

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB188**

**(Question Serial No. 1240)**

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:

1. What are the current monthly usage rates of the Hong Kong Stadium (HKS)?
2. What were the respective numbers of sports events and non-sports events (such as performance shows and public events) held at the HKS in the past 3 years?
3. What are the current condition of turf maintenance and usage of the HKS?
4. There are views that the ancillary facilities such as transport or restaurants in the vicinity of the HKS are insufficient. In this connection, will the Department make any improvements accordingly?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan (Member Question No. 21)

Reply:

1. The number of days that the Hong Kong Stadium (HKS) was used in 2016 for holding events including set up and clearance is 47 days, or about 4 days per month on average.
2. The number of sports and non-sports events held at the HKS in the past 3 years from 2014 to 2016 is listed below-

<b>Year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b> <sup>Note</sup>	<b>2016</b>
Sports event	17	6	14
Non-sports event	3	2	3
<b>Total number of events</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>

Note: The HKS was closed for reconstruction of the turf pitch from April to October 2015.

3. Since the completion of the reconstruction of the HKS turf pitch and its reopening in November 2015, a number of matches and events have been staged. The conditions of its turf pitch are generally satisfactory and have shown progressive improvement. In particular, its drainage system has been working effectively. From the observations gained from turf maintenance carried out in summer 2016, the underground rhizome system of the new turf of the HKS was at the development stage after the reconstruction, and the sand-based soil needed accumulation of more organic matter in order to preserve the nutrients in the soil. In fact, turf pitches normally require at least 3 years of seasonal change to reach maturity and maintain at a stable state. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has used advanced technology and ancillary equipment such as growth lights and ventilating fans to enhance the effectiveness of turf maintenance and adopted an enhanced turf maintenance programme to further improve the quality of the turf pitch. With the adoption of a stricter approach to scheduling events and activities, and allowing more time for the turf to recover between events and activities, the turf of the HKS has grown more steadily and its quality will be maintained at a high level.
4. On event days, special traffic and transport arrangements are made in the vicinity of the HKS to facilitate the arrival and departure of spectators. Furthermore, a diverse range of food and beverage services are offered to spectators inside the HKS. LCSD will continue to monitor the situation.

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