

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB136

(Question Serial No. 2281)

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 (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

Venues under the management of the LCSD were closed temporarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Regarding closures due to the pandemic across the 18 districts over the past financial year, please tabulate the details of i) the LCSD venues; ii) sports and recreational facilities; iii) service items; iv) dates of closure; v) number of users affected; vi) amount of hire charges foregone.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 56)

Reply:

To tie in with the response level under the “Preparedness and Response Plan for Novel Infectious Disease of Public Health Significance” being raised to Emergency Response Level and avoid people from gathering, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) closed a number of its recreational and sports facilities as necessary in the light of the pandemic development. In the past financial year, the LCSD had to close the facilities concerned on 4 occasions on 29 January, 23 and 28 March, 11 and 15 July, and 2 and 10 December 2020 due to the severe epidemic situation, and reopened them in phases on 3 and 11 March, 6 May, 29 August 2020, and 9 and 19 February 2021 as the epidemic situation gradually stabilised. The recreational and sports facilities that were closed include tennis courts, bowling greens, archery ranges, golf facilities, sports grounds, grass pitches and sports centres, etc. Some leisure facilities are still temporarily closed until further notice, including children’s play facilities, barbecue sites, indoor children’s play rooms, the Pui O Campsite, public swimming pools, gazetted beaches and some venues used for anti-epidemic purpose. Hence, the LCSD is unable to provide information on the dates of closure of facilities, number of users affected and amount of hire charges foregone, etc.

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