

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB444

(Question Serial No. 5799)

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. 97):

Regarding the implementation of the Public Swimming Pool Monthly Ticket Scheme, what were the details of the work carried out by the Department and the expenditure involved in 2013-14? What are the work plans, estimated expenditure and estimated number of people to be benefited in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Public Swimming Pool Monthly Ticket Scheme (the Scheme) was introduced on 5 July 2012. By the end of January 2014, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) had sold over 122 000 monthly tickets, half of which were bought by citizens aged 60 or above. The LCSD introduced the Public Swimming Pool Smart Card System (the Smart Card System) on 1 April 2013, to allow monthly ticket holders to use their smart cards for identity checking at the swimming pools, rather than having to produce documentary proof of identity upon admission. The cost of procurement and installation of the Smart Card System was about \$6 million.

In 2014-15, the LCSD will continue to monitor the implementation of the Scheme and promote the use of the Smart Card System. The estimated expenditure on operating and promoting the Scheme in 2014-15 is about \$1.4 million, covering the maintenance of the Smart Card System, the hire of broadband network and contract staff for supporting the system. We estimate that some 78,000 tickets will be sold in 2014-15.