

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-HAB08**

**(Question Serial No. SV005)**

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 (Ms Michelle LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

A follow-up question to Reply Serial Nos. HAB119 and HAB121:

Please provide the number of public sessions of swimming pools and beaches affected by shortage of lifeguards in last year, the number of users affected and assessment of the resultant economic loss.

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung

Reply:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) currently provides lifeguard services at 44 public swimming pools, 38 gazetted beaches and 5 water sports centres. Apart from civil service lifeguards, non-civil service contract seasonal lifeguards will be employed on a seasonal basis to augment the lifeguard manpower during the swimming season.

Generally speaking, gazetted beaches are open to the public at all times even though red flags and warning signals are hoisted on safety grounds when necessary. Public swimming pools are available for use by members of the public in 3 sessions a day during opening hours. The timing and duration of each session may vary pool by pool to cope with district needs. Partial closure is implemented on a need basis due to scheduled or urgent maintenance, adverse weather affecting the outdoor pools, contingencies due to water contamination by pollutants as well as lifeguard manpower, etc. The number of sessions of partial closure of public swimming pools due to inadequate lifeguards in 2018 is set out at **Annex I** while no full closure of public swimming pool is recorded due to this reason in 2018. The number of days of suspension of lifeguard services at gazetted beaches in 2018 due to insufficient lifeguards is set out at **Annex II**. LCSD does not have figures on the number of swimmers affected and the resultant economic loss arising from the partial closure of the swimming pool facilities.

**Sessions of partial closure of public swimming pools  
due to inadequate lifeguards in 2018**

Swimming Pool	Number of sessions of partial closure*	
	Insufficient provision of seasonal lifeguards	Sudden sick leave / leave of lifeguards
<b>Central and Western</b>		
Kennedy Town Swimming Pool	249	95
Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Swimming Pool	—	7
<b>Eastern District</b>		
Chai Wan Swimming Pool	460	—
Island East Swimming Pool	—	18
Siu Sai Wan Swimming Pool	—	2
<b>Southern District</b>		
Pao Yue Kong Swimming Pool	455	—
<b>Wan Chai</b>		
Morrison Hill Swimming Pool	273	70
Victoria Park Swimming Pool	—	26
<b>Kowloon City</b>		
Ho Man Tin Swimming Pool	423	2
Kowloon Tsai Swimming Pool	—	150
Tai Wan Shan Swimming Pool	471	52
<b>Kwun Tong</b>		
Jordan Valley Swimming Pool	52	8
<b>Sham Shui Po</b>		
Lai Chi Kok Park Swimming Pool	390	—
Lei Cheng Uk Swimming Pool	528	—
Sham Shui Po Park Swimming Pool	702	10
<b>Wong Tai Sin</b>		
Hammer Hill Road Swimming Pool	1	12
Morse Park Swimming Pool	—	7
<b>Yau Tsim Mong</b>		
Kowloon Park Swimming Pool	383	13
<b>Islands</b>		
Tung Chung Swimming Pool	—	2

Swimming Pool	Number of sessions of partial closure*	
	Insufficient provision of seasonal lifeguards	Sudden sick leave / leave of lifeguards
<b>Kwai Tsing</b>		
Kwai Shing Swimming Pool	535	10
North Kwai Chung Jockey Club Swimming Pool	216	2
Tsing Yi Swimming Pool	371	—
<b>North District</b>		
Sheung Shui Swimming Pool	—	1
<b>Sai Kung</b>		
Sai Kung Swimming Pool	389	26
Tseung Kwan O Swimming Pool	490	29
<b>Sha Tin</b>		
Hin Tin Swimming Pool	292	53
Ma On Shan Swimming Pool	—	10
Sha Tin Jockey Club Swimming Pool	238	10
<b>Tai Po</b>		
Tai Po Swimming Pool	—	9
<b>Tsuen Wan</b>		
Shing Mun Valley Swimming Pool	121	6
Tsuen King Circuit Wu Chung Swimming Pool	191	174
<b>Tuen Mun</b>		
The Jockey Club Yan Oi Tong Swimming Pool	—	60
Tuen Mun North West Swimming Pool	—	125
Tuen Mun Swimming Pool	—	155
<b>Yuen Long</b>		
Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool	—	40
Yuen Long Swimming Pool	224	68

#### Note

- \* The figure denotes the number of sessions with some minor pool facilities, such as leisure pool, diving pool or jacuzzi, temporarily suspended for use due to inadequate lifeguards on duty, whilst the major pool facilities, like the main pool and secondary pool will remain open for public use as far as practicable.

**Suspension of lifeguard services at gazetted beaches  
due to insufficient lifeguards<sup>#</sup> in 2018**

<b>Gazetted Beach</b>	<b>Number of days of suspension of lifeguard services due to sudden sick leave</b>
Deep Water Bay Beach	1
Silverstrand Beach	1

**Note**

# In 2018, the suspension of lifeguard services at the gazetted beaches was solely due to sudden sick leave/leave of lifeguards but not the insufficient provision of seasonal lifeguards. While lifeguard services were suspended and red flags and warning signals were hoisted on safety grounds, the 2 gazetted beaches remained open to the public.

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