

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB508

(Question Serial No. 4734)

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:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department manages a wide range of recreation and sports facilities, and the Government has repeatedly indicated that it keeps an open mind towards hawker bazaars organised by the community. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the Department's procedures and criteria for processing applications for organising hawker bazaars;
2. the number of applications for organising hawker bazaars processed by the Department in the past 3 years, and the number of hawker bazaars successfully held;
3. the manpower and expenditure involved in processing applications for organising hawker bazaars.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 254)

Reply:

1. The leisure venues managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) are primarily for sports and recreational purposes. LCSD also makes available its public pleasure grounds for non-designated uses such as cultural events, charitable activities and festive celebrations. Any applications for bazaar-like activities will be handled as applications for non-designated uses and be considered on a case-by-case basis. LCSD takes into account a number of factors, including the area to be booked, the duration, purpose and nature of the activity, the benefits it may bring to the public, and the inconvenience that it may cause to other users. Residents nearby and District Council members concerned are consulted through the Home Affairs Department, and views from relevant government departments will also be sought. In view of the keen public demand for use of recreational grounds and leisure facilities, LCSD strives to balance the needs of different park users and to reserve sufficient venues and sessions for recreational and sports uses. At present,

each approved application for non-designated use of LCSD's leisure venues generally should not last more than 3 days or be on a recurrent basis, unless under exceptional circumstances.

2. The number of applications for organising bazaar-like activities processed by LCSD in the past 3 years, and the number of bazaars successfully held are set out below.

Year	Number of applications received	Number of successful applications
2014	9	8
2015	17	11
2016	12	10

3. Processing of applications is part of the work carried out by the venue staff. LCSD does not have separate breakdown figures on the manpower and expenditure involved in processing applications for organising bazaar-like activities.

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