

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HAB369

Question Serial No.

3345

Head: 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Recreation and Sports

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

Members of the public have complained about frequent failure to book the sports facilities of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. They also found that many hirers did not show up for their booked sessions, giving rise to suspicion that touting of booked sessions was involved. The Administration proposed six new measures in October last year to prevent unauthorised transfer of booked facilities and improve the booking procedures. What is the progress of the implementation of these measures? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has recently completed a review of the booking and allocation arrangements for sports facilities and implemented eight immediate improvement measures with a view to containing scalping and other abuses of the system. After consulting the District Councils and other stakeholders, LCSD plans to implement further improvement measures in 2013-14, including: shortening the current 30-day advance booking period for individuals to 10 days to reduce the time for re-selling the user permits; revising the re-allocation arrangement due to inclement weather; and cancelling the “stand-by” arrangements for soccer pitches, on a trial basis. The Department also plans to impose penalties on individuals who fail to show up at the booked sessions or who have breached the relevant regulations or user conditions, and tighten the peak-hour booking quota for individual hirers.

The expenditure involved in enhancing the Leisure Link System for implementing these improvements is estimated to be \$13 million in 2013-14.

Name in block letters: Mrs. BETTY FUNG

Post Title: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date: 9.4.2013