

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

**DEVB(W)117**

Question Serial  
No.

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

3049

Programme: (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Are there any arborists currently being employed by the Highways Department to carry out works relating to tree planting, pruning or removal? If yes, please inform this Committee of the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

Highways Department engages term contractors for carrying out vegetation management works, including tree planting, pruning and removal. The terms contractors may hire tree specialists such as certified arborists to carry out necessary arboricultural works, including tree risk assessment and tree works such as pruning. The estimated expenditure in 2011-12 for engaging tree specialist service in vegetation maintenance work is \$6.6 million. Currently, 22 officers in Highways Department are engaged in vegetation management duties, including managing these term contractors. Among them, six are landscape architects of whom one is an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters                         K K LAU                        

Post Title                         Director of Highways                        

Date                         18 March 2011