

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****TLB008****(Question Serial No. 3192)**Head: (60) Highways DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Railway DevelopmentControlling Officer: Director of Highways (YAU Kwok-ting)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and LogisticsQuestion:

The Highways Department established the Northern Metropolis Railways Office (NMRO) to assist in the implementation of railway projects related to the Northern Metropolis.

1. What are the details of the work undertaken by the NMRO in 2024-25?
2. What are the details of the work anticipated to be undertaken by the NMRO and the implementation timetable of the railway projects in 2025-26?
3. What are the differences and similarities in the functions and the division of work between the NMRO and the other government departments that supervise the railway projects?
4. Please list by rank the numbers of permanent posts and supernumerary posts, and the respective salary expenditures involved for the NMRO and the other government departments that supervise the railway projects.

Rank	No. of permanent posts	Salary Expenditures	No. of supernumerary posts	Salary Expenditures
Directorate				
Professional Grade				
Technical Grade				
General Grade				

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

1. and 2. The Northern Metropolis Railways Office (NMRO) is responsible for the coordination and implementation of various railway projects in relation to the Northern Metropolis. The details of work are tabulated below:

<b>Railway projects</b>	<b>Summary of implementation status</b>
Kwu Tung Station (Northern Link (NOL) Phase 1)	The construction works commenced in 2023 for completion in 2027.
Hung Shui Kiu Station	The construction works commenced in 2024 for completion in 2030.
NOL Main Line (NOL Phase 2)	The detailed planning and design is underway. The advance works have commenced to tie in with the target completion of the NOL Main Line in 2034.
NOL Spur Line	The detailed planning and design of the project is anticipated to commence in 2025. We will strive to take forward the projects of the NOL Main Line and NOL Spur Line simultaneously such that both projects could benefit from certain synergies. The target is to advance the commissioning of the NOL Spur Line to tie in with that of the NOL Main Line for commissioning together in 2034.
Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link (Hung Shui Kiu - Qianhai)	The first stage and second stage studies were completed in 2022 and 2024 respectively. The investigation and design study of the project is anticipated to commence in 2025. The target is to commission the Hong Kong and Shenzhen sections of the project simultaneously in 2035.

3. The NMRO and Railway Development Office (RDO) of the HyD are responsible for planning the Hong Kong's railway development and overseeing the implementation of new railway projects. The NMRO is responsible for coordinating and implementing the railway projects in relation to the Northern Metropolis. The RDO is responsible for coordinating and implementing other railway projects outside the Northern Metropolis, and to carry out studies and formulate plans for the further development of the railway network in Hong Kong.

4. The establishments of the NMRO and RDO as at 1 March 2025 are as follows:

NMRO:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>No. of Permanent posts</b>	<b>Salary expenditures (\$ million)</b>	<b>No. of time-limited posts</b>	<b>Salary expenditures (\$ million)</b>
Directorate	1	2.10	3*	7.10
Professional Grade	16	18.80	18	20.60
Technical Grade	4	2.40	-	-
General Grade	1	0.30	2	0.80

\*Time-limited supernumerary directorate posts <sup>Note</sup>

The salary expenditure of the NMRO in 2025-26 (in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value) is approximately \$52 million.

RDO:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>No. of Permanent posts</b>	<b>Salary expenditures (\$ million)</b>	<b>No. of time-limited posts</b>	<b>Salary expenditures (\$ million)</b>
Directorate	6	14.10	1*	2.10
Professional Grade	69	81.20	25	29.10
Technical Grade	27	15.30	-	-
General Grade	31	14.80	1	1.60

\*Time-limited directorate posts <sup>Note</sup>

The salary expenditure of the RDO in 2025-26 (in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value) is approximately \$158 million.

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<sup>Note</sup> The civil service establishment includes posts on the permanent establishment and those on the non-permanent establishment (i.e. time-limited posts). Time-limited directorate posts are referred to as “supernumerary directorate posts”, which are time-limited posts on the non-permanent establishment. It does not mean they are not counted towards the establishment.