

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB366

(Question Serial No. 5654)

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. 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 2018-19? 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 2018-19 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 require a waiting time of over 1 month, will the Government provide more such facilities at suitable locations throughout the 18 districts in 2018-19? If so, what are the details and the expenditures involved?
3. In 2018-19, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will continue to promote the stadia, indoor 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 2018-19 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?
7. Please tabulate the details of the testing on toxic material conducted in each of artificial turf pitches under the LCSD in the past 5 years, the number of such testing and the expenditure involved.
8. Please tabulate the details of the testing on toxic material expected to be conducted in each of the artificial turf pitches under the LCSD in 2018-19, the number of such testing and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 185)

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 2013 to 2017) 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 2018 will be maintained at similar levels as in 2017.

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	Waiting time for the following services in	

Type of Services		Target (in minutes)
libraries	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 2018-19, 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) We are planning 4 projects involving new or improved swimming pool complexes. We plan to consult the Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs (HA Panel) and seek the funding approval of the Finance Committee (FC) for 2 projects, namely the provision of a heated pool at the Morse Park Swimming Pool Complex and the development of a new swimming pool complex in Area 107, Tin Shui Wai, in 2018-19 financial year. Subject to FC's funding approval in the first half of 2018, works on both projects will commence in 2018 for completion in 2022.

As regards the remaining 2 projects on the provision of heated pool at the Pao Yue Kong Swimming Pool Complex and redevelopment of Kowloon Tsai Swimming Pool Complex, they are at different planning stages. The estimated cost and work schedules of the projects are being worked out. We will provide details when we consult the HA Panel and seek FC's funding approval on these projects.

- (5) The proposed Kwai Chung Park is one of the 26 sports and recreation projects to be launched in the coming 5 years as announced in the Policy Address in January 2017. LCSD has been working closely with stakeholders including the Kwai Tsing District Council (KwTDC) in planning for the project. After obtaining the support of the KwTDC on the proposed revised project scope in September 2017, LCSD is now actively following up on the planning details.
- (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.
- (7) & (8) The artificial turf systems (including their rubber infill materials) used in the third generation (3G) artificial turf pitches managed by 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 formed the Committee on Artificial Turf Pitches (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 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.

**Usage of Sports Centres and Sports Grounds and
Attendance of Heated Public Swimming Pools in the past 5 years (2013-2017)**

Type of facilities	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	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	81%	93	80%	94	82%	95	85%	97	85%
Sports Ground	25	99%	25	99%	25	99%	25	99%	25	99%
Heated Public Swimming Pools (number of admission)	24	9 052 809	24	9 622 353	24	10 198 946	24	10 688 127	26	11 241 643

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