

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB212

(Question Serial No. 0036)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

Under Programme (2), the Government will expand the existing Green Volunteer Scheme in the coming year to enhance community involvement and public participation in tree surveillance. Will the Government provide the following information:

How many volunteers have been recruited this year? How many Green Volunteers are there in each of the 18 districts this year? What are the manpower and expenditure involved in the Green Volunteer Scheme this year? How many Green Volunteers have undertaken simple maintenance of street trees this year? How many hours of work have the Green Volunteers performed in total?

How will community involvement and public participation in tree surveillance be enhanced by the Green Volunteer Scheme in the coming year? Will more volunteers be recruited in the coming year? If so, what are the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons? Will the Government strengthen the training provided to volunteers on tree inspection and organise more maintenance activities for street trees, so as to facilitate the Government's work in tree inspection and surveillance, and avoid accidents involving injuries caused by fallen trees? If so, what are the details and what are the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing (Member Question No.7)

Reply:

The Green Volunteer Scheme (the Scheme) is implemented as part of the Green Hong Kong Campaign by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) through its District Leisure Services Offices in 18 districts. The Scheme currently has over 6 480 Green Volunteers and 861 of them were recruited in 2015.

The number of Green Volunteers in each of the 18 districts is set out below –

District	Number of Green Volunteers
Central & Western	876
Eastern	203
Southern	93
Wan Chai	172
Kowloon City	217
Kwun Tong	714
Sham Shui Po	257
Wong Tai Sin	202
Yau Tsim Mong	380
Islands	289
Kwai Tsing	325
North	301
Sai Kung	359
Sha Tin	566
Tai Po	418
Tsuen Wan	446
Tuen Mun	277
Yuen Long	392
Total	6 487

The Green Volunteers are encouraged to assist in tree surveillance and report problematic trees to “1823” Call Centre. In 2015-16, the Green Volunteers have performed over 13 000 hours of service in various community greening activities including the Community Planting Day and the Hong Kong Flower Show.

The LCSD will continue to promote the Scheme through various publicity channels and greening activities. More training and workshops on tree care, tree maintenance and tree problems will be provided to the Green Volunteers to equip them with relevant knowledge to assist in tree surveillance work in 18 districts. In addition, the LCSD will also collaborate with the Development Bureau to enhance community involvement in tree surveillance work.

The estimated expenditure on the Scheme for 2015-16 and 2016-17 are \$0.6 million and \$0.7 million respectively.

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