

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB213

(Question Serial No. 0327)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

According to Programme (3), the attendance at the museums of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is 4 858 129 for this year while the estimated attendance will be 4 900 000 for next year with the introduction of free admission to the permanent exhibitions of designated museums. Will the Government provide the following information:

What are the attendance figures of each of the LCSD museums for January when free admission was introduced on 1 January 2016? Does the Department breakdown the number of visitors into Hong Kong residents and non-Hong Kong residents? What are the damage rates of the exhibits for each of the museums for January? What are the expenditure and manpower involved in the repairing? Is the damage caused to the exhibits of each of the museums during January more serious compared with other months when admission fee was charged? How will the Department handle the above situations?

What will be the additional expenditure involved when free admission to permanent exhibitions of 5 fee-charging museums, namely the Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence and Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, is introduced next year? Is extra manpower required to cope with the increase in the number of visitors arising from free admission? If so, what are the manpower and expenditure involved? Will the Department consider extending the free admission arrangement to cover other museums next year? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing (Member Question No. 66)

Reply:

The attendance of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) museums during the free admission period in January 2016 is listed at Annex I. According to the survey conducted at the 5 fee-charging LCSD museums (i.e. the Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Hong Kong Science Museum (HKScM), Hong Kong

Museum of Coastal Defence and Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum) in January 2016, about 67% and 33% of the visitors interviewed were Hong Kong residents and non-Hong Kong residents respectively.

The HKScM recorded in January 2016 an attendance of over 126 000 visitors, representing an increase of more than one-fold as compared to the attendance during the same period last year (i.e. the normal fee-charging period) and attaining the largest increase of attendance among all fee-charging museums. Given the large number of interactive devices and hands-on exhibits, the HKScM recorded a breakdown rate of 7.8%, more than doubled the corresponding rate in January 2015. As the exhibits in other 4 fee-charging LCSD museums are mainly for viewing with few or no hands-on elements, the change in breakdown rate is negligible. The additional maintenance cost and manpower involved in exhibits repair during the free admission period have been absorbed by LCSD's existing resources.

Under the new initiative announced in the 2016 Policy Address, the public will be offered free admission to the permanent exhibitions of 5 designated fee-charging LCSD museums (i.e. the Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence and Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum). As for the 2 remaining fee-charging museums (i.e. HKScM and Hong Kong Space Museum (HKSpM), full-time students will be offered free admission to their permanent exhibitions. An additional funding of \$13.5 million has been allocated to the LCSD in 2016-17, including \$11.1 million to cover the cost for additional service requirements on security guards, cleansing, technical and maintenance services and \$2.4 million for the creation of 15 time-limited civil service posts in anticipation of an increase in attendance and breakdown rate of exhibits upon the implementation of the new initiative.

The Government will review the impact of the free admission policy after its implementation and consider whether adjustments need to be made.

**Attendance Figures of the Museums of
the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in January 2016**

	Attendance
Fee-charging museums ^{Note}	
Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum	9 133
Hong Kong Heritage Museum	65 340
Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence	15 351
Hong Kong Museum of History	101 428
Hong Kong Science Museum	126 372
<i>Sub-total</i>	317 624
Free admission museums	
Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery	5 568
Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware	13 615
Hong Kong Film Archive	13 517
Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre	18 316
Hong Kong Railway Museum	17 470
Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre	6 371
Law Uk Folk Museum	1 149
Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum	3 437
Oi!	17 058
Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre	6 118
Sam Tung Uk Museum	7 573
Sheung Yiu Folk Museum	2 700
<i>Sub-total</i>	112 892
Total	430 516

Note: Excluding Hong Kong Museum of Art and Hong Kong Space Museum which were closed for renovation during the period.

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