

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB194

(Question Serial No. 3291)

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 (Mrs. Betty FUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question (Member Question No. 56):

Regarding 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 remained consistently high in recent years and the maintenance of turf quality is susceptible to weather conditions, has the Department earmarked any expenditure for enhancing the existing turf maintenance technology for these pitches? If so, what is the estimated expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will implement the following measures to enhance the quality of its natural turf pitches, in particular those designated for First Division Football League of the Hong Kong Football Association –

1. to establish a specialised Sports Turf Management Section (STMS) in the LCSD in 2014 to provide professional advice and technical support for the management and maintenance of natural turf pitches;
2. to provide the LCSD staff with more in-depth training on turf management and maintenance. In 2014-15, the Department will organise five overseas training programmes and three local programmes for over 190 staff to enhance colleagues' expertise and knowledge in the field; and
3. to procure more advanced turf maintenance equipment, such as turf growth lights and turf fans, and to engage more skilled workers to enable the Department to carry out its sports turf maintenance works more effectively and efficiently.

Around \$16 million has been earmarked in 2014-15 for the implementation of the above improvement measures.