

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)035

(Question Serial No. 0905)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) District and Maintenance Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Daniel K W CHUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

After the occurrence of a traffic accident that has caused damage to public road facilities (e.g. lamp posts, railings, traffic signs, etc.), the Government will carry out repairs to the road and recover the relevant costs from the driver involved. Will the Government advise on the following:

- (1) The number of cases involving damage to public utilities caused by traffic accidents and of those with repair works remaining uncompleted beyond 30 days over the past year?
- (2) What is the total cost for the repairs to public utilities arising from traffic accidents and the total amount of damages paid by the drivers involved over the past year? Please list out the number of cases classified as “unascertained liability”, “succeeded in recovering damages” and “attempted to recover damages but failed” as well as the respective amounts.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 55)

Reply:

(1)

In 2017, there were 1 936 traffic accidents involving damage to street furniture and road lighting equipment under the purview of the Highways Department (HyD). Among these cases, there were 740 cases which involved repair works exceeding 30 days.

(2)

Among the 1 936 traffic accidents mentioned in (1) above, we are unable to identify the liable parties in 68 cases based on the Police Traffic Accident Reports, whilst another 17 cases were caused by government vehicles, thus the repair costs of these 85 cases were borne by the Government.

For the remaining 1 851 cases for which the repair costs of the damaged properties are to be borne by the identified liable parties, as at 12 March 2018, the HyD has recovered \$1.9 million for 638 cases. We are taking action on another 1 133 cases, which involved repair costs of about \$11.2 million, such as finalising the repair costs after completion of repair works, liaising with the liable parties, seeking legal advice and taking legal action. For the 80 outstanding cases, we will issue works order upon (i) the completion of site inspection of the damages and estimated repair works; (ii) the receipt of consent from the relevant authorities, such as the Transport Department, the Hong Kong Police Force and the Environmental Protection Department, for the contractor to carry out repair work; (iii) the receipt of approval for road closure / night work; and (iv) the receipt of confirmation that the works site is not occupied by other government departments for other works. The information on repair costs for these 80 cases is therefore not yet available.

In 2017, we do not have any failure case in recovering repair costs.

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