

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****HAB228****(Question Serial No. 2785)**Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ( )Programme: (2) Horticulture and AmenitiesControlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home AffairsQuestion:

The Government will partner with the Hong Kong Jockey Club to carry out complete returfing of the Hong Kong Stadium (HKS) in April this year. In 2015-16, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will enhance the quality of the natural turf pitches designated for the Hong Kong Premier League, in particular the HKS, through renovation/upgrading of facilities, provision of equipment and manpower as well as strengthening staff management and training. Please give details on the expenditures and manpower provided by the Government for the maintenance of the HKS turf pitch in the past three years; and the expenditures, staff training and manpower for the maintenance of the HKS turf pitch for the coming year. What is the estimated service life of the new turf pitch?

Asked by: Hon LAM Tai-fai (Member Question No. 46)Reply:

In the past three years, the day-to-day maintenance of the Hong Kong Stadium (HKS) turf pitch was undertaken by a core team of six skilled staff members of Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). The annual expenditure, including provision of manpower and materials, incurred for the maintenance of the HKS turf pitch in the past three years and estimate for the coming year are set out below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (million)</b>
2012-13	\$2.27
2013-14	\$2.27
2014-15	\$2.58
2015-16	\$2.78 (Estimated)

LCSD has also established a specialised Sports Turf Management Section (STMS) in 2014 to provide professional advice and technical support for the management and maintenance of the 50 natural turf pitches managed by LCSD, in particular the HKS pitch and other pitches designated for the Hong Kong Premier League.

LCSD will continue to provide more basic and in-depth training courses on turf management and maintenance for staff, including those of HKS. In addition to in-house training courses for some 300 staff in the coming year, LCSD will organise two overseas training programmes for two staff and three local programmes for 190 staff to enhance colleagues' expertise and knowledge in the field. The estimated expenditure is about \$1.40 million in 2015-16.

The expected life-span of the turf surface of a newly constructed pitch is over ten years with proper maintenance.

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