

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1383)

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 (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

While the Leisure and Cultural Services Department has been managing the public swimming pools across the territory, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide details of the attendances at each public swimming pool in the 18 districts over the past 3 years;
2. Please provide details of the specific work relating to maintenance of the safety of pool water or improvement of pool water quality over the last year and in the coming year;
3. Please provide details of the shortfall of lifeguards in each of the 18 districts over the last year and the related remedial measures.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

1. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) manages a total of 44 public swimming pools. The total attendances at each public swimming pool over the past 3 years is at **Annex I**.
2. Well-developed filtration and sterilisation systems are in place in all the public swimming pools under the LCSD. Water of the swimming pools is continuously circulated, filtered and sterilised throughout the opening hours. To ensure that the hygiene of pool water is up to standard, apart from taking water samples for testing of residual chlorine levels and pH value on an hourly basis during opening hours, the LCSD has also assigned accredited laboratories to conduct testing on the pool water of its swimming pools on a weekly basis to ascertain that the water quality is up to the relevant standard. Furthermore, to maintain proper functioning of the filtration and sterilisation systems of the swimming pools, the works departments concerned have been providing assistance to the LCSD by facilitating proper maintenance of the swimming pools, including comprehensive inspection on the filtration system in the filtration plant during annual maintenance and timely replacement of the relevant equipment and spare parts. In addition, publicity efforts have all along been stepped

up by the LCSD through different channels, including publication of swimmers' handbook, display of posters and banners, departmental webpage, broadcasts of messages at swimming pools and Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs), etc., to urge swimmers to observe personal hygiene, remind them not to pollute pool water and to go through a shower and visit the toilet before swimming, etc.

The LCSD will further step up its publicity efforts and launch a new set of TV and radio APIs in this year's swimming season to further educate swimmers to visit the toilet before swimming so as to avoid polluting pool water.

3. The LCSD deploys civil service (CS) lifeguards to serve at public swimming pools on a district basis. Non-civil service contract (NCSC) seasonal lifeguards will be employed to augment the lifeguard manpower during the swimming season. The number of CS lifeguards (including senior lifeguards) and NCSC seasonal lifeguards at public swimming pools by districts is set out at **Annex II**.

The mobility of seasonal lifeguards is higher than that of CS lifeguards due to their short-term job nature, where the recruitment effectiveness of seasonal lifeguards is more affected by employment conditions at the time of recruitment when compared to long-term jobs. In 2019-20, the LCSD created 80 CS lifeguard posts to replace 80 seasonal lifeguard positions in an effort to improve the stability of the life-saving workforce. At the same time, the LCSD launched a pilot scheme by recruiting about 40 NCSC full-year full-time lifeguards to form a regional-based "special support team" to allow flexible deployment of manpower at swimming pools and beaches in the region so as to respond to unforeseen manpower shortages and alleviate the work pressure faced by lifeguards on duty. Furthermore, a series of measures has been adopted by the LCSD, including continuing to conduct recruitment exercise during the swimming season, posting recruitment advertisements on social media websites, holding recruitment days in different districts, adhering to the principle of keeping the pay of seasonal lifeguards broadly comparable with that of their private sector counterparts and increasing the pay in the 2019 swimming season, adjusting upwards the end-of-contract gratuity for qualified seasonal lifeguards to attract former lifeguards, as well as offering an additional monthly salary to those full-time seasonal lifeguards who possess valid first-aid qualifications.

Total Attendance at Public Swimming Pools from 2017-2019

	Swimming Pool	2017	2018	2019
Central and Western				
1	Kennedy Town Swimming Pool ⁽¹⁾	554 687	593 378	625 953
2	Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Swimming Pool	365 021	345 177	358 695
Eastern				
3	Chai Wan Swimming Pool	193 536	179 684	177 893
4	Island East Swimming Pool	184 891	185 773	184 677
5	Siu Sai Wan Swimming Pool	343 888	342 677	356 779
Southern				
6	Pao Yue Kong Swimming Pool	166 259	153 009	150 235
Wan Chai				
7	Morrison Hill Swimming Pool	550 345	563 291	548 863
8	Victoria Park Swimming Pool	634 992	621 028	589 634
9	Wan Chai Swimming Pool	163 601	141 310	153 277
Kowloon City				
10	Ho Man Tin Swimming Pool	149 521	152 043	149 149
11	Kowloon Tsai Swimming Pool	171 132	167 004	203 620
12	Tai Wan Shan Swimming Pool	205 251	216 053	220 228
Kwun Tong				
13	Jordan Valley Swimming Pool	144 940	137 504	138 989
14	Kwun Tong Swimming Pool	1 168 615	1 210 206	1 168 376
15	Lam Tin Swimming Pool	381 362	368 795	408 931
Sham Shui Po				
16	Lai Chi Kok Park Swimming Pool	695 669	683 179	749 019
17	Lei Cheng Uk Swimming Pool	204 657	202 428	182 182
18	Sham Shui Po Park Swimming Pool	335 905	331 448	297 132
Wong Tai Sin				
19	Hammer Hill Road Swimming Pool	274 672	263 513	335 583
20	Morse Park Swimming Pool ⁽²⁾	329 691	312 574	-

	Swimming Pool	2017	2018	2019
Yau Tsim Mong				
21	Kowloon Park Swimming Pool	908 584	834 535	801 597
22	Tai Kok Tsui Swimming Pool	195 777	162 589	145 602
Islands				
23	Mui Wo Swimming Pool	17 964	15 810	17 911
24	Tung Chung Swimming Pool	285 052	292 000	310 550
Kwai Tsing				
25	Kwai Shing Swimming Pool	147 515	141 725	120 245
26	North Kwai Chung Jockey Club Swimming Pool	139 208	120 237	100 571
27	Tsing Yi Swimming Pool	263 838	261 531	244 733
28	Tsing Yi South West Swimming Pool ⁽³⁾	66 300	135 265	165 289
North				
29	Fanling Swimming Pool	397 577	386 880	407 712
30	Sheung Shui Swimming Pool	63 332	61 966	67 643
Sai Kung				
31	Sai Kung Swimming Pool	89 628	87 428	86 897
32	Tseung Kwan O Swimming Pool	460 715	427 878	430 317
Sha Tin				
33	Hin Tin Swimming Pool	441 568	456 785	494 111
34	Ma On Shan Swimming Pool	282 821	268 830	284 480
35	Sha Tin Jockey Club Swimming Pool	357 918	338 935	335 662
Tai Po				
36	Tai Po Swimming Pool	319 802	308 871	317 502
Tsuen Wan				
37	Shing Mun Valley Swimming Pool	643 610	611 270	624 790
38	Tsuen King Circuit Wu Chung Swimming Pool	62 524	65 429	65 882
Tuen Mun				
39	The Jockey Club Yan Oi Tong Swimming Pool ⁽⁴⁾	6 456	23 399	24 363
40	Tuen Mun North West Swimming Pool	635 656	626 633	637 542
41	Tuen Mun Swimming Pool	283 660	281 643	285 873

	Swimming Pool	2017	2018	2019
Yuen Long				
42	Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool	329 095	373 103	377 410
43	Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool	258 526	261 106	266 436
44	Yuen Long Swimming Pool	432 962	424 449	443 732

Note

- (1) Kennedy Town Swimming Pool was temporarily closed from 1 December 2015 to 6 February 2017 for phase II of the swimming pool project.
- (2) Morse Park Swimming Pool was temporarily closed in 2019 for implementing a capital works project for provision of a heated pool.
- (3) Tsing Yi South West Swimming Pool has been open to the public since 26 July 2017.
- (4) The Jockey Club Yan Oi Tong Swimming Pool has been closed for urgent repairs since 19 July 2017.

Lifeguards at Public Swimming Pools in 2019

District	No. of Civil Service Lifeguards (Senior Lifeguard and Lifeguard as at 1 August)				No. of Seasonal Lifeguards ("SLG")							
					Non-peak Months (as at 1 April)				Peak Months (as at 1 August)			
	Establishment (a)	Strength (b)	Vacancy/ Surplus ⁽¹⁾ (c)=(a)-(b)	Percentage of Vacancy over Establishment (c)/(a)	Basic Requirement (d)	No. of SLG Recruited (e)	Vacancy/ Surplus (f)=(d)-(e)	Percentage of Vacancy over Basic Requirement (f)/(d)	Basic Requirement (g)	No. of SLG Recruited (h)	Vacancy/ Surplus (I)=(g)-(h)	Percentage of Vacancy over Basic Requirement (I)/(g)
Central and Western	55	54	1	1.8%	2	2	0	0.0%	19	8	11	57.9%
Eastern	52	50	2	3.8%	28	9	19	67.9%	32	20	12	37.5%
Southern	18	18	0	0.0%	23	8	15	65.2%	21	10	11	52.4%
Wan Chai	55	59	-4	-7.3%	5	5	0	0.0%	14	10	4	28.6%
Kowloon City	43	43	0	0.0%	37	22	15	40.5%	50	31	19	38.0%
Kwun Tong	62	58	4	6.5%	33	17	16	48.5%	38	37	1	2.6%
Sham Shui Po	62	64	-2	-3.2%	24	21	3	12.5%	53	24	29	54.7%
Wong Tai Sin	39	35	4	10.3%	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0%
Yau Tsim Mong	57	57	0	0.0%	10	10	0	0.0%	38	19	19	50.0%
Islands	31	30	1	3.2%	4	4	0	0.0%	12	10	2	16.7%
Kwai Tsing	72	66	6	8.3%	48	11	37	77.1%	59	15	44	74.6%
North	33	31	2	6.1%	15	15	0	0.0%	25	21	4	16.0%
Sai Kung	51	52	-1	-2.0%	13	7	6	46.2%	44	29	15	34.1%
Sha Tin	85	81	4	4.7%	29	22	7	24.1%	61	28	33	54.1%
Tai Po	24	24	0	0.0%	23	23	0	0.0%	23	21	2	8.7%
Tsuen Wan	43	45	-2	-4.7%	7	6	1	14.3%	27	17	10	37%
Tuen Mun	63	57	6	9.5%	17	11	6	35.3%	45	43	2	4.4%
Yuen Long	55	55	0	0.0%	19	19	0	0.0%	34	32	2	5.9%
Total	900	879	21	2.3%	337	212	125	37.1%	595	375	220	37%

Note

- (1) Vacancies/surplus in individual districts were mainly due to officers on trial in other civil service grades and temporary redeployment of manpower to meet operational needs.

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