

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**HAB412****(Question Serial No. 6142)**Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Horticulture and AmenitiesControlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home AffairsQuestion:

Did the Leisure and Cultural Services Department engage outsourced arborists for tree maintenance and pruning services in the past 5 years? If so, what were the values of the outsourced contracts each year? What were the numbers of maintenance, pruning and felling operations conducted and trees involved each year?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 68)Reply:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) engaged horticultural service contractors for tree maintenance and pruning work. The total expenditure and the number of trees felled and trees involved in the past 5 years are as follows –

Year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (as at 31 December 2017)
Annual expenditure* (\$ million)	161.1	180.9	199.6	227.5	240.5
Number of trees felled	1 132	1 425	3 406 [#]	11 232 [@]	15 202 [@]
Number of trees involved	513 000	513 000	514 000	635 000	628 000

* As most of these contracts involve general horticultural maintenance covering shrub, ground cover, turf and tree, breakdown of expenditure for tree maintenance alone is not available.

[#] The significant increase of tree felling cases was due to the serious tree damages caused by typhoon "Linfa".

[@] The significant increase of tree felling cases was due to (a) the large numbers of dead, hazardous and weed trees that required immediate removal for the sake of public safety when LCSD took over the maintenance of the roadside trees located within 10 metres from kerbs on public roads along unleased and unallocated government lands on 1 January 2016; and (b) the serious tree damages caused by several typhoons.

Since most of these service contracts were “outcome based” contracts, information on the frequency of maintenance and pruning work is not available.

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