

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB372

(Question Serial No. 4441)

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:

Given the increase in the expenditure incurred by the Department on “recreation and sports” in recent years, please provide the following information:

As the average usage rates of natural turf pitches have reached the ceiling in recent years, does the Department have any plans to provide more natural turf pitches? If so, what will be their locations and the estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?

What is the average expenditure on the maintenance of natural turf pitches every year?

Are local football teams or the Hong Kong football representative teams given priority use of the natural turf pitches? If so, how many hours in total are allocated for priority use per week? If not, does the Department have any plans to allow local football teams or the Hong Kong football representative teams to have priority booking in the natural turf pitches in the future? What will be the estimated expenditure involved?

How many inspections were carried out by the Department on the identity of natural turf pitch users last year? What was the number of staff involved for such inspections?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 113)

Reply:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) currently provides 42 natural turf pitches. In 2020-21, the Government does not have any new projects involving construction of new natural turf pitches.

As most of the natural turf pitches form part of the facilities provided in public leisure venues such as parks and sports grounds, the LCSD does not have separate figures on the expenditure on the maintenance of natural turf pitches.

The Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA) can reserve natural turf pitches up to 12 months in advance for its local football teams for organising championships, leagues and

training events. To help develop professional league, 9 Hong Kong Premier League (HKPL) football teams are given home venues with natural turf pitches by the LCSD to organise home-and-away football matches. Priority will be given to bookings from HKFA for the use of these venues. A list of home venues provided for the HKPL football teams in the 2019-20 football season is set out at **Annex**.

As regards training sessions, the LCSD provides priority advance booking of natural or artificial turf pitches for local football teams from 3 to 12 months. No additional expenditure is involved for such booking arrangement.

Venue staff are required to enforce strictly the checking of all hirers' identity to ensure that the hirer is one of the users of the facilities. The verification procedure is carried out by the venue staff as part of their overall venue management duties.

**Home Venues Provided for
Hong Kong Premier League Football Teams in 2019-20 Football Season**

	Football Teams	Home Venue
1.	Wofoo Tai Po	Tai Po Sports Ground
2.	R&F	Yanzigang Stadium, Guangzhou ⁽¹⁾
3.	Kwoon Chung Southern	Mong Kok Stadium
4.	Kitchee	Mong Kok Stadium
5.	Eastern Long Lions	Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground
6.	Hong Kong Pegasus Football Club	Hong Kong Stadium
7.	Best Union Yuen Long	Yuen Long Stadium
8.	Lee Man	Sham Shui Po Sports Ground
9.	Happy Valley	Hammer Hill Road Sports Ground
10.	BC Rangers	Tuen Mun Tang Shiu Kin Sports Ground

Note

(1) Home venue of R&F is not a LCSD venue.

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