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Replies to supplementary questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Session No. : 18

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB001

(Question Serial No. S046)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: ()
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Mrs Apollonia LIU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Bureau mentioned in the reply of SB032 that the Hong Kong Police Force and the Customs and Excise Department had conducted as many as 11 828 and 1 681 drone operations respectively in 2025-26. Please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Within these tens of thousands of drone operations, how many cases were successfully resolved, or how many smuggling and drug trafficking cases were successfully detected, as a direct result of drone technology deployment?
2. Can the Bureau provide specific performance indicators, such as the value of contraband seized or the number of persons arrested with the assistance of drones?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Fu-yung

Reply:

In 2025-26, drone technology has assisted the Police Force in detecting 40 cases and arresting 33 persons, which involved offences such as possession of dangerous drugs, theft and illegal immigration. The Force is piloting the use of drones to assist in policing work, including anti-crime patrols and high altitude surveillance. Key performance indicators have not been formulated at present.

For the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED), Customs officers mainly deploy drones in remote areas or areas with steep terrain to assist in surveying the surrounding topography and environment, so as to detect and assess suspicious smuggling or drug trafficking activities. The C&ED does not maintain statistics on cases resolved with the assistance of drones but will continue to proactively review the effectiveness of using drones in facilitating its work.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB002

(Question Serial No. S047)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: ()
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Mrs Apollonia LIU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Bureau mentioned in the reply of SB032 that the Fire Services Department has introduced advanced equipment, such as robotic dog and Raman spectroscopic device. However, the operational threshold for this type of high-tech equipment is relatively high. Please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Within the disciplined services departments, what percentage of frontline staff in the overall establishment have been professionally trained and are qualified to operate drones and advanced apparatus?
2. Will the Government set a target to increase the prevalence of high-tech equipment operational skills among frontline staff so as to ensure that the millions of dollars spent on procurement can achieve value for money?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Fu-yung

Reply:

Training in disciplined services is based on practical operational requirements. The provision of training to frontline personnel is tailored to cover different equipment and operational needs to ensure that there is a sufficient number of qualified staff to operate the relevant equipment, thereby enabling effective deployment in operations. In terms of drones, at present, the proportion of frontline personnel in the disciplined services who are qualified to operate drones ranges from approximately 0.4% to 2.5% of the overall establishment of the departments.

Taking the Fire Services Department (FSD) as an example, its frontline personnel have acquired the knowledge and skills to operate various types of advanced equipment, including new breathing apparatus, thermal imaging cameras, remote-controlled life-saving buoys, and a mountain rescue application, which has effectively enhanced operational efficiency. In addition, the FSD has established various specialised teams equipped with a wide range of high-tech equipment to meet the operational needs of different types of incidents. Drones, for instance, given their wide range of applications, are deployed by the specialised teams according to actual circumstances to assist frontline personnel in site assessment and operational planning, apart from their use in fire ground investigation. For example, the

Mountain Search and Rescue Team uses drones to help locate missing hikers and transport rescue equipment in rural areas, while the Disaster Response and Rescue Team employs drones to reconstruct three-dimensional models of incident sites to support operational planning and safety assessment. At present, a total of 51 personnel from these specialised teams of FSD are qualified to operate drones, representing about 35% of their establishment. In addition, some high-tech equipment has targeted specialised use applicable only to specific types of incidents and is therefore carried and operated solely by specialised teams with the relevant professional training. For example, robotic dog and Raman spectroscopic device are primarily used in hazardous materials incidents and are operated by the Hazardous Materials Team as needed to improve overall operational effectiveness.

The various disciplined services departments will continue to review the situation and provide appropriate training to their frontline personnel based on equipment requirements and operational needs, thereby enhancing service quality and operational efficiency.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB003

(Question Serial No. S048)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Bureau mentioned in the reply of SB117 that, to address the danger of fires in electric vehicles (EVs), equipment such as EV fire blankets and EV battery extinguishing systems has been introduced. Furthermore, a specialised course was organised by the Road and Railway Rescue Team of the Fire Services Department, under which more than 400 firemen have obtained the relevant qualification. Please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Of the over 400 firemen who possess the relevant specialist knowledge, what percentage of frontline fire personnel do they represent? To date, have they been deployed to fire stations across all 18 districts?
2. Given that EV utilisation and incident risks are relatively higher in districts with heavy cross-boundary traffic, will the Bureau, when allocating its manpower, deploy a higher proportion of specially trained personnel to these areas to ensure that, in the event of a serious battery thermal runaway incident, such personnel can promptly respond to it on-site?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Fu-yung

Reply:

In view of the development of electric vehicles (EVs), all frontline fire personnel of the Fire Services Department have received training in handling EV fires to enhance the overall response capability. Frontline fire personnel with the qualification of the Road and Railway Rescue Team (RRRT) have all been strategically deployed at 13 specially selected fire stations to ensure that regardless of where an incident occurs in the territory, RRRT members can arrive at the scene within a short timeframe to commence rescue operations and provide support. In selecting the locations, consideration was given not only to geographical distribution and the traffic network, but also to the number of traffic accidents in various districts and the conditions of nearby major roads, with a view to enhancing the coverage and response efficiency of the RRRT across different areas.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-SB001

(Question Serial No. SV017)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

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:

The fixed penalty for illegal parking offences under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) increased from \$320 to \$400 with effect from 1 January, 2026. Is there any improvement in illegal parking since then? Please provide the relevant figures and elaborate.

Asked by: Hon CHONG Ho-fung

Reply:

Road safety is one of the Commissioner's Operational Priorities, and changing the irresponsible behaviour of road users causing obstruction on roads is among the Police Force's Selected Traffic Enforcement Priorities. The Force has been paying particular attention to the situation of illegal parking and is committed to adhering to a "result-oriented" enforcement principle. The aim of enforcement is always to ensure road safety and smooth traffic flow, instead of pursuing the number of fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) issued.

In the first quarter of 2026, the total number of FPTs issued by the Force under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance was 377 697, representing a significant drop of 217 178 or 37% when compared with the 594 875 tickets issued for the corresponding period in 2025. The numbers of FPTs issued by the 5 Land Regions all recorded a drop of over 30%, with the respective decreases ranging from 34% to 45%. A breakdown of the figures by Police Region is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of FPTs issued by the Police Force under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance					
	Hong Kong Island	Kowloon East	Kowloon West	New Territories South	New Territories North	Total
First quarter of 2025	92 429	64 768	205 697	94 587	137 394	594 875
First quarter of 2026	51 195	40 764	133 586	62 119	90 033	377 697
Increase/decrease	-41 234	-24 004	-72 111	-32 468	-47 361	-217 178
Percentage of increase/decrease	-45%	-37%	-35%	-34%	-34%	-37%

Since the increase of fixed penalty for illegal parking offences with effect from 1 January 2026, the Government has been closely monitoring the illegal parking situation. In collaboration with the Road Safety Council, the Force will continue to step up educational and promotional efforts to heighten drivers' road safety awareness in observing traffic rules, with a view to ensuring road safety and smooth traffic flow.

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