

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**HAB364****(Question Serial No. 3718)**Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (5) Public LibrariesControlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home AffairsQuestion:

1. Please list the usage rate of each of the 3 self-service library stations (in Sha Tin, Sai Wan Ho and Tsim Sha Tsui) in 2019;
2. What is the estimated expenditure for the self-service library stations of the Hong Kong Public Libraries in 2020-21?
3. Is there any plan to set up more self-service library stations in 2020-21?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)Reply:

1. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) provides 3 “self-service library stations” under a trial scheme, 1 each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories at convenient locations with heavier pedestrian flow but far from existing libraries, rendering round-the-clock services such as borrowing, return, payment and pickup of reserved library materials. The 3 self-service library stations located at the Island East Sports Centre Sitting-out Area, Hong Kong Cultural Centre and Tsuen Nam Road, Tai Wai of the New Territories commenced service in December 2017, December 2018 and January 2020 respectively. The usage of the self-service library stations on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon in 2019 is set out below:

Usage	Hong Kong Island	Kowloon
Number of loans	14 693	12 360
Number of returns	52 733	10 766
Number of pickups of reserved materials	6 089	1 537
Total	73 515	24 663

2. The LCSD has earmarked \$5.8 million for the daily operation and maintenance of the library stations in 2020-21, excluding cost of library staff redeployed from other library facilities.
3. With the launch of the third library station in Tai Wai in January 2020, the LCSD will conduct a review on the trial scheme of self-service library stations to evaluate its effectiveness taking into account the utilisation, cost effectiveness, users' feedback, sustainability and complementarity with other library services. Subject to the outcome of the review, the LCSD will explore the feasibility of providing self-service library stations in other districts with the current mode and seek additional funding as required. The LCSD has no plan to provide additional self-service library stations in 2020-21.

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