

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB468

(Question Serial No. 3710)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

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. Did the Government conduct timely review of the usage rates of the leisure facilities, including standard sports grounds, heated swimming pools, cycling parks and indoor sports centres, 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 recreation and sports facilities? If so, what were the details and the expenditures involved? Does the Government have any plans to review the usage rates of the leisure facilities, including standard sports grounds, heated swimming pools, cycling parks and indoor sports centres, in all the 18 districts in 2017-18? 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 2017-18 on the provision of additional recreation and sports facilities? If so, what are the details and the estimated expenditures involved?
2. Please list the waiting times for the leisure facilities, including standard sports grounds, heated swimming pools, cycling parks, public libraries and indoor sports centres, in all the 18 districts in the past 5 years. If such information is available, what are the details and the expenditures involved? For leisure facilities which involve a waiting time of over 1 month, will the Government provide more such facilities at suitable locations throughout the 18 districts in 2017-18? If so, what are the details and the expenditures involved?
3. In 2017-18, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will continue to promote the stadia, sports centres, heated swimming pools and jogging tracks in various districts. What are the details and the estimated manpower involved?
4. Will the LCSD continue to convert the existing swimming pools into heated pools or expedite the planned conversion projects? What are the details and the estimated manpower involved?

5. Kwai Chung Park has been lying idle since the completion of construction works in 2000. What is the specific timetable for its opening? Will the LCSD allocate funding in 2017-18 to improve the facilities of the Park so as to bring it up to the required standard for opening to the public? What are the details and the estimated manpower involved?
6. Will the LCSD consider increasing the fees and charges for its facilities and services so as to recover the costs? If so, what are the details and implementation timetable?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 541)

Reply:

- (1) The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) keeps the usage rates of various sports facilities under regular review. The usage rates of sports grounds, arena of sports centres and heated public swimming pools in the past 5 years (from 2012 to 2016) are set out at the **Annex**. As the cycling grounds can be used without booking, LCSD does not have usage statistics for the facilities. It is expected that the usage rates of the facilities in 2017 will be maintained at similar levels as in 2016.

In planning new recreation and sports facilities, LCSD consults the relevant District Councils and other stakeholders on the scope of works and the design of the proposed venues. The review of usage rates and the consultation exercises are carried out as part of the ongoing work of LCSD through deployment of existing resources and manpower.

- (2) In the past 5 years, LCSD has fulfilled the performance pledge for the services set out in the table below -

| Type of Services | | Target (in minutes) |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sports facilities | Queuing time for making booking for the use of sports facilities in person at venue booking counter | 15 (except peak period) |
| Swimming pools | Waiting time for admission to swimming pools | 20 |
| Public libraries | Waiting time for the following services in person at library counters - | |
| | (a) Applying for a new library card | 10 |
| | (b) Replacing a library card | 10 |
| | (c) Borrowing a library item | 5 |
| | (d) Returning a library item | 5 |
| | (c) Reserving a library item | 5 |

LCSD has been promoting the wider use of electronic service and self-service. In the case of sports facilities, the public can make advance booking through the Leisure Link System by using the on-line service or the self-service kiosk installed at leisure venues. For some sports facilities where advance booking is not required (e.g.

cycling parks and athletic tracks of sports grounds for jogging), members of the public can walk in and use the facilities for free. As regards library service, the public can enjoy a wide range of library services via the on-line platform and mobile application. Self-charging terminals are also installed at most libraries to facilitate the borrowing and renewal of library materials.

The provision of the above services is carried out as part of the ongoing work of the Department through deployment of existing resources and manpower.

- (3) In 2017-18, LCSD will continue to promote the use of all facilities including the stadia, sports centres, heated swimming pools and jogging tracks in various districts as part of its ongoing work through deployment of existing manpower. The Department does not have separate breakdown figures on the manpower involved for promoting the use of the facilities. Details of the facilities are provided in LCSD's website.
- (4) As announced in the 2017 Policy Address, the Government will implement a Five-year Plan for developing 26 sports and recreation facilities. Among them, 4 projects involve the development and redevelopment of swimming pool complexes to meet the demand for year-round swimming. These include the provision of heated pools at the Morse Park Swimming Pool Complex, the Kowloon Tsai Swimming Pool Complex and the Pao Yue Kong Swimming Pool Complex through redevelopment and conversion, and the planning of a new swimming pool complex and open space in Tin Shui Wai. Details of the projects are being worked out under the established mechanism of the public works programme.
- (5) The proposed Kwai Chung Park is also one of the 26 sports and recreation projects to be launched in the coming 5 years as announced in the 2017 Policy Address. LCSD has been working closely with stakeholders including the Kwai Tsing District Council (KwTDC) on the planning of the project. After receiving comments of KwTDC Members on the proposed scope of facilities in February 2017, LCSD is now actively following up on the planning details. Details of the projects are being worked out.
- (6) LCSD, in consultation with relevant bureaux, is undertaking a comprehensive review of the fees and charges for recreation and sports facilities and services. The review will take into account factors including the policy objectives of sports promotion, the utilisation rates of facilities, comparable market prices, public affordability and cost recovery rates. The implementation will be subject to the outcome of the review.

Annex to Reply Serial No. HAB468**Usage of Sports Centres and Sports Grounds and
Attendance of Heated Public Swimming Pools in the past 5 years (2012-2016)**

| Type of facilities | 2012 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| | No. of Venues | Usage/ Admission | No. of Venues | Usage/ Admission | No. of Venues | Usage/ Admission | No. of Venues | Usage/ Admission | No. of Venues | Usage/ Admission |
| Sports Centre (Arena) | 92 | 79% | 92 | 81% | 93 | 80% | 94 | 82% | 95 | 85% |
| Sports Ground | 25 | 99% | 25 | 99% | 25 | 99% | 25 | 99% | 25 | 99% |
| Heated Public Swimming Pools (number of admission) | 22 | 6 873 556 | 24 | 9 052 809 | 24 | 9 622 353 | 24 | 10 198 946 | 24 | 10 688 127 |

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