

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB463**

**(Question Serial No. 3930)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

Regarding the introduction of free admission to museums under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in January 2016, will the Department provide the following information:

- (a) a breakdown of the attendance figures for January 2016 as well as the average figures per month in 2015 by museum;
- (b) a breakdown of the damage rates of exhibits including interactive exhibits and the repair costs by museum; and
- (c) whether the Department will consider relaunching the above initiative for a certain period of time in 2016-17. If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 462)

Reply:

- (a) The attendance of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) museums during the free admission period in January 2016 and the monthly average attendance in 2015 are listed at **Annex**.
- (b) Given the large number of interactive devices and hands-on exhibits, the Hong Kong Science Museum (HKScM) recorded a breakdown rate of 7.8% in January 2016, which more than doubled the corresponding rate in January 2015. As the exhibits at other fee-charging LCSD museums are mainly for viewing with few or no hands-on elements, the breakdown rate is negligible. The maintenance cost involved in exhibits repair was absorbed by the LCSD's existing resources.
- (c) To further promote culture as well as knowledge in history, arts and science, and to encourage more visits to the museums for building a wider audience base, the Chief Executive had announced in his 2016 Policy Address to make free admission to LCSD

museums a standing practice. Under the new initiative, the public will be offered free admission to the permanent exhibitions of 5 designated fee-charging LCSD museums (i.e. 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), full-time students will be offered free admission to their permanent exhibitions. It is expected that more local and overseas visitors will be attracted to the LCSD museums concerned upon the implementation of the free admission policy. 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**

Museum with Free Admission	Attendance	
	January 2016	2015 Monthly Average
<b>Fee-charging museums</b> <sup>Note</sup>		
Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum	9 133	4 976
Hong Kong Heritage Museum	65 340	40 352
Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence	15 351	9 983
Hong Kong Museum of History	101 428	62 476
Hong Kong Science Museum	126 372	97 447
<i>Sub-total</i>	<b>317 624</b>	<b>215 234</b>
<b>Free admission museums</b>		
Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery	5 568	7 732
Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware	13 615	19 039
Hong Kong Film Archive	13 517	14 752
Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre	18 316	15 638
Hong Kong Railway Museum	17 470	18 394
Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre	6 371	3 369
Law Uk Folk Museum	1 149	1 147
Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum	3 437	3 084
Oi!	17 058	16 596
Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre	6 118	5 861
Sam Tung Uk Museum	7 573	7 672
Sheung Yiu Folk Museum	2 700	3 285
<i>Sub-total</i>	<b>112 892</b>	<b>116 569</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>430 516</b>	<b>331 803</b>

Note: Excluding the Hong Kong Museum of Art and the Hong Kong Space Museum which were closed for renovation since August 2015 and November 2015 respectively.