

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)031

(Question Serial No. 1679)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) District and Maintenance Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Jimmy P M CHAN)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

According to Programme (2) District and Maintenance Works, the Administration aims to maintain the road network with a view to ensuring safety and serviceability, and to improve road cleanliness. The estimated expenditure in this respect under the Estimate 2019-20 has increased by 40.9% over the previous year. In this regard, will the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) please provide in table form the numbers of complaints relating to road maintenance received by the Administration in the past three years, their distribution in each of the 18 districts in the territory and a breakdown by quarter;
- (2) please provide in table form the details of the annual expenditure and manpower spent by the Administration on improving road cleanliness in the past three years. And has the Government received any complaints relating to road cleanliness? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 74)

Reply:

(1)

In 2016, 2017 and 2018, the Highways Department (HyD) received 13 150, 13 560 and 14 760 complaints associated with road maintenance respectively. The complaints received involved various maintenance issues in respect of different highway facilities, e.g. uneven road surfaces, occurrence of potholes, damaged railings, road drainage problems, damaged road signs, as well as wear and tear of highway facilities. The quarterly breakdowns of the complaints by district are tabulated below –

2016

	District	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total in 2016
1.	General road maintenance					
	Central and Western	184	158	135	143	620
	Eastern	160	179	197	220	756
	Southern	70	79	96	59	304
	Wan Chai	239	185	125	170	719
	Kowloon City	132	192	212	164	700
	Kwun Tong	53	117	121	53	344
	Sham Shui Po	157	100	141	114	512
	Yau Tsim Mong	525	667	516	426	2 134
	Wong Tai Sin	47	82	72	123	324
	Tsuen Wan	120	159	219	193	691
	Kwai Tsing	83	131	197	191	602
	Sai Kung	58	115	139	94	406
	Sha Tin	98	178	327	157	760
	Tai Po	31	63	75	53	222
	North	144	188	199	149	680
	Tuen Mun	103	97	106	101	407
	Yuen Long	312	372	389	336	1 409
	Islands	1	0	0	30	31
2.	Others (including maintenance of expressways, structures and slopes, etc.)	368	381	455	325	1 529
	Total:	2 885	3 443	3 721	3 101	13 150

2017

	District	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total in 2017
1.	General road maintenance					
	Central and Western	112	179	234	149	674
	Eastern	177	206	243	136	762
	Southern	48	200	283	150	681
	Wan Chai	86	251	300	145	782
	Kowloon City	174	219	344	157	894
	Kwun Tong	41	18	41	48	148
	Sham Shui Po	216	233	298	213	960
	Yau Tsim Mong	545	436	521	390	1 892
	Wong Tai Sin	79	113	112	92	396
	Tsuen Wan	125	150	199	134	608
	Kwai Tsing	107	173	246	162	688
	Sai Kung	95	103	138	55	391
	Sha Tin	160	246	375	210	991
	Tai Po	45	76	111	77	309

	District	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total in 2017
	North	102	109	179	93	483
	Tuen Mun	86	125	143	149	503
	Yuen Long	259	329	381	154	1 123
	Islands	18	44	47	40	149
2.	Others (including maintenance of expressways, structures and slopes, etc.)	157	302	441	226	1 126
	Total:	2 632	3 512	4 636	2 780	13 560

2018

	District	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total in 2018
1.	General road maintenance					
	Central and Western	120	134	265	249	768
	Eastern	145	146	187	192	670
	Southern	123	130	244	218	715
	Wan Chai	124	131	252	207	714
	Kowloon City	145	213	329	362	1 049
	Kwun Tong	29	27	54	129	239
	Sham Shui Po	138	174	317	230	859
	Yau Tsim Mong	415	515	616	426	1 972
	Wong Tai Sin	80	114	156	129	479
	Tsuen Wan	114	165	253	176	708
	Kwai Tsing	166	189	388	183	926
	Sai Kung	45	57	98	63	263
	Sha Tin	174	230	481	188	1 073
	Tai Po	70	121	148	139	478
	North	122	104	221	167	614
	Tuen Mun	106	161	316	248	831
	Yuen Long	185	163	364	334	1 046
	Islands	39	45	94	77	255
2.	Others (including maintenance of expressways, structures and slopes, etc.)	160	215	452	274	1 101
	Total:	2 500	3 034	5 235	3 991	14 760

(2)

There is a well-established division of cleansing work concerning public roads between the HyD and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). Generally speaking, the HyD is responsible for the overall cleansing of and maintenance of vegetation on expressways and high speed roads. On other public roads, the FEHD is responsible for street sweeping and removal of litter.

The HyD is also responsible for the structural cleansing of highway structures, cleansing of street furniture and clearance of unwanted vegetation on highway facilities at regular intervals. The frequency will be higher at busy road sections. Under the current road maintenance contracts, the contractors will take prompt actions to clean the road facilities and clear the unwanted vegetation during regular inspections of public roads. The HyD will deploy staff to conduct site audit inspections to ensure that the relevant works are conducted in accordance with the contractual requirements. Moreover, when there is a need to enhance the state of cleanliness of road signs or to control the growth of unwanted vegetation for some road sections, the HyD will require the contractors to carry out additional cleansing/clearance works.

The estimated expenditure for cleansing of road facilities and clearance of unwanted vegetation in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 was \$68 million, \$77 million and \$81 million respectively. The cleansing of road facilities and clearance of unwanted vegetation forms part of the district and maintenance works of the HyD. There is no separate breakdown of staff establishment for such works.

In 2016, 2017 and 2018, the HyD received 1 704, 2 294 and 2 164 complaints respectively concerning public road cleanliness and growth of unwanted vegetation.

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