

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB481

(Question Serial No. 4853)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (5) Public Libraries

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

Did the Government conduct timely review of the usage rates of the mobile library vans in all the 18 districts in the past 5 years? If so, what were the details and the expenditures involved? Did the Government conduct public consultations in all the 18 districts in the past 5 years on the provision of additional mobile library vans? If so, what were the details and the expenditures involved? Does the Government have any plans to review the usage rates of the mobile library vans in all the 18 districts in 2016-17? If so, what are the details and the estimated expenditures involved? Does the Government have any plans to conduct public consultations in all the 18 districts in 2016-17 on the provision of additional mobile library vans? If so, what are the details and the estimated expenditures involved?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

Apart from maintaining on-going dialogue with the District Councils (DCs) on the provision of mobile library services, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) conducted an overall review of the mobile library service in 2013. Having regard to the findings of the review and the views collected from DCs, the LCSD has enhanced the mobile library service progressively since July 2014 by introducing 2 new mobile library vans and reshuffling the routes of the existing mobile library vans. The number of mobile library stops has increased from 96 in 2013 to 103 in 2014 and 108 in 2015. Furthermore, the visiting frequency of some existing mobile library stops with high usage or potentially high usage has been increased. The costs of implementing the above measures were absorbed by the existing manpower resources. In addition, the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) also conducts surveys on a regular basis to gauge the public's opinions on the prevailing public library services and their future needs. The findings of the survey in 2014-15 showed that 78.6% of users were satisfied with mobile library services provided by the HKPL.

The LCSD will continue to monitor and review the usage of its mobile library services for the effective utilisation of resources to better serve the public.

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