

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB172

(Question Serial No. 3213)

Head: (60) Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Jimmy P M CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the retrofitting of noise barriers on existing roads, will the Administration inform this Committee of the following -

The estimate for 2019-20 has earmarked provisions for retrofitting noise barriers on Long Tin Road and Ma Wang Road only. What measures will the Government implement to expedite the commencement of the remaining noise barriers retrofitting works? Has the Government set a target for the number of barriers retrofitting works to be commenced each year?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

The whole programme for retrofitting noise barriers on existing roads in Hong Kong involves many sections of roads and is massive in scale, and therefore has to be implemented in stages. Given that the funding arrangements of government works must follow the established procedures, and that due consideration has to be given to all relevant factors, the Government is unable to set a target for the number of noise barriers retrofitting works to be commenced each year. Nevertheless, the Government has been looking for ways to expedite the commencement of noise barriers retrofitting works. To this end, the Highways Department had engaged a consultant to conduct a feasibility study for a number of noise barriers retrofitting works under planning. The consultancy report has provided preliminary feasible options for the projects and relevant details on the advance design to enable faster and smoother work at the detailed design stage upon obtaining funding approval for the detailed design in the future. Moreover, to save time, the Government is also combining the detailed design work for noise barriers retrofitting works on different road sections.

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