

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB353

(Question Serial No. 5087)

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:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department expects that there will be 640 children's playgrounds across the territory in the coming year, which is more than the number of 634 in 2016. In this connection, please inform the Committee of:

1. the usage rate of each of the children's playgrounds across the territory in the past 3 years;
2. the criteria in providing children's playground facilities;
3. whether the Government will conduct studies on how to enhance the appeal of children's playgrounds? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 1125)

Reply:

1. Most of the leisure venues with outdoor children's playgrounds managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) are open to the public throughout the day. The LCSD does not maintain records on usage rates.
2. In planning children's playgrounds, a host of factors including topographic feature, site area and physical setting of individual venues, the concerned international safety standards, needs of different users and views of the district councils concerned will be taken into consideration by the LCSD and its works departments. Together they will formulate the overall park design concept, work out the proposed preliminary design and provide diversified children's play equipment and movable parts.
3. The Architectural Services Department has completed a consultancy study on the design of children play space in venues under the LCSD. The study aims at reviewing current local practices and developing new design/procurement guidelines, which can make the public play space in LCSD's outdoor and indoor venues more attractive, user-inclusive and fun to play in a safe manner. In order to make the public

play spaces (PPS) more innovative and fun, and to meet the needs of residents at the same time, the LCSD plans to transform more than 170 PPS managed by it across the territory over the next 5 years. Community participation and public engagement will be encouraged and promoted in the process of transforming these PPS. We will offer different degrees of challenges and fun, introduce more natural elements in order to provide more innovative, challenging and interesting play spaces.

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