

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 6103)**

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:

Given the increase in the expenditure incurred by the Department on “recreation and sports” in recent years, please provide the following information:

- a. As the average usage rates of natural turf pitches have reached the ceiling in recent years, does the Department have any plans to provide more natural turf pitches? If so, what will be their locations and the estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?
- b. What is the average expenditure on the maintenance of natural turf pitches every year?
- c. Are local football teams or the Hong Kong football representative teams given priority use of the natural turf pitches? If so, how many hours in total are allocated for priority use per week? If not, does the Department have any plans to allow local football teams or the Hong Kong football representative teams to have priority booking in the natural turf pitches in the future? What will be the estimated expenditure involved?
- d. How many inspections were carried out by the Department on the identity of natural turf pitch users last year? What was the number of staff involved for such inspections?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 94)

Reply:

- a. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) currently provides 42 natural turf pitches and is planning 1 new sports ground with natural turf pitch in Tuen Mun District under the Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities as announced in the Policy Address of January 2017. The estimated capital and recurrent cost of this planning project are being worked out. We will provide details when we consult the relevant Legislative Council panel and seek the funding approval on this project.

- b. As most of the natural turf pitches form part of the facilities provided in public leisure venues such as parks and sports grounds, LCSD does not have separate figures on the expenditure on the maintenance of natural turf pitches.
- c. The Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA) can reserve natural turf pitches up to 12 months in advance for its local football teams for organizing championships, leagues and training events. To help develop professional league, 9 Hong Kong Premier League (HKPL) football teams are given home venues with natural turf pitches by LCSD to organise home-and-away football matches. Priority will be given to bookings from HKFA for the use of these venues. A list of home venues provided for the HKPL football teams in the 2017-18 football season is set out at **Annex**.

As regards training sessions, LCSD provides priority advance booking of natural or artificial turf pitches for local football teams from 3 to 12 months. No additional expenditure is involved for such booking arrangement.

- d. Venue staff are required to enforce strictly the checking of all hirers' identity to ensure that the hirer is one of the users of the facilities. The verification procedure is carried out by the venue staff as part of their overall venue management duties.

**Home Venues Provided for  
Hong Kong Premier League Football Teams in 2017-18 Football Season**

	<b>Football Teams</b>	<b>Home Venue</b>
1.	Kitchee	Mong Kok Stadium
2.	Eastern Long Lions	Mong Kok Stadium
3.	Kwoon Chung Southern	Aberdeen Sports Ground
4.	Hong Kong Pegasus Football Club	Hong Kong Stadium
5.	Dreams FC	Tsing Yi Sports Ground
6.	Wofoo Tai Po	Tai Po Sports Ground
7.	BC Rangers	Sham Shui Po Sports Ground
8.	Lee Man	Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground (serves as competition venue only)
9.	Sun Bus Yuen Long	Yuen Long Stadium
10.	R&F	Yanzigang Stadium, Guangzhou <sup>#</sup>

Note:

<sup>#</sup> Home venue of R&F is in Guangzhou.

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