

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB374**

**(Question Serial No. 5724)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Horticulture and Amenities

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 released the findings of the investigation into the death of ardeids as a result of tree pruning work carried out by the Department in Tai Po last year. In the investigation report, 12 improvement and remedial measures were recommended for implementation in the short, medium and long terms to avoid the recurrence of similar incidents. What is the progress of the implementation of these measures?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 255)

Reply:

The progress of the implementation of the 12 improvement and remedial measures by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is listed below –

<b>Improvement and Remedial Measures</b>	<b>Present Position</b>
<b>Short Term</b>	
1. To obtain the boundary of Site of Special Scientific Interest from Planning Department and remind Districts and Regional Tree Teams (RTTs) to be alert when conducting tree work at these locations;	Completed in July 2017
2. To establish and maintain a regular communication channel with Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and identify locations of egrettries where trees are under the management of LCSD;	Completed in July 2017
3. To remind all RTTs and horticultural contractors to avoid disturbance to wild animals and environment when conducting tree work;	Completed in July 2017

<b>Improvement and Remedial Measures</b>	<b>Present Position</b>
4. To recirculate the “Guidelines on Tree Pruning” to all staff and contractors concerned and remind them on proper tree pruning techniques; and	Completed in July 2017
5. To enhance the supervision of Sub-teams.	Completed in July 2017
<b>Medium Term</b>	
<p>6. To review the internal policies, guidelines and procedures on tree management work in the following aspects –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To seek advice from relevant government bureaux/departments and organisations such as Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, etc. with a view to enhancing relevant departmental policies, guidelines and procedures of LCSD to ensure compatibility with the prevailing government policies, laws and guidelines relating to nature conservation and tree management in Hong Kong (including tree management work which may affect the breeding or roosting sites of wild animals, e.g. egretries);</li> <li>• To work with RTTs and review the optimal staff deployment plan for conducting tree work under different scenarios;</li> </ul>	<p>In progress</p> <p>Completed in December 2017</p>
7. To work with AFCD and establish the work flow to handle tree maintenance work, if so imminently required, which may affect the breeding or roosting sites of wild animals, e.g. egretries;	In progress
8. To enhance refresher training for front-line staff on tree pruning techniques;	Completed in December 2017
9. To include topics of protection of wild animals in future training; and	Completed in December 2017
10. To enhance the tree inspection form and LCSD’s tree management database to include information on special site conditions and tree conditions for reference in conducting tree management work.	Completed in December 2017
<b>Long Term</b>	
11. To liaise with relevant government bureaux/departments to explore the need to revise relevant circulars and guidelines to cover the protection of wild animals in tree works; and	In progress
12. To review the organisation, resource requirements and deployment of tree teams to identify room for enhancement.	In progress