

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB155

(Question Serial No. 1843)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (5) Public Libraries

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

The Department has provided a self-service library station on a trial basis since last year. Have any financial resources been reserved in this year's estimates for setting up more self-service library stations? If yes, what are the expenditures and plans? If no, what are the reasons and plans for the future?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 52)

Reply:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has launched a pilot scheme to provide 3 self-service library stations, 1 each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories at convenient locations with heavier pedestrian flow and far from existing libraries. The first library station in the Eastern District was opened on 5 December 2017 while the remaining 2 in the Yau Tsim Mong District and the Sha Tin District respectively are planned to be opened by phases in the second half of 2018 tentatively. The LCSD will conduct a review in 2018-19 to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot scheme taking into account the utilisation, cost effectiveness, feedback of the users, sustainability and complementarity with other library services. Subject to the outcome of the review, the LCSD will explore the feasibility of extending the service to other locations and seek additional funding as required. The LCSD has earmarked \$3.5 million for the daily operation and maintenance of the library stations in 2018-19.

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