist for undesirable persons who were arrested for and convicted of begging so as to prevent them from engaging in relevant unlawful activities again in the future? If yes, what are the details? If no, will there be one compiled soon?
- (3) What criteria are adopted by the Department for “examining critically the bona fides of non-local persons seeking to enter Hong Kong”? What are the justifications of the Department for granting approval to the above groups of Mainland persons who are involved in begging activities for entering Hong Kong on the strength of their travel documents?
- (4) For the control points in Hong Kong, how much manpower has been deployed by the Department for “examining incoming passengers in a courteous and efficient manner to detect undesirable persons”? Has any assessment been made on the adequacy of the current staff establishment? Why are groups of Mainland persons who are involved in begging activities allowed to enter Hong Kong one after another?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

- (1) to (3) One of the main functions of the Immigration Department (ImmD) is to exercise effective immigration control to facilitate the movement of bona fide visitors while preventing the entry of undesirable persons who are likely to pose a threat to the security, prosperity and well-being of Hong Kong.

In the light of the begging activities in Hong Kong by non-Hong Kong residents, personal particulars of persons engaging in begging activities as notified by the Police will be incorporated in a watch list. The persons concerned, upon their next arrival in Hong Kong, will be intercepted and closely scrutinised by ImmD officers. Those who fail to meet the normal immigration requirements (such as whether they possess a valid visa or endorsement that corresponds to their purposes of entry, and whether they have any known adverse records) or whose purposes of visit are put in doubt by ImmD officers will be refused entry. Moreover, the ImmD has passed lists of Mainland residents convicted of begging in Hong Kong to the Mainland authorities for their consideration in assessing the relevant Mainland residents' future applications for travelling to Hong Kong.

The figures on arrest by the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) in relation to the offence of begging since 2018 are as follows:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (as at 1 March)
Number of persons arrested (The figure in brackets denotes the number of Mainland residents holding Two-way Permits ^{Note})	83 (69)	30 (20)	6 (2)	1 (0)	0 (0)	10 (8)

Note: i.e. Exit-entry Permits for Travelling to and from Hong Kong and Macao

The HKPF will continue to monitor the begging activities in Hong Kong and conduct investigations into, inter alia, whether the relevant activities are controlled by syndicates.

- (4) In 2023-24, the total staff establishment of all control points of the ImmD is 4 829. All of them are deployed to carry out immigration control work at control points, including preventing the entry of undesirable persons and the departure of persons wanted for criminal offences, and facilitating the movement of Hong Kong residents and bona-fide tourists. The ImmD does not maintain a breakdown of statistics on the manpower mentioned in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB117

(Question Serial No. 0935)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Control upon 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 2023-24 under Programme (2) that the Immigration Department (ImmD) will “continue to implement the complementary immigration measures on non-local pregnant visitors coming to give birth in Hong Kong” .

Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What are included in the “complementary immigration measures”?
- (2) By what means does the ImmD identify pregnant women among inbound passengers?
- (3) It has been reported that after the launch of the Top Talent Pass Scheme (TTPS) in Hong Kong, some Mainland pregnant women promoted on Mainland social media platforms their plans for coming to Hong Kong for delivery. Are there any studies on the issue of “doubly non-permanent resident pregnant women” arising from the entry into Hong Kong for delivery through the TTPS?
- (4) Is there any estimation of the number of non-local pregnant women coming to Hong Kong for delivery through the TTPS?
- (5) Regarding the aforementioned pregnant women planning to come to Hong Kong for delivery, are they in contravention of the ImmD’s policies to “implement the complementary immigration measures on non-local pregnant visitors coming to give birth in Hong Kong”? If yes, how will the ImmD follow up on the relevant cases?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

Under the “zero quota” policy, all public and private hospitals will not accept any bookings by Mainland pregnant women whose husbands are not Hong Kong permanent residents for delivery in Hong Kong. Meanwhile, Mainland pregnant women whose husbands are Hong Kong permanent residents or Hong Kong residents who came to Hong Kong on One-way Permits may make bookings at private hospitals for delivery under special arrangements. To complement the relevant policies, the Immigration Department (ImmD) will continue to step up the complementary immigration measures on non-local pregnant women. Under the relevant policies, non-local pregnant women who are at an advanced stage of pregnancy (28

weeks or above) are required to produce to immigration officers their confirmation certificates on delivery booking issued by private hospitals when they enter Hong Kong as visitors, otherwise they may be refused entry. In implementing these measures, immigration officers are assisted by medical staff assigned by the Department of Health, who will give professional assessment and advice on the pregnancy and other physical conditions of the pregnant women concerned. In addition, the ImmD has been carefully analysing the practices and trends of Mainland pregnant women coming to give birth in Hong Kong, and will deploy officers to patrol the arrival halls from time to time to intercept inbound passengers through visual inspection and judgment by experience.

Pursuant to the Immigration Ordinance, officers of the ImmD may examine any persons on his/her arrival in Hong Kong. The ImmD will consider whether non-Hong Kong residents meet normal immigration requirements and whether their purpose of visit is consistent with what they have declared. It will also decide whether to allow their entry after giving due consideration to the actual circumstances of each case, having regard to the laws of the HKSAR and the prevailing immigration policies.

Persons applying for entry into Hong Kong for employment and residence under various talent admission schemes are required to apply to the ImmD for the relevant visas/entry permits. The ImmD has all along been assessing each application in a rigorous manner. In assessing the applications, the ImmD will consider whether the applicants meet the specific eligibility criteria under the relevant admission schemes/arrangements as well as normal immigration requirements, and will take into account the individual circumstances of each application to ensure that only persons who are in compliance with the relevant immigration policies will be admitted into Hong Kong.

Any applicant for a visa/entry permit who knowingly and wilfully makes a statement or gives information that he/she knows to be false or does not believe to be true when applying for entry into Hong Kong shall be guilty of an offence, and is liable to a maximum fine of \$150,000 and imprisonment of 14 years upon conviction.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB118

(Question Serial No. 0938)

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

[Note: The question below also concerns the policy purview of the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB). The reply was prepared by the Immigration Department and vetted by the LWB.]

Question:

It was reported that over 10 000 applications had been received under the Top Talent Pass Scheme (TTPS) launched by the Department. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What are the respective numbers of TTPS applications received, approved, pending approval and rejected so far?
- (2) Are there any statistics compiled and maintained on the academic qualifications of successful TTPS applicants, the industries or sectors to which they belong, their income received before entry to Hong Kong, etc.?
- (3) Will the creation of a TTPS talent database be considered to enable local employers to conduct background checks on talent before considering their employment? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (4) Given that applicants are required to declare their criminal convictions following an earlier case in which a successful TTPS applicant was revealed by the media to have criminal convictions in the Mainland, will the Department require those who have been granted a visa to further provide their criminal conviction records as a remedial action? If they have a criminal conviction, will the Department revoke their visas?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

1. A breakdown of the numbers of applications and approvals under the Top Talent Pass Scheme (TTPS) from its launch on 28 December 2022 up to 28 February 2023 is as follows:

	Category A	Category B	Category C	Total
Number of applications received#	2 766	7 161	4 313	14 240
Number of applications approved	1 186	4 382	3 229	8 797
Number of applications rejected@	22	209	232	463
Number of applications pending processing	1 411	2 457	696	4 564

Notes:

Category A refers to persons with an annual income of HK\$2.5 million or above in the year preceding the application.

Category B refers to persons who have obtained a bachelor's degree from the world's top 100 universities prescribed in the designated aggregate list with at least 3 years of work experience over the past 5 years preceding the application.

Category C refers to persons who have obtained a bachelor's degree from the world's top 100 universities over the past 5 years preceding the application but with less than 3 years of work experience. An annual quota of 10 000 is set for this category.

The total number of applications includes applications withdrawn by applicants or those with no follow-up action required.

@ Including the number of applications approved but subsequently declared invalid.

2. Regarding academic qualifications, applicants under Category A are not required to provide information on academic qualifications, whereas applicants under Categories B and C are only required to prove their award of a bachelor's degree by the world's top 100 universities, and do not need to declare other academic qualifications. The Immigration Department (ImmD) adjusted the application procedures on 1 March 2023, requiring applicants with work experience to declare the sectors to which their occupations belong for analysis. The ImmD does not maintain information on the occupations by type in respect of the applications submitted before 1 March 2023.

A breakdown of statistics on the income levels of successful applicants in the preceding year is tabulated as follows:

Income in the preceding year (HK\$)	Approved applications		
	Category A	Category B	Category C
2.5 million to less than 3 million	247	Not required to submit relevant information	
3 million to less than 5 million	517		
5 million to less than 10 million	206		
10 million or above	216		

3. In assessing visa/entry permit applications under the TTPS, the ImmD will consider whether applicants fulfil the eligibility criteria for the scheme and the normal immigration requirements. The ImmD shall handle the personal data provided by the applicants for their visa/entry permit applications in compliance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486, Laws of Hong Kong), which will not be disclosed to any third party casually.
4. The ImmD has all along been assessing each visa/entry permit application in a rigorous manner. An applicant who knowingly and willfully makes a statement or gives information which he/she knows to be false or does not believe to be true when making an application for a visa/entry permit for entry into Hong Kong shall be guilty of an offence. The law enforcement departments concerned will handle these cases seriously. Any such visas/entry permits issued or permissions granted for entry into or remaining in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall have no effect.

The ImmD has been reviewing its immigration policies and measures, and will make timely enhancement so as to cope with social changes and practical needs. The ImmD adjusted the application procedures for various talent admission schemes in late February 2023, such that applicants must declare whether they have any criminal convictions during their application. Persons who have been granted a visa/entry permit are not required to re-submit information. The ImmD will review whether there are suspicious circumstances and handle the relevant cases on individual merits as appropriate.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB119

(Question Serial No. 2862)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: ()

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Correctional Services Department has all along been providing diversified vocational training programmes, having regard to the situation of the local employment market. The success of rehabilitated persons in re-integrating into society, however, still hinges on community acceptance. In this connection, please provide:

1. the numbers and proportions of persons in custody (PICs) being accepted by society after their return to the community in the past 3 years;
2. the manpower deployed and expenditures incurred in launching publicity to support PICs' re-integration into society in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

1. The Correctional Services Department (CSD) accords great importance to the employment needs of rehabilitated persons, and has been striving to enhance their employability and assist them in securing suitable jobs through various means, with a view to facilitating their smooth re-integration into society after discharge.

Among the rehabilitated persons provided with vocational training by CSD, the numbers who completed the six-month employment follow-up upon release and their employment rates within the same period in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	2020	2021	2022
Number of rehabilitated persons having successfully completed the six-month employment follow-up upon release	448	327	489
Employment rate of rehabilitated persons within 6 months of employment follow-up period upon release	83.5%	81.0%	82.6%

2. The departmental expenses incurred by CSD on organising publicity and educational programmes to promote community acceptance of and support for rehabilitated persons in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22^
Total departmental expenses	\$1,653,336	\$2,315,981	\$1,124,198

^Affected by the COVID-19 epidemic, some of the publicity and educational programmes had to be cancelled.

There were 15 staff members on average responsible for publicity work in each of the past 3 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB120****(Question Serial No. 0459)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Prison ManagementControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

- 1) Regarding the concerted acts of indiscipline committed in 2021 and 2022, please provide the details of each case, including the institution involved, the number of participating persons in custody (PICs), the number of correctional officers deployed, the causes, and the number of PICs punished for committing acts of indiscipline.
- 2) Has any review of the above cases been conducted, so that the management policies and measures can be adjusted to prevent recurrence of similar cases? If yes, what are the outcome of the review and related measures? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.:17)Reply:

- 1) Details of the cases of concerted acts of indiscipline in 2021 and 2022 are as follows:

Year	Institution	Number of participating persons in custody (PICs)	Number of correctional officers deployed[#]	Cause
2022	Hei Ling Chau Correctional Institution	9	26	Fight
	Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre	8	34	Fight
	Tai Lam Correctional Institution	7	26	Fight

	Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution	6	28	Hunger strike against management measures
	Stanley Prison	10	27	Fight
2021	Tung Tau Correctional Institution	26	54	Making requests against management measures
	Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre	10	12	Fight
	Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre	8	2	Fight
	Lo Wu Correctional Institution	18	21	Making requests against management measures
	Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution	10	34	Hunger strike against management measures
	Tung Tau Correctional Institution	6	5	Hunger strike against management measures
	Tai Tam Gap Correctional Institution	24	25	Hunger strike against management measures
	Pik Uk Correctional Institution	16	3	Fight

Number of officers deployed includes officers on duty in the institutions who took immediate actions to address the incidents and additional manpower deployed by the Correctional Services Department (CSD) to render support to the institution concerned having regard to the nature and gravity of individual cases.

All the PICs participating in the above cases of concerted acts of indiscipline were subject to punishment (including disciplinary charges or verbal warnings), removal from association with other PICs, or referral to the Police for investigation and follow-up due to the gravity of the cases.

2) According to our information, most of the PICs involved in the above cases of concerted acts of indiscipline had triad backgrounds, record of drug abuse or repeated imprisonment. They usually incited other PICs to get involved in collective actions or fighting in an attempt to establish their sphere of influence or resist the management measures or actions taken by

the management to combat illicit activities. The causes of these cases and the modus operandis adopted by the PICs were similar to those of previous incidents.

CSD will continue to strengthen intelligence collection and carry out special searching operations to ensure that all illicit activities are nipped in the bud. CSD will also tackle illicit or indiscipline acts decisively and promptly so as to prevent situations from deteriorating. CSD may take disciplinary actions against the persons involved or report the cases to the Police for follow-up, having regard to the nature and gravity of the cases. It may also order individual PICs involved to be removed from association for the maintenance of good order and discipline in the institutions in accordance with the law. Besides, in case of an emergency in a correctional facility, the Regional Response Team (RRT) will arrive at the institution promptly to provide immediate tactical support to the institutional management in a bid to bring the situation under control and prevent it from further deteriorating. In 2023, CSD will provide additional training facilities and equipment in the training base of RRT to enhance team members' tactical skills and emergency response capability.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB121****(Question Serial No. 0460)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Re-integrationControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

- 1) Please provide the following information regarding correctional education including vocational training in the past 5 years:
- the correctional institutions providing correctional education including vocational training and their respective numbers of places provided;
 - the courses or categories of educational/vocational training provided under the above-mentioned correctional education, and the expenditures involved in providing the courses;
 - whether the Department has co-organised any courses with other groups and organisations? If yes, what are the details?
 - the number of young persons in custody (PICs) engaged in education in each of the correctional institutions, and the percentage of these PICs of the total number of young PICs in each of the institutions.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) provides half-day compulsory education for young persons in custody (PICs) aged between 14 and 20, and arranges for qualified teachers to teach the subjects. Details of the education courses provided by institutions for young PICs in the past 5 years are as follows:

Correctional Institution	Course Description	Course Duration
Pik Uk Correctional Institution	Secondary curriculum, including general and practical subjects such as Chinese, English, Mathematics, Life and Society, Chinese History and Computer Application, is provided.	Arrangements are made having regard to the length of sentence and individual cases.
Sha Tsui Correctional Institution		
Lai King Correctional Institution		

Lai Sun Correctional Institution	The Senior Secondary curriculum is also provided for PICs at Pik Uk Correctional Institution, Sha Tsui Correctional Institution and Lai King Correctional Institution.	
Lai Chi Rehabilitation Centre	(1) The “Teen’s Programme” at the junior secondary level is provided, covering basic education curriculum (including Chinese, English, Mathematics, and Life and Society) and vocational training. The programme is recognised by the Vocational Training Council (VTC). (2) Appropriate secondary curriculum is provided for PICs with higher academic qualifications.	(1) 120 hours of basic education curriculum and 180 hours of vocational training. (2) Arrangements are made for individual cases.
Chi Lan Rehabilitation Centre		

Besides, CSD has introduced Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education in the above 6 institutions for young PICs to foster their creativity, coordination and problem-solving skills. Meanwhile, national education is provided through the education programme entitled “Understanding History is the Beginning of Knowledge” to assist PICs to learn Chinese history and culture, and enhance their sense of national identity, thereby helping them establish the correct values and reflect on the meaning of life, so that they can get back on track.

CSD also encourages adult PICs to pursue further studies in their spare time by enrolling in distance learning courses according to their interests and abilities, and take public examinations under the users-pay principle. Correctional institutions would provide appropriate assistance to PICs. For example, CSD has set up a number of education funds and subsidy schemes for PICs to apply for financial assistance if they want to pursue further studies but have difficulties in paying examination or tuition fees, or for purchase of reference books in respect of public examinations and distance learning courses. These funds and subsidy schemes are contributed by donations from charitable organisations and the community.

CSD’s expenditure on education is mainly spent on education provided for young PICs. The relevant expenditures in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2018-19 (Actual expenditure)	2019-20 (Actual expenditure)	2020-21 (Actual expenditure)	2021-22 (Actual expenditure)	2022-23 (Revised estimate)
Expenditure on education (\$ million)	37.89	40.05	40.64	41.91	42.65

CSD provides education to all convicted young PICs. The numbers of young PICs who received education in correctional institutions in the past 5 years are as follows:

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of young PICs	373	304	287	510	417

On vocational training, CSD has been collaborating with various training bodies (including the Employees Retraining Board, the Construction Industry Council and VTC, etc.), having regard to the situation of the local employment market, to provide over 40 vocational training courses with more than 1 400 full-time and part-time 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 after taking relevant examinations, thereby enhancing their employability and helping them enrol in bridging or progressive courses in the future, with a view to facilitating their re-integration into society after release. These courses cover a wide range of industries such as construction, engineering, business, food and beverage, retail, beauty care, transport, logistics, laundry services, computer application and environmental services, etc. The above courses are provided in 11 correctional institutions, including Stanley Prison, Tung Tau Correctional Institution, Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution, Pik Uk Prison, Tai Lam Correctional Institution, Lo Wu Correctional Institution, Tong Fuk Correctional Institution, Shek Pik Prison, Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre, Hei Ling Chau Correctional Institution and Nei Kwu Correctional Institution.

As for young PICs, CSD currently provides 13 half-day vocational training courses for all young PICs, covering commercial practice, creative multimedia production, coffee house operations, Western pastry and dessert making, building services and beauty care, etc. The above courses are provided in 6 correctional institutions for young offenders (including Pik Uk Correctional Institution, Lai King Correctional Institution, Chi Lan Rehabilitation Centre, Lai Chi Rehabilitation Centre, Lai Sun Correctional Institution and Sha Tsui Correctional Institution).

The numbers of vocational training places provided in correctional institutions in the past 5 financial years are tabulated as follows:

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Stanley Prison	150	142	142	150	162
Tung Tau Correctional Institution	110	100	85	90	20
Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution	100	130	140	127	130
Pik Uk Prison	130	120	140	141	131
Tai Lam Correctional Institution	221	221	213	201	211
Lo Wu Correctional Institution	218	214	229	232	249

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Tong Fuk Correctional Institution	188	183	183	189	184
Shek Pik Prison	85	85	82	82	94
Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre	140	152	134	129	141
Hei Ling Chau Correctional Institution	55	55	55	52	82
Nei Kwu Correctional Institution	50	50	35	32	32
Total number of training places	1 447	1 452	1 438	1 425	1 436

CSD's expenditures on vocational training in the past 5 financial years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2018-19 (Actual expenditure)	2019-20 (Actual expenditure)	2020-21 (Actual expenditure)	2021-22 (Actual expenditure)	2022-23 (Revised estimate)
Expenditure on vocational training courses (\$ million)	28.74	30.29	30.38	29.9	30.45

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB122

(Question Serial No. 2342)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Recently, the Secretary for Security has said that some people who are anti-government have become “frequent prison visitors”, paying multiple visits to inmates jailed for the involvement in the black-clad violence with whom they have no personal connection. Through influencing inmates’ thoughts, they have been instilling anti-government messages and negative views into them, in an attempt to cause a resurgence of anti-government sentiment among young persons in custody (PICs). In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

1. The frequency of visits and duration of each visit allowed to be paid to PICs;
2. Whether members of the public are required to prove their relationship with an individual PIC before being allowed to pay a visit; if yes, how does the Correctional Services Department verify their relationship? If no, what are the reasons?
3. The average number of PICs or visitors each correctional officer is required to supervise during a visit; and how can an officer ensure good order at the scene?
4. If a visitor is suspected to incite a PIC to act against correctional officers, or talk about something not conducive to the PIC’s rehabilitation during a visit, can the Department immediately suspend the visit, report to the Police if necessary and ban that visitor from visiting again?
5. If a PIC behaves abnormally or even commits acts of indiscipline after visits, what follow-up actions will the Department take? Can the visit arrangement for that PIC be suspended for a period of time to prevent those “frequent prison visitors” from further influencing the PIC’s thoughts?
6. Whether there are statistics on the average cost of arranging a visiting session for each PIC; in the long run, will the Department consider tightening restrictions on the visit arrangement to reduce expenditure and save manpower resources?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, JoePHY (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

1. Rule 48 of the Prison Rules (Cap. 234A) stipulates that convicted persons in custody (PICs) shall be permitted to be visited by relatives and friends twice a month and each

visit shall be 30 minutes, while Rule 203 stipulates that PICs awaiting trial shall be permitted to be visited by relatives and friends once a day and each visit shall be 15 minutes.

2. On admission, all PICs are required to declare the names and relationships of their visitors. During their custody, they may add new visitors to or delete existing visitors from their lists of visitors subject to approval by the institutional management. Visitors are required to produce personal identification documents to institutional staff and they are allowed to enter correctional institutions for visits only after their identities have been verified.
3. The Correctional Services Department (CSD) does not maintain the relevant statistics. Due to the security and operational needs of a prison, visits by relatives and friends are video and sound recorded, and are conducted in the presence of a correctional officer so as to ensure good order and prevent any illicit and indiscipline acts during visits.
4. The institutional management will immediately suspend a visit if any visitors have committed misconduct or are suspected to have said something unlawful or committed unlawful acts. Such incidents may be reported to the Police if necessary. The institutional management may also ban the visitor in question from entering all correctional institutions for visits for 7 days or 14 days having regard to the circumstances of each case.
5. If a PIC is found to have abnormal behaviours, the institutional management will refer the PIC to staff of the Psychological Services Section or Clinical Psychologists for follow-up according to the established mechanism. If a PIC has committed any acts of indiscipline, the institutional management will take disciplinary actions according to the law and impose appropriate punishment. However, a visit ban is not one of the punishments that could be imposed on PICs under the Prison Rules.
6. As the visit arrangement for PICs is part of the daily management work of CSD, it does not maintain a breakdown of the relevant expenditure. Since the number of visits a PIC is allowed to receive and the time allowed for each visit are stipulated under the Prison Rules, CSD shall make appropriate arrangements in accordance with the statutory requirements.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB123

(Question Serial No. 2742)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Following the announcement of “The Chief Executive’s 2022 Policy Address”, the Secretary for Security once said that the Government would work with the business sector to arrange for young persons in custody who wished to seek employment in the Mainland to work in the Mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) upon release. In this connection, would the Government please advise this Committee on the following:

1. Whether this proposed initiative will be officially rolled out by the Correctional Services Department (CSD)? If yes, (a) the manpower and expenditure on remuneration to be involved; (b) the training expenses to be earmarked; (c) the number of commercial/non-governmental organisations with which the Government will seek co-operation; and (d) the estimated number of discharged prisoners who will benefit each year. If no, what are the reasons?
2. Before the Security Bureau (SB) proposed to arrange for rehabilitated young offenders to work in the Mainland cities in GBA, has SB liaised with the government authorities and enterprises in the Mainland? If yes, how did they respond; if no, what are the reasons?
3. If the proposed initiative is officially put into implementation, how can CSD maintain connection with the rehabilitated young offenders during their employment or internship in the Mainland, so as to monitor the effectiveness of their rehabilitation?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, JoePHY (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1. After the announcement of the initiative in “The Chief Executive’s 2022 Policy Address”, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) has been making its best endeavours to implement the initiative. In late October 2022, without utilising extra manpower and resources, CSD launched the “Project JET” in collaboration with organisations in different sectors. The project provides “one-stop” training and career development opportunities for persons in custody (PICs) to participate on a voluntary basis, with a view to encouraging them to make life planning early, so that they can contribute to society after release by utilising their talents. Activities under the project include (1) life planning: to provide talks and workshops on life planning for PICs in correctional institutions; (2) in-house training: to provide relevant professional training

for PICs; (3) post-release internship: to provide post-release internship opportunities in Hong Kong or the Greater Bay Area (GBA) for PICs who have completed relevant training; (4) official employment: to offer full-time employment to rehabilitated persons with good performance during the internship; and (5) a mentoring scheme: to match rehabilitated persons with appropriate mentors as life mentors to teach them work skills and provide life education during their internship and after official employment.

As at 28 February 2023, 9 organisations in different sectors have participated in the above project, including 3 enterprises providing internship and job vacancies in GBA, covering various types of work such as management agent, administrative work, online sales, etc. Meanwhile, 8 rehabilitated persons under statutory supervision after release have been offered employment, with 2 of them having job offers in GBA.

2. Regarding the arrangement for rehabilitated young offenders to work in the Mainland cities in GBA, CSD has gained support from relevant authorities in the Mainland prior to the implementation of such arrangement.

Since the launch of the “Project JET”, CSD has proactively approached large enterprises and organisations in various sectors, including enterprises with business development in GBA, for job vacancies in Hong Kong and GBA to be provided for rehabilitated young offenders. The organisations that have been approached are generally supportive and pleased to participate in the project. CSD plans to introduce the “Rehabilitation Partners Award Scheme” in 2023 to give recognition to individuals or groups, including non-governmental organisations, enterprises, employers, etc., for their continuous support for rehabilitation work, so as to encourage all sectors of the community to make a joint effort to support rehabilitated persons.

3. According to the laws of Hong Kong, PICs released under certain correctional programmes (e.g. Detention Centre Programme, Training Centre Programme, Rehabilitation Centre Programme, Drug Addiction Treatment Centre Programme, etc.) are subject to statutory supervision. If a supervisee needs to leave Hong Kong and stay in the Mainland or overseas for reasons such as employment or studies during the supervision period, the supervising officer will maintain connection with the supervisee via letters or telephone, so as to understand the supervisee’s life in the Mainland or overseas. The supervising officer will also ask the supervisee to produce supporting documents on his/her studies or employment for verification. When the supervisee returns to Hong Kong, the supervising officer will hold an interview with the supervisee as soon as possible to understand his/her progress of rehabilitation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB124

(Question Serial No. 0727)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

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

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the staff establishment and application of technology of the Correctional Services Department (CSD), would the Government advise on the following:

1. The establishment and strength of CSD staff of different ranks (including but not limited to Assistant Officer II, Assistant Officer I, Officer, Principal Officer, Chief Officer, Superintendent, Senior Superintendent) in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by correctional facility;
2. The following information regarding CSD staff of different ranks (including but not limited to Assistant Officer II, Assistant Officer I, Officer, Principal Officer, Chief Officer, Superintendent, Senior Superintendent) in the past 3 years: (i) the wastage figure and wastage rate, with a breakdown by the cause of wastage (including but not limited to retirement, resignation, transfer, dismissal, death); (ii) the average year of service of the above wastage; (iii) the number of new recruits; and (iv) the positive (negative) growth rate, with a breakdown by correctional facility; and
3. Regarding the CSD's vigorous development of "smart training" and "smart prison", what are the specific measures and estimated expenditure involved in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

1. The establishment and strength of disciplined staff ^{Note 1} of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) in the past 3 financial years are tabulated as follows: (Since a breakdown by correctional facility involves CSD's operational deployment details, it is not appropriate to disclose such information.)

		2020-21 financial year (as at 31 March 2021)	2021-22 financial year (as at 31 March 2022)	2022-23 financial year (as at 28 February 2023)
Commander rank	Staff establishment	9	9	9
	Strength	7	7	7
Officer rank	Staff establishment	1 110	1 119	1 122
	Strength	1 073	1 090	1 064
Rank and file	Staff establishment	5 019	5 128	5 128
	Strength	4 552	4 575	4 466

Note 1: Technical Instructors and Instructors are not included.

2. (i) The wastage figures^{Note 2} and wastage rates of disciplined staff of CSD in the past 3 financial years are tabulated as follows: (Since a breakdown by correctional facility involves CSD's operational deployment details, it is not appropriate to disclose such information.)

Commander rank

Financial year	Natural wastage	Other wastage	Total	Wastage rate
2020-21	2	0	2	40%
2021-22	1	0	1	14.3%
2022-23 ^{Note 3}	3	0	3	42.9%
Total	6	0	6	

Officer rank

Financial year	Natural wastage	Other wastage	Total	Wastage rate
2020-21	36	10	46	4.3%
2021-22	33	20	53	4.9%
2022-23 ^{Note 3}	24	18	42	3.9%
Total	93	48	141	

Rank and file

Financial year	Natural wastage	Other wastage	Total	Wastage rate
2020-21	120	177	297	6.4%
2021-22	109	79	188	4.1%
2022-23 ^{Note 3}	125	99	224	4.8%
Total	354	355	709	

Note 2: Total wastage includes natural and other wastage. Natural wastage includes retirement and early retirement; other wastage includes resignation, transfer, death, early retirement on invalidating and compulsory retirement, etc.

Note 3: As at 28 February 2023.

- (ii) CSD does not maintain statistics on the average year of service of its staff wastage.
- (iii) The number of new recruits; and (iv) the positive (negative) growth rate are tabulated as follows:

Post	Number of new recruits in the financial year (positive/negative growth rate calculated by comparing the number of new recruits with the wastage figure in the financial year)		
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 ^{Note 4}
Officer	37 (-29.7%)	60 (+10%)	6 ^{Note 4} (-650%)
Assistant Officer II	306 (+2.94%)	253 (+25.7%)	157 ^{Note 4} (-42.7%)

Note 4: As at 28 February 2023. Affected by the fifth wave of the COVID-19 epidemic, the recruitment exercise conducted in the financial year had to be delayed, with some of the recruitment procedures still in progress. As such, the figures do not fully reflect the number of new recruits to be appointed later.

3. Specific measures adopted by the Department to develop “smart training” and “smart prison” are as follows:

Regarding the development of “smart training”, the Department plans to seek funding of \$462.5 million from the Legislative Council to redevelop the existing multi-purpose gymnasium of the Hong Kong Correctional Services Academy. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, construction of the proposed project is estimated to commence in the second quarter of 2023. The multi-purpose gymnasium after redevelopment will provide a number of “smart training” facilities such as virtual reality training rooms and a simulated reality firing range, etc. in addition to the existing “smart training” facilities so as to strengthen trainees’ emergency response.

Regarding the development of “smart prison”, CSD will continue to introduce technological elements into correctional facilities to enhance operational efficiency in 2023-24, including launching the “Integrated Custodial and Rehabilitation Management System” in all correctional facilities and progressively installing the “Persons in Custody Integrated

Intelligent Communication System” and the “Contactless Vital Sign Monitoring System”, etc. in different institutions. The relevant projects and estimated expenditures are tabulated as follows:

Technology project	Correctional institution involved	Estimated non-recurrent expenditure on technological development (\$)	Non-recurrent expenditure on technological development to be incurred in 2023-24 (\$)
(1) Integrated Custodial and Rehabilitation Management System			
“Integrated Custodial and Rehabilitation Management System”	All CSD’s institutions	About 353 million ⁴	About 92.34 million
(2) Security and Monitoring System			
“Video Analytic Monitoring System” with a movement and location tracking function	Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre	About 8.5 million ²	About 5.7 million
“Persons in Custody Escort and Monitoring System”	Escort and Support Group	About 4.64 million ³	About 4.13 million
“Electric Locks Security System” with a facial recognition function	Pik Uk Correctional Institution	About 219 million ³	About 29.25 million
(3) Operation and Management System			
“Contactless Vital Sign Monitoring System”	Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre and the protected rooms in 7 correctional institutions	About 11.4 million ²	About 7.35 million
“Central Control Centre System” and “Geographic Information System”	New Correctional Services Department Headquarters	About 64.73 million ⁴	About \$860,000
(4) Persons in Custody Self-management System			
“Persons in Custody Integrated Intelligent Communication System”	Designated locations in 19 correctional institutions/facilities	About 125 million ⁴	About 2.11 million
“Persons in Custody e-Message Platform”	Category A Complex of Stanley Prison	About 4.32 million ⁵	About 3.15 million
Total		About 791 million	About 145 million

-End-

Sources of funding for non-recurrent expenditure on technological development:

¹ Head 710 Computerisation under Capital Works Reserve Fund (CWRF)

² TechConnect (block vote) under Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau and Head 30 – Capital Account of Correctional Services Department

³ Head 30 – Capital Account of Correctional Services Department

⁴ Head 708 Capital Subventions and Major Systems and Equipment under CWRF

⁵ Head 710 Computerisation (block vote) under CWRF

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB125****(Question Serial No. 1756)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Re-integrationControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Under this Programme, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) aims to facilitate the re-integration of persons in custody into the community as law-abiding citizens. Publicity and education activities will be organised to appeal for community acceptance of and support for rehabilitated offenders. In this connection, please advise this Committee on:

- a) the expenditures spent on organising publicity and education activities by CSD in the past 3 years;
- b) the numbers of publicity and education activities held in the past 3 years, and their content and numbers of participants;
- c) the numbers of trainees of the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project and a breakdown of expenditure involved in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)Reply:

- a) The departmental expenditures spent on organising publicity and education activities by the Correctional Services Department (CSD) in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 [^]
Total departmental expenditure	\$1,653,336	\$2,315,981	\$1,124,198

[^]Affected by the COVID-19 epidemic, some of the publicity and education activities had to be cancelled.

- b) CSD has been committed to organising publicity activities for offender rehabilitation targeting district organisations, general public, young people and students. These publicity activities include rehabilitation activities in 18 districts co-organised with the District Fight Crime Committees, Hong Kong Brands and Products Expo, Hong Kong Flower Show, and publicising various rehabilitation activities via social media and platforms, etc.

As regards activities targeting young people and students, CSD has implemented the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project (RPP) since September 2008. With young people and senior primary students as its major target participants, RPP aims to disseminate the messages of “safeguarding our country and home, leading a law-abiding and drug-free life as well as supporting offender rehabilitation” through 12 community education activities. These activities include education talks, Personal Encounter with Prisoners Scheme under which young people are arranged to meet persons in custody, Green Haven Scheme, visits to the Hong Kong Correctional Services Museum, Student Forum, Extended Training Camp, Drama and Music Performance of “Creation and Rehabilitation”, Summer Tour, The Reflective Path under which participants can experience life in custody, Rehabilitation Pioneer Leaders, Mission in Prison which is based on the concept of escape room activity, and the education promotion vehicle “Rehabilitation Express” newly launched in 2022, etc.

In the past 3 years, the relevant statistics on the activities under RPP are as follows:

Name of activities	2020	2021	2022
	Number of activities (Number of participants)		
1. Education talk	51 (6 126)	79 (14 091)	87 (17 024)
2. Personal Encounter with Prisoners Scheme	4 (79)	15 (182)	(Note 1)
3. Green Haven Scheme	(Note 2)	1 (11)	1 (9)
4. Visit to the Hong Kong Correctional Services Museum	1 (37)	4 (119)	13 (339)
5. Student Forum	1 (240)	16 (4 938)	1 (1 920)(Note 6)
6. Extended Training Camp	(Note 3)		
7. Drama and Music Performance of “Creation and Rehabilitation”			
8. Summer Tour			
9. The Reflective Path	4 (107)	19 (479)	33 (733)
10. Rehabilitation Pioneer Leaders (RPL)	See paragraph c)		
11. Mission in Prison (MIP)	(Note 4)	109 (2 449)	44 (811)(Note 6)
12. Rehabilitation Express (RehEx)	(Note 5)		25 (4 263)
Total:	61 (6 589)	243 (22 269)	204 (25 099)

Note 1: The Personal Encounter with Prisoners Scheme was not held in 2022 due to the epidemic.

Note 2: The Green Haven Scheme was not held in 2020 due to the epidemic.

Note 3: The Extended Training Camp, the Drama and Music Performance of “Creation and Rehabilitation” and Summer Tour were not held in 2020, 2021 and 2022 due to the epidemic.

Note 4: MIP was launched in April 2021.

Note 5: RehEx was launched in November 2022.

Note 6: Some of the activities had to be cancelled due to the epidemic.

- c) Among the 12 community education activities under RPP, only RPL operates on a membership basis. The numbers of trainees of RPL in the past 5 years are as follows:

Year	Number of trainees of RPL
2018 ^(Note 7)	30
2019	60
2020	101
2021	174
2022	234

Note 7: RPL was established in July 2018.

The operating costs of RPL are mainly met by donations from the community and no government expenditures are involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB126****(Question Serial No. 1757)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Re-integrationControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

It is mentioned under this Programme that the Correctional Services Department aims to facilitate the re-integration of persons in custody (PICs) into the community as law-abiding citizens and will provide support for PICs to continue their studies. In this regard, please inform this Committee of:

- a) the numbers of PICs having completed programmes for Bachelor's Degree, Sub-degree, Higher Diploma, Diploma Yi Jin, etc., and the qualifications attained in the past 5 years;
- b) the details of expenditures incurred on providing support for PICs to continue their studies in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.:20)Reply:

a) In the past 5 years, a total of 53 young persons in custody (PICs) (i.e. those aged below 21) took the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) and 36 adult PICs were awarded 34 bachelor's degrees and 2 master's degrees. The numbers of the relevant PICs and the qualifications attained are tabulated below:

Year	Qualifications attained ^{Note 3}		
	HKDSE	Bachelor's degree	Master's degree
2022	12	5	-
2021	7	5	-
2020	9	9	-
2019	14	5	1
2018	16	10	1
Total	58 ^{Note 1 Note 2}	34	2
	(involving a total of 53 young PICs)	(involving a total of 36 adult PICs)	

^{Note 1:} In the past 5 years, a total of 5 young PICs sat for HKDSE more than once.

Note 2: In the past 5 years, a total of 5 young PICs met the general admission requirements for local universities.

Note 3: The Correctional Services Department (CSD) does not maintain a breakdown of PICs taking other individual programmes.

b) CSD has set up a number of education funds and subsidy schemes for PICs to apply for financial assistance if they want to pursue further studies but have difficulties in paying for public examinations and the tuition fees for university distance learning courses. These funds and subsidy schemes are contributed by donations from charitable organisations and the community. In the past 5 years, the amounts of subsidy granted to PICs are as follows:

Year	Amount of subsidy granted (HK\$)
2022	\$2,355,929
2021	\$2,558,496
2020	\$3,504,835
2019	\$3,092,146
2018	\$2,275,593

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB127****(Question Serial No. 1758)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Re-integrationControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) provides psychological and counselling services for persons in custody (PICs) and those under supervision after release. In this regard, would the Department inform this Committee of:

- a) the number of staff and their posts in CSD assigned to provide psychological and counselling services for PICs and those under supervision after release. Among them, how many have received professional training on in-depth counselling?
- b) the numbers of PICs in correctional institutions and residents of half-way houses receiving psychological treatment, psychiatric treatment and counselling services under the Prison Programme, Training Centre Programme, Detention Centre Programme, Rehabilitation Centre Programme, Drug Addiction Treatment Centre Programme, Post-Release Supervision Scheme, Conditional Release Scheme and Release Under Supervision Scheme, and the numbers of times they received those treatments in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

- a) The posts and numbers of staff in the Psychological Services Section (PSS) of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) assigned to provide psychological and counselling services for persons in custody (PICs) and those under supervision after release are tabulated below (as at 3 March 2023):

Post	Number of staff
Senior Clinical Psychologist	2
Clinical Psychologist	15
Other staff in PSS	31

All of the Clinical Psychologists possess a master's degree or above in clinical psychology while other staff in PSS have received relevant on-the-job training.

b) The figures on psychological services provided to PICs and residents of half-way houses by PSS of CSD in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Psychological services^{Note 1}			
Service recipient	Number of times		
	2020	2021	2022
● PICs under the Prison Programme	22 889	24 336	17 957
● PICs under the Training Centre Programme/ Detention Centre Programme/ Rehabilitation Centre Programme/ Drug Addiction Treatment Centre Programme	3 173	3 432	3 389
● PICs under the Post-Release Supervision Scheme, Conditional Release Scheme and Release Under Supervision Scheme, and residents of half-way houses	547	568	430
Total	26 609	28 336	21 776

Note 1 : Psychological services include therapies, counselling and assessment.

CSD maintains only the numbers of times of psychological services received by PICs, but does not maintain information on the number of service recipients. Besides, CSD does not maintain statistics on PICs receiving psychiatric treatment and counselling services.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB128****(Question Serial No. 1785)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Re-integrationControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention under this Programme that support will be provided for persons in custody (PICs) to continue their studies. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. Please set out, by age, the total numbers of PICs enrolling in senior secondary courses and sitting for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination respectively in correctional institutions in each of the past 5 years. Among them, how many met the general entrance requirements for universities?
2. Please set out, by age, the respective numbers of PICs enrolling in distance learning associate degree, undergraduate and postgraduate programmes offered by different organisations in each of the past 5 years. Among them, how many completed the relevant tertiary programmes each year?
3. Did the Department provide any improvement measures for PICs last year to assist them to continue their studies? If yes, what were the improvement measures, correctional institutions and expenditure involved?
4. What are the work and expenditure involved in this regard in the coming year? Is the Rehabilitation College to be established by the Department included? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

1 & 2. In the past 5 years, a total of 53 young persons in custody (PICs) (i.e. those aged below 21) took the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) and 36 adult PICs were awarded 34 bachelor's degrees and 2 master's degrees. The numbers of the relevant PICs are tabulated below:

	Young PICs	Adult PICs	
	HKDSE	Bachelor's degree	Master's degree
2022	12	5	-
2021	7	5	-

	Young PICs	Adult PICs	
	HKDSE	Bachelor's degree	Master's degree
2020	9	9	-
2019	14	5	1
2018	16	10	1
Total	58 <small>Note 1 Note 2</small>	34	2
	(involving a total of 53 young PICs)	(involving a total of 36 adult PICs)	

Note 1: In the past 5 years, a total of 5 young PICs sat for HKDSE more than once.

Note 2: In the past 5 years, a total of 5 young PICs met the general admission requirements for local universities.

Note 3: The Correctional Services Department (CSD) does not maintain a breakdown of PICs taking other individual programmes.

3. CSD has set up the Prisoners' Education Trust Fund and a number of education subsidy schemes, which are contributed by donations from charitable organisations and the community, to provide financial assistance for PICs who want to pursue further studies but have difficulties in paying for public examinations and the tuition fees for distance learning courses. In the past 5 years, the average annual amount of subsidy granted was about \$2.7 million.

In addition, CSD and the Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 24 October 2022 to provide more comprehensive support, including the provision of grants, credit transfers and programme articulation, for PICs who wish to pursue further studies. As at 28 February 2023, HKMU has provided grants totaling about \$1 million to over 120 PICs.

To encourage and facilitate PICs' learning, CSD has launched an electronic learning platform "Learning on Demand" (LOD) for them. By using a tablet computer connected with the intranet of the respective institution, a PIC can access the electronic learning materials in the system, which cover a variety of areas and are of different levels, such as learning materials for distance learning courses offered by HKMU and those for public examinations (including HKDSE). The first LOD system was installed in Pik Uk Correctional Institution in December 2022, while the same will be extended to Sha Tsui Correctional Institution and Lai King Correctional Institution in the second quarter of 2023. The total expenditure involved is about \$1.3 million, which is mainly met by CSD's existing resources and partly by donations from charitable organisations.

4. CSD plans to establish the Rehabilitation College to offer full-time continuing education programmes for adult PICs to enrol on a voluntary basis, so as to help them equip themselves for smooth re-integration into society. The plan is still in the pipeline, and CSD is seeking funding from charitable organisations to cover the relevant expenses.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB129

(Question Serial No. 2481)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention under this Programme that rehabilitation strategies and re-integration programmes will be developed. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. What are the respective numbers of young persons in custody aged under 21 and aged 21 to 25 in correctional institutions? How many of them have been imprisoned for committing illegal acts related to the “black-clad violence”? What is their average term of imprisonment?
2. Further to the above questions, it is learnt that the Department has formulated a number of programmes such as the “Project PATH” to assist young offenders who have committed illegal acts related to the black-clad violence. What were the number of participants and the effectiveness of such programmes last year? Will they be enhanced and extended in the coming year? What are the resources and measures involved?
3. How many people were prosecuted for committing illegal acts related to the “black-clad violence” in the past 2 years? Among them, how many have been put on remand and how many have become wanted persons after jumping bail?
4. For young offenders who have been remanded for committing illegal acts related to the “black-clad violence”, have any programmes or measures such as arrangements for further studies been rolled out to help them reflect on themselves or study while on remand, so that they can take this opportunity to re-establish correct values?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

1. As at 3 March 2023, 479 persons in custody (PICs) are aged under 21, while 944 PICs are aged between 21 and 25. Among them, 66 and 221 PICs were involved in offences related to the “black-clad violence” respectively. Their terms of imprisonment range from 3 months to 7 years and 9 months. The Correctional Services Department (CSD) does not maintain statistics on the average term of imprisonment of these PICs.
2. Since the outbreak of the “black-clad violence” in 2019, a large number of radical people involved in serious offences have been admitted to correctional institutions. In order

to help them re-establish correct values, CSD has launched the “Project PATH”. From late 2021 to 28 February 2023, a total of 839 PICs joined the programme on a voluntary basis, including 604 convicted persons involved in the “black-clad violence” (accounting for 74% of the convicted persons involved in the “black-clad violence” since the launch of the programme), and 235 PICs not involved in the “black-clad violence”. According to the observation and assessment made by correctional officers, the “Project PATH” has yielded satisfactory results with positive response. Participants felt deep remorse for their unlawful acts committed in the past and actively participated in the activities under the programme. In the coming year, CSD will proactively enhance the programme by organising more interesting and interactive activities including sharing by relevant PICs of their successful rehabilitation stories, so as to attract more PICs to join the programme. CSD will continue to establish close collaboration with community stakeholders to design diversified rehabilitation programmes, with a view to enhancing their effectiveness. CSD utilises the existing resources to implement the above programme.

3. In 2021 and 2022, the number of admissions of persons put on remand in correctional institutions for offences related to the “black-clad violence” were 518 and 373 respectively. CSD does not have information on “persons prosecuted” and “wanted persons who have jumped bail”.
4. CSD provides half-day compulsory education for all convicted young persons, while young remands may choose on their own to participate in educational classes at secondary school level in their institutions. Their sense of national identity could be enhanced through learning Chinese history. Meanwhile, through moral and civic education, education on the Basic Law and the National Security Law, etc., CSD helps them re-establish correct values and strengthen their law-abiding awareness.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB130

(Question Serial No. 1014)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Re-integration

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Rehabilitation Division of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) is responsible for the re-integration programme for persons in custody (PICs). This work involves conducting community education, publicity and public engagement activities to enhance young people's sense of national identity and national security awareness. Besides, the matters requiring special attention in 2023-24 include providing market-oriented and socially recognised vocational training courses for PICs.

In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. The work details and estimated expenditure involved in the net increase of 4 posts in 2023-24 under Programme (2);
2. The manpower, expenditure and work details involved in CSD's work to enhance young people's sense of national identity and national security awareness; and
3. The types and content of vocational training courses, and whether there are any statistics on the level of acceptance of PICs' re-integration into society. If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

1. The creation of 5 posts (i.e. a net increase of 4 posts following the reduction of 1 post at the same time) in 2023-24 under Programme (2) is for the operation of 5 Multi-purpose Family and Rehabilitation Service Centres (MFRSC) under the Correctional Services Department (CSD). The setting up of MFRSC aims to provide psychological and counselling services for rehabilitated offenders and their families, as well as a video social visit service for relatives and friends of persons in custody (PICs), so that visitors who are unable to visit correctional institutions due to old age, pregnancy, disabilities or other special reasons can make an appointment for a video visit, thereby strengthening the connection between PICs and their relatives and friends. The additional expenditure involved in the net increase of 4 posts under Programme (2) is \$2,568,960.

2. CSD has been organising different educational activities and visits under the Rehabilitation Pioneer Project (RPP) for participants such as students and young people, etc. In 2022, a total of 604 activities were held with the number of participants reaching 25 099. RPP is mainly implemented by staff on establishment responsible for RPP. It aims to disseminate to participants the messages of “safeguarding our country and home, leading a law-abiding and drug-free life as well as supporting offender rehabilitation”, so as to reduce crime and create a safer and more inclusive Hong Kong.

At present, staff members dedicated for implementing RPP include 2 Principal Officers, 3 Officers, 3 Assistant Officers I and 10 Assistant Officers II. The estimated expenditure on RPP in 2023-24 is \$372,000.

3. CSD has been collaborating 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 vocational training courses with more than 1 400 full-time and part-time 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 after taking relevant examinations, thereby enhancing their employability and helping them enrol in bridging or progressive courses in the future, with a view to facilitating their re-integration into society after release. These courses cover a wide range of industries such as construction, engineering, business, food and beverage, retail, beauty care, transport, logistics, laundry services, computer application and environmental services, etc.

As for young PICs, CSD currently provides 13 half-day vocational training courses covering commercial practice, creative multimedia production, coffee house operations, Western pastry and dessert making, building services and beauty care, etc.

In 2022, the employment rate of rehabilitated offenders within 6 months of employment follow-up period after release was 82.6%.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB131****(Question Serial No. 0920)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Re-integrationControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the success rates of the re-integration programmes within the supervision period under Indicators, the percentage of detention centre (non-conviction in 1 year after discharge) decreased from 100% in 2021 to 95.9% in 2022. In this regard, would the Department inform this Committee of the following:

What are the reasons for a drop in the success rate?

What is the success rate of young persons in custody (PICs) involved in the black-clad violence in 2019?

What is the overall effectiveness of the rehabilitation work of the Correctional Services Department for young PICs involved in the black-clad violence in 2019?

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes is affected by various personal and social factors, including the motivation and determination of supervisees to turn over a new leaf, community and family support, peer influence, etc.

In the past 10 years, the success rates of supervision cases under the Detention Centre Programme varied:

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Success rate	96.5%	94.9%	96.0%	97.8%	94.1%	100%	100%	100%	100%	95.9% [#]

[#] Including 3 unsuccessful cases

Since the outbreak of the “black-clad violence” in 2019, a large number of radical people involved in serious offences have been admitted to correctional institutions. In order to help them re-establish correct values, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) has launched the “Project PATH”. From late 2021 to 28 February 2023, a total of 839 persons in custody joined the project on a voluntary basis, including 604 convicted persons involved in the “black-clad violence” (accounting for 74% of the convicted persons involved in the “black-

clad violence” since the launch of the project). According to the observation and assessment made by correctional officers, the “Project PATH” has yielded satisfactory results with positive response. Participants felt deep remorse for their unlawful acts committed in the past and actively participated in the activities under the project.

All re-integration programmes within the supervision period are conducted in accordance with the relevant legislation. At present, there are a total of 10 supervision programmes, including Detention Centre Programme, Drug Addiction Treatment Centre Programme, Training Centre Programme, Rehabilitation Centre Programme, etc., and success rates are compiled for each of these programmes. CSD does not maintain a breakdown of the success rate of cases “involved in the black-clad violence in 2019”.

CSD will continue to make good use of the resources to enhance the existing rehabilitation programmes, and strengthen collaboration with community stakeholders to create more rehabilitation opportunities to facilitate the re-integration of rehabilitated persons into society.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB132

(Question Serial No. 1427)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the Indicators of Prison Management, the average daily number of persons in custody (PICs) under Prison Programme in 2022 was 7 216, while the average daily number of PICs under re-integration cum supervision programmes in the same year was only 746, accounting for about a tenth of the total number. In this regard, would the Department inform this Committee of the following:

- a) Whether the percentage of PICs participating re-integration cum supervision programmes has remained low at a tenth for a long period of time? If yes, what are the reasons?
- b) Please provide in detail the relevant percentages in the past 5 years.
- c) Whether there are sufficient resources for providing re-integration services for PICs? What is the actual number of staff involved in the work? What were the financial resources put into the work over the years?

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

- (a) Currently, not all persons in custody (PICs) are subject to statutory supervision after release. According to the laws of Hong Kong, only rehabilitated persons released from drug addiction treatment centres, training centres, detention centres and rehabilitation centres and those released under various statutory supervision schemes (i.e. young PICs under the Prison Programme, Release Under Supervision Scheme, Pre-release Employment Scheme, Post-release Supervision Scheme, Conditional Release Scheme and Supervision After Release Scheme) have to undergo statutory supervision by the Correctional Services Department (CSD). As for those rehabilitated persons not included in the above statutory supervision schemes, CSD may, according to their wishes, refer them to voluntary organisations for follow-up after release.

- (b) The relevant figures in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Average daily number of PICs	8 303	7 737	6 902	7 616	7 613
Average daily number of PICs under re-integration cum supervision programmes	917	678	577	746	734

- (c) The staff establishment and related expenditures of CSD under the Re-integration Programme in the past 5 financial years are tabulated as follows:

	Staff establishment	Expenditure (\$ billion)
2018-2019	1 601	1.0777
2019-2020	1 608	1.1398
2020-2021	1 618	1.1137
2021-2022	1 618	1.1499
2022-2023	1 618	1.2058 (revised estimate)

In recent years, CSD has launched various rehabilitation programmes, and established close collaboration with about 100 non-governmental organisations and groups to assist PICs in turning over a new leaf and re-integrating into society.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB133****(Question Serial No. 2790)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Prison ManagementControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Assuming the occupancy rate is 100%, please list in the following table the average daily meal cost per person in custody (PIC) in various types of institutions in the past 5 financial years:

	Average daily meal cost per PIC (\$)				
2018-19	Prison	Training Centre	Detention Centre	Rehabilitation Centre	Drug Addiction Treatment Centre
2019-20					
2020-21					
2021-22					
2022-23					

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)Reply:

The average cost of food material per day per person in custody (PIC) in various correctional institutions in the past 5 financial years is as follows:

Financial year	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Average daily cost of food material per PIC (\$)	24.6	24.6	25.8	29.2	29.2

(Note: The average cost is calculated based on the contract price of food material in the year, thus such meal cost is applicable to all institutions.)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB134

(Question Serial No. 2791)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide a breakdown by the number of complaints received by correctional institutions, the category of complaints, the complainant, the content of complaints, the number of complaints entailing investigation, the number of complaints not entailing investigation, the number of substantiated complaints after investigation, the number of unsubstantiated complaints after investigation, and the number and rank of correctional officers subject to punishment for substantiated complaints after investigation in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 49)

Reply:

In general, if the complaints lodged by persons in custody (PICs) involve matters of a relatively minor nature, such as the daily routines, general treatment or operations of an institution, the institutional management will take immediate follow-up actions.

As for complaints of a relatively serious nature, such as misconduct of staff or maladministration, the institutional management will refer them to the Complaints Investigation Unit (CIU) of the Correctional Services Department for comprehensive investigation.

The numbers of complaint cases received from PICs and entailing comprehensive investigation by CIU in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Cases entailing comprehensive investigation by CIU (complaints lodged by PICs)	2018 (Number of cases)	2019 (Number of cases)	2020 (Number of cases)	2021 (Number of cases)	2022 (Number of cases)
Use of unnecessary force	8	9	21	16	9
Misconduct of staff	21	33	49	34	30
Negligence of duty	7	15	40	25	18
Abuse of authority	8	11	19	12	5
Injustice in disciplinary action	13	11	28	28	14
Dissatisfaction with institutional policy/procedure	1	2	9	0	0
Total	58	81	166	115	76

The numbers of complaint cases received from PICs which were found substantiated/partly substantiated after comprehensive investigation by CIU in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Cases substantiated/partly substantiated after comprehensive investigation by CIU (complaints lodged by PICs)	2018 (Number of cases)	2019 (Number of cases)	2020 (Number of cases)	2021 (Number of cases)	2022 (Number of cases)
Substantiated	1	1	4	1	0
Substantiated other than reported	1	0	1	2	0
Not fully substantiated	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	1	5	3	0

A total of 2 Assistant Officers were subject to punishment for involvement in the substantiated/partly substantiated cases listed above in the past 5 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB135

(Question Serial No. 2096)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The work of the Fire Services Department involves, among others, upgrading fire safety measures in prescribed commercial premises, specified commercial buildings, composite buildings, domestic buildings and industrial buildings, as well as ensuring the provision and proper maintenance of fire service installations and equipment in buildings. However, in reality, many people have reflected that the process, such as that of the vetting of drawings, in respect of fire safety improvement works has been very lengthy. Would the Government inform this Committee: whether it has considered deploying existing staff to help with such administrative work when they are not engaged in firefighting and training-related duties; and whether there are any measures to provide further support with a view to addressing the existing shortage of staff in handling such administrative work?

Asked by: Hon CHU Kwok-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

Before starting fire safety improvement works in a building, the consultants or professionals appointed by the building owner shall submit the design of the proposed fire service installations and equipment (FSI) (including their details, specifications and locations) in the form of FSI drawings to the Fire Services Department (FSD) for approval. Subsequently, registered fire service installation contractors and registered contractors shall carry out the works in accordance with the approved drawings. This is to ensure that the FSI can function in case of fire.

In general, the processing of FSI drawings can be completed within a reasonable time without delay. When necessary, the FSD will flexibly appoint contract staff to assist in vetting the drawings. If irregularities are found in the FSI drawings, the FSD will clearly state its comments in the letter of reply for the recipient to take follow-up actions on and make amendments to the drawings. The case officer of the FSD will also have meetings with the building owner (s) /consultants or professionals concerned to help them resolve the issues in preparing the drawings.

As a facilitating measure for the trade, the FSD has also uploaded information about approval of drawings such as the workflow, checklists and matters requiring attention to its website for viewing. The FSD also organises from time to time “FSD Connects with the Construction Industry” experience sharing sessions and other seminars with engineers of the FSD in attendance to explain to and remind participants from the trade of matters requiring attention and common mistakes in submission of FSI drawings so as to reduce the number of rounds of amendments to the drawings, thus expediting the vetting process.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB136****(Question Serial No. 3155)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Fire Service, (2) Fire Protection and PreventionControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding marine fire prevention strategies, please advise on the following:

- (a) 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									

- (b) 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 2020-21 to 2022-23)?
- (c) What will be the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved in the fire prevention work for typhoon shelters in 2023-24?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 60)Reply:

- (a) 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	/	/	/	/	10	/	/	/	/	1
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	/	/	/	/	10	/	/	/	/	3

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 vessels and head for the incident scene to provide support.

* Fireboats No. 2 and No. 10 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 in the table above are not within its service area.

- ^ 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 areas of Hong Kong eastern waters.

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.

- (b) & (c) 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 2020-21 to 2022-23 and in 2023-24 (estimate) is tabulated as follows:

Rank	Establishment			
Year (as at 31 March)	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (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	15	15	15
Principal Fireman*	53	61	61	61
Senior Fireman*	73	84	84	84
Fireman*	118	141	141	141

- * The FSD is in the process of procuring 1 fireboat to enhance its operational efficiency in the waters of Hong Kong. Since it takes at least 2 to 3 years for the personnel in training to obtain relevant professional maritime licences, the establishment of the Marine and Diving Division has increased since 2021-22 with the addition of 4 Station Officers, 8 Principal Firemen, 11 Senior Firemen and 23 Firemen for immediate deployment to operations upon commissioning of the new fireboat.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB137

(Question Serial No. 2186)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the Fire Services Department's mascot "Anyone", would the Government inform this Committee:

1. of the expenditure on the design of the above-mentioned mascot, and related publicity and operational expenses;
2. of the numbers of publicity materials and publicity activities featuring the mascot in the past 5 years; and
3. whether an evaluation has been conducted on Hong Kong people's awareness of the above-mentioned mascot. If so, what the criteria, method, covering period and findings of the evaluation are; if not, what the reasons are.

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. "Anyone" is designed internally by the Fire Services Department (FSD) to convey the concept that anyone can help save lives, as well as encourage and instill an awareness in people to save the lives of themselves and others and to be ready to lend a helping hand in safe conditions. The design, publicity and operation of "Anyone" do not involve additional manpower and resources. The FSD does not keep separate statistics on the expenditure involved in the design, publicity and operation of "Anyone".
2. "Anyone" is featured in a wide range of the FSD's publicity and educational materials, including but not limited to leaflets, pamphlets, posters, souvenirs and posts on the FSD's Facebook page, etc. "Anyone" also makes appearances at various FSD events, such as open days and educational seminars. The FSD does not keep separate statistics on the numbers of publicity materials and activities featuring "Anyone".
3. "Anyone" is neither a mascot of nor a spokesperson for the FSD. Instead, it refers to anyone in the community including you and me, regardless of occupation, gender or

even physique or body build. The FSD hopes that “Anyone” can bring a positive message to the community and raise people’s awareness of emergency preparedness. The concept and the image of “Anyone” have not yet been patented, and the department has not conducted any evaluation specifically on public awareness of “Anyone”. As for the overall publicity and educational efforts of the FSD, the official Facebook page has been followed by more than 252 000 people since its official launch on 5 November 2018. The FSD will continue to disseminate messages on public safety and the latest information about the FSD through the page and other activities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB138

(Question Serial No. 1143)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2023-24, how many civil servants will the Fire Services Department recruit by grade and rank? What is the increase in number as compared to this year? What will be the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

In 2023-24, it is estimated that there will be a net decrease of 22 posts in the Fire Services Department, while there was a net increase of 79 posts in 2022-23.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB139

(Question Serial No. 1155)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2022, among the 703 113 emergency ambulance calls received, how many actually turned out to be non-emergency cases? What was the expenditure incurred? Has the Department conducted a review and formulated a plan regarding the misuse of ambulance service to ensure the effective use of public resources? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) conducts analyses every two years on cases of emergency ambulance calls in order to understand the use of emergency ambulance service by the public. In the analysis conducted in 2021, about 1.1% of some 10 000 randomly selected cases were found to have no obvious need for emergency ambulance service. This revealed a notable decline in the percentage of such cases as against 1.6% recorded in similar analysis conducted in 2019 (Note 1). The FSD will conduct the next similar analysis in 2023.

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 2022-23 is about \$2.5 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 through various channels.

Note 1: The percentages of such cases recorded in similar analysis conducted in 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021 are 10.3%, 4.2%, 2.7%, 2.2%, 2.0%, 1.6% and 1.1% respectively, indicating a continuous downward trend.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB140****(Question Serial No. 1159)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (3) Ambulance ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the estimated expenditure on ambulance service under the influence of the novel coronavirus, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. In the past 3 years, has the Government procured additional anti-epidemic protective equipment for the provision of ambulance service in response to the novel coronavirus epidemic? If yes, please provide information on the additional items procured and the expenditure involved.
2. What is the estimated expenditure on epidemic control measures in the next financial year? How will the Government ensure its anti-epidemic supplies meet the needs of frontline ambulance or fire personnel?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) provides all frontline personnel with protective gowns, surgical masks, N95 respirators, head-band type tight-fitting goggles, disposable face shields, disposable caps, gloves and rubber boots for handling ambulance calls related to COVID-19. In addition, the FSD has equipped all ambulances with high efficiency particulate air filter systems. The FSD did not keep separate statistics on the additional expenditure for coping with the COVID-19 epidemic. The total expenditures on the procurement of anti-epidemic protective equipment and air filter systems for ambulances in the past 3 years are as follows:

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as at 2.3.2023)
Expenditure on procurement of anti-epidemic protective equipment and air filter systems for ambulances (\$m)	17.35	29.79	37.98

2. For 2023-24, the FSD has earmarked about \$28.37 million for expenditure on procuring anti-epidemic protective equipment and high efficiency particulate air filters for ambulances. The FSD will continue to closely monitor the latest development of the epidemic, conduct appropriate assessment and deploy resources to ensure sufficient anti-epidemic supplies for use by frontline personnel.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB141

(Question Serial No. 2729)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Deployed earlier to join the earthquake rescue efforts in Türkiye, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Search and Rescue Team is in the process of making an application for the internationally recognised classification “Medium Urban Search and Rescue Team”, which, if successful, is conducive to enhancing Hong Kong’s international image. Regarding allocation of additional resources to the Fire Services Department, would the Government inform this Committee:

1. of the amount of additional resources allocated by the Government to the search and rescue operation in Türkiye, with a detailed breakdown of all funding items; and
2. whether it is necessary for the Government to provide additional resources for the HKSAR Search and Rescue Team to maintain its equipment and techniques at the required standards in the next 2 years, in order to ensure the team meets the overall benchmarks for passing the assessments; if yes, what the details are.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

1. The Government used existing resources to support the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Search and Rescue Team’s earthquake rescue operation in Türkiye.
2. The HKSAR Search and Rescue Team, which was deployed to assist in search and rescue work in the quake-stricken areas in Türkiye, comprises personnel from the Fire Services Department (FSD)’s Urban Search and Rescue Team, the Security Bureau, the Immigration Department, and the Department of Health. Since its formation, the Urban Search and Rescue Team of the FSD has adopted the international search and rescue standards of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group as its direction for development. It meets the international standards in terms of equipment as well as search and rescue techniques. The FSD expects that the team can pass relevant assessments with existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB142

(Question Serial No. 1391)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

According to the information provided by the Government, there are around 13 500 buildings across the territory governed by the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) and a considerable number of which are required to carry out fire safety improvement works as directed by the Fire Services Department (FSD). For this reason, the Legislative Council passed the Fire Services (Amendment) Bill 2016 through 3 readings in early 2017 for the FSD to introduce the Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme, under which a qualified third party would be allowed to share the work of the FSD.

As stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24, the FSD will continue to pursue legislative work for the introduction of the RFE Scheme. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee:

1. of the estimated staff establishment and expenditure involved in pursuing the introduction of the RFE Scheme in 2023-24;
2. of the current progress and expected implementation timetable of the RFE Scheme; and
3. whether an assessment has been made to anticipate the yearly increase in the number of buildings complying with fire safety improvement directions after the introduction of the RFE Scheme?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) will use existing manpower and resources to take forward the introduction of the Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme.
2. In 2017, the Legislative Council (LegCo) enacted the Fire Services (Amendment) Ordinance 2017 for the Government to make the subsidiary legislations for the RFE Scheme. In 2018, the FSD consulted relevant professional bodies and stakeholders on the implementation and regulatory details of the RFE Scheme, such as qualification and

experience requirements, code of conduct and criminal liability, etc. The trade was generally in support of the RFE Scheme. At present, the FSD has consolidated views put forward by stakeholders and has been proactively making reference to relevant experience in the other countries, and is drawing up relevant subsidiary legislations to stipulate the details of the RFE Scheme. The FSD hopes that the relevant subsidiary legislations can be introduced in the current term of the LegCo. It will implement the RFE Scheme upon passing of the subsidiary legislations.

3. The FSD proposes that, when the RFE Scheme is to be taken forward for implementation, the Scheme to be implemented in stages, starting with licensed premises. Meanwhile, there is no plan to include the vetting of fire safety improvement works of old buildings in the proposed duties of RFEs. Nevertheless, the FSD will review the effectiveness of the RFE Scheme and consider whether the scope would be expanded to other areas after the implementation of the Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB143

(Question Serial No. 1429)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

As set out under the Indicators, the numbers of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices (FHANs) issued (other than floating obstructions to means of escape and locked exits) and inspections of fire safety in commercial premises, composite buildings and industrial buildings conducted by the Fire Services Department fell substantially in both 2022 and 2021. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of:

- (a) the reasons for the significant fall in the numbers of FHANs issued and fire safety inspections; and
- (b) the relevant data in the past 5 years in table form?

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

- (a) The number of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices (FHANs) issued is affected by various practical factors, including the number of complaints received and whether the complaints are found substantiated upon investigation, etc. In 2022, the number of relevant complaints received by the Fire Services Department (FSD) fell significantly compared to that in 2021. Hence, the number of FHANs issued dropped correspondingly.

As regards inspections, less inspections of commercial premises, composite buildings and industrial buildings were conducted by the FSD's fire protection units in the first quarter of 2022 as they had to implement special work arrangements and participate in anti-epidemic work under the Government's policy to fight the raging fifth wave of the COVID-19 epidemic.

- (b) The numbers of FHANs issued (other than floating obstructions to means of escape (MOE) and locked exits) and inspections of fire safety in commercial premises, composite buildings and industrial buildings conducted by the FSD in enforcing the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance, the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance and

the Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance (Note) respectively in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of FHANs issued (other than floating obstructions to MOE and locked exits)	8 777	7 738	6 141	6 694	4 900
Number of inspections of fire safety in commercial premises, composite buildings and industrial buildings	65 003	62 247	55 975	67 110	58 944

Note: The Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance came into effect in June 2020.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB144****(Question Serial No. 0880)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Fire ServiceControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

1. Please provide the number of calls involving fireboats in 2022 and the time taken for the fireboats to arrive at the fire scenes, with a breakdown by the following journey times: under 15 minutes, under 30 minutes, under 45 minutes, under 60 minutes and under 120 minutes.
2. Please tabulate the numbers of duty and maintenance hours for Fireboats No. 1 to No. 8 and No. 10 in 2022-23.
3. Please tabulate the fireboats budgeted for replacement from 2020-21 to 2023-24 and their respective replacement progress.

	Basic features (total length/ crew capacity/ speed)	Target time of replacement*	Builder (if any)	Approved commitment

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)Reply:

1. There were 2 252 calls involving fireboats in 2022 and the time taken for the fireboats to arrive at the scenes is tabulated as follows:

Journey Time	Number of calls involving fireboats in 2022		
	Fire	Special service (Note)	Total
Under 15 minutes	79	230	309
15 to 29 minutes	63	307	370
30 to 44 minutes	43	222	265
45 to 59 minutes	16	116	132
60 to 119 minutes	22	74	96
More than 120 minutes	1	3	4
Call cancelled before arrival	195	881	1 076
Total	419	1 833	2 252

Note: Special service calls involve incidents other than fires, such as collision of vessels, ingress of water into vessels, gas leaks, rescue of people fallen into the sea, etc.

2. Fireboats No. 1 to No. 8 and No. 10 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 2022-23 is as follows:

Fireboat	Maintenance time (no. of days)
	2022-23 (as at 4 March 2023)
Fireboat No. 1	93
Fireboat No. 2#	123
Fireboat No. 3	12*
Fireboat No. 4	63
Fireboat No. 5	46
Fireboat No. 6	23*
Fireboat No. 7	58
Fireboat No. 8	45*
Fireboat No. 10#	3*

Fireboats No. 2 and No. 10 are reserve fireboats, which mainly serve as substitutes for fireboats under maintenance.

* No major routine maintenance inspection was required for Fireboats No. 3, No. 6, No. 8 and No. 10 in 2022-23.

3. Regarding the replacement and acquisition of vessels mentioned in the question, the relevant information of the vessels that are yet to be delivered is tabulated as follows:

	Basic features (total length/ crew capacity/ speed)	Target time of replacement*	Builder (if any)	Approved commitment (\$million)
Acquisition of 1 fireboat	36-39 metres/ 12 persons/ 25 knots	Scheduled for delivery to Hong Kong in the first quarter of 2024	Lungteh Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.	125
Acquisition of 1 fast rescue vessel	17-19.5 metres/ 4 persons/ 40 knots	Scheduled for delivery to Hong Kong in the first quarter of 2023	Marine Alutech Oy Ab	40
Replacement of Fireboat No. 2	29-32 metres/ 7 persons/ 25 knots	Scheduled for delivery to Hong Kong in the third quarter of 2024	Jianglong Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.	97.5

Replacement of Command Boat No. 1	34-36 metres/ 8 persons/ 35 knots	Scheduled for delivery to Hong Kong in the third quarter of 2024	Afai Southern Shipyard (Panyu Guangzhou) Ltd.	120
Replacement of Command Boat No. 2	34-36 metres/ 8 persons/ 35 knots	Scheduled for delivery to Hong Kong in the fourth quarter of 2024	Afai Southern Shipyard (Panyu Guangzhou) Ltd.	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**SB145****(Question Serial No. 1507)**Head: (45) Fire Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Fire Protection and PreventionControlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the fire safety of domestic buildings with sub-division of flat units (subdivided units), would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of inspections conducted by the Fire Services Department (FSD) in 2022 (in table form as below):

	(i) Domestic buildings	(ii) Commercial buildings	(iii) Industrial buildings
(a) No. of buildings with sub-divided units			
(b) No. of cases of irregularities			
(c) No. of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices/Fire Safety Directions issued			
(d) No. of people prosecuted			

2. in relation to the above question, the (a) manpower, (b) expenditure on remuneration, and (c) expenditure on equipment that the FSD has earmarked for the inspections in 2022;
3. if a serious breach of the Fire Services Ordinance (such as provision of sub-divided flats in units within an industrial building) or imminent danger is found during the inspections of buildings, apart from prosecuting the owners, whether the FSD has the statutory power to impose closure of the units concerned and evacuate the occupants therein.

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

The building safety of sub-division of flat units (subdivided units) and changes in use of land fall within the purview of the Buildings Department and the Lands Department respectively. If subdivided units or changes in use of land is found during fire safety inspections of

buildings by personnel of the Fire Services Department (FSD), such cases will be referred to the department concerned for follow-up actions. As such, the FSD does not keep relevant statistics on subdivided units or changes in use of land. As regards subdivided units, the FSD does not have the statutory power to impose closure of the units concerned and evacuate the occupants therein. However, when any breaches of the relevant fire services regulations are found, such as obstruction to means of escape or locked exits, defective fire service installations and equipment, over-storage of dangerous goods, etc. during inspections of buildings, the FSD will take appropriate enforcement actions under the existing mechanism.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB146****(Question Serial No. 1718)**

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the details of the Fire Services Department's work of promoting cardiopulmonary resuscitation, emergency preparedness and the use of automated external defibrillators through its community education programme in 2023-24? Would the Government set key performance indicators (KPIs) for such work? If yes, what are the KPIs; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) will continue to promote to the community the methods and skills of emergency preparedness through educational and promotional activities with a view to further enhancing the public's all-round awareness of emergency preparedness and strengthening their capabilities in dealing with emergencies or contingencies such that all members of the public will be equipped with the knowledge to "Extinguish and Prevent Fire", "Self-help and Help Others" as well as "Escape and Evacuate". The goal of the FSD is to educate all members of the public in such a way that they are able to remain calm when they are caught in various emergency situations, such as having acute physical problems or finding themselves in a fire, a natural disaster or even under terrorist attack, so that they could "save themselves as well as others".

In terms of community life support, there is an internationally adopted view in recent years that even a person with no training is able to rescue a cardiac arrest patient using an automated external defibrillator (AED). In 2023-24, the FSD will continue to convey to the public the message that "anyone can use an AED" with the use of various promotional strategies, in the hope that more people will be equipped with the knowledge of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of AEDs. This aside, callers for emergency ambulance service will be encouraged to provide timely first aid to patients before the arrival of ambulance crew at scene by making good use of relevant support services, such as following the instant and simultaneous advice given to them under the "post-dispatch advice" system and obtaining information of AEDs available for use nearby from the online information platform, Centralized AED Registry for Emergency (CARE).

Through community education on CPR and the use of AEDs, members of the public will also be able to understand the whole rescue process and deal with emergencies more confidently and efficiently. The FSD will continue to reach out to different age and community groups through various platforms (such as social media, training courses, advertisements, etc.) and organise, among others, the CPR Training Programme in Campus, the “Press to shock - Save a life” AED Course and the Community CPR Training Course.

For 2023-24, the FSD has formulated the following plans to expand the scope of public education, including:

- explaining to the public the importance of early administration of CPR in conjunction with defibrillation by AEDs through the “Press to shock - Save a life” CPR & AED Course and encouraging government departments as well as public and private organisations to install publicly accessible AEDs, thereby strengthening the public’s awareness and response capabilities as well as the supporting measures during emergencies;
- imparting to secondary or tertiary students across the territory basic knowledge of CPR and giving them an understanding of the use of AEDs through the CPR Training Programme in Campus, thereby enhancing the youth’s commitment to society and encouraging their initiative to help people in need;
- initiating community health education and ambulance-related public education to enhance the public’s psychological preparedness and first aid knowledge for various emergencies;
- formulating a new programme comprising elements of fire safety, ambulance services and awareness of emergency preparedness, etc. for university, secondary and primary students, under which community emergency preparedness education will be provided to students at different levels through more systematic channels to foster among them from a young age emergency preparedness and crisis alertness;
- approaching property management agents proactively in a bid to further strengthen the emergency preparedness of developments/facilities under their management;
- liaising with event organisers during the planning stage of some major events in a bid to strengthen their emergency preparedness and that of their employees by, for example, having the event organisers prepare an emergency evacuation plan so that they can implement evacuation procedures in the first instance; and
- enhancing the public’s knowledge of dangerous goods and other hazardous substances as a means to strengthen their awareness of emergency preparedness and response.

In addition, the Chief Executive has set the key performance indicators for strengthening community emergency preparedness in the 2022 Policy Address, including:

- 40 training sessions to be provided by the FSD and the Government Flying Service on CPR, the use of AEDs and other basic emergency preparedness skills (collectively known as the “Three Basic Skills of Emergency Preparedness”), as well as on air rescue and

mountaineering safety, for some 1 500 teachers in all secondary schools by April 2023 so that they can help train their students;

- 100 training sessions for tertiary students and 200 training sessions for the public on the “Three Basic Skills of Emergency Preparedness” to be provided by the FSD each year starting from 2023; and
- increase, by the FSD in collaboration with different sectors of the community, the number of publicly accessible AEDs by some 1 500 sets in three years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB147

(Question Serial No. 1719)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (690) Town ambulances (block vote)

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Fire Services Department's estimated provision for procurement and replacement of town ambulances for 2023-24 is \$292 million, which is \$188million higher than the revised estimate of \$104 million for 2022-23, representing an increase of 181.1%. What are the reasons for such enormous increase in provision? How many existing town ambulances will be replaced and what are the reasons for the replacement? How many new town ambulances will be procured and specifically what features and equipment do they have and how long are their serviceable life? What is the estimated number of town ambulances that will be on run daily after 2023-24?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD)'s estimated expenditure for procurement and replacement of town ambulances for 2023-24 is \$292 million, which is mainly used to cover the approved expenditure on acquisition and replacement of town ambulances in 2023-24. In addition, it is also used to cover part of the payment of the approved expenditure on acquisition and replacement of town ambulances in previous financial years.

To maintain the age of ambulances at a healthy level and to ensure the overall reliability of the fleet, the FSD will replace 62 town ambulances according to the formulated ambulance replacement plan. Moreover, the FSD will procure 56 town ambulances to meet operational needs. In addition to diesel engines which have sufficient torque and horsepower output and comply with the emission standards, the town ambulances will also be fitted with various advanced paramedic ambulance equipment to assist ambulance personnel in providing quality pre-hospital paramedic ambulance service to the public. At present, the expected serviceable life of town ambulances is about 7 years.

The FSD estimates that when all 56 town ambulances approved to be procured in this financial year are put in commission after 2023-24, there will be 461 on-run town ambulances per day.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB148****(Question Serial No. 1720)**

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In reply to a question from a Member last year, the Fire Services Department stated that a study was conducted to explore the long-term arrangements for emergency ambulance service, and that the study commenced in July 2021 and was expected for completion in the second quarter of 2022. What are the findings of the study so far and when will the findings be released? Will the Medical Priority Dispatch System be included in the study? If yes, what are the details of the study in this respect; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) commissioned a consultancy to explore the long-term arrangements for emergency ambulance service (EAS) and the relevant consultancy report was completed in 2022. The study covered ambulance service demand from 2022 to 2031, the impact of infectious diseases on ambulance service, the need for additional manpower resources, etc. The FSD will take follow-up actions in light of the recommendations made in the consultancy report.

The Government reported to the Panel on Security of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in April 2010 on the outcome of the public consultation on the proposal to introduce the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS). At that time, while the Panel did not agree with the proposal after discussion, the FSD listened to the valuable views of members and conducted a review accordingly. Currently, the FSD does not have plan to further study the MPDS. Thus, the MPDS was not covered in the consultancy report.

The FSD has gradually provided callers for ambulance service with simple post-dispatch advice (PDA) in respect of a few common types of injuries and sicknesses (i.e. bleeding, fracture/dislocation of limbs, burns, convulsion, heat exposure and hypothermia) to stabilise the patients' conditions since May 2011. In view of the favourable response from implementing the PDA service, the FSD has put in place a new computer system in 2018 to assist Fire Services Communications Centre (FSCC) operators, after dispatch of ambulances, to provide callers with immediate, comprehensive and appropriate PDA. The types of

advice has also been extended to cover over 30 types of injuries and sicknesses, including physical trauma, loss of consciousness, cardiac arrest, etc.

The FSD will continue to explore different measures to enhance the EAS and will give due consideration to the views and opinions of the public and LegCo Members when studying the details of long-term measures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB149

(Question Serial No. 2302)

Head: (31) Customs and Excise Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Ms Louise HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The value of seizures of the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) amounts to billions of dollars every year. Will the Government please inform this Committee: How will C&ED handle the seizures in general to increase government revenue? After the disposal of seizures by C&ED, what purposes will the revenue be used for? Will C&ED consider selling high-value seizures to the public by retail as a way to further increase government revenue?

Asked by: Hon CHU Kwok-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

Upon completion of all legal proceedings concerning the confiscated goods, C&ED will dispose the confiscated goods in accordance with the Stores and Procurement Regulations. The disposal means, which include destruction and public auction, will be decided depending on the types and nature of the confiscated goods. The income arising from the disposal of confiscated goods by the Government will go to the Treasury as revenue.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB150

(Question Serial No. 1152)

Head: (31) Customs and Excise Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Ms Louise HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Customs & Excise Department (C&ED) is the primary agency responsible for the suppression of smuggling activities. Will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (1) the number of illegal cases relating to “parallel trade” detected by C&ED at boundary control points, and the number of successful prosecution cases in the past year;
- (2) the number of smuggling cases successfully detected by C&ED through co-operation with the law enforcement authorities of the Mainland and other administrations, and the number of successful prosecution cases in the past year; and
- (3) whether C&ED expects the smuggling situation to turn worse as the epidemic subsides and normal travel resumes.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

- (1) Under the Import and Export Ordinance (Cap. 60), it is an offence to import or export any unmanifested cargo. In this regard, cargo does not include articles carried, and imported or exported by passengers on board a vessel, aircraft or vehicle. No person (whether he/she is a Hong Kong resident or a visitor) is allowed to carry prohibited or controlled items when arriving at or departing from Hong Kong (except those with licences, permits or certificates issued by the relevant government departments).

From early 2020 onwards, passenger clearance in various land boundary control points had been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of cross-boundary travellers dropped significantly as they were subject to compulsory quarantine. As the normal travel between Hong Kong and Mainland has been resumed in a progressive, orderly and comprehensive manner since early 2023, C&ED has been closely monitoring the situation and will continue to co-operate with the Mainland Customs in combating smuggling activities.

The relevant figures on joint operations between C&ED and the Mainland Customs in combating smuggling by passengers are as follows:

	2022	2023 (January to February)
Number of cases detected by the Mainland Customs	0	216
Number of persons involved in the cases (Outbound travellers)	0	216
Total value of seizures (\$ million) (RMB)	0	4.48
Number of cases detected by C&ED	0	3
Number of persons involved in the cases (Inbound travellers)	0	3
Total value of seizures (\$ million) (HKD)	0	0.012

Besides, C&ED detected a case of exporting unlicensed powdered formula by a passenger at a land boundary control point in 2022. One person was arrested and approximately 101 kilograms of powdered formula were seized. In addition, 4 cases of smuggling by outbound passengers (including 3 cases of exporting controlled drugs contravening the laws and 1 case of exporting radiocommunications transmitting apparatus without a licence or permit in contravention of the Telecommunications Ordinance) were detected at land boundary control points from January to February 2023. Four persons were arrested.

- (2) In 2022, C&ED and law enforcement agencies of the Mainland and other administrations mounted a total of 11 large-scale special joint enforcement operations. A total of 547 cases were detected, 661 persons were arrested, and the total value of seizures amounted to over \$2.3 billion. As these cases are still under investigation, C&ED is unable to provide the number of successful prosecution cases now.
- (3) C&ED is paying close attention to the situation of smuggling activities, and will continue to strengthen intelligence exchange and joint operations with law enforcement agencies of the Mainland and other administrations. C&ED will adjust its strategies in a timely manner in response to the evolving smuggling trend, in order to enhance the effectiveness of its work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB151

(Question Serial No. 0639)

Head: (31) Customs and Excise Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Ms Louise HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2023-24, the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) will implement a registration regime for dealers in precious metals and stones under the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance (AMLO). Please advise this Committee of:

1. the relevant details and timetables for the implementation; and
2. whether additional resources will be allocated for publicising the registration regime to the relevant trade and the public. If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

C&ED has established the Dealers in Precious Metals and Stones Supervision Bureau in December 2022. The Bureau is responsible for carrying out the relevant work on the implementation of the registration regime for dealers in precious metals and stones, including formulation of registration procedures and guidelines, development of a computer system for receiving and processing applications, arranging publicity to the relevant trade and the public, as well as staff training, etc. All preparatory work (including publicity work) is progressing smoothly to dovetail with the implementation of the registration regime on 1 April 2023. Resources involved in the relevant publicity work have been subsumed in C&ED's recurrent expenditure. C&ED does not keep breakdown on the figures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1156)

Head: (23) Auxiliary Medical Service

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

Programme: (1) Auxiliary Medical Service

Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service (WONG Ying-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

There was a shortage of medical manpower in Hong Kong in the past 3 years. In order to enhance the operational efficiency and emergency preparedness of voluntary members in view of the pandemic, the Government increases the 2023/24 Budget by 3.6% year-on-year. Please advise this Committee of:

- 1) the details of increase in budget, including staff establishment, training hours and performance pledges;
- 2) the budget and budget details of providing national security education for adult members and cadet corps of the Auxiliary Medical Service.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

1) The year-on-year increase of the 2023/24 Budget by 3.6% is mainly due to the adjustments in the following items:

- In view of resumption to normalcy of society, the recruitment and training of AMS will be resumed gradually. The expenses of training and pay and allowance will therefore increase.
- The number of public events which require on-site first aid service is also expected to increase in view of resumption to normalcy of society. Moreover, the AMS will further extend its first aid bicycle service along cycling tracks, ambulance transfer service and the "Health Awareness and Promotion Programme for Youth" (HAPPY), leading to an expected rise in the related expenses.

2) The AMS prepares messages on national security education and disseminates them regularly via different channels, including publishing them in the departmental publication "Auxiliary Medical Service News", uploading them to online platforms, and compiling educational powerpoint files every quarter for unit supervisors to arrange group discussion

and sharing in regular training, with a view to enhancing the understanding and knowledge of adult members and cadet corps on national security.

Apart from including civic education and national security education in the HAPPY Programme, the Auxiliary Medical Service Cadet Corps (AMSCC) also shows its support by organising different national security education events. Since 2020, the AMSCC has organised four quizzes on the National Security Law, two thematic talks on national security education, four visits to related museums or historic and cultural monuments, etc., so as to nurture the sense of patriotism, national identity and the awareness of national security of cadet corps.

The above educational activities have been incorporated into regular training and therefore there is no extra expense involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB153****(Question Serial No. 1726)**Head: (23) Auxiliary Medical ServiceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Auxiliary Medical ServiceControlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service (WONG Ying-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Ever since the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2019, the Auxiliary Medical Service has provided various types of support for the anti-epidemic work of the Government, including assisting in the management of community isolation facilities, execute restriction-testing declaration operations, carry out enforcement work in accordance with the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599), etc. What are the resources involved? For example, what are the number of deployed manpower, emoluments and expenses on overtime payment?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)Reply:

From January 2020 to February 2023, the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) shouldered the responsibility to protect public health by actively carrying out anti-epidemic work and supporting the Department of Health, the Hospital Authority and various government departments in this regard. AMS engaged in over 10 types of anti-epidemic works which mainly included escorting persons under quarantine order, carrying out evacuation operations in residential homes, supporting the operation of medical centres in 23 quarantine and isolation facilities, assisting in law enforcement work of the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) for the first time, and handling corpses in public mortuaries during the fifth wave of the epidemic.

During the above period, the AMS deployed 1 500 volunteer members who participated in 140 000 shifts of anti-epidemic duty, reaching a total of 1.3 million service hours. The related expenses on pay and allowance are as follows:-

Year	Expenses on Pay and Allowance
2020	\$51,483,500
2021	\$57,139,047
2022	\$57,944,582

**Note: The calculation on the expenses on pay and allowance in relation to anti-epidemic work in 2023 is still in progress*

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB154****(Question Serial No. 1701)**

Head: (166) Government Flying Service

Subhead (No. & title): (200) Insurance of aircraft

Programme: (1) Government Flying Service

Controlling Officer: Controller, Government Flying Service (Captain West WU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Provision of \$1,600,000 under Subhead 200 Insurance of aircraft is for procurement of third party, passenger and crew liability insurance. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) Were there any insurance claims on any incidents in the past 5 year? If yes, please provide the details and results of each incident.
- 2) It is explained in the document that global instability has resulted in increased insurance premium. Please further explain why global instability will lead to an increase of more than 10% in the aircraft insurance premium of the Hong Kong Government.
- 3) Are the insurance providers of the Government Flying Service local or international enterprises? What is the mechanism on reviewing insurance contracts (such as year interval for re-tendering)? Is the mechanism determined by bureaux or departments on a rank specific basis?

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

1. The Government Flying Service (GFS) did not make any insurance claims on any incidents in the past 5 years.
2. According to the preliminary market research conducted by the GFS in 2022, the risk of flight accident has increased due to factors such as global instability and increased flights around the world in the post-pandemic era. Some insurance companies have indicated that the aircraft insurance premium in 2023 might be increased. As a result, sufficient provision has to be earmarked for the GFS to procure the third party, passenger and crew liability insurance.
3. The GFS has been following the tender procedures in accordance with the Stores and Procurement Regulations to review the insurance contracts and arrange re-tendering on

an annual basis. Currently, the institution providing the aircraft insurance to the GFS is a locally registered company and is a licensed insurance broker company under the Insurance Ordinance (Cap. 41).

- End -

SB155

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0879)

Head: (166) Government Flying Service

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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. Will GFS training be affected by the sanctions imposed by some Western countries? What measures will the Government take to maximise GFS training in low-risk overseas areas and minimise the impacts of Western sanctions?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

1. In 2022-23 (as at 1 March 2023), the Government Flying Service (GFS) did not conduct any exchange activities (excluding drills or exercises listed in part 2 of the Question) with the Mainland and overseas governments (including navies) or the Hong Kong Garrison of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (Hong Kong Garrison).
2. The number and contents of drills or exercises that GFS conducted jointly with the Mainland and overseas governments (including navies) or the Hong Kong Garrison in 2022-23 are set out below:

	2022-23 (as at 1 March 2023)
Mainland government departments	1 (Comprehensive maritime search and rescue exercise held in the waters of the Pearl River Estuary organised by the Ministry of Transport and the People's Government of Guangdong Province)
Overseas government departments (including navies)	0
Hong Kong Garrison	0

3. GFS training has not been affected by sanctions imposed by foreign countries. GFS's Flight Simulator Training Centre (FSTC) has commenced operation. The establishment of FSTC not only reduce the frequency of deploying helicopter pilots to receive flight simulation training overseas every year, but also provide flight simulation training that better caters for their operational needs in a more timely manner. GFS will continue to review its training needs and arrange its members to receive professional and appropriate training at suitable local and external institutions, ensuring that sufficient and professional human resources are available in the department to meet long-term operational and development needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB156

(Question Serial No. 3493)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Immigration Control

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The developments in the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Boundary Control Points Economic Belt have been listed as the key construction work of the development of the Guangdong Province and the Shenzhen Municipality, and the Legislative Council has passed a Member's motion in this regard earlier on. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee:

There is no closed area in the Mainland Port Area with direct access facilities for both passengers and vehicles, while Hong Kong retains the closed area system with direct access facilities for both passengers and vehicles available only in Heung Yuen Wai/Liantang Boundary Control Point. Is there any plan to extend the model of the Heung Yuen Wai/Liantang Boundary Control Port to other land crossings?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuet-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

Frontier Closed Areas (FCAs) helps maintain boundary control between Hong Kong and the Mainland by law enforcement agencies so as to combat illegal immigration and other cross-boundary criminal activities. The Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point (BCP) is the first BCP adopting the design of direct access by passengers and vehicles. But its control point area, which comprises of the passenger terminal building and the cargo clearance area, is still within the closed area. When enhancing existing BCPs or developing new BCPs, the HKSAR Government will, as far as practicable, limit the coverage of the FCA to a size necessary for maintaining public order. It will also consider, among other things, whether to adopt the design of direct access by passengers and vehicles having regard to the planning of individual BCP.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB157

(Question Serial No. 3492)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2023-24, the Civil Service Bureau will continue to keep the size of the civil service establishment under control, while maintaining effectiveness and allowing a justified increase to address manpower needs so as to support the Government in taking forward new initiatives and ease the work pressure on civil servants. Would the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the recruitment targets of various disciplined services establishments, numbers of applicants and numbers of successful candidates in the past 5 years (tabular by rank);
2. the wastage rates of staff of various disciplined services in the past 5 years;
3. the expenditures on remuneration of staff of various disciplined services in the past 5 years;

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

1. During the period from 2018-19 to 2022-23, the recruitment targets of various disciplined services establishments were as follows:

Department	Post	Recruitment targets of various disciplined services establishments <i>[as at 28 February 2023]</i>				
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Correctional Services Department (CSD)	Officer of Correctional Services	50	50	50	50	50
	Assistant Officer II	350	310	Year-round recruitment to fill existing vacancies	Year-round recruitment to fill existing vacancies	Year-round recruitment to fill existing vacancies
Customs and Excise Department (C&ED)	Inspector of Customs & Excise	90	90	90	90	90
	Customs Officer	900	450	170	170	170
Fire Services Department (FSD)	Station Officer (Operational)	169	163	169	117	170
	Senior Fireman/Firewoman (Control)	18	14	7	24	13
	Fireman/Firewoman (Operational/Marine)	510	407	533	486	569
	Ambulance Officer	12	10	15	15	10
	Ambulanceman/Ambulancewoman	262	300	363	274	134
Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF)	Inspector	230	195	225	195	240
	Police Constable	1 620	1 620	1 620	1 350	1 350
Immigration Department (ImmD)	Immigration Officer	200	80	80	100	100
	Immigration Assistant	600	280	280	200	280
Government Flying Service (GFS)	Cadet Pilot	5	5	4	0	6-8
	Air Crewman Officer III	14	0	8	0	0
	Aircraft Engineer	8	3	0	0	6
	Aircraft Technician	20	5	24	6	10

During the period from 2018-19 to 2022-23, the numbers of applicants and numbers of new recruits of various disciplined services were as follows:

Department	Post	Number of applications (Number of new recruits) <i>[as at 28 February 2023]</i>				
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
CSD	Officer of Correctional Services	3 384 (63)	2 974 (54)	3 304 (37)	0 ^{Note 1} (60)	2 380 (6) ^{Note 2}
	Assistant Officer II	7 048 (234)	5 541 (309)	8 001 (306)	4 723 (253)	3 862 (157)
C&ED	Inspector of Customs & Excise	0 ^{Note 1} (79)	9 670 (16)	7 397 (114)	5 036 (0)	4 782 (62)
	Customs Officer	15 869 (872)	12 927 (333)	15 387 (158)	8 732 (154)	6 895 (85)
FSD	Station Officer (Operational)	2 149 (69)	2 679 (45)	2 789 (88)	2 547 (31)	1 978 (42)
	Senior Fireman/Firewoman (Control)	0 ^{Note 1} (24)	4 353 (16)	0 ^{Note 1} (12)	6 716 (37)	0 ^{Note 1} (12)
	Fireman/Firewoman (Operational/Marine)	1 461 (340)	2 906 (197)	3 553 (362)	2 874 (272)	1 211 (241)
	Ambulance Officer	2 561 (10)	2 076 (6)	0 ^{Note 1} (15)	1 740 (6)	0 ^{Note 1} (5)
	Ambulanceman/Ambulancewoman	2 952 (179)	4 377 (135)	3 258 (225)	3 691 (272)	958 (119)
HKPF	Inspector	7 350 (220)	5 223 (169)	5 018 (158)	3 400 (170)	3 186 (130)
	Police Constable	10 578 (1 121)	6 751 (705)	6 589 (596)	4 860 (484)	4 392 (437)
ImmD	Immigration Officer	14 958 (252)	537 ^{Note 3} (105)	9 711 (42)	7 680 (77)	5 398 (73)
	Immigration Assistant	20 423 (595)	14 040 (274)	18 006 (219)	10 405 (105)	7 758 (236)
GFS	Cadet Pilot	2 602 (7)	2 334 (4)	2 513 (4)	0 ^{Note 1} (4)	1 398 (0) ^{Note 4}
	Air Crewman Officer III	1 166 (0)	0 ^{Note 1} (6)	1 036 (8)	0 ^{Note 1} (0)	0 ^{Note 1} (8)
	Aircraft Engineer	37 (2)	36 (7)	0 ^{Note 1} (4)	0 ^{Note 1} (0)	84 (0) ^{Note 4}
	Aircraft Technician	755 (2)	382 (18)	756 (12)	255 (11)	172 (5) ^{Note 4}

Note 1: There was no recruitment exercise during the year. The number of new recruits was the number of suitable persons identified in the open/in-service recruitment exercise conducted in the previous year.

- Note 2: The 2022-23 recruitment exercise for Officer of Correctional Services is still underway.
- Note 3: In 2019-20, only in-service recruitment was held for the Immigration Officer post.
- Note 4: The 2022-23 recruitment exercises for Cadet Pilot, Aircraft Engineer and Aircraft Technician are still underway.

2. During the period from 2018-19 to 2022-23, the wastage rates of different ranks of staff of the disciplined services were as follows:

Department	Rank	Wastage rates ^{Note 5} [as at 28 February 2023]				
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
CSD	Officer	7.5%	6.5%	4.4%	4.9%	4.0%
	Rank and file	7.9%	5.3%	6.4%	4.1%	4.8%
C&ED	Officer	2.9%	2.9%	3.1%	2.8%	4.0%
	Rank and file	5.4%	3.7%	3.7%	4.2%	4.6%
FSD	Officer	5.0%	5.0%	3.9%	4.3%	3.1%
	Rank and file	4.8%	4.3%	4.7%	4.9%	4.8%
HKPF	Officer	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%
	Rank and file	3.8%	3.9%	2.9%	2.5%	1.9%
ImmD	Officer	5.2%	4.9%	4.5%	5.3%	3.6%
	Rank and file	4.2%	2.4%	3.0%	4.4%	4.9%
GFS	Officer	5.6%	8.2%	6.0%	3.9%	9.7%

Note 5: Wastage rates = Wastage Figure / Department's Actual Number of Staff as at 1 April of the year
Staff wastage includes natural wastage (retirement) and unnatural wastage (such as resignation, transfer, death, retirement on invaliding, etc.).

3. During the period from 2018-19 to 2022-23, the expenditures on remunerations of the disciplined services were as follows:

Department	Expenditures on remuneration (\$million) ^{Note 6} <i>[as at 28 February 2023]</i>				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
CSD	3,086	3,244	3,297	3,454	3,343
C&ED	3,046	3,377	3,476	3,607	3,408
FSD	4,890	5,243	5,394	5,633	5,466
HKPF	16,275	19,450	17,865	17,165	16,561
ImmD	3,914	4,294	4,337	4,396	4,162
GFS	171	186	198	213	206

Note 6: Expenditures on remuneration include salaries, allowances and job-related allowances (rounded to the nearest million).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB158****(Question Serial No. 3528)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the wait for quarters of each disciplined services department, please inform this Committee of the following:

In the past 3 years, what were the numbers of disciplined services staff (including serving and retired civil servants) waiting for quarters and their average waiting time?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Tsz-wing, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

The numbers of serving 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	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23 (as at 1 March 2023)	
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	216	2.6 years	283	2.8 years	274	2.5 years
Customs & Excise Department	698	3.0 years	756	2.3 years	627	3.6 years
Fire Services Department	1 851	3.1 years	1 018	2.8 years	1 126	2.4 years
Government Flying Service	15	1.1 years	10	4.1 years	2	1.6 years
Hong Kong Police Force	3 371	4.7 years	2 606	3.9 years	2 857	4.6 years
Immigration Department	719	4.0 years	668	3.0 years	607	2.5 years

Retired disciplined services officers are not eligible for departmental quarters.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB159****(Question Serial No. 3529)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Patrick LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the wait for disciplined services quarters, please inform this Committee of the following:

in the past 3 years, the total numbers of staff (including serving and retired civil servants) waiting for quarters in each disciplined services department and their average waiting time.

Asked by: Hon SO Cheung-wing (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)Reply:

The numbers of serving 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	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23 (as at 1 March 2023)	
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	216	2.6 years	283	2.8 years	274	2.5 years
Customs & Excise Department	698	3.0 years	756	2.3 years	627	3.6 years
Fire Services Department	1 851	3.1 years	1 018	2.8 years	1 126	2.4 years
Government Flying Service	15	1.1 years	10	4.1 years	2	1.6 years
Hong Kong Police Force	3 371	4.7 years	2 606	3.9 years	2 857	4.6 years
Immigration Department	719	4.0 years	668	3.0 years	607	2.5 years

Retired disciplined services officers are not eligible for departmental quarters.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB160****(Question Serial No. 3420)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Prison ManagementControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Assuming the occupancy rate is 100%, please list in the following tables the average monthly cost per service place and the estimates of various types of institutions in the 2022-23 financial year:

Average monthly cost per service place under an assumption of 100% occupancy rate (\$)	Prison	Training Centre	Detention Centre	Rehabilitation Centre	Drug Addiction Treatment Centre
Staff expenses					
Departmental expenses					
Administrative fee					
Depreciation/maintenance of premises and equipment					
Total					

2022-23 Estimate (\$)	Prison	Training Centre	Detention Centre	Rehabilitation Centre	Drug Addiction Treatment Centre
Staff expenses					
Departmental expenses					
Administrative fee					
Depreciation/maintenance of premises and equipment					
Total					

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 273)

Reply:

The revised estimated expenditure of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) for 2022-23 financial year is about \$5.009 billion.

In addition to detaining persons in custody (PICs), the daily operation of CSD includes other related work and services that are not institution-specific, such as escort of PICs to and from courts and hospitals, provision of medical, welfare and aftercare services, etc. As such, it is not practicable to accurately calculate the cost of custody of a PIC at a particular type of correctional facility.

The average daily penal population in 2022 was 7 613.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB161****(Question Serial No. 3421)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Prison ManagementControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Assuming the occupancy rate is 100%, please list in the following table the average monthly cost per service place in various types of institutions in the past 5 financial years:

Average monthly cost per service place (\$)	Prison	Training Centre	Detention Centre	Rehabilitation Centre	Drug Addiction Treatment Centre
2017-18					
2018-19					
2019-20					
2020-21					
2021-22					

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 274)Reply:

The expenditures and estimates of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) in the past 5 financial years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Prison Management (\$ billion)	Re-integration (\$ billion)	Total (\$ billion)
2022-23 (Revised estimate)	3.803	1.2058	5.0088
2021-22 (Actual expenditure)	3.5901	1.1499	4.74
2020-21 (Actual expenditure)	3.3256	1.1137	4.4393
2019-20 (Actual expenditure)	3.169	1.1398	4.3088
2018-19 (Actual expenditure)	2.9834	1.0777	4.0611

In addition to detaining persons in custody (PICs), the daily operation of CSD includes other related work and services that are not institution-specific, such as escort of PICs to and from courts and hospitals, provision of medical, welfare and aftercare services, etc. As such, it is not practicable to accurately calculate the cost of custody of a PIC at a particular type of correctional facility.

The average daily penal populations of correctional facilities in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Average daily penal population (persons)
2022	7 613
2021	7 616
2020	6 902
2019	7 737
2018	8 303

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB162****(Question Serial No. 3422)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Prison ManagementControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Assuming the occupancy rate is 100%, please list in the following table the average annual education and vocational training cost per person in custody (PIC) in various types of institutions in the past 5 financial years:

Average annual education and vocational training cost per PIC (\$)	Prison	Training Centre	Detention Centre	Rehabilitation Centre	Drug Addiction Treatment Centre
2017-18					
2018-19					
2019-20					
2020-21					
2021-22					

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 275)Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) provides half-day compulsory education for young persons in custody (PICs) aged between 14 and 20 and arranges for qualified teachers to teach the subjects, having regard to the length of sentences and learning needs of young PICs. PICs who were studying post-secondary programmes before imprisonment may contact their tertiary institutions for suitable modes of study and learning materials. CSD would assist PICs upon their requests to continue to study the relevant programmes at correctional institutions. PICs may also enrol in distance learning courses offered by the Hong Kong Metropolitan University according to their interests and abilities. Correctional institutions would provide appropriate assistance to them.

On vocational training, CSD has been collaborating 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 vocational training courses with more than 1 400 full-time and part-time 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 after taking relevant examinations, thereby enhancing their employability and helping them enrol in bridging or progressive courses in the future, with a view to facilitating their re-integration into society after release. These courses cover a wide range of industries such as construction, engineering, business, food and beverage, retail, beauty care, transport, logistics, laundry services, computer application and environmental services, etc.

As for young PICs, CSD currently provides 13 half-day vocational training courses covering commercial practice, creative multimedia production, coffee house operations, Western pastry and dessert making, building services and beauty care, etc.

The above mixed operation mode has been adopted in vocational training for flexible deployment of internal resources and those of collaborating training bodies to meet the changing market needs, with a view to enhancing PICs' employability after release and providing them with opportunities for advanced vocational training. Therefore, the expenditure on vocational training courses is recorded on a yearly basis.

CSD's expenditures on vocational training and PICs' education in the past 5 financial years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2018-19 (Actual expenditure)	2019-20 (Actual expenditure)	2020-21 (Actual expenditure)	2021-22 (Actual expenditure)	2022-23 (Revised estimate)
Expenditure on vocational training courses (\$ million)	28.74	30.29	30.38	29.9	30.45
Expenditure on education (\$ million)	37.89	40.05	40.64	41.91	42.65

Since PICs' length of sentences varies and the participation of adult PICs in relevant courses is on a voluntary basis, the education and vocational training provided by correctional institutions are different. Therefore, CSD does not calculate or maintain statistics on the average education and vocational training cost per PIC in various types of institution.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB163****(Question Serial No. 3423)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Prison ManagementControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please list in the following table the monthly quantities of the following hygiene items provided to each person in custody (PIC):

Daily Commodity	Monthly Quantity Provided
Toilet paper	
Sanitary napkin (for female PICs only)	

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 276)

Reply:

The monthly quantities of hygiene items provided to each person in custody (PIC) are as follows:

Daily Commodity	Monthly Quantity Provided
Toilet paper	Given the different physical needs of male and female PICs, the Correctional Services Department provides each male PIC with 1 roll of toilet paper every 3 weeks, while each female PIC is provided with 2 rolls each month. PICs may request additional toilet paper from officers if necessary. Officers will arrange for distribution based on PICs' actual needs.
Sanitary napkin (for female PICs only)	Each female PIC is provided with 20 sanitary napkins each month. Female PICs may request additional sanitary napkins from officers if necessary. Officers will arrange for distribution based on PICs' actual needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB164

(Question Serial No. 3424)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What is the number of correctional officers in the establishment of the Complaints Investigation Unit of the Correctional Services Department? What is the average time required for completing an investigation of a complaint? Is the manpower sufficient for handling the complaints?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 277)

Reply:

The Complaints Investigation Unit (CIU) of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) is appointed by the Commissioner of Correctional Services. It is an investigation unit responsible for handling and investigating complaints, and its operation is independent of other sections of the Department. There are 15 staff members in the establishment of CIU, including 3 civilian staff.

CIU will complete an investigation within 18 weeks from the date of receiving a complaint. The findings will be submitted to the Correctional Services Department Complaints Committee (CSDCC) for review and decision-making. If necessary, CSDCC may refer the case back to CIU for investigation or make recommendations to the Department for improvement of services. In 2022, the average time for CIU to complete a complaint investigation was 11.2 weeks.

CSD will review the establishment and deployment of manpower in CIU for adjustment from time to time having regard to actual circumstances.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB165

(Question Serial No. 3425)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the number and content of programmes currently offered in rehabilitation centres. Are persons in custody (PICs) who are tertiary students provided with post-secondary programmes? If no, what is the content of the programmes provided to these PICs?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 278)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) provides half-day compulsory education for young persons in custody (PICs) aged between 14 and 20, and arranges for qualified teachers to teach the subjects. Having regard to the length of sentences and learning needs of young PICs, CSD provides young PICs undergoing training at Rehabilitation Centres with the "Teen's Programme", which includes 120 hours of basic education curriculum at the junior secondary school level (with subjects including Chinese, English, Mathematics, Life and Society) and 180 hours of vocational training. The programme is recognised by the Vocational Training Council.

CSD also provides young PICs with courses at the secondary school level. PICs who were studying post-secondary programmes before imprisonment may contact their tertiary institutions for suitable modes of study and learning materials. CSD would assist PICs upon their requests to continue to study the relevant programmes at correctional institutions. PICs may also enrol in distance learning courses offered by the Hong Kong Metropolitan University according to their interests and abilities. Correctional institutions would provide appropriate assistance to them.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB166

(Question Serial No. 3426)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide a breakdown by average working hours, longest working hours, standard earnings and overtime earnings for each type of work engaged by persons in custody in various correctional facilities in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 279)

Reply:

According to Rule 38 of the Prison Rules (Cap. 234A), all convicted adult persons in custody (PICs) are required to engage in work (unless they have been certified by the Medical Officer seconded to the Correctional Services Department (CSD) as unfit for work on medical grounds). According to Rule 43 of the Prison Rules, PICs' hours of labour shall not be less than 6 nor more than 10 daily, exclusive of meals.

CSD does not maintain any statistics on the average or the longest working hours of PICs who have engaged in different types of work. A PIC who works and a PIC who, through no fault of his/her own, is unable to work, and an unconvicted person on remand who elects to engage in the service or industries of the prison in accordance with Rule 39 and Rule 201 of the Prison Rules respectively, may receive payment in accordance with rates approved by the Commissioner of Correctional Services. The earning rates are calculated on the basis of the earnings per week (see **Table**).

If overtime work by PICs is necessary for meeting operational needs, CSD will arrange for PICs to work overtime on a voluntary basis and they will be compensated with overtime earnings (i.e. 1.5 times of earnings).

Earnings Scheme for PICs
Earnings per week for adult PICs (effective from 26 September 2022)

		Earnings per week
Rate scale	Earning grade	(HK\$)
Basic rate#	-	24.74
Apprentice	A	46.65
	B	55.24
	C	62.84
	D	79.99
	E	96.93
	F	113.34
Skilled	A	66.95
	B	83.62
	C	100.31
	D	133.42
	E	167.30
	F	200.89

- # PICs who are unable to work due to medical reasons, or newly convicted persons who are undergoing an induction programme and have not yet been assigned work are eligible for the basic earning grade.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB167

(Question Serial No. 3427)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mandatory for persons in custody to keep savings to meet their living expenses after release. What were the average and median savings in the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 280)

Reply:

Adult persons in custody (PICs) are required to save 10% of their earnings until the mandatory savings of \$500 are made. After meeting the above requirement, PICs may save their remaining earnings or spend them on purchasing canteen items (e.g. snacks and additional daily commodities, etc.). The Correctional Services Department does not maintain statistics on PICs' savings made from their earnings.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB168****(Question Serial No. 3428)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Prison ManagementControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

In the past 5 years, what were the numbers of work injuries sustained by persons in custody (PICs) in various correctional facilities? What were the average and median amount of compensation for work injuries? What were the degrees of recovery of work injuries after assessment? Are there any guidelines to follow? How does the Department ensure PICs comply with occupational safety and health requirements while they are at work?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 281)Reply:

Statistics of persons in custody (PICs) rendered unfit for work for 4 or more days due to injuries arising from work accidents in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	Number of accidents
2022	12
2021	8
2020	4
2019	7
2018	9

According to Rule 38 of the Prison Rules (Cap. 234A), all convicted adult PICs are required to engage in work (unless they have been certified by the Medical Officers seconded to the Correctional Services Department (CSD) as unfit to work on medical grounds). CSD does not have an employer-employee relationship with PICs, and the daily necessities and medical services of PICs are provided by the Government. If PICs sustain a certain degree of permanent disability or die due to injuries sustained at work while serving their sentences, the PICs or their representatives may apply to CSD for an ex-gratia payment. All eligible cases are handled and approved under the established mechanism.

In the past 5 years, there were 3 applications for ex-gratia payments from PICs on the ground of work injuries. While 2 of them are being processed, the other has been handled with an

ex-gratia payment of about \$80,000 granted to the PIC concerned who also filed a civil claim for damages. This case was concluded with out-of-court settlement, with the settlement amount totalling \$200,000. Besides, there was 1 case in which a PIC who had sustained injury at work filed a civil claim for damages. It was concluded with out-of-court settlement, with the settlement amount totalling \$90,000. CSD cannot disclose detailed information about these cases due to the confidentiality agreements.

CSD has formulated a safety management system and associated guidelines in accordance with the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance (Cap. 59), the Code of Practice on Safety Management issued by the Commissioner for Labour under that Ordinance, as well as the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap. 509). These include the establishment of the Departmental Occupational Safety and Health Steering Committee, the setting up of Occupational Safety and Health Committees and appointment of Occupational Safety and Health Officers in correctional institutions, regular safety audits conducted for correctional institutions, risk assessment of workplaces and work procedures, as well as the provision of training and personal protective equipment to all PICs who engage in work, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB169

(Question Serial No. 3429)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What were the respective numbers of applications for official visits in different correctional facilities in the past 5 years? How many of these applications were approved? How many were rejected? What were the reasons for rejection?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 282)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department does not maintain statistics on the number of applications for official visits as well as the respective numbers of applications approved and rejected.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB170

(Question Serial No. 3430)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please list the numbers of persons in custody kept in special cells (e.g. single cells), distribution of length of confinement (e.g. 7 days, 14 days, 21 days and 28 days) and reasons for the confinement in various correctional institutions and prisons in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yeun (LegCo internal reference no.: 283)

Reply:

By virtue of the duties and powers conferred by law, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) is committed to ensuring a secure, safe, humane, decent and healthy custodial environment. In accordance with the Prison Rules (Cap. 234A), CSD is empowered to impose separate confinement as punishment on persons in custody (PICs) who have committed offences against prison discipline, and to order the removal of PICs from association if the Department has reasonable grounds for believing that it is desirable to do so for the maintenance of good order or discipline or in the interests of PICs. PICs can also apply on their own initiative for removal from association with other PICs in view of their own circumstances such as special criminal background.

The numbers of cases involving PICs being removed from association, distribution of length of removal from association and the numbers of disciplinary cases involving PICs being imposed separate confinement as punishment in the past 5 years are tabulated below (as at 31 December of the year):

Year	Distribution of length of removal from association				Total number of cases involving PICs being removed from association (Note 1)	Disciplinary cases involving PICs being imposed separate confinement as punishment (Note 2)
	Under 72 hours	72 hours to 1 month	1 month to not longer than 4 months	Above 4 months		
2022	181(35)	238(45)	185(28)	45(45)	649	3 801
2021	445(68)	284(82)	256(37)	52(51)	1 037	4 307
2020	389(15)	187(27)	158(29)	33(33)	767	3 562
2019	423(6)	242(18)	131(19)	33(33)	829	3 181
2018	750(10)	239(14)	133(23)	18(17)	1 140	3 462

() Cases involving PICs applying for removal from association on their own initiative.

Note 1: Over 80% of the cases involved PICs being removed from association as a security measure to maintain institutional discipline and order or when the PICs were suspected of having internal concealment of dangerous drugs. As for the remaining cases, the PICs applied on their own initiative for removal from association in view of their own circumstances (such as special criminal background).

Note 2: In accordance with Rule 63 of the Prison Rules, separate confinement for any period shall not exceed 28 days.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB171

(Question Serial No. 3431)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of expenditure on the arrangement of separate confinement for persons in custody.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yeun (LegCo internal reference no.: 284)

Reply:

As the management of persons in custody under separate confinement is part of the daily management work of the Correctional Services Department, the Department does not maintain a breakdown of expenditure on this work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB172****(Question Serial No. 3432)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Prison ManagementControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide the numbers of “individual acts of indiscipline” and “concerted acts of indiscipline” in the past 5 years. What were the losses and expenditures involved? Please list the causes of the above cases of acts of indiscipline and the ways these cases were handled by the Department.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 285)Reply:

The respective numbers of individual acts of indiscipline and concerted acts of indiscipline of persons in custody (PICs) in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	Individual acts of indiscipline (No. of acts of indiscipline)	Concerted acts of indiscipline (No. of cases)
2022	4 564	5
2021	5 269	8
2020	4 332	10
2019	3 905	7
2018	4 265	8

Since the handling of acts of indiscipline forms part of the daily management work of the Correctional Services Department (CSD), the Department does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved. Besides, CSD does not maintain a breakdown of the losses incurred due to acts of indiscipline of PICs.

The causes of acts of indiscipline of individual PICs vary, and CSD does not maintain any statistics in this regard. For cases of concerted acts of indiscipline, most of the PICs involved had triad backgrounds, record of drug abuse or repeated imprisonment. They usually incited other PICs to get involved in collective actions or fighting in an attempt to establish their sphere of influence or resist the management measures or actions taken by the management to combat illicit activities.

CSD handles acts of indiscipline of PICs in accordance with the established mechanism. Apart from strengthening intelligence collection and conducting special searching operations to ensure that all illicit activities are nipped in the bud, CSD also tackles illicit or indiscipline acts decisively and promptly so as to prevent situations from deteriorating. CSD may take disciplinary actions against the persons involved or report the cases to the Police for follow-up, having regard to the nature and gravity of the cases. CSD may also order individual PICs involved to be removed from association for the maintenance of good order and discipline in the institutions in accordance with the law. Besides, in case an emergency incident occurs in a correctional facility, the Regional Response Team will arrive at the institution promptly to provide immediate tactical support to the institutional management in a bid to bring the situation under control and prevent it from deteriorating.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB173

(Question Serial No. 3433)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Secretary

Question:

Please provide the number of transgender persons (transgender males and females) and persons with disabilities in various correctional institutions currently and in the past 5 years. Please inform the Committee of the arrangements for care and necessary treatments made for persons with disabilities while they are serving their sentences in prisons, and provide a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 286)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) provides basic medical care services to all persons in custody (PICs), including setting up hospitals in correctional institutions where medical examinations and appropriate treatments or referrals are provided to newly admitted PICs by Medical Officers (MOs) seconded from the Department of Health and correctional officers with nursing qualifications. CSD will also arrange for PICs to serve their sentences at appropriate correctional institutions and provide PICs with appropriate health care, attention and necessary treatments, taking into account the advice of MOs.

CSD also cares for the special needs of PICs with disabilities. For instance, CSD organises sign language courses in collaboration with non-profit-making organisations to enhance frontline correctional officers' communication skills with and understanding of PICs with hearing impairment. In addition, CSD will, having regard to the circumstances of individual PICs with hearing impairment, engage part-time sign language interpreters or seek assistance from non-governmental organisations to arrange sign language interpretation service for those PICs in need.

Since the caring of PICs with disabilities forms part of the daily management work of CSD, the Department does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

According to the annual penal population survey conducted by CSD, a breakdown of the numbers of persons with disabilities serving sentences by the type of disabilities from 2018

to 2022 is tabulated below (since the penal population survey for 2023 has yet to be conducted, CSD does not maintain the relevant statistics):

Year (As at 31 March)	Persons with mental disabilities or mental illness	Persons with physical disabilities	Total
2022	229	125	354
2021	79	135	214
2020	78	95	173
2019	254	154	408
2018	197	107	304

As for transgender persons, a total of 80 transgender persons were admitted to correctional institutions from 2018 to 2022, of which 4 cases involved female-to-male transgender persons.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB174

(Question Serial No. 3434)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the numbers of new books acquired for the libraries of various correctional institutions and the expenditures involved in each of the past 5 years. How are these books distributed by category? What are the criteria for book selection and procurement? What officers on establishment are responsible for this matter? What are the guidelines for compliance? Have the libraries provided appropriate books to persons in custody of other nationalities who are illiterate in English or Chinese?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 287)

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) encourages persons in custody (PICs) to cultivate an interest in and spend their leisure time on reading. Therefore, libraries have been set up in various correctional institutions to provide PICs with books of different types and in different languages. The total collections of the libraries in correctional institutions currently extend to over 120 000 copies. In the past 5 years, CSD incurred an average annual expenditure of about \$73,000 on the acquisition of new books for the libraries in various correctional institutions, and the average number of new books acquired every year was about 1 000 copies.

Staff members of the Education Unit of CSD are responsible for the acquisition of appropriate books for the libraries in accordance with the established procurement procedures, having regard to factors such as reading interests and learning needs of PICs. CSD does not maintain a breakdown of books by category. In addition, the Department borrows books from the Hong Kong Public Libraries to facilitate loans by PICs, replaces the borrowed books in batches on a regular basis and also receives books donated by outside organisations or individuals according to the established mechanism.

CSD has been making its best endeavours to increase the number of books in foreign languages. At present, books kept in the libraries of various correctional institutions are in about 40 different languages. In addition to books in the Chinese and English languages,

CSD has acquired over 6 300 books in other languages over the past 5 years for reading by PICs of other nationalities who are illiterate in English and Chinese. The distribution of books by language is tabulated below:

Book	Quantity	Percentage (%)
Traditional Chinese	86 497	70
Simplified Chinese	8 132	7
English	13 378	11
Other languages (Note)	15 121	12
Total	123 128	100

Note: Not less than 40 different languages, e.g. Vietnamese, Indonesian, Thai, Korean, Spanish, French, Hindi, Urdu, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB175

(Question Serial No. 3435)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please list the prices of various canteen items in correctional institutions. By comparing the current basic level of earnings of persons in custody (PICs) with the prices of canteen items, what is the percentage of earnings spent on purchasing basic necessities by PICs? How often are the prices of canteen items in correctional institutions reviewed? What criteria are made reference to?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 288)

Reply:

The canteen items currently available for purchase by persons in custody (PICs) and their prices are listed in **Table**.

PICs may save their earnings or use them to purchase canteen items. The Correctional Services Department (CSD) does not maintain the relevant figures on the percentage of earnings PICs spent on purchasing canteen items.

Canteen items are procured through an open tender exercise. CSD will deduct the payment of the items ordered by individual PICs from the balance of their earnings according to the supplier's contract prices. The prices of various types of canteen items will be subject to review every time CSD arranges for a new contract or whenever it is deemed necessary.

Table

Canteen items available for purchase by PICs					
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- Peanut 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	8.62	65	Battery (AAA) (2 pieces)	5.5
28	Fruit Chewy Soft Candies with Vitamins	12.52	66	Photo Album (4R)	8.7
29	Seedless Raisins	26	67	Stamps(\$2.2x1+\$0.5x1+\$0.2x2+0.1x1)	3.2
30	Soya Bean Drink	2.6	68	Aerogrammes (2 pieces)	7.4
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	Hi-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**SB176****(Question Serial No. 3436)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Prison ManagementControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide a breakdown of expenditure on warm clothing for each person in custody in various correctional institutions in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 289)Reply:

The actual expenditures of the Correctional Services Department on clothing and bedding (including blankets) for persons in custody in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Expenditure on clothing (\$ million)	16.65	12.63	14.01	14.74	13.41
Expenditure on bedding (\$ million)	1.31	1.96	2.6	3.12	2.43
Total expenditure (\$ million)	17.96	14.59	16.61	17.86	15.84

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB177

(Question Serial No. 3437)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please list the recorded numbers of cases in which frontline officers used “necessary force” in various prisons and correctional institutions in the past 5 years. What were the reasons for using “necessary force”? Please provide a breakdown with explanation. Please list the recorded numbers of persons in custody and staff members injured due to the use of “necessary force” in various prisons in the past 5 years. Please list what auxiliary equipment was made use of when using “necessary force”. What was the expenditure involved? Please provide a breakdown with explanation.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 290)

Reply:

By virtue of the duties and powers conferred by law, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) 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 resistance behaviour, fighting among themselves and attacking others, etc. The numbers of cases in which correctional officers used necessary force against PICs and the numbers of persons injured in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	Number of cases involving the use of necessary force	Number of PICs injured	Number of correctional officers injured
2022	77	80	23
2021	101	123	18
2020	91	117	14
2019	69	93	40
2018	70	64	39

Correctional officers are generally equipped with oleoresin capsicum foam and extendable truncheons during supervision of PICs. Since the information about the expenditure on and the quantity of the relevant equipment procured by CSD involve its operational deployment details, it is not appropriate to disclose such information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB178****(Question Serial No. 3438)**

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Are frontline officers provided with training and guidelines on the use of necessary force on persons in custody (PICs) at “B Hall” of Pik Uk Correctional Institution (PUCI)? In what circumstances will force be used on young offenders? If correctional officers consider necessary force should be used, how can they ensure that no excess injury will be caused to the subdued PICs? What types of auxiliary equipment or weapons are provided to frontline officers at “B Hall” of PUCI to prevent PICs from committing indiscipline acts? What are the specific contents of the guidelines on the use of necessary force on PICs for frontline officers? How can the Correctional Services Department (CSD) ensure that correctional officers will not abuse their power? Are PICs informed of the possibility of being applied necessary force by staff members of CSD when they are admitted into prisons? And are they informed of their rights concerned? What is the average cost of each use of necessary force to subdue PICs?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yeun (LegCo internal reference no.: 291)

Reply:

By virtue of the duties and powers conferred by law, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) 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 resistance behaviour, fighting among themselves and attacking others, etc.

Every correctional officer is required to receive professional tactics, self-defense and scenario training to learn how to use different types of equipment and how to respond in emergency

situations. CSD also provides training and organises drills for correctional officers from time to time to ensure that they are familiar with the requirements and procedures for the use of necessary force. Correctional officers are generally equipped with oleoresin capsicum foam and extendable truncheons during supervision of PICs.

The departmental guidelines stipulate that, except in extreme emergency situations, correctional officers shall give a warning to PICs, express the intention to use force, and state clearly the nature and degree of force intended to be used before the application of force. The PICs concerned shall be given every opportunity to obey orders before any use of force. In most cases, the situations at the scene should allow correctional officers to handle resistance of PICs first by verbal advice and counselling. If the resistance persists or is even raised to a higher level, correctional officers may use appropriate force after making a professional judgement based on the actual circumstances at the scene in that particular time, the level of resistance of PICs, the abilities of the correctional officers themselves and the threats faced.

All PICs newly admitted into correctional institutions will be arranged to undergo an induction programme, during which the staff will explain to them their rights. In addition, through the Information Booklet for Persons in Custody issued to them and the electronic kiosks located at different places in the institutions, they can obtain detailed information about their rights. PICs who feel aggrieved may lodge complaints or air their grievances through various internal and external channels.

As maintaining institutional order and handling emergencies are part of the daily duties of correctional officers, CSD does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure incurred.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB179

(Question Serial No. 3439)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please list the recorded numbers of cases in which frontline officers used “necessary force” in various correctional institutions for young offenders aged under 21 in the past 5 years, and also the recorded numbers of young offenders under 21 and staff members injured due to the use of “necessary force” in various prisons in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 292)

Reply:

By virtue of the duties and powers 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 resistance behaviour, fighting among themselves and attacking others, etc. The numbers of cases in which correctional officers used necessary force against young PICs and the numbers of persons injured in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	Number of cases involving the use of necessary force	Number of young PICs injured	Number of correctional officers injured
2022	3	2	1
2021	12	23	7
2020	4	3	2
2019	3	10	5
2018	4	4	2

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB180

(Question Serial No. 3440)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Rule 237 of the Prison Rules (Cap. 234A) stipulates that no correctional officer in dealing with persons in custody (PICs) shall use force unnecessarily. Please list the records of non-compliant correctional staff using force unnecessarily with a breakdown. If there are no such records, what are the reasons? Are the existing closed circuit television (CCTV) systems and complaints mechanism effective enough to deter staff members from using force unnecessarily? How can the Department prove their effectiveness? What is the total expenditure on CCTV systems incurred by the Department? How many CCTVs are installed in each institution? What is the average cost of each CCTV?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yeun (LegCo internal reference no.: 293)

Reply:

In the past 5 years (2018-2022), there was 1 recorded case in which a staff member used force unnecessarily in the Correctional Services Department (CSD). The staff member concerned was punished as appropriate.

At present, a total of over 8 000 closed circuit televisions (CCTV) are installed in correctional institutions. CSD is planning to extend the coverage of CCTV systems in institutions gradually to enhance the effectiveness of the monitoring function so as to combat and prevent indiscipline acts and illicit activities in institutions, and also protect the safety of correctional officers in the course of law enforcement and ensure the safety of persons in custody (PICs).

Besides, CSD all along attaches great importance to complaints lodged by any persons, regardless of whether they are PICs or discharged persons. If aggrieved by any treatment they received, they may lodge complaints or air their grievances through various internal or external channels.

Internal channels include complaining to the institutional management, directorate officers of the CSD Headquarters during their inspections to correctional institutions or the Complaints Investigation Unit (CIU) of CSD. CIU will carry out an investigation of each and every

complaint in a fair, impartial and comprehensive manner, or make a referral to other law enforcement agencies for follow-up actions having regard to the circumstances of the case.

As for external channels, PICs may write to Members of the Legislative Council, The Ombudsman, statutory bodies, other law enforcement agencies or government bureaux, etc. to lodge their complaints. Besides, they may choose to seek assistance from or lodge their complaints with the visiting Justices of the Peace (JPs) directly during the latter's surprise inspections to their institutions and request to meet the JPs alone.

The Office of The Ombudsman (the Office), as an independent and statutory organisation for handling complaints against government departments, may initiate independent investigation into the complaints. If necessary, the Office may request CSD to assist in the investigation by providing information (such as CCTV footage), or even conduct site inspections and interview the complainants.

PICs have the right to see their legal advisors. Staff members of CSD will not be present at their interviews, and thus will not know the contents of such interviews.

CSD also reviews and enhances the complaints handling mechanism from time to time with a view to increasing the transparency and credibility of the Department in handling complaints in an open, fair and impartial manner.

To widen the structure of the Correctional Services Department Complaints Appeal Board (CSDCAB) and further strengthen the mechanism to scrutinise appeals, the number of members of CSDCAB was increased to 31 in November 2020. Apart from JPs, religious persons who are acquainted with correctional operations were also appointed. The independence of CSDCAB ensures that appeal cases are handled fairly.

CSD adopts a zero tolerance policy against violations of regulations by its staff. As a disciplinary force, CSD demands strict discipline. The conduct of individual staff members is monitored by supervisory staff at different levels. If any indiscipline act of a staff member is confirmed, CSD will take disciplinary action against the staff member concerned. If it is suspected that illegal acts are committed, CSD will refer those cases to other law enforcement agencies for follow-up actions.

As mentioned above, over 8 000 CCTVs are installed in correctional institutions. The average cost of each CCTV in correctional institutions varies owing to differences in locations, year of completion, building structures, design of institutions and time of installation and update of CCTV systems, and thus it cannot be generalised.

The project estimates for replacement and enhancement of the CCTV systems currently in progress are tabulated as follows:

	Correctional Facility	Head/Subhead	Number of CCTVs installed	Approved Project Estimate/ Commitment (\$ million)
1	Stanley Prison	Head 708 Capital Subventions and Major Systems and Equipment	2 493	162.68
2	Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution and Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre		1 030	51.546
3	Tai Lam Correctional Institution	Head 30 Correctional Services Department Subhead 603 Plant, vehicles and equipment	376	24.51
4	Tong Fuk Correctional Institution		690	35.274
5	Pik Uk Prison		569	37.409
6	Cape Collinson Correctional Institution		302	55.45
7	Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre		580	98.701
8	Hei Ling Chau Correctional Institution		514	108.211
9	Lai Sun Correctional Institution		236	40.944
10	Pik Uk Correctional Institution		255	13.507
11	Lo Wu Correctional Institution		3 618	241.331
12	Lai King Correctional Institution/Chi Lan Rehabilitation Centre		578	54.489
13	Shek Pik Prison		1 441	119.995
14	Sha Tsui Correctional Institution/Lai Chi Rehabilitation Centre		508	38.069
15	Nei Kwu Correctional Institution		382	30.967

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB181****(Question Serial No. 3441)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Prison ManagementControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide the records of cases in which correctional officers subdued persons in custody (PICs) with empty hands, or with the use of oleoresin capsicum foam or extendable truncheon in various prisons and correctional institutions in the past 5 years. How many records mentioned above involved female PICs, young offenders and PICs over the age of 65?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 294)Reply:

By virtue of the duties and powers conferred by law, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) 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 numbers of cases involving the use of necessary force against PICs by correctional officers in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	Number of cases by type of necessary force used			
	Empty-hand control	Use of oleoresin capsicum foam	Empty-hand control and use of oleoresin capsicum foam	Total
2022	8	7	62	77
2021	12	5	84	101
2020	14	9	68	91
2019	14	5	50	69
2018	6	6	58	70

Note: In the past 5 years, no correctional officers used extendable truncheons on PICs.

CSD does not maintain a breakdown of cases involving the use of necessary force by correctional officers on PICs by age. The numbers of cases involving institutions for young PICs and female PICs respectively in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	Number of Cases Involving Institutions for Young PICs	Number of Cases Involving Institutions for Female PICs
2022	3	22
2021	12	24
2020	4	20
2019	3	10
2018	4	7

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB182

(Question Serial No. 3557)

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. In the face of the increasingly complex law and order situation in Hong Kong, will the Department enhance its staff training and equipment, etc.? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. On training and equipment, will the Department strengthen co-operation with relevant departments in the Mainland, including sending staff to the Mainland for training and purchasing additional security equipment from the Mainland? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

Amid the changing society, public expectations of correctional officers have been rising. In order to assist correctional officers in upgrading their professional level, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) reviews and enhances the training courses provided for new recruits and serving officers from time to time.

Newly recruited Officers and Assistant Officers are required to undergo 26-week and 23-week recruit training respectively, which covers operational knowledge, virtual reality training, on-site scenario training, tactical training, field placement at correctional institutions, national security education and integrity management, etc.

As for serving officers, CSD arranges for them to attend development training courses such as refresher courses and duty-related training courses (covering institutional operations, medical and health care, institutional security, training and management, escort support, and handling and control of emergencies, etc.). In addition, thematic courses in sign language, privacy protection of personal information, equal opportunities, sex discrimination, etc. have been introduced in recent years to enhance the quality of custodial work.

To enhance the professionalism of correctional officers, CSD has been making its best endeavours to raise the recognition and professional level of its training courses. On 1 July 2022, the Correctional Services Department Staff Training Institute was retitled as the Hong

Kong Correctional Services Academy (HKCSA). As at end-2022, HKCSA offered 7 training courses recognised under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF), including a HKQF Level 6 course entitled “Postgraduate Certificate in Correctional Governance and Leadership” (pitched at the same QF Level as a local Master’s Degree) co-organised with a local tertiary institution, which is the first of its kind in Asia.

Besides, CSD arranges for its staff to visit Mainland counterparts for learning and exchanges from time to time. For example, following the orderly resumption of normal travel of persons between Hong Kong and the Mainland upon the easing of the local epidemic situation, CSD arranged for 15 correctional officers to visit the Greater Bay Area in February this year.

As for equipment, CSD procures globally (including from the Mainland) safe and suitable equipment in accordance with the established procedures having regard to its operational needs. Since the procurement of equipment involves operational deployment details, for security reasons, CSD will not disclose such information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB183****(Question Serial No. 3561)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please advise whether there are any specific policy measures to combat online scam, and whether key performance indicators (KPIs) have been set for such policy measures; if so, the details on the policy measures and the KPIs; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 47)

Reply:

Enhancing cyber security and combating technology crime are among Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2023. The Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) and the crime investigation units of various Police Regions and Districts are all dedicated to cracking down on online scams and technology crimes. To further enhance the Police Force's capabilities in combating deception, the e-Crime Processing and Analysis Hub was established in September 2022, with the aim of providing a one-stop platform for responding quickly to public reports and expediting the analysis and investigation of scams and technology crimes, thereby allowing the Force to combat criminal activities more effectively.

The Force has been enhancing its capability in combating online deception and technology crimes, as well as stepping up collaboration, intelligence exchange and law enforcement with relevant stakeholders and law enforcement agencies, such as the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and the Hong Kong Productivity Council. In addition, large-scale thematic crime prevention activities have been organised to raise public awareness of the risks associated with the use of computer, Internet, social media and cyber security, which in turn heighten their alertness to deception.

To address different types of deception and technology crimes, the Force organised a series of large-scale thematic publicity activities in 2022, including "Anti-Deception Month" in February, "Anti-Deception Season" and "Anti-Money Laundering Month" from May to August, "Emotional Disturbances Faced by Scam Victims" in October and "Anti-Scam Test Across the Territory" from November to December. The Force also launched a one-stop scam and pitfall search engine, "Scameter", to help the public identify suspicious information such as platform account names or numbers, payment accounts, phone numbers, email

addresses, URLs, etc. Meanwhile, the Force has proactively disseminated messages on fraud prevention and technology crimes to the general public by using new channels, such as broadcasting scam alerts in 17 government-owned tunnels and collaborating with cinemas to run anti-scam trailers prior to movie screenings. In addition, the Cybercrime Policing Advisory Panel (CPAP) of the CSTCB was set up in December 2022, comprising 12 panel members who are experts and leaders from the academia, the education sector, commercial chambers, the financial sector, the information technology sector, the telecommunications sector and various public entities. The CPAP assists the Force in formulating short, medium and long term strategic directions in order to strengthen the Force's digital policing capabilities in combating cybercrimes.

In 2023, the Force will continue to co-ordinate resources, strengthen collaboration with relevant stakeholders and ramp up publicity efforts. Publicity initiatives including the "All-round CyberDefender", a cyber security campaign and the mobile application "Scameter+" have been kick-started. The Force is planning to organise another round of "Anti-Deception Month" and "Anti-Money Laundering Month", and is also organising a speech competition and teacher training workshops on the theme of cyber security, as well as producing a simulation game on online scams to continue to raise public awareness of anti-deception and technology crimes on all fronts.

The Force will, as we have always done, continue to adopt a multi-agency approach to heighten public alertness to different types of deception by collaborating with other government departments, regulatory agencies and industry stakeholders, and by organising large-scale thematic crime prevention activities. The Force has no plans to formulate KPIs for a specific type of deception.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB184

(Question Serial No. 3559)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: ()

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W AU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. In the face of the increasingly complicated law and order situation in Hong Kong at present, the Department will probably enhance the training, drill, equipment, etc. of its staff. If yes, what is the scenario? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Regarding training and equipment, will the Department strengthen its cooperation with the relevant Mainland departments by, among others, deploying staff members to the Mainland for training and procuring additional Mainland security equipment? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1. Since 2002, the Immigration Department (ImmD) has provided all new recruits and serving members of the Immigration Service with resistance control training, covering the theory of resistance control, guidelines on the use of force, empty-hand control skills, the use of handcuffs and extendible batons, tactics in cells, crowd management and control tactics, the handling of detainees' suicides and the use of tactical equipment, in order to enhance the responsiveness of officers in handling emergencies.

Starting from 2009, the ImmD has been co-organising with the Correctional Services Department a training course on the use of anti-riot equipment, providing the officers deployed to the Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre ("CIC") with the training on the use of anti-riot equipment, covering single shot launchers, anti-riot grenades and pepper ball launchers, in order to strengthen their capabilities both in discharging the duty of facility management at the CIC and in handling emergencies.

With the amendments to the Weapons Ordinance and the Firearms and Ammunition Ordinance coming into effect on 1 August 2021, the ImmD has started to organise its own training courses on the use of anti-riot equipment. Since July 2022, the training on the use of pepper ball launchers has been officially incorporated in the Induction Courses for Immigration Officers and Immigration Assistants to provide new recruits with comprehensive

training on emergency response, so as to enhance the Department's manpower deployment capability when handling emergencies and to cope with the diversified work.

2. The ImmD has, as early as 2005, arranged for service members to participate in training courses organised by various government units in the Mainland (including the National Academy of Governance, offices of exit and entry administration, authorities for frontline inspection, the People's Public Security University of China and the China Foreign Affairs University, etc.) for broadening their horizons through learning and exchanges. This not only enables service members to gain a deeper understanding of the laws, systems and social development of the Mainland, but also facilitates the working partnership with Mainland counterparts. As the pandemic is over, the ImmD plans to resume the arrangement for study visits for service members to the above units in this May.

In addition, the ImmD has all along been sourcing different types of weapons and equipment from around the world, including the Mainland, and conducting market research and testing to ensure that the weapons and equipment procured meet the considerations and standards of national security, as well as operational needs. The ImmD will continue to proactively source suitable weapons and equipment in accordance with the established procurement procedures of the HKSAR Government.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB185

(Question Serial No. 3558)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. In the face of the current increasingly complex situation of law and order in Hong Kong, enhancement in staff training and equipment is expected. If yes, what is the relevant situation? If not, what are the reasons?
2. Regarding training and equipment, will the Department enhance its collaboration with relevant Mainland authorities, including arranging study visits to the Mainland and purchasing more security equipment from the Mainland? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1. **Staff Training**

The Fire and Ambulance Services Academy (FASA) of the Fire Services Department (FSD) has significantly enhanced the Department's overall professional training capabilities since its commissioning in 2016. The FASA mainly provides training for both newly recruited and serving fire and ambulance personnel, which allows more opportunities for them to be trained together, thereby enhancing their response and coordination capabilities in case of an emergency. The FASA also offers fire-and-ambulance-related training courses to staff of other government departments and different trades in the private sector, the general public, as well as the FSD's Mainland and overseas counterparts.

The FASA provides a 26-week foundation residential training programme to Recruit Station Officers, Firemen, Ambulance Officers and Ambulancemen. The wide curriculum encompasses courses on professional knowledge of basic firefighting and rescue techniques, fire science, fire engineering, the use of appliances and equipment, compartment fire behaviour training, breathing apparatus operation, fire protection and relevant legislation, basic ambulance aid, basic paramedic knowledge and skills and on-car attachment as well as other training such as foot drills, physical fitness training, discipline training, moral education, emotional intelligence and customer service, etc.

Besides, the Constitution of the People's Republic of China (the Constitution), the Basic Law and the National Security Law are also included in the training curriculum for all new recruits in order to enrich their knowledge and understanding of such legislation and enhance their sense of belonging towards our country and of national identity. The FSD has been committed to promoting among its members a better understanding of national affairs, the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law through training, exchange activities and other means. The FSD resolves to uphold the responsibility to safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests, and to ensure the steadfast and successful implementation of the "one country, two systems" principle. Moreover, our members of the Inter-departmental Counter-terrorism Unit also provide, in collaboration with personnel of the Hong Kong Police Force, counter-terrorism-related training to service members to enhance their awareness of counter-terrorism.

The FASA is equipped with a wide range of advanced simulated training facilities to furnish service members with professional knowledge as well as firefighting and rescue techniques in handling incidents involving railways, tunnels, vessels, aircrafts and fuelling facilities, etc. Specialised training on high angle rescue, urban search and rescue as well as compartment fire behaviour, etc. is also given to strengthen their capability in handling major incidents. The specifically-designed Ambulance Services Training area in the FASA features an array of ambulance services training facilities to allow ambulance trainees to go through a simulated training process covering the complete turn-out procedures. In addition, the FASA organises other specialised training courses for serving members, including Non-commissioned Officer (NCO) Command Course for NCOs to enhance their skills and knowledge in leadership, management, communication as well as customer service, and in tackling major incidents. The FASA also offers ambulance services training to fire personnel, for example, the Basic Ambulance Aid Training for new recruits and the Advanced Ambulance Aid Training at First Responder Level for serving members.

The Training and Development Advisory Committee (TDAC) of the FSD conducts regular review on whether the relevant training and development can cope with the ever-increasing demand for emergency services. In light of the recommendations put forward by the TDAC, the FSD has stepped up training for frontline personnel and has enhanced serving members' professional knowledge and rescue techniques through regular training and drills. The FSD has implemented the Specialised Training Enhancement Scheme since 2016 with a view to optimising the formulation and quality of training. As the specialised teams are now well developed, the FSD will progressively apply for accreditation for the training courses of these specialised teams in recognition of their professional status. It is expected that the training courses of various specialised teams will be granted relevant accreditation gradually.

Equipment

The FSD attaches utmost importance to safeguarding the safety of its frontline personnel and is committed to providing them with the best equipment, protective clothing and appropriate professional training to ensure their safety and efficiency when they are performing operational duties. The existing firefighting and ambulance equipment of the FSD is on a par with that of the fire brigades of other advanced countries/regions in the world. The Department will continue to review its different types of tools and

personal protective equipment from time to time. It will also keep abreast of the new development in firefighting and ambulance equipment, and identify new products available for procurement in a bid to further ensure the safety of frontline personnel and enhance their operational efficiency during firefighting and rescue operations.

2. **Arranging Study Visits to the Mainland**

The FSD has maintained close communication and cooperation with its Mainland counterparts on training and forged closer collaboration with its counterparts in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) through various ongoing efforts, including organising more training courses and technical exchange sessions for them. A “GBA Fire and Rescue Knowledge Management Platform” will also be established to facilitate the development of fire and rescue services in the GBA.

The Compartment Fire Behaviour Training Unit (CFBTU) of the FSD has planned 3 visits to the GBA in 2023, including visits to the Shenzhen Fire and Rescue Brigade, China Rapid Reaction Rescue Division (Guangdong) and Jiangmen Fire and Rescue Brigade. The first visit this year, which took place on 20 March, was attended by 5 instructors from the CFBTU. The second visit, scheduled for September this year, will involve in-depth technical exchanges with our country’s first Compartment Fire Behaviour Training Unit at the China People’s Police University. Besides, the CFBTU has recently received an invitation from the Sanming Municipal People’s Government of Fujian Province to send CFBTU instructors to run a technical course of instruction at the newly established Compartment Fire Behaviour Training Centre in Sanming Municipality for training specialist trainers in this field.

The FSD is now liaising with relevant Mainland authorities on an arrangement for the first batch of about 30 Station Officers, Firemen and Ambulancemen who are undergoing foundation training to attend a three-day exchange programme at the Fire and Rescue Corps of Guangdong Province in the near future. The programme will cover sessions on national affairs and exchanges on firefighting and rescue techniques, etc. The FSD aims to make this a regular arrangement under the foundation training programme for new recruits.

The FSD will also actively arrange for members of different ranks to attend the national studies programme, thematic visits and exchange programmes organised by the Civil Service College, including courses held in collaboration with the National Academy of Governance and relevant institutions/universities. Moreover, the FSD has since 2021 arranged for some serving members at officer rank to join the Master of Public Administration Programme at Tsinghua University and Master Programme in Public Policy at Peking University.

Purchasing Security Equipment from the Mainland

The FSD reviews its procurement strategies from time to time. In view of factors such as heightened geopolitical tensions, the Department has maintained close liaison with Mainland suppliers to ensure a stable supply of various types of tools and personal protective equipment. Besides, the FSD has endeavoured to collaborate with Mainland authorities and organisations by, for example, participating in Emergency Safety Expos and fire safety exhibitions held in the Mainland, so as to deepen exchanges with the Mainland and to timely review existing equipment and procure new equipment of better

quality for use by the Department. In recent years, the FSD has introduced the Underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle, Unmanned Aircraft System for Fire and Emergency Services and Nuclear Radiation Sensing Module sourced from Mainland suppliers to enhance the efficiency of firefighting and rescue.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3560)

Head: (166) Government Flying Service

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Government Flying Service

Controlling Officer: Controller, Government Flying Service (Captain West WU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

21. In the face of the current increasingly complicated security situation in Hong Kong, it is expected that staff training, training, equipment etc. will be enhanced in the Government Flying Service (GFS). If yes, what is the situation? If not, what are the reasons?

22. Regarding training and equipment, will GFS strengthen collaboration with its Mainland counterparts, including sending its staff to the Mainland for training and purchasing additional security equipment from the Mainland? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1. To support other disciplined services in executing their duties of maintaining the internal security of Hong Kong, the Government Flying Service (GFS) will closely monitor its resource allocation, including fleet maintenance, equipment upgrade and staff training. Taking into account the actual operation and needs of the department, GFS will duly deploy its human resources, streamline its workflow and consider various measures that will be conducive to the further improvement of operation. In addition, GFS has newly established the Flight Simulator Training Centre to enhance efficiency and technical competency of pilot training, and increase the flexibility in the deployment of pilots for providing flying services. Moreover, with the commencement of the operation of its Kai Tak Division, GFS will ensure that the Division can create synergy, and provide safe and professional flying services effectively.
2. At present, GFS will arrange for its staff to attend courses on national security, in addition to professional training related to their grades. At the same time, GFS will actively arrange for its staff to participate in various national education and training, including going to the Mainland for training and participating in exchange activities. Regarding equipment or facilities, ensuring operational safety and airworthiness of aircraft remains the top priority of GFS to meet the requirements of the Civil Aviation Department. GFS will continue to conduct procurement globally and follow the tender procedures in accordance with Stores and Procurement Regulations. Any supplier meeting the

department's tender specifications (including technical requirements) can submit tender bids.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB187

(Question Serial No. 3556)

Head: (31) Customs and Excise Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Ms Louise HO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. In the face of the current increasingly complex situation of law and order in Hong Kong, enhancement in staff training and equipment is expected. If yes, what is the relevant situation? If not, what are the reasons?
2. Regarding training and equipment, will the Department enhance its collaboration with relevant Mainland authorities, including arranging study visits to the Mainland and purchasing more security equipment from the Mainland? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1. The Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) continuously improves staff training and equipment to cope with operational needs. For staff training, C&ED takes into account the implementation of new laws, the latest smuggling trend, as well as the latest development in investigation and prosecution in arranging training for staff. As for equipment, C&ED has procured computed tomography (CT) scanners with artificial intelligence and auto-detection devices for X-ray checkers since 2021, so as to strengthen the capability in detecting firearms, ammunitions and other smuggled items, and to further enhance the clearance efficiency.
2. C&ED has maintained close liaison with the relevant Mainland authorities regarding training and equipment. C&ED has gradually restored staff exchange training programmes between both places after all travel restrictions were removed. Furthermore, from March 2023 onwards, C&ED has been arranging study visits for newly recruited Inspectors at the Shanghai Customs College as a regular part of their induction training, so that they could have an early understanding of the operation and the latest development of the Mainland Customs, the topics of national security and national affairs, etc.. On equipment, C&ED currently sources various inspection equipment from all over the world and exchanges experiences on the use of these equipment with the relevant Mainland authorities. C&ED follows the established Government procedures to procure the equipment and ensure that the equipment procured fully meet C&ED's operational needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB188****(Question Serial No. 3538)**Head: (27) Civil Aid ServiceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Civil Aid ServiceControlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Civil Aid Service (LEUNG Kwun-hong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Ever since the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2019, the Civil Aid Service has provided various types of support for the anti-epidemic work of the Government, including assisting in the management of community isolation facilities, execute restriction-testing declaration operations, carry out enforcement work in accordance with the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599), etc. What are the resources involved? For example, what are the number of deployed manpower, emoluments and expenses on overtime payment?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)Reply:

During the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic from January 2020 to February 2023, the Civil Aid Service (CAS) consistently assisted the Government in managing a number of quarantine centres, quarantine hotels and community isolation facilities.

During the above period, the CAS deployed about 340 000 man-shifts of volunteer members who participated in anti-epidemic duty, reaching a total of 3.26 million service hours. The related expenses on pay and allowance are as follows:-

Year	Expenses on Pay and Allowance
2020	\$86,376,870
2021	\$94,336,637
2022	\$138,603,484

**Note: The calculation on the expenses on pay and allowance in relation to anti-epidemic work in 2023 is still in progress*

- End -