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**Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation**

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**Replies to written questions raised by Finance Committee Members  
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2017-18**

**Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
Head : 22**

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FHB(FE)081	2781	Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena	17	Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB001**

**(Question Serial No. 2277)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please advise on:

- (a) the details of the work on “the licensing control of international trade in endangered species and curbing of illegal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong”, and the manpower and expenditure involved;
- (b) the details of the work on “the provision of nature conservation advice on development proposals, planning studies and environmental impact assessments”, and the manpower and expenditure involved; and
- (c) the details of the work on “the conservation of biodiversity”, and the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. 25)

Reply:

- (a) The Government is committed to the protection of endangered species and strictly regulates the trade in endangered species through enforcing the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (the Ordinance) which gives effect to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Hong Kong. The legal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong is authorised and closely monitored through a permit/certificate system in accordance with the provisions of CITES. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducts inspections of consignments, registered stock and retail outlets to ensure relevant requirements are complied with. On combating illegal import and re-export of endangered species, AFCD has been working closely with the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) at import and export control points. An Inter-departmental Task Force on Wildlife Crime, comprising representatives of AFCD, the Environment Bureau, C&ED and the Hong Kong Police Force, has also been established to develop strategies on intelligence exchange and co-ordinate joint enforcement operations. AFCD and C&ED also

cooperate with overseas law enforcement agencies through international joint operations and intelligence exchange to combat endangered species smuggling. More joint and targeted operations, both local and international, would be undertaken to strengthen the frontline enforcement against endangered species smuggling. Apart from licensing and enforcement, AFCD will continue the effort in the publicity and education work to promote public awareness of the control under the Ordinance and the need to protect endangered species. The expenditure involved in the protection of endangered species in 2016-17 is \$38.8 million and the number of staff involved is 54.

- (b) AFCD is responsible for conserving local flora, fauna and natural habitats through offering conservation advice on development proposals, planning strategies, and environmental impact assessments. These include:
- reviewing environmental impact assessment studies,
  - enforcement of Environmental Permit (issued under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance) conditions related to nature conservation,
  - compliance monitoring, impact monitoring and effectiveness monitoring related to ecological assessment,
  - commenting on planning applications, development plans (e.g. layout plans, outline zoning plans), site formation plans, lands matters and development proposals in respect of nature conservation,
  - commenting on strategic planning and transport studies, and
  - vetting tree felling applications related to developments

In 2016-17, an expenditure (revised estimate) of \$23.86 million and 38 staff were involved in the above work.

- (c) AFCD endeavours to conserve biological diversity. The work includes (i) the implementation of a territory-wide biodiversity survey programme; (ii) the implementation of conservation action plans for species of conservation concern; (iii) overseeing the implementation of management agreement projects for nature conservation; and (iv) the implementation of the first Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong. In 2016-17, an expenditure (revised estimate) of \$43 million and 28 staff were involved in the above work. Moreover, other initiatives of AFCD under Programme (2), such as the designation, management and protection of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves, as well as the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation, have made contributions to conserving biological diversity.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB002**

**(Question Serial No. 1402)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding marine parks and marine reserves, please advise on the following:

- (a) Please set out the names, locations, sizes and dates of establishment of the marine parks and marine reserves currently established or to be established. Please also provide the boundary maps of these marine parks and marine reserves (including the core areas).
- (b) Please set out the number of fishing permits issued to various types of fishing vessels in each marine park and marine reserve, in the first year after the establishment of the marine parks and marine reserves and over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17).
- (c) What is the progress of the Government's work in reviewing and enhancing fisheries management in marine parks and marine reserves?
- (d) What were the number involved in and the effectiveness of the enforcement against illegal fishing activities in marine parks over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)? What were the penalties and fines imposed?
- (e) What were the expenditure and staff establishment involved in the enforcement against illegal fishing activities in marine parks over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (f) What were the number of patrol vessels deployed by the Government to combat illegal fishing activities in marine parks, the area(s) patrolled, and the number of patrols conducted, over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (g) Has the Government assessed the effectiveness of marine parks and marine reserves in enhancing the fisheries industry, fisheries resources and marine ecology after their establishment?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 11)

Reply:

- (a) The names, locations, sizes and dates of designation of existing marine parks and marine reserve are as follows:

<b>Name of Existing Marine Park / Marine Reserve</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Size (hectares)</b>	<b>Designation Date</b>
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park	Sheltered bay located north of the Sai Kung West Country Park	260	July 1996
Yan Chau Tong Marine Park	Northeast coast of Plover Cove Country Park	680	July 1996
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park	Waters enclosing the islands of Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau on the western side of Hong Kong	1 200	November 1996
Tung Ping Chau Marine Park	Waters enclosing the small island Ping Chau northeastern waters of Hong Kong	270	November 2001
Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve	Waters at the southeastern tip of Hong Kong Island	20	July 1996
The Brothers Marine Park	Waters in vicinity of The Brothers in northern Lantau	970	December 2016

The names, locations, sizes and tentative designation time of the proposed marine parks are as follows:

<b>Name of Proposed Marine Park</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Size (hectares)</b>	<b>Tentative Designation Time</b>
Southwest Lantau Marine Park	Waters in vicinity of Fan Lau in southwest Lantau	~ 660	2018
Soko Islands Marine Park	Waters in vicinity of Soko Islands in southern Lantau	~ 1 270	2019
Proposed Marine Park for Integrated Waste Management Facilities	Waters in vicinity of Shek Kwu Chau	>700	2019
Proposed Marine Park for Three-Runway System	Waters around the airport in the northern Lantau	~ 2 400	2023-24

The boundaries (and core areas) of the existing and proposed marine parks and marine reserve are shown in the map at the Annex.

- (b) The number of fishing permits issued to various types of fishing vessels in each marine park, in the first year after the establishment of the marine parks and over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17), is tabulated below:

Name of Marine Park	Number of permits issued			
	1 <sup>st</sup> year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Hoi Ha Wan and Yan Chau Tong	409	73	73	68
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau	208	81	80	80
Tung Ping Chau	280	208	202	202
Total	897	362	355	350

No fishing permit was issued to fishing vessels in the Cape D'Aguilar Marine reserve.

- (c) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has reviewed the fishing permit requirements and has adopted enhancement measures, including allowing the succession of a marine park fishing permit to an immediate family member and the transfer of a fishing permit to an authorised person listed on any of the fishing permit issued for the same marine park. AFCD has announced the enhanced permit system in July 2015 and has been processing applications in relation to succession and transfer of marine park fishing permits accordingly. As at 1 March 2017, there are 23 and 2 successful successions and restricted transfers respectively.

AFCD has also launched a review of the fisheries management measures of marine parks with a view to addressing fishermen's concerns and promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry while at the same time without compromising the conservation objectives of marine parks. The review will cover the possible measures to further enhance fisheries management in marine parks. AFCD will engage stakeholders during the review. In this regard, AFCD will shortly commission a consultancy study to assist in the review and to recommend fisheries management measures for marine parks.

- (d) The number of prosecutions for illegal fishing activities in marine parks over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17), and the penalties and fines imposed are as follows:

Financial Year	Number of cases	Total fine (\$)
2014-15	22	27,600
2015-16	18	22,800
2016-17 (up to February)	7 (5 cases are still in progress of prosecution)	3,500

- (e) The expenditure and staff establishment involved in the management of marine parks and marine reserve, including the enforcement against illegal fishing activities therein, over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17) are as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment
2014-15	17.3	32
2015-16	16.8	37
2016-17 (revised estimate)	19.4	39



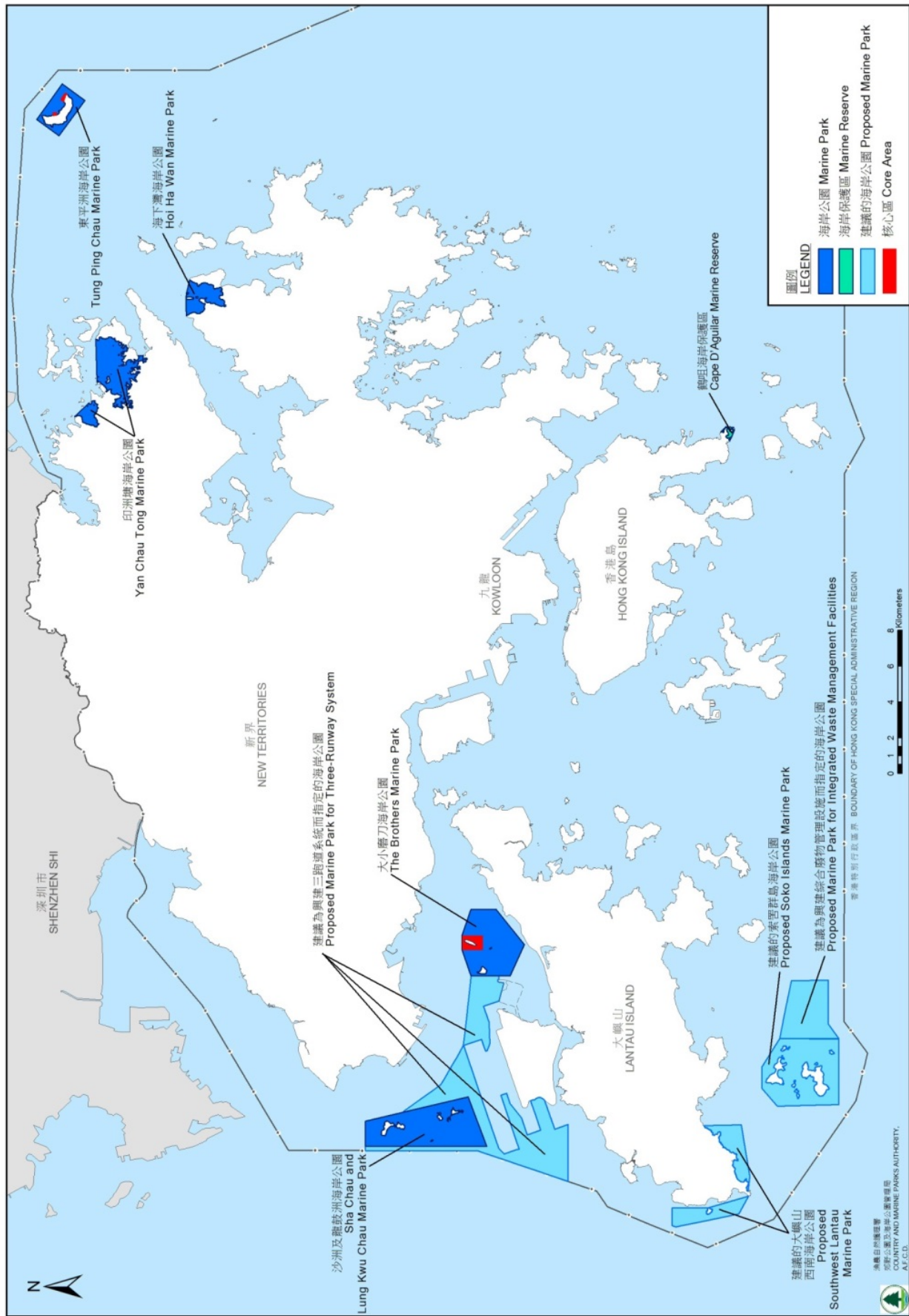
- (f) Over the past 3 years, 8 patrol vessels were deployed by AFCD to conduct patrols around the marine parks and marine reserve and their vicinity waters to combat illegal fishing activities. Marine Police and their patrol vessels also rendered assistance in law enforcement within marine parks and marine reserve upon our request.

The areas patrolled included all existing marine parks and marine reserve and the proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park and Soko Islands Marine Park. The number of patrols conducted over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17) is as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Number of patrols</b>
2014-15	3 077
2015-16	3 200
2016-17 (up to January)	2 641

- (g) Marine parks are designated for the purposes of enhancing marine life and environment, managing the uses of resources, facilitating recreational activities, and providing opportunities for educational and scientific studies. The Government has been conducting long-term monitoring in marine parks and the data so obtained confirm the effectiveness of their establishment. With the management measures in place, it is found that the level of fisheries resources within marine parks is generally higher than that outside marine parks. In addition, the waters within the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park, which is designated for the protection of Chinese white dolphins, remains an important habitat for the species.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB003**

**(Question Serial No. 1423)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the Government's plan to designate Robin's Nest as a country park, please provide the work plan and timetable.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 57)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is carrying out the preparation work for the designation of the Robin's Nest as a country park. We will commission a consultancy study shortly to formulate the detailed management plan for the proposed country park. Afterwards, we will seek the views of stakeholders including the local villagers, relevant Rural Committees, District Council and other concerned groups on the designation proposal. Subsequently, we will take forward the statutory procedures for country park designation as stipulated under the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) with a view to completing the designation procedures by 2020.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB004**

**(Question Serial No. 1431)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the nuisances caused by wild monkeys to nearby residents or visitors, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the manpower and expenditure involved in public education and promotion of the feeding ban over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (b) What were the numbers of complaints received by the Department about nuisance of or attacks by wild monkeys over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (c) What were the manpower and expenditure involved in the investigation and study on the control of wild monkeys, as well as the administration of contraceptive and neutering treatment to wild monkeys over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (d) What are the manpower and estimated expenditure involved in the above work in 2017-18?
- (e) It is said that wild monkeys cause nuisances to the public from time to time, would the Government examine the existing mechanism as soon as possible in order to resolve the problem?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 65)

Reply:

- (a)-(e) Over the past 3 years, 12 staff of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) were involved in handling monkey nuisance and carrying out neutering operations for monkeys. During the same period, AFCD did not receive any complaint about attacks by monkeys. The number of complaints received about monkey nuisance and the expenditure involved in processing the complaints (including the work on public education and promotion of the feeding ban) each year are summarised as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
<b>Number of complaints about monkey nuisance</b>	423	513	330 (as at January 2017)
<b>Expenditure involved (\$ million)</b>	3.9	5.0	4.2 (revised estimate)

Over the past 3 years, AFCD's contractor (Ocean Park Conservation Foundation) arranged regular neutering operations for monkeys in Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks, involving about 10 contractor's staff in each operation, and an expenditure of about \$1.43 million each year.

AFCD estimated that the manpower and expenditure in the financial year 2017-2018 involved in handling monkey nuisance and neutering monkeys will be 12 staff and about \$4 million, comparable to those in the financial year 2016-17. In order to abate monkey nuisance in a more efficient way, AFCD is now reviewing the work of handling monkey nuisance and will invite wildlife conservation experts from various places to offer advice with a view to developing a more comprehensive management plan for monkeys.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB005**

**(Question Serial No. 1435)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the conservation and management of wetland, please advise on the following:

- (a) In each of the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17), what were the respective expenditures incurred by the Government on protection of birds, promoting the development of aquaculture fisheries and agriculture, and assisting such industries in preventing birds from foraging for cultured fish products and crops, together with the details and effectiveness of such efforts?
- (b) Over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17), what were the number of complaints received by the Government about alleged unlawful bird-proof measures taken by fish farmers and farmers, the average and longest time taken to handle those cases, the number of prosecutions instituted for violation of Cap. 170 of the Laws of Hong Kong, and the number of convictions thereof?
- (c) Over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17), has the Government made any assessment on the expenditures incurred by fish farmers and farmers on taking bird-proof measures, and their financial losses due to birds foraging for their cultured fish products and crops?
- (d) Over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17), how did the Government compensate fish farmers and farmers for their expenditures and financial losses as mentioned in item (c)? What measures have been put in place by the Government to assist them in reducing such expenditures and financial losses?
- (e) The "Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021" put forward by the Environment Bureau in December 2016 mentioned that a study would be conducted to explore measures to prevent cormorant predation on commercial pond fish in the Deep Bay area. What are the relevant details, timetable, expenditure and staff establishment?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 69)

Reply:

Regarding the above questions, our reply is consolidated as follows:

- (a) to (d) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) actively works to protect wild animals by different means, including conservation management of habitats in the Ramsar Site and other areas, territory-wide law enforcement, public education, as well as animal rescue, studies and research, etc., while bird conservation is also included in all these aspects of work. According to the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) (the Ordinance), no person shall, except in accordance with a special permit, wilfully disturb or hunt any protected wild animal, including all wild birds. Over the past 3 years, AFCD has prosecuted over 300 cases for contravening the Ordinance, and a total of 246 cases were convicted, including 3 cases involving use of illegal bird prevention measures in farmland or fish ponds, subjected to a fine of \$1,000 to \$2,500 respectively. During the same period, AFCD received a total of 33 complaints about suspected illegal use of bird prevention measures by farmers or fish pond operators. It usually takes 3 to 6 months to process these cases.

AFCD understands the concern of farmers and fish pond operators over their loss due to bird predation in farmland and fish ponds. It aims to strike a balance between supporting the agriculture and fisheries industries as well as bird conservation. It assists farmers and fish pond operators in taking appropriate measures to reduce bird predation in farmland and fish ponds without causing harm to birds. AFCD provides technical advice to farmers on bird prevention, while farmers who are interested in installing bird preventive netting or other measures can apply for low-interest loans or purchase the necessary materials for self-installation with the Farm Improvement Scheme grants under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF). AFCD also regularly organises talks and workshops on general fish farming guidelines and good aquaculture practice, including methods of prevention of bird predation, for example, pond wiring, hanging of reflective materials, etc., to reduce loss of fish produce. Fish pond operators can also apply for low-interest loans should they need any financial assistance.

AFCD has published 2 pamphlets on the methods of preventing birds in farmland and the prevention of bird predation in fish ponds for the reference of fish pond operators and farmers respectively. AFCD will further study other measures of reducing bird predation in farmland and fish ponds which are in compliance with the Ordinance and will communicate with farmers and fish pond operators on the pilot project accordingly.

According to AFCD's observations, many farmers and fish pond operators have adopted AFCD's recommendations to reduce risk of bird predation in farmland and fish ponds. Nonetheless, AFCD does not have the information about the cost of bird prevention measures used by the farmers and fish pond operators. On the other hand, the loss due to bird predation is subject to many factors, including crops farmed/species of fish, locality of the farmland/fish pond, and the bird prevention measures implemented on the site, and hence cannot be deduced

conclusively. AFCD will continue to implement the above work to facilitate farmers and fish pond operators to reduce their loss due to bird predation in farmland and fish ponds.

In addition, AFCD has been supporting and promoting the overall development of the agriculture and fisheries industries through various measures, including providing technical support to the industries, promoting local agricultural and fishery produces, setting up the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund and the SADF, each of \$500 million, with a view to promoting the sustainable development of industries, as well as implementing various supportive measures under the New Agriculture Policy. The breakdown of the expenditure on promoting aquaculture fisheries and agricultural development on the wetland is not available.

- (e) According to the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021, AFCD commissioned a specialist consultant to explore measures to prevent cormorant predation in fish ponds in late 2016. The study, which includes a review on the effectiveness of the bird-proof measures and recommendations on feasible and effective measures, will give a better understanding of the situation. Prior to the commencement of the study, AFCD has communicated with representatives of the aquaculture industry and they welcomed the study. The study is expected to be completed in mid-2017. If suitable preventive measures are identified, AFCD will arrange a trial run in fish ponds in late 2017.

AFCD's work on bird protection covers a wide spectrum of services, from habitat conservation, law enforcement, public education, to bird rescue, study and research. AFCD also assists farmers and fishermen with respect to bird predation issues. Since the above works are related to wild animal protection under AFCD, there is no separate breakdown of the expenditure in this regard.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB006**

**(Question Serial No. 2686)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please set out in tabular form the numbers of cases related to the felling of Incense Trees and the smuggling of *Aquilaria* species (agarwood), the numbers of persons arrested and prosecutions, the ordinance(s) contravened, the maximum and minimum penalties, the total amount of fine, and the weights and numbers of Incense Trees or trees of the *Aquilaria* species (agarwood) involved, over the past 5 years.

Moreover, the number of cases related to the felling of Incense trees has been rising in recent years. Last year, the Government conducted a trial on the effectiveness of using surveillance CCTV to deter illegal felling activities. Please advise on the effectiveness of the trial, the expenditure involved, and the relevant details. Has the Government considered extending the trial? If not, has the Government taken more actions, other than the trial, to deter illegal felling activities? If yes, what are the staff establishment and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (Member Question No. 31)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) initiates prosecutions against suspects of illegal tree felling for criminal offences on theft, criminal damage, possession of offensive weapons, going equipped for stealing, etc. Recognising the seriousness of the offence committed and acting as a deterrent, the Police may, depending on the circumstances of individual cases, initiate prosecutions under the Theft Ordinance, which imposes a heavier penalty than the other 2 relevant ordinances, i.e. the Forests and Countryside Ordinance and the Country Parks Ordinance. Any person arrested and charged under the Theft Ordinance is liable to a maximum imprisonment of 10 years. Over the past 5 years, all criminal cases involving illegal felling of Incense Trees were handled by the Police under the Theft Ordinance, the Summary Offences Ordinance, or the Crimes Ordinance. The relevant statistics are provided below:

Calendar Year	Number of cases	Number of persons arrested	Number of prosecutions	Maximum penalty (imprisonment)	Minimum penalty (imprisonment)	Estimated number of trees involved
2012	67	64	29*	45 months	9 months	99
2013	96	41	21	45 months	24 months	168
2014	134	65	26*	55 months	3 months	240
2015	120	16	5*	35 months	30 months	249
2016	54	22	7	30 months	2 months	172

\* This figure was revised according to information provided by the Police.

Moreover, all species of *Aquilaria* including Incense Tree are listed in Appendix II to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586), all import and export/re-export of agarwood specimens must be accompanied with a valid CITES permit. Any person who plans to import/export such flora requires the relevant permit. The number of illegal import/export of agarwood over the past 5 years is provided below:

Calendar year	Number of cases	Number of prosecutions	Maximum penalty	Minimum penalty	Weight of / number of pieces of Agarwood seized
2012	3	0	Not applicable	Not applicable	2 kg, and 4 pieces
2013	9	0	Not applicable	Not applicable	331 kg
2014	29	2	Imprisonment of 10 months	Not applicable	1 035 kg
2015	13	1	A fine of \$40,000	Not applicable	184 kg
2016	11	2	A fine of \$21,000	A fine of \$5,000	134 kg

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is conducting a trial of using infrared sensor camera traps to monitor illegal felling of wild Incense Trees, with a view to facilitating the arrangement of timely follow-up actions. The trial is still in progress and AFCD will review its effectiveness upon completion of the trial. Moreover, to enhance the conservation work on Incense Trees, in addition to the setting up of a special task force last year to conduct targeted patrols at locations where important populations of Incense Tree were present, AFCD also stepped up joint operations with the Police at each black spot. For better collection of intelligence on illegal tree felling, AFCD has strengthened communication with the concern groups and residents living in the vicinity of Incense Trees. Furthermore, AFCD has installed tree guards for individual important Incense Trees to protect them from destruction or felling. Moreover, we are formulating a species action plan for Incense Trees, which comprises various studies and initiatives for conservation of this native species and enhancement of public awareness of Incense Tree conservation. An estimated expenditure of \$1.29 million and 4 staff were involved in the above work in 2016-17. As for 2017-18, the provision earmarked for such work will rise to \$3.3 million (including 11 staff).

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB007**

**(Question Serial No. 2716)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the international trade in endangered species, the questions are as follows:

- (a) Please set out in tabular form the applications for issue of licence received under the licensing control of the international trade in endangered species, the numbers of licences/certificates issued, the numbers of unsuccessful licensing applications and the reasons over the past 5 years.
- (b) What were the numbers of cases on illegal trade in endangered species handled by the Government, the quantities of items, the numbers of persons arrested, the numbers of persons convicted, the ordinance(s) contravened, the maximum and minimum penalties and the total amount of fine over the past 5 years? Please also advise on the species most commonly involved.
- (c) What were the expenditures involved in combating illegal trade in endangered species over the past 5 years? If there was an increase in the expenditures, what were the main reasons?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (Member Question No. 32)

Reply:

- (a) The number of applications for licences/certificates received and the number of licences/certificates issued with respect to the import, export, re-export and possession of scheduled species under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) (the Ordinance) over the past 5 years are tabulated below:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of applications received</b>	<b>Number of licences / certificates issued*</b>
2012	25 951	25 909
2013	27 153	26 935
2014	25 700	25 894
2015	23 089	23 475
2016	20 042	19 935

\* The number of licences/certificates issued may be different from the number of applications received in a calendar year as some licences and certificates were issued in respect of applications submitted at the end of the previous year.

The main reason that some applications were unsuccessful was because the supporting documents submitted in respect of the applications were not valid. We do not maintain statistics on the number of unsuccessful applications.

- (b) Various types of endangered species were involved in the enforcement actions taken to combat illegal trade in endangered species. The more commonly encountered species included leather products of reptiles, scale/carcass of pangolin, ivory, timber and orchid. The statistics on cases involving illegal imports and exports, contravening the Ordinance, over the past 5 years are set out below.

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016*</b>
Number of cases	167	412	461	395	309
Quantity of products	6 710 kg and 3 885 pieces	28 800 kg and 3 746 pieces	137 260 kg and 6 696 pieces	1 074 800 kg and 25 218 pieces	148 820 kg and 2594 pieces
Number of persons arrested	129	271	355	251	181
Number of convictions	102	134	222	153	126
Maximum penalty	Imprisonment for 8 months	Imprisonment for 4 months	Imprisonment for 10 months	Imprisonment for 6 months	Imprisonment for 8 months
Minimum penalty	A fine of \$100	A fine of \$100	A fine of \$100	A fine of \$100	A fine of \$100
Total fine (\$ million)	0.5	1.2	2.9	2.0	1.8

\* Some cases are still under investigation.

- (c) The expenditure incurred by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department to combat illegal trade in endangered species over the past 5 years is as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17 (Revised Estimate)</b>
Expenditure (\$ million)	17.1	19.6	20.6	26.0	27.4

The increasing expenditure is to allow us to strengthen inspection and enforcement against illegal trade in endangered species and to cope with the increasing number of scheduled species.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB008**

**(Question Serial No. 2736)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) What were the numbers of hill fires over the past 5 years? Please set out the respective dates, locations, reasons (if any) for occurrence and the areas of the sites involved of the hill fires.
- (b) What measures have been implemented to rehabilitate the sites damaged by hill fires? What are the progress of the implementation of such measures and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (Member Question No. 61)

Reply:

- (a) From 2012 to 2016, there were 90 cases of hill fires which had affected Country Parks and Special Areas. Their respective dates, locations, and the areas of the sites involved are shown in the **Annex**. Although the actual causes of these hill fires could not be identified, it is believed that some of these hill fires might be related to human activities during the grave sweeping periods.
- (b) Subsequent to each hill fire in a country park area, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will carefully assess the condition of the affected site in order to determine the rehabilitation work required, which will usually involve tree planting. Where appropriate, public tree planting activities will be organised at some of the affected sites to engage the public in the rehabilitation work for both education and conservation purposes. AFCD will closely monitor the growth of tree seedlings planted and provide proper management such as application of fertilisers and grass cutting to facilitate the healthy growth of the tree seedlings planted. The average expenditure incurred in tree planting for hill fire rehabilitation in country parks over the past 5 year was about \$4.3 million per year.

- End -

### Hill fires which had affected Country Parks and Special Areas from 2012 to 2016

Serial No.	Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	Country Parks or Special Areas Affected	Area affected (Hectares)
1	2012/01/04	Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve	2.5
2	2012/03/26	Tai Lam	3
3	2012/03/28	Tai Lam	0.7
4	2012/04/01	Tai Lam	0.25
5	2012/04/04	Lantau North	1
6	2012/10/13	Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve	3
7	2012/10/21	Tai Mo Shan	3
8	2012/10/23	Plover Cove	7
9	2012/10/23	Lantau North	3
10	2012/10/23	Tai Lam	18
11	2012/10/28	Tai Lam	3.5
12	2012/11/04	Ma On Shan	10
13	2012/11/08	Tai Lam	1.2
14	2012/12/12	Tai Lam	0.25
15	2012/12/25	Lam Tsuen	3
16	2013/01/06	Pat Sin Leng	0.06
17	2013/01/09	Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve	8
18	2013/01/29	Ma On Shan	3
19	2013/01/30	Tai Lam	2
20	2013/02/15	Pat Sin Leng	0.04
21	2013/02/22	Shing Mun	8
22	2013/02/26	Sai Kung East	2
23	2013/03/11	Tai Lam	4
24	2013/10/06	Pat Sin Leng	2.5
25	2013/10/06	Ma On Shan	8
26	2013/10/13	Tai Lam	1
27	2013/10/13	Tai Lam	1
28	2013/10/13	Sai Kung East	130
29	2013/10/13	Lam Tsuen	150
30	2013/10/25	Plover Cove	1
31	2013/11/30	Clear Water Bay	45

32	2013/12/05	Sai Kung West	4.5
33	2013/12/07	Ma On Shan	0.5
34	2013/12/09	Lantau South	0.25
35	2013/12/09	Plover Cove	4.5
36	2013/12/24	Ma On Shan	2
37	2013/12/26	Tai Lam	2
38	2013/12/28	Tai Lam	2
39	2014/01/13	Ma On Shan	1.5
40	2014/01/14	Plover Cove	2
41	2014/01/15	Lion Rock	0.04
42	2014/01/16	Lion Rock	0.5
43	2014/01/22	Lion Rock	0.5
44	2014/01/23	Pat Sin Leng	1
45	2014/01/27	Tai Lam	0.03
46	2014/01/27	Tai Lam	1
47	2014/01/29	Tai Tam	0.06
48	2014/02/02	Pat Sin Leng / Plover Cove	145
49	2014/02/03	Plover Cove	0.06
50	2014/02/04	Tai Lam	1
51	2014/03/23	Sai Kung East	6
52	2014/03/23	Lantau North	4
53	2014/03/23	Tai Lam	13
54	2014/03/26	Sai Kung East	15
55	2014/04/05	Lantau North	1.5
56	2014/04/05	Lantau South	0.02
57	2014/07/30	Tai Lam	0.3
58	2014/10/19	Pat Sin Leng	1
59	2014/10/19	Tai Lam	2
60	2014/10/19	Tai Lam	8
61	2014/10/25	Pat Sin Leng	1
62	2014/12/16	Lion Rock	4
63	2014/12/16	Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve	0.5
64	2014/12/17	Ma On Shan	0.2
65	2015/01/11	Plover Cove	2
66	2015/01/18	Tai Lam	5
67	2015/01/22	Tai Mo Shan	7



68	2015/01/23	Tai Lam	4
69	2015/04/05	Tai Lam	1.5
70	2015/04/05	Tai Lam	15
71	2015/04/05	Lantau North	40
72	2015/04/05	Lantau North (Extension)	6
73	2015/10/21	Tai Mo Shan	7
74	2015/10/21	Sai Kung East	1
75	2015/10/21	Tai Lam	0.1
76	2015/11/26	Tai Lam	0.2
77	2015/11/27	Ma On Shan	2
78	2016/01/25	Tai Lam	8
79	2016/01/26	Tai Lam	8
80	2016/02/11	Shing Mun	109
81	2016/02/11	Ma On Shan	0.15
82	2016/03/27	Tai Lam	7
83	2016/04/04	Pat Sin Leng	5
84	2016/10/05	Lam Tsuen	3
85	2016/10/06	Lam Tsuen	68
86	2016/10/09	Lantau South	0.5
87	2016/10/09	Lantau South	0.5
88	2016/12/18	Tai Lam	0.5
89	2016/12/27	Tai Lam	0.02
90	2016/12/27	Sai Kung West	0.5
		<b>Total</b>	<b>Around 950</b>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB009****(Question Serial No. 2740)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

What is the expenditure involved so far in the implementation of the first Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong? What is the estimated expenditure in 2017-18? What are the details of the relevant expenditure required?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (Member Question No. 62)Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) started implementing the first Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) for Hong Kong in 2016. Initiatives taken forward under BSAP in 2016-17 included: enhanced habitat management at Mai Po Nature Reserve; enhanced control of invasive alien species; plantation enrichment scheme in country parks; studies and monitoring of priority habitats and species; promotional activities including the Hong Kong Biodiversity Festival; as well as providing subvention to non-governmental organisations to promote biodiversity to the public.

In 2016-17, the expenditure (revised estimate) incurred by AFCD to finalise and implement BSAP is \$31.6 million. The relevant breakdowns are set out as follows:

	<b>Expenditure in 2016-17 (revised estimate) (\$ million)</b>
Enhancing conservation measures	13.7
Mainstreaming biodiversity	0.2
Improving our knowledge	2.3
Promoting community involvement	9.0
Staff and administrative expenditure	6.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>31.6</b>

AFCD has earmarked \$77.7 million to implement BSAP in 2017-18. In 2017-18, apart from the above initiatives, AFCD will also take forward other initiatives, which include stepping up enforcement efforts against illegal poaching or collection; formulation of species action plans; development of a biodiversity information hub for improving knowledge sharing; enhancement of exhibitions and education facilities in the Hong Kong Wetland Park; as well as promoting biodiversity awareness among the public and stakeholders through further publicity and education activities.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB010**

**(Question Serial No. 2743)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the possible reasons for the decrease in the numbers of participants of education activities and country park visitors in 2015-16?
- (b) Is there any decrease in the number of the related education activities organised by the Department? If yes, what are the reasons? If not, what are the details?
- (c) Please set out the total expenditure and manpower involved in the organisation of education activities over the past 3 years. Please also set out the details of each activity, including their respective names, purposes and numbers of participants.
- (d) What are the major projects for public education and publicity in the respect of nature conservation in 2017-18?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (Member Question No. 63)

Reply:

- (a) The numbers of participants of educational activities and country park visitors had a slight decrease of 3.9% (from 365 800 to 351 400) and 1.5% (from 13.2 to 13.0 million) respectively in 2016 when compared to the numbers in 2015. Such decreases are within normal variations and there is no specific reason that can be identified for the slight change.
- (b)&(c) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducted a series of outdoor learning and experience activities in 2016 under the Country Parks Education Programme "Nature in Touch" for the participation of the public. This programme aimed at promoting a better understanding of country parks, biodiversity, wildlife conservation and geological characteristics in Hong Kong, thus enhancing public awareness of the importance of protecting natural environment. The programme included a series of countryside learning activities

for students and nature appreciation activities for the public. In addition, AFCD organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hong Kong Biodiversity Festival in 2016 to provide a platform for engaging partners and relevant stakeholders in promoting biodiversity to the public. The number of educational activities organised in 2016 remained at a similar level as that of previous years. Details of the activities and the number of respective participants over the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

	Activities	Number of participants		
		2014	2015	2016
School Activities	Kindergarten, primary school and secondary school visits, country parks day camp, country parks orienteering, and teachers' workshops	38 600	36 700	32 600
Public Activities	Guided tours at country parks visitor centres / education centres, workshops, game booths, tree planting days, hiking events, family days, public lectures, roving exhibitions, and publicity programme	242 000	279 100	298 000
Hong Kong Biodiversity Festival	Guided tours, nature excursions, workshops, exhibitions, seminars and volunteering activities	-*	50 000	20 800
	Total:	280 600	365 800	351 400

\* The Biodiversity Festival was first organised in 2015.

The number of staff and expenditure of AFCD involved in organising educational activities over the past 3 years are as follows:

Financial year	Manpower (Number of staff)	Expenditure (\$ million)
2014-15	36	17.4
2015-16	35	16.8
2016-17 (revised estimate)	39	25.2

- (d) In 2017-18, AFCD will continue its efforts in raising public awareness on nature conservation, country parks and biodiversity. Major programmes will include the celebration programme for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the designation of country parks, "Take Your Litter Home" public education programme and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hong Kong Biodiversity Festival.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB011**

**(Question Serial No. 2747)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

With regard to country park enclaves (enclaves), please advise on the following:

- (a) What is the updated status of the enclaves (including Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and the site near Nam Shan) mentioned last year to be incorporated into country parks? If they have not yet been incorporated, what are the reasons?
- (b) Please provide the information on the enclaves that are not covered by statutory plans or incorporated into country parks, but will be incorporated into country parks in 2017-18, including the locations, areas, and respective country parks involved.

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (Member Question No. 64)

Reply:

- (a) In accordance with the provisions of the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) (the Ordinance), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) had prepared the draft maps of the Plover Cove Country Park (PCCP) and the Lantau South Country Park (LSCP) for the purpose of incorporating the 3 enclaves, namely Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and the site near Nam Shan, into the respective country parks. A notice was published in the gazette on 30 September 2016, notifying the public that the 2 draft maps were available for public inspection for a period of 60 days.

During the 60-day period of public inspection, 1 objection against the draft map of PCCP was received while there was no objection on the draft map of LSCP. Pursuant to the Ordinance, a hearing to the objection by the Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB) was then held on 13 February 2017. The next statutory procedure to seek the approval of the Chief Executive in Council on the 2 draft maps is underway.

- (b) In 2017-18, AFCD will continue with the statutory procedures to incorporate the 3 enclaves mentioned in item (a) into the respective country parks with a view to

completing the procedures in 2017. The respective areas and the country parks into which the 3 enclaves will be incorporated are as follows:

<b>Enclave</b>	<b>Country park into which the enclave will be incorporated</b>	<b>Area (hectares)</b>
Fan Kei Tok	Plover Cove Country Park	4.6
Sai Lau Kong	Plover Cove Country Park	1.9
Site near Nam Shan	Lantau South Country Park	5.9

AFCD is conducting assessments on the remaining enclaves on their suitability for incorporation into country parks. When suitable enclaves have been identified, AFCD will consult CMPB and the relevant stakeholders on the incorporation proposals as appropriate.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB012**

**(Question Serial No. 1614)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Over the past 5 years, what were the number of wild pigs caught by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the total number of wild pig hunting operations carried out, the expenditure involved every year, the number of wild pigs caught in each operation, and the respective reasons for carrying out each operation?

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Member Question No. 10)

Reply:

In general, upon receipt of reports about wild pigs being injured or trapped in urban areas, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will deploy staff to the scene to catch the wild pigs. AFCD's veterinary officers will also be deployed to the scene to assist in catching the wild pigs with tranquiliser dart guns as necessary. Regarding the nuisances caused by wild pigs straying into residential areas on a frequent basis, AFCD has also been conducting a trial on the use of tranquiliser dart guns for catching wild pigs since the end of 2015. If circumstances warrant, the wild pigs caught will be released in the remote countryside in order to tackle the nuisances caused by them. As these activities form part of the nature conservation work of AFCD, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

In addition, there are 2 wild pig hunting teams (the hunting teams) in Hong Kong formed by civilian volunteers, which are responsible for wild pig hunting operations. Only if there are confirmed public reports of damage by wild pigs or they are threatening human safety and property on a frequent basis, and the preventive and other kinds of measures are not effective, AFCD will notify the hunting teams to conduct hunting operations. No AFCD's expenditure is involved in maintaining the establishment of the hunting teams as their members are all volunteers.

The number of wild pigs caught by AFCD, the number of operations conducted by the hunting teams and the number of wild pigs caught by the hunting teams over the past 5 financial years are summarised as follows:



<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Number of wild pigs caught by AFCD</b>	<b>Number of operations conducted by hunting teams</b>	<b>Number of wild pigs caught by hunting teams</b>
2012-13	11	110	55
2013-14	10	73	38
2014-15	13	31	21
2015-16	37	53	48
2016-17*	62	49	34

\* up to 6 March 2017

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB013****(Question Serial No. 2638)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Please set out the respective areas of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves at present.
- (b) Please advise on the number and areas of the selected country park enclaves that were incorporated into country parks over the past 3 years.
- (c) In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18, the Government mentioned "the inclusion of selected country park enclaves into country parks". Will the Government earmark provisions for research to conduct timely review on the coverage of country parks, so that areas that have been included in country parks can be released to make available more land resources if their conservation value or quality has dropped? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (Member Question No. 18)Reply:

- (a) The areas of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve are tabulated below:

<b>Protected Areas</b>	<b>Area (hectares)</b>
Country Parks	43 455
Special Areas (outside country parks)	845
Marine Parks	3 380
Marine Reserve	20

- (b) 3 country park enclaves, namely Sai Wan, Kam Shan and Yuen Tun were incorporated into the Sai Kung East, Kam Shan and Tai Lam Country Parks respectively over the past 3 years. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has also commenced the statutory procedures in accordance with the Country Parks

Ordinance (Cap. 208) (the Ordinance) to incorporate another 3 country park enclaves, namely Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and a site near Nam Shan into their respective country parks with a view to completing the designation process in 2017.

- (c) Country Parks are designated under the Ordinance for conservation, education and recreational purposes. They cover important habitats for terrestrial plant and animal species of Hong Kong, and are also our natural heritage which the public treasures and attaches great importance to. Apart from playing a vital role in maintaining biodiversity of the territory, our country parks are also important venues for the public to escape from the hustle and bustle of urban life and enjoy the beautiful scenery, tranquility and the wilderness of our countryside. AFCD will continue to manage and protect the country parks for the purposes of nature conservation, recreation, eco-tourism and education. AFCD has not earmarked any provision for the research mentioned in the question.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB014**

**(Question Serial No. 0455 )**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

There are all together 77 enclaves in Hong Kong. At present, 52 of them are conserved by the Planning Department by adopting a planning approach and 6 of them have been incorporated into country parks. The remaining 19 enclaves are still under the management of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, which is reviewing the feasibility of incorporating them into country parks. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) What are the current manpower and expenditure involved in managing, reviewing and assessing the said 19 enclaves?
- (b) What are the criteria for considering the incorporation of the enclaves into country parks?
- (c) What is the present progress of reviewing and assessing the said 19 enclaves? Are there any other sites that have been considered as having to be incorporated into country parks?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (Member Question No. 18 )

Reply:

- (a) In 2010, unauthorised excavation works in a country park enclave triggered significant public concerns. At that time, there were 77 enclaves, of which 23 had already been covered by Outline Zoning Plans (OZPs). The Government undertook to either include the remaining 54 enclaves into country parks, or determine their proper uses through statutory planning to meet conservation and social development needs. Amongst the 54 enclaves, 6 of them have been or are being incorporated into country parks while 29 enclaves are now covered by OZPs. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to assess the suitability of the

remaining 19 enclaves for incorporation into country parks. AFCD will also continue to conduct regular patrols in country parks and the enclaves. If suspected unauthorised development is detected in the enclaves, AFCD would refer such cases to relevant departments for follow-up action. As the aforementioned enclave assessment, designation and patrol work form part of the regular work of the staff of AFCD, there is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.

- (b) Whether an enclave is suitable for incorporation into a country park would be assessed based on a set of established principles and criteria agreed by the Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB) for designating new country parks or extending existing country parks, which include conservation value, landscape and aesthetic value, recreation potential, size, proximity to existing country parks, land status and land use compatibility of the area, as well as other relevant considerations.
- (c) As mentioned in item (a), AFCD is conducting assessments on the remaining enclaves on their suitability for incorporation into country parks. When suitable enclaves have been identified, AFCD will consult CMPB and the relevant stakeholders on the incorporation proposals in accordance with established procedures as appropriate.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB015****(Question Serial No. 0472)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

As mentioned in this year's Policy Address, the Government will enact legislation to phase out the local trade in ivory. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) What was the quantity (in weight) of smuggled ivory seized and the number of persons arrested in the past 3 years? How would the Government dispose of the ivory seized?
- (b) What were the numbers of ivory traders with Licences to Possess in each of the past 3 years? Will the Government suspend the issue of new Licences to Possess to tie in with the phasing out of local trade in ivory?
- (c) What is the current staff establishment involved in the combat of smuggling and illegal trade of ivory, as well as the handling of phasing out of local trade in ivory upon the enactment of legislation? Will there be any change in 2017-18?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (Member Question No. 15)

Reply:

- (a) The quantity of ivory seized from smuggling cases and the number of persons convicted for smuggling of ivory over the past 3 years are set out below:

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Quantity of ivory seized	2 200 kg and 35 pieces	1 600 kg	530 kg
Number of persons convicted	65	30	25

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) as the Management Authority of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Hong Kong adheres strictly to the CITES principles in the disposal of ivory upon forfeiture. The forfeited ivory has mainly been donated to

schools, museums and overseas institutes for conservation, scientific, education, training, law enforcement and identification purposes. In 2014, we consulted the Endangered Species Advisory Committee on the disposal of forfeited ivory and the disposal of the forfeited ivory by incineration was supported. As at June 2016, 28 tonnes of confiscated stockpiled ivory was destroyed in a total of 20 rounds of incineration. Ivory forfeited in future will be disposed of in the same ways as mentioned above.

- (b) The number of Licence to Possess in respect of ivory in the past 3 years is tabulated below:

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Number of Licences	413	371	386

The Government will introduce a legislative proposal in due course for amending the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) in order to phase out the local trade in ivory and ban the possession of ivory for commercial purposes from 31 December 2021. To prepare for the ban, all the Licences to Possess in respect of ivory issued after 21 December 2016 will expire on or before 30 December 2021.

- (c) The number of AFCD staff members involved in combating illegal trade in endangered species is 39. There is no breakdown of manpower involved only in ivory control. The manpower will remain the same in 2017-18.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB016**

**(Question Serial No. 1846)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure involved in hunting wild pigs in the financial year 2017-18?
- (b) What were the responsibilities of the wild pig hunting teams and the expenditure involved over the past 5 years? Please set out the outcomes of the operations conducted by the wild pig hunting teams over the past 5 years, including the number of operations, operation areas, reasons for the operations, number of wild pigs shot, method(s) of handling the wild pig carcasses, and the casualties and losses of property incurred in the hunting operations, etc.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 33)

Reply:

- (a) No expenditure is incurred by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for maintaining the establishment of the wild pig hunting teams (the hunting teams) as their members are all volunteers.
- (b) There are 2 hunting teams in Hong Kong formed by civilian volunteers, which are responsible for wild pig hunting operations. All the members are required to obtain an arms licence issued by the Commissioner of Police and fully comply with the licence conditions thereunder, as well as to obtain a Special Permit under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) issued by AFCD before they can take part in the hunting operations. Only if there are confirmed public reports of damage by wild pigs or they are threatening human safety and property on a frequent basis, and the preventive and other kinds of measures are not effective, AFCD will notify the hunting teams to conduct hunting operations. The hunting team has to obtain prior written approval from the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) before conducting the hunting operation on the date, time and venue as approved by the Police. In addition, the hunting team will inform AFCD in writing when the hunting operation is confirmed, which will then relay the information to the relevant department(s) and the district office concerned, so that they can inform the villagers/residents living in the vicinity as



soon as possible. The carcasses of the wild pigs caught must be disposed of at the animal carcasses collection points of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. So far, there has not been any human casualty or losses of property incurred in the hunting operations.

The number of hunting operations carried out and wild pigs caught by the hunting teams over the past 5 financial years is summarised as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Number of hunting operations/wild pigs caught</b>		
	<b>New Territories</b>	<b>Hong Kong Island and other outlying islands</b>	<b>Total number</b>
2012-13	90/45	20/10	110/55
2013-14	63/28	10/10	73/38
2014-15	27/15	4/6	31/21
2015-16	48/30	5/18	53/48
2016-17*	39/19	10/15	49/34

\* Up to 2 March 2017

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB017**

**(Question Serial No. 1903)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) Please set out the details on the prosecutions taken against the import of products containing ingredients from bear gall bladders in contravention of the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (the Ordinance), including information on names, places of origin, composition/species of bears involved, reasons for the contravention, quantities imported of the products and the penalties, over the past 5 years.
- (b) Would the Department consider conducting random inspections on products claimed to contain ingredients from bear gall bladders in order to deter illegal import of animal products regulated under the Ordinance in Hong Kong? Though the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Ordinance do not impose regulation on the methods of collecting specimens of endangered species, would the Government prohibit the sale or import in Hong Kong of products claimed to contain ingredients from bear gall bladders on humanitarian ground?
- (c) Given that the Chief Executive C Y LEUNG had promised to a black bear concern group before assuming office that he would follow up with the central authorities the issue of black bear abuse on the Mainland and that the Legislative Council Panel on Health Services passed a motion at its meeting on 14 May 2012 "that this Panel requests the Government to legislate against the sale or import in Hong Kong of Chinese herbal medicines or proprietary Chinese medicines which contain ingredients from bear gall bladders extracted with any inhumane method", has C Y LEUNG taken any follow-up actions within his term of office? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 42)

Reply:

- (a) Over the past 5 years, 2 prosecutions were taken against the import of products containing ingredients from bear gall bladders in contravention of the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) (the Ordinance). Details of the cases are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Place of origin</b>	<b>Product(s) involved</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
2012	Mainland China	Wine containing ingredients from bear gall bladders (claimed)	3 bottles	A fine of \$1,000
2012	Mainland China	Wine containing ingredients from bear gall bladders (claimed)	1 bottle	A fine of \$500

- (b) & (c) Hong Kong implements the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) through enforcing the Ordinance. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department regularly conducts inspections at border control points and shops to deter smuggling of and trade in endangered species, including products containing or claimed to contain bear bile. The objective of CITES is to strengthen trade controls through adoption of effective measures among governments of the contracting parties, so as to effectively protect the endangered species of wild fauna and flora and ensure that the sustainable use of wild fauna and flora will not be affected by international trade. CITES and the Ordinance do not impose regulation on the methods of collecting specimens of endangered species. We will continue to follow international practices in the control of international trade in endangered species.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB018**

**(Question Serial No. 1904)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) What were the details of the Department's work and the expenditure involved in the conservation of Chinese white dolphins (CWDs) over the past 5 years? What is the estimated expenditure in the financial year 2017-18?
- (b) What was the expenditure involved in the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park and what is the estimated expenditure for the proposed Brothers Marine Park respectively? What is the effectiveness of marine parks in the conservation of CWDs? What measures has the Department taken to enhance the habitat of cetaceans in Hong Kong? Will the Department consider establishing additional marine parks? What is the estimated number of local cetaceans in future?
- (c) Please set out the populations and numbers of stranding cases of CWDs, Indo-Pacific finless porpoises and other cetaceans over the past 5 years in the most popular waters among cetaceans within the territory, including but not limited to the North Lantau waters near Castle Peak, the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park, waters around Chek Lap Kok and Tai O, as well as the details and the number of exceedances of water pollution.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 43)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has put in place a variety of measures that are conducive to the conservation and the continued survival of the Chinese white dolphins (CWDs) in Hong Kong waters. They include (i) close monitoring of the occurrence and distribution of CWDs in local waters; (ii) designation of important dolphin habitats as marine parks and subject them to proper conservation and management; (iii) stipulating stringent requirements in Environmental Impact Assessments of nearby coastal development projects to ensure that the potential impacts to dolphins are adequately addressed; (iv) implementation of fisheries management measures which would benefit CWDs whose prey food species are dependent on sustainable and healthy fish stocks; and (v) organising education and

publicity programmes to raise public awareness of and solicit their support for the conservation of CWDs.

The recurrent expenditures involved in the conservation of CWDs over the past 5 years are as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2012-13	6.3
2013-14	6.5
2014-15	6.7
2015-16	6.3
2016-17 (revised estimate)	6.2

The estimated recurrent expenditure for 2017-18 is \$6.1 million.

- (b) In 2016-17, the recurrent expenditure involved in the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park (SCLKCMP) is \$3.5 million. For the recently designated Brothers Marine Park, the revised estimated capital expenditure of around \$4 million for purchasing a patrol vessel to facilitate the monitoring and management of the marine park, and deployment of buoys to demarcate the boundary of the marine park and additional recurrent expenditure of around \$3.9 million (including the creation of 10 permanent civil servant posts) for the management and enforcement of the Brothers Marine Park have been reserved since the financial year 2017-18. Based on the latest 5-year statistics of our long-term dolphin monitoring, the waters of Lung Kwu Chau within SCLKCMP remains an important habitat of CWDs. The monitoring results indicate that the designation of marine parks has positive effects on the conservation of CWDs. To enhance the habitats of cetaceans in Hong Kong, AFCD is planning to designate more marine parks, which include:

<b>Name/location of marine park</b>	<b>Size (hectares)</b>	<b>Tentative Designation date</b>
Southwest Lantau Marine Park	660	2018
Soko Islands Marine Park	1 270	2019
Designation of a new marine park for Integrated Waste Management Facilities at Shek Kwu Chau	>700	2019
Proposed marine park for Three-Runway System	2 400	2023-24 (financial year)

AFCD would continue to monitor the occurrence of cetaceans in Hong Kong waters but does not have any estimate on the future abundance of cetaceans.

- (c) AFCD's monitoring of CWDs provides the estimated abundance of dolphins in 4 areas, i.e., Southwest Lantau, West Lantau, Northwest Lantau and Northeast Lantau, which are the major habitats of CWDs in Hong Kong. Further breakdown of the abundance estimates for specific locations such as SCLKCMP is not available. The estimated abundance of CWDs in the 4 survey areas is as follows:

Calendar year	Abundance				
	Southwest Lantau	West Lantau	Northwest Lantau	Northeast Lantau	Total
2012	19	17	40	4	80
2013	11	23	36	3	73
2014	26	36	24	1	87
2015	24	31	10	0	65
2016	(Data being analysed)				

Apart from CWDs, AFCD does not have the estimated abundance of finless porpoises and other cetaceans in Hong Kong waters.

The numbers of stranded CWDs recorded over the past 5 years in North Lantau waters near Castle Peak, SCLKCMP, waters around Chek Lap Kok and Tai O are provided in the table below:

Calendar year	Number of CWDs stranded				
	North Lantau waters near Castle Peak	Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park	Waters around Chek Lap Kok	Tai O	Other areas
2012	0	3	0	1	3
2013	3	1	2	2	1
2014	2	0	1	2	7
2015	2	2	1	2	8
2016	1	0	0	0	3

The numbers of stranded finless porpoises recorded over the past 5 years in North Lantau waters near Castle Peak, SCLKCMP, waters around Chek Lap Kok and Tai O are provided in the table below:

Calendar year	Number of finless porpoises stranded				
	North Lantau waters near Castle Peak	Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park	Waters around Chek Lap Kok	Tai O	Other areas
2012	0	0	0	0	29
2013	0	0	0	0	19
2014	0	0	0	1	32
2015	0	0	0	0	21
2016	0	0	0	0	17

The numbers of stranding cases of other cetaceans recorded over the past 5 years in North Lantau waters near Castle Peak, SCLKCMP, waters around Chek Lap Kok and Tai O are provided in the table below:

Calendar year	Number of other cetaceans stranded				
	North Lantau waters near Castle Peak	Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park	Waters around Chek Lap Kok	Tai O	Other areas
2012	0	0	0	0	0
2013	0	0	0	0	0
2014	0	0	0	0	5
2015	0	0	0	0	1*
2016	0	0	0	0	2#

\* A short-finned pilot whale found at Discovery Bay

# A dwarf sperm whale found at Sai Wan Ho and a pantropical spotted dolphin found at Tai Long Wan, Sai Kung

Regular water quality monitoring at various marine parks and marine reserve is conducted by AFCD and 21 physical, chemical and microbiological parameters including nutrients, 5-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand and *E. coli* have been measured and analysed. The water quality of marine parks and marine reserve has been basically good and generally complied with the Water Quality Objectives of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), except for the total inorganic nitrogen (a parameter for measuring nutrients)<sup>(Note)</sup> at SCLKCMP. AFCD has no information on water quality of other locations outside marine parks.

Note: Water quality at SCLKCMP is influenced by water current. The discharge from the river in its periphery is of high nutrient levels and therefore the total inorganic nitrogen exceeds the objectives of EPD.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB019**

**(Question Serial No. 1918)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) What were the effectiveness of the work on combating the illegal felling of Agarwood (Incense Tree) and the expenditure involved over the past 5 years? What is the estimated expenditure involved in the said work in the financial year 2017-18?
- (b) Please set out the numbers of cases of illegal felling of Incense Tree, the ordinance(s) contravened, the numbers of persons arrested and prosecutions initiated, the details of penalty and the total number of trees involved, etc. over the past 5 years.
- (c) Has the Department stepped up the measures for combating the illegal felling of Incense Tree? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons? Would the Police be advised to deploy additional staff of the Village Patrol Unit to step up patrols at black spots of illegal felling of Incense Tree (e.g. Lamma Island and Lantau Island)?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 48)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been working closely with the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) in combating the illegal felling of Incense Trees. The related major activities include: (i) gathering and exchange of intelligence; (ii) conducting joint enforcement actions at black spots of illegal tree felling; (iii) assisting the Police in the investigations into illegal tree felling cases with our expertise in local plants; and (iv) enhancing the awareness and vigilance of the public about such offences through the Police Magazine television programme, and other education and publicity activities such as producing a poster on "No Unauthorized Tree Felling" for posting at country parks and various district offices. In addition to the protection of the existing populations of Incense Tree, AFCD has also stepped up the production of Incense Tree seedlings. Over the past few years, AFCD has increased the production of seedlings of Incense Tree and planted the seedlings extensively in country parks. Since 2009, about 10 000 seedlings have been produced and planted every year. AFCD will continue to implement the related



measures to assist in the re-stocking of the species in Hong Kong. As the work on combating illegal felling of Incense Trees has been part of the nature conservation work of AFCD, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

- (b) The Police initiates prosecutions against suspects of illegal tree felling for criminal offences on theft, criminal damage, possession of offensive weapons, going equipped for stealing, etc. Recognising the seriousness of the offence committed and acting as a deterrent, the Police may, depending on the circumstances of individual cases, initiate prosecutions under the Theft Ordinance, which imposes a heavier penalty than the other 2 relevant ordinances, i.e. the Forests and Countryside Ordinance and the Country Parks Ordinance. Any person arrested and charged under the Theft Ordinance is liable to a maximum imprisonment of 10 years. Over the past 5 years, all criminal cases involving illegal felling of Incense Trees were handled by the Police under the Theft Ordinance, the Summary Offences Ordinance, or the Crimes Ordinance. The relevant statistics are provided below:

Year	Number of cases reported	Number of persons arrested	Number of prosecutions	Maximum penalties (imprisonment)	Estimated number of trees involved
2012	67	64	29*	45 months	99
2013	96	41	21	45 months	168
2014	134	65	26*	55 months	240
2015	120	16	5*	35 months	249
2016	54	22	7	30 months	172

\* This figure has been revised according to the information provided by the Police.

- (c) In order to step up the conservation of Incense Trees, AFCD did not only set up a special task force last year to conduct targeted patrol of sites at which important populations of Incense Tree are present, but also stepped up the joint operations with the Police at various black spots. For better collection of intelligence on illegal tree felling, AFCD has strengthened liaison and communication with the concern groups and residents living in the vicinity of Incense Trees. In addition, AFCD is conducting trials on the use of infra-red sensor camera traps for monitoring Incense Trees in the countryside, and installing tree guards for the individual important Incense Trees to protect them from destruction or felling. Moreover, we are formulating a species action plan for Incense Trees, which comprises various studies and initiatives for conservation of this native species and enhancement of public awareness of Incense Tree conservation.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB020**

**(Question Serial No. 2233)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18, the Government mentioned that it would strengthen the trade control of endangered species (in particular ivory) and combat the illegal trade and smuggling activities of endangered species. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What specific measures does the Government have in place to combat and strengthen the control of the trade of endangered species?
- (b) What special measures does the Government have in place to combat and strengthen the control of the illegal trade of ivory?
- (c) What are the manpower and expenditure involved in implementing the said measures?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

- (a) The Government is committed to the protection of endangered species and strictly regulates the trade in endangered species through enforcing the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (the Ordinance) which gives effect to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Hong Kong. The legal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong is authorised and closely monitored through a permit/certificate system in accordance with the provisions of CITES. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducts inspections of consignments, registered stock and retail outlets to ensure relevant requirements are complied with. On combating illegal import and re-export of endangered species, AFCD has been working closely with the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) at import and export control points. An Inter-departmental Task Force on Wildlife Crime, comprising representatives of AFCD, the Environment Bureau, C&ED and the Hong Kong Police Force, has also been established to develop strategies on intelligence exchange and

co-ordinate joint enforcement operations. AFCD and C&ED also cooperate with overseas law enforcement agencies through international joint operations and intelligence exchange to combat endangered species smuggling. More joint and targeted operations, both local and international, would be undertaken to strengthen the frontline enforcement against endangered species smuggling.

In order to provide a sufficiently strong deterrent against illicit wildlife trade, and to send a clear signal to the international and local communities that the Government is committed to the protection of endangered species and to combating endangered species smuggling, the Government will introduce a legislative proposal in due course to revise the Ordinance for implementing the phase-out plan of local ivory trade in phases and increasing the penalties under the Ordinance. The proposed maximum penalty for offences convicted on indictment is a fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years.

Apart from licensing and enforcement, AFCD will continue its publicity and education efforts to promote public awareness of the relevant control under the Ordinance and the need to protect endangered species.

- (b) As mentioned in item (a), the Government will introduce a legislative proposal in due course to revise the Ordinance for implementing the phase-out plan of local ivory trade in phases. In addition, AFCD has implemented a series of enhancement measures that aim at curbing smuggling and strengthening the control of local trade in ivory. The measures include enhancing inter-departmental collaboration and stepping up joint operations and intelligence exchange with the C&ED and overseas law enforcement agencies such as Interpol, deploying sniffer dogs to detect ivory at import and export control points to assist detecting and preventing smuggling of ivory, conducting a comprehensive check of all local ivory stocks, using tamper-proof holograms to mark ivory, using hi-tech radiocarbon dating analysis to determine the age and hence the legality of ivory, stepping up import and re-export control on pre-Convention ivory, as well as raising public awareness on the protection of elephants and relevant control.
- (c) The estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the protection of endangered species in 2016-17 are \$38.8 million and 54 staff respectively, of which \$27.4 million and 39 staff are for enforcing the Ordinance. There is no breakdown in respect of ivory control.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB021**

**(Question Serial No. 1367)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is set out under this programme that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is responsible for the management and operation of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGG). In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What measures were taken to publicise and promote HKUGG over the past year? How to strengthen the work in the coming year? Does it involve additional manpower and expenditure?
- (b) What measures were taken to improve the transport and ancillary facilities of major attractions (for example, the High Island Reservoir East Dam) in HKUGG over the past year? What plan will there be in the coming year; and
- (c) Has the Department collaborated with the travel industry to introduce Geopark-related tourism products? If yes, what are the details (set out by products in tabular form)? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (Member Question No. 30)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) promotes the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGG) and popularisation of science through a variety of publicity and education activities. Major activities include (i) production of multilingual promotion materials for local and overseas tourists; (ii) overseas promotion through the internet and international platform of the Global Geoparks Network; (iii) upgrading the skills of the geopark guides through the Geopark Guide System in conjunction with non-governmental organisations (NGOs); (iv) training of tour operators, local communities and other stakeholders of the geopark; (v) science popularisation programme for students through the Geopark School Programme; and (vi) collaboration with the NGOs and the local communities in setting up and

operating education and visitor centres. In 2017-18, AFCD will deploy 1 additional staff to strengthen the effort in promotional activities. A provision of \$8 million has been earmarked for this area of work which is the same as the provision in 2016-17.

- (b) Over the past year, AFCD has enhanced the accessibility and facilities at major geosites in HKUGG. Major enhancements include (i) extension of the High Island Geo-trail in East Dam including the construction of a wooden boardwalk and addition of new interpretation panels; (ii) introduction of guided tours with shuttle bus services to East Dam; (iii) adding a visitor information kiosk at East Dam; (iv) updating the interpretation panels and information boards in HKUGG; and (v) facilitated the launch of a kaito ferry service running between Ma Liu Shui and Lai Chi Wo. We will continue to enhance the accessibility and facilities in HKUGG in cooperation with different government departments, relevant community groups and other stakeholders.
  
- (c) HKUGG has developed 9 land-based and 2 sea-based tour routes in the Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region and the Northeast New Territories Sedimentary Rock Region. The 9 land-based tour routes include (i) Lai Chi Wo; (ii) Tung Ping Chau; (iii) Ap Chau; (iv) Kat O; (v) Ma Shi Chau; (vi) Lai Chi Chong; (vii) High Island; (viii) Tai Long Wan; and (ix) Sharp Island. The land-based tour routes are designed to be self-guided with on-site interpretation panels. The 2 sea-based tour routes are (i) boat tour of the Northeast New Territories; and (ii) boat tour of the Sai Kung Islands respectively. AFCD promotes these routes through websites and production of leaflets for distribution at various visitor centres. These routes are designed for the reference of the travel industry when developing Geopark-related tourism products. Currently, our geopark partners offer guided tour services to some of these routes such as High Island, Lai Chi Wo, Kat O, Ap Chau, Lai Chi Chong and Ma Shi Chau.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB022**

**(Question Serial No. 0630)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) Regarding the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation and compatible use of country parks and marine parks, it is said that currently more and more people (some are overseas visitors) use the campsites in country parks, thereby reducing the space for use and activities. Has the Government examined the problem and devised any means to resolve it?
- (b) It has been found recently that a lot of rubbish was left behind in country parks, which would not only spoil the natural environment, but also pose a sanitary nuisance. In this regard, is the Government dedicating more resources for public education and promotion on nature conservation? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. 33)

Reply:

- (a) Country parks and marine parks are managed for the purposes of nature conservation, recreation and education. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) promotes the compatible uses of country parks and marine parks through issuing relevant guidelines and codes, publishing promotional leaflets and posters, and organising education and publicity programmes. AFCD also regularly monitors the usage of country park facilities including campsites, and enhances the provision of services and facilities to meet the need of country park visitors as necessary. Recent efforts made in enhancing the camping facilities in country parks include establishment of new campsites in Sai Wan and Tai Mong Tsai in 2014 and 2015 respectively, and upgrading of the Wan Chai campsite in the Sai Kung West Country Park in December 2016.
- (b) AFCD is committed to keeping and promoting a clean environment in country parks. To step up the promotional efforts, we launched the "Take Your Litter Home" public education programme in September 2015 to encourage the public to take away their

waste after their visits to country parks with a view to nurturing among them a sense of responsibility towards nature. Publicity and education activities include broadcasting television and radio Announcement of Public Interest, thematic exhibition, public lectures and public engagement programmes such as nature ambassador and volunteer schemes. As it takes time for the public to internalise the concept, we will continue our efforts in raising public awareness in 2017-18.

A provision of \$16 million has been earmarked in 2017-18 for education and publicity on nature conservation in country parks, similar to that in past years. There is no separate breakdown of the resources for the “Take Your Litter Home” public education programme.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB023****(Question Serial No. 1049)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Among the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18, the Department mentioned that it would focus its work on “strengthening publicity and education of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark for the promotion of geo-conservation”. Please set out in tabular form the existing tour routes available in the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, whether guided tour services are provided for these routes, and the respective numbers of visitors and tours taking each of these routes in each of the past 3 years.

Tour route	Provision of guided tour services	Number of visitors/tours		
		2014	2015	2016

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No. 5)Reply:

The Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGG) has developed 9 land-based and 2 sea-based tour routes in the Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region and the Northeast New Territories Sedimentary Rock Region. The 9 land-based tour routes are (1) Lai Chi Wo; (2) Tung Ping Chau; (3) Ap Chau; (4) Kat O; (5) Ma Shi Chau; (6) Lai Chi Chong; (7) High Island; (8) Tai Long Wan; and (9) Sharp Island. The 2 sea-based tour routes are (1) boat tour of the Northeast New Territories; and (2) boat tour of the Sai Kung Islands. The land-based tour routes are designed to be self-guided with on-site interpretation panels. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not provide guided tour services for these routes, but promotes them through websites and production of leaflets for distribution at various visitor centres. Our geopark partners offer guided tour services



to some of these routes such as High Island, Lai Chi Wo, Kat O, Ap Chau, Lai Chi Chong and Ma Shi Chau. The statistics on visitors and tours of these services are not available.

Apart from the above guided tour services offered by AFCD's geopark partners, AFCD has also provided free educational guided tours in HKUGG for students and the public, in order to promote geo-conservation and science popularisation. The numbers of the educational guided tours and their participants are tabulated below:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of guided tours</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>
2014	302	9 664
2015	545	14 205
2016	592	16 162

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB024****(Question Serial No. 1051)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Among others, the Department mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18 that it would “strengthen publicity and education of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark for the promotion of geo-conservation”.

- (a) Would the Government advise on the specific measures for strengthening publicity and education? What is the specific expenditure involved? What is the percentage of increase in the expenditure compared with that of last year?
- (b) Please tabulate the numbers of visitors to the Volcano Discovery Centre of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark in each year since its establishment. What was the percentage of increase/decrease?

Year	Number of visitors	Percentage of increase/ decrease
2014		
2015		
2016		

- (c) Please tabulate the numbers of guided tours to the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark organised by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, as well as the numbers of participants, over the past 3 years. What was the percentage of increase/decrease?

Year	Number of guided tours	Number of participants	Percentage of increase/ decrease
2014			
2015			
2016			

- (d) What are the promotional programmes, objectives and estimated expenditure in future?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

(a) In 2017-18, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to strengthen its promotion on the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGG) and popularisation of science through a variety of publicity and education activities. Major activities include (a) production of multilingual promotion materials for local and overseas tourists; (b) overseas promotion through the internet and international platform of the Global Geoparks Network; (c) upgrading the skills of the geopark guides through the Geopark Guide System in conjunction with non-governmental organisations (NGOs); (d) training of tour operators, local communities and other stakeholders of the geopark; (e) science popularisation programme for students through the Geopark School Programme; and (f) collaboration with NGOs and the local communities in setting up and operating education and visitor centres. A provision of \$8 million has been earmarked for these activities in 2017-18. It is the same as the provision made for this area of work in 2016-17.

(b) The number of visitors to Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark Volcano Discovery Centre (VDC) is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of visitors	Percentage of increase / decrease
2014	62 700*	-
2015	134 800	Not applicable#
2016	147 300	+9%

\* This is the number of visitors in 2014 since the VDC was opened on 15 July 2014.

# Full year data is not available in 2014 for comparison.

(c) The number of guided tours in HKUGG organised by AFCD and the number of participants are as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of guided tours	Number of participants	Percentage of increase / decrease
2014	302	9 664	+22%
2015	545	14 205	+47%
2016	592	16 162	+14%

(d) AFCD will continue to carry out a variety of promotional activities in collaboration with the Hong Kong Tourism Board, relevant community groups and other stakeholders of HKUGG to increase the visibility of HKUGG and the Global Geoparks Network, and to enhance the quality of geo-tourism. The expenditure would be absorbed in the overall expenditure for publicity and education activities of HKUGG as mentioned in item (a).

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB025**

**(Question Serial No. 1053)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

To facilitate visiting the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has increased the number of shuttle buses for provision of weekend guided tour services at the High Island Reservoir East Dam.

- (a) Please provide the frequency and utilisation rate of the said shuttle buses.
- (b) What is the monthly expenditure involved in the enhancement of the shuttle bus service?
- (c) Would the Government increase the shuttle bus frequencies on weekdays to facilitate visiting the geopark on non-public holidays having regard to the visitor flow?
- (d) Would the Government consider enhancing the shuttle bus or ferry services for other geoparks in order to enhance the accessibility to those attractions?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has hired a contractor to operate the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark Volcano Discovery Centre (VDC) in Sai Kung. The services provided by the contractor, which include the guided tours with shuttle bus services to the High Island Reservoir East Dam (the Services), have been very popular since they were launched in July 2016. 3 round trips are offered on every Saturday, Sunday and public holiday, and the schedule is as follows:

	<b>VDC to East Dam</b>	<b>East Dam to VDC</b>
1	09:30	12:30
2	11:30	15:30
3	14:30	17:30

Utilisation of the Services varies due to a number of factors, such as weather and the seasons. During the peak hiking season, the utilisation rate could be over 90%.

- (b) Under the contract for the operation of VDC, the contractor is required to operate the Services in a self-financing manner. Hence, there is no additional expenditure incurred by AFCD on providing the Services.
- (c) The peak visitor flow to the High Island Reservoir East Dam is on weekends and public holidays. Visitor flow during weekdays is usually low and visitors may hike along Man Yee Road or take a taxi to fit their own arrangements. However, AFCD will closely monitor the demand and explore the feasibility of extending the Services to weekdays as necessary.
- (d) Apart from the Services mentioned above, a new kaito service was launched in early 2016 to Lai Chi Wo which is one of our major geosites. AFCD will continue to explore different ways to enhance the accessibility to geosites in the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB026**

**(Question Serial No. 1054)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) What is the existing number of Recommended Geopark Guides (R2Gs)?
- (b) Through what training programmes and assessments can anyone become an R2G?
- (c) What are the future work plans for increasing the numbers of R2G training programmes and assessments, in order to encourage more tourist guides to become R2Gs, thereby boosting the number and capacities of guided tours?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No. 11)

Reply:

- (a) To achieve a high standard of guided services for the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, a Geopark Guide System has been established by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in collaboration with the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong (HKTIC) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Currently, there are 48 guides qualified as Recommended Geopark Guides (R2Gs).
- (b) The Geopark Guide System Secretariat (the Secretariat) under AFCD has set out a list of assessment criteria for the qualification of R2Gs. Interested candidates should have completed Secondary 3 (or Form 5 under the previous secondary curriculum) or above and any of the geotourism, geopark or equivalent courses recognised by the Secretariat, and fulfilled other assessment criteria. Selected candidates will sit for an interview by an R2G Assessment Panel and attend a field assessment. Candidates who have passed the assessment will become provisional R2Gs. A provisional R2G will become an R2G after passing a 6-month probation period. R2Gs would have to pass a re-assessment every 2 years to renew their qualification. To provide continuous education opportunities for R2Gs, training and capacity-building sessions are organised by AFCD, NGOs and HKTIC.

- (c) There are currently several courses, which are recognised by the Secretariat, available in the market. Upon completion of the courses, participants are eligible to apply for R2G assessments in order to sit for the said interview and field assessment. The Secretariat will arrange the assessments as and when necessary, depending on the demand and number of applications received. AFCD will continue to work with NGOs and HKTIC to promote the Geopark Guide System to tourism practitioners (e.g. tourist guides).

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB027****(Question Serial No. 1078)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Please tabulate respectively the estimated and actual numbers of country park visitors over the past 3 years. What are the reasons for the significant differences between the estimated and actual numbers?

Year	Estimated number of visitors	Actual number of visitors
2014		
2015		
2016		

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No. 30)Reply:

The estimated and actual numbers of country park visitors over the past 3 years are set out in the following table:

Calendar Year	Estimated number of visitors (million)	Actual number of visitors (million)
2014	13.0	11.2
2015	11.5	13.2
2016	12.0	13.0

The actual number of country park visitors in 2014 was lower than the estimated number because of wet and inclement weather in the year. The numbers of country park visitors in 2015 and 2016 were higher than the estimated numbers due to fewer rainy days in those years.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB028**

**(Question Serial No. 1100)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Apart from the Robin's Nest Country Park, does the Department have any consideration list for incorporation of country park enclaves into the management purview of country parks? If yes, please provide the details. If not, please provide the reasons.

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No. 42)

Reply:

According to the established principles and criteria for designating new country parks or extending existing country parks, as well as other relevant considerations, a total of 3 country park enclaves, namely Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and the site near Nam Shan, have been assessed to be suitable for incorporation into country parks. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has commenced the statutory procedures in accordance with the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) to incorporate these 3 enclaves into their respective country parks with a view to completing the designation process in 2017.

AFCD is also conducting assessments of other enclaves on their suitability for incorporation into country parks. When suitable enclaves have been identified, AFCD will consult the Country and Marine Parks Board and the relevant stakeholders on the incorporation proposals as appropriate.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB180**

**(Question Serial No. 4121)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Would the Government advise on the respective numbers of plastic refuse bags used by the Government and contractors in managing country parks and the related expenditure in 2016-2017, as well as the respective estimated numbers of refuse bags to be used and the related expenditure in 2017-2018? What were the quantities of leaf and tree litter collected within country parks and disposed of at landfills in the last year?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 55)

Reply:

The refuse collected in country parks is mostly dirty wastes such as tissue papers, containers or packaging bags which contain leftover or drink, and food residue, etc. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) or its contractors normally lay litter containers with plastic refuse bags to facilitate the collection and transportation of wastes to the appropriate location for handling.

In managing country parks, the number of plastic refuse bags used in 2016-17 by AFCD is about 146 000, while the number of plastic refuse bags used by AFCD's contractors is about 333 000. It is estimated that the number of plastic refuse bags used by AFCD for such purposes will slightly decrease to about 140 000 and that used by AFCD's contractors is about 320 000 in 2017-18. In 2016-17 and 2017-18, the estimated expenditures of AFCD on plastic refuse bags are \$180,000 and \$170,000 respectively. Since the contractors are responsible for the provision of plastic refuse bags when they carry out litter collection and related duties in country parks, the cost of refuse bags used by the contractors is unknown to AFCD.

Most of the green wastes (e.g. tree branches, leaves) generated from vegetation management in country parks are stockpiled in nearby natural habitats to provide niches for wildlife. When they decompose, nutrients will be released back to nature. Some tree logs are

recycled to make furniture or decorative materials for the recreational facilities in country parks such as animated features, waymarks, and benches, etc. In 2016, about 40 tonnes of green wastes which have been infested by pests, diseases or invasive species were unavoidably disposed of at landfill sites because they are not suitable to be stockpiled on site in country parks for natural decomposition.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB181**

**(Question Serial No. 3708)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) Please advise on the details of the provision for the Hong Kong Biodiversity Education Centre in 2017-18.
- (b) Please advise on the expenditure on organic fertiliser among the total expenditure on fertiliser involved in producing seedlings in the 2017-18 Estimates.
- (c) Please advise on the expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation over the past 5 years, as well as the Department's estimated expenditure on the same aspects in 2017-18.
- (d) What were the expenditures of AFCD on the management, maintenance and improvement of facilities in country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves over the past 5 years? Please also advise on the Department's estimated expenditure on the same aspects in 2017-18.
- (e) Over the past 5 years, what were the expenditures incurred by AFCD on collecting refuse in country parks? What was the total volume of refuse collected by AFCD? What were the numbers of prosecutions initiated by AFCD for littering in country parks? What is the estimated expenditure to be incurred by AFCD in 2017-18 for education and publicity on protection of country parks and its details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 539)

Reply:

- (a) In 2017-18, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has earmarked \$4.2 million for the management and operation of the Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre. This includes expenditures on educational programmes, cleansing, security, building maintenance and staff cost.

- (b) The provision earmarked for the purchase of fertilisers for seedlings production in 2017-18 is \$22,000, of which \$16,500 will be used on organic fertilisers.
- (c) The expenditure of AFCD on education and publicity on nature conservation over the past 5 years and the provision earmarked for 2017-18 are tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2012-13	36
2013-14	41
2014-15	43
2015-16	41
2016-17 (revised estimate)	49
2017-18 (estimate)	50

- (d) The expenditure of AFCD on the management, maintenance and improvement of facilities in country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure in 2017-18 are tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2012-13	164
2013-14	164
2014-15	174
2015-16	178
2016-17 (revised estimate)	191
2017-18 (estimate)	191

- (e) The expenditure on keeping country parks clean and the volume of refuse collected in country parks by AFCD over the past 5 years are tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Volume of refuse collected in country parks (tonnes)</b>
2012-13	38	3 700
2013-14	41	3 700
2014-15	46	3 800
2015-16	54	3 600
2016-17 (revised estimate)	46	3 500

The number of prosecutions related to littering under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Number of prosecution cases related to littering	269	200	126	135	61

AFCD will conduct a series of education and publicity programmes on protection and promotion of country parks for students and the general public. These programmes include school visits, eco-tours and teacher's training, guided tours at visitor centres or education centres, thematic exhibition, educational workshops, public lectures and public engagement programmes (such as nature ambassador scheme) and volunteer scheme. A provision of \$16.0 million has been earmarked in 2017-18 for this area of work.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB182**

**(Question Serial No. 6826)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the country park enclaves, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the respective status of each enclave? Is there any enclave of which its land use is still not regulated by any statutory plan? If yes, what are the details?
- (b) Does the Government have any action plan to incorporate selected enclaves into country park areas in 2017-18? If yes, what are the related action plans and time frames? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) In 2017-18, will the Department discuss with the landowners of the enclaves on how to carry out eco-friendly projects in enclave areas through public-private partnership or in other forms? If yes, what are the related action plans? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 25)

Reply:

- (a) There are a total of 77 country park enclaves in Hong Kong, of which 23 were already covered by statutory town plans before 2010. In the 2010-11 Policy Address, the Government undertook to either include the remaining 54 enclaves into country parks, or determine their proper uses through statutory planning to meet conservation and social development needs.

The Planning Department (PlanD) is responsible for and has completed the formulation of Development Permission Area (DPA) Plans for 30 enclaves (including Sai Wan) for their inclusion in the statutory planning control area as planned. PlanD has also completed the preparation of 29 Outline Zoning Plans (OZPs) at the end of March 2017 to replace the DPA Plans (since Sai Wan has been incorporated into the country park after the preparation of the DPA Plans, PlanD did not draw up an OZP for the site).

It rests with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to assess whether the remaining enclaves are suitable for incorporation into country parks for appropriate protection. Currently, 3 enclaves have been incorporated into country parks (including Sai Wan mentioned above) and 3 enclaves are expected to be incorporated into country parks within 2017. AFCD will continue to assess the suitability for the remaining 19 enclaves to be incorporated into country parks.

- (b) As mentioned in item (a) above, AFCD has commenced the statutory procedures in accordance with the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) to incorporate 3 country park enclaves, namely Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and a site near Nam Shan into their respective country parks and the designation process is expected to be completed within 2017.
- (c) According to the Management Agreement (MA) scheme under the New Nature Conservation Policy, non-governmental organisations (NGO) may apply for funding from the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF), to provide landowners or tenants with financial incentives in exchange for management rights over their land and/or obtaining their cooperation in enhancing conservation of the Priority Sites, country park enclaves or private land in country parks. ECF has approved a funding support of about \$9.5 million for an NGO to implement a MA project (the Project) at Sai Wan enclave to conserve the natural habitats, showcase the cultural uniqueness and enhance the amenity value of the area through engagement of the local community and public. The Project will last for 3 years and has commenced in February 2017. AFCD will continue to encourage the collaboration of NGO and the local community to implement conservation projects at country park enclaves under the MA scheme, through funding support of ECF where applicable.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB183**

**(Question Serial No. 6846)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) What was the specific expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in exploring possibilities of country park extension over the past 5 years?
- (b) What is the specific expenditure of AFCD involved in exploring possibilities of country park extension in 2017-18?
- (c) What is the specific expenditure of AFCD involved in exploring possibilities of excising land from country parks for housing development in 2017-18?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 81)

Reply:

- (a) & (b) The assessment on the suitability of sites for country park extension forms part of the regular work of the staff of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). There is no breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved. However, a specific provision of \$2 million has been earmarked in 2017-18 for carrying out the preparation work for designating Robin's Nest as a new country park.
- (c) In 2017-18, no provision has been earmarked by AFCD for the study mentioned in the question.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB184**

**(Question Serial No. 5707)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

At present, it is very difficult for the disabled to use the country park facilities as most of the paths and facilities are not disabled-friendly. Please provide the following information:

- (a) Please set out in detail the existing barrier-free status of country parks, including the names of the country parks, the districts in which they are located, the barrier-free facilities available, country trails, and names of the dams.
- (b) Please set out in detail the country parks where barrier-free facilities are not yet available.
- (c) Is there any government policy to facilitate the development of barrier-free country parks for persons with disabilities and those in need? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2485)

Reply:

- (a) The country park barrier free facilities and their respective locations are listed in Annex.
- (b) Barrier free facilities are not yet available in the Lam Tsuen Country Park, Plover Cove (Extension) Country Park, Lantau North Country Park, Lantau North (Extension) Country Park, Kiu Tsui Country Park and Shek O Country Park.
- (c) In order to enhance the accessibility of country park facilities and services for persons with disabilities, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has implemented various measures including upgrading or providing barrier-free facilities in existing or new premises, as well as undertaking retrofitting programmes (such as construction of ramps and installation of hand railing along the footpath to accessible toilets). Officers in charge of the country parks venues and facilities are also appointed as Access Officers by AFCD to facilitate the implementation of accessibility measures and provision of services for persons with disabilities.

Barrier Free Facilities/ Facilities with Barrier Free Design	Country Parks/Other Areas	Site/Venue/Location
Barbecue Sites	Sai Kung West Country Park	Pak Tam Chung Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied (P.H.A.B.) Site
		Tai Mong Tsai No. 4 Barbecue Site
	Sai Kung East Country Park	Wong Shek No. 1 Barbecue Site
	Clear Water Bay Country Park	Tai Hang Tun Barbecue Site
	Ma On Shan Country Park	Ma On Shan Barbecue Site
		Nai Chung Barbecue Site
	Shing Mun Country Park	Shing Mun No. 4 Barbecue Site
		Shing Mun No. 5 Barbecue Site
	Tai Mo Shan Country Park	Rotary Barbecue Site
	Tai Lam Country Park	Shek Kong No. 3 Barbecue Site
		Shek Kong No. 10 Barbecue Site
		Shek Kong No. 11 Barbecue Site
		Chuen Lung No. 2 Barbecue Site
		Tai Tong No. 1 Barbecue Site
	Pat Sin Leng Country Park	Hok Tau No. 6 Barbecue Site
Aberdeen Country Park	Aberdeen P.H.A.B. Site	
Tai Tam Country Park	Tai Tam No. 2 Barbecue Site	
	Tai Tam Tuk No. 4 Barbecue Site	
Picnic Sites	Tsiu Hang Special Area	Lions Nature Education Centre
	Shing Mun Country Park	Shing Mun No. 6 Picnic Site
		Shing Mun No. 10 Picnic Site
Visitor Centres	Sai Kung West Country Park	Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre
	Clear Water Bay Country Park	Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre
	Tai Mo Shan Country Park	Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre
	Aberdeen Country Park	Aberdeen Tree Centre
	Tsiu Hang Special Area	Lions Nature Education Centre
	Hong Kong Wetland Park	Hong Kong Wetland Park Visitor Centre
	Other Areas Outside Country Park	Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre
Ngong Ping Nature Centre		
Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark		
Toilets	47 numbers at various locations within Country Parks and Special Areas	Hong Kong Wetland Park Other locations of the toilets could be downloaded from our departmental website: <a href="http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_rec/cou_vis_dis.html">http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_rec/cou_vis_dis.html</a>

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB185**

**(Question Serial No. 5708)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

What policy does the Government have in place to facilitate drivers with disabilities to access the country park areas with a view to resolving the problem of lack of public transport for them to access the park areas? Please set out the application procedures for permits to access country parks for drivers with disabilities.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2486)

Reply:

In order to enhance the accessibility of country park facilities and services for persons with disabilities, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has implemented various measures including upgrading or providing barrier-free facilities in existing or new premises, as well as undertaking retrofitting programmes (such as construction of ramps and installation of hand railing along the footpath to accessible toilets). Most of these barrier-free facilities/premises are either directly accessible by taxi and point-to-point rebus or connected to nearby car parks by accessible ramps with hand railing. In some places, such as the Lions Nature Education Centre in the Tsiu Hang Special Area and the Hong Kong Wetland Park, designated parking spaces for persons with disabilities are provided.

According to the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A), a permit is required to bring a vehicle into a country park or special area. The relevant application procedures and guidelines are published on AFCD's website. Applications will be assessed against the established guidelines and considered on their individual merits.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB186**

**(Question Serial No. 6117)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In view of the frequent illegal felling of Incense Trees in Hong Kong in recent years, does the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department have any plan to conduct a territory-wide survey on Incense Trees? What measures will be taken to prevent the illegal tree-felling from deteriorating? What is the estimated expenditure on the work in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1186)

Reply:

Incense Tree is a native tree species found particularly abundant in mature woodlands behind rural villages and lowland forests in many country parks. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been conducting surveys and studies over the years to gather information on the distribution of local plant species, including Incense Tree. However, there is practical difficulty in conducting a specific territory-wide population survey on this species due to its widespread distribution and difficulty of access.

In recent years, AFCD has strengthened its efforts on various fronts to protect Incense Trees from illegal felling. These measures include:

- (a) establishment of a special task force to conduct targeted patrol of sites at which important populations of Incense Tree are present, in addition to conducting regular patrols in country parks and special areas;
- (b) working closely with the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) in gathering and exchange of intelligence, conducting joint operations at black spots and investigation of illegal tree felling cases, and enhancing the awareness and vigilance of the public about such offences through the Police Magazine television programme as well as other education and publicity programmes;

- (c) enhancing liaison and cooperation with the concern groups and the villagers living nearby Incense Trees for intelligence gathering and reporting of any illegal tree felling activities;
- (d) installation of tree guards to prevent felling or vandalism of important individuals of Incense Tree; and
- (e) conducting a field trial on the use of infra-red sensor camera trap for monitoring of Incense Trees in the countryside.

Besides, AFCD has stepped up the planting of Incense Trees extensively in country parks over the past few years. Since 2009, about 10 000 seedlings of Incense Trees have been produced and planted every year to assist in the re-stocking of Incense Tree in Hong Kong. A species-specific action plan for Incense Tree is also being formulated for the long-term conservation of the species. The action plan will include various studies and activities to conserve this native species and enhance public awareness.

In 2017-18, AFCD will continue to implement the measures mentioned above. The resources involved will be absorbed in the allocation for nature conservation and the management of country parks, which has included an additional provision of \$3.3 million for strengthening the conservation of Incense Trees.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB187**

**(Question Serial No. 6654)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) Please set out in detail the existing barrier-free status of country parks, including the names of the country parks, the districts in which they are located and the barrier-free facilities available.
- (b) Please set out in detail the country parks where barrier-free facilities are not yet available.
- (c) Is there any government policy to promote the development of barrier-free country parks to facilitate the use of country parks by persons with disabilities and those in need? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2429)

Reply:

- (a) The country park barrier free facilities and their respective locations are listed in Annex.
- (b) Barrier free facilities are not yet available in the Lam Tsuen Country Park, Plover Cove (Extension) Country Park, Lantau North Country Park, Lantau North (Extension) Country Park, Kiu Tsui Country Park and Shek O Country Park.
- (c) In order to enhance the accessibility of country park facilities and services for persons with disabilities, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has implemented various measures including upgrading or providing barrier-free facilities in existing or new premises, as well as undertaking retrofitting programmes (such as construction of ramps and installation of hand railing along the footpath to accessible toilets). Officers in charge of the country parks venues and facilities are also appointed as Access Officers to facilitate the implementation of accessibility measures and provision of services for persons with disabilities.

Barrier Free Facilities/ Facilities with Barrier Free Design	Country Parks/Other Areas	Site/Venue/Location
Barbecue Sites	Sai Kung West Country Park	Pak Tam Chung Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied (P.H.A.B.) Site
		Tai Mong Tsai No. 4 Barbecue Site
	Sai Kung East Country Park	Wong Shek No. 1 Barbecue Site
	Clear Water Bay Country Park	Tai Hang Tun Barbecue Site
	Ma On Shan Country Park	Ma On Shan Barbecue Site
		Nai Chung Barbecue Site
	Shing Mun Country Park	Shing Mun No. 4 Barbecue Site
		Shing Mun No. 5 Barbecue Site
	Tai Mo Shan Country Park	Rotary Barbecue Site
	Tai Lam Country Park	Shek Kong No. 3 Barbecue Site
		Shek Kong No. 10 Barbecue Site
		Shek Kong No. 11 Barbecue Site
		Chuen Lung No. 2 Barbecue Site
		Tai Tong No. 1 Barbecue Site
	Pat Sin Leng Country Park	Hok Tau No. 6 Barbecue Site
Aberdeen Country Park	Aberdeen P.H.A.B. Site	
Tai Tam Country Park	Tai Tam No. 2 Barbecue Site	
	Tai Tam Tuk No. 4 Barbecue Site	
Picnic Sites	Tsiu Hang Special Area	Lions Nature Education Centre
	Shing Mun Country Park	Shing Mun No. 6 Picnic Site
		Shing Mun No. 10 Picnic Site
Visitor Centres	Sai Kung West Country Park	Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre
	Clear Water Bay Country Park	Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre
	Tai Mo Shan Country Park	Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre
	Aberdeen Country Park	Aberdeen Tree Centre
	Tsiu Hang Special Area	Lions Nature Education Centre
	Hong Kong Wetland Park	Hong Kong Wetland Park Visitor Centre
	Other Areas Outside Country Park	Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre
Ngong Ping Nature Centre		
Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark Volcano Discovery Centre		
Toilets	47 toilets at various locations within Country Parks and Special Areas	Hong Kong Wetland Park Other locations of the toilets could be downloaded from our departmental website: <a href="http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_rec/cou_vis_dis.html">http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_rec/cou_vis_dis.html</a>

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB188****(Question Serial No. 5234)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding smuggling activities of ivory, please advise on:

- (a) the details of the detected cases of ivory smuggling, including the numbers of cases, the quantities of ivory, the value of items, the numbers of persons arrested, the numbers of persons convicted, the maximum and minimum penalties and the total amount of fines imposed over the past 3 years;
- (b) the weight of ivory destroyed, the estimated value and expenditures involved in each of the past 3 years; and
- (c) details of the work on strengthening the trade control of endangered species (in particular ivory) in 2017-18 as mentioned by the Government. Is there any change in the expenditure and manpower involved as compared with that of last year? If yes, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (Member Question No. 60)Reply:

- (a) Details of the detected ivory smuggling cases over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Number of cases	106	105	41
Quantity of ivory seized	2 200 kg and 35 pieces	1 600 kg	530 kg
Market value (\$ million)	21	15	5
Number of persons arrested	107	57	30
Number of persons convicted	65	30	25
Maximum penalty (Months of imprisonment)	8	6	8
Minimum penalty (Fine / \$)	10,000	30,000	2,000
Total fine (\$ million)	2.3	1.5	1.2

- (b) The quantity of confiscated ivory disposed of by incineration, the estimated value of the incinerated ivory and the relevant expenditure over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Quantity of confiscated ivory disposed of (tonne)	12	10	6
Estimated value (\$ million)	120	100	60
Expenditure (\$)	120,000	70,000	27,000

- (c) In 2017-18, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue to implement a series of enhancement measures to strengthen the regulatory control of ivory trade to curb smuggling and strengthen the control of the local trade in ivory. The measures include enhancing interdepartmental collaboration and stepping up joint operations and intelligence exchange with the Customs and Excise Department and overseas law enforcement agencies such as Interpol, deploying sniffer dogs to detect ivory at import and export control points to assist detecting and preventing smuggling of ivory, conducting a comprehensive check of all local ivory stocks, using tamper-proof holograms to mark ivory, using hi-tech radiocarbon dating analysis to determine the age and hence the legality of ivory, stepping up import and re-export control on pre-Convention ivory, as well as raising public awareness on the protection of elephants and relevant control. As compared with the revised estimate of the financial year 2016-17, the Government has earmarked an additional provision of \$1.7 million in the financial year 2017-18 for this area of enhancement work.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB189****(Question Serial No. 6144)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding the prosecutions against illegal trading of endangered species initiated by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department,

- (a) please set out the numbers of prosecutions related to illegal endangered species in each of the past 5 years;
- (b) please set out, by type of endangered species, the numbers of prosecutions initiated for illegal trading, total quantities with respect to prosecutions, the total market values and the corresponding penalties over the past 5 years in the table below.

Species	Number of prosecutions		Total quantity		Market value		Penalty	
	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kenneth (Member Question No. 3.16)Reply:

Numerous types of endangered species were involved in the enforcement actions taken to combat illegal trade in endangered species. The more commonly encountered species included leather products of reptiles, scale/carcass of pangolin, ivory, timber and orchid. The statistics on prosecutions involving illegal imports and exports over the past 5 years are set out below:

Calendar Year	Number of prosecutions		Total quantity		Market value		Range of Penalty	
	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export
2012	98	6	275 kg and 433 pieces	33 kg and 143 pieces	\$3.4 million	\$0.6 million	A fine of \$100 to imprisonment for 8 months	A fine of \$2,000 to imprisonment for 3 months
2013	135	2	653 kg and 546 pieces	18 pieces	\$4.9 million	\$3,600	A fine of \$100 to imprisonment for 4 months	A fine of \$2,500
2014	232	17	1 807 kg and 2 236 pieces	2 371 kg and 130 pieces	\$21.9 million	\$1.6 million	A fine of \$100 to imprisonment for 6 months	A fine of \$100 to imprisonment for 10 months
2015	148	7	9 856 kg and 629 pieces	17 kg and 2 451 pieces	\$71.3 million	\$0.8 million	A fine of \$100 to imprisonment for 3 months	A fine of \$100 to imprisonment for 6 months
2016	112	16	11 183 kg and 1 024 pieces	5 620 kg and 35 pieces	\$13.3 million	\$6.7 million	A fine of \$100 to imprisonment for 3 months	A fine of \$3,000 to imprisonment for 8 months

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB190**

**(Question Serial No. 5026)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18 include strengthening of trade control of endangered species (in particular ivory) and combating illegal trade and smuggling activities of endangered species. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The estimated manpower, establishment, expenditure on salaries and benefits, and departmental expenses involved in the said work this year.
- (b) Please set out in tabular form the expenditure involved in the said work over the past 5 years (2012-13 to 2016-17).

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 543)

Reply:

- (a) In 2017-18, 54 staff of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will be deployed for the control of trade in endangered species and combating their illegal trade and smuggling, comprising 5 professional officers, 42 technical officers and 7 clerical officers. The staff costs and departmental expenses involved are \$30.7 million and \$8.1 million respectively.
- (b) The expenditure on the protection of endangered species over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17 (revised estimate)</b>
Expenditure (\$ million)	25.5	29.0	31.0	34.3	38.8

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB191****(Question Serial No. 5039)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It has become a social consensus that the management of country parks and other natural resources should be strengthened. As such, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The estimated manpower, establishment, expenditure on salaries and benefits, and departmental expenses involved in management and protection of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve this year.
- (b) Please set out in tabular form the expenditure involved in the said work over the past 5 years (2012-13 to 2016-17).

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 558)

Reply:

- (a) In 2017-18, a provision of \$354 million (including \$109 million for departmental expenses and \$245 million for the staff costs of 829 staff) has been earmarked by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for the management and protection of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve.
- (b) The expenditure of AFCD on the management and protection of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Personal emoluments (\$ million)</b>	<b>Departmental expenses (\$ million)</b>	<b>Total (\$ million)</b>
2012-13	211	93	304
2013-14	219	97	316
2014-15	228	105	333
2015-16	230	107	337
2016-17 (revised estimate)	243	102	345

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB192**

**(Question Serial No. 4213)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Over the past 2 years, the Department has implemented a trial programme of Take Your Litter Home in country parks. What were the total numbers of country trails, family walks and nature trails in country parks involved, litter containers and recycle bins removed as well as the actual quantity of litter so reduced? What are the expected targets of the programme and the expenditure and manpower saved?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (Member Question No. 54)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is committed to keeping and promoting a clean environment in country parks. To step up the promotion efforts, we launched the "Take Your Litter Home" public education programme in September 2015 to encourage the public to take away their waste after their visits to country parks with a view to nurturing among them a sense of responsibility towards nature. In the pilot scheme covering 5 trial sites (i.e. the Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve, the Ma On Shan Country Trail, the Tai Lam Chung Country Trail, the Dragon's Back on Hong Kong Island and the Lantau Trail Section 3 on Lantau Island), AFCD removed a total of 40 litter containers and recycle bins and the amount of litter collected decreased by 72% to 93%.

In 2016, AFCD further removed a total of 256 litter containers and recycle bins from 13 family walks, 15 nature trails, 10 country trails, 4 long hiking trails and a number of other trails. We are monitoring these trails with a view to assessing the results. We will also continue our efforts in raising public awareness and take necessary measures to keep country parks clean. In the longer term, we expect the amount of litter collected in country parks will decrease. The programme aims at internalising the behaviour of country park visitors. As the amount of litter collected depends on a number of factors, we have not set any targets on the amount of litter collected or the expenditure and manpower saved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB193**

**(Question Serial No. 6524)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government has been carrying out reclamation and large-scale infrastructure projects in recent years. Recently, there have even been seawall collapse incidents. Please inform this Committee whether the marine parks and marine reserve have been affected by the construction projects. Please provide the information about the water quality of the marine parks and marine reserve, the specific protective measures and expenditure involved over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. 317)

Reply:

Regular water quality monitoring at various marine parks and marine reserve is conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and 21 physical, chemical and microbiological parameters including nutrients, 5-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand and E. coli have been measured and analysed. Over the past 3 years, the water quality has generally complied with the Water Quality Objectives of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), except for the total inorganic nitrogen (a parameter for measuring nutrients)<sup>(Note)</sup> at the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park. The monitoring data do not indicate that there is any impact from construction projects to the marine parks and marine reserve. Details of the water quality data over the past 3 years can be obtained from the following webpage:

[http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou\\_vis/cou\\_vis\\_mar/cou\\_vis\\_mar\\_mon/cou\\_vis\\_mar\\_mon\\_wat.html](http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_mar/cou_vis_mar_mon/cou_vis_mar_mon_wat.html)

Apart from monitoring the water quality, AFCD staff carry out daily patrols by sea and on land in various marine parks and marine reserve at irregular intervals, in order to monitor the ecological environment and the activities conducted in marine parks and marine reserve,



ensuring that all users of marine parks and marine reserve comply with the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476) and the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation (Cap. 476A). The expenditure involved in water quality monitoring, patrols and law enforcement in marine parks and marine reserve over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2014-15	2.08
2015-16	2.26
2016-17 (revised estimate)	2.56

Note: The water quality at the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park is influenced by water current. The discharge from the river in its periphery is rich in nutrients. As a result, the total inorganic nitrogen level is higher than that under the Water Quality Objectives of EPD.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB194****(Question Serial No. 6533)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Please advise this Committee on the numbers of cases of illegal trading of species covered by the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance detected by the Government over the past 3 years. What were the types, quantities and market values of the species involved in such cases? What were the numbers of persons convicted and the maximum and minimum penalties so imposed? Has there been an upward trend in the numbers of such cases in recent years?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. 409)Reply:

Numerous types of endangered species were involved in the enforcement actions taken to combat illegal trade in endangered species. The more commonly encountered species included leather products of reptiles, scale/carcass of pangolin, ivory, timber and orchid. The statistics on cases involving illegal imports and exports over the past 3 years are set out below. We do not observe an increasing trend in the number of such cases.

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016*</b>
Number of cases	461	395	309
Quantity of products	137 260 kg and 6 696 pieces	1 074 800 kg and 25 218 pieces	148 820 kg and 2 594 pieces
Market value (\$ million)	87	131	91
Number of convictions	222	153	126
Maximum penalty	Imprisonment for 10 months	Imprisonment for 6 months	Imprisonment for 8 months
Minimum penalty	A fine of \$100	A fine of \$100	A fine of \$100

\* Some cases are still under investigation.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB195**

**(Question Serial No. 3893)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the management of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves mentioned in this Programme, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) According to the departmental record, what was the number of hiking trails or country trails closed by private land owners due to disputes over the interface of various types of hiking trails or country trails with their private land last year? Please set out the trail sections and locations involved in such cases, as well as the suggested alternative routes for hikers.
- (b) Has any request been made to the land owners concerned for the reopening of the said sections? If yes, what are the details of the reopening? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) Has assistance been sought from other government departments, e.g. the Lands Department, the Department of Justice, etc. to see if the land owners' practice is legal or an encroachment on government land? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons? Has the Lands Department carried out any investigations into encroachments on government land?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 30)

Reply:

- (a) In 2016, there were 3 cases of blockage of footpath on private land within or adjacent to country parks resulting in temporary closure of hiking trails. The affected footpaths included Lantau Trail Section 7 near Yi O Village, Ping Chau Country Trail on Tung Ping Chau and the footpaths near Kuk Po/Fung Hang Villages.
- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has liaised with the land owners with a view to resolving the blockage. The footpaths near Kuk Po/Fung

Hang Villages were blocked by the villagers on 19 May 2016 and re-opened on 30 May 2016. We are maintaining close communication with the landowners and relevant parties to follow up the other 2 cases. In all 3 cases, alternative footpaths bypassing the affected sections have been provided for country park visitors. Relevant information on alternative routes has been posted on site as well as AFCD's website.

- (c) We will maintain communication with the relevant government departments and stakeholders having regard to the specific circumstances of each case in a bid to provide clarification and settle disputes as soon as possible.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB196**

**(Question Serial No. 3902)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the management of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves mentioned in this Programme, would the Government inform this Committee of the the numbers of applications and the numbers of approved cases regarding vehicles entering Sai Kung East and Sai Kung West Country Parks (Pak Tam Chung Barrier) each month, with a breakdown by ordinary vehicles and coaches over the past year.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 53)

Reply:

The number of vehicle permits issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Home Affairs Department for ordinary vehicles and coaches to enter the Pak Tam Chung barrier gate for visiting Sai Kung East and Sai Kung West Country Parks in 2016 is as follows:

Month	Number of vehicular permits issued	
	Ordinary vehicles	Coaches
January	2 349	242
February	2 215	199
March	2 450	236
April	2 430	196
May	2 566	208
June	3 046	196
July	3 665	319
August	3 179	262
September	2 832	141
October	3 022	246
November	2 942	309
December	3 110	273
Subtotal	33 806	2 827
Total	36 633	

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB197**

**(Question Serial No. 3903)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding matters on country park enclaves (enclaves), please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) In determining whether enclaves are regulated by means of statutory plans or inclusion into country parks, has the Country and Marine Parks Authority consulted the Country and Marine Parks Board for each enclave? Please provide the details of all the enclaves involved and of the meetings concerned since 2013 up to now.
- (b) What were the respective manpower and expenditure involved in processing, assessing and implementing the incorporation of enclaves into country parks in each of the past 3 years?
- (c) Please provide the information on the enclaves which are not covered by statutory plans or incorporated into country parks, but will be sorted out in 2017-18, including the locations, areas, and respective country parks involved, etc.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 56)

Reply:

- (a) The Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority) (i.e. the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation) assesses whether an enclave is suitable for incorporation into a country park based on a set of established principles and criteria agreed by the Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB) for designating new country parks or extending existing country parks, which include conservation value, landscape and aesthetic value, recreation potential, size, proximity to existing country parks, land status and land use compatibility of the area, as well as other relevant considerations. When suitable enclaves have been identified, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will consult CMPB and the relevant stakeholders on the incorporation proposals as appropriate, and then invoke the

relevant statutory procedures set out in the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) (the Ordinance) for the designation of country parks.

Since 2013, the Authority has consulted CMPB on 6 enclaves assessed to be suitable for incorporation into country parks, namely Sai Wan, Yuen Tun, Kam Shan, Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong, and the site near Nam Shan. Details of the relevant CMPB meetings are tabulated below:

<b>Dates of CMPB meetings</b>	<b>Purposes</b>
7-8 February 2013	To hear objections to the draft maps of the Sai Kung East Country Park, Kam Shan Country Park and Tai Lam Country Park.
23 May 2013	To report the assessment on enclaves at the Plover Cove Country Park.
24 February 2014	To seek members' views on the proposals to incorporate Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and the site near Nam Shan into the respective country parks.
13 June 2014 and 9 October 2014	To report the progress on the proposals to incorporate Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and the site near Nam Shan into the respective country parks.
2 June 2015	To update the findings of the ecological survey on the proposals to incorporate Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and the site near Nam Shan into the respective country parks.
30 October 2015	To update the progress of statutory procedures on the proposals to incorporate Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and the site near Nam Shan into the respective country parks.
22 March 2016	To seek members' views on the draft maps and the respective explanatory statements of the Plover Cove Country Park and Lantau South Country Park.
26 August 2016 and 6 December 2016	To update the progress of statutory procedures on the proposals to incorporate Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and the site near Nam Shan into the respective country parks.
13 February 2017	To hear an objection to the draft map of the Plover Cove Country Park.

- (b) The assessment on the suitability of enclaves for incorporation into country parks and the designation form part of the regular work of the staff of AFCD. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.
- (c) A total of 3 enclaves, namely Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and the site near Nam Shan, have been assessed to be suitable for incorporating into country parks based on the principles and criteria mentioned in item (a) above. AFCD has commenced the



statutory procedures in accordance with the Ordinance to incorporate these 3 enclaves into their respective country parks with a view to completing the designation process by 2017. The respective areas and the country parks into which the 3 enclaves will be incorporated are as follows:

<b>Enclaves</b>	<b>Country parks into which the enclave will be incorporated</b>	<b>Area (hectares)</b>
Fan Kei Tok	Plover Cove Country Park	4.6
Sai Lau Kong	Plover Cove Country Park	1.9
The site near Nam Shan	Lantau South Country Park	5.9

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB198****(Question Serial No. 3904)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding the enforcement of the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) and the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476), please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the numbers of prosecutions and convictions initiated under the said Ordinances over the past 3 years?
- (b) Will the Department conduct any review in 2017-18 to see if the penalties of the said Ordinances have sufficient deterrent effect for the purposes of nature conservation, recreation, nature based tourism and education?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 57)Reply:

- (a) The number of prosecutions and convicted cases under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) and Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation (Cap. 476A) over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Calendar Year	Cap. 208A		Cap. 476A	
	Number of prosecutions	Number of convicted cases	Number of prosecutions	Number of convicted cases
2014	838	822	33	33
2015	800	790	21	20
2016	757	601	27	20

- (b) The maximum penalty upon conviction under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) is a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for 1 year while that under the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation (Cap. 476A) is a fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment for 1 year. We consider that the level of penalty of the 2 regulations provides sufficient deterrent effect for protecting the country and marine parks for the purposes of nature conservation, recreation and education. The actual sentence of each convicted case is determined by the court having regard to the nature and severity of individual cases.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB199**

**(Question Serial No. 3905)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the enforcement of the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) and management of country parks, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How many complaints about unlawful occupation of country park land did the Government receive over the past 2 years? What follow-up actions were taken?
- (b) Section 16 of the Country Parks Ordinance provides that, in any case where the Authority is of the opinion that any use or proposed use of leased land within a country park substantially reduces the enjoyment and amenities of the country park as such, he may request the Land Authority to, by notice in writing, require discontinuance/modification of or prohibit the use. How many notices were issued in accordance with the Section, and what was the compliance information, over the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 58)

Reply:

- (a) Over the past 2 years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) received 11 complaint cases related to unlawful occupation of government land within country parks. In general, upon receipt of such complaints, AFCD will conduct follow-up investigations and initiate prosecutions under the legislation administered by it if there is sufficient evidence, and/or refer the cases to relevant departments for their actions. Depending on individual circumstances, AFCD may also erect warning notices, remove unauthorised items and reinstate the site as appropriate.
- (b) There has been no request made by the Country and Marine Parks Authority to the Lands Authority under Section 16 of the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) over the past 3 years.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB200****(Question Serial No. 3906)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

With regard to illegal structures and graves in country parks and marine parks, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the number of reports received on, and the numbers and distributions of illegal structures and graves found in country parks, marine parks and marine reserve respectively in each of the past 3 years?
- (b) What were the details of the enforcement actions taken by the Department against illegal structures and graves found over the past 3 years?
- (c) Is the problem of illegal structures and graves in country parks, marine parks and marine reserve showing any signs of deterioration? What measures will be taken by the Department in the coming 12 months to deal with illegal structures and graves? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 59)Reply:

- (a) Over the past 3 years, the number of cases of illegal structures and graves in country parks reported to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) or detected by the department is as follows:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of cases of illegal structures and graves</b>	<b>Country park involved</b>
2014	11	Kam Shan, Lantau, Ma On Shan, Pat Sin Leng and Sai Kung West

2015	9	Lantau, Ma On Shan, Plover Cove, Tai Lam, Tai Tam and Sai Kung West
2016	10	Kam Shan, Lantau, Ma On Shan, Pat Sin Leng, Tai Mo Shan, Sai Kung West, and Shek O

There was no such case in marine parks and marine reserve over the past 3 years.

- (b) Upon receipt of reports or detection of suspected cases of irregularities, AFCD will conduct follow-up investigations and initiate prosecutions under the legislation administered by it if there is sufficient evidence, and/or refer the cases to the relevant departments for their actions. Depending on individual circumstances, AFCD may also erect warning notices, remove the unauthorised items and reinstate the sites as appropriate.

Over the past 3 years, the number of prosecutions related to illegal structures and graves in country parks is as follows:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of prosecutions*</b>
2014	10
2015	4
2016	17

\*The number of prosecutions in each calendar year does not correspond with the number of cases given in part (a) as (i) some cases did not result in prosecutions due to insufficient evidence; (ii) there was a time lag between the detection of a case and the prosecution made; and (iii) there may be more than 1 offender in a case.

- (c) The number of cases of illegal structures and graves detected in country parks over the past 3 years remained at a similar level. AFCD conducts regular patrols in country parks to deter irregularities including the construction of illegal structures and graves. In 2017-18, we will continue our enforcement efforts and work closely with the relevant departments including the Lands Department, the Home Affairs Department and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in tackling cases of illegal structures and graves in country parks. As patrols and our actions against illegal structures and graves in country parks are part of AFCD's law enforcement duties, information on the resources specifically deployed for this area of work is not available. In 2017-18, the overall provision earmarked for AFCD to carry out law enforcement duties in country parks is \$51 million, involving 142 staff.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB201**

**(Question Serial No. 3907)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

With regard to monitoring illegal activities in country parks (e.g. illegal felling, unauthorised works in country parks), has the Department considered introducing new technologies, such as aerial photography devices, to facilitate enforcement and routine patrol? If yes, what was the expenditure involved in the relevant work in 2016-17? What is the relevant expenditure in the coming 12 months?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 60)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducts regular patrols in the countryside, including country parks and other areas of ecological interest, to detect and deter irregularities. The application of new technology such as aerial photography devices and remote electronic monitoring systems in the countryside is subject to environmental constraints. AFCD is conducting trials on the effectiveness of using surveillance CCTV and Infrared Sensor Camera Trap to deter illegal tree felling activities. Depending on the trial results, we may extend the trials to other country parks and countryside areas. We would also make use of aerial photos and satellite images from time to time, especially for identifying habitats and land use changes. As these activities form part of the nature conservation and country park management work of AFCD, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)028**

**(Question Serial No. 0765)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses  
Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services  
Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B) will come into effect this year. What are the expected manpower and expenditure involved? Has the Government set the target processing time for each application?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

The Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) (Amendment) Regulation 2016, has come into effect on 20 March 2017. A total of 30 staff and \$16.4 million has been earmarked for the implementation of the new regulatory regime in 2017-18.

For an application for an Animal Trader Licence, a Dog Breeder Licence or a permit for a licensed dog owner to sell his/her dog, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department aims to issue the licence / permit in 3 working days upon receipt of all the required supporting documents and information from the applicant and, where necessary, inspection of the premises concerned to ensure the facilities therein are in compliance with the required standards.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)029****(Question Serial No. 0766)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

The Government's current subvention for animal welfare organisations is \$500,000. Please provide in tabular form the number of successful applications for subvention, projects under application and amounts of subvention sought by animal welfare organisations, and the amounts of subvention that they have granted over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 2)Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been collaborating with animal welfare organisations (AWOs) to enhance animal welfare and promote better animal management. Recognising that most AWOs are non-profit making with limited resources, the Government has since 2011 been providing subvention to these AWOs in supporting their work as long as resources permit. From 2013-14 to 2015-16, a total of 23 applications have been received from 10 AWOs. The subventions sought by these AWOs have been partially funded. The details of projects under application as well as amounts of subvention applied for and given to different AWOs over the past 3 financial years are listed in the tables below:

(a) Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2013-14 and released in 2014-15)<sup>1</sup>

	<b>AWOs</b>	<b>Projects under Application</b>	<b>Amount Sought (\$)</b>	<b>Amount Released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To operate an animal adoption centre, and conduct animal rescue, education and publicity projects	190,000	84,339
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To conduct an adult dog rehome scheme	224,000	150,000



3	Lifelong Animal Protection (LAP)	To operate the LAP Centre, organise workshops and revamp the Centre's website	1,184,000	120,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce annual reports, purchase dietary supplement for rabbits and conduct publicity programmes	150,000	44,835
5	Hong Kong Rescue Puppies	To produce educational materials and purchase necessary medications and feeds for rescued animals	185,232	0*
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To operate the Sai Kung Animal Management Centre and carry out animal rehoming activities	223,000	35,000
7	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and Society for Abandoned Animals (SAA)	To continue their 2-year education programme on village dog management	Application for the 2-year programme was made in 2012-13	13,200 <sup>2</sup> (SPCA)
	Total		2,156,232	447,374

<sup>1</sup> AWOs may submit their application for subvention to AFCD during the period from 1 October to 30 November each year. After consideration by AFCD, approved funds will be issued in the next financial year on a reimbursement basis after acceptance of reports and presentation of proofs of expenditures incurred.

<sup>2</sup> AFCD approved a joint application from SPCA and SAA for a 2-year education programme on village dog management in 2012-13. Part of the funding amount was released in 2013-14. Upon receipt of claims from SPCA, AFCD released the remaining funding to them in 2014-15.

\*No claims for reimbursement from the AWO concerned have been received.

(b) Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2014-15 and released in 2015-16)

	<b>AWOs</b>	<b>Projects under Application</b>	<b>Amount Sought (\$)</b>	<b>Amount Released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To operate an adoption centre and conduct animal welfare projects	160,000	76,679
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To conduct an adult dog rehome scheme	224,000	150,000
3	LAP	To purchase medications and feeds for rehoming animals and conduct publicity and education programmes	1,808,000	120,000

4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To conduct education programmes and provide medical treatment for rabbits	135,000	48,181
5	Hong Kong Rescue Puppies	To produce a publicity booklet entitled “Responsible Pet Ownership” and conduct a rehome scheme	185,232	0*
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To conduct various animal management programmes	227,000	45,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To conduct education, publicity, rescue and adoption programmes	80,000	30,000
	<b>Total</b>		<b>2,819,232</b>	<b>469,860</b>

\* No claims for reimbursement from the AWO concerned have been received.

(c) Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2015-16 and released in 2016-17)

	<b>AWOs</b>	<b>Projects under Application</b>	<b>Amount Sought (\$)</b>	<b>Amount Released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To conduct adoption promotion programmes, produce educational materials and further improve the Foundation’s website	180,000	73,934
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To operate an adult dog rehome scheme	204,000	125,000
3	LAP	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming animals	1,571,000	100,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick or injured rabbits	129,000	41,620
5	Hong Kong Cats	To conduct adoption promotion programmes, produce educational materials and further improve the organisation’s website	54,000	16,365
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	235,000	45,000

7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	28,000
8	SAA	To conduct various education programmes	388,155	38,591
9	SPCA	To conduct an Animal Caring Ambassador Programme	200,000	44,854
	Total		3,041,155	513,364

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)030**

**(Question Serial No. 0767)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses  
Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services  
Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the installation of cattle grids on a trial basis in Sai Kung as discussed in the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council, the Government responded in May 2015 that its feasibility was under assessment. What is the result of the assessment and its progress (including the location of the trial site, construction cost and implementation timetable)?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

After conducting several site visits and discussing with local animal welfare organisations, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been exploring the feasibility of installing a cattle grid on a trial basis at the junction of Sai Wan Road and Man Yee Road in Sai Kung, with a view to confining the stray cattle to a certain area. AFCD has been liaising with the relevant departments such as the Highways Department and the Transport Department on the technical feasibility and implications to pedestrians and road users involved in installing a cattle grid at the subject location.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)031**

**(Question Serial No. 0768)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses  
Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services  
Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide in tabular form the following information about the 4 animal management centres over the past 3 years:

- (a) the animal accommodation capacities;
- (b) the numbers of animals kept each year;
- (c) the numbers of animals desexed;
- (d) the numbers of animals rehomed;
- (e) the numbers of animals euthanised;
- (f) manpower and the turnover rates;
- (g) the numbers of inspections;
- (h) the numbers of enforcement actions taken;
- (i) the numbers of prosecutions; and
- (j) the operating expenses.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 4)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department currently operates 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs) in the New Territories North (NTN), New Territories South (NTS), Kowloon (K) and Hong Kong Island (HK) respectively. The requested information is provided below:

(a) Maximum capacity of animal accommodation<sup>1</sup>

AMC	Maximum Capacity (Numbers)			
	Dog kennel	Cat kennel	Bird cage	Enclosure for other animals
AMC/HK	50	30	-	-
AMC/K	90	30	-	-
AMC/NTS	80	30	-	-
AMC/NTN	130	80	25	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>16</b>

<sup>1</sup> The holding capacity of the kennels depends on a number of factors, including if the animals are from the same litter or pack, the health status and behaviour of each animal. Despite the fact that the utilisation rate of the animal keeping facilities is constantly at a high level, one animal will be housed in each kennel as far as possible for the sake of better disease control and animal welfare.

(b) Number of animals kept over the past 3 years<sup>2</sup>

	2014			2015			2016		
	Dog	Cat	Others <sup>3</sup>	Dog	Cat	Others <sup>3</sup>	Dog	Cat	Others <sup>3</sup>
AMC/HK	637	306	76	524	263	35	412	201	109
AMC/K	1 326	583	206	842	507	53	688	322	85
AMC/NTS	949	358	30	689	233	87	614	187	25
AMC/NTN	3 037	799	1 662	2 019	558	4 854	1 551	343	1 891

<sup>2</sup> The duration of stay of the animals kept may range from 1 day to several months depending on individual case.

<sup>3</sup> Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs, poultry/birds, etc.

(c) Number of rehomed animals desexed over the past 3 years<sup>4</sup>

Calendar Year	Number of Rehomed Animals Desexed		
	Dog	Cat	Rabbit
2014	408	44	2
2015	419	85	6
2016 (Jan to Nov)	257	26	2

<sup>4</sup> AFCD has been engaging veterinary clinics through contract in providing desexing services for rehomed animals.

(d) Number of animals rehomed over the past 3 years

Calendar Year	Number of Animals Rehomed		
	Dog	Cat	Others <sup>5</sup>
2014	679	212	75
2015	651	168	83
2016	513	136	92

<sup>5</sup> Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), cattle, reptiles and birds etc.

(e) Number of animals euthanised over the past 3 years

Calendar Year	Number of Animals Euthanised		
	Dog	Cat	Others <sup>6</sup>
2014	3 868	1 039	1 594
2015	2 421	696	3 469
2016	1 814	449	748

<sup>6</sup> Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

(f) Staff establishment and turnover rate over the past 3 years

Financial Year	Total Number of Posts in the 4 AMCs <sup>7</sup>		Turnover Rate	
	Veterinary Officer	Technical / Frontline Staff	Veterinary Officer	Technical / Frontline Staff
2014-15	4	171	0%	2.9%
2015-16	4	175	0%	4.0%
2016-17	4	183	0%	4.9%

<sup>7</sup> The 4 AMCs are overseen by 1 Senior Veterinary Officer

(g) – (i) Number of inspections conducted on licensed animal trading, boarding, riding and temporary exhibition establishments, and number of successful prosecutions against owners/operators of these premises over the past 3 years

Calendar Year	Number of Inspections	Number of Successful Prosecutions	Highest Fine (\$)	Lowest Fine (\$)
2014	5 576	1	800	800
2015	5 749	10	500	450
2016	6 203	2	500	500

(j) Expenditure on the operation of the 4 AMCs over the past 3 years

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)			
	AMC/NTN	AMC/NTS	AMC/K	AMC/HK
2014-15	21.3	15.6	18.8	13.9
2015-16	22.1	15.8	19.8	14.2
2016-17 (revised estimate)	23.4	16.7	20.8	15.0

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)032****(Question Serial No. 0769)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

How many reported cases of animal cruelty were received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past 3 years? What were the numbers of investigations conducted, prosecutions instituted and convictions obtained under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance? What were the penalties imposed on the convicted persons? How many applications for review of cases under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance were lodged by the Department of Justice over the past 3 years on the grounds that the penalties imposed were too lenient? What were the results of these appeals?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 5)

Reply:

The numbers of suspected animal cruelty related complaint cases received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) over the past 3 years are as follows:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of suspected animal cruelty complaint cases</b>
2014	237
2015	236
2016 <sup>1</sup>	262

<sup>1</sup> The number covers the period January - September 2016 for those cases under the Police.

Most of them were found to be related to nuisance with no elements of cruelty. The total numbers of successful prosecutions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) initiated by AFCD and the Police, and the relevant penalties over 3 years are as follows:



Calendar Year	Number of Convicted Defendants	Penalties	
		Range of Fine (\$)	Range of Imprisonment
2014	24	2,000 to 20,000	6 days to 1 year and 4 months
2015	10	2,000	14 days to 2 months
2016 (January – September)	8	5,000	28 days to 2 months

Over the past 3 years, no applications have been lodged for review of cases on the grounds that the penalties imposed were too lenient.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)033**

**(Question Serial No. 0770)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In 2016, the Government caught 4 289 stray animals. Please provide in tabular form the types of animals caught, the ways of receiving and handling the stray animals, and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

Stray animals caught will be put in the Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for observation. For animals with a microchip implanted, the AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in the AMCs temporarily for about 10 to 20 days. For those without a microchip, the AMCs will keep them for at least 4 days in case they are indeed owned, allowing time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the animals being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary surgeon as having a gentle temperament and suitable for adoption, AFCD will arrange for their transfer to animal welfare organisations for adoption by members of the public. Only animals that remain unclaimed or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanised.

The number and species of stray animals caught, given up by owners, received through other channels by AFCD and the number of animals reclaimed by the owners, re-homed and euthanised in 2016 are tabled at the Annex.

In 2016-17, the revised estimates involved in the management of stray animals (including catching operations) and the handling of animals caught are \$29.4 million and \$3.5 million respectively.

**Annex**

Calendar Year	Stray Animals Caught			Animals Given Up by Owners			Animals Received through Other Channels			Animals Reclaimed			Animals Re-homed			Animals Euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2016	1 919	876	1 494	1 003	107	56	343	70	674	637	400	1	513	136	92	1 814	449	748

\* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)034****(Question Serial No. 0771)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

At present, what is the number of spot checks conducted by the Government on pet food available in the market? What is the existing regulation regarding the sale of pet food? How many complaints have been received? What are the actions taken by the Government?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 7)

Reply:

Currently there is no legislation specifically regulating the sale of pet food in Hong Kong. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not collect pet food samples from the market for testing.

Over the past 3 years, AFCD has received 9 complaints concerning pet food as indicated in the table below:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of complaints concerning pet food</b>
2014	1
2015	5
2016	3

Upon receipt of a complaint, AFCD would contact the complainant, the manufacturer / importer / distributor of the pet food concerned to help gather more information of the case, and may, depending on the nature of the case, advise the complainant on follow-up action.

Although there have been no major incidents concerning the safety of pet food in Hong Kong in recent years, in order to assess whether the safety of pet food is a concern and consider whether the present measures on pet food products need to be enhanced, AFCD will commission a study this year to survey and test pet food products available in the Hong Kong market.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)035**

**(Question Serial No. 0772)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under Section 22 of the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421) (the Ordinance), a keeper of any animal who abandons that animal without reasonable excuse is liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000 and to imprisonment for 6 months. Over the past 3 years, how many enforcement actions had been taken under the Ordinance by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and what were the penalties imposed?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

Under Section 22 of the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421) (the Ordinance), a keeper of any animal who abandons that animal without reasonable excuse is liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000 and to imprisonment for 6 months. In adducing evidence to substantiate a case under Section 22 of the Ordinance, it is difficult for the prosecution to prove beyond reasonable doubt that a person abandons an animal without reasonable excuse, particularly in those cases where there is no witness. To tackle cases involving dogs, the prosecution may press charges against the dog owners concerned for failing to take proper control of their dogs in public places pursuant to Section 23 of the Ordinance. The maximum penalty for contravening this provision is a fine of \$10,000.

Over the past 3 years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has conducted an average of 13 000 inspections each year in relation to cases involving improper control of dogs and biting dog cases. Information on the number of relevant convictions under the Ordinance over the past 3 years and the penalty imposed is given below:

Calendar Year	Prosecution against improper control of dogs	
	Number of convicted cases	Heaviest penalty imposed
2014	331	A fine of \$1,200
2015	246	A fine of \$2,000
2016	174	A fine of \$4,000

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)036****(Question Serial No. 0773)**

**Head:** (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

**Subhead (No. & title):** (000) Operational expenses

**Programme:** (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

**Controlling Officer:** Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

**Director of Bureau:** Secretary for Food and Health

**Question:**

What were the numbers of rabies vaccines procured annually and the number of vaccines provided for dogs by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past 3 years?

**Asked by:** Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 9 )

**Reply:**

The quantity of anti-rabies vaccine procured over the past 3 years by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is as follows:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Quantity of anti-rabies vaccine procured (shots)</b>
2014	80 000
2015	60 000
2016	80 000

The number of dogs vaccinated against rabies over the past 3 years is as follows:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of dogs vaccinated against rabies*</b>
2014	62 195
2015	65 537
2016	61 418

\* Under the Rabies Ordinance (Cap 421), a dog aged over 5 months is required to be licensed and vaccinated against rabies every 3 years. This number is based on the number of dog licences issued by AFCD in that particular year.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)037****(Question Serial No. 0774)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What is the number of dogs with valid dog licences in Hong Kong currently? What were the numbers of dog licences issued and renewed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in each of the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 10)

Reply:

As at 2 March 2017, there were 180 616 dog licences issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.

Information on the number of new dog licences issued and dog licences renewed over the past 3 years is given below:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of new dog licences issued</b>	<b>Number of dog licences renewed</b>
2014	19 633	42 562
2015	19 600	45 937
2016	19 632	41 786

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)038**

**(Question Serial No. 0775)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of dogs handed to other government disciplined services for training by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) each year and the current number of working dogs in total. How does AFCD arrange for the retirement of the working dogs?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 11)

Reply:

Over the past 3 years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has transferred a total of 3 dogs to disciplined services departments for training as working dogs.

AFCD currently has a total of 13 Quarantine Detector Dogs (QDDs) in the Quarantine Detector Dog Unit (QDDU). They help perform screening duties at various boundary entry points to assist in deterring smuggling of animals in order to protect Hong Kong from exotic animal diseases, to safeguard the public health and to protect endangered species.

Since the establishment of QDDU, only 1 QDD has retired, which has been adopted.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)039**

**(Question Serial No. 2680)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

This Committee endorsed the amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (the Ordinance) in 2006 and increased the maximum penalties for cruelty to animals to a fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment of 3 years. However, as the definition of cruelty to animals in the Ordinance is obsolete, coupled with the difficulty in investigation and giving evidence in general, the deterrent effect of the Ordinance is greatly reduced. The cases of animal cruelty are still not uncommon. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the reported cases involving animal cruelty, the numbers of prosecutions instituted, the numbers of convictions and the penalties for the persons convicted in each of the past 5 years? Please also set out the breakdown of cases which were imposed fines or immediate imprisonment by the amount of fine and term of imprisonment.
- (b) Since the implementation of the Ordinance, how many applications for review of cases have been lodged by the Department of Justice on the grounds that the penalties imposed were too lenient? Has the Government assessed whether the penalties imposed by the Court have sufficient deterrent effect? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) Will the Government make reference to relevant legislation of overseas countries and make major amendments to the Ordinance or enact new legislation in order to safeguard the animal rights?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pierre (Member Question No. 45)

Reply:

- (a) Both the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) are responsible for the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169). The number of suspected animal cruelty complaints received by AFCD and the Police over the past 5 years is as follows:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of suspected animal cruelty complaints cases</b>
2012	112
2013	242
2014	237
2015	236
2016	262

Details of successful prosecutions under the Ordinance initiated by AFCD and the Police over the past 5 years are as follows:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of Persons Convicted</b>	<b>Penalties Imposed</b>	
		<b>Range of Fine (\$)</b>	<b>Range of Imprisonment</b>
2012	18	1,000 to 5,000	6 weeks to 4 months
2013	15	500 to 2,000	14 days to 8 months
2014	24	2,000 to 20,000	6 days to 1 year and 4 months
2015	10	2,000	14 days to 2 months
2016 (January to September)	8	5,000	28 days to 2 months

- (b) & (c) Since the amendment of the penalty level under the Ordinance, no applications have been lodged for review of cases on the grounds that the penalties imposed were too lenient. We have compared the penalty level under the Ordinance with the relevant provisions of legislation of other countries / places. Having regard to the findings of the legislative provisions in other jurisdictions, the maximum penalty under the Ordinance is in fact heavier than most of them. We believe that the current penalty level is effective in deterring against acts of animal cruelty.

Nevertheless, AFCD regularly reviews the relevant legislation as and when necessary. For instance, to further enhance animal health and welfare, the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B) was amended in 2016. With the amendment, a new licensing regime regulating animal trading and breeding of dogs for sale recently came into effect on 20 March 2017.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)040****(Question Serial No. 0228)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under Programme (3), the Government will implement the new regulatory regime on the strengthened regulation of animal trading and dog breeding activities for enhancing animal welfare. Please advise on:

- (a) the numbers of Animal Trader Licence (ATL) issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the numbers of inspections and surprise checks conducted, the numbers of cases of animal traders contravening licensing requirements and any conditions attached to ATL found during the inspections and surprise checks, and the details of the penalties imposed, in each of the past 3 years (i.e. from 2014 to 2016);
- (b) the numbers and details of complaints against animal traders received by AFCD, and the numbers and details of those cases in which the animal traders concerned were penalised because the complaints against them had been found substantiated, in each of the past 3 years (i.e. from 2014 to 2016); and
- (c) the manpower and expenditure involved in supervising the relevant work in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

The number of Animal Trader Licence (ATLs) issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years is set out below:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of ATLs issued</b>
2014	443
2015	424
2016	418

The complaints against animal trading received by AFCD are mainly related to breaches of licensing conditions and suspected animal trading without a valid licence. The information on the number of complaints received, inspections conducted, warning letters issued, and successful prosecutions initiated against breaches of licensing conditions and trading animals without a valid licence, as well as the relevant penalties over the past 3 years are set out below.

Calendar Year	Number of complaints	Number of Routine Inspections and Surprise Checks	Number of warning letters issued	Successful prosecutions against breach of licensing conditions		Successful prosecutions against trading animals without a valid licence	
				Number	Range of Fine (\$)	Number	Range of Fine(\$)
2014	77	4 810	1	1	800	5	600 to 2 000
2015	149	4 999	5	10	450 to 500	7	1 000 to 2 000
2016	126	5 265	4	2	500	3	1 000 to 2 000

In 2017-18, AFCD will deploy 30 staff for the regulation of animal trading and dog breeding activities. A provision of \$16.4 million has been earmarked for this area of work.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)041**

**(Question Serial No. 2284)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on:

- (1) (a) with regard to catching community stray animals, (a-i) the number of the vehicles used and the relevant expenditure; (a-ii) the name(s) of weapon(s) used and the relevant expenditure; (a-iii) the staff costs involved; (a-iv) the numbers of prosecutions and the relevant expenditure, over the past 5 years; (b) with regard to temporarily keeping community stray animals, (b-i) the rental expenditure and (b-ii) the management staff costs involved over the past 5 years; and (c) with regard to euthanising community stray animals, (c-i) the staff costs and (c-ii) the name(s) of medication used and the relevant expenditure, over the past 5 years; and
- (2) the staff establishment and expenditure involved in facilitating the implementation of the trap-neuter-return trial programme for stray dogs over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. 28)

Reply:

- (1) (a-i) The Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) have a total of 23 vehicles for the management of stray animals, including catching operations. Since the vehicles used by the AMCs are for multi-purposes, AFCD does not have separate account of the number of and expenditure on vehicles used for catching of stray animals.
- (a-ii) The expenditure involved in the procurement and maintenance of equipment used to catch stray animals over the past 5 years is minimal and absorbed within the existing resources of AFCD. There is no breakdown of the expenditure. Equipment procured for this purpose includes nets, dog catching poles, cages and snares.

(a-iii) The staff expenditure on catching of stray animals over the past 5 years is as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2012-13	17.3
2013-14	18.9
2014-15	20.7
2015-16	21.5
2016-17 (revised estimate)	22.7

(a-iv) Under the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421) and the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A), it is an offence if a person fails to keep his dog under control in public places, or to get his dog over 5 months old to get licensed / vaccinated / microchipped respectively. The number of successful prosecutions against the above offences over the past 5 years is as follows:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of successful prosecutions</b>
2012	1 002
2013	807
2014	880
2015	712
2016	480

AFCD does not have breakdown of the number or expenditure of prosecutions with regard only to stray animals.

(b) Stray animals caught by AFCD will be temporarily kept at the AMCs. No rental expenditure is involved. The staff expenditure involved in handling stray animals at the AMCs (excluding staff expenditure for euthanasia of animals) over the past 5 years is as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2012-13	1.4
2013-14	1.4
2014-15	1.5
2015-16	1.5
2016-17 (revised estimate)	1.5

(c-i) The staff expenditure involved in euthanasia of animals over the past 5 years is as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2012-13	1.0
2013-14	1.1
2014-15	1.0
2015-16	1.0
2016-17 (revised estimate)	0.7

(c-ii) The drugs used for euthanising animals are Ketamine, Xylazine and Pentobarbital Sodium. The average expenditure on the procurement of these drugs over the past 5 years is around \$0.13 million per year.

(2) The 3-year trap-neuter-return (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs commenced in early 2015. The expenditure and manpower involved in the TNR trial programme in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 are as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of AFCD Staff)</b>
2015-16	1.3	2
2016-17 (revised estimate)	1.5	2
2017-18 (estimate)	1.5	2

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)042**

**(Question Serial No. 1395)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the trawl ban in Hong Kong waters, please advise on the following:

- (a) What was the progress of enforcement against “illegal trawling” and its effectiveness over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (b) What were the expenditure and manpower involved in enforcement against “illegal trawling” over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (c) What were the number of patrol launches, patrol areas and number of patrols conducted against “illegal trawling” over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 4)

Reply:

- (a) Since the implementation of the trawl ban in Hong Kong waters with effect from 31 December 2012, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been combating illegal fishing activities (including trawling) through regular and targeted patrols in the waters of Hong Kong, collection of intelligence from various sources, and joint operations with the Hong Kong Police Force from time to time. The numbers of successful prosecution against illegal trawling in 2014, 2015 and 2016 are 11, 3 and 2 respectively.
- (b) The expenditure and manpower involved in the enforcement against illegal fishing activities (including trawling) over the past 3 years are:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of staff)</b>
2014-15	12.6	18
2015-16	12.9	18
2016-17 (revised estimate)	13.7	18

- (c) From 2014 to 2016, AFCD deployed 3 vessels to patrol the waters of Hong Kong against illegal fishing activities (including trawling), focusing on areas in which intelligence suggested the occurrence of such illegal activities from time to time. The numbers of patrol conducted by AFCD in 2014, 2015 and 2016 are about 1 400, 1 440, and 1 540 respectively.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)043**

**(Question Serial No. 1396)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the wholesaling of fish, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the annual total and daily average wholesale quantities, as well as the highest and lowest figures thereof for different kinds of marine fish (including Golden thread, Horse-heads, Yellow croakers, Big-eyes, Scads, Breams, Hair-tails, Mackerels, Croakers, Filefish, etc.) and freshwater fish (including Grass carp, Big head, Mud carp, etc.) over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (b) What were the monthly average, the highest and lowest prices for different kinds of marine fish (including Golden thread, Horse-heads, Yellow croakers, Big-eyes, Scads, Breams, Hair-tails, Mackerels, Croakers, Filefish, etc.) and freshwater fish (including Grass carp, Big head, Mud carp, etc.) over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 5)

Reply:

- (a) Information on the quantity of freshwater fish traded through the government wholesale food markets over the past 3 years is shown below. We do not have breakdown on the figures for different kinds of freshwater fish.

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Total quantity (tonnes)</b>	<b>Daily average quantity (tonnes)</b>	<b>Highest daily quantity (tonnes)</b>	<b>Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)</b>
<b>2014</b>	53 406	146	209	60
<b>2015</b>	55 473	152	215	12
<b>2016</b>	47 362	129	221	33

Information on the wholesale quantity of marine fish traded over the past 3 years (2014 to 2016) is shown in Annex A.

- (b) Information on the monthly value of freshwater fish traded through the government wholesale food markets over the past 3 years is shown below. We do not have breakdown on the figures for different kinds of freshwater fish.

Calendar Year	Monthly average wholesale value (\$/tonne)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	24,414 <sup>^</sup>	24,947	25,155	26,175	26,307	26,735	26,740	26,988	26,713	27,064 <sup>*</sup>	26,355	26,464
2015	26,065	25,621 <sup>^</sup>	26,310	26,484	26,645	26,638	27,039	27,363	27,811	28,243 <sup>*</sup>	27,674	27,433
2016	26,740	27,070	26,651	26,615 <sup>^</sup>	26,768	26,835	27,389	27,133	27,364	27,601 <sup>*</sup>	27,238	27,146

\*Highest monthly average value in the respective calendar year

<sup>^</sup> Lowest monthly average value in the respective calendar year

Information on the monthly average wholesale price of marine fish over the past 3 years (2014 to 2016) is shown in Annex B.

- End -

## Wholesale quantity of marine fish over the past 3 years (2014 to 2016)

Calendar Year	Fish	Total quantity (tonnes)	Daily average quantity (tonnes)	Highest daily quantity (tonnes)	Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)
2014	Golden thread (紅衫)	3 003.8	8.2	11.8	5.5
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	2 663.7	7.3	9.8	5.4
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	1 922.6	5.3	5.8	4.0
	Big-eyes (木棉)	2 975.6	8.2	9.8	5.3
	Scads (池魚)	1 457.4	4.0	6.0	2.4
	Breams (立魚)	1 998.8	5.5	6.3	3.6
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	1 585.2	4.3	5.7	3.3
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	1 454.3	4.0	5.5	3.1
	Croakers (或魚)	741.0	2.0	2.5	1.4
	2015	Golden thread (紅衫)	2 836.5	7.8	8.9
Horse-heads (馬頭)		2 506.2	6.9	7.9	5.1
Yellow croakers (黃花)		2 126.0	5.8	6.4	3.9
Big-eyes (木棉)		2 647.9	7.3	8.4	5.0
Scads (池魚)		1 442.1	4.0	5.5	1.9
Breams (立魚)		2 223.7	6.1	6.6	4.6
Hair-tails (牙帶)		1 508.6	4.1	5.1	2.4
Mackerels (鮫魚)		1 457.3	4.0	5.2	2.5
Croakers (或魚)		750.9	2.1	2.8	0.8
2016		Golden thread (紅衫)	3 127.3	8.5	10.8
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	2 874.0	7.9	10.3	4.8
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	1 708.4	4.7	5.5	3.9
	Big-eyes (木棉)	2 680.8	7.3	9.0	4.6
	Scads (池魚)	1 578.1	4.3	5.7	2.4
	Breams (立魚)	1 855.9	5.1	5.7	3.4
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	1 567.0	4.3	5.1	2.4
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	1 566.5	4.3	4.7	2.5
	Croakers (或魚)	820.6	2.2	3.1	1.4

● Data on Filefish (沙魷) are not readily available.

## Monthly average wholesale price of marine fish over the past 3 years (2014 to 2016)

Calendar Year	Fish	Monthly average wholesale price (\$/kg)											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	Golden thread (紅衫)	57.47	59.96	54.47	48.97 <sup>^</sup>	49.83	54.39	56.29	52.56	49.76	51.01	54.46	63.26*
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	47.26	48.80*	41.32	39.43	38.72 <sup>^</sup>	41.24	42.78	42.44	42.09	41.47	43.34	48.64
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	77.71	76.30	83.84*	80.79	75.87	71.13	71.38	70.15	63.21 <sup>^</sup>	66.80	78.03	78.40
	Big-eyes (木棉)	56.45	57.90	56.26	54.14	57.21	58.15	59.25	52.56	47.26 <sup>^</sup>	53.74	58.89	60.50*
	Scads (池魚)	17.87	20.23	17.80	17.94	17.83	20.92*	20.36	16.81	14.09 <sup>^</sup>	14.74	16.31	18.96
	Breams (立魚)	63.28	73.25	73.80	74.43	77.22*	75.99	75.67	65.32	59.78 <sup>^</sup>	69.81	69.87	72.22
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	35.43 <sup>^</sup>	41.77	38.76	38.67	38.91	44.71	45.95*	42.98	39.77	38.49	37.53	36.57
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	59.46	65.81*	60.47	61.04	59.20	59.66	61.18	55.02	51.09 <sup>^</sup>	57.20	58.71	61.72
	Croakers (或魚)	22.13	24.57*	20.12	19.61 <sup>^</sup>	22.64	23.28	23.31	23.46	22.99	21.83	22.86	22.77
2015	Golden thread (紅衫)	68.91*	55.67	61.01	52.82	49.42 <sup>^</sup>	61.11	62.70	59.96	55.48	59.72	66.52	63.77
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	50.41	45.68	50.73*	44.97	41.88 <sup>^</sup>	45.09	45.14	43.19	45.15	43.39	46.55	50.02
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	81.43	89.04	75.68	80.27	92.50*	77.71	76.69	71.35 <sup>^</sup>	79.00	79.56	89.14	86.95
	Big-eyes (木棉)	69.01	64.53	71.15*	62.16	60.05	63.96	66.45	64.62	58.52 <sup>^</sup>	59.93	64.65	65.67
	Scads (池魚)	18.56	19.11	19.72	17.17	16.83	22.32	23.50*	17.28	15.53 <sup>^</sup>	17.44	16.93	18.88
	Breams (立魚)	73.87	68.59	72.20	67.97	69.46	76.23	78.65*	69.70	64.46 <sup>^</sup>	72.15	74.51	72.91
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	36.87	37.10	38.55	36.80	36.62 <sup>^</sup>	45.21	47.21*	42.96	40.19	41.76	40.70	41.19
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	62.73	63.10	65.44	61.69	58.30 <sup>^</sup>	66.12	70.13*	63.95	59.54	64.92	65.27	63.03
	Croakers (或魚)	22.44	22.59	24.35*	20.77	21.55	24.02	23.25	22.26	21.04	20.03 <sup>^</sup>	20.43	22.07
2016	Golden thread (紅衫)	67.67	67.73	66.43	64.59	72.24	81.22*	79.09	72.71	57.45	54.83 <sup>^</sup>	63.29	63.21
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	54.23	52.97	54.14	54.49*	52.57	52.78	50.60	48.50	41.78 <sup>^</sup>	46.85	45.15	44.64
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	84.95	74.44 <sup>^</sup>	104.37*	89.73	86.64	81.07	79.93	81.73	85.83	81.32	89.08	98.36
	Big-eyes (木棉)	69.72 <sup>^</sup>	70.55	71.59	74.23	78.19	85.83	85.96*	80.88	73.92	74.05	75.21	79.87
	Scads (池魚)	20.07	20.52	19.89	19.04	20.77	23.54	25.05*	20.28	18.27 <sup>^</sup>	19.06	18.48	20.12
	Breams (立魚)	76.80	78.85	79.87	78.89	82.31	91.64	93.54*	80.42	66.77 <sup>^</sup>	69.96	74.59	81.35
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	41.64 <sup>^</sup>	43.47	42.77	42.76	44.97	50.92	53.45*	48.78	45.94	47.02	43.94	45.17
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	65.21 <sup>^</sup>	67.56	67.34	68.56	72.55	75.84	76.08*	73.26	73.66	66.10	70.86	69.48
	Croakers (或魚)	23.84	24.57	23.60	22.53 <sup>^</sup>	24.58	29.09	29.10	29.73*	25.69	23.12	23.13	24.02

- Data on Filefish (沙魷) are not readily available.
- \* Highest monthly average wholesale price in the respective calendar year.
- ^ Lowest monthly average wholesale price in the respective calendar year.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)044****(Question Serial No. 1397)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the wholesaling of vegetables, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the annual total and daily average wholesale quantities, as well as the highest and lowest figures thereof for different kinds of vegetables (including flowering cabbage, water cress, white cabbage, broccoli, Chinese lettuce, green cabbage, chrysanthemum garland, tomato, Chinese kale, pea shoot, European celery, potato and spinach, etc.) over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (b) What were the monthly average, the highest and lowest value for different kinds of vegetables (including flowering cabbage, water cress, white cabbage, broccoli, Chinese lettuce, green cabbage, chrysanthemum garland, tomato, Chinese kale, pea shoot, European celery, potato and spinach, etc.) over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 6)Reply:

- (a) In respect of vegetables transacted through the government wholesale markets, the information sought is given below. We do not have the breakdown on the figures for different kinds of vegetables.

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Total quantity (tonnes)</b>	<b>Daily average quantity (tonnes)</b>	<b>Highest daily quantity (tonnes)</b>	<b>Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)</b>
<b>2014</b>	256 171	702	871	76
<b>2015</b>	246 710	676	927	106
<b>2016</b>	238 163	651	808	103

- (b) The monthly average value, the highest and the lowest monthly average value for vegetables transacted through the government wholesale food markets over the past 3 years are shown below. We do not have the breakdown on the figures for different kinds of vegetables.

Calendar year	Monthly average wholesale value (\$/tonne)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	11,200	11,882	11,818	12,699*	11,292	12,109	11,567	9,462^	9,617	9,812	10,072	9,623
2015	9,999	9,858	10,111*	9,281	8,989	9,567	8,955^	9,319	9,538	9,604	9,004	9,322
2016	7,560^	10,985*	9,967	10,057	8,791	8,259	8,209	8,555	8,713	7,985	8,840	8,025

\* Highest monthly value

^ Lowest monthly value

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)045****(Question Serial No. 1398)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the wholesaling of eggs, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the annual total and daily average wholesale quantities, as well as the highest and lowest figures thereof for different kinds of eggs (including Brown-shelled egg (medium) from the Mainland, Grade II brown-shelled egg from Germany (360/box), Brown-shelled egg (medium) from the USA, etc.) over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (b) What were the monthly average, the highest and lowest prices for different kinds of eggs (including Brown-shelled egg (medium) from the Mainland, Grade II brown-shelled egg from Germany (360/box), Brown-shelled egg (medium) from the USA, etc.) over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 7)Reply:

- (a) The volume of hen eggs transacted through the government wholesale food markets over the past 3 years is tabulated below. We do not have the breakdown in terms of the types of eggs and the places of origin.

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Total quantity (tonnes)</b>	<b>Daily average quantity (tonnes)</b>	<b>Highest daily quantity (tonnes)</b>	<b>Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)</b>
<b>2014</b>	63 758	175	368	10
<b>2015</b>	63 501	174	359	8
<b>2016</b>	65 842	180	392	6

(b) The monthly average price, the highest and the lowest monthly average price for brown-shelled medium eggs from Mainland and USA transacted through the government wholesale food markets over the past 3 years are tabulated below. We do not have similar figures for brown-shelled medium eggs or other types of hen eggs from other places of origin.

Calendar year	Monthly average wholesale price (\$/tonne) for Brown-shelled Medium Egg (Mainland)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	16,852	16,621	16,471 <sup>^</sup>	16,640	17,426	16,807	17,323	18,123	18,280*	17,987	17,860	17,826
2015	17,845*	17,214	16,484	16,207	15,665	15,773	15,471	16,994	17,473	16,787	14,093	13,981 <sup>^</sup>
2016	14,097	15,738*	15,052	15,320	14,658	13,520	12,794	12,316 <sup>^</sup>	14,267	13,252	13,707	13,877

Calendar year	Monthly average wholesale price (\$/tonne) for Brown-shelled Medium Egg (USA)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	15,981	15,743 <sup>^</sup>	16,019	16,140	16,561	16,080	16,471	16,684	16,887	17,200*	17,000	16,961
2015	16,232	15,929 <sup>^</sup>	16,548	16,540	16,613	16,767	16,265	16,458	17,553*	16,323	16,967	17,013
2016	16,742	17,400	17,419*	17,047	15,561	14,433	13,400	13,077	13,960	12,755 <sup>^</sup>	13,053	13,439

\* Highest monthly average wholesale price

<sup>^</sup> Lowest monthly average wholesale price

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)046****(Question Serial No. 1407)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding aquaculture environment, please advise on the following:

- (a) The expenditure and manpower of the Government for monitoring water quality and red tides respectively over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17).
- (b) Please set out in tabular form the numbers of red tides occurred in Hong Kong over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17), with a breakdown by district.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 16)Reply:

- (a) Information on the expenditure and manpower of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department involved in monitoring water quality and red tides over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of staff)</b>
2014-15	8.1	10
2015-16	8.5	10
2016-17 (revised estimate)	8.4	10

- (b) The numbers of red tide observed in different districts over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

District	Number of red tides observed		
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
North	4	3	4
Tai Po	8	3	4
Sha Tin	1	0	0
Sai Kung	9	6	6
Southern	5	1	4
Islands	6	3	2
Tuen Mun	3	1	1
Kwun Tong	0	0	1

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)047**

**(Question Serial No. 1408)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme and the Special Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme of the Vegetable Marketing Organization, please provide the following information over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17):

- (a) What was the administrative and technical support provided for the schemes?
- (b) What were the details of the expenditure and manpower involved?
- (c) What were the expenditure and manpower involved in handling applications for the schemes?
- (d) What were the respective numbers of applications and the area of land involved (hectare)?
- (e) What were the respective numbers of successful and unsuccessful cases? What was the area of farmland (hectare) successfully rented?
- (f) How long did the processing of an application take on average (from receipt of an application to notification of the result)?
- (g) What were the numbers of landowners participating in the said schemes?
- (h) How much was the annual rental for the successful cases?
- (i) What were the accumulative numbers of applicants and the area of land involved (hectare) on the waiting list?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 17)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) operates the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (ALRS) through bringing owners of farmland and interested farmers together to work out a rental agreement for leasing out the farmland. The manpower and expenditure involved in operating ALRS and the relevant statistics on the cases handled over the past 3 calendar years are tabulated below:

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Number of staff	1	1	1
Expenditure (\$ million)	0.9	0.9	0.9
Number of landowners participating in ALRS	13	23	28
Number of new applications / land area involved (hectare)	44 / 8.9	45 / 8.0	65 / 8.3
Number of successful cases	12	41	29
- Total land area involved (hectare)	2.6	5.4	4.0
- Range of annual rental (per dau chung ^)	\$300 to \$7,000	\$800 to \$10,400	\$1,400 to \$32,100
- Average waiting time (year)	5	5	4
Number of withdrawn applications	12	19	45
Number of applications on the waiting list as at year-end / land area involved (hectare)	278 / 72.6	287 / 70.6	300 / 67.6

^ 1 dau chung is equivalent to 7 260 square feet.

The Special Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (SALRS) is a separate scheme proposed by the Government in relation to a number of land development projects. Under SALRS, the Government would proactively identify suitable government land and liaise with private landowners who are willing to lease or sell their land suitable for agricultural re-site / rehabilitation, with a view to matching the land / landowners with farmers affected by relevant development projects. Details of SALRS will be announced by the Government in due course.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)048**

**(Question Serial No. 1409)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the wholesale of live chickens, please advise on:

- (a) the monthly total quantities and daily average quantities of imported and local live chickens, as well as the largest and the smallest daily wholesale quantities over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (b) the monthly average prices, as well as the highest and the lowest monthly prices of imported and local live chickens over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (c) the monthly total quantities and daily average quantities of imported minor poultry, as well as the largest and the smallest daily wholesale quantities over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (d) the monthly average prices, as well as the highest and the lowest monthly prices of imported minor poultry over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (e) the monthly total quantities and daily average quantities of imported day-old chicks, as well as the largest and the smallest daily wholesale quantities over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (f) the percentage of live chickens, minor poultry and day-old chicks imported from various places over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (g) the total expenditure on handling matters on import of live chickens, day-old chicks and minor poultry (e.g. quarantine management, wholesale markets, etc.), the average expenditure on each chicken, as well as the manpower involved in 2016-17 and the estimated expenditure in 2017-18;
- (h) the import flow of live chickens, day-old chicks and minor poultry.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 18)

Reply:

- (a) The quantity of imported and local live chickens traded through the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market (CSWTWPM) over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar Year	Live Chicken	Quantity	Daily Average Quantity	Highest Daily Quantity	Lowest Daily Quantity
2014	Imported	912 300 <sup>@</sup>	2 499	10 200	1 500
	Local	4 000 899	10 961	36 675 <sup>~</sup>	4 100
2015	Imported	61 300 <sup>#</sup>	168	2 900	1 400
	Local	4 055 016	11 110	47 912 <sup>*</sup>	1 500 <sup>**</sup>
2016	Imported	32 000 <sup>&amp;</sup>	87	2 000	2 000
	Local	4 041 960	11 043	48 475 <sup>*</sup>	300 <sup>^</sup>

<sup>@</sup> There was no import of live chickens from 28 January to 5 September 2014.

<sup>~</sup> Winter Solstice (21 December 2014)

<sup>#</sup> Import of live chickens from the Mainland was suspended as from 31 December 2014 due to the temporary closure of the CSWTWPM after the detection of a H7 avian influenza positive consignment of imported live poultry. Trading of live poultry at CSWTWPM resumed on 22 January 2015. There was no import of live poultry until 10 February 2015 and the import quantity has since been significantly reduced compared to the average in the past.

<sup>\*</sup> Chinese New Year Eve (18 February 2015 & 7 February 2016)

<sup>\*\*</sup> First Day of Chinese New Year (19 February 2015)

<sup>&</sup> There was no import of live chickens from the Mainland since 17 February 2016.

<sup>^</sup> Third Day of Chinese New Year (10 February 2016)

The monthly quantity of imported and local live chickens over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar Year	Live Chicken	Monthly Quantity											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	Imported	170 500	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	183 300	190 000	162 700 <sup>^</sup>	205 800 <sup>*</sup>
	Local	274 892	213 319 <sup>^</sup>	492 596 <sup>*</sup>	278 630	314 759	333 630	334 861	347 416	359 864	310 931	351 590	388 411
2015	Imported	0 <sup>#</sup>	9 100	3 800	1 600 <sup>^</sup>	4 600	4 500	4 500	4 600	2 000	14 000 <sup>*</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	12 600
	Local	213 588 <sup>^</sup>	477 914 <sup>*</sup>	300 499	258 176	311 638	302 603	333 812	355 418	399 170	343 366	363 073	395 759
2016	Imported	20 000 <sup>*</sup>	12 000 <sup>^</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>
	Local	344 191	406 393 <sup>*</sup>	348 978	342 916	369 978	311 710	312 465	311 558	327 883	284 585 <sup>^</sup>	311 900	369 403

<sup>\*</sup> Highest monthly quantity

<sup>^</sup> Lowest monthly quantity

<sup>#</sup> There was no import of live chickens



- (b) The wholesale price of imported and local live chickens recorded in CSWTWPM over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar Year	Live Chicken	Monthly Average Wholesale Price (\$/kg)												
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2014	Imported	23.83 <sup>^</sup>	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	38.04	33.31	32.32	41.40 <sup>*</sup>
	Local	24.01 <sup>^</sup>	33.65	38.31	63.16	66.02 <sup>*</sup>	51.69	42.06	51.10	46.07	35.06	33.90	44.46	
2015	Imported	#	79.58	74.42	74.30	74.16	81.97 <sup>*</sup>	81.40	72.34	66.00	62.37 <sup>^</sup>	#	75.73	
	Local	48.07	57.60	72.76 <sup>*</sup>	68.41	71.12	70.45	63.13	51.46	47.19	41.98	40.20 <sup>^</sup>	69.58	
2016	Imported	68.97 <sup>^</sup>	82.67 <sup>*</sup>	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	
	Local	68.33	77.23 <sup>*</sup>	69.93	55.10	44.71	42.87 <sup>^</sup>	44.38	57.17	71.65	74.38	67.81	57.41	

\* Highest monthly average price in the respective calendar year

<sup>^</sup> Lowest monthly average price in the respective calendar year

# There was no import of live chickens.

- (c) The quantity of imported minor poultry over the past 3 years is shown below:

Calendar Year	Quantity	Daily Average Quantity	Highest Daily Quantity	Lowest Daily Quantity
2014	327 056	896	5 755	510
2015	465 305	1 275	3 930	840
2016	590 598	1 614	5 600	750

The monthly quantity of imported minor poultry over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar Year	Monthly Quantity											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	69 160	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	35 365 <sup>^</sup>	73 533	77 823 <sup>*</sup>	71 175
2015	0 <sup>#</sup>	19 650 <sup>^</sup>	39 020	43 650	47 675	44 065	38 125	44 185	44 540	45 425	47 830	51 140 <sup>*</sup>
2016	51 150	36 979	45 130	48 910	58 172	8 790 <sup>^</sup>	42 160	53 230	53 630	61 942	73 765 <sup>*</sup>	56 740

\* Highest monthly quantity

<sup>^</sup> Lowest monthly quantity

# There was no import of live minor poultry.

- (d) The average price of imported minor poultry over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar Year	Monthly Average Wholesale Price (\$/kg)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	70.3	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	68.2 <sup>^</sup>	77.6	78.6 <sup>*</sup>	77.4

<b>2015</b>	#	70.5	70.9	70.6	70.4	70.3 <sup>^</sup>	71.3	70.6	70.8	71.3	71.4 <sup>*</sup>	71.2
<b>2016</b>	71.5	70.9 <sup>^</sup>	72.6	72.3	76.4	77.9	77.8	74.5	76.0	77.6	79.2 <sup>*</sup>	76.1

\* Highest monthly average price in the respective calendar year

<sup>^</sup> Lowest monthly average price in the respective calendar year

# There was no import of minor poultry.

(e) The quantity of day-old chicks imported over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Daily Average Quantity</b>	<b>Highest Daily Quantity</b>	<b>Lowest Daily Quantity</b>
<b>2014</b>	1 598 380	4 379	29 500	2 000
<b>2015</b>	1 600 330	4 384	40 960	3 500
<b>2016</b>	1 763 710	4 819	39 600	1 250

The monthly quantity of imported day-old chicks over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Monthly Quantity</b>											
	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
<b>2014</b>	72 500 <sup>^</sup>	92 800	118 820	149 020	145 420	141 600	138 100	148 040	145 040	148 000	151 020 <sup>*</sup>	148 020
<b>2015</b>	26 960 <sup>^</sup>	39 960	42 460	71 440	123 960	204 400 <sup>*</sup>	172 720	179 040	176 840	179 060	188 940	194 550
<b>2016</b>	178 430	185 720	225 460 <sup>*</sup>	184 460	182 520	30 700 <sup>^</sup>	0 <sup>#</sup>	44 540	155 760	217 560	172 400	186 160

\* Highest monthly quantity

<sup>^</sup> Lowest monthly quantity

# There was no import of day-old chicks.

(f) The percentage of supply of live chickens, minor poultry and day-old chicks imported from various places over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Percentage of chickens imported from</b>			<b>Percentage of minor poultry imported from</b>		<b>Percentage of day-old chicks imported from</b>	
	<b>Guangdong</b>	<b>Shenzhen</b>	<b>Hainan</b>	<b>Guangdong</b>	<b>Zhuhai</b>	<b>Guangdong</b>	<b>Zhuhai</b>
<b>2014</b>	92	5	3	58	42	83	17
<b>2015</b>	0	0	100	30	70	55	45
<b>2016</b>	0	0	100	42	58	70	30

(g) The revised estimate for the expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) incurred on CSWTWPM in 2016-17 in this area of work is \$16.9 million and the manpower involved is 18 staff. The resources earmarked for 2017-18 are at a similar level as for 2016-17.

A total of 22 AFCD staff are deployed at the boundary control point for inspection of imported animals, including day-old chicks. The expenditure involved in the inspection of day-old chicks is absorbed within AFCD's surveillance on avian

influenza (AI).

The manpower of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) involved in inspection of imported live food animals is 42 staff. FEHD's revised estimate in 2016-17 and the provision earmarked for 2017-18 for surveillance of AI are \$8.5 million and \$9.0 million respectively.

- (h) All live food poultry, including chickens and minor poultry, and day-old chicks from the Mainland must be supplied by registered poultry farms or day-old chicks producing farms. Imported live food poultry are quarantined and tested for AI before exporting to Hong Kong. Each consignment of live food poultry must be accompanied by an official health certificate and is subject to inspection and AI testing at the Man Kam To Animal Inspection Station upon arrival. The transportation truck would be sealed before going to CSWTWPM, where the poultry consignment awaits the laboratory results. Only the consignments with satisfactory inspection and test results will be released for sale. Regarding day-old chicks, each consignment must also be accompanied by an official health certificate and is subject to inspection at the Man Kam To Animal Inspection Station upon arrival. The transportation truck would then be sealed before delivery to local chicken farms.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)049**

**(Question Serial No. 1418)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the New Agriculture Policy, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the total expenditure and manpower involved in the establishment of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund, the Agricultural Park and the Agricultural Priority Areas over the past 2 years (2015-16 to 2016-17)?
- (b) What is the total number of applications for the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and the Farm Improvement Scheme thereof received so far?
- (c) What is the progress of the work on the Agricultural Park and the Agricultural Priority Areas?
- (d) What were the details, expenditure and manpower involved in promoting the sustainable development of agriculture (e.g. the development of eco-tourism, leisure agricultural industries, agricultural industries employing innovative technology and other sustainable agriculture, etc.) over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (e) What are the details, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in planning and promoting the sustainable development of agriculture in 2017-18?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 52)

Reply:

- (a), (d) & (e) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) promotes the sustainable development of local agriculture through measures such as (i) developing new farming techniques to raise productivity; (ii) introducing new and improved crop varieties for local cultivation; (iii) promoting leisure

farming and organic farming; (iv) assisting in setting up farmers' markets to help farmers reaching out to customers and organising the annual FarmFest to showcase local agricultural and fishery production; (v) administering three funds to provide loans to farmers as development and/or working capital; (vi) implementing the supportive measures under the New Agriculture Policy (NAP), including administering the \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF), preparing for the establishment of the Agricultural Park (Agri-Park) and commissioning a consultancy study to explore the feasibility of designating Agricultural Priority Areas (APA). The breakdown of manpower and expenditure in promoting sustainable development is tabulated as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of AFCD staff)</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
<b>2014-15</b>	74	31.5
<b>2015-16</b>	74	33.4
<b>2016-17 (revised estimate)</b>	89	43.3

In 2017-18, AFCD will continue with its current work in promoting the sustainable development of local agriculture. 96 staff and \$48.7 million have been earmarked for this area of work.

- (b) As at 1 March 2017, AFCD has received 2 applications under SADF to fund projects that may benefit the local agricultural community as a whole. The applications are being processed. In addition, a total of 54 applications seeking financial assistance for individual farms to acquire farming equipment and/or materials from the Farm Improvement Scheme under SADF have been received. 6 applications have been approved, involving a total funding of \$180,000.
- (c) For the establishment of the Agri-Park, the engineering feasibility study of the Agri-Park has been completed. The consultancy study to undertake the investigation work of the potential site and detailed design of the Agri-Park has recently been commissioned.

The Government will commission a consultancy study later this year to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land as APAs, and explore how to formulate suitable policies and measures to provide incentives to encourage owners to put fallow agricultural land into long-term agricultural use.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)050**

**(Question Serial No. 1419)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding hydroponic farming, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the expenditure and manpower involved in the “Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre” (C.E.H.R&D Centre) established at the Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Vegetable Market over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (b) What are the production area, crop varieties, production quantity, production value, and the number of sales outlets of the C.E.H.R&D Centre?
- (c) What are the Government’s current policies for facilitating the development of the local hydroponic farming industry? What are the expenditure and manpower involved in facilitating the development of the hydroponic farming industry?
- (d) What are the production value, production quantity, and the numbers of hydroponic farms and retail outlets of the local hydroponic farming industry?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 53)

Reply:

- (a) The “Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre” (C.E.H.R&D Centre) was established in 2013 and is fully funded by the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) for demonstrating the technology and equipment for hydroponic production. The expenditure and manpower involved over the past 3 years, according to VMO, are tabulated below:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of VMO staff)</b>
2014-15	2.1	5
2015-16	1.7	5
2016-17 (revised estimate)	1.5	5

- (b) The C.E.H.R&D Centre has a total area of about 500 square metres, half of which is used for production with the rest for research and development. There are 5 varieties of baby salad green being produced, i.e. Mizuna, Oak Leaf Lettuce, Red Asian Mustard, Chinese Flat Cabbage and Rocket. About 12 kg of vegetables are produced daily at a wholesale value of about \$200 per kg and sold through 10 retail outlets.
- (c) The Government encourages the adoption of modern farming practices as well as the development of new agricultural technology and related knowledge transfer. Hydroponics is one such example. The Government is reviewing the operational requirements of hydroponics and other farming practices using new technologies, with a view to providing clear guidelines for the application of such technologies in industrial buildings/zones. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to provide technical advice and support to investors who are interested in setting up hydroponic systems as an alternative option for agricultural production. The manpower and expenditure involved are an integral part of AFCD's overall programme to support local agriculture and there is no separate breakdown.
- (d) Currently, there are 24 hydroponic farms producing annually over 810 tonnes of vegetables with an estimated value of \$70 million. We do not have information on the number of retail outlets involved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)051****(Question Serial No. 1436)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the Mainland Fishermen Deckhands Scheme (the Scheme) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the expenditure and manpower involved in processing the applications under the Scheme over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (b) What were the numbers of applications for and deckhands involved in different types of fishing vessels (including pair trawlers, stern trawlers, shrimp trawlers, hang trawlers, purse seiners with light, purse seiners, liners and gillnetters, fish carriers, and other fishing vessels) over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (c) What were the numbers of cases of contravening the relevant legislation and codes of the Scheme, and the heaviest penalties imposed, over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 70)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure and manpower involved in processing the applications under the Mainland Fishermen Deckhands Scheme (the Scheme) over the past 3 years are as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of Staff)</b>
2014-15	1.4	3
2015-16	1.1	3
2016-17 (revised estimate)	1.2	3



(b) The information on the numbers of applications and deckhands involved by types of fishing vessels over the past 3 years is as follows:

		Pair trawler	Stern trawler	Shrimp trawler	Hang trawler	Purse seiner with light and purse seiner	Liner and Gill netter	Fish carrier	Other fishing vessel	Total
<b>2014-15</b>	Number of applications	88	49	70	18	42	68	299	47	681
	Number of deckhands involved	442	198	308	102	292	406	1 973	277	3 998

<b>2015-16</b>	Number of applications	54	56	63	24	46	79	307	53	682
	Number of deckhands involved	285	227	286	136	329	511	1 964	308	4 046

<b>2016-17</b>	Number of applications	59	45	50	18	54	71	228	37	562
	Number of deckhands involved	310	180	228	101	385	431	1 468	209	3 312

(c) The numbers of contravening cases in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are 15, 20 and 17 respectively. The heaviest penalties imposed include cancellation of quota approved for all deckhands for the subject vessel, and prohibition of the concerned applicant from applying under the Scheme for 2 years.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)052**

**(Question Serial No. 1441)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the surveys on fisheries resources, please advise on:

- (a) the staff deployed and the expenditure involved over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17) and the time frame for the surveys;
- (b) the manpower and the expenditure involved in employing external local trawlers to conduct the surveys over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17) and the time frame of the work;
- (c) the area of the waters involved in, the numbers of and the mechanism put in place for the surveys (please show with a map);
- (d) the ways that the Department used to inform the fishing vessels operating in relevant waters;
- (e) any mechanism for monitoring the performance of external staff;
- (f) the effectiveness of the measures as proposed by the Department before to avoid bumping against the other fishing gear installed in the sea while carrying out the surveys and any complaints received upon the implementation of the measures.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 75)

Reply:

- (a) To monitor the fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been conducting surveys since 2010. The expenditure and manpower involved in conducting the surveys over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of AFCD Staff)</b>
2014-15	7.8	3
2015-16	6.8	3
2016-17 (revised estimate)	6.7	3

Most of the surveys have been completed in 2016-17. The surveys on fish fry and eggs are expected to be completed in 2017-18. Further details are set out in Part (c) below.

- (b) Part of the surveys mentioned in (a) above are conducted with chartered trawlers. The expenditure and manpower involved in these surveys over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

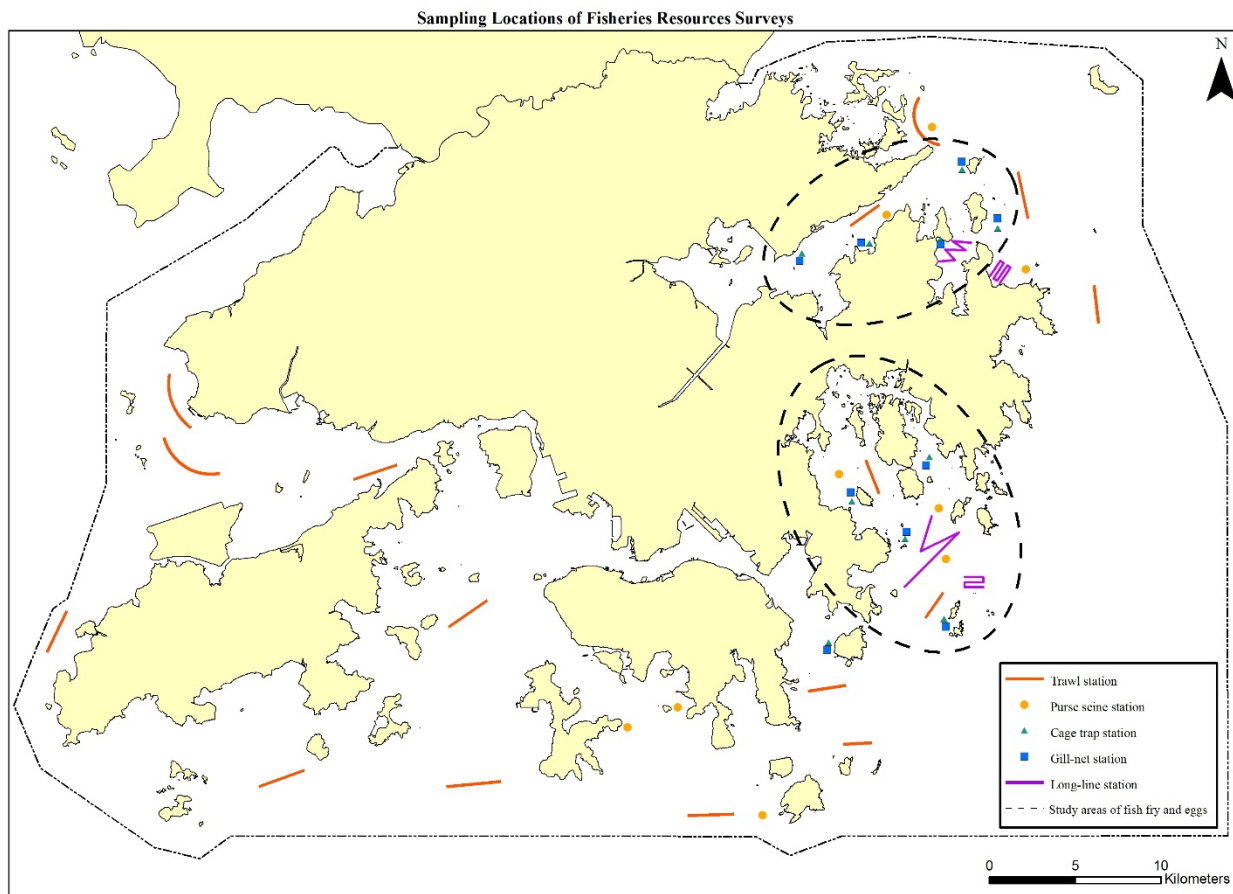
<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of AFCD Staff)</b>
2014-15	2.1	1
2015-16	2.0	1
2016-17 (revised estimate)	1.8	1

- (c) The surveys mentioned in Part (a) above include:
- (i) the territory-wide trawling surveys collected samples at 16 stations in the waters of Hong Kong by local trawlers chartered by AFCD to monitor fisheries resources at the sea bottom on a monthly basis;
  - (ii) the purse-seine surveys collected samples at 9 stations to monitor fisheries resources at the middle to upper layer of the water column in eastern waters every 3 months;
  - (iii) the surveys by other fishing methods such as cage-trapping, long-lining and gill-netting were conducted to analyse the diversity of fisheries resources at specific fisheries habitats every two months; and
  - (iv) the surveys on fish fry and eggs are conducted in wet, dry and peak seasons. The sampling stations are scattered around the Tolo Channel, Long Harbour and Port Shelter which are the spawning and nursery grounds.

A map indicating the sampling stations is at the Annex.

- (d) AFCD informs relevant fishermen associations of the sampling locations and frequency of the surveys by letters each year. Furthermore, AFCD informs the fishermen associations in the respective districts of a planned survey by telephone about 2 to 3 days before the survey.
- (e) Apart from the work of collecting scientific information on the fisheries samples, staff of AFCD monitors the performance of the contractor by going on board during surveys to ensure that the terms of contract are complied with.

- (f) In addition to notifications to the relevant fishermen associations mentioned in (d) above, AFCD has hired a pilot boat to assist in the trawling surveys. The pilot boat would navigate the trawler along the survey path to avoid any fishing gear already deployed in the waters by fishermen. So far the measures employed by AFCD have been effective, and AFCD has not received any complaint about the surveys.



- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)053**

**(Question Serial No. 3205)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

On the regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry, please inform:

- (a) the details, respective expenditure and manpower involved in the Government's regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (b) the details, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the Government's regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry in 2017-18;
- (c) the total amount and quantities of local and imported flowers over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (d) the measures that the Government currently takes to promote the local flower cultivation industry, as well as the expenditure and manpower so involved;
- (e) the measures that the Government takes to mitigate the insufficiency of wholesale space. Given the insufficiency of wholesale space, the industry has repeatedly requested the Government to consider setting up a wholesale local flower market near the Flower Market or at other locations so as to provide sufficient space for wholesale flower activities and create new feature attractions.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 26)

Reply:

- (a), (b) and (d) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides support services to all crop farmers including florists. The services provided include technical support in respect of cultivation techniques, control of plant pests and diseases and soil analysis, as well as the lending

of farm machinery and provision of loans. The resources deployed for these services over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of AFCD staff)</b>
<b>2014-15</b>	5.9	13
<b>2015-16</b>	6.0	13
<b>2016-17 (revised estimate)</b>	8.0	13

The manpower and expenditure involved in providing support services to the flower cultivation industry and promotion of the industry is an integral part of the above provision and there is no separate breakdown.

In 2017-18, AFCD will continue to provide the above-mentioned services to crop farmers including florists with a similar level of resources as in 2016-17.

- (c) The total amount of local production and net import of flowers over the past 3 years is tabulated below. We do not have the data in quantities for local production and import.

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Value of Local Production (\$ million)</b>	<b>Value of Net Import (\$ million)</b>
<b>2014</b>	140	349
<b>2015</b>	147	379
<b>2016</b>	154	244

- (e) Flower wholesaling activities are commercial in nature. We do not normally seek to intervene in commercial activities. That said, if the flower trade would like to pursue projects that could benefit the trade as a whole in enhancing marketing of flowers, they may consider seeking funding support from the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)054**

**(Question Serial No. 1440)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the local fishing operation, please advise on the following:

- (a) What are the existing waters available for fishing with the use of fishing vessels in Hong Kong? Please indicate them on a map.
- (b) Please indicate on a map the waters where the following projects locate in:
  - (i) the marine parks and the core areas;
  - (ii) the prohibited fishing areas;
  - (iii) the marine fairways; and
  - (iv) the reclamation projects proposed or under construction.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 74)

Reply:

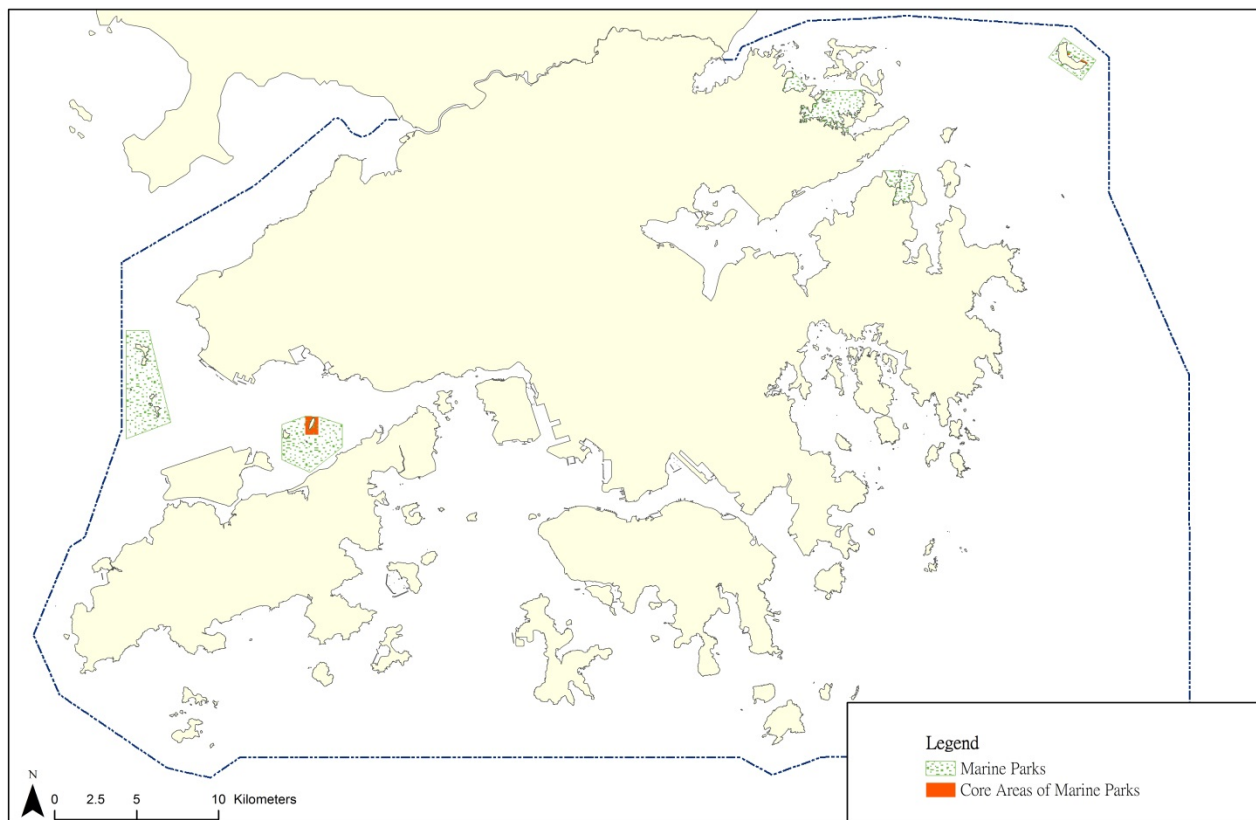
- (a) Hong Kong waters are generally available for fishing with the use of fishing vessels, except in certain areas such as the core areas of marine parks, marine reserve, fish culture zones, principal fairways, public bathing beaches and reclamation projects. These areas are under the purview of a number of different departments such as the Marine Department for principal fairways, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for public bathing beaches, various works departments for reclamation projects, and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for marine parks, marine reserve and fish culture zones. AFCD does not have comprehensive and precise technical information on areas under the administration of different departments.



- (b) Marine parks and the core areas of marine parks are shown on the map at the Annex. There is no definition on “prohibited fishing areas”. AFCD does not have comprehensive information on the boundary of the marine fairways and reclamation projects proposed or under construction which are respectively under the purview of the Marine Department and concerned works departments.

- End -

A map of Hong Kong waters showing the marine parks and the core areas of marine parks



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)055****(Question Serial No. 1432)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the fish rafts in Hong Kong, please advise on:

- (a) the respective numbers of fish rafts in various homeports of Hong Kong over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (b) the manpower and the expenditure involved in conducting inspections at each homeport over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17) and the time frame for the inspections.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 66)Reply:

- (a) The numbers of licensed fish rafts in various fish culture zones over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

<b>Fish culture zone</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17 (up to end-February 2017)</b>
Ap Chau	4	4	4
Cheung Sha Wan	62	62	62
Kai Lung Wan	43	42	41
Kat O	34	34	34
Kau Lau Wan	20	20	20
Kau Sai	73	73	66
Leung Shuen Wan	70	70	70
Lo Fu Wat	33	33	33
Lo Tik Wan	72	72	70
Ma Nam Wat	44	42	41

Ma Wan	96	96	96
O Pui Tong	40	45	9
Po Toi	6	6	6
Po Toi O	45	45	38
Sai Lau Kong	4	4	2
Sha Tau Kok	109	109	108
Sham Wan	173	172	173
Sok Kwu Wan	145	145	145
Tai Tau Chau	108	105	105
Tap Mun	106	104	81
Tiu Cham Wan	5	5	5
Tung Lung Chau	58	58	58
Wong Wan	11	17	15
Yim Tin Tsai	267	261	257
Yim Tin Tsai East	191	189	194
Yung Shue Au	270	272	276
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 089</b>	<b>2 085</b>	<b>2 009</b>

- (b) To ensure the operation of fish rafts are in compliance of the Marine Fish Culture Ordinance (Cap. 353), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department conducts regular patrol and inspection of the 26 fish culture zones. The total expenditure and manpower involved in the inspection work over the past 3 years are tabulated below. There is no breakdown by individual fish culture zone.

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of staff)</b>
2014-15	7.0	17
2015-16	8.0	17
2016-17 (revised estimate)	7.9	18

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)056**

**(Question Serial No. 3257)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding epidemic prevention for the livestock keeping industry, please advise on the following:

- (a) The latest progress of the epidemic prevention work, and the work plan, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in 2017-18.
- (b) The types of pig and bird vaccines introduced into the local industry and the expenditure involved respectively over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17).
- (c) The total expenditure involved respectively in vaccinating pigs and birds over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17). What were the respective average costs? What were the respective numbers of pigs and birds vaccinated?
- (d) Regarding the outbreaks of epidemic diseases in livestock at different levels of the local supply chain, what were the numbers, locations (e.g. markets, wholesale markets or farms), and virus(es) concerned respectively over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (e) It is noted that the Government is exploring the feasibility of introducing an additional vaccination in local chicken farms against the emergence of new challenge posed by H7N9 AI virus. What are the relevant details?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 27)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) makes continued efforts to prevent and control the outbreak of animal and zoonotic diseases in local chicken and pig farms through (i) conducting regular inspections of local farms to

ensure that the farmers comply with the biosecurity, farm hygiene and other related requirements, including proper vaccination of poultry against avian influenza (AI), and taking enforcement action against non-compliant cases; (ii) providing technical advice and assistance to farmers on proper farm management, prevention and control of animal diseases; and (iii) organising education seminars on farm management and disease prevention for local farmers and their workers. The estimated expenditure and manpower earmarked for this area of work in 2017-18 are \$30 million and 46 staff respectively.

- (b) In 2016, the bivalent Re-6+Re-8 H5 AI vaccine was introduced into Hong Kong for use in local chicken farms. AFCD provided technical assistance in the process. There is no breakdown in expenditure for AFCD's technical assistance provided.
- (c) Apart from the mandatory AI vaccination programme for chickens in local farms, pig or chicken farmers may decide whether any other vaccines should be used for better protection of their farm animals against any particular disease. Commonly used vaccines include those against porcine circovirus, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome, etc. in pigs, and those against New Castle Disease, Infectious Tracheitis and Gumboro Disease, etc. in poultry. All the vaccines used in local farms are purchased by farmers at their own cost. AFCD does not have information on the total expenditure and the average costs involved in vaccinating pigs and poultry.
- (d) Over the past 3 years, there were 3 cases of detection of H7N9 AI virus, including 2 in samples collected from imported live poultry from the Mainland in January and December 2014, and 1 in an environmental sample collected from a live poultry market stall in June 2016.

During the same period, there were 2 FMD cases in local pig farms in April and September 2015 respectively.

- (e) AFCD is closely monitoring the developments of H7 AI virus, including the prevailing AI risk in the region, and exploring the feasibility of introducing vaccination in local chicken farms against the risk posed by H7N9 AI virus.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)057**

**(Question Serial No. 1947)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the provision of technical advice on organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production to assist farmers to capture high-value market niches,

- (a) what is the number of existing farmers engaging in organic cultivation or intensive greenhouse production in Hong Kong? Please set out the numbers with a breakdown by the types of crops that they produce.
- (b) among the organic crops currently sold in Hong Kong, what are the respective percentages of locally produced crops and imported crops? What are the 10 countries importing the largest amounts of organic crops to Hong Kong? Please set out the figures in percentage terms.
- (c) how would the Government assist local farmers to capture high-value market niches? What are the related details? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon HO Kai-ming (Member Question No. 5)

Reply:

- (a) As at February 2017, 299 farms in Hong Kong with a total area of 108 hectares have joined the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's (AFCD) Organic Farming Support Service (OFSS). At the same time, there are 26 farms with an area of around 3.2 hectares practicing intensive greenhouse production. AFCD does not have separate breakdown on the farm number by crop type.
- (b) The production of local organic vegetables under OFSS is about 6 tonnes per day, which is around 0.3% of total vegetable consumption in Hong Kong. AFCD does not have the import data of organic vegetables from different countries.

- (c) The Government has all along been supporting the development of local agriculture. AFCD will continue to provide support services to assist local farmers to develop high-value market niches, such as (i) providing technical assistance in enhancing the safety and quality of local produce; (ii) developing new farming techniques to raise productivity; (iii) introducing new and improved crop varieties for local cultivation; (iv) supporting the organic certification of local farms; (v) collaborating with the Vegetable Marketing Organization and the Federation of Vegetable Marketing Cooperative Societies on exploring new marketing channels and building the brand of local produce; and (vi) assisting in setting up farmers' markets to help farmers to reach out to customers and organising large-scale carnivals, such as the annual FarmFest, to showcase local agricultural production. Also, a \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund has been set up under the New Agriculture Policy, to support projects that may benefit the local agricultural community as a whole, including projects that would help farmers move up the value chain. A provision of \$24.7 million has been earmarked for the above work in 2017-18.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)058**

**(Question Serial No. 2917)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In recent years, the fisheries industry has faced many challenges (e.g. fishing moratoriums, prohibition of fish capture activities, reclamation, establishment of marine parks and other relevant measures), which have affected the livelihood of fishermen and reduced the space for fisheries development. Although the current-term Government has allocated \$500 million to set up the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund that benefits the fishermen, other problems such as young people's reluctance to join the industry, etc. have not yet been solved. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Will the Government allocate resources for promoting the local fisheries industry to the general public in order to enhance their understanding of the industry? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (b) In view of the succession problem of the local fisheries industry, what specific measures does the Government have in place to encourage young people to join the industry? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) The Mainland authority announced in early 2017 that the fishing moratorium in the South China Sea will be extended by 1 month (i.e. from the current duration of 2.5 months to 3.5 months). This measure will have great impact on the local fishermen. Will the Government offer additional assistance (e.g. subsidy for fishing moratoriums) to the fishermen? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (Member Question No. 29)

Reply:

- (a) To promote the local fisheries industry to the general public, the Government helps support the marketing of local fisheries products through the running of 7 fish wholesale markets and the weekly fishermen bazaar in Sai Kung under the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO), and organising the annual FarmFest event which showcases a wide variety of local fisheries products to over 200,000 visitors. In addition, the Fisheries Education Centre and the Fisheries Hall of the Lions Nature Education Centre aims to enable the general public to understand the local fisheries industry through exhibits and educational materials on Hong Kong's marine resources and the fisheries industry.

Moreover, the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) has provided funding support to 2 fisheries-related ecotourism projects and an organic aquaculture and accreditation project which will help promote to the general public the traditional fisheries culture and local organic aquaculture.

- (b) AFCD has been providing free training courses and seminars to fishermen and those interested in joining the industry. These courses and seminars aim to enhance their technical skills and promote the sustainable development of the fisheries industry. Moreover, those who wish to join the marine fisheries or marine fish marketing industry in Hong Kong, or study relevant subjects, may apply for financial assistance under FMO's Marine Fish Scholarship Fund (Tertiary Education Award).
- (c) To help fishermen affected by the fishing moratorium in the South China Sea, a special low-interest loan has been provided under the FMO Loan Fund for them to tide over the period and resume operations after the fishing moratorium. During the moratorium period, AFCD will also continue to provide fishermen with vocational training courses to equip them with the knowledge on the recent development of the fisheries-related industry, and to help upgrade their qualifications and skills in operation.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)059****(Question Serial No. 1613)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the inspections of premises and establishments where animals are kept for exhibition or trading purposes, please set out the actual and estimated number of inspections carried out in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively and the staff establishment involved.

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Member Question No. 9)Reply:

The number of inspections of animal trading premises and animal exhibition establishments carried out by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the manpower involved in the regulation of animal trading and exhibition (including inspection of such premises/establishments) in 2015 and 2016 are as follows:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of Inspections</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of Staff)</b>
2015	5 488	22
2016	5 694	30

In 2017, it is estimated that the number of inspections of animal trading (including breeding dogs for sale) premises and animal exhibition establishments will be increased to 6 100. It is mainly due to increase in inspections arising from the launching of a new licensing regime to tighten the regulation of dog trading and breeding activities after the commencement of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) (Amendment) Regulation 2016 with effect from 20 March 2017. Under the new regime, AFCD will inspect dog trading/breeding premises during the processing of licence applications and after the issue of licence to ensure compliance of licence conditions and code of practice. With the provision of additional resources for the implementation of the new regime, a total

of 33 staff will be deployed for the regulation of animal trading (including breeding dogs for sale) and exhibition in 2017.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)060**

**(Question Serial No. 1615)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) With regard to implementing the new regulatory regime on the strengthened regulation of animal trading and dog breeding activities, what is the estimated number of inspections to be conducted in 2017 at premises of Dog Breeder Licence (Category A) holders? What is the manpower involved?
- (b) Regarding the Trap-Neuter-Return programme, what are the actual, revised and estimated expenditures involved in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18? What is the staff establishment involved?

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Member Question No. 11)

Reply:

- (a) For Dog Breeder Licence (Category A), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will conduct at least 1 inspection a year to the premises of each licence holder. Depending on the conditions of the premises, number of dogs kept at the premises, and the track records of the licensees' compliance with the relevant licensing conditions and code of practice, AFCD may conduct additional inspections. In 2017-18, AFCD will deploy 30 staff for the regulation of animal trading and dog breeding activities.
- (b) The expenditure and manpower involved in the Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme for stray dogs in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 are as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of AFCD Staff)</b>
2015-16	1.3	2
2016-17 (revised estimate)	1.5	2
2017-18 (estimate)	1.4	2

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)061**

**(Question Serial No. 1639)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the issue of pet food, did the Government conduct any testing on pet food over the past 3 years? If yes, what were the numbers of tests conducted, the numbers of samples which were found to be unsatisfactory, and the testing items? If not, what were the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Member Question No. 35)

Reply:

Currently there is no legislation specifically regulating the sale of pet food in Hong Kong. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not collect pet food samples from the market for testing. Although there have been no major incidents concerning the safety of pet food in Hong Kong in recent years, in order to assess whether the safety of pet food is a concern and consider whether the present measures on pet food products need to be enhanced, AFCD will commission a study this year to survey and test pet food products available in the Hong Kong market.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)062****(Question Serial No. 1641)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the registration of co-operative societies, please provide the number of co-operative societies in each year, the numbers of applications for registration, the numbers of successful registrations, the average processing time of successful registrations, and the average number of the members of co-operative societies over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Member Question No. 37)

Reply:

The requested information over the past 3 years is as follows:

	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
Number of Co-operative Societies (as at the end of the period)	186	181	176
Average number of members of a co-operative society (as at the end of the period)	59	60	61
Number of new application for registration	0	0	1
Number of successful application	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	The application is being processed.
Average time (days) for registration	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)063****(Question Serial No. 1253)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the enforcement of regulations pertaining to animal welfare, please advise on the following:

- (a) Please list the numbers of cats, dogs and other animals received by the Animal Management Centre (AMC) by sources of animals over the past 3 years in the table below:

Year	Caught	Handed to AMC by the owner	Seized during inspection/enforcement action	Other sources

- (b) What were the numbers of prosecutions regarding abandoned animals over the past 3 years?
- (c) According to the reply of the question (FHB(FE)061) in the 2016-17 Budget, why were the numbers of prosecutions regarding abandoned animals close to zero over the past years?
- (d) What are the manpower and expenditure involved in handling stray cattle in 2017-18?
- (e) What is the progress of sterilising cattle with the use of a contraceptive drug?
- (f) Will the Government implement any new programme or measure regarding handling of stray cattle in 2017-18?
- (g) What is the progress of the "trap-neuter-return" trial programme for stray dogs implemented in Yuen Long and the Island District?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

- (a) Information on the numbers of animals that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) received over the past 3 years, broken down by source, is provided in the table below:

Cats

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Stray cats caught</b>	<b>Cats given up by owners</b>	<b>Cats seized during inspection/enforcement action</b>	<b>Cats received through other channels</b>
2014	1 836	132	4	74
2015	1 359	129	2	71
2016	876	107	3	67

Dogs

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Stray dogs caught</b>	<b>Dogs given up by owners</b>	<b>Dogs seized during inspection/enforcement action</b>	<b>Dogs received through other channels</b>
2014	3 676	1 464	114	695
2015	2 412	1 284	27	351
2016	1 919	1 003	17	326

Other animals\*

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Stray animals caught</b>	<b>Animals given up by owners</b>	<b>Animals seized during inspection/enforcement action</b>
2014	1 374	28	656
2015	1 418	109	3 590
2016	1 494	56	674

\* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc. No such animal is received through other channels.

- (b)-(c) Under Section 22 of the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421) (the Ordinance), a keeper of any animal who abandons that animal without reasonable excuse is liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000 and to imprisonment for 6 months. In cases where the prosecution finds it difficult to prove beyond reasonable doubt that a person abandons an animal without reasonable excuse, particularly in those cases where there is no witness, AFCD would seek to identify ways to tackle the issue. For instance, in respect of cases involving dogs, the prosecution may press charges against the dog owners concerned for failing to take proper control of their dogs in public places pursuant to Section 23 of the Ordinance. The maximum penalty for contravening this provision is a fine of \$10,000.

Information on the number of relevant convictions under the Ordinance over the past 3 years and the penalty imposed is given below:

Calendar Year	Prosecution against improper control of dogs	
	Number of convicted cases	Heaviest penalty imposed
2014	331	A fine of \$1,200
2015	246	A fine of \$2,000
2016	174	A fine of \$4,000

- (d) In 2017-18, AFCD has earmarked 6 staff and \$2.8 million for the management of stray cattle.
- (e) AFCD has been studying the feasibility of sterilising cattle chemically with the use of a contraceptive drug called Gonacon. The study has been conducted in 2 phases. The first phase, involving testing of the drug in captive cattle, was completed in 2014. It was found that the drug yielded a success rate of approximately 70% in sterilising cattle. A second phase of testing the drug in free-roaming cattle and buffalo has been completed in 2016. Assessment on the results is being conducted.
- (f) Under the multi-pronged approach adopted for managing stray cattle, continuous efforts are being made by AFCD to explore new and enhanced measures that will help minimising the nuisance caused by stray cattle while safeguarding animal welfare. Apart from implementing the “Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation” Programme for stray cattle, AFCD will review the results of the second phase test mentioned in Part (e) above and consider if chemical sterilisation should be applied more extensively in cattle and buffalo across the territory.

In addition, after conducting several site visits and discussing with animal welfare organisations, AFCD has been exploring the feasibility of installing a cattle grid on a trial basis at the junction of Sai Wan Road and Man Yee Road in Sai Kung, with a view to confining the stray cattle to a certain area. AFCD has been liaising with the relevant departments on the technical feasibility and implications to pedestrians and road users involved in installing a cattle grid at the subject location.

- (g) The 3-year Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme for stray dogs, which is being conducted at the 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long by 2 animal welfare organisations since early 2015, is still in progress. AFCD is closely monitoring the progress, and will consider the way forward upon completion of the trial programme in 2018.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)064****(Question Serial No. 3003)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the 8 directorate civil servants at the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department this year, please advise on their respective ranks, pay scale, and expenses on remunerations and fringe benefits.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 26)

Reply:

The information sought regarding the 8 directorate posts in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is tabulated below:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Directorate pay scale (Pay point)</b>	<b>Number of posts</b>	<b>Annual Provision (\$ million)</b>
Director	D6	1	3.0
Deputy Director	D3	1	2.4
Assistant Director	D2	5	10.3
Principal Veterinary Officer	D1	1	1.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>17.4</b>

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)065****(Question Serial No. 1445)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the stray animals caught, what are the reasons for the drop in the number from 5 189 in 2015 to 4 289 in 2016? Please tabulate the numbers of stray animals caught according to their species and the locations/establishments where they were caught over the past 5 years (that is from 2012 to 2016).

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (Member Question No. 41)Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been actively promoting the serious responsibility and commitment that go with pet keeping, through public education and publicity programmes to disseminate messages on caring for animals and responsible pet ownership. The work is bearing fruit, as more and more people have come to recognise the responsibility and commitment as a pet owner. The number of stray animals caught by AFCD has been decreasing over the past few years.

Information on the stray animals caught by the 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of AFCD over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

AMC^	2012			Total
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	
AMC/HK	571	475	61	1 107
AMC/K	744	827	65	1 636
AMC/NTS	1 045	634	57	1 736
AMC/NTN	2 362	1 091	77	3 530

AMC <sup>^</sup>	2013			
	Dogs	Cats	Others <sup>*</sup>	Total
AMC/HK	612	481	19	1 112
AMC/K	979	690	140	1 809
AMC/NTS	903	507	71	1 481
AMC/NTN	2 132	1 188	214	3 534
	2014			
	Dogs	Cats	Others <sup>*</sup>	Total
AMC/HK	394	254	72	720
AMC/K	937	549	199	1 685
AMC/NTS	675	338	16	1 029
AMC/NTN	1 670	695	1 087	3 452
	2015			
	Dogs	Cats	Others <sup>*</sup>	Total
AMC/HK	286	218	24	528
AMC/K	581	435	47	1 063
AMC/NTS	507	221	12	740
AMC/NTN	1 038	485	1 335	2 858
	2016			
	Dogs	Cats	Others <sup>*</sup>	Total
AMC/HK	224	164	58	446
AMC/K	435	259	81	775
AMC/NTS	458	169	21	648
AMC/NTN	802	284	1 334	2 420

<sup>^</sup> The 4 AMCs are namely AMC/Hong Kong (AMC/HK), AMC/Kowloon (AMC/K), AMC/New Territories South (AMC/NTS) and AMC/New Territories North (AMC/NTN). They are responsible for animal management work in the regions as named.

<sup>\*</sup> Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/ cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)066**

**(Question Serial No. 1838)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) What were the details of the work and the overall expenditures of the Department on the euthanasia of animals over the past 5 years? Please provide an exhaustive breakdown of all the expenditures under the grand total, including those expenses on catching operations, manpower, medicines for euthanasia of animals, as well as other expenditures involved.
- (b) Please set out the details of the work and expenditure involved in the "trap-neuter-vaccinate-return" scheme (the scheme) over the past 5 years. Will the Department consider identifying additional sites for the scheme? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) What are the Department's respective estimated expenditures involved in the euthanasia of animals and the scheme in the financial year 2017-18? Will the Department consider allocating all the expenditure involved in the euthanasia of animals to the scheme? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?
- (d) Apart from the euthanasia of animals and the scheme, what is the other expenditure involved in the management of community animals?
- (e) What are the staff establishment (including civil servants and outsourced staff) and the overall expenditures on salaries in the 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)? What are the details of the work and the overall expenditures on salaries for the veterinary officers, field officers and frontline staff at the AMCs respectively?
- (f) Please set out the numbers of the various types of animals caught by the Department (with a breakdown by the channels through which they were received) and the numbers of the various types of animals reclaimed by the owners, rehomed and

euthanised over the past 5 years. Please also set out, by district, the numbers of dogs caught and returned under the scheme over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 29)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides animal management services to the public through 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs). Stray animals caught will be put in the AMCs for observation. For animals with a microchip implanted, the AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in the AMCs temporarily for about 10 to 20 days. For those without a microchip, the AMCs will keep them for at least 4 days to allow time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the animals being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary surgeon as having a gentle temperament and suitable for adoption, AFCD will arrange for their transfer to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) for adoption by members of the public. Only animals that remain unclaimed or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanised.

The expenditure involved in the catching operations and the handling of stray animals caught (including euthanasia cost) over the past 5 years is as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure on catching operations (\$ million)</b>	<b>Expenditure on handling of stray animals caught (including euthanasia cost) (\$ million)</b>	<b>Total Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2012-13	25.6	3.6	29.2
2013-14	27.1	3.9	31.0
2014-15	28.9	3.6	32.5
2015-16	29.0	3.6	32.6
2016-17 (revised estimate)	29.4	3.5	32.9

AFCD does not have further breakdown of the above expenditure items.

- (b) In 2012, the original proposal of implementing the trap-neuter-return (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs at 3 potential sites located at Yuen Long, Sai Kung and Lamma Island encountered objections from the respective District Councils and local communities. AFCD, in collaboration with 2 AWOs, subsequently identified 3 alternative potential sites, 1 in Yuen Long and 2 on Cheung Chau, and consulted the local communities and the respective District Councils on the proposed trial programme. While there was no negative feedback on the Yuen Long trial site, we received objection from the local community near 1 of the trial sites on Cheung Chau. To address the concerns raised by the residents of that community, the AWO concerned decided to take that site out from the trial scheme.



To facilitate the implementation of the TNR trial programme on Cheung Chau and in Yuen Long by the 2 AWOs mentioned above, the Dangerous Dogs Regulation (Exemption) (Amendment) Notice 2014 and the Rabies (TNR Programme) (Exemption) Notice 2014 were enacted and they commenced operation in January 2015. The implementation cost of the TNR trial programme is fully borne by the 2 AWOs concerned. AFCD has separately commissioned a consultant to conduct a baseline survey on the number of dogs at the 2 trial sites, monitor the implementation of the trial programme, and assess the effectiveness of the TNR approach in reducing the stray dog population and its associated nuisance at the trial sites.

The average annual expenditure by AFCD over the past 5 years (between 2012-13 and 2016-17) in connection with the TNR trial programme is around \$1.2 million.

The 3-year TNR trial programme is still in progress. AFCD will closely monitor the progress of the trial programme, and will consider the way forward upon completion of the trial programme in 2018.

- (c) In 2017-18, provisions of \$1 million and \$1.4 million have been earmarked for the euthanasia of animals and the TNR trial programme respectively, which are essential to our work on the management of stray animals. We have no plan to re-allocate the expenditure involved in the euthanasia of animals for other purposes.
- (d) The expenditure on the management of stray animals is provided in part (a) above.
- (e) Information on the existing staff establishment of the 4 AMCs under AFCD, including civil servants and outsourced staff, is given below:

	<b>New Territories North AMC</b>	<b>New Territories South AMC</b>	<b>Kowloon AMC</b>	<b>Hong Kong AMC</b>
Veterinary Officer	1	1	1	1
Field Officers	15	11	16	12
Frontline staff	43	28	31	27
Outsourced cleansing staff	4	4	3	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>45</b>

Note: The 4 AMCs are overseen by 1 Senior Veterinary Officer.

The duties of the Veterinary Officers, Field Officers and frontline staff at the AMCs are given below:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Area of work</b>
Veterinary Officer	To supervise the daily operation of the AMC and oversee enforcement of animal-related legislation
Field Officer	To supervise the carrying out of investigation, inspection and enforcement actions taken under animal-related legislation

Frontline staff	To carry out investigation, inspection and enforcement actions under animal-related legislation, including catching operations and licensing matters
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The estimated expenditure on the salaries of the above staff in 2016-17 is \$60.0 million.

- (f) The number and species of stray animals caught and the number and species of animals given up by owners, received through other channels by AFCD, reclaimed by the owners, rehomed and euthanised over the past 5 years are in the Annex.

There are 2 trial sites (i.e. the Cheung Chau trial site and Tai Tong trial site) under the TNR trial programme. The number of dogs trapped, neutered and returned to the Cheung Chau trial site and the Tai Tong trial site are 64 and 37 respectively.

## Annex

Calendar Year	Stray Animals Caught			Animals Given Up by Owners			Animals Received through Other Channels			Animals Reclaimed			Animals Rehomed			Animals Euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2012	4 722	3 027	260	2 009	248	85	1 131	98	1 276	1 292	707	348	666	145	89	5 675	1 950	1 160
2013	4 626	2 866	444	1 871	222	105	1 271	136	1 001	1 379	779	315	770	206	116	5 353	1 861	1 015
2014	3 676	1 836	1 374	1 464	132	28	809	78	656	1 235	576	253	679	212	75	3 868	1 039	1 594
2015	2 412	1 359	1 418	1 284	129	109	378	73	3 590	774	626	11	651	168	83	2 421	696	3 469
2016	1 919	876	1 494	1 003	107	56	343	70	674	637	400	1	513	136	92	1 814	449	748

\* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)067**

**(Question Serial No. 1840)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What were the expenditures and the details of the work of the inter-departmental special working group (working group) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the Hong Kong Police Force, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) over the past 5 years? What is the estimated expenditure of the working group in 2017-18? Would the Government consider dedicating the estimated expenditure for the establishment of animal police?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 30)

Reply:

In 2011, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), in conjunction with the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), set up an inter-departmental special working group for forging close cooperation and mutual support in handling animal cruelty cases. The working group meets regularly to discuss the handling of individual cases, formulate guidelines for improving efficiency in the detection and prevention of animal cruelty cases, and review the guidelines from time to time. In addition, the working group has also been organising training courses for relevant government officers to facilitate continuous enhancement of their understanding of animal welfare issues and skills for handling animal cruelty cases. It keeps in view the level of penalty handed down by the court for the purpose of considering whether a review of the relevant regulations is necessary.

The relevant departments/parties in the working group have made use of their existing resources to carry out the work in combating cruelty to animals.

Furthermore, AFCD has been actively involved in the "Animal Watch Scheme" (the Scheme)

launched by the Police since 2011 to strengthen co-operation among the Police, AFCD, SPCA and other stakeholders in the investigation of cases involving cruelty to animals. Specifically, AFCD provides expert veterinary advice necessary for the investigation of animal cruelty cases and carries out post-mortem examination to find out the cause of death including whether the animals have been cruelly treated.

On the enforcement front, reports of animal cruelty cases received by the Police will be taken up by the crime investigation teams in various districts which have sufficient experience and professional investigation skills to follow up cases of cruelty to animals. Depending on the manpower of the police district, the nature and the prevailing trend of cases, the Police may consider assigning cases to dedicated teams in the interest of ensuring comprehensive and focused investigation. This arrangement allows the Police to flexibly deploy its limited resources, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness of its efforts in combating acts of cruelty to animals. The Government considers that the existing mechanism has proved to be effective and therefore has no plan to establish an animal police team.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)068**

**(Question Serial No. 1842)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The amount of subventions for “animal welfare organisations” under the Operating Account is estimated to be \$500,000. Please set out the names of the organisations that have submitted applications to the Department, the projects and amounts of subventions applied for, the application results (applications fully approved, partially approved or rejected) and the amounts of subventions granted, etc. since the inception of the scheme. What are the criteria for approving the applications? Has the Department conducted any review on the effectiveness of such subventions? If yes, what are the details? If not, would the Department consider conducting relevant reviews?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 31)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been collaborating with animal welfare organisations (AWOs) to enhance animal welfare and promote better animal management. Recognising that most AWOs are non-profit making with limited resources, the Government has been providing subvention to these AWOs in supporting their work as long as resources permit.

Since the inception of the subvention scheme in 2011, a total of 43 applications have been received by AFCD from 12 AWOs. Interested AWOs may submit their applications together with details of their animal welfare initiatives, estimated budget, and the associated performance indicators under the proposed programme to AFCD for consideration. Details of the applications are listed in the Annex.

AFCD has been monitoring the implementation of the subvention scheme. Document review and audit inspections are conducted to monitor the implementation and assess the outcome of individual subvented programmes. Thus far, the results of all subvented programmes are found to be satisfactory.

**Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2011-12 and released in 2012-13)<sup>1</sup>**

	<b>AWOs</b>	<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Amount Sought (\$)</b>	<b>Amount Approved (\$)</b>	<b>Amount Released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To set up facilities and purchase equipment for a new adoption centre	288,000	78,000	57,868
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide de-sexing service for owned dogs at Ap Lei Chau boatyard	300,000	60,000	0*
3	Lifelong Animal Protection (LAP)	To set up an adoption and education resource centre	810,000	173,000	173,000
4	Society for Abandoned Animals (SAA)	To operate a de-sexing programme for warehouse dogs	1,261,277	229,000	202,974
	<b>Total</b>		<b>2,659,277</b>	<b>540,000</b>	<b>433,842</b>

<sup>1</sup> AWOs may submit their application for subvention to AFCD during the period from 1 October to 30 November each year. After consideration by AFCD, approved funds will be issued in the next financial year on a reimbursement basis after acceptance of reports and presentation of proofs of expenditures incurred.

\* No claims for reimbursement from the AWO concerned have been received.

**Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2012-2013 and released in 2013-14)**

	<b>AWOs</b>	<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Amount Sought (\$)</b>	<b>Amount Approved (\$)</b>	<b>Amount Released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To operate an animal adoption centre	288,000	78,000	65,600
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To build dog houses for the Tai Po Rehoming Centre	201,600 <sup>2</sup>	201,600	201,600
3	LAP	To set up an adoption and education resource centre	810,000	100,000	99,779
4	SAA	To conduct an animal shelter renovation project	470,000	260,000	260,000
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce annual reports and conduct various education programmes	550,000	51,000	45,872
6	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and SAA	To conduct a 2-year education programme on village dog management	300,000	300,000	12,000 (SPCA) 2,400 (SAA)
	Total		2,619,600	990,600	687,251

<sup>2</sup> The original amount applied for by the AWO concerned was \$199,480. The final cost of the dog houses purchased (\$201,600) exceeded the amount of subvention previously approved by AFCD due to inflation. AFCD approved the additional amount of \$2,120 when the AWO concerned sought reimbursement.



**Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2013-14 and released in 2014-15)**

	<b>AWOs</b>	<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Amount Sought (\$)</b>	<b>Amount Approved (\$)</b>	<b>Amount Released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To operate an animal adoption centre, and conduct animal rescue, education and publicity projects	190,000	90,000	84,339
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To conduct an adult dog rehome scheme	224,000	150,000	150,000
3	LAP	To operate the LAP Centre, organise workshops and revamp the LAP Centre's website	1,184,000	120,000	120,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce annual reports, purchase dietary supplement for rabbits and conduct publicity programmes	150,000	52,000	44,835
5	Hong Kong Rescue Puppies	To produce educational materials and purchase necessary medications and feeds for rescued animals	185,232	40,000	0*
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To operate the Sai Kung Animal Management Centre and carry out animal rehoming activities	223,000	35,000	35,000
7	SPCA and SAA	To continue their 2-year education programme on village dog management	Applied for in 2012-13	Approved in 2012-13	13,200 <sup>3</sup> (SPCA)
	<b>Total</b>		<b>2,156,232</b>	<b>487,000</b>	<b>447,374</b>

<sup>3</sup> AFCD approved a joint application from SPCA and SAA for a 2-year education programme on village dog management in 2012-13. Upon receipt of claims from SPCA, AFCD released the remaining funding to them in 2014-15.

\* No claims for reimbursement from the AWO concerned have been received.

**Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2014-15 and released in 2015-16)**

	<b>AWOs</b>	<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Amount Sought (\$)</b>	<b>Amount Approved (\$)</b>	<b>Amount Released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To operate an adoption centre and conduct animal welfare projects	160,000	90,000	76,679
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To conduct an adult dog rehome scheme	224,000	150,000	150,000
3	LAP	To purchase medications and feeds for rehoming animals and conduct publicity and education programmes	1,808,000	120,000	120,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To conduct education programmes and provide medical treatment for rabbits	135,000	49,000	48,181
5	Hong Kong Rescue Puppies	To produce a publicity booklet entitled “Responsible Pet Ownership” and conduct a rehome scheme	185,232	40,000	0*
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To conduct various animal management programmes	227,000	45,000	45,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To conduct education, publicity, rescue and adoption programmes	80,000	30,000	30,000
	<b>Total</b>		<b>2,819,232</b>	<b>524,000</b>	<b>469,860</b>

\* No claims for reimbursement from the AWO concerned have been received.

**Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2015-16 and released in 2016-17)**

	<b>AWOs</b>	<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Amount Sought (\$)</b>	<b>Amount Approved (\$)</b>	<b>Amount Released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To conduct adoption promotion programmes, produce educational materials and further improve the Foundation's website	180,000	80,000	73,934
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To operate an adult dog rehome scheme	204,000	125,000	125,000
3	LAP	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming animals	1,571,000	100,000	100,000
4	SAA	To conduct various education programmes	388,155	40,000	38,591
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick or injured rabbits	129,000	45,000	41,620
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	235,000	45,000	45,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	28,000	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	To conduct adoption promotion programmes, produce educational materials and further improve the organisation's website	54,000	24,000	16,365
9	SPCA	To conduct an Animal Caring Ambassador Programme	200,000	45,000	44,854
	<b>Total</b>		<b>3,041,155</b>	<b>532,000</b>	<b>513,364</b>

**Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for and approved in 2016-17)<sup>4</sup>**

	<b>AWOs</b>	<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Amount Sought (\$)</b>	<b>Amount Approved (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programmes	120,000	85,000
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide vaccination and food for rehoming animals	218,400	130,000
3	LAP	To provide preventive medical treatment for rehoming animals	1,962,000	100,000
4	SAA	To produce educational materials for promoting animal welfare and responsible pet ownership	53,040	42,000
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	62,000	48,000
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide preventive medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	320,000	46,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	To promote adoption, produce educational materials and further improve the organisation website	40,500	21,000
9	Hong Kong Paws Guardian	To catch stray dogs for neutering, vaccination and treatment	120,000	0
10	Conservation of Earth and Animal Association	To purchase mobile surgery for veterinary treatment and human counselling service and purchase surgical equipment	3,200,000	0
	<b>Total</b>		<b>6,175,940</b>	<b>500,000</b>

<sup>4</sup> The amount of subvention will be released in the financial year 2017-2018. The figures on the amount to be released for these programmes are not available yet.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)069**

**(Question Serial No. 1844)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What were the details and expenditure on the work related to the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance over the past 5 years (including the types of animals involved in the cases, number of persons arrested, number of prosecutions instituted and details of the penalties, etc.)? Would the Government consider increasing the penalties under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance to enhance the deterrent effect? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 32)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is one of the departments involved in the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) (the Ordinance). The on-going work carried out by AFCD in this respect includes (a) inspection of the relevant premises and facilities including pet shops, animal boarding premises, riding schools, animal exhibition venues, etc. to ensure compliance with the relevant animal welfare standards; (b) gathering intelligence on suspected animal cruelty or abuse activities and sharing the information on cases that require follow up with the relevant enforcement authorities; and (c) conducting investigation of animal cruelty reports/complaints and taking prosecution actions if there is sufficient evidence.

In 2011, AFCD, in conjunction with the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), set up an inter-departmental special working group for forging closer cooperation and mutual support in handling animal cruelty cases. The working group meets regularly to discuss the handling of individual cases, formulate guidelines for improving efficiency in the detection and prevention of animal cruelty cases, and review the guidelines from time to time. In addition, the working group has also been organising training courses for relevant government officers to facilitate continuous enhancement of their understanding of animal welfare issues and skills for handling animal cruelty cases.

Furthermore, AFCD has been actively involved in the “Animal Watch Scheme” launched by the Police since 2011 to strengthen co-operation among the Police, AFCD, SPCA and other stakeholders in the investigation of cases involving cruelty to animals. Specifically, AFCD provides expert veterinary advice necessary for the investigation and carries out post-mortem examination to find out the cause of death including whether the animals have been cruelly treated.

The expenditure of AFCD on the prevention of animal cruelty and enforcement of the Ordinance over the past 5 years is as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2012-13	2.1
2013-14	1.7
2014-15	2.0
2015-16	2.6
2016-17 (revised)	3.1

Details of successful prosecutions under the Ordinance initiated by AFCD and the Police over the past 5 years are as follows:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of Persons Convicted</b>	<b>Penalties Imposed</b>	
		<b>Range of Fine (\$)</b>	<b>Range of Imprisonment</b>
2012	18	1,000 to 5,000	6 weeks to 4 months
2013	15	500 to 2,000	14 days to 8 months
2014	24	2,000 to 20,000	6 days to 1 year and 4 months
2015	10	2,000	14 days to 2 months
2016 (January to September)	8	5,000	28 days to 2 months

The penalty level under the Ordinance was last revised in 2006 and raised, by a significant margin, from a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for 6 months, to a fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for 3 years. We have compared the penalty level under the Ordinance with the relevant provisions of legislation of other places. Having regard to the findings of the legislative provisions in other jurisdictions, the maximum penalty under the Ordinance is in fact heavier than most of them. We believe that the current penalty level is effective in deterring against acts of animal cruelty. Through concerted efforts of concerned Government departments and animal welfare organisations, we would continue to vigorously combat animal cruelty and enforce the Ordinance.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)070**

**(Question Serial No. 1901)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Please set out the details of the work and the total expenditure, with an exhaustive breakdown, of the Cattle Management Team (the Team) over the past 5 years. What is the estimated expenditure on the Team in the financial year 2017-18?
- (b) In November 2013, the Department launched the "Capture-Sterilise-Relocate" trial programme (the trial programme) for cattle in the community. What were the expenditure involved and the effectiveness of the trial programme since its implementation? What is the estimated expenditure on the trial programme in the financial year 2017-18?
- (c) Apart from the Team and the trial programme, has the Department undertaken any other work to manage cattle in the community? If yes, what are the details of such work and its effectiveness? Please also provide the expenditure involved in such work over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure in the financial year 2017-18.
- (d) What are the criteria for relocation under the trial programme? Are there any internal guidelines or codes for the Team and the relevant decision makers to refer to? If yes, please provide the details of the criteria; if no, will the Department consider establishing such criteria?
- (e) Has the Department conducted any assessment on the safety and capacity of new habitats before relocating cattle, and any follow-up assessment on the health condition of the relocated cattle after relocation? If yes, please provide the relevant report(s); if no, what are the reasons? Will the Department consider conducting such assessment before relocation?

- (f) Please set out by district the numbers of cattle in the community, traffic accidents and casualties with cattle in the community involved, and cattle trapped and relocated, over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 41)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has adopted a multi-pronged approach for managing stray cattle. One of the key measures is the “Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation” (CSR) programme launched in late 2011, under which AFCD captures and sterilises stray cattle mainly in Sai Kung and Lantau Island, and then relocates them to more remote locations. In addition, AFCD has been studying the feasibility of sterilising cattle chemically with the use of a contraceptive drug named Gonacon, and is currently assessing the efficacy.

Moreover, AFCD has been exploring the feasibility of installing a cattle grid on a trial basis in Sai Kung, with a view to confining the stray cattle to a certain area. AFCD has been liaising with the relevant departments on the technical feasibility and implications to pedestrians and road users involved in installing a cattle grid at the subject location.

The expenditure involved in stray cattle management over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure for such work in 2017-18 are tabulated below:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2012-13	3.9
2013-14	4.2
2014-15	6.7
2015-16	3.0
2016-17 (revised estimate)	2.8
2017-18 (estimate)	2.8

- (b) In addition to the ongoing CSR programme mentioned in Part (a) above for managing stray cattle, a “Capture, Sterilisation and Translocation” (CST) pilot scheme was conducted in 2013-2014 to assess whether cross-district translocation of stray cattle would be an effective measure to reduce the likelihood of cattle causing nuisance and traffic obstruction in the district. Results of the pilot scheme revealed that the majority of the subject cattle translocated from Sai Kung and Lantau stayed in the recipient areas were in good health. The number of complaints related to nuisance received in the two areas had decreased. The expenditure involved was \$0.6 million.
- (c) Since implementation of the CSR programme, 382 heads of the cattle captured mainly from Sai Kung and Lantau Island have been surgically sterilised. As cattle are long-living animals, the CSR programme requires a relatively long period of time to



show the desired effect of controlling cattle population. AFCD will continue to implement the CSR programme and review its effectiveness when sufficient information on changes in the cattle population over time is available. The expenditure for conducting the CSR programme over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure for 2017-18 are tabulated below:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2012-13	2.4
2013-14	3.4
2014-15	4.7
2015-16	2.3
2016-17 (revised estimate)	2.1
2017-18 (estimate)	2.1

- (d) Under the CST pilot scheme, 29 heads of cattle were translocated from Sai Kung to Shek Pik Reservoir on Lantau Island, and 21 heads from South Lantau to High Island Reservoir in Sai Kung. The major consideration in selecting cattle for this pilot scheme was the herd structure of the cattle. Cattle within the same family or herd would be translocated together. In addition, cattle selected had to be in good health condition and temperament.
- (e) For implementing the CST pilot scheme and the CSR programme, AFCD has carefully assessed the recipient sites in rural areas or country parks to ensure that there are adequate food and water to sustain the relocated herd. Cattle of the same family group are relocated together as far as possible to maintain the herd structure. After relocating the cattle to the recipient sites, regular site visits and inspections are carried out by AFCD to closely monitor the health condition of the cattle and provide veterinary care to the sick or injured ones when necessary.
- (f) According to a territory-wide population survey on stray cattle conducted in 2013, there were around 1 200 stray cattle in the rural areas of Hong Kong. The estimated number of stray cattle and their distribution based on the survey are tabulated below:

<b>District</b>	<b>Estimated number of brown cattle</b>	<b>Estimated number of buffaloes</b>
Sai Kung/ Ma On Shan	450	0
Lantau Island	225	75
Northeast New Territories	235	0
Central New Territories	200	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 110</b>	<b>120</b>

The total number of brown cattle and buffaloes managed over the past 5 years is set out as follows:

	<b>Number of cattle and buffaloes</b>
Captured*	744
Sterilised	379
Relocated*	483

\* The number includes repeated captures and relocation of cattle and buffaloes

AFCD does not have data on the number of cattle injured or killed in traffic accidents.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)071**

**(Question Serial No. 1906)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Please provide the details of the expenditures of the Department on the control of imports of animal skin and fur products over the past 5 years and in the financial year 2017-18. What are the details of the inspections and quarantine operations conducted by the Department at various boundary control points and the Hong Kong International Airport? What are the frequencies of conducting such inspections and operations?
- (b) Please set out the details, including types, places of origin, composition/species of animals involved, reasons for contravening the ordinance(s), quantities imported of the products, the penalties, etc., of the prosecutions taken against the import of animal skin and fur products in contravention of the Rabies Regulation (the Regulation), the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (the Ordinance) or other ordinances over the past 5 years.
- (c) Has the Department taken any measures to step up the monitoring on trading in respect of animal skin and fur products? If yes, what are the details? Will the Department consider introducing a certification scheme for identifying places of origin of skin and fur products, requiring that all skin and fur products imported and for trading in the market must bear labels indicating whether the skin and fur used are genuine (and the types of animals) or counterfeit?
- (d) Will the Department consider imposing heavier penalties on the Regulation, the Ordinance and other relevant ordinances with a view to further enhancing the deterrent effect on the illegal import of animal skin and fur products into Hong Kong and trading in the market?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 44)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)'s measures on the control of the import of live animals and animal products under the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A) (the Regulation) and the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) (the Ordinance) are overseen by the Food and Health Bureau and the Environment Bureau respectively. The relevant expenditure incurred by AFCD over the past 5 years and the 2017-18 estimate for this area of work are as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2012-13	12.6
2013-14	14.4
2014-15	16.3
2015-16	17.9
2016-17 (revised estimate)	19.3
2017-18 (estimate)	19.3

The number of inspections/operations with regard to animal skin/fur products under the Regulation and the Ordinance by AFCD at various boundary control points and the Hong Kong International Airport over the past 5 years is as follows:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of inspections/operations</b>
2012	100 887
2013	101 922
2014	84 557
2015	68 845
2016	62 445

- (b) There was no prosecution case under the Regulation over the past 5 years involving illegal imports of animal skin and fur products. The statistics on conviction cases involving illegal imports of animal skins and furs of scheduled species under the Ordinance over the past 5 years are set out below:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Confiscated item</b>	<b>Quantity involved</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Last exporting place</b>	<b>Sentence</b>
2013	Crocodile watchstrap	2 pieces	Crocodylia species	Switzerland	A fine of \$3,500
2014	Cheetah skin <sup>*</sup>	1 piece	Acinonyx jubatus	Namibia	A fine of \$60,000
2016	Elephant belts <sup>^</sup>	4 pieces	Elephantidae species	Zimbabwe	6 weeks imprisonment and a fine of \$50,000

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Confiscated item</b>	<b>Quantity involved</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Last exporting place</b>	<b>Sentence</b>
	Crocodile belts	4 pieces	Crocodylia species	Mozambique	A fine of \$6,000
	Crocodile belts and wallet <sup>#</sup>	6 pieces	Crocodylia species	Mozambique	A fine of \$12,000

Note: No case was recorded for 2012 and 2015.

\* The confiscated items of the case also included 1.767 kg of worked ivory and 2 pieces of rhino horn.

^ The confiscated items of the case also included 17.82 kg of ivory.

# The confiscated items of the case also included 0.77 kg of pangolin scales.

(c) & (d) Imports of animal skin and fur products are mainly regulated for the prevention and control of rabies and protection of scheduled species through enforcing the Regulation and the Ordinance. At present, offenders found guilty of breaching the Regulation are liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and to imprisonment for 1 year. Offenders found guilty of breaching the Ordinance are liable to a maximum fine of \$5,000,000 and to imprisonment for 2 years. AFCD has been carrying out inspection and quarantine operations at various boundary control points as well as the Hong Kong International Airport to deter illegal imports of animal products controlled under the Regulation and the Ordinance. In order to provide a sufficiently strong deterrent against illicit wildlife trade, and to send a clear signal to the international and local communities that the Government is committed to the protection of endangered species and combat against smuggling of endangered species, the Government has proposed to increase the penalties under the Ordinance. Currently, AFCD has no plan to introduce a trade certification/labelling scheme for animal skin and fur products.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)072****(Question Serial No. 1912)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

- (a) What were the Department's expenditures on animal traps over the past 5 years and what is the expenditure on the same in the financial year 2017-18? Please set out the types and numbers of animals caught by the Department over the past 5 years, with a breakdown by the channels through which they were caught.
- (b) What are the types and number of animal traps currently kept by the Department?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 45)Reply:

- (a) The types and number of animals caught with animal traps by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 5 years are as follows:

Calendar Year	Types of animals caught with animal traps				
	Dogs (by cage/snare)	Cats (by cage)	Pigeons (by cage)	Monkeys (by cage/snare)	Wild pigs (by trap)
2012	147/587	2 439	69	1 059/14	0
2013	157/630	2 264	139	769/15	0
2014	101/404	1 406	238	533/25	0
2015	159/142	1 009	473	454/14	0
2016	76/118	564	218	521/31	2

The expenditure of AFCD involved in purchasing and maintaining animal traps over the past 5 years and in 2017-18 is as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
<b>2012-13</b>	0.38
<b>2013-14</b>	0.12
<b>2014-15</b>	0.32
<b>2015-16</b>	0.08
<b>2016-17</b> <b>(revised estimate)</b>	0.10
<b>2017-18</b> <b>(estimate)</b>	0.18

- (b) At present, AFCD has a total of 241 cage traps for catching dogs and cats, 56 snares for catching dogs, 40 cage traps for catching feral pigeons, 12 snares and 54 cage traps for catching monkeys, and 4 cage traps and 1 corral trap for catching wild pigs.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)073**

**(Question Serial No. 2206)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Apart from strengthening regulation of animal trading and dog breeding activities, will the Government take other measures to enhance animal welfare? If yes, what are the specific measures as well as the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (Member Question No. 30)

Reply:

In 2017-18, apart from introducing the new licensing regime to regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to strengthen the promotion of animal welfare. The measures include:

- (i) implementing an enhanced public education and publicity programme and enhancing AFCD's website to promote responsible pet ownership and proper care of animals, advise against the abandonment and needless surrendering of pets, and champion the need for dog licensing and rabies vaccination as well as the benefits of neutering;
- (ii) assisting the animal welfare organisations (AWOs) concerned in implementing the trap-neuter-return (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs which is expected to be completed in early 2018;
- (iii) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals;
- (iv) taking enforcement action against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant legislation;



- (v) improving the handling of reports or complaints on cruelty to animals through the inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong);
- (vi) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to, AWOs in re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management; and
- (vii) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities.

A provision of 204 staff and \$54.9 million has been earmarked for the above work in 2017-18.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)074**

**(Question Serial No. 2234)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18, the Government mentioned that it would focus its work on “strengthening measures for stray animals management”. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How will the Government expand the trial zone of the trap-neuter-return trial programme for stray dogs? Please provide the relevant details and the time frame for the initiative.
- (b) Apart from the above programme, what specific measures will the Government take to manage stray animals?
- (c) Will the Government collaborate with voluntary civil groups to strengthen stray animals management?
- (d) What are the manpower and expenditure involved in the above work?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (Member Question No. 2)

Reply:

- (a) The 3-year trap-neuter-return (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs, which is being conducted at the two trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long by 2 animal welfare organisations (AWOs) since early 2015, is still in progress. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is closely monitoring the progress, and will consider the way forward upon completion of the trial programme in 2018.
- (b) AFCD adopts a catch and removal approach aimed at reducing the nuisance at source and controlling the population of stray animals. AFCD will act on complaints against stray animals and try to locate and catch them. Animals caught will be put in the

Animal Management Centres (AMCs) for observation. For animals with a microchip implanted, the AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in the AMCs temporarily for about 10 to 20 days. For those without a microchip, the AMCs will keep them for at least 4 days to allow time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the animals being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary surgeon as having a gentle temperament and suitable for adoption, AFCD will arrange for their transfer to AWOs for adoption by members of the public. Only animals that remain unclaimed or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanised.

AFCD has also been actively promoting the serious responsibility and commitment that go with pet keeping, and educating the public how to be a responsible pet owner. AFCD has been implementing public education and publicity programmes to disseminate messages on caring for animals and responsible pet ownership. The work is bearing fruit, as more and more people have come to recognise the responsibility and commitments as a pet owner. The number of stray animals caught by AFCD has been decreasing over the past few years.

- (c) Apart from collaborating with 2 AWOs on conducting the TNR trial programme as mentioned in part (a) above, AFCD is currently in partnership with 15 AWOs on the rehoming of stray animals. Furthermore, recognising that most AWOs are non-profit making with limited resources, the Government has been providing subvention to AWOs in supporting their work on promotion of animal welfare and re-homing of stray animals as long as resources permit. AWOs are welcome to join hands with AFCD on the work on stray animal management.
- (d) The manpower and estimated expenditure involved in stray animal management in 2016-17 are 187 staff and \$32.9 million respectively, of which 2 AFCD staff and \$1.5 million are allocated for the TNR trial for stray dogs.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)075**

**(Question Serial No. 2235)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services  
Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Government stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017-18 that it would strengthen the promotion of animal welfare. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What specific measures will the Government take for strengthening the promotion of animal welfare and how would they be delivered? Please provide the details and the plan.
- (b) Will the above measures include the legislation or amendment of existing legislation?
- (c) What are the manpower and the expenditure involved in strengthening the promotion of animal welfare? Is there any indicator to evaluate the effectiveness?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

- (a) In 2017-18, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to strengthen the promotion of animal welfare. The measures include
  - (i) implementing an enhanced public education and publicity programme and enhancing AFCD's website to promote responsible pet ownership and proper care of animals, advise against the abandonment and needless surrendering of pets, and champion the need for dog licensing and rabies vaccination as well as the benefits of neutering;

- (ii) assisting the animal welfare organisations (AWOs) concerned in implementing the trap-neuter-return trial programme for stray dogs which is expected to be completed in early 2018;
  - (iii) introducing the new licensing regime under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) to regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale;
  - (iv) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals;
  - (v) taking enforcement action against pet owners and traders in contravention of the relevant legislation;
  - (vi) improving the handling of reports or complaints on cruelty to animals through the inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong);
  - (vii) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to, AWOs in re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management; and
  - (viii) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities.
- (b) AFCD regularly reviews the relevant legislations as and when necessary. For instance, to further enhance animal health and welfare, the Regulations referred to in Part (a) (iii) above were amended in 2016 and came into effect on 20 March 2017 to introduce a new licensing regime regulating animal trading and breeding of dogs for sale.
- (c) A provision of 204 staff and \$54.9 million has been earmarked for the above work in 2017-18. Over the past 5 years, the number of animals surrendered by owners and the number of stray animals caught have decreased by 50% and 46% respectively.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)076****(Question Serial No. 2236)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (609) Minor irrigation works in the New Territories (block vote)

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under Subhead 609 Minor irrigation works in the New Territories (block vote), the Government's estimate for 2017-18 is lower than that for 2016-17. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Please tabulate, by administrative district, the number of minor irrigation works in the New Territories commenced or completed in 2016-17.
- (b) Please tabulate, by administrative district, the minor irrigation works projects expected to commence in 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (Member Question No. 4)

Reply:

- (a) The minor irrigation works projects in the New Territories (NT) under the purview of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) commenced or completed in 2016-17 are tabulated below:

<b>District</b>	<b>Project</b>
Various locations in the NT and Lantau Island	Provision of temporary water pumping services for irrigation; and repair and maintenance of the existing irrigation facilities
Lantau Island	Repair of the aged irrigation pipeline at Pak Ngan Heung
	Repair of the aged irrigation pipeline at Sham Wat

- (b) The minor irrigation works projects in the NT under the purview of AFCD planned to commence in 2017-18 are tabulated below:

<b>District</b>	<b>Project</b>
Various locations in the NT and Lantau Island	Provision of temporary water pumping services for irrigation; and repair and maintenance of the existing irrigation facilities
North	(a) Repair of a weir and construction of a retaining wall to protect the embankment at Shue Ling Tsuen, Ta Kwu Ling; and (b) Repair of concrete channel and pavement works at Tsiu Keng, Sheung Shui
Sha Tin	Construction of an irrigation pipe to connect from end catchpit to existing rain water collection system at Nam Shan Village
Yuen Long	(a) Re-construction of damaged concrete channels at Yeung Ka Tsuen and Tsing Tam Tsuen; and (b) Replacement of an old and damaged irrigation pipeline at Wong Nai Tun Tsuen

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)077****(Question Serial No. 2432)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What were the respective numbers of stray animals caught by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years? Please set out in detail the types of animals caught, the geographical distribution of the locations where the stray animals were caught, the ways of handling them, and the manpower and expenditure involved. How many adopters or organisations have made a request to AFCD for adoption of stray animals? Please set out in detail the ways of handling the relevant cases.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. 31)

Reply:

The number and type of stray animals caught by the Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years are as follows:

	<b>2014</b>			
	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Cats</b>	<b>Others*</b>	<b>Total</b>
AMC/HK	394	254	72	720
AMC/K	937	549	199	1 685
AMC/NTS	675	338	16	1 029
AMC/NTN	1 670	695	1 087	3 452
	<b>2015</b>			
	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Cats</b>	<b>Others*</b>	<b>Total</b>
AMC/HK	286	218	24	528
AMC/K	581	435	47	1 063
AMC/NTS	507	221	12	740
AMC/NTN	1 038	485	1 335	2 858



	2016			
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Total
AMC/HK	224	164	58	446
AMC/K	435	259	81	775
AMC/NTS	458	169	21	648
AMC/NTN	802	284	1 334	2 420

^ The 4 AMCs are namely AMC/Hong Kong (AMC/HK), AMC/Kowloon (AMC/K), AMC/New Territories South (AMC/NTS) and AMC/New Territories North (AMC/NTN). They are responsible for animal management work in the regions as named.

\* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

Stray animals caught will be put in the AMCs for observation. For animals with a microchip implanted, the AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in the AMCs temporarily for about 10 to 20 days. For those without a microchip, the AMCs will keep them for at least 4 days to allow time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the animals being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary surgeon as having a gentle temperament and suitable for adoption, AFCD will arrange for their transfer to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) for adoption by members of the public. Only animals that remain unclaimed or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanised.

The number of animals received by AFCD which were reclaimed and re-homed over the past 3 years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Animals Reclaimed#			Animals Re-homed#		
	Dogs	Cats	Others**	Dogs	Cats	Others**
2014	1 235	576	253	679	212	75
2015	774	626	11	651	168	83
2016	637	400	1	513	136	92

# Sources of animals received by AFCD include stray animals caught, animals given up by owners and animals received through other channels.

\*\* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), cattle, reptiles, birds, etc.

The number of stray animals caught which were euthanised over the past 3 years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Dogs	Cats	Other Animals^
2014	2 406	939	895
2015	1 424	605	828
2016	1 039	380	677

^ Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

The manpower involved in the management of stray animals over the past 3 years is as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of Staff)</b>
2014-15	175
2015-16	179
2016-17	187

The expenditure involved in the management of stray animals (including catching operations and the handling of animals caught (including euthanasia cost)) over the past 3 years is as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure on Catching Operations (\$ million)</b>	<b>Expenditure on Handling of Stray Animals Caught (including euthanasia cost) (\$ million)</b>	<b>Total Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2014-15	28.9	3.6	32.5
2015-16	29.0	3.6	32.6
2016-17 (revised estimate)	29.4	3.5	32.9

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)078**

**(Question Serial No. 2442)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please elaborate on the future work and the time frame in respect of “strengthening measures for stray animals management, including facilitating the implementation of the trap-neuter-return trial programme for stray dogs” and “strengthening promotion of animal welfare”.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. 41)

Reply:

In 2017-18, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to strengthen the promotion of animal welfare. The measures include:

- (i) implementing an enhanced public education and publicity programme and enhancing AFCD's website to promote responsible pet ownership and proper care of animals, advise against the abandonment and needless surrendering of pets, and champion the need for dog licensing and rabies vaccination as well as the benefits of neutering;
- (ii) assisting the animal welfare organisations (AWOs) concerned in implementing the trap-neuter-return trial programme for stray dogs which is expected to be completed in early 2018;
- (iii) introducing the new licensing regime under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) to regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale ;
- (iv) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals;

- (v) taking enforcement action against pet owners and traders in contravention of the relevant legislation;
- (vi) improving the handling of reports or complaints on cruelty to animals through the inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong);
- (vii) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to, AWOs in re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management; and
- (viii) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)079****(Question Serial No. 2443)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Not Specified

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Over the past 2 years, the actual numbers of stray animals caught by the Department were 5 189 and 4 289. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The numbers of stray animals with a breakdown by type; and
- (b) The ways that the stray animals were handled. Please illustrate the various cases in tabular form, with a breakdown by type.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. 42)

Reply:

The number and the type of stray animals caught by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 2 years are as follows:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Cats</b>	<b>Other animals*</b>	<b>Total</b>
2015	2 412	1 359	1 418	5 189
2016	1 919	876	1 494	4 289

\* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

Stray animals caught will be put in the Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of AFCD for observation. For animals with a microchip implanted, the AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in the AMCs temporarily for about 10 to 20 days. For those without a microchip, the AMCs will keep them for at least 4 days to allow time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the animals being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary surgeon as having a gentle temperament and suitable for adoption, AFCD will arrange for

their transfer to animal welfare organisations for adoption by members of the public. Only animals that remain unclaimed or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanised.

The number of animals received by AFCD which were reclaimed and re-homed over the past 2 years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Animals Reclaimed <sup>#</sup>			Animals Re-homed <sup>#</sup>		
	Dogs	Cats	Others <sup>*</sup>	Dogs	Cats	Others <sup>*</sup>
2015	774	626	11	651	168	83
2016	637	400	1	513	136	92

<sup>#</sup> Sources of animals received by AFCD include stray animals caught, animals given up by owners and animals received through other channels.

<sup>\*</sup> Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, cattle, birds, etc.

The number of stray animals caught by AFCD which were euthanised over the past 2 years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Dogs	Cats	Other animals <sup>*</sup>
2015	1 424	605	828
2016	1 039	380	677

<sup>\*</sup> Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)080**

**(Question Serial No. 2550)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the inspection of farms where food animals are kept and marine fish culture farms, please advise on the actual and estimated numbers of inspections conducted, and the manpower involved, in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively.

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 4)

Reply:

At present, there are 72 licensed livestock farms including 43 pig farms and 29 chicken farms. The numbers of inspections carried out on these farms in 2015 and 2016 were 4 173 and 4 106 respectively. A total of 30 staff were involved in the inspection of these farms. In 2017, it is expected that about 4 200 inspections will be conducted with a similar level of manpower.

At present, there are 949 licensed marine fish culture farms. The numbers of inspections carried out on these farms in 2015 and 2016 were 6 659 and 7 550 respectively. A total of 17 staff were involved in the inspection of these farms. In 2017, it is expected that about 7 000 inspections will be conducted with a similar level of manpower.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)081****(Question Serial No. 2781)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please set out the titles, duties and remunerations of the additional 12 posts.

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 5)Reply:

Details of the additional 12 posts under Programme (3) are tabulated below:

<b>Area of Work</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of posts</b>	<b>Annual Provision (\$ million)</b>
To carry out enforcement work at boundary control points	Field Officer I	2	1.8
	Field Officer II	2	
	Field Assistant	1	
To enhance animal welfare and animal management services	Field Officer II	4	1.7
	Field Assistant	2	
	Motor Driver	1	
<b>Total:</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>3.5</b>

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)082**

**(Question Serial No. 2555)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the Subhead 700 General non-recurrent, why is the estimated expenditure in 2017-18 increased by over \$100 million when comparing with the revised expenditure in 2016-17?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

The estimate under this Subhead for 2017-18 is increased by over \$100 million over the revised estimate for 2016-17 mainly due to the provision of \$100 million for the newly established Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)083****(Question Serial No. 0631)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the requirement for additional 12 posts mentioned in Programme (3), what are the staffing establishment and the nature of work of the said posts? What is the expenditure involved? How much is the increased expenditure relating to the antimicrobial resistance surveillance and testing on food animals in local farms? How does the increase in the related surveillance and testing compare with that in the past?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (Member Question No. 42)

Reply:

Details of the additional 12 posts under Programme (3) are tabulated below:

<b>Area of work</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of posts</b>	<b>Annual Provision (\$ million)</b>
To carry out enforcement work at boundary control points	Field Officer I	2	1.8
	Field Officer II	2	
	Field Assistant	1	
To enhance animal welfare and animal management services	Field Officer II	4	1.7
	Field Assistant	2	
	Motor Driver	1	
<b>Total:</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>3.5</b>

In 2017-18, an additional provision of \$4.5 million is earmarked under Programme (3) for work relating to antimicrobial resistance surveillance and testing on food animals in local farms. This is a new initiative of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, with no expenditure incurred thus far.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)084**

**(Question Serial No. 0958)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The impact of the nuisance and hygiene problem caused by pigeons is extensive. What effective measures does the Government put in place to deal with the said problem? What are the related work arrangement and estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (Member Question No. 47)

Reply:

To address the environmental hygiene problems caused by congregation of wild pigeons, the Government has put in place various measures through the concerted efforts of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). The two departments appeal to the public not to feed wild pigeons and other wild birds through public education, publicity programmes and erecting warning signs in public places. AFCD also advises building management to install mesh or spikes to reduce perching places for wild birds. In addition, FEHD upkeeps environmental hygiene and street cleanliness by taking enforcement actions against persons found to have dirtied public areas while feeding birds, and arranging street washing and disinfection at places where wild birds congregate. Since pigeon control is part of the Government's overall avian influenza surveillance, monitoring and control, as well as environmental hygiene measure in Hong Kong, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)085**

**(Question Serial No. 1045)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) What is the total number of applications submitted since the establishment of the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund? What is the number of successful applications?
- (b) Please tabulate the details of the successful applications and the amount involved respectively. What is the total amount approved?

Projects	Amount involved
Total	

- (c) Among the above applications, how many cases are related to the development of recreational fisheries? What is the number of successful applications? For those unsuccessful projects, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No. 1)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has received 28 applications since the inception of the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (the Fund) in July 2014. So far, a total of 7 applications have been approved.
- (b) Details of the 7 approved applications under the Fund are tabulated below:

Projects	Amount involved
(i) “Mariculture Using Enclosure Net Cages” The project involves using large enclosure net cages extending from the water surface down to the seabed for culturing white flower croaker (mainly for its swim bladder to produce fish maw) together with two other species, namely giant grouper and pompano. Both the culture system and the culture of white flower croaker are new to Hong Kong.	\$6.4 million
(ii) “Fisheries-related Eco-tour Guide Training Programme for Fishermen (North-eastern Waters)” The project seeks to help fishermen develop or switch to fisheries-related ecotourism business by equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills as well as practical experience in operating eco-tours.	\$2.3 million
(iii) “Depurated Oyster Project Proposal” The project makes use of a depuration process and a monitoring programme to enhance the safety and quality of local oysters. It seeks to build its own brand, extend the sales network and, in the long run, maintain a stable supply of a variety of oyster products that are safe and fresh for the local market.	\$3.0 million
(iv) “Fishery & Eco, Conservation Program (Cheung Chau Waters)” The project helps fishermen switch to recreational fisheries by equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills as well as practical experience in operating eco-tours. It also involves planning and design of new eco-tour routes and related facilities which will be conducive to the development of new recreational fisheries in the waters of Cheung Chau.	\$2.3 million
(v) “Promotion and Support Scheme on Organic Certification for the Organic Aquaculture in Hong Kong” The project provides assistance to fish farmers in obtaining organic accreditation and organises activities to enhance public understanding of organic aquaculture and to promote the development of a high end market for organic aquaculture products.	\$10.5 million
(vi) “Establishment and Demonstration of Recirculation Aquaculture System for Fry Culture on Rafts “ The project aims to develop grouper fry culture technique with the use of seawater recirculating system on fish rafts and to promote such culture technique to local fish farmers.	\$3.8 million
(vii) “Safe and Quality Fish Production: Development of High Grade Pellets Using Food Wastes for Three Popular Marine Fish Species” The project makes use of local food waste to produce pellet feed for the local mariculture industry, which will facilitate the sustainable development of the industry and benefit the environment.	\$8.4 million
Total:	\$36.7 million

- (c) AFCD has received 5 applications related to the development of recreational fisheries and 2 of them have been approved. Details are provided in (b)(ii) and (iv) above. 1 application has been withdrawn by the applicant. The remaining applications are being processed.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)086**

**(Question Serial No. 1046)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Please provide in tabular form the existing farms with leisure and tourism attractions, and the number of visitors of the said leisure farms in each of the past 3 years.

Name of leisure farm	Number of visitors		
	2014	2015	2016

- (b) What are the measures to be implemented and the expenditure to be involved in supporting the development of leisure farming in 2017-18?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No. 2)

Reply:

- (a) It is estimated that there are 139 leisure farms in Hong Kong. Details of these farms are published by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) in "A Guide to Hong Kong Leisure Farms", available on VMO's website. The leisure farms are private commercial entities, and AFCD does not have the figures of visitors.
- (b) AFCD, together with VMO, will continue to promote the development of leisure farming as an ancillary activity to commercial crop production through the provision of training, experience sharing seminars, technical support on crop production as well as publicity work. For 2017-18, the estimated expenditure involved is \$1.5 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)087**

**(Question Serial No. 1047)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) has been open for application since December 2016. Please advise on the following:

- (a) What are the respective numbers of applications received and approved under SADF?
- (b) What are the amount involved in the approved projects, and the respective amounts involved in individual projects? Which of the applications are related to the development of leisure farms?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

As at 1 March 2017, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has received 2 applications under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) to fund projects that may benefit the local agricultural community as a whole. The applications are being processed. So far, no application received is related to leisure farming.

In addition, as at 1 March 2017, a total of 54 applications seeking financial assistance for individual farms to acquire farming equipment and/or materials from the Farm Improvement Scheme under SADF have been received. 6 applications have been approved, involving a total funding of \$180,000.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)219**

**(Question Serial No. 3530)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What is the current number of Animal Trader Licence holders? What is the current number of shops involved in trading of animals? What are the numbers of cats and dogs traded each year, according to the Government's statistics?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 67)

Reply:

Under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B), a person shall not carry on business as an animal trader otherwise than under an Animal Trader Licence (ATL) granted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). An ATL is required in respect of each keeping premises. As at 28 March 2017, there were 401 valid ATLs for the same number of animal keeping premises.

AFCD does not have statistics on the number of dogs and cats traded in Hong Kong.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)220**

**(Question Serial No. 3532)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What is the progress of the trap-neuter-return trial programme for stray dogs? When will the Government report to the Legislative Council on the programme?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 69)

Reply:

The 3-year Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme for stray dogs being conducted at the 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long by 2 animal welfare organisations since early 2015 is still in progress. A total of 64 and 37 dogs have been neutered and returned to the trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long respectively. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is closely monitoring the progress, and will consider the way forward upon completion of the trial programme in 2018. AFCD will report progress of the programme at the coming meeting of the Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Animal Rights under the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene, scheduled for April 2017.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE) 221****(Question Serial No. 3533)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Over the past 3 years, what were the numbers of the various kinds of live animals imported every year, the numbers of animal health certificates issued and the numbers of sanitary certificates for products of animal issued?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 70)

Reply:

The import of live animals and birds is regulated under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Regulations (Cap. 139A) and the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A). The types and numbers of imported live animals handled by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

	Calendar Year		
	2014	2015	2016
Dogs and cats	6 170	7 433	8 840
Birds	22 687	48 155	39 244
Small mammals	25 238	32 595	24 826
Pet reptiles	878 879	826 384	996 896
Horses	487	625	555
Breeding pigs	1 249	2 253	1 546
Day-old chicks	1 598 380	1 600 330	1 763 710
Food poultry	1 239 356	526 605	622 598
Food animals (pigs, cattle, and goats)	1 648 899	1 605 690	1 460 457
Food reptiles (kg.)	54 000	38 771	8 807
Zoo animals	16	6	5

The numbers of veterinary health certificates and sanitary certificates issued by AFCD and FEHD over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of veterinary health certificates issued</b>	<b>Number of sanitary certificates issued</b>
<b>2014</b>	4 336	842
<b>2015</b>	4 564	866
<b>2016</b>	4 682	998

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)222****(Question Serial No. 3707)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

- (a) Please set out the expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on promoting organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production over the past 5 years, as well as the Department's estimated expenditure on the same aspects in 2017-2018.
- (b) What are AFCD's estimated expenditure on and the details of implementing the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in 2017-2018?
- (c) What were the types and volumes of imported toothfish in Hong Kong over the past 5 years? What will be the specific impact of implementing the Catch Documentation Scheme on the import of toothfish into Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 538)Reply:

- (a) Information on the expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in promoting organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production over the past 5 years and the estimate for 2017-18 is tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Organic cultivation (\$ million)</b>	<b>Intensive greenhouse production (\$ million)</b>
2012-13	6.7	4.9
2013-14	6.3	4.9
2014-15	5.6	4.9
2015-16	5.8	4.9
2016-17 (revised estimate)	6.7	7.3
2017-18 (estimate)	7.8	7.3

- (b) In 2017-18, AFCD has earmarked \$1.3 million for work relating to the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (the Convention). This includes the preparation of a new piece of legislation for implementing the Convention and the relevant conservation measures in Hong Kong, obtaining relevant technical knowledge in implementing the conservation measures from other contracting parties to the Convention through training and visits, and conducting market surveys on toothfish.
- (c) Two species of toothfish, namely *Dissostichus mawsoni* (Antarctic toothfish) and *Dissostichus eleginoides* (Patagonian toothfish), were imported into Hong Kong over the past 5 years. The import volume is tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Volume* (tonnes)</b>
<b>2012</b>	567.0
<b>2013</b>	695.3
<b>2014</b>	1 093.3
<b>2015</b>	959.8
<b>2016</b>	1 968.6

\* Based on statistics compiled by the Census and Statistics Department

Toothfish constitutes a small proportion of the fish produce traded in Hong Kong and accounts for about 0.5% of the total consumption of fish produce. The impact on the trade in meeting the requirements under the proposed Catch Documentation Scheme is expected to be minimal.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)223****(Question Serial No. 3709)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the management of stray animals and the promotion of animal welfare, please advise on the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's expenditures involved over the past 5 years, as well as the estimated expenditure in 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 540)

Reply:

The requested information over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2012-13	34.3
2013-14	35.6
2014-15	40.2
2015-16	38.3
2016-17 (revised estimate)	40.3

In 2017-18, \$40.3 million has been earmarked by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for this area of work.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 5666)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets  
(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme implemented by the Government, please provide information on: (a) the details of expenditure on implementing the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme, including the departmental manpower and expenditure involved; the number of applications for agricultural land rehabilitation, participating land owners, cases of successful matching, as well as the area of land involved in each case; (b) the number of new applicants for agricultural land rehabilitation, the cumulative number of applicants on the waiting list and the area of land involved; (c) the number of cases of successful matching, the details of area of land and rentals involved in each case as well as the average and the longest waiting time; and (d) whether the Government puts in place any measures to increase the chance of successful matching and reduce the waiting time for agricultural land rehabilitation.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 4021)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) operates the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (ALRS) through bringing owners of farmland and interested farmers together to work out a rental agreement for leasing out the farmland. The manpower and expenditure involved in operating the ALRS and the relevant statistics on the cases handled in 2016 are tabulated below:



	<b>2016</b>
Number of staff	1
Expenditure (\$ million)	0.9
Number of landowners participating in the ALRS	28
Number of new applications / land area involved (hectare)	65 / 8.3
Number of successful cases	29
- Total land area involved (hectares)	4.0
- Range of farm sizes of individual case (dau chung *)	0.2 to 9.0
- Range of annual rental (per dau chung *)	\$1,400 to \$32,100
- Average / longest waiting time (year)	4 / 12
Number of applications on the waiting list as at year-end / land area involved (hectare)	300 / 67.6

\* 1 dau chung is equivalent to 7 260 square feet.

Agricultural land in Hong Kong is mainly in private hands. It is up to the landowners to decide whether to lease out their land for farming. AFCD will continue to facilitate the leasing out of fallow farmland through the ALRS, and provide farmers with technical advice and services to return fallow land to active farming. In addition, the Government will commission a consultancy study later this year to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land as Agricultural Priority Areas, and explore how to formulate suitable policies and measures to provide incentives to encourage owners to put fallow agricultural land into long-term agricultural use.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)225**

**(Question Serial No. 5780)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

At present, how many hectares of agricultural land are suitable for rehabilitation? Is there any limit on the area of land for which a person can apply for agricultural rehabilitation? What is the maximum area of land available for agricultural rehabilitation? How many people are there on the waiting list? What is the average waiting time?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1046)

Reply:

Through the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department brings owners of farmland and interested farmers together to work out a rental agreement for leasing out the farmland. At present, about 11 hectares of agricultural land is available for leasing. There is no restriction on the size of farmland that may be rented. In 2016, the average waiting time for successful cases was 4 years. 300 applicants were on the waiting list as at end 2016.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)226**

**(Question Serial No. 6174)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Over the past 5 years, how many persons had made applications under the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund? What were the respective numbers of applications successfully approved? What is the amount of surplus in the Fund?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1211)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has received 28 applications since the inception of the \$500 million Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund in July 2014. So far, 7 applications have been approved, involving a total commitment of about \$36.7 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)227****(Question Serial No. 6178)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

**Question:**

Over the past 5 years, how many applications were received and approved respectively regarding the lease of agricultural land under the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (the Scheme) by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department? What is the area of land leased out under the Scheme? What is the average waiting time for applicants? What is the number of waiting cases for leasing agricultural land at present?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 1212)

**Reply:**

Information on the operation of the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Number of new applications	38	51	44	45	65
Number of successful cases	9	14	12	41	29
- Total land area involved (hectare)	3.4	6.2	2.6	5.4	4.0
- Average waiting time (year)	3.5	4.0	5.0	5.0	4.0
Number of applications on the waiting list as at year-end	221	258	278	287	300

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)228****(Question Serial No. 6619)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please provide the number of existing locally-operated hydroponic farms, their locations, distribution among districts, areas, total production areas, and respective **zonings** on the **Outline Zoning Plan** (such as Agriculture, Green Belt, etc).

Location	District	Number	Area	Total production area	Zoning on the Outline Zoning Plan
Agricultural Land					
Industrial Building					

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. 2227)Reply:

Information on local hydroponic farms gathered by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department as at 28 February 2017 is tabulated below:

Location	District	Number	Farm area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Production area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Zoning on Outline Zoning Plan
Agricultural Land	Yuen Long	5	44 500	14 500	Agriculture
		1	11 000	6 000	Industrial
		1	6 000	3 350	Village Type Development
		1	3 500	2 500	Green Belt
		1	2 500	2 000	Coastal Protection Area

		1	560	300	Open Space
		1	300	180	Open Storage
	North	2	2 730	2 430	Agriculture
		1	6 000	4 000	Agriculture/Green Belt
		1	2 000	500	Green Belt
	Sai Kung	1	18 500	1 850	Agriculture
	Tuen Mun	1	6 000	2 000	Village Type Development
Industrial Building	Kwun Tong	2	480	890	Other Specified Use
	Kwai Tsing	1	200	180	Other Specified Use
		1	30	30	Industrial
	Tsuen Wan	1	330	450	Industrial
	Shatin	1	50	50	Industrial
Others *	Sham Shui Po	1	250	250	Residential

\* The “Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre” established and operated by the Vegetable Marketing Organization on a piece of land under short term tenancy which allows operation of a small vegetable factory.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE) 229**

**(Question Serial No. 6422)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The 3 major components of the new agriculture policy are the Agricultural Park, the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund, and agricultural priority areas. The study on the establishment of the Agricultural Park, such as the engineering feasibility study for the establishment of an agricultural park, has commenced. It is mentioned in the 2017 Policy Address that a study on agricultural priority areas under the new agriculture policy will commence within 2017.

- (a) Please provide all the tender documents for hiring consultants to conduct studies on the Agricultural Park and agricultural priority areas.
- (b) Please provide the names of all the successful tenderers of the studies on the Agricultural Park and agricultural priority areas, and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. 55)

Reply:

The engineering feasibility study commissioned by the Government in 2016 for the establishment of an Agriculture-Park (Agri-Park) was undertaken by Halcrow China Limited with a lump sum fee of \$1.10 million. The Government has recently commissioned an investigation, design and construction (IDC) consultancy assignment for the investigation work of the potential site and the detailed design of the Agri-Park. The IDC assignment is awarded to Jacobs China Limited with a lump sum fee of \$10.86 million. Both exercises for hiring the consultants were conducted by the Civil Engineering and Development Department, which will handle request for release of the tender documents in accordance with the Code on Access to Information.

Separately, the Government is in the process of preparing for the tender exercise for the consultancy study on agricultural priority areas.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)230****(Question Serial No. 4255)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

On stepping up monitoring of aquaculture environment, please advise on the following:

- (a) The expenditure and manpower of the Government for monitoring water quality and red tides respectively over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17).
- (b) The numbers, locations, time of the red tide incidents, and the species of phytoplankton that caused red tides respectively over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 28)Reply:

- (a) Information on the expenditure and manpower of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in monitoring water quality and red tides over the past 3 years is given below:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of Staff)</b>
2014-15	8.1	10
2015-16	8.5	10
2016-17 (revised estimate)	8.4	10

- (b) Red tide incidents recorded by AFCD over the past 3 years are given below:



Year	Month	Location	Causative species of phytoplankton	
2014	January	Port Shelter	<i>Phaeocystis globosa</i>	
		Tolo Harbour	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	
		Tuen Mun River	<i>Heterosigma akashiwo</i>	
	February	South Lantau	<i>Eucampia zodiacus</i> <i>Guinardia delicatula</i> <i>Dactyliosolen phuketensis</i>	
	April	Tolo Harbour, Port Shelter, Mirs Bay, southern waters	<i>Heterosigma akashiwo</i> <i>Prorocentrum minimum</i> <i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i>	
		East Lamma Channel, West Lamma Channel, Pui O Beach	<i>Prorocentrum minimum</i> <i>Pseudo-nitzschia delicatissima</i> <i>Pseudo-nitzschia pungens</i> <i>Skeletonema costatum</i>	
		Silver Mine Bay Beach	<i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i>	
		Tolo Harbour, Mirs Bay	<i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i>	
		Silverstrand Beach	<i>Cochlodinium cf. geminatum</i>	
		May	Pui O Beach, Silver Mine Bay Beach	<i>Heterosigma akashiwo</i>
			Silverstrand Beach, Tung Ping Chau, Cheung Chau	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
	Tolo Harbour, southern waters		<i>Thalassiosira pseudonana</i> <i>Teleaulax acuta</i>	
	Tolo Harbour		<i>Scrippsiella trochoidea</i> <i>Heterosigma akashiwo</i>	
	Port Shelter, southern waters, East Lantau, West Lamma Channel		<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	
	Silverstrand Beach		<i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i>	
	June		Clear Water Bay First Beach	<i>Cochlodinium cf. germinatum</i>
		Long Harbour	<i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i>	
	July	West Lamma Channel, East Lamma Channel, Tai Tam Bay	<i>Pseudo-nitzschia delicatissima</i>	
	September	Repulse Bay Beach	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	
		Tolo Harbour	<i>Haematococcus pluvialis</i>	
	October	Shing Mun River	<i>Chattonella</i> sp. 0310, <i>Chattonella marina</i>	
	November	Tolo Harbour, Port Shelter, southern waters, East Lantau, East Lamma Channel, West Lamma Channel, Golden Beach, Mirs Bay	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	
		Clear Water Bay Second Beach	<i>Mesodinium rubrum</i>	

2015	January	Port Shelter, southern waters, Cheung Chau, Tolo Harbour, Lam Tsuen River, Long Harbour, Tai Lam, Mirs Bay	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
		Po Pin Chau	<i>Mesodinium rubrum</i>
	February	Tolo Harbour	<i>Heterocapsa circularisquama</i>
	April	Port Shelter, Mirs Bay, southern waters, Long Harbour, East Lamma Channel	<i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i>
	May	East Lantau, Junk Bay, southern waters	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
	June	Deep Water Bay, Repulse Bay	<i>Pseudo-nitzschia pungens</i>
	August	Mirs Bay	<i>Gyrodinium impudicum</i>
	November	Silverstrand Beach	<i>Trichodesmium erythraeum</i>
	December	Tolo Harbour	<i>Karenia mikimotoi</i>
2016	January	Tolo Harbour, Mirs Bay, Long Harbour	<i>Karenia mikimotoi</i> , <i>Karenia papilionacea</i>
		East Lantau	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
	February	Port Shelter, Mirs Bay, Tolo Harbour, Long Harbour, Golden Beach, East Lantau, southern waters	<i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i>
		Lee Yue Mun, Tathong Channel, Port Shelter, Long Harbour	<i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i> <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> <i>Dictyocha speculum</i>
	March	Port Shelter, southern waters, Tolo Harbour, Long Harbour, Mirs Bay, South Lantau, Junk Bay	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
	April	Pui O Beach, Junk Bay, Cheung Chau	<i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i> <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
	August	Tolo Harbour	<i>Gonyaulax verior</i> <i>Heterocapsa pygmaea</i>
	September	Rocky Harbour	<i>Neoceratium furca</i>
	November	Tsam Chuk Wan	<i>Phaeocystis globosa</i>
	December	Yeung Chau, Tai Tau Chau	<i>Mesodinium rubrum</i>
		Junk Bay	<i>Phaeocystis globosa</i>

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE) 231**

**(Question Serial No. 4256)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding antibiotic use in livestock, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the numbers of cases of using prohibited antibiotic and restricted antibiotic exceeding maximum residue level in local pig farms and chicken farms, as well as chicken and pigs imported from the Mainland over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (b) Further to the above question, what were the respective numbers of prosecutions instituted and successful prosecutions?
- (c) What were the expenditures and manpower on matters concerning inspections of meat safety, technical support rendered to farmers and publicity on antibiotics over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 29)

Reply:

- (a) & (b) Over the past 3 calendar years, there were 1 case of using prohibited antibiotics and 1 case of using restricted antibiotics exceeding maximum residue level detected. Prosecution was instituted in respect of the prohibited antibiotics case and the offender was convicted.
- (c) Samples for testing of veterinary drug residues in food animals are collected, and inspection of food animals slaughtered at slaughterhouses (including pigs, cattle and goats) are conducted, by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is responsible for testing of the samples collected by FEHD, and

regular inspection of local livestock and poultry farms to monitor the health of the pigs and chickens on farms and advise local farmers on the proper use of veterinary drugs, including antibiotics. The above work of AFCD is part of its overall farm management and disease prevention plan for local livestock and poultry farms. There is no breakdown for the expenditure and manpower involved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)232**

**(Question Serial No. 4260)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets  
(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Please set out the numbers, sizes and distribution of the vegetable farms, flower farms, organic farms, leisure farms, vegetable marketing co-operative societies, vegetable depots, farms in industrial buildings, fish rafts and licences for marine fish culture, fish ponds, and oyster breeding rafts currently in operation.
- (b) What are the numbers, sizes and distribution of local pig farms and chicken farms, and the licensed rearing capacity of each farm over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)? Please set out the information with a breakdown by the 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 33)

Reply:

- (a) As at 31 December 2016, there are about 2 300 crop farms (including vegetables flowers cultivation and orchards) with a total cultivated area of about 698 hectares. These farms are mainly located in the Yuen Long District and the North District. Amongst these crop farms, 297 organic vegetable farms have joined the Organic Farming Support Service Scheme of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department with a total area of about 107 hectares. It is estimated that there are 139 leisure farms with a total area of about 132 hectares. Regarding farms in industrial buildings, there are 6 farms located in Kwun Tong, Kwai Tsing, Tsuen Wan and Shatin Districts with a total area of 0.1 hectare.

Information on the number and distribution of vegetable marketing co-operative societies (VMCS) and vegetable depots as at 31 December 2016 by district is tabulated below:

Districts	VMCS	Vegetable Depots
Yuen Long	13	1
North	8	0
Tuen Mun	3	1
Islands	2	0
Tai Po	1	0
Tsuen Wan	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2</b>

Information of marine fish culture farms, pond fish farms and oyster rafts as at 31 December 2016 is as follows –

- There were about 950 licensed marine fish culture farms with about 2 020 fish rafts in 26 designated Fish Culture Zones\*. The size of farms ranged from 13 to about 6 800 m<sup>2</sup>.
- There were about 310 pond fish farms with about 1 330 fish ponds, mainly in the north-west New Territories. The size of pond fish farms ranged from 80 to 428 800 m<sup>2</sup>.
- There were about 7 000 oyster rafts in Deep Bay. The size of rafts ranged from 96 to 300 m<sup>2</sup>.

\* The 26 Fish Culture Zones are located at Sha Tau Kok, Ap Chau, Kat O, O Pui Tong, Sai Lau Kong, Wong Wan, Tap Mun, Kau Lau Wan, Sham Wan, Lo Fu Wat, Yung Shue Au, Leung Shuen Wan, Tiu Cham Wan, Tai Tau Chau, Kai Lung Wan, Kau Sai, Ma Nam Wat, Po Toi O, Po Toi, Sok Ku Wan, Lo Tik Wan, Ma Wan, Yim Tin Tsai, Cheung Sha Wan, Yim Tin Tsai (East) and Tung Lung Chau.

- (b) Over the past 3 years, the numbers of local pig farms and chicken farms remained the same as 43 and 29 respectively. The licensed area, licensed rearing capacity and distribution of these farms are tabulated below:

#### Area and rearing capacity of licensed livestock farms (as at 31 December)

##### **Pig Farms**

	2014			2015			2016		
	Licensed Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed Capacity (Number)	District	Licensed Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed Capacity (Number)	District	Licensed Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed Capacity (Number)	District
1	691.19	500	North	691.19	500	North	691.19	500	North
2	1 611.16	950	North	1 611.16	950	North	1 611.16	950	North
3	2 407.85	2 000	North	2 407.85	2 000	North	2 407.85	2 000	North
4	4 953.09	4 000	North	4 953.09	4 000	North	4 953.09	4 000	North
5	557.91	800	North	557.91	800	North	557.91	800	North
6	1 280.91	600	North	1 280.91	600	North	1 280.91	600	North
7	4 248.04	3 000	Yuen Long	4 248.04	3 000	Yuen Long	4 248.04	3 000	Yuen Long
8	388.79	350	Sai Kung	388.79	350	Sai Kung	388.79	350	Sai Kung

9	706.90	1 000	Yuen Long	706.90	1 000	Yuen Long	706.90	1 000	Yuen Long
10	1 142.90	600	Yuen Long	1 142.90	600	Yuen Long	1 142.90	600	Yuen Long
11	5 085.70	1 500	Yuen Long	5 085.70	1 500	Yuen Long	5 085.70	1 500	Yuen Long
12	3 130.14	1 500	Yuen Long	3 130.14	1 500	Yuen Long	3 130.14	1 500	Yuen Long
13	938.49	850	Yuen Long	938.49	850	Yuen Long	938.49	850	Yuen Long
14	1 864.27	600	Yuen Long	1 864.27	600	Yuen Long	1 864.27	600	Yuen Long
15	3 015.53	2 000	Yuen Long	3 015.53	2 000	Yuen Long	3 015.53	2 000	Yuen Long
16	3 914.32	3 000	Yuen Long	3 914.32	3 000	Yuen Long	3 914.32	3 000	Yuen Long
17	2 640.33	2 600	Yuen Long	2 640.33	2 600	Yuen Long	2 640.33	2 600	Yuen Long
18	2 601.06	2 000	Yuen Long	3 965.31	2000	Yuen Long	3 965.31	2000	Yuen Long
19	2 146.27	1 600	Yuen Long	2 146.27	1 600	Yuen Long	2 146.27	1 600	Yuen Long
20	384.65	300	Yuen Long	384.65	300	Yuen Long	384.65	300	Yuen Long
21	2 220.09	1 000	Yuen Long	2 220.09	1 000	Yuen Long	2 220.09	1 000	Yuen Long
22	1 725.58	1 900	Yuen Long	1 725.58	1 900	Yuen Long	1 725.58	1 900	Yuen Long
23	838.59	1 500	Yuen Long	838.59	1 500	Yuen Long	838.59	1 500	Yuen Long
24	1 709.24	1 500	Yuen Long	1 709.24	1 500	Yuen Long	1 709.24	1 500	Yuen Long
25	1 612.44	1 000	Yuen Long	1 612.44	1 000	Yuen Long	1 612.44	1 000	Yuen Long
26	2 960.03	3 500	Yuen Long	2 960.03	3 500	Yuen Long	2 960.03	3 500	Yuen Long
27	1 327.53	1 000	Yuen Long	1 327.53	1 000	Yuen Long	1 327.53	1 000	Yuen Long
28	2 614.85	2 000	Yuen Long	2 614.85	2 000	Yuen Long	2 614.85	2 000	Yuen Long
29	3 699.22	1 800	Yuen Long	3 699.22	1 800	Yuen Long	3 699.22	1 800	Yuen Long
30	6 345.66	6 000	Yuen Long	6 345.66	6 000	Yuen Long	6 345.66	6 000	Yuen Long
31	4 524.78	2 600	Yuen Long	4 524.78	2 600	Yuen Long	4 524.78	2 600	Yuen Long
32	3 955.47	2 500	Yuen Long	3 955.47	2 500	Yuen Long	3 955.47	2 500	Yuen Long
33	1 374.87	1 200	Yuen Long	1 374.87	1 200	Yuen Long	1 374.87	1 200	Yuen Long
34	1 239.02	1 500	North	1 239.02	1 500	North	1 239.02	1 500	North
35	2 860.03	1 500	Yuen Long	2 860.03	1 500	Yuen Long	2 860.03	1 500	Yuen Long
36	556.96	250	North	556.96	250	North	556.96	250	North
37	1 392.30	1 990	Yuen Long	1 392.30	1 990	Yuen Long	1 392.30	1 990	Yuen Long
38	626.82	450	Yuen Long	626.82	450	Yuen Long	626.82	450	Yuen Long

39	1 923.26	1 500	Yuen Long	1 923.26	1 500	Yuen Long	1 923.26	1 500	Yuen Long
40	7 108.62	4 000	Yuen Long	7 108.62	4 000	Yuen Long	7 108.62	4 000	Yuen Long
41	4 106.13	3 000	Yuen Long	4 106.13	3 000	Yuen Long	4 106.13	3 000	Yuen Long
42	3 205.77	2 000	Yuen Long	3 205.77	2 000	Yuen Long	3 205.77	2 000	Yuen Long
43	1 180.97	1 200	Yuen Long	1 180.97	1 200	Yuen Long	1 180.97	1 200	Yuen Long
<b>Total</b>	<b>102 817.73</b>	<b>74 640</b>		<b>104 181.98</b>	<b>74 640</b>		<b>104 181.98</b>	<b>74 640</b>	

### Chicken Farms

	2014			2015			2016		
	Licensed Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed Capacity (Number)	District	Licensed Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed Capacity (Number)	District	Licensed Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed Capacity (Number)	District
1	433.41	10 000	Tuen Mun	433.41	10 000	Tuen Mun	433.41	10 000	Tuen Mun
2	708.10	18 000	North	708.10	18 000	North	708.10	18 000	North
3	2 597.37	50 000	Yuen Long	2 597.37	50 000	Yuen Long	2 597.37	50 000	Yuen Long
4	387.23	10 000	Yuen Long	387.23	10 000	Yuen Long	387.23	10 000	Yuen Long
5	648.36	20 000	Yuen Long	648.36	20 000	Yuen Long	648.36	20 000	Yuen Long
6	723.86	19 900	Yuen Long	723.86	19 900	Yuen Long	723.86	19 900	Yuen Long
7	569.30	25 000	Yuen Long	569.30	25 000	Yuen Long	569.30	25 000	Yuen Long
8	682.16	19 000	Yuen Long	682.16	19 000	Yuen Long	682.16	19 000	Yuen Long
9	3 372.57	35 000	Yuen Long	3 372.57	35 000	Yuen Long	3 372.57	35 000	Yuen Long
10	775.26	20 000	Yuen Long	775.26	20 000	Yuen Long	775.26	20 000	Yuen Long
11	1 336.34	39 000	Yuen Long	1 336.34	39 000	Yuen Long	1 336.34	39 000	Yuen Long
12	2 004.75	41 000	Yuen Long	2 004.75	41 000	Yuen Long	2 004.75	41 000	Yuen Long
13	4 518.98	48 000	North	4 518.98	48 000	North	4 518.98	48 000	North
14	4 604.03	102 000	Yuen Long	4 604.03	102 000	Yuen Long	4 604.03	102 000	Yuen Long
15	3 226.20	108 000	Yuen Long	3 226.20	108 000	Yuen Long	3 226.20	108 000	Yuen Long
16	948.17	18 000	Yuen Long	948.17	18 000	Yuen Long	948.17	18 000	Yuen Long
17	3 163.24	70 000	Yuen Long	3 163.24	70 000	Yuen Long	3 163.24	70 000	Yuen Long
18	2 944.67	62 800	Yuen Long	2 944.67	62 800	Yuen Long	2 944.67	62 800	Yuen Long
19	1 757.95	38 500	North	1 757.95	38 500	North	1 757.95	38 500	North
20	1 642.53	46 000	Yuen Long	1 642.53	46 000	Yuen Long	2 477.98	46 000	Yuen Long
21	10 454.52	162 300	Yuen Long	10 454.52	162 300	Yuen Long	10 454.52	162 300	Yuen Long



22	4 831.83	80 000	Yuen Long	4 831.83	80 000	Yuen Long	4 831.83	80 000	Yuen Long
23	1 563.39	48 000	Yuen Long	1 563.39	48 000	Yuen Long	1 563.39	48 000	Yuen Long
24	1 137.70	48 000	Yuen Long	1 137.70	48 000	Yuen Long	1 137.70	48 000	Yuen Long
25	873.34	27 000	North	873.34	27 000	North	873.34	27 000	North
26	1 610.01	26 000	Yuen Long	1 610.01	26 000	Yuen Long	1 610.01	26 000	Yuen Long
27	1 655.73	36 000	Yuen Long	1 655.73	36 000	Yuen Long	1 655.73	36 000	Yuen Long
28	1 250.84	42 000	Yuen Long	1 250.84	42 000	Yuen Long	1 250.84	42 000	Yuen Long
29	1 067.54	31 000	Yuen Long	1 067.54	31 000	Yuen Long	1 067.54	31 000	Yuen Long
<b>Total</b>	<b>61 489.38</b>	<b>1 300 500</b>		<b>61 489.38</b>	<b>1 300 500</b>		<b>62 324.83</b>	<b>1 300 500</b>	

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)233**

**(Question Serial No. 4262)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the development of organic farming, please provide the following information:

- (a) What is the Government's plan in terms of technical support, standard certification and sales promotion for organic farming in 2017-18? What are the manpower and estimated expenditure involved?
- (b) It is mentioned in the programme that the Department will provide technical advice on organic cultivation to farmers to assist them in capturing high-value market niches. What are the relevant measures and their effectiveness?
- (c) Since the introduction of the Organic Farming Conversion Scheme in late 2000 up to now, what are the number, distribution, farming area, production quantity and value of local organic farms? What is the percentage in the total number of farms?
- (d) In view of the great variety of organic food labels found in the market, consumers can hardly verify the authenticity of food products claimed to be organic. Has the Government examined the introduction of specific legislation to regulate the production, certification and labelling of organic food so as to safeguard the interest of consumers?
- (e) Given the large quantity of products claimed to be organic in the market in recent years, consumers can hardly distinguish between organic and non-organic products. What are the details of inspections conducted by the Government on organic products?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 35)

Reply:

- (a) In 2017-18, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to promote organic farming and the marketing of local organic produce through providing technical assistance to local farmers under the Organic Farming Support Service (OFSS) Scheme, making joint efforts with the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) and the Federation of Vegetable Marketing Cooperative Societies in promoting the production and marketing of local organic produce, as well as giving support to the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre (HKORC) for the promotion of organic education and certification. The manpower and estimated expenditure for this area of work in 2017-18 are 17 staff and \$7.8 million respectively.
- (b) In addition, AFCD will continue to provide support services to assist local farmers in capturing high-value market niches, such as developing new farming techniques to raise productivity; introducing new and improved crop varieties for local cultivation; and assisting in setting up farmers' markets to help farmers to reach out to customers and organising large-scale carnivals, such as the annual FarmFest, to showcase local agricultural production. Also, a \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund has been set up under the New Agriculture Policy, to support projects that may benefit the local agricultural community as a whole, including projects that would help farmers move up the value chain. Local organic vegetables are generally selling at a premium price higher than conventional vegetables.
- (c) As at February 2017, 299 farms with a total area of about 108 hectares participated in the OFSS Scheme operated by AFCD, producing about 6 tonnes of organic produce daily. The number of organic farms accounts for about 15% of all local vegetable farms. AFCD does not have statistics on the value of the local organic production. Local organic farms are mostly concentrated in the following 7 major zones in the New Territories: Ng Ka Tsuen, Tai Kong Po, Ping Che, Fanling, Pat Heung, Sheung Shui and Tai Po.
- (d) In 2011, the Government commissioned a consultancy study on organic food to assess whether, and if so, how the production and sale of organic food in Hong Kong should be regulated. The study findings were reported to the Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene Panel of the Legislative Council in February 2013. Noting the very small market size of the local organic food sector and the primary focus of the Government on food safety and stable food supply, the consultant considered that there was no pressing need to regulate the domestic production and sale of organic food.

The consultant recommended that efforts to raise public awareness about organic food should be stepped up. Existing administrative measures such as further promoting certification schemes, streamlining the certification procedures and promulgating a reporting mechanism of food fraud should also be strengthened. The Government accepted the consultant's recommendations. AFCD has been implementing these recommendations with the support of HKORC which, apart from providing organic certification service, also organises events to enhance public awareness.

- (e) It takes the joint efforts of relevant stakeholders to enhance public understanding of organic food production and raise public awareness on the certification schemes on organic produce. In this regard, the Centre for Food Safety of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department provides information on organic food to the public through publicity leaflets, publications and its website. HKORC organises various types of activities every year to introduce recognised certification labels to the public, and encourage them to read the organic certificates of vegetable outlets carefully and buy vegetables with organic certification at reputable shops. VMO and HKORC publish on their websites information on local organic food, such as details of those outlets supplying local organic vegetables. Also, HKORC conducts regular and surprise inspections to all of the certified operations. It also carries out regular surveys and inspections of retail outlets and wet markets, and will refer suspected cases of sale of produce falsely described as organic produce to the Customs and Excise Department for enforcement actions under the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (Cap. 362).

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)234****(Question Serial No. 4264)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding Hong Kong and Macao floating fishermen, please advise on the following:

- Does the Government have any definition of Hong Kong and Macao floating fishermen currently?
- What were the numbers of floating fishermen in Hong Kong and their fishing vessels over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- Does the Government have any policy in place to support the fishing operation of Hong Kong and Macao floating fishermen currently?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 37)Reply:

- (a) & (b) The Government does not have any definition of Hong Kong and Macao floating fishermen. Information of the number of local fishing vessels and capture fishermen over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

<b>Calendar Year (as at the end of the period)</b>	<b>Number of local fishing vessels<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Number of local capture fishermen<sup>^</sup></b>
2014	6 599	9 410
2015	6 628	10 500
2016	6 631	10 790

<sup>#</sup> Based on the Marine Department's information on the number of fishing vessels (Class III vessel) licensed under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certification and Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 548D).

<sup>^</sup> Based on the annual survey on capture fishermen conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD).

- (c) AFCD provides a wide range of supportive services, including technical support, credit facilities, funding support for sustainable development projects and training, to the local fisheries industry. In addition, the Government has also banned trawling since late 2012 to help conserve the fisheries resources in the Hong Kong waters for sustainable development of the fisheries industry.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 4274)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the details, expenditure and manpower involved in promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry (e.g. the development of eco-tourism, leisure fishing, fisheries operations employing innovative technology and other sustainable fisheries operations) over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- (b) What are the details, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the planning and implementation of activities and services for promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry in 2017-18?
- (c) What were the expenditure and manpower involved in the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 47)

Reply:

- (a) The Government has been promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry through (i) implementing a suite of fisheries management measures to help conserve and restore depleted marine resources such as the ban on trawling since December 2012 and the introduction of a registration system for local fishing vessels; (ii) assisting fishermen to switch to sustainable fisheries operations and helping fish farmers to develop sustainable aquaculture through technical support services, credit facilities and training courses; (iii) promoting good aquaculture practices and enhancing the monitoring of aquaculture environment; and (iv) administering the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) to help fishermen adopt a sustainable and high value-added operation mode and subsidise projects and research that help

enhance the overall competitiveness of the industry.

The manpower and expenditure involved by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of AFCD staff)</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
<b>2014-15</b>	96	84.6
<b>2015-16</b>	92	75.6
<b>2016-17 (revised estimate)</b>	104	92.7

- (b) In 2017-18, a provision of 108 staff and \$110.9 million (including \$18.0 million for the one-off assistance package for fishermen affected by the trawl ban and \$25.0 million for SFDF) has been earmarked by AFCD for implementing support measures in (a) above.
- (c) The expenditure and manpower involved in the administration of SFDF over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of AFCD Staff)</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
<b>2014-15</b>	2	0.9
<b>2015-16</b>	3	3.3*
<b>2016-17 (revised estimate)</b>	7	18.9*

\*Including expenditures of \$2.2 million (2015-16) and \$16.9 million (revised estimate for 2016-17) for the payment of grants to approved applications under SFDF.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE) 236**

**(Question Serial No. 4275)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding marine works and New Development Areas, please advise on the following:

Please set out, by marine works project and New Development Area, the expenditure and manpower respectively involved in assessing the impact of marine works and New Development Areas on the agriculture and fisheries industries, and in implementing measures related to the development of the agriculture and fisheries industries, over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 48)

Reply:

Assessments on the impact of marine works and New Development Areas (NDAs) on the agriculture and fisheries industries are conducted by the subject bureaux or works departments. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides professional advice to the concerned bureaux / departments in respect of the assessments conducted. The expenditure and manpower incurred by AFCD for providing inputs to the assessments, and in implementing measures related to the development of the agriculture and fisheries industries in marine works areas and NDAs are subsumed under AFCD's overall resources for supporting the agricultural and fisheries industries. There is no separate breakdown.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)237**

**(Question Serial No. 4276)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding co-operative societies, please advise on:

- (a) the numbers of co-operative societies related to the fisheries and agriculture industries respectively over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (b) the expenditures and manpower involved in co-operative societies related to the fisheries and agriculture industries respectively over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 49)

Reply:

- (a) The number of co-operative societies related to the agriculture and fisheries industries over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

<b>Number of Co-operative Societies (as at end of the period)</b>		
<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
115	112	111

- (b) The expenditure and manpower involved in co-operative societies related to the agriculture and fisheries industries over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of AFCD staff)</b>
2014-15	2.5	6
2015-16	2.4	6
2016-17 (revised estimate)	3.3	7

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE) 238****(Question Serial No. 4278)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the development of the local agricultural industry, please advise on the following:

- What were the locations of the agricultural land, active agricultural land, and arable land, in Hong Kong over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17) (please show with a map). What were the areas of the said land?
- What were the manpower and expenditure involved in the investigations conducted by the Department over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17)?
- Does the Department have any plans to develop some of the agricultural land to arable land in the coming year? If yes, what is/are the relevant location(s)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 76)Reply:

- According to the survey on agricultural land use conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the total area of agricultural land in Hong Kong is around 4 500 hectares. The estimated areas of agricultural land in active farming use over the past 3 years are tabulated by district below. The survey did not provide information on the boundaries of the relevant land for compiling a location map.

District	Area in active farming use (hectare)		
	2014	2015	2016
North	266	277	280
Yuen Long	222	230	241

Tai Po	67	62	56
Tuen Mun	68	45	45
Islands	35	27	30
Sai Kung	20	21	21
Tsuen Wan	20	12	12
Sha Tin	7	5	7
Southern	4	4	4
Kwai Tsing	2	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>698</b>

- (b) The survey on agricultural land use forms part of the ongoing work of AFCD in supporting the agricultural sector. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower involved.
- (c) AFCD operates the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (ALRS) to facilitate farmland owners and interested farmers to work out a rental agreement for leasing out the farmland for cultivation. At present, about 11 hectares of agricultural land, mostly in the North district, is available for leasing under ALRS. In addition, as one of the measures under the New Agriculture Policy, the Government is planning to establish an Agricultural Park in Kwu Tung South.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)239**

**(Question Serial No. 7179)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the imports and exports of fresh food as well as agricultural and fisheries products, please advise on the total values of locally produced fresh food and agricultural and fisheries products for supply to the local market over the past 3 years (2014-15 to 2016-17).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 21)

Reply:

The total values of locally produced fresh agricultural and fisheries products\* supplied to the local market in 2014, 2015 and 2016 were about \$2,650 million, \$2,600 million and \$2,540 million respectively.

\*Including live pigs, live chickens, live and chilled fish and shellfish, vegetables and fruits.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)240**

**(Question Serial No. 4529)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme implemented by the Government last year, please advise on:

- (a) the details of expenditure on implementing the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme, including the departmental manpower and expenditure involved; the number of applications for agricultural land rehabilitation, participating land owners, cases of successful matching, as well as the area of land involved in each case;
- (b) the number of new applicants for agricultural land rehabilitation, the cumulative number of applicants on the waiting list and the area of land involved;
- (c) the number of cases of successful matching, the details of area of land and rentals involved in each case as well as the average and the longest waiting time; and
- (d) whether the Government has put in place any measures to increase the chance of successful matching and reduce the waiting time for agricultural land rehabilitation.

Asked by: Hon LAU Siu-lai (Member Question No. 3136)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) operates the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (ALRS) through bringing owners of farmland and interested farmers together to work out a rental agreement for leasing out the farmland. The manpower and expenditure involved in operating the ALRS and the relevant statistics on the cases handled in 2016 are tabulated below:

	<b>2016</b>
Number of staff	1
Expenditure (\$ million)	0.9
Number of landowners participating in the ALRS	28
Number of new applications / land area involved (hectare)	65 / 8.3
Number of successful cases	29
- Total land area involved (hectare)	4.0
- Range of farm size of individual case (dau chung <sup>*</sup> )	0.2 to 9.0
- Range of annual rental (per dau chung)	\$1,400 to \$32,100
- Average / longest waiting time (year)	4 / 12
Number of applications on the waiting list as at year-end / land area involved (hectare)	300 / 67.6

<sup>\*</sup> 1 dau chung is equivalent to 7 260 square feet.

Agricultural land in Hong Kong is mainly in private hands. It is up to the landowners to decide whether to lease out their land for farming. AFCD will continue to facilitate the leasing out of fallow farmland through the ALRS, and provide farmers with technical advice and services to return fallow land to active farming. In addition, the Government will commission a consultancy study later this year to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land as Agricultural Priority Areas, and explore how to formulate suitable policies and measures to provide incentives to encourage owners to put fallow agricultural land into long-term agricultural use.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)241****(Question Serial No. 5024)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the applications under the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme, please provide the average waiting time for successful cases, percentage of farmland successfully matched, area of farmland successfully leased out and number of successful applicants, rent per dau chung\* per year for successful cases, as well as the geographic distribution of successful applicants (broken down by 18 districts) in each year over the past 5 years (2012-13 to 2016-17):

Year	Average waiting time for successful cases	Percentage of farmland successfully matched	Area of farmland successfully leased out (hectares) and number of successful applicants	Rent per dau chung* per year for successful cases
2012				
2013				
2014				
2015				
2016				

Geographic distribution of successful applicants	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
North					
Yuen Long					
Tai Po					
Tuen Mun					
Sai Kung					
Islands					
Sha Tin					
Tsuen Wan					
Others					

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 540)

Reply:

The relevant statistics of successful cases under the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme are tabulated below:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Average waiting time (year)</b>	<b>Percentage of farmland matched</b>	<b>Area of farmland leased out (hectare (ha)) / successful cases</b>	<b>Rental per year (per dau chung*)</b>
2012	3.5	6.6%	3.4 ha / 9 cases	\$1,200 to \$5,000
2013	4	11.6%	6.2 ha / 14 cases	\$850 to \$43,500
2014	5	3.6%	2.6 ha / 12 cases	\$300 to \$7,000
2015	5	7.7%	5.4 ha / 41 cases	\$800 to \$10,400
2016	4	5.9%	4.0 ha / 29 cases	\$1,400 to \$32,100

\* 1 dau chung is equivalent to 7 260 square feet.

<b>Geographic distribution of successful applicants/cases</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
North	4	4	9	34	13
Yuen Long	3	8	0	3	8
Tai Po	0	1	1	0	1
Sai Kung	0	0	2	0	5
Islands	1	0	0	4	2
Sha Tin	1	1	0	0	0
Total	9	14	12	41	29

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)242**

**(Question Serial No. 3322)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Does the Department provide sign language interpretation services? If yes, what are the number of staff and staff expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 61)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has not received any request for sign language interpretation services. Arrangement would be made for the provision of the services on a need basis.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)243**

**(Question Serial No. 3342)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding outsourcing of service in your department, please inform this Committee of the followings in respect of the past 3 years:

- (a) the total number of outsourced service staff employed by your department and the percentage of outsourced service staff against the total number of staff with the same types of duties in your department;
- (b) the total expenditure on staff of your department; the total amount paid to outsourced service providers; and the percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers against the total expenditure on staff of your department; and
- (c) the nature of your department's outsourced services and the duration of the relevant contracts.

In addition, according to the Government's guidelines for tendering of outsourced services revised last year, if the procured service relies heavily on the deployment of non-skilled workers, and a marking scheme for assessing the tenders is adopted, the procuring department, when assessing the tenders, should include in the assessment criteria the evaluation of tenderers' proposed wage rates and working hours for non-skilled workers. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the followings:

- (d) the current number of outsourced service contracts involving a large number of non-skilled workers awarded by your department since implementation of the guidelines;
- (e) the departments which have adjusted their assessment criteria in respect of wage rates and working hours for the outsourced service contracts involving a large number of non-skilled workers in the light of the new guidelines since their implementation; how your department has made adjustment; and if no relevant information is available, the reasons for it;

- (f) whether there have been any rises in the average wage rates for workers in the contracts of outsourced services that rely heavily on deployment of non-skilled workers since the implementation of the guidelines; if yes, the number of contracts with rises in wage rates; if no relevant information is available, the reasons for it;
- (g) your department's measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the new tendering guidelines;
- (h) whether your department is required to adopt the existing mechanism of two-envelope assessment of the technical and price aspects when evaluating tenders for contracts of outsourced service; if no, the number of contracts awarded without adopting the existing mechanism of two-envelope assessment of the technical and price aspects in the past 3 years;
- (i) the annual numbers of cases of government service contractors breaching the service contracts, the Employment Ordinance or the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance as revealed by the inspections conducted by your department, and the annual numbers of complaints lodged by the outsourced service staff;
- (j) the details of follow-up actions on the aforementioned non-compliance and complaint cases; and
- (k) the number and details of cases involving contractors being punished for non-compliance or sustained complaints.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 87)

Reply:

- (a) to (c) There was no departmental staff with the same types of duties of the outsourced service staff in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years.

Other information requested is tabulated below:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
Total Number of Outsourced Service Staff Employed	469	475	494
Total Expenditure on Staff (\$ million)	700.7	721.7	754.5
Total Amount Paid to Outsourced Service Providers (\$ million)	69.6	77.2	88.2
Percentage of Amount Paid to Outsourced Service Providers against Total Expenditure on Staff	9.9%	10.7%	11.7%
Nature of Outsourced Services	Cleansing and security guard services		
Duration of the Relevant Contracts (months)	5 to 60	9 to 60	6 to 60

- (d) to (g) There has not been any new contract involving a large number of non-skilled workers awarded by AFCD since the implementation of the revised tendering guidelines.
- (h) The adoption of two-envelope assessment mechanism for tender evaluation of outsourced service contracts is subject to the complexity of service requirements. The number of contracts awarded without adopting such mechanism over the past 3 years from 2014-15 to 2016-17 was 1, 8 and 7 respectively. The two-envelope assessment mechanism was not adopted on these contracts as their service requirements were not complex in nature.
- (i) to (k) There was no case of government service contractors breaching the service contracts, the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57) or the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap. 509) over the past 3 years.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)244**

**(Question Serial No. 7201)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the following funds, would the Bureau please provide their dates of establishment and the start-up capital as well as the annual balances, amounts of Government injection and the total expenditures in 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17. If there are other funds under the ambit of the Bureau but not included below, please also provide the above information.

- (a) J.E. Joseph Trust Fund
- (b) Kadoorie Agriculture Aid Loan Fund
- (c) Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund - Fishing Moratorium Loan Scheme
- (d) Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund
- (e) Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. 98)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department currently administers a total of 12 funds related to the agriculture and fisheries industries, namely:

- (a) Agricultural Products Scholarship Fund (APSF);
- (b) Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere Loan Fund (CARELF);
- (c) Fisheries Development Loan Fund (FDLF);
- (d) Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund (FMOLF) including the Fishing Moratorium Loan Scheme set up under FMOLF;
- (e) J.E. Joseph Trust Fund (JEJTF);
- (f) Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund (KAALF);
- (g) Marine Fish Scholarship Fund (MFSF);
- (h) Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF);
- (i) Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF);
- (j) Vegetable Marketing Organization Agricultural Development Fund (VMOADF);

- (k) Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund (VMOLF); and  
 (l) World Refugee Year Loan Fund (WRYLF).

The requested information is tabulated below:

Year of Establishment, Start-up Capital and Amounts of Government Injection of Various Funds

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Year of Establishment</b>	<b>Start-up Capital (\$ million)</b>	<b>Amounts of Government Injection (\$ million) (as at 31 end-December 2016)</b>
APSF	1978	1.0	-
CARELF	1957	< 0.1	-
FDLF	1960	2.0	1,100.0
FMOLF	1946	0.3	60.0
JEJTF	1954	0.5	0.8
KAALF	1955	0.5	2.0
MFSF	1978	1.0	-
SADF	2016	500.0	500.0
SFDF	2014	500.0	500.0
VMOADF	1988	5.0	-
VMOLF	1953	0.2	-
WRYLF	1962	0.5 <sup>^</sup>	-

<sup>^</sup> According to our earliest available record.

Total Expenditures (Amounts of Grants/Loans Issued) and Balance of Various Funds from 2013 to 2016

<b>Calendar Year (as at end of the period)</b>	<b>2013</b>		<b>2014</b>		<b>2015</b>		<b>2016</b>	
	<b>Total Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Fund Balance (\$ million)</b>	<b>Total Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Fund Balance (\$ million)</b>	<b>Total Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Fund Balance (\$ million)</b>	<b>Total Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Fund Balance (\$ million)</b>
APSF	0.5	7.5	0.4	7.2	0.4	6.8	0.3	6.5
CARELF	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
FDLF	34.2	253.4	127.0	127.7	338.3	607.0	173.0	456.9
FMOLF	52.4	93.4	47.7	95.5	40.6	104.2	38.3	108.7
JEJTF	2.0	15.8	2.1	16.8	1.0	18.2	1.0	18.6
KAALF	4.4	9.9	5.5	9.0	4.6	9.9	4.0	10.8
MFSF	0.3	2.9	0.3	5.5	0.5	5.1	0.4	4.7
SADF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500.0
SFDF	-	-	-	500.0	-	500.0	10.5	489.5
VMOADF	38.8	157.7	44.1	113.6	39.5	74.1	41.2	52.9
VMOLF	2.0	12.5	1.7	12.5	1.8	12.6	1.6	12.7
WRYLF	0.3	1.7	0.0	1.8	0.0	1.9	0.0	2.0

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)245****(Question Serial No. 4326)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the development of co-operative societies in Hong Kong,

- (a) please inform of the statistics on the years of establishment, numbers, membership, share capital and reserve fund of credit unions by common bond in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 (for months with available data):

Common bond	Years of establishment			Number	Membership	Share capital	Reserve fund
	5 years or below					Over 5 years to 10 years	Above 10 years
Associational							
(Churches)							
(Social centres/services)							
(Benevolent association)							
(Credit union)							
Employment							
(Civil servants)							
(Company employees)							
(Industrial employees)							
(Association employees)							
(University employees)							

Residential							
(Housing estates)							
Grand total							

- (b) please inform of the statistics on the years of establishment, numbers, membership, share capital and deposit of co-operative societies by common bond in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 (for months with available data):

Type	Years of establishment			Number	Membership	Share capital	Deposit
	5 years or below					Over 5 years to 10 years	Above 10 years
Primary producers							
(Agriculture)							
(Federation of Vegetable Marketing Societies)							
(Federation of Pig Raising Societies)							
(Agricultural credit)							
(Farmers irrigation)							
(Pig raising)							
(Vegetable marketing)							
(Better living)							
(Fisheries)							
(Federation of Fishermen Societies*)							
(Fishermen credit)							
(Credit and housing)							
(Better living)							
<b>Non-producers</b>							
(Thrift and loan)							
(Building)							
(Consumers)							
(Workers)							
Grand total							

- (c) please advise on the details, expenditure and manpower involved in promoting the development of co-operative societies in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 (for months with available data):

Type	Details	Number of staff	Expenditure
Primary producers			
Non-primary producers			

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. 211)

Reply:

- (a) The requested information on credit unions is at Annex 1.
- (b) The requested information on co-operative societies is at Annex 2.
- (c) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Department (AFCD) is responsible for the registration of co-operative societies and their by-laws, the inspection and audit of accounts of the registered co-operative societies, and the general supervision of these co-operative societies to ensure their compliance with the Co-operative Societies Ordinance (Cap. 33). AFCD also provides advice to those who wish to form co-operative societies, for example, through organising talks and providing them with guidance on the drafting of application form and by-laws. The expenditure and manpower involved in this area of work over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Financial Year	Type			
	Agriculture and Fisheries		Others	
	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2014-15	2.5	6	4.6	9
2015-16	2.4	6	4.8	9
2016-17 (revised estimate)	3.3	7	5.1	9

**Statistics on the year of establishment, numbers, membership, share capital and reserve fund of credit unions  
by their common bond over the past 3 financial years**

**2014-15 (Figures as at end-March 2015)**

Common Bond	Year of establishment		Number of credit unions	Number of members	Share capital (\$ million)	Reserve fund (\$ million)
	5 years or below	Over 5 years				
<b>Associational</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2 904</b>	<b>148.9</b>	<b>6.3</b>
Church	0	14	14	2 370	61.4	3.8
Social Centre/Services	1	2	3	438	14.2	0.5
Benevolent Association	0	1	1	41	2.0	0.1
Credit Union	0	1	1	55	71.3	1.9
<b>Employment</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>81 603</b>	<b>10,870.4</b>	<b>273.0</b>
Civil Servants	0	11	11	53 911	7,885.6	175.8
Company Employees	0	4	4	24 855	2,707.4	85.5
Association Employees	1	4	5	584	14.5	0.9
University Employees	0	2	2	2 253	262.9	10.8
<b>Residential (Housing Estates)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>84 605</b>	<b>11,020.8</b>	<b>279.4</b>

2015-16 (Figures as at end-March 2016)

Common Bond	Year of establishment		Number of credit unions	Number of members	Share capital (\$ million)	Reserve fund (\$ million)
	5 years or below	Over 5 years				
<b>Associational</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2 917</b>	<b>156.7</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Church	0	14	14	2 363	65.1	3.8
Social Centre/Services	1	2	3	458	15.0	0.6
Benevolent Association	0	1	1	40	2.3	0.1
Credit Union	0	1	1	56	74.3	1.6
<b>Employment</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>84 212</b>	<b>12,138.3</b>	<b>290.5</b>
Civil Servants	0	11	11	55 429	8,651.1	188.5
Company Employees	0	4	4	25 852	3,139.1	88.3
Association Employees	1	4	5	570	15.9	1.0
University Employees	0	2	2	2 361	332.2	12.7
<b>Residential (Housing Estates)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>87 223</b>	<b>12,296.7</b>	<b>296.7</b>

**2016-17 (Figures as at end-February 2017)**

<b>Common Bond</b>	<b>Year of establishment</b>		<b>Number of credit unions</b>
	<b>5 years or below</b>	<b>Over 5 years</b>	
<b>Associational</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
Church	0	14	14
Social Centre/Services	1	2	3
Benevolent Association	0	1	1
Credit Union	0	1	1
<b>Employment</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>
Civil Servant	0	11	11
Company Employees	0	4	4
Association Employees	2	4	6
University Employees	0	2	2
<b>Residential (Housing Estates)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>44</b>

Note: Information on the number of members, share capital and reserve fund for 2016-17 have not been provided by credit unions.

**Statistics on the year of establishment, numbers, membership, share capital and deposit of co-operative societies  
by their common bond over the past 3 financial years**

**2014-15 (Figures as at end-March 2015)**

Type	Year of establishment		Number of co-operative societies	Number of members	Share Capital* (\$)	Deposit* (\$)
	5 years or below	Over 5 years				
<b>Agriculture and Fisheries</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>7 164</b>	<b>609,900</b>	<b>442,400</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>5 498</b>	<b>565,800</b>	<b>338,700</b>
Federation of Vegetable Marketing Societies	0	1	1	26 <sup>^</sup>	5,000	0
Federation of Pig Raising Societies	0	1	1	9 <sup>^</sup>	56,100	0
Agricultural Credit	0	1	1	34	23,700	30,100
Farmers Irrigation	0	1	1	23	100	0
Pig Raising	0	9	9	396	414,400	27,400
Vegetable Marketing	0	28	28	3 916	47,300	168,600
Better Living	0	13	13	1 094	19,200	112,600
<b>Fisheries</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>1 666</b>	<b>44,100</b>	<b>103,700</b>
Federation of Fishermen Societies	0	4	4	32 <sup>^</sup>	3,400	0
Fishermen Credit	0	41	41	546	8,100	103,700
Credit and Housing	0	1	1	12	100	0
Better Living	0	15	15	1 076	32,500	0
<b>Others</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>3 742</b>	<b>294,000</b>	<b>1,901,800</b>
Thrift and Loan	0	1	1	274	11,000	1,901,800
Building	0	54	54	947	94,700	0
Consumers	0	9	9	2 428	161,100	0
Workers	0	7	7	93	27,200	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>10 906</b>	<b>903,900</b>	<b>2,344,200</b>

\* Figures are rounded to the nearest hundreds.

<sup>^</sup> It refers to the number of co-operative societies joining the Federation as members.

2015-16 (Figures as at end-March 2016)

Type	Year of establishment		Number of co-operative societies	Number of members	Share Capital* (\$)	Deposit* (\$)
	5 years or below	Over 5 years				
<b>Agriculture and Fisheries</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>7 129</b>	<b>599,300</b>	<b>478,700</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>5 491</b>	<b>555,900</b>	<b>341,500</b>
Federation of Vegetable Marketing Societies	0	1	1	26 <sup>^</sup>	5,200	0
Federation of Pig Raising Societies	0	1	1	9 <sup>^</sup>	56,000	0
Agricultural Credit	0	1	1	34	23,700	30,100
Farmers Irrigation	0	1	1	23	100	0
Pig Raising	0	8	8	387	404,400	27,400
Vegetable Marketing	0	28	28	3 915	47,300	168,600
Better Living	0	13	13	1 097	19,200	115,400
<b>Fisheries</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>1 638</b>	<b>43,400</b>	<b>137,200</b>
Federation of Fishermen Societies	0	4	4	31 <sup>^</sup>	3,300	0
Fishermen Credit	0	39	39	519	7,600	137,200
Credit and Housing	0	1	1	12	100	0
Better Living	0	15	15	1 076	32,400	0
<b>Others</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>3 687</b>	<b>289,700</b>	<b>1,890,700</b>
Thrift and Loan	0	1	1	254	10,200	1,890,700
Building	0	52	52	920	92,000	0
Consumers	0	9	9	2 429	164,200	0
Workers	0	7	7	84	23,300	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>10 816</b>	<b>889,000</b>	<b>2,369,400</b>

\* Figures are rounded to the nearest hundreds.

<sup>^</sup> It refers to the number of co-operative societies joining the Federation as members.



2016-17 (Figures as at end-February 2017)

Type	Year of establishment		Number of co-operative societies
	5 years or below	Over 5 years	
<b>Agriculture and Fisheries</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53</b>
Federation of Vegetable Marketing Societies	0	1	1
Federation of Pig Raising Societies	0	1	1
Agricultural Credit	0	1	1
Farmers Irrigation	0	1	1
Pig Raising	0	8	8
Vegetable Marketing	0	28	28
Better Living	0	13	13
<b>Fisheries</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>58</b>
Federation of Fishermen Societies	0	4	4
Fishermen Credit	0	39	39
Credit and Housing	0	1	1
Better Living	0	14	14
<b>Others</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>
Thrift and Loan	0	1	1
Building	0	48	48
Consumers	0	9	9
Workers	0	7	7
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>176</b>

Note: Information on the number of members, share capital and deposit for 2016-17 have not been provided by co-operative societies.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)246**

**(Question Serial No. 6534)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B) have come into operation. Please inform this Committee of the manpower, details of work, expenditure on salaries, and other expenses involved in the work of licensing and monitoring private breeders by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. 411)

Reply:

In 2017-18, a provision of \$16.4 million and 30 staff have been earmarked by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for managing the new licensing regime to regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale. Major areas of work include:

- (a) processing applications for licences which would involve verification of information provided by applicants, inspecting the proposed premises concerned to ensure the facilities therein are in compliance with the required standards, and collecting relevant information for assessing the suitability of the applicants to hold the licence;
- (b) inspecting licensed animal trading and dog breeding premises to ensure compliance with the licensing requirements;
- (c) collecting samples from female dogs for breeding and offspring for DNA testing to verify the parentage and the source of dogs; and
- (d) carrying out investigations upon complaints or irregularities detected.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)247****(Question Serial No. 6536)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the creation of 22 new posts in 2017-18, which results in a rise of estimated salary expenditure by about \$45.5 million, please set out the post titles and job natures of the 22 newly created posts.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. 413)Reply:

Details of the 22 new posts are tabulated below:

<b>Area of Work</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of Posts</b>
To enhance agriculture and fisheries support services	Veterinary Officer	1
	Field Officer I	1
	Field Officer II	1
	Fisheries Technical Officer II	1
	Workman II	1
To enhance nature conservation activities	Forestry Officer	1
	Field Officer I	2
	Field Officer II	2
To enhance animal welfare and animal management services	Field Officer II	4
	Field Assistant	2
	Motor Driver	1
To carry out enforcement work at boundary control points	Field Officer I	2
	Field Officer II	2
	Field Assistant	1
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>22</b>

Compared with the revised estimate for 2016-17, the increase in the provision for salaries by \$45.5 million for 2017-18 is mainly attributable to both the creation of the 22 new posts and the expected filling of existing vacancies.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)248**

**(Question Serial No. 4491)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding animal welfare, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The number of reports on lost animals received by the Animal Management Centres (AMCs) under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 5 years, with a breakdown by type of pet and percentage.
- (b) The number of animals reclaimed by their owners from the AMCs over the past 5 years, with a breakdown by type of pet and percentage.
- (c) Among the reported cases of lost dogs over the past 5 years, the number of those in which the owners were found according to the microchips implanted in the dogs.
- (d) The number of animals euthanised by AFCD over the past 5 years, with a breakdown by type of animal and percentage.
- (e) Does the Government have any plans of enacting legislation to require owners of cats to arrange for microchipping their cats and obtain licences for keeping the cats? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (Member Question No. 47)

Reply:

- (a) Information on the animals reported lost to the 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (AFCD) over the past 5 years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of animals reported lost to AMCs / (Percentage by animal type)			Total
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	
2012	1 375 (49.6%)	1 345 (48.6%)	49 (1.8%)	2 769
2013	1 294 (51.3%)	1 179 (46.7%)	49 (2.0%)	2 522
2014	1 212 (53.3%)	1 015 (44.6%)	47 (2.1%)	2 274
2015	1 125 (51.4%)	998 (45.6%)	66 (3.0%)	2 189
2016	932 (54.9%)	707 (41.6%)	59 (3.5%)	1 698

\* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, birds, etc.

(b) Information on the animals reclaimed from AFCD over the past 5 years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of animals <sup>#</sup> reclaimed / (Percentage by animal type)			Total
	Dogs	Cats	Others**	
2012	1 292 (55.1%)	707 (30.1%)	348 (14.8%)	2 347
2013	1 379 (55.8%)	779 (31.5%)	315 (12.7%)	2 473
2014	1 235 (59.8%)	576 (27.9%)	253 (12.3%)	2 064
2015	774 (54.8%)	626 (44.4%)	11 (0.8%)	1 411
2016	637 (61.4%)	400 (38.5%)	1 (0.1%)	1 038

<sup>#</sup> Including all kinds of animals handled by AMCs such as stray animals caught, animals reported lost and animals given up by owners

\*\* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, birds, etc.

(c) AFCD does not keep statistics on the number of cases in which the owners of lost dogs were found based on the information of the microchips implanted in the dogs.

(d) Information on the animals euthanised by AFCD over the past 5 years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of animals euthanised / (Percentage by animal type)			Total
	Dogs	Cats	Others <sup>^</sup>	
2012	5 675 (64.6%)	1 950 (22.2%)	1 160 (13.2%)	8 785

2013	5 353 (65.1%)	1 861 (22.6%)	1 015 (12.3%)	8 229
2014	3 868 (59.5%)	1 039 (16.0%)	1 594 (24.5%)	6 501
2015	2 421 (36.8%)	696 (10.5%)	3 469 (52.7%)	6 586
2016	1 814 (60.2%)	449 (15.0%)	748 (24.8%)	3 011

^ Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

- (e) Under the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A), dogs over the age of 5 months are required to be vaccinated against rabies, microchipped and licensed. This legal requirement stems from the public health angle, having regard to the higher chance for rabies-contracted pet dogs to spread the disease. Pet cats, on other hand, are mostly kept indoors and present a lower risk of contracting and spreading rabies in the community. While not legally required, cat owners may freely choose to have their cats microchipped and / or vaccinated by practising veterinary surgeons.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)249**

**(Question Serial No. 3900)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the follow-up actions on the implementation of the legislation to ban trawling and better regulate fishing activities in Hong Kong waters among the Matters Requiring Special Attention under the Programme, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Since the implementation of the legislation, what are the numbers of warnings issued, prosecutions instituted and conviction obtained against illegal trawling? What are the details on the penalties sentenced?
- (b) What is the law enforcement mechanism currently in place to combat illegal trawling (including the frequency of inspections conducted at sea, manpower deployed, reporting mechanism and the average time required to reach the subject fishing vessel)?
- (c) Is there any collaboration between the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and other law enforcement departments working at sea such as the Marine Police and the Marine Department to combat illegal trawling? If yes, please account for the details. If not, will consideration be made to enhance collaboration among various departments?
- (d) Since the implementation of the legislation till now, has there been any review conducted on the existing law enforcement mechanism, its effectiveness and the deterrent effect of the penalties? If yes, what are the findings of the review? If no review has been conducted, what are the reasons? Is there any plan as to when to conduct a review?
- (e) Over the past 12 months, what were the numbers of prosecutions instituted and warnings issued against Mainland fishermen trawling illegally within the waters of Hong Kong? Has the Government liaised with the relevant Mainland authorities and stepped up interception against such activities? If yes, please account for the details.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 51)



Reply:

- (a) The trawl ban in Hong Kong waters came into effect since 31 December 2012. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) would take prosecution action without warning if there is sufficient evidence of illegal fishing activities including trawling. As at end December 2016, there have been 29 successful prosecutions against trawling. The penalties handed down by the court range from a fine of \$2,000 to \$100,000 with individual offenders being sentenced to imprisonment ranging from 2 days to 1 month, and 1 to 2 months suspended for 1 to 2 years.
- (b) In enforcing the relevant legislation, AFCD conducts regular and targeted patrols in Hong Kong waters at random hours (including at nights and early mornings). In 2016, more than 1 500 patrols were conducted by AFCD. AFCD also collects intelligence from various sources, including fishermen groups, to help enhance effectiveness of targeted enforcement. At present, 5 law enforcement teams under AFCD (including the teams responsible for enforcing the provisions in fisheries-related legislation and the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476)) are deployed in different waters to carry out patrols. Upon receipt of reports on illegal fishing activities including trawling, the law enforcement teams will proceed to the scene as soon as possible. Depending on the location of the subject vessel, the prevailing weather condition and the state of the law enforcement team, the time required for reaching the scene varies. We do not keep such time records.
- (c) AFCD maintains close liaison with the Marine Regional Headquarters of the Hong Kong Police Force (MARPOL), the relevant MARPOL districts or divisions, and the Marine Department to exchange information and intelligence on illegal fishing activities including trawling; and conducts joint law enforcement operations as appropriate. AFCD and MARPOL will, in the light of the actual situation on the ground and the intelligence collected, adjust the enforcement strategies from time to time in order to effectively combat illegal fishing activities including trawling.
- (d) Since the implementation of the trawl ban, the operations of AFCD and other law enforcement departments have proved to be effective. Prosecutions have been successfully instituted on a number of occasions. It is a generally accepted view that the penalties imposed by the court carry sufficient deterrence. We do not consider it necessary to review the penalty levels at this stage but shall continue to monitor the situation closely.
- (e) AFCD will prosecute any fishermen (both local and non-local) involved in illegal fishing activities including trawling without warning if there is sufficient evidence. In 2016, no Mainland fishermen were apprehended and prosecuted on grounds of trawling in the Hong Kong waters. AFCD has maintained close liaison with the relevant Mainland authorities (including the Fisheries Authorities of Guangdong) as well as exchanged information with them as part of our concerted efforts to combat illegal fishing activities at the boundary of Hong Kong waters. AFCD, MARPOL and the Fisheries Authorities of Guangdong also carry out joint enforcement operations regularly to combat cross-boundary illegal fishing activities.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)250**

**(Question Serial No. 3901)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the provision of infrastructural support to local farmers mentioned in this Programme, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The number of requests for assistance in identifying agricultural land or building agricultural structures received by the Department, and the number of cases referred to the Lands Department in 2016-17.
- (b) The number of cases of assistance successfully rendered in identifying agricultural land for rehabilitation, and the area of agricultural land for rehabilitation involved in 2016-17.
- (c) Was any statistical work on the area of agricultural land in each of 18 districts performed over the past year? If yes, what was the area of land for agricultural uses according to the Department's records, broken down by 18 districts?
- (d) If the work mentioned in (c) was not performed, will the Department perform such work in 2017-18? If yes, what are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 52)

Reply:

- (a) & (b) Farmers who wish to construct agricultural structures on leasehold agricultural land must apply to the Lands Department (LandsD) for a Letter of Approval for Agricultural Structures. To facilitate application by farmers, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) receives application forms on behalf of LandsD for conducting preliminary processing. In 2016, a total of 22

applications were received by AFCD and referred to LandsD for further processing.

Separately, AFCD operates the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (ALRS) through bringing owners of farmland and interested farmers together to work out a rental agreement for leasing out the farmland. The relevant statistics of ALRS in 2016 are tabulated below:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of new applications</b>	<b>Number of successful cases</b>	<b>Area of farmland leased out (hectare)</b>
2016	65	29	4.0

- (c) The estimated area of agricultural land in active farming use by district in 2016 is tabulated below:

<b>District</b>	<b>Area in active farming use (hectare)</b>
North	280
Yuen Long	241
Tai Po	56
Tuen Mun	45
Islands	30
Sai Kung	21
Tsuen Wan	12
Sha Tin	7
Southern	4
Kwai Tsing	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>698</b>

- (d) The survey on agricultural land use forms part of the ongoing work of AFCD, and there is no separate breakdown on the estimated expenditure and manpower involved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)251****(Question Serial No. 5351)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please set out the populations engaged in fisheries and agriculture industries by type over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 140)

Reply:

The estimated number of people engaged in the agriculture and fisheries industries over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>Fisheries</b>
2014	4 300	12 670
2015	4 260	13 770
2016	4 280	14 020

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)252****(Question Serial No. 5352)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

What were the respective percentages of locally produced fresh food accounted for in the local food consumption over the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 141)Reply:

The shares of locally produced fresh food in the local food consumption over the past 3 years are as follows:

<b>Type</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Vegetables	1.9%	1.9%	1.7%
Fruits	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Live pigs	5.1%	5.1%	5.8%
Live chickens	81.6%	98.5%	99.2%
Fish <sup>#</sup>	31.9%	26.6%	24.8%

<sup>#</sup>Including live and chilled fish and shellfish.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)253****(Question Serial No. 5353)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

What were the numbers of active farms and sizes of active farmland in Hong Kong over the past 3 years? Please set out in tabular form the above information with a breakdown by District Council districts.

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 142)Reply:

It is estimated that there were about 2 400, 2 300 and 2 300 crop farms in the territory in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. These farms are mainly located in the North and Yuen Long Districts. The estimated areas of agricultural land in active farming use over the past 3 years are tabulated by district below:

Districts	Area in active farming use (hectare)		
	2014	2015	2016
North	266	277	280
Yuen Long	222	230	241
Tai Po	67	62	56
Tuen Mun	68	45	45
Islands	35	27	30
Sai Kung	20	21	21

Tsuen Wan	20	12	12
Sha Tin	7	5	7
Southern	4	4	4
Kwai Tsing	2	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>698</b>

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)254****(Question Serial No. 5858)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the total number of cats and dogs euthanised by the Government over the past 5 years. How much public fund in total was involved each year?

	Number of dogs euthanised by the Government	Number of cats euthanised by the Government	Amount of public fund
2016-17			
2015-16			
2014-15			
2013-14			
2012-13			

Asked by: Hon YIU Chung-yim (Member Question No. 105)Reply:

The number of dogs and cats euthanised by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of animals euthanised	
	Dogs	Cats
2012	5 675	1 950
2013	5 353	1 861
2014	3 868	1 039
2015	2 421	696
2016	1 814	449



There is no breakdown for the cost of euthanasia for dogs and cats. The expenditure involved in the euthanasia of animals (including dogs, cats, small mammals, pigs/cattle, reptiles, poultry/birds, etc.) over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2012-13	1.5
2013-14	1.6
2014-15	1.4
2015-16	1.4
2016-17 (revised estimate)	1.0

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB01**

**(Question Serial No. S0033)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) According to the Director, the wild pig population will be controlled by neutering in the long term. When exactly will the relevant measures be implemented?
- (b) While the number of hunting operations carried out by the hunting teams has decreased, the number of wild pigs caught on Hong Kong Island and outlying islands is twice the number of hunting operations carried out. Does it indicate deterioration of wild pig problem in the districts concerned?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

- (a) In mid-2017, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will launch a trial programme by introducing GonaCon™, a contraceptive drug for mammals, with a view to controlling the wild pig population in the long term. Under the programme, AFCD will deploy veterinary surgeons to assist in catching wild pigs by applying anaesthetics, inject the wild pigs with the contraceptive drug, and then release them back into the wild. AFCD will monitor the wild pig populations covered by the trial programme, in order to assess its effectiveness. Consultation with relevant experts and organisations, as well as the formulation of the implementation details of the trial programme are in progress.

It is our long-term goal to control the wild pig population by contraceptive measures. Upon completion of the trial programme, AFCD will review its effectiveness and consider the way forward. The finalised timetable is not yet available.

- (b) In general, wild pigs do not take the initiative to attack humans unless they have been frightened or provoked. As wild pigs may pose a threat to public safety, if the problem of wild pig nuisance persists and the preventive measures become ineffective, AFCD will consider notifying the hunting teams to conduct hunting operations, so as to properly eliminate the potential threat posed by the wild pigs to the public. The number of operations conducted by the wild pig hunting teams and the number of wild pigs caught vary depending on a number of factors, and bear no direct relation to each

other. According to AFCD's records, there is no sign of deterioration of wild pig problem on Hong Kong Island and outlying islands.

- End -