

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB287

(Question Serial No. 4203)

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 mobile library vans in the 18 districts across the territory in the past 5 years? If so, what are the details and the expenditures involved? Did the Government conduct public consultations in the 18 districts in the past 5 years on the provision of additional mobile library vans? If so, what are the details and the expenditures involved? Does the Government have any plans to review the usage rates of mobile library vans 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 mobile library vans 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.: 168)

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 statistics on patronage and usage, the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) also regularly holds annual reader liaison group tea gatherings and focus group meetings with teacher-librarians, community and non-profit making organisations, etc. at the district level, or arranges through different means with regard to service where appropriate, to solicit views from the public and community on its services, facilities, collection as well as their future needs. According to the views collected at the Reader Liaison Group Tea Gathering 2019, over 70% of respondents were satisfied with the mobile library services.

At present, there are a total of 12 mobile libraries serving over 110 mobile library stops. The LCSD regularly monitors and reviews its mobile library services and will continue to maintain close communication with District Councils (DCs), including reporting the bi-monthly usage of mobile library stops and review for reallocation of time-slots and relocation of stops as and when necessary. The reviews on mobile library services are conducted and absorbed by the existing manpower resources.

The LCSD will continue to monitor and review the usage of mobile libraries having regard to the public views collected through various channels, for the effective utilisation of resources to better serve the public. Besides, the LCSD launched the “Joyful Reading at Your Neighbourhood: Library-on-Wheels” Pilot Project in January 2020. A specially designed truck visits locations of heavier pedestrian flow but far from existing library facilities or venues of community events in different districts to promote theme-based reading, self-charging service, e-books, other electronic resources, online services, etc.

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