

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB247

(Question Serial No. 2614)

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. Has the Government considered replacing the rubber granules in the third generation artificial turf pitches with natural materials in 2017? If so, please provide the names of the venues involved, the timetable for the replacement of materials and the estimated expenditure.
2. Will the Government conduct testing on the replacement materials beforehand? If so, what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 45)

Reply:

The artificial turf systems (including their rubber infill materials) used in the third generation (3G) artificial turf pitches managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) are in compliance with the requirements of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). Similar products are commonly used throughout the world. Both the Hong Kong Football Association and Hong Kong Rugby Union support the use and additional provision of 3G artificial turf pitches.

LCSD has all along been monitoring the development of artificial turf systems with a view to providing quality pitch facilities to the public. A 3G artificial turf pitch as part of the Hing Wah Street West Open Space project in Sham Shui Po will use ethylene propylene diethy methane rubber (EPDM) as infills for trial. The project is expected to be completed by the third quarter of 2017. LCSD does not have separate breakdown estimate on the pitch, which forms an integral part of the project. In parallel, LCSD will explore the trial use of new turf system that meets with FIFA standard in Cherry Street Park and Kowloon Tsai Park (Pitch No. 2) in the planned refurbishment programme in 2018.

LCSD has formed a new committee, comprising representatives of relevant departments and “national sports associations” as well as experts, to review the current standards, requirements and practices for the design, construction, installation, operation and

maintenance of artificial turf pitches in venues managed by the LCSD. The findings and recommendations of the committee will be taken into account in the planning and maintenance of artificial turf pitches in the future.

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