

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB179

(Question Serial No. 1205)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

In relation with the tree management work provided by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), please provide the following information for 2019-20, 2020- 21 and that estimated for 2021-22:

- (a) the number of trees managed by the LCSD;
- (b) the establishment, strength, number of new recruits and wastage of manpower for tree management in the senior, middle and junior levels;
- (c) the number of service contracts outsourced, the annual expenditure involved and the number of outsourced workers employed by outsourced service providers for tree management work; and
- (d) the number and type of training courses in tree work organised for staff, as well as the number of course attendees.

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

- (a) A breakdown of the number of trees managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is as follows:

Year	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)	2021-22 (projected)
No. of trees	582 000	570 000	570 000

- (b) As at 31 March of each financial year, a breakdown of the staff establishment and strength for tree management work in the senior, middle and junior levels is as follows:

Year	Establishment/Strength		
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 (projected)
Senior level ^{Note}	7/7	11/11	11/N.A.
Middle level ^{Note}	110/109	116/114	116/N.A.
Junior level ^{Note}	136/128	136/133	136/N.A.
Total	253/244	263/258	263/N.A.

Note: Senior level refers to maximum pay point above MPS 33.

Middle level refers to maximum pay point at or below MPS 33 and above MPS 10.

Junior level refers to maximum pay point at or below MPS 10.

Since the LCSD staff are subject to regular transfer and posting involving not only tree management work, information on the number of new recruits and wastage of manpower for tree management is not available.

- (c) The number of horticultural service contracts, the number of workers and the annual expenditure involved are as follows:

Year	2019-20	2020-21 (as at December 2020)	2021-22 (projected)
No. of service contracts	164	100	133
No. of workers	1 146	1 157	1 157
Annual expenditure ⁽¹⁾ (\$ million)	244	192	255

Notes

- (1) As most of these service contracts involve general horticultural maintenance covering shrub, ground cover, turf and tree, breakdown of expenditure for tree maintenance alone is not available.

- (d) The number and type of training courses in tree work organised for staff, as well as the number of course attendees are as follows:

Year	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22 (projected)	
	No. of courses ⁽³⁾	Partici- pants ⁽³⁾	No. of courses ⁽³⁾	Partici- pants ⁽³⁾	No. of courses	Partici- pants
In-house training courses ⁽¹⁾	58	540	40	515	78	959
Training by local institutes/tree experts ⁽²⁾	47	1 160	37	688	47	1 480
Overseas specialist training programmes	2	7	1	4	2	7
Total	107	1 707	78	1 207	127	2 446

Notes

- (1) In-house courses on horticulture and arboriculture include practical and theory training on tree risk assessment.
- (2) These refer to diploma, certificate programmes and seminars/tree conferences organised by the Development Bureau, local institutes and tree experts.

- (3) In response to the preventive measures for the COVID-19, some in-house courses, courses organised by local institutes and tree experts, as well as overseas specialist training programmes, originally scheduled for 2020-21 had to be postponed. The numbers of courses and participants of these courses are therefore fewer than in previous years.

- End -