

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

THB(T)042

Head: 60 – Highways Department

Subhead 000 Operational
(No. & title): expenses

Question Serial No.

0479

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Highways Department stated that it would use low-noise thermal heating method for minor repair of pavement. Please advise –

- (a) how is this method different from the one currently used?
- (b) how much noise can be reduced by using this method as compared to the one currently used?
- (c) what is the cost difference between this method and the one currently used?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

- (a) The traditional pavement repairing method makes use of pneumatic tools which create noise nuisance when breaking up the defective pavement for removal. Under the new thermal heating method, the defective pavement is heated and softened for removal by hand tools, thus avoiding the use of pneumatic tools and reducing the noise level.
- (b) The estimated noise reduction is about 5 decibels at a distance of 10 meters from the works location.
- (c) The thermal heating method is newly implemented and its cost difference comparing with the traditional method has to be further reviewed. According to the current analysis, the difference in costs is insignificant.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 17 March 2009