

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB285**

**(Question Serial No. 4194)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

Did the Government conduct timely reviews of the usage rates of public libraries in the 18 districts across the territory during the past 5 years? If so, what are the details and the expenditures involved? Did the Government conduct public consultations in the 18 districts during the past 5 years on the provision of additional libraries? If so, what are the details and the expenditures involved? Does the Government have any plans to review the usage rates of public libraries in the 18 districts across the territory in 2020-21? If so, what are the details and the estimated expenditures involved? Does the Government have any plans to provide additional public libraries in the 18 districts in 2020-21? If so, what are the details and the estimated expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 159)

Reply:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is committed to enhancing the quality, accessibility and cost-effectiveness of public library services on a continuous basis. Apart from reviewing the patronage and usage statistics, the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) also regularly holds reader liaison group tea gatherings and focus group meetings with teacher-librarians, community groups, non-profit making organisations, etc. at the district level, and solicits views and suggestions from the public and community on its services, facilities, collection as well as their future needs with regard to specific services through different means from time to time. According to the views collected at the Reader Liaison Group Tea Gathering 2019, 86% of respondents had satisfactory overall impression on library services. The LCSD will continue to solicit views and suggestions on library services from the public and community through the above means. The reviews of library services are conducted and absorbed by the existing manpower resources.

In considering the provision of new public libraries, the Government will take into account a host of factors including the requirements as stipulated in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, current provision and utilisation of existing libraries at the city-wide and district levels, demographic characteristics and changes, changing needs of the community, views of District Councils, site availability, technical feasibility and cost

effectiveness of the services. The LCSD has not planned to open additional static library in 2020-21. Library projects under construction include reprovisioning of Yau Ma Tei Public Library and Sau Mau Ping Public Library and provision of the Sham Shui Po Public Library.

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