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### Replies to supplementary questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2024-25

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Session No. : 16

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Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
<a href="#">SV-SB001</a>	SV028	LEE Hoey Simon	151	(3) Immigration Control

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SV-SB001**

**(Question Serial No. SV028)**

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:

Regarding the work of removing unsubstantiated non-refoulement claimants from Hong Kong, please provide information on the expenditures of large-scale removal operations and voluntary repatriation.

Asked by: Hon LEE Hoey Simon

Reply:

By adopting a multi-pronged strategy, the Immigration Department (ImmD) has all along been maintaining close liaison with relevant stakeholders including the relevant Consulates-General and airlines in such aspects as arranging special flights for large-scale removal operations as and when necessary, so as to expedite the removal of unsubstantiated claimants from Hong Kong. The number of removal in 2023 has significantly increased by 63% compared to 2022.

The large-scale removal operations carried out by ImmD since November 2022, as well as other voluntary repatriation cases, were arranged by procuring air tickets of civil flights from airlines at market price. ImmD does not maintain the statistical breakdown mentioned in the question. ImmD has all along been removing, and will continue to, remove unsubstantiated claimants by choosing the most effective and suitable means, depending on the circumstances of each case.

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