

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB498

(Question Serial No. 7016)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Recreation and Sports

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

Please set out in a table the following information about each of the swimming pools built in the territory in the past 3 years: the number and their locations; the manpower and expenditures involved; the numbers of main pools, secondary pools, training pools, teaching pools, diving pools, children's pools, toddlers' pools, family changing rooms, toilets, baby care rooms, changing rooms, facilities for persons with disabilities, heated pools and Jacuzzis; the expenditure items; and the ratio of number of new swimming pools to population in districts. Does the Government have any plans to build new swimming pools in 2016-17? If so, what are their locations, the swimming pool-to-population ratios, manpower arrangements and the relevant details, usage rates and expenditures involved?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 604)

Reply:

2 redeveloped swimming pools, namely Kwun Tong Swimming Pool and Victoria Park Swimming Pool, were completed in the past 3 years. Details on their facilities, attendance and operating expenditure are set out at **Annex**.

In 2016-17, the project "Sports Centre in Area 4, Tsing Yi", which includes an indoor heated swimming pool, is under construction. In addition, an indoor heated swimming pool is being planned as part of the composite project "Sports centre, community hall and football pitches in Area 1, Tai Po". Subject to the funding approval by the Finance Committee, the latter project can start in 2016-17. As the swimming pools are only part of the facilities to be provided in the 2 projects, no breakdown figures are available.

According to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, 1 swimming pool is provided for a district with population of 287 000 persons. The current provision of 43 public swimming pools is sufficient to meet the above standards and guidelines at the territory-wide and district levels. In planning new facilities, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department makes reference to not only the population but also other factors such

as the policy objectives for sports development, utilisation rates of existing facilities, demographics changes, the advice of District Councils and site availability.

Facilities, Attendance and Operating Expenditure of Kwun Tong Swimming Pool and Victoria Park Swimming Pool

	Victoria Park Swimming Pool	Kwun Tong Swimming Pool
Commissioning Date	September 2013	April 2013
District ^(Note 1)	Eastern / Wanchai	Kwun Tong
Main Facilities		
• Main pool	1	1
• Secondary pool	-	1
• Diving pool	-	-
• Multi-purpose pool	1	-
• Training pool	-	1
• Teaching pool	-	2
• Children's pool	-	-
Ancillary Facilities		
• Family changing rooms	5	5
• Baby care rooms	1	1
• Toilet blocks (Male)	4	3
• Toilet blocks (Female)	5	3
• Changing rooms	1	2
• Changing rooms for persons with disabilities	5 ^(Note 2)	4
Attendance		
• 2013	324 333	841 258
• 2014	625 695	1 080 841
• 2015	584 995	1 078 190
Operating expenditure in 2015-16 ^(Note 3)	\$26.54 million	\$23.62 million

Notes

1. Due to revision of boundary between Eastern District and Wanchai District, management of Victoria Park Swimming Pool was transferred from Eastern District Leisure Services Office to Wanchai District Leisure Services Office from 1 April 2016.
2. Family changing room cum changing room for persons with disabilities.
3. Figures in 2015-16 cover operating expenditure up to 21 March 2016.