

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB291****(Question Serial No. 4989)**

Head: (60) Highways Department

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

Programme: (1) Capital Works

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the retrofitting of noise barriers on Tuen Mun Road (Fu Tei Section) which was completed last year, will the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) The final expenditure of the noise barriers retrofitting project;
- (2) Regarding the claims arising from the construction of various items under the noise barrier retrofitting project so far, please provide the following information in table form:

Scope of works	Contract No.	Contract sum	Contractor	No. of claims	Amount claimed	Amount awarded

- (3) Please list in table form the various over-budget items of works, the expenditures under the original approved project estimates, the projected amount of cost overrun and the actual amount of cost overrun under the noise barrier retrofitting project.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 812)

Reply:

The retrofitting of noise barriers on Tuen Mun Road (Fu Tei Section) was completed on 31 December 2019. The project mainly involves the retrofitting of noise barriers on Tuen Mun Road (Fu Tei Section) between the Fung Tei Station footbridge and Lam Tei Raw Water Pumping Station to mitigate the impact of traffic noise on neighbouring residents. It is expected that the project will be completed within the approved project estimate of \$786.2 million. The final expenditure can only be ascertained after the project account is finalised.

Generally speaking, it is the responsibility of the contractor to complete the works within the specified time and cost required in the contract. In the event of any unforeseen circumstances, the contractor may lodge claims in accordance with the terms of the contracts and substantiate with sufficient justification and information regarding the claims. The consultant appointed by the managing department will carefully and independently assess the claims and then submit the assessment to the managing department for

consideration. The managing department will scrutinise the assessment of the contractor's claims in order to ensure that every claim is handled strictly based on the terms of the contract.

As at end February 2020, there are 12 claims with claimed amount lodged by the contractor in relation to the retrofitting of noise barriers on Tuen Mun Road (Fu Tei Section). The total amount claimed is about \$11.9 million while the total awarded amount is about \$1.7 million. According to the relevant terms of the works contracts, the Government cannot divulge information on individual claims without the consent of the contractors.

- End -