

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB450**

**(Question Serial No. 3886)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (5) Public Libraries

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

Regarding readers' late return or loss of public library materials, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) of the number of cases on readers' late return of public library materials, the number of library materials involved, the total number of days of delay and the total amount of fines involved in 2015-16, with a breakdown by individual public library;
- (b) of the number of cases on public library materials lost by readers, the number of lost library materials and the total amount of fines involved in 2015-16, with a breakdown by individual public library;
- (c) of the number of cases on outstanding fines payable by readers to public libraries and the total amount of fines involved as at 29 February 2016, with a breakdown by individual public library.

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 375)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Public Libraries currently provides a network of 68 static libraries and 12 mobile libraries which are evenly spread over the territory of Hong Kong and inter-connected by an integrated automated library system. Users may borrow and return library materials or report loss of borrowed library materials and pay for the replacement of lost library items at any public libraries.

- (a) In 2015-16 (as at 29 February 2016), there were 688 730 cases of late return, involving around 2.69 million items of library materials at all libraries, and the value of overdue fines involved was around \$14.7 million.

- (b) In 2015-16 (as at 29 February 2016), there were 9 680 cases of lost items reported by readers, involving some 11 980 items of library materials at all libraries, and the value of replacement charges involved was around \$0.9 million.
- (c) In 2015-16 (as at 29 February 2016), there were a total of 33 820 cases of outstanding overdue fines for late return and outstanding replacement charges for lost items reported, and the total amount involved was around \$0.7 million.

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