

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB131**

**(Question Serial No. 0881)**

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:

Regarding “maintaining trees in landscaped areas along roadside”,

- How many times were trees along roadsides in various districts pruned in the past 3 years (i.e. 2016 -2018)? What is the expenditure involved? Please list by year and district;
- On what basis does the Government decide whether to prune trees along roadside? Has inspection to check whether the trees are blocking street signs and affecting traffic safety been made? Were complaints about blockage of street signs by trees received in the past 3 years? If yes, what is the number of complaints? Please list by year.

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 44 )

Reply:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) inspects all trees under its purview at least once a year. Tree pruning is an integral part of regular tree maintenance works. There is no specific frequency for pruning work, which is carried out to promote healthy tree growth or alleviate the adverse impact on neighboring environment by the tree. If problems such as health, structure, obstruction to traffic, etc., are found with the trees under inspections, appropriate remedial actions, including tree pruning will be carried out. For areas of high vehicular traffic or heavy pedestrian flow and before the onset of the typhoon season, more frequent inspections and tree work will be performed. The numbers of complaints relating to “obstruction of road signs by trees” in 2016, 2017 and 2018 are 42, 21 and 44 respectively.

Since tree pruning is performed as part of LCSD’s regular horticultural maintenance covering aspects such as inspection, staking, pruning, pest and disease control, etc. of all vegetation under LCSD’s purview, there is no separate record and breakdown expenditure on tree pruning work.