

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB183**

**(Question Serial No. 2049)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

Regarding work injury cases concerning outsourced cleansing workers handled by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), please inform this Committee of the following:

1. How many cases of work injury concerning outsourced cleansing workers did the LCSD receive in each of the past 5 years? Please provide the details of the follow-up by the Government on such cases. If there was no follow-up, please provide the reasons.
2. Further to the above, how many prosecutions, verbal warnings, written warnings, default notices and/or other follow-up actions were instituted or issued by the LCSD against the contractors?
3. Has the LCSD considered providing additional manpower to oversee occupational safety and health of the outsourced workers?
4. Has the LCSD prescribed any requirements in respect of the provision of minimum manpower, the quantity of protective equipment, the sessions of occupational safety training, adequate drinking water supply, fixed changing facilities and lockers, etc. for each service item in each cleansing service tender and contract signed? If so, what are the details with breakdown figures? If not, what are the reasons? Will the LCSD review the matter and make such arrangements in future?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 17)

Reply:

1. Information on the reported work injury cases concerning outsourced cleansing contracts' workers received at venues managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in the past 5 years is tabulated below –

Year	Number of Reported Work Injury Cases Concerning Cleansing Workers*	Parts of Body Injured	Causes of Injury
2013	56	Head, neck, limbs, chest, waist, back, abdomen, hips and shoulder	Fall, abrasion, strain, sprain, contusion, trapping, puncture, scratch, bite, laceration and cut, crushing, spillage, assault, feeling sick upon contact with cleaning agents, burn, faint, hit by ball, bee sting, heat stroke, slip and fracture
2014	73		
2015	101		
2016	103		
2017	97		

(\*Remark: There were no fatal cases.)

The LCSD venue management/duty officers will carry out investigations into reported work injury cases. By conducting regular and surprise inspections, holding work meetings with contractors, handling complaints and keeping routine contacts with workers, the venue management officers also monitor and remind contractors and their workers to be mindful of workplace safety as required under the contracts. In case of any non-compliance with contract provisions by contractors, the respective venue management officers may give verbal advice or issue advisory letters to the contractors. For severe cases, default notices will be issued and follow-up actions will be taken as appropriate. If necessary, the venue management officers will assess the work procedures and environmental safety of individual venues to make appropriate remedies and devise reasonably practicable preventive and improvement measures.

2. In the past 5 years, after investigations were carried out into the above-mentioned reported injuries, the LCSD did not find any cases in which prosecutions, verbal warnings, written warnings or default notices against the contractors were required.
3. It is part of the venue management officers' routine duties to monitor contractors' performance and oversee the occupational safety and health of outsourced workers and this arrangement has been running effectively. The LCSD therefore has no plans for providing additional manpower for this task at the moment.
4. The LCSD requires its cleansing service contractors to provide a specified number of employees at certain ranks at designated posts in accordance with the service specifications in the tender documents/contracts having regard to the actual operational needs of individual venues. Contractors are required to submit information such as staff establishment, particulars of their employees and monthly duty rosters for perusal by the venue management.

It is stipulated in all cleansing service contracts that contractors should comply with the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance. The contract provisions also stipulate that the contractors should provide suitable safety equipment and tools such as pails, ladders, uniforms and all other necessary materials or equipment, which should be kept in good and effective operational conditions, while special or protective clothing and shoes should be provided to their staff as actual operational needs arise. The contractors should, in submitting their tenders, include a management plan covering the training programmes for their staff and measures to

ensure their staff's compliance with safety regulations while performing duties for evaluation by the Government. The management plan will then form part of the contract to be executed and will be legally binding. Besides, the venue management will conduct monthly assessments on the performance of the contractors to ensure that they meet the contract requirements and comply with all the contract provisions, including those on occupational safety.

The LCSD will normally provide suitable areas in venues for outsourced workers to rest and place lockers, kettles, refrigerators, microwave ovens and other facilities etc. Outsourced workers may use designated toilets or other suitable areas for changing clothes purpose.

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