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

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in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2018-19**

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FHB(FE)289	6043	Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
FHB(FE)290	6045	Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
FHB(FE)291	6046	Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
FHB(FE)292	6047	Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
S-ENB01	S0038	Hon CHU Hoi-dick	7	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
S-ENB02	S0039	Hon CHU Hoi-dick	7	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
S-ENB03	S0049	Hon CHU Hoi-dick	7	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
S-FHB(FE)01	S0029	Hon AU Nok-hin	13	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
S-FHB(FE)02	S0085	Hon AU Nok-hin	13	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
S-FHB(FE)03	SV024	Hon CHAN Chi-chuen	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
S-FHB(FE)04	SV023	Hon KWOK Ka-ki	13	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
S-FHB(FE)05	SV025	Hon MO Claudia	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
S-FHB(FE)06	S0078	Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB001

(Question Serial No. 1583)

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 2017-2018, as well as the respective estimated numbers of refuse bags to be used and the related expenditure in 2018-2019? 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. (LegCo use): 7)

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 2017-18 by AFCD is about 141 000, while the number of plastic refuse bags used by AFCD's contractors is about 339 000. It is estimated that the number of plastic refuse bags used for such purposes will slightly decrease to about 136 000 by AFCD and 335 000 by AFCD's contractors in 2018-19. The estimated expenditure of AFCD on plastic refuse bags in 2017-18 and 2018-19 is \$170,000 and \$140,000 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 is unknown to AFCD.

Most of the yard wastes (e.g. tree branches, leaves) generated from vegetation maintenance in country parks are stockpiled in nearby natural habitats to provide niches for wildlife. When they decompose, nutrients will be released back to the 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 2017, no yard wastes arising from vegetation maintenance in country parks were disposed of at landfill sites.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB002

(Question Serial No. 1947)

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 endangered species in Hong Kong, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the number of prosecutions instituted under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance? What are the penalties imposed?
- (b) What is the number of illegal trading on the internet?
- (c) How many endangered animals were seized in each year over the past 3 years? What were their types?
- (d) What is the number of animals confiscated and handed to non-profit making organisations in Hong Kong for conservation?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 37)

Reply:

- (a) In 2017, the Government instituted 189 prosecutions under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586), with 186 successful cases. The penalties imposed ranged from a fine of \$400 to \$100,000 and/or an imprisonment of 6 days to 3 months.
- (b) In 2017, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) detected 19 cases involving illegal selling of endangered species through internet platforms. A total of 45 live endangered animal species were seized.

- (c) The number of live endangered animals seized over the past 3 years is provided in the table below:

Calendar year	2015	2016	2017
Number of individuals	5 984	2 336	2 812

The most commonly seized animals include turtles and tortoises, lizards, birds, fish and stony corals.

- (d) The number of seized live endangered animals donated by AFCD to local institutes/organisations for conservation purposes and/or for temporary keeping over the past 3 years is 523, 172 and 733 respectively.

-End-

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB003

(Question Serial No. 1640)

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:

“Carrying out licensing control of international trade in endangered species and curbing of illegal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong” is one of the duties of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.

What were the expenditures and manpower involved in the above work over the past 5 years?

Over the past 5 years, has the Government increased the expenditure and manpower involved, or taken any other new measures in order to curb smuggling and illegal trade of ivory in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 38)

Reply:

The Government is committed to protect 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 Wildlife Crime Task Force, 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. Joint and targeted operations, both local and international, would be

undertaken to strengthen the frontline enforcement against endangered species smuggling. The expenditures and manpower involved in the licensing control of international trade in endangered species and curbing of illegal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong over the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Financial year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (Revised estimate)
Expenditure (\$ million)	27.8	29.7	33.2	36.2	40.0
Manpower	48	51	50	51	55

To strengthen the control of the local trade in ivory, a series of measures are in place including 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 radiocarbon dating analysis to determine the age and hence the legality of ivory, as well as raising public awareness on the protection of elephants and relevant control. An additional provision of \$3.7 million and 3 staff were allocated for the above enhancement works in 2016-17 while an additional provision of \$1 million and 3 staff have been allocated for the above work in 2017-18.

Besides, the Legislative Council enacted the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (the Amendment Ordinance) on 31 January this year in order to phase out the local trade in ivory in 3 phases by 31 December 2021, and also to increase the penalties related to the smuggling and illegal trade of endangered species, i.e. the maximum penalty for offences convicted on indictment is a fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years. The Amendment Ordinance will take effect on 1 May 2018. After the Amendment Ordinance has taken effect for 3 months (i.e. starting from 1 August 2018), all import and export of ivory (save for antique ivory) for commercial purposes will be banned. C&ED and AFCD will strengthen enforcement at import and export control points, and combat the smuggling of endangered species (including ivory). Possession of pre-Convention (i.e. CITES) ivory for commercial purposes is currently exempted from licensing requirement provided that the ivory can be proved pre-Convention. Nevertheless, starting from 1 August 2018, such ivory will be subject to the licensing requirement. Current holders of pre-Convention ivory will be required to apply to AFCD for a license to possess the ivory concerned for commercial purposes. When processing the applications, AFCD staff will inspect the pre-Convention ivory concerned (including measuring weight, taking photos and sticking tamper-proof holograms for the ivory). Regarding the new measures, AFCD has compiled guidelines for the staff members concerned, and also regularly assesses the measures to ensure that the enhanced control of ivory can be effectively implemented. 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.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB004

(Question Serial No. 1641)

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 number of participants of education activities in 2017 was as high as 579 400. Why does the estimated number of participants in 2018 drop to 350 000? Does it involve a cut in the expenditure on education activities?

Does the Government have any statistics on the number of persons who have participated in 2 or more education activities? Will the Government allocate additional resources to increase or improve the existing education activities with a view to encouraging and attracting those participants who have participated in the aforementioned activities to participate again?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 39)

Reply:

To commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Country Parks, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) organised a series of special events which attracted overwhelming response in 2017, resulting in an increase in the number of participants in educational activities to 579 400. The estimated number of participants in educational activities in 2018 is expected to return to the level of 350 000 as at 2016. AFCD does not have information on the number of participants joining educational activities on more than 1 occasion.

AFCD will review the educational activities from time to time to enhance the quality and attractiveness of the programmes. We will also make use of the social media as a promotional platform to connect to people who are interested in our educational activities. In 2018-19, an additional provision of \$7.6 million has been earmarked to strengthen the education and publicity efforts on nature conservation in country parks, including the development of nature appreciation programme, review and enhancement of country parks education programme and improvement of the thematic website and mobile application.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB005

(Question Serial No. 2648)

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 strengthening the control of trade in endangered species:

- (a) The Legislative Council has earlier enacted the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Bill 2017, which bans all imports and re-exports of pre-Convention ivory and subjects pre-Convention ivory to licensing control (with the exception of antique ivory) 3 months after the implementation of the legislation. In this regard, will the Department and relevant law enforcement departments allocate additional resources for the implementation of the abovementioned measures and develop law enforcement guidelines/measures for the relevant staff? If yes, what are the details as well as manpower and expenditure involved? Will the Department review the effectiveness of the ban in the next 3 years?
- (b) What measures will the Department and relevant law enforcement departments implement to strengthen the law enforcement efforts in relation to the illegal trade of wild fauna and flora?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 40)

Reply:

- (a) The Legislative Council enacted the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (the Amendment Ordinance) on 31 January this year in order to phase out the local trade in ivory in 3 phases by 31 December 2021 and to increase the penalties related to the smuggling and illegal trade of endangered species. After the Amendment Ordinance has taken effect for 3 months, all imports and exports of ivory (save for antique ivory) for commercial purposes will be banned. The Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will strengthen enforcement at import and export control points, and combat the smuggling of endangered species (including ivory). Possession of pre-Convention (i.e. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)) ivory for commercial purposes is currently

exempted from licensing requirement provided that the ivory can be proved pre-Convention. After the Amendment Ordinance has taken effect for 3 months, however, such ivory will be subject to licensing requirement. Current holders of pre-Convention ivory will be required to apply to AFCD for a license to possess the ivory concerned for commercial purposes. When processing the applications, AFCD staff will inspect the pre-Convention ivory concerned (including measuring weight, taking photos and sticking tamper-proof holograms for the ivory). The expenditure incurred in enhancing the control of ivory will be absorbed by the existing resources and manpower of AFCD. AFCD has compiled guidelines for the staff members concerned, and also regularly assesses the measures to ensure that the enhanced control of ivory can be effectively implemented.

- (b) The Government is committed to protect 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 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. 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 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. 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 penalties have been significantly increased subsequent to the amendment of the Ordinance, with the maximum penalty of a fine of \$10 million and an imprisonment of 10 years for offences convicted on indictment. 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.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB006

(Question Serial No. 2068)

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 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is committed to conserve biological diversity. The related work includes the implementation of a territory-wide biodiversity survey programme.

- (a) What are the manpower and expenditure involved in the programme?
- (b) Does the scope of the programme cover non-conservation areas or urban areas?
- (c) What is the progress of the programme?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 51)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been implementing the long-term territory-wide biodiversity survey programme since 2002-03. The estimated expenditure and manpower involved in implementing the programme in 2017-18 are \$8.23 million and 15 staff respectively.
- (b) The survey programme covers the entire territory of Hong Kong, including localities within and outside areas protected for nature conservation purposes. Various types of habitats including wetlands, woodlands, grasslands and streams are surveyed.
- (c) Since the launch of the programme in 2002-03, we have been collecting data on the distribution and abundance of major taxa groups including amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, beetles, butterflies, dragonflies and freshwater fish. The data collected are computerised and incorporated in a Geographic Information System for storage and to facilitate analysis. In 2017-18 (as at 28 February 2018), 606 surveys have been conducted under the programme. The database currently contains over 270 000 records. Information collected from the survey has been disseminated through the following websites maintained by AFCD: www.hkbiodiversity.net and www.hkecomap.net. Monitoring and surveys will be conducted continuously by AFCD to update and enrich the database.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB007

(Question Serial No. 2069)

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:

Under Programme (2), the Department will carry out the preparation for the designation of the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park in 2018-19.

- (a) What are the manpower and expenditures for this project?
- (b) Please set out the timetable of this project.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 52)

Reply:

- (a) Preparation for the designation of the Robin's Nest Country Park would involve an estimated expenditure of \$1.1 million in 2018-19, to be carried out by existing staff of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD).
- (b) To prepare for the designation of Robin's Nest as a country park, AFCD has commissioned an 18-month consultancy study in 2017 to formulate a detailed management plan for the proposed country park. Upon completion of the study, AFCD will seek the views of stakeholders including the local villagers, relevant Rural Committees, District Council and other concerned groups on the designation proposal, and take forward the statutory procedures as stipulated under the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) with a view to completing the designation procedures by 2020.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB008

(Question Serial No. 2070)

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 3 country park enclaves incorporated into the respective country parks in 2017:

- (a) What are the initiatives, manpower and expenditure involved in the management of country park enclaves?
- (b) What are the Department's initiatives and timetable to incorporate other country park enclaves that are not covered by town plans into country parks?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 53)

Reply:

- (a) After the inclusion of the 3 enclaves, namely Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and a site near Nam Shan, into their respective country parks in 2017, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has carried out management work such as hill-fire prevention, patrol and law enforcement, afforestation and vegetation maintenance, habitat enhancement, provision of recreational facilities and litter collection, etc. to enhance protection and conservation of the areas and improve the environment. Moreover, AFCD has already commenced the construction of a footpath at Sai Lau Kong with a view to connecting it with the hiking trail network in the north-eastern part of the territory, facilitating the access of villagers and hikers.

The manpower and expenditure involved in the management of the 3 enclaves are absorbed by the existing staff establishment and resources for managing the respective country parks, therefore separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure specifically for the management of these enclaves is not available.

- (b) For the remaining enclaves not yet covered by any statutory plans, AFCD will continue to assess whether they are suitable for incorporation into country parks in accordance with the established principles and criteria, and put forward incorporation proposals for the suitable enclaves in accordance with the statutory procedures

stipulated in the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208). AFCD will also continue to conduct regular patrols in country parks and country park enclaves. If suspected unauthorised development is detected in the enclaves, AFCD will refer such cases to relevant departments for follow-up actions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB009****(Question Serial No. 2078)**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:

- (a) The block vote for minor recreational facilities and roadworks in country parks decreased year by year to the revised estimate of \$9.99 million in 2017-18 in the past. Why is there a surge to \$20.95 million this year?
- (b) Please set out details of the improvement works carried out in country parks, the manpower and the expenditures involved over the past 5 years, as well as the planned works, the manpower and the estimate in the future. (Please set out in tabular form by the construction of fire lookouts, shelters, drinking fountains, roads, maintenance of hiking trails and others in reply.)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Fire lookouts					
Shelters					
Drinking fountains					
Roads					
Maintenance of hiking trails					
Others					

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 48)Reply:

- (a) A total of 8 minor projects will be implemented under the block vote for minor recreational facilities and roadworks in country parks (subhead 610) in 2018-19. These include the installation of water dispensers in various country parks, construction of a star gazing site at Sai Wan in the Sai Kung East Country Park, and reconstruction of the water pipeline connecting to the Rotary Park Public Toilet at Tai Mo Shan Country Park etc. Since more minor works projects will be carried out in 2018-19, the estimate for 2018-19 under subhead 610 has increased accordingly.

- (b) The expenditure for the improvement works carried out by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in country parks over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure for 2018-19 are tabulated below. The manpower involved is deployed from the existing establishment of AFCD, and there is no separate breakdown.

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)					
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (revised estimate)	2018-19 (estimate)
Upgrading of hiking trails and related facilities (e.g. fencing, waymarks, etc)	3.9	3.2	3.3	3.7	3.4	3.0
Construction of mountain bike trails	1.9	1.5	0.7	1.3	0.7	1.3
Reconstruction of forest tracks	0.3	1.1	0.9	3.3	3.7	3.2
Improvement of visitor centres and interpretation panels	3.1	2.5	3.3	4.5	2.7	1.8
Reconstruction of rain shelters	-	1.5	0.7	3.2	1.9	1.9
Provision of a star gazing site near Sai Wan	-	-	-	0.2	0.1	2.0
Installation of water dispensers	-	-	-	-	-	2.6
Reconstruction of the water pipelines to public toilets	-	-	-	-	-	2.6
Improvement of septic tank system	-	-	-	1.8	-	0.7
Others (e.g. minor structures, outdoor furniture, minor slope works, etc)	1.8	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.9
Total (\$ million)*	11.0	11.2	10.4	19.5	14.1	21.0

* Note: Figures from 2013-14 to 2017-18 (revised estimate) include expenditures recorded under both the votes for Minor Recreational Facilities and Roadworks (subhead 610) as well as Works (subhead 600) which was also used for minor improvement works carried out by AFCD in country parks.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB010

(Question Serial No. 0769)

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 numbers 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 (2015-16 to 2017-18).
- (c) What were the numbers of operations and the effectiveness of the enforcement operations against illegal fishing activities in marine parks over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18)? What were the penalties and fines imposed?
- (d) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in the enforcement operations against illegal fishing activities in marine parks over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (e) What were the numbers of patrol vessels deployed by the Government to combat illegal fishing activities in marine parks, the area(s) patrolled, and the numbers of patrols conducted, over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (f) Many fishermen reflect that marine parks and marine reserves have become ineffective and even deprived them of fishing spaces owing to the Government's improper management and insufficient enforcement efforts against illegal fishing activities. In this regard, what is the progress of the Government's work in reviewing and enhancing fisheries management in marine parks and marine reserves?

- (g) What is the progress of the Government's work in reviewing and enhancing fisheries management in marine parks and marine reserves?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 12)

Reply:

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

Name of existing marine park / marine reserve	Location	Size (hectares)	Designation date
Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve	Waters at the southeastern tip of Hong Kong Island	20	July 1996
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
The Brothers Marine Park	Waters in vicinity of The Brothers in northern Lantau	970	December 2016

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

Name of proposed marine park	Location	Size (hectares)	Tentative designation time
Southwest Lantau Marine Park	Waters in vicinity of Fan Lau in southwest Lantau	~ 650	2018
South Lantau Marine Park (combining the proposed Soko Islands Marine Park and the proposed marine park for Integrated Waste Management Facilities as a single marine	Waters in vicinity of Soko Islands in southern Lantau	~ 2 067	2019

park)			
Proposed Marine Park for the Three-Runway System	Waters around the airport in 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 numbers of fishing permits issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) 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 (2015-16 to 2017-18) are tabulated below. No fishing permit was issued to fishing vessels in the Cape D’Aguilar Marine Reserve.

Name of marine park	Number of permits issued for the respective marine parks			
	1 st year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Hoi Ha Wan (HHW) and Yan Chau Tong (YCT) ¹	409	256 (73)	251 (68)	243 (66)
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau (SCLKC)	208	80	80	81
Tung Ping Chau (TPC) ²	280	202	202	197
The Brothers (BROS)	472	-	-	472
Total ³	---	355	350	737

Notes:

- Some fishing permits previously issued by AFCD cover TPC, YCT and/or HHW (see Note 2 below). The figures in brackets show the numbers of fishing permits issued solely for HHW/YCT.
 - Some fishing permits issued for TPC also cover YCT/HHW.
 - The row “Total” gives the total number of fishing permits issued for the marine parks in a particular year. As some permits cover more than 1 marine park, the figure for a particular year in the row “Total” does not equal to the sum of the numbers of fishing permits issued for the marine parks each year.
- (c) The number of prosecutions against illegal fishing activities in marine parks over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18) and the penalties imposed are as follows:

Financial year	Number of cases	Total fine (\$)
2015-16	18	22,800
2016-17	5	9,500
2017-18 (up to February)	8 (5 cases are still in progress of prosecution)	3,800

- (d) The expenditures and manpower involved in the management of marine parks and marine reserve, including enforcement against illegal fishing, over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18) are as follows:

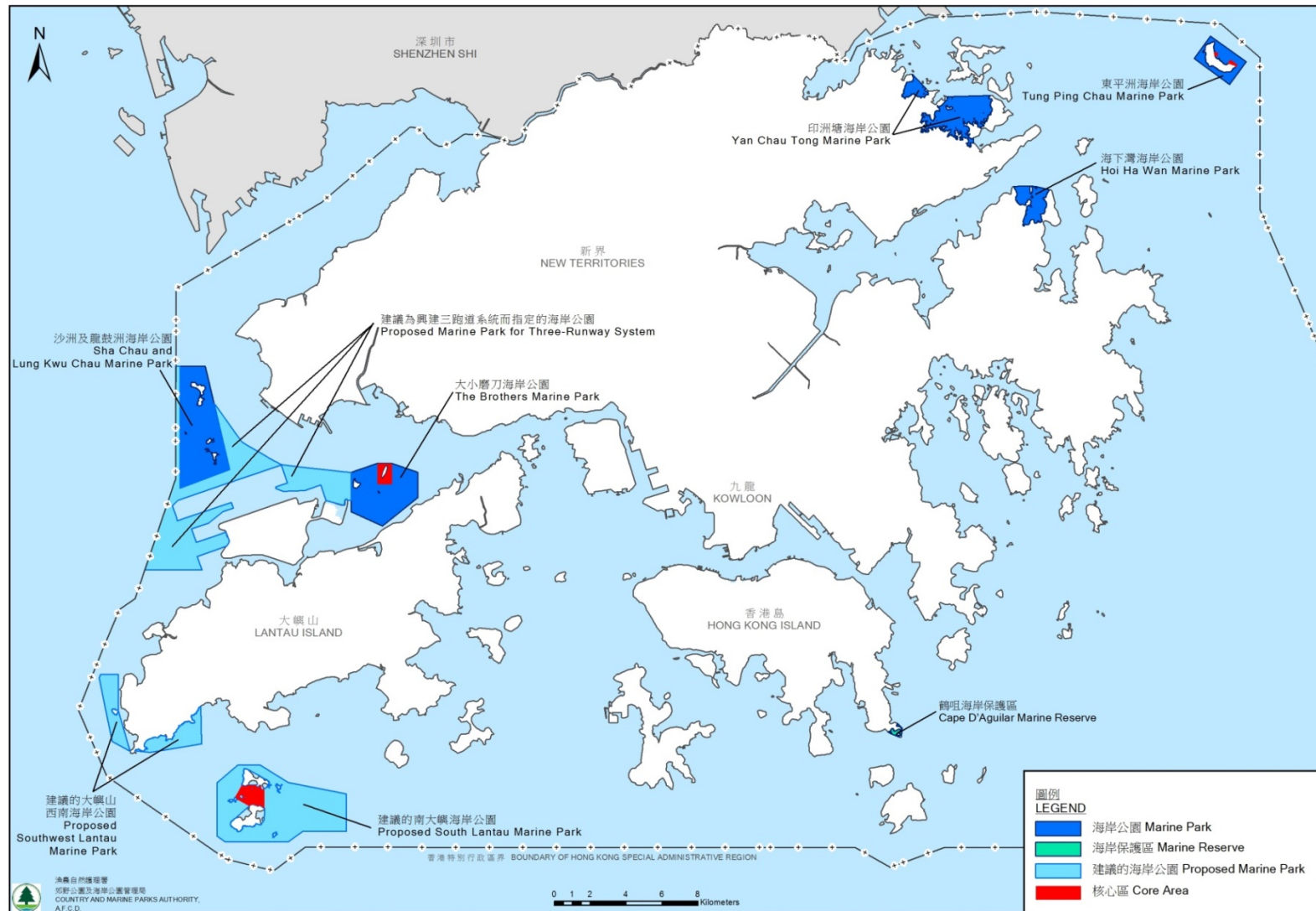
Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	16.8	37
2016-17	21.3	39
2017-18 (revised estimate)	23.8	44

- (e) Over the past 3 years, 11 patrol vessels have been deployed by AFCD to conduct patrols in the marine parks and marine reserve and surrounding 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 South Lantau Marine Park. The numbers of patrols conducted over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18) are as follows:

Financial year	Number of patrols
2015-16	3 200
2016-17	3 204
2017-18 (up to February)	3 742

- (f) & (g) AFCD has commissioned a consultancy study in March 2017 to review the fisheries management measures for marine parks with a view to addressing fishermen's concerns and promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry in Hong Kong without compromising the conservation objectives of marine parks. AFCD has preliminarily proposed possible measures earlier with respect to the study on further enhancing fisheries management in marine parks and consulted relevant stakeholders. The study is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.



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- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB011

(Question Serial No. 0778)

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 expenditures involved in public education and promotion of the feeding ban over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (b) What were the numbers of complaints received by the Department about nuisances of or attacks by wild monkeys over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (c) What were the manpower and expenditures 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 (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (d) What are the manpower and estimated expenditure involved in the above work in 2018-19?
- (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?
- (f) Has the Government developed a more comprehensive management plan for monkeys? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 21)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is highly concerned about the nuisance caused by monkeys in residential areas. Upon receiving relevant reports, AFCD will deploy staff to the scene as soon as possible to chase away or capture the

monkeys, and offer advice and education leaflets to the concerned public or management offices after investigating the situation and causes of monkey occurrence. Moreover, AFCD will set up traps to capture the lingering monkeys in residential areas to address the persistent nuisance caused by them. AFCD would also contact other government departments to follow up the problems arising from monkey nuisance, such as environmental hygiene problems. If necessary, AFCD would arrange talks for the concerned residents or management offices on the handling of monkey nuisance and the drawbacks of feeding monkeys and not handling refuse properly. Furthermore, AFCD has been carrying out contraceptive/neutering operations for monkeys in Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks since 2007. Regular surveys are also conducted to monitor the changes in the monkey populations.

Over the past 3 years, 12 staff members of AFCD were involved in works such as handling complaints about monkey nuisance, conducting neutering operations and carrying out public education, etc. The number of complaints about monkey nuisance/attack received by AFCD and the expenditure involved in addressing the issues related to monkeys each year are tabulated below:

Financial year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Number of complaints about monkey nuisance/attack	513	527	317 (up to January 2018)
Expenditure involved (\$ million)	5.0	4.2	4.8 (revised estimate)

In 2018-19, AFCD will continue to earmark 12 staff members and a provision of \$5 million for on-going implementation of the above measures, and will also continue to review the work of handling monkey nuisance and consult wildlife conservation experts from various places with a view to developing a more comprehensive management plan for monkeys. AFCD will also commission a consultancy study to enhance the designs of refuse/recycling bins and refuse collection points to prevent wild animals, including monkeys, from getting food from refuse/recyclables, so as to discourage them from straying into residential areas in search for food.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB012

(Question Serial No. 3207)

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 the wetland, please advise on the following:

- (a) Over each of the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18), what were the respective expenditures incurred by the Government on protecting 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 (2015-16 to 2017-18), what were the numbers 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 such cases, the numbers of prosecutions instituted for violation of Cap. 170 of the Laws of Hong Kong, and the numbers of convictions thereof?
- (c) Over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18), 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) Further to the above question, over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18), 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 latest details, the progress, the timetable, the expenditure and manpower?

- (f) Under the conservation and management of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, what are the differences between the regulation imposed by the Government on fish ponds and those outside the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site? Does the Government know whether the Ramsar Sites in other countries or regions also comprise of both government land and private land?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 54)

Reply:

- (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 262 cases were convicted, including 2 cases involving the use of illegal bird prevention measures in farmland or fish ponds, subjected to a fine of \$1,000 and \$2,500 respectively. During the same period, AFCD received 21 complaints about suspected use of illegal 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. AFCD aims to strike a balance between supporting the agriculture and fisheries industries as well as bird conservation, and 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 from loan funds administered by AFCD, 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. The Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) may also provide financial support to fish pond operators for purchasing necessary materials under its Equipment Improvement Project.

AFCD has published 2 pamphlets on the methods of preventing bird predation in farmland and fish ponds for the reference of farmers and fish pond operators respectively. According to AFCD's observations, many farmers and fish pond operators have adopted AFCD's recommendations to reduce the 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 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 carry out 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, implementing SFDF and SADF 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 Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021, AFCD has commissioned a specialist consultant to collect updated information on the issue of cormorant predation in commercial fish ponds, review the effectiveness of the existing preventive measures, and explore measures to prevent cormorant predation in fish ponds in late 2016. Prior to the commencement of the study, AFCD had communicated with representatives of the aquaculture industry and they welcomed the study. A field trial on the use of the recommended measure was commenced in late 2017 and completed in early 2018, with the final report of the study to be completed in the second half of 2018.

AFCD's work on bird protection covers a wide spectrum of activities, from habitat conservation, law enforcement, public education, to bird rescue, studies and research. AFCD also assists farmers and fishermen with respect to bird feeding/predation issues. Since the above work forms part of the wild animal protection work of AFCD, there is no separate breakdown of the expenditure in this regard.

- (f) According to the Ramsar Site Management Plan implemented by AFCD, it is recommended that fishponds within the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site be maintained and operated in an ecologically sustainable manner. One of the measures implemented to achieve this management objective is the Management Agreement projects funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund, under which participating fishpond operators would conduct eco-friendly practices such as draining down their fish ponds after harvesting to facilitate bird feeding. Currently, the majority of fishponds at and around the Ramsar Site are engaged in the Management Agreement projects. According to the information from the Ramsar Convention (www.ramsar.org), many Ramsar Sites around the world comprise both Government land and private land.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB013

(Question Serial No. 2001)

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 of Green Turtles and the Sham Wan Restricted Area on Lamma Island, relevant questions are as follows:

- (a) Would the Government advise on (1) the details of the management of the Sham Wan Restricted Area on Lamma Island and the conservation of green turtles, (2) the expenditure and manpower involved in the forthcoming year, and (3) the expenditures and manpower involved over the past 5 years?
- (b) What is the number of turtles having been affixed with metal tags by the Government? For what purpose(s) will the Government utilise the data obtained from the tags? Please advise on the expenditure and the details involved in this regard.
- (c) Please advise on the details and expenditures involved in the relevant scientific/academic research project(s) conducted on Sham Wan/green turtles by the Department or other institutions over the past 5 years. What is the expenditure earmarked by the Department on the researches of Sham Wan/green turtles in the forthcoming year?
- (d) As it was the typhoon season in the summer when Sham Wan Beach was designated as a Restricted Area, a large amount of rubbish was washed up on the shore, posing hazards to the green turtles laying eggs there. Please advise on the cleaning operations conducted between June and October, the responsible department, the weights of rubbish collected every month as well as the expenditures and manpower involved in this regard in each of the past 5 years.
- (e) Turtles are highly sensitive to sound and light while summer is the peak season when yachts sail on the sea, during which waters off the beaches are always packed with yachts, threatening the turtles. What measure(s) does the Government impose to reduce the number of yachts moored off the waters and/or prevent tourists from going

up the shores unknowingly? Does the Government plan to expand the Restricted Area to the waters off the beach in the long run?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 49)

Reply:

- (a) The sandy beach at Sham Wan, Lamma Island is the only regular nesting site of green turtles in Hong Kong. In order to minimise disturbance to green turtles including their nests and eggs, the sandy beach at Sham Wan was gazetted as a Restricted Area under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) in 1999. Access to the area is restricted during the period from 1 June to 31 October each year.

During the restricted period, patrols will be conducted to control unauthorised access or activities and to monitor any nesting activities of green turtles. Before the onset of the nesting season each year, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will carry out conservation management on the nesting site including removal of climbing plants and refuse. AFCD will also arrange for contractors to survey and remove ghost nets in Sham Wan bay as necessary. As these activities form part of the nature conservation work of AFCD, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

- (b) Since 2000, AFCD has attached metal tags engraved with a unique serial number to 73 sea turtles. The metal tags will help identify individual sea turtles when they are encountered in the future. As these activities form part of the nature conservation work of AFCD, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.
- (c) Over the past 5 years, AFCD has conducted satellite tracking of sea turtles to study their migratory routes so as to better conserve sea turtles and their habitats. AFCD also conducts population genetic analysis on sea turtles to better understand their genetic diversity. The expenditure involved in the above studies over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure in 2018-19 are tabulated below.

Financial year	Expenditure (\$)
2013-14	102,000
2014-15	103,000
2015-16	13,000
2016-17	153,000
2017-18 (revised estimate)	158,000
2018-19 (estimate)	100,000

AFCD does not have information on the scientific researches conducted by other institutions on sea turtles in Hong Kong.

- (d) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is responsible for regular cleaning of the Sham Wan beach. According to FEHD, regular cleaning at Sham Wan is conducted 1 to 2 times per week under normal conditions during the restricted period. The Government does not have records of the amount of refuse collected at the relevant location. In case of emergency, AFCD will arrange both contractors and

its staff to support FEHD's cleaning operations. As such activities form part of the routine duties of the relevant department, we do not have the separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower involved.

- (e) Sham Wan is one of the Speed Restricted Zones for vessels set by the Marine Department to ensure safe navigation in the Hong Kong waters. The boundary of the Speed Restricted Zone at Sham Wan covers the entire bay area. The speed limit within Speed Restricted Zone is 5 knots between 8:00am and midnight on any Saturday or public holiday, or on any day during the period from 1 July to 15 September each year. It precludes the towing of water skiers within the zone. If any water sport activity (e.g. speed boating, banana boat riding or water skiing) is found to have exceeded the speed limit, AFCD will report it to the Marine Police or the Marine Department for follow-up action.

Besides, to prevent inadvertent entry to the Restricted Area and to reduce the risk of collision with green turtles, letters will be sent to local marina clubs and boat rental companies to remind them of the arrangements during the restriction periods of the Sham Wan Restricted Area and the Speed Restricted Zone before the commencement of the periods each year.

The Government has no plan to expand the Restricted Area to the waters off the beach at present. AFCD will continue to monitor the occurrence and nesting activities of green turtles in Sham Wan and review the adequacy of the current conservation measures for the protection of green turtles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB014****(Question Serial No. 3007)**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:

- (a) Please provide in tabular form the numbers of cases related to the felling of Incense trees and smuggling of the Aquilaria species, the numbers of persons arrested and prosecutions, the ordinance(s) contravened, the maximum and minimum penalties, the total amounts of fines, as well as the weights and numbers of Incense Trees or the Aquilaria species involved over the past 5 years.
- (b) The Government stated last year that trials on using camera traps to deter illegal felling activities were still being conducted. Could the Government now advise on the effectiveness of the camera traps? Does the Government have any plans to extend the trials to other areas? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure involved in this regard? What are the details of the other work by the Government on the conservation of Incense trees? What are the expenditure and manpower involved in this regard in the forthcoming year?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 48)Reply:

- (a) Over the past 5 years, all criminal cases involving illegal felling of Incense Trees were handled by the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) under the Theft Ordinance (Cap. 210), the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228) or the Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 200). The relevant statistics are tabulated below:

Year	Number of cases	Number of persons arrested	Number of prosecutions	Maximum penalty (imprisonment)	Minimum penalty (imprisonment)	Estimated number of trees involved
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	8*	30 months	2 months	172
2017	53	9	1	30 months	Not applicable	102

* The figure was revised according to the 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 imports and exports of agarwood specimens must be accompanied with a valid CITES licence. Any person who plans to import and export agarwood specimens must hold the relevant licence. The numbers of illegal imports and exports of agarwood over the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	Number of cases	Number of prosecutions	Maximum penalty	Minimum penalty	Quantity of seizure
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
2017	12*	4	Imprisonment of 6 weeks	Imprisonment of 3 weeks	414 kg

* Including 3 cases in which the exhibits were identified to be *Aquilaria sinensis*.

- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is conducting a trial using infrared sensor camera traps (ISCT) to monitor illegal felling of Incense Trees. The trial is still in progress and AFCD is extending the trial to cover more strategic locations. AFCD will review the effectiveness upon completion of the trial.

AFCD has strengthened its efforts on various fronts to protect Incense Trees from illegal felling. Such measures include:

- (i) establishing 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;
- (ii) working closely with the Police in gathering and exchange of intelligence, conducting joint law-enforcement 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;
- (iii) enhancing liaison and cooperation with concern groups and the villagers living near Incense Trees for intelligence gathering and reporting of any illegal felling activities;
- (iv) installing tree guards to prevent felling or vandalism of important individuals of Incense Tree;
- (v) dressing the wounds of damaged trees with anti-fungal paint to suppress the formation of agarwood in order to discourage illegal harvesting;

- (vi) organising training sessions to help frontline staff of the Police and the Customs and Excise Department to identify Incense Trees/agarwood and detect illegal activities; and
- (vii) launching a pilot scheme to deploy quarantine detector dogs to facilitate detection of agarwood smuggling at land boundary control points.

In addition, AFCD has stepped up the extensive planting of Incense Trees 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 Trees 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 this aspect.

In 2018-19, 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 includes an additional provision of \$8.3 million for strengthening the conservation of Incense Trees, including an estimated expenditure of \$1.2 million for the extension of the ISCT trial.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB015****(Question Serial No. 3009)**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 the followings:

- (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) the details of the work on strengthening the trade control of endangered species (in particular ivory) in the forthcoming year as mentioned by the Government. Will adjustments be made to the Department's work, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in the light of the trade ban? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 50)Reply:

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

Calendar year	2015	2016	2017
Number of cases	105	41	64
Quantity of ivory seized (kg)	1 600	530	7 300
Market value (\$ million)	15	5	80
Number of persons arrested	57	30	60
Number of persons convicted	30	25	47
Maximum penalty (Imprisonment / months)	6	8	3
Minimum penalty (Fine / \$)	30,000	2,000	2,000
Total fine (\$ million)	1.5	1.2	0.2

- (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:

Calendar year	2015	2016	2017
Quantity of confiscated ivory disposed of (tonne)	10	6	0
Estimated value (\$ million)	100	60	0
Expenditure (\$)	70,000	27,000	0

- (c) The Legislative Council enacted the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (the Amendment Ordinance) on 31 January this year in order to phase out the local trade in ivory in 3 phases by 31 December 2021, and also to increase the penalties related to the smuggling and illegal trade of endangered species, i.e. the maximum penalty for offences convicted on indictment is a fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years. The Amendment Ordinance will take effect on 1 May 2018. After the Amendment Ordinance has taken effect for 3 months (i.e. starting from 1 August 2018), all import and export of ivory (save for antique ivory) for commercial purposes will be banned. The Customs and Excise Department and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will strengthen enforcement at import and export control points, and combat the smuggling of endangered species (including ivory). Possession of pre-Convention (i.e. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) ivory for commercial purposes is currently exempted from licensing requirement provided that the ivory can be proved pre-Convention. Nevertheless, starting from 1 August 2018, such ivory will be subject to the licensing requirement. Current holders of pre-Convention ivory will be required to apply to AFCD for a license to possess the ivory concerned for commercial purposes. When processing the applications, AFCD staff will inspect the pre-Convention ivory concerned (including measuring weight, taking photos and sticking tamper-proof holograms for the ivory). Regarding the new measures, AFCD has compiled guidelines for the staff members concerned, and also regularly assesses the measures to ensure that the enhanced control of ivory can be effectively implemented. Apart from licensing and enforcement, AFCD will continue its publicity and education efforts to promote public awareness of the relevant control and the need to protect endangered species. The manpower and expenditure involved in the above work for the enhanced control of ivory will be absorbed by the existing resources of AFCD.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB016

(Question Serial No. 3010)

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 and the whereabouts of the species seized.
- (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. (LegCo use): 51)

Reply:

- (a) The numbers of applications for licences / certificates received and licences / certificates issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) with respect to the imports, exports, re-exports 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:

Calendar year	Number of applications received	Number of licences / certificates issued*
2013	27 153	26 935
2014	25 700	25 894
2015	23 089	23 475
2016	20 042	19 935
2017	18 938	19 043

* The number of licences / certificates issued may differ from the number of applications received within the same calendar year as some licences and certificates were issued in respect of the applications submitted at the end of the previous year.

Some applications were unsuccessful mainly because the supporting documents submitted in respect of the applications were invalid. We do not retain statistics on the number of unsuccessful applications.

- (b) Various types of endangered species were involved in the enforcement actions taken to combat their illegal trade. Commonly encountered species included leather products of reptiles, pangolin scales or carcasses, ivory, timber and orchid. The statistics on cases involving illegal imports and exports in contravention of the Ordinance over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Calendar Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*
Number of cases	412	461	395	309	433
Quantity of products	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 2 594 pieces	63 130 kg and 4 272 pieces
Number of persons arrested	271	355	251	181	257
Number of convictions	134	222	153	126	170
Maximum penalty (Imprisonment/ months)	4	10	6	8	3
Minimum penalty (Fine / \$)	100	100	100	100	400
Total fine (\$ million)	1.2	2.9	2.0	1.8	0.3

* Some cases are still under investigation.

- (c) The expenditures incurred by AFCD to combat the illegal trade in endangered species over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (revised estimate)
Expenditure (\$ million)	19.6	20.6	26.0	28.3	31.6

The increased expenditure was for strengthening inspection and enforcement against illegal trade in endangered species and coping with the workload arising from the growing number of scheduled species.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB017

(Question Serial No. 3172)

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) In response to the Department's removal of litter bins in all country parks at the end of last year, will there be adjustments to cleaning and management services in country parks accordingly? Please provide the details, including the expenditure and manpower involved in this regard.
- (b) In addition, has the Department evaluated whether the number of littering cases will increase as a result? What countermeasures will the Department implement? Please provide the details, including the expenditure and manpower involved in this regard.

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 52)

Reply:

- (a) 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 own waste after their visits to country parks with a view to nurturing among them a sense of responsibility towards nature. To tie in with the publicity and education activities, all litter containers and recycling bins along the hiking trails within country parks were removed by phases by the end of 2017. AFCD will maintain cleaning services to upkeep the cleanliness of country parks and flexibly deploy manpower for various country park management work, including cleaning, facility maintenance and tree management, etc. Since the staff responsible for cleaning is also responsible for other country park management work, we do not have separate breakdown on the resources and manpower allocated to specific aspects of the work.

- (b) The litter containers and recycling bins were removed with the aim of nurturing among visitors the habit of keeping country parks clean. We do not anticipate an increase in the number of prosecutions related to littering in country parks. AFCD will upkeep the education and publicity efforts for the public to internalise the green concepts of waste reduction and taking their own waste away after visiting country parks. AFCD will also step up patrol and cleaning, and take law enforcement action when necessary. The expenditure of AFCD earmarked for 2018-19 for education, publicity and law enforcement in country parks (including littering cases) is \$79.8 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB018

(Question Serial No. 0331)

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 shown in the indicators under Programme (2): Nature Conservation and Country Parks, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department produced and planted some 400 000 seedlings over the past financial year. However, the Department has not provided the indicator on the maintenance of the existing trees in country parks. In this connection, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the number of trees in country parks for which the Department carries out inspections and maintenance every year? If the number is not available, would the Department provide other indicators?
- (b) What were the manpower and estimated expenditures allocated on the inspections and maintenance of trees each year over the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 4)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is responsible for tree planting and maintenance in country parks to meet various objectives including enhancement of biodiversity, improvement of countryside landscape, rehabilitation of damaged areas and control of soil erosion. AFCD conducts various tree tending works for the woodlands in country parks including fertilising, weeding, pruning and thinning which are conducive to the health and sustainability of the woodland habitats in the long term.

On top of the overall role in habitat and tree maintenance in country parks, AFCD also conducts detailed tree risk assessments of about 37 000 trees in about 1 000 country park recreation sites and country park areas adjacent to the public roads every year. AFCD also conducts regular patrols and inspections in the county parks and special areas. All potential hazardous trees identified during the patrols will be followed up with remedial measures (e.g. tree pruning, crown reduction, tree removal, etc.).

- (b) The inspections and maintenance of trees are part of the country park management work of AFCD. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB019

(Question Serial No. 1314)

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 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 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. (LegCo use): 20)

Reply:

In general, upon receipt of reports about wild pigs that were injured, trapped in urban areas or causing nuisances by straying into residential areas, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will deploy staff to attend to the scene. AFCD's veterinary officers will also be deployed to the scene to assist in catching the wild pigs with tranquiliser dart guns as necessary. The wild pigs caught will be released in remote and suitable locations in the countryside, including country parks, if circumstances warrant.

In addition, there are 2 wild pig hunting teams (the hunting teams) formed by civilian volunteers, which are responsible for wild pig hunting operations. Only when there are confirmed public reports of damage caused by wild pigs or they are threatening human safety and property on a frequent basis, and that the preventive and other kinds of measures are not effective will AFCD notify the hunting teams to conduct hunting operations. AFCD is conducting a comprehensive review of the strategies and measures for the management of wild pigs. As a result, hunting operations have been suspended since early 2017 until completion of the review, and all cases in relation to wild pigs are currently attended to by AFCD officers on the scene.

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 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial Year	Number of wild pigs caught by AFCD	Number of operations conducted by hunting teams	Number of wild pigs caught by hunting teams
2013-14	10	73	38
2014-15	13	31	21
2015-16	37	53	48
2016-17	62	49	34
2017-18*	107	0	0

* up to 31 January 2018

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB020****(Question Serial No. 0874)**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 numbers 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 2018-19, 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. (LegCo use): 17)Reply:

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

Protected Areas	Area (hectares)
Country Parks	43 467
Special Areas (outside country parks)	845
Marine Parks	3 380
Marine Reserves	20

- (b) 3 country park enclaves, namely Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and a site near Nam Shan, were incorporated into the area of their respective country parks over the past 3 years. The total area of these country park enclaves is about 12 hectares.
- (c) Country parks are designated under the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) for conservation, education and recreational purposes. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to manage and protect the country parks and identify potential sites for designation as /incorporation into country parks. AFCD is carrying out the preparatory work for designation of an area of about 500 hectares at Robin's Nest as a country park. In addition, AFCD aims at further enhancing the conservation level and recreational value of country parks through the implementation of various management measures, including plantation enrichment, additional provision of campsites and facilities and improvement of the existing trail networks, etc.

AFCD has not earmarked any provision for the research mentioned in item (c) of the Question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB021

(Question Serial No. 2411)

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:

Upon enactment of the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (the Amendment Ordinance) on 31 January 2018, the Secretary for the Environment has appointed 1 May 2018 as the commencement date of the Amendment Ordinance, which gives effect to the three-step plan to phase out local ivory trade. In this connection, please advise on the following:

What were the numbers of cases of smuggled ivory seized by the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) in each year over the past 5 years, including: (i) the total value of the products involved; (ii) the types of ivory products; (iii) the weight seized; (iv) the mode of trade (i.e. import, export or re-export); (v) countries which the trade involved (i.e. places of origin of the seized ivory products or destinations of the ivory products); (vi) means of transport; (vii) penalties; and (viii) the stakeholders being prosecuted in each case. If such information is not available, what are the reasons?

What were the numbers of random checks conducted by C&ED on ivory products imported, exported and re-exported in each year over the past 5 years?

Regarding the three-step plan to phase out local ivory trade, what are the details of work, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in 2018-19?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kenneth (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 3.18)

Reply:

The enforcement figures regarding smuggling of ivory over the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Calendar year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of cases	107	106	105	41	64
Estimated value of seized items (\$ million)	84	21	15	5	80
Seizure quantity	7 900 kg & 269 pieces	2 200 kg & 35 pieces	1 600 kg	530 kg	7 300 kg
Number of import cases	84	93	102	39	61
Major Loading Countries (Number of cases)	South Africa (17) Ethiopia (14) Ivory Coast (9)	Nigeria (27) South Africa (22) Cote d'Ivoire (i.e. formerly Ivory Coast) (14)	Nigeria (33) Zimbabwe (23) South Africa (12)	Nigeria (11) Zimbabwe (9) South Africa (6)	Zimbabwe (15) Nigeria (10) Portugal (5) South Africa (5)
Mode of Transport (Number of cases)	Air (74) Land (3) Sea (7)	Air (88) Land (4) Sea (1)	Air (102)	Air (36) Land (1) Sea (2)	Air (59) Land (1) Sea (1)
Number of export cases	3	2	1	1	3
Destination Country (Number of cases)	Mainland China (3)	Mainland China (2)	Mainland China (1)	Mainland China (1)	Mainland China (3)
Mode of Transport (Number of cases)	Land (1) Sea (2)	Land (2)	Land (1)	Land (1)	Land (1) Sea (2)
Transit / Transshipment	12	11	2	-	-
Major Loading Country (Number of cases)	Nigeria (2) South Africa (2)	South Africa (3) Angola (2)	Greece (1) Namibia (1)	-	-
Major Destination Country (Number of cases)	Mainland China (8)	Mainland China (3) Vietnam (3)	Mainland China (1) Malaysia (1)	-	-
Mode of Transport (Number of cases)	Air (12)	Air (11)	Air (2)	-	-
Others (e.g. abandoned case)	8	-	-	1	-
Number of persons convicted	24	65	30	25	47
Maximum penalty (Imprisonment / months)	4	8	6	8	3
Minimum penalty (Fine / \$)	10,000	10,000	30,000	2,000	2,000

Offenders of the convicted cases mainly entered Hong Kong as visitors or transit passengers via the airport. The ivory seized from these passengers was mostly worked ivory or semi-processed worked ivory while ivory seized from sea consignments was mostly raw tusks and large cut pieces.

By employing the risk management and intelligence-led approach, the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) conducts checks on passengers, cargoes, postal parcels and conveyances at various seaports to effectively fight against the smuggling offences including wildlife crimes. Throughout the years, C&ED and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) have been working closely through mounting joint operations against smuggling of the endangered species (including ivory) scheduled under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at import and export control points.

The Legislative Council enacted the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (the Amendment Ordinance) on 31 January this year in order to phase out the local trade in ivory in 3 phases by 31 December 2021, and also to increase the penalties related to the smuggling and illegal trade of endangered species, i.e. the maximum penalty for offences convicted on indictment is a fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years. To implement the phase-out plan of the local ivory trade in phases, AFCD will carry out a series of measures in 2018-19. Relevant measures include sending notifications regarding the ivory phase-out plan to relevant stakeholders (including traders) and all Parties to CITES through the CITES Secretariat and the World Trade Organization. The Amendment Ordinance will take effect on 1 May 2018. After the Amendment Ordinance has taken effect for 3 months (i.e. starting from 1 August 2018), all import and export of ivory (save for antique ivory) for commercial purposes will be banned. At the same time, pre-Convention ivory will be subject to licensing requirement. Current holders of pre-Convention ivory will be required to apply to AFCD for a license to possess the ivory concerned for commercial purposes. Applications for the possession of pre-Convention ivory for commercial purposes will be scrutinised under a licensing system. Registration and inspection of the existing stock of pre-Convention ivory will also be arranged (including recording weight, taking photo and putting on tamper-proof hologram stickers). Publicity activities to promote public awareness of the ivory phase-out plan will also be arranged. Besides, AFCD will continue to implement 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 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, using hi-tech radiocarbon dating analysis to determine the age and hence the legality of ivory. The implementation of the above works and measures will be absorbed by the existing resources and manpower of AFCD.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB022

(Question Serial No. 0450)

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 Commerce and Economic Development, Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19, it is stated that the Department will implement the Biodiversity Strategy. However, the proliferation of *Mikania micrantha* still persists, which has damaged and invaded part of the countryside. Would the Government please advise on the following:

- (a) Whether the Department has regularly monitored and removed *Mikania micrantha* over the past 3 years. If yes, please advise on the numbers of annual inspection and removal, the manpower and expenditures allocated, and how do they compare with that in 2017-18;
- (b) Whether there is a record of the districts where *Mikania micrantha* has proliferated and the total areas of the land involved. If yes, please provide the specific figures;
- (c) The country park(s) affected by the proliferation of *Mikania micrantha*, and the loss resulted from its proliferation;
- (d) Whether interdepartmental efforts have been made to curb the proliferation of *Mikania micrantha*. If yes, how effective are they? If not, what are the reasons?
- (e) Whether the Department has devised new methods to curb the proliferation of *Mikania micrantha*. If yes, please provide the details.

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 29)

Reply:

- (a) *Mikania (Mikania micrantha)* is a common weed mainly found on abandoned fields, roadside and hillside, and woodland fringes where there is ample sunlight.

Government departments conduct regular vegetation maintenance work, including prevention of the proliferation of Mikania, on government land under their management. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducts regular patrols and inspections in country parks, special areas and sites of special scientific interest and removes Mikania once it is found. As Mikania clearance is part of the routine vegetation management work of AFCD, there is no breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved specifically in this aspect of work.

- (b) Statistics on the total area of land affected by Mikania are not available.
- (c) According to AFCD's record, only a few areas on the fringes or on the roadside of country parks (e.g. Pat Sin Leng, Tai Lam and Kiu Tsui Country Parks) have been affected by Mikania. The proliferation of Mikania in these areas is under control and there is no ecological damage to country parks observed.
- (d) Government departments carry out regular inspections and vegetation maintenance work, including removal of Mikania, within the facilities and the slopes under their management. Vegetation maintenance on unallocated and unleased Government land not maintained by other government departments is under the jurisdiction of the respective District Land Offices. This arrangement is considered the most effective measure to control the proliferation of Mikania.
- (e) Various methods have been employed to control Mikania, including physical, chemical and biological control. Removing Mikania manually is considered the most feasible and effective measure to control the proliferation of Mikania. Other methods (such as using herbicide, etc.) may not only have undesirable impacts on the environment, but may also pose hazard to other plants nearby.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB023

(Question Serial No. 0452)

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 and operation of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGGp),

- (a) What were the manpower and expenditure involved in the management and operation of HKUGGp in 2018-19, and how do they compare with that in 2017-18?
- (b) In view of inaccessibility to HKUGGp and insufficient promotion of the relevant guided tour services, would the Government conduct reviews on these issues, and is there any improvement measure?
- (c) What measures has the Department taken to publicise and promote HKUGGp, and how to strengthen the work in the coming year?
- (d) What is the existing number of Recommended Geopark Guides (R2Gs), and how does it compare with that of last year? What measures would the Department take to encourage more tourism industry members to become R2Gs?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 33)

Reply:

- (a) In 2018-19, the manpower and estimated expenditure involved in the management and operation of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGGp) are 24 staff and \$29.2 million. It is approximately the same as the provision in 2017-18.
- (b) Over the past years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has continued its efforts in enhancing the accessibility of HKUGGp and the promotion of its guided tour services. Major enhancements made recently include: (i) the introduction and promotion of guided shuttle bus tour to East Dam of the High Island Reservoir; (ii) the launch of a kaito ferry service running between Ma Liu Shui and Lai

Chi Wo; (iii) setting up a new information kiosk at East Dam and enhancing the visitor information at Tai Po Geoheritage Centre for the promotion of HKUGGp and local guided tours; and (iv) production and distribution of a new geo-tourism magazine covering HKUGGp's major attractions and geo-tour packages. AFCD will continue to enhance the accessibility and visibility of HKUGGp in cooperation with different government departments, relevant community groups and other stakeholders.

- (c) In 2018-19, AFCD will continue to endeavour to promote and publicise HKUGGp through a variety of publicity and engagement 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 and in collaboration with the Hong Kong Tourism Board; (iii) upgrading the skills of the geopark guides through the Geopark Guide System in conjunction with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong (HKTIC); (iv) training of tour operators, local communities and other stakeholders of HKUGGp; (v) organising science popularisation programmes for students through the Geopark School Programme; and (vi) collaboration with NGOs and local communities in the setting up and operation of education and visitor centres.
- (d) Currently, there are in total 48 R2Gs, which is the same as that of 2017. AFCD will continue to work with HKTIC and NGOs to promote the Geopark Guide System to tourism practitioners through talks, workshops and seminars.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB024

(Question Serial No. 2704)

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 provide, **by year**, and with **an exhaustive breakdown** the Department's total expenditures involved in dealing with the wild pig issue, as well as the expenditures under the grand total (including the handling of public complaints, administrative expenses and manpower, etc.) over the past 5 years.
- (b) What are the Department's total estimated expenditure involved in dealing with wild pigs, as well as the estimated expenditures under the grand total in the financial year 2018-19?
- (c) Please set out the outcomes of operations conducted by the wild pig hunting teams (including the number of operations, operation areas and number of wild pigs caught) over the past 5 years.
- (d) The Department announced last year that the wild pig hunting teams would stop conducting hunting operations. Has the Department decided on the way forward of the hunting teams and the way to handle the issues concerning the special permits held by the hunting team members and the renewal of arms license. If yes, what are the details? If not, when are the details of handling the said issues expected to be finalised?
- (e) What are the details of the work, the total expenditure and the breakdown of the expenditure (including procurement of the contraceptive "GonaConTM", manpower and operations conducted) involved in the wild pig contraceptive trial scheme launched last year? What is the Department's estimated expenditure on this scheme in the financial year 2018-19?
- (f) Please set out the latest numbers of wild pigs injected with the contraceptive under the said scheme by districts. Is there any wild pig having side effects or other adverse

reactions after being injected with the contraceptive? If yes, what are the number and details?

- (g) The Department has mentioned that they are setting up a working group on the enhancement of design of litter containers and refuse collection points in order to prevent wild pigs from being attracted by the outdoor refuse storage area to go downhill to search for food, reducing the conflicts between human beings and wild pigs. In this connection, what are the details of work and progress of the working group, as well as the details of the enhanced design?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 35)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure involved in dealing with the wild pig issues by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is tabulated as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2013-14	1.54
2014-15	1.46
2015-16	1.82
2016-17	2.36
2017-18 (revised estimate)	6.10

There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved in handling public complaints, administrative expenses and manpower, etc.

- (b) A provision of \$11.7 million has been earmarked for dealing with wild pig issues in 2018-19.
- (c) The number of hunting operations carried out and the number of wild pigs caught by the hunting teams over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Number of hunting operations/wild pigs caught		
	New Territories	Hong Kong Island and other outlying islands	Total number
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
2017-18 (up to February 2018)	0/0	0/0	0/0

- (d) AFCD is conducting a comprehensive review on the current strategies and measures for the management of wild pigs. Hunting operations have been suspended since early 2017 until completion of the review.
- (e) In the late 2017, AFCD launched a two-year pilot scheme for the contraception of wild pigs with a view to evaluating the suitability of an immuno-contraceptive vaccine,

namely GonaCon™, for controlling the population of wild pigs habituated to feeding and causing nuisance to the public. Under the pilot scheme, AFCD's contractor will deploy veterinarians to capture wild pigs by using tranquiliser dart guns and administer the contraceptive vaccine to and implant microchips in suitable wild pigs in good health condition before releasing them back to the countryside. Suitable wild pigs will also be installed with GPS transmitters. AFCD will monitor the wild pig populations covered by the pilot scheme to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot scheme. The expenditure involved in the said pilot scheme in 2017-18 is \$1.79 million. A provision of \$3.5 million has been earmarked for the pilot scheme in 2018-2019.

- (f) So far, 14 wild pigs, all of which were caught on Hong Kong Island, have been treated with GonaCon™, with no side effects or other adverse reactions observed. AFCD is planning to extend the pilot scheme to other districts of Hong Kong.
- (g) AFCD has been working closely with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) on the improvement of refuse collection facilities that are prone to wildlife raids. Improvement works carried out include the installation of metal swing doors at village-type refuse collection and recycling points and erecting bollards or parapets at bin sites to prevent the knocking down of refuse and recycling bins by wildlife such as wild pigs. In addition, AFCD is setting up a working group for conducting a consultancy study on prevention of wildlife raids of the refuse collection and recycling points, refuse bins, litter bins and recycling bins, and also the enhancement of their design.

The most effective way to reduce the appearance of wild pigs in residential areas is to stop feeding them. The public's feeding will wrongly impress the wild animals that there is stable food supply and attract them to appear regularly near urban or residential areas. To this end, AFCD is conducting a series of publicity and education programmes, including promotion on TV and radio, fun day, roving exhibitions, public lectures and visits, etc. to publicise the negative impacts of feeding wild animals. AFCD has also recently set up a YouTube Channel and a Facebook fan page, and launched Announcements in the Public Interest together with a series of micro-movies titled "Don't Feed Wild Animals and Feral Pigeons", to inform the public about the negative consequences of feeding wild pigs, monkeys and feral pigeons, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB025

(Question Serial No. 2706)

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 **by year** and **with an exhaustive breakdown** the total numbers of import cases of products containing ingredients from bear gall bladders in contravention of the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (the Ordinance), the numbers of cases detected and the details of the items involved in the cases (including the names, places of origin, ingredients in contravention of the Ordinance and the import quantities of the items involved in the cases, the numbers of persons arrested, the number of persons convicted and their respective penalties, etc.) over the past 5 years.
- (b) Would the Department consider conducting random inspections on products claiming to contain ingredients from bear gall bladders? If yes, what are the details? If not, would the Department consider conducting random inspections in order to deter illegal import of animal products regulated under the Ordinance into Hong Kong?
- (c) 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 into Hong Kong of products claimed to contain ingredients from bear gall bladders on humanitarian grounds?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 37)

Reply:

- (a) Over the past 5 years, there was 1 case of suspected illegal import of bear bile. The case involved importing 10g of powder claimed to be made from bear bile from Mainland China in 2017. It is still under investigation and no persons have been arrested so far.

(b) & (c) Hong Kong implements the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) through enforcing the Protection of Endangered Species of Animal and Plant Ordinance (the Ordinance). Officers of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department regularly conduct inspections at border control points and shops to deter smuggling of and trade in endangered species, including products containing or claiming to contain bear bile. The objective of CITES is to strengthen trade controls through the adoption of effective measures among governments of the contracting parties in order to effectively protect the endangered species of wild fauna and flora and to 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 regulation of international trade in endangered species.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB026

(Question Serial No. 2707)

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 total expenditures involved in the conservation of the Chinese White Dolphins (CWDs), as well as the expenditures under the grand total (including all expenditures on Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park, The Brothers Marine Park, the proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park, the Soko Islands Marine Park and the designation of a new marine park for Integrated Waste Management Facilities at Shek Kwu Chau, etc.) over the past 5 years? What are the Department's total estimated expenditure and the expenditures under the grand total involved in the abovementioned initiatives in the financial year 2018-19?
- (b) Please set out the populations of CWDs within the territory by their major habitats (including the North Lantau waters near Castle Peak, the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park, and waters around Chek Lap Kok and Tai O) over the past 5 years.
- (c) Please set out the numbers of stranding cases of CWDs, Indo-Pacific finless porpoises and other cetaceans within the territory by their major habitats (including the North Lantau waters near Castle Peak, the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park, and waters around Chek Lap Kok and Tai O) over the past 5 years.
- (d) What is the Department's evaluation on the 21 water quality parameters of the respective marine parks and marine reserve? Please set out the name(s) and the figure(s) recorded of the parameter(s) which did not meet the standard(s) of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in each of the past 5 years, as well as the standard figure(s) of the respective parameter(s) as specified by EPD.
- (e) What is the Department's evaluation on the effectiveness of marine parks in the conservation of CWDs? Does the Department have any other measure(s) to enhance the habitats of local cetaceans apart from establishing additional marine parks? If yes, what are the details and estimated expenditure of the relevant measures?

- (f) Has the Department estimated the future populations of cetaceans in Hong Kong? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 38)

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 the 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.

Among the established marine parks, 2 of them, i.e. Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park (SCLKCMP) and The Brothers Marine Park (BMP), incur recurrent expenditures related to the conservation of CWDs. The recurrent expenditures involved in the CWD conservation measures over the past 5 years and that earmarked for 2018-19 are as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2013-14	6.5
2014-15	6.7
2015-16	6.3
2016-17	6.2
2017-18 (revised estimate)	9.9 [#]
2018-19 (estimate)	11.0 [#]

[#] The increase in recurrent expenditure was due to the establishment of BMP in December 2016.

- (b) 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
2013	11	23	36	3	73
2014	26	36	24	1	87

Calendar year	Abundance				
	Southwest Lantau	West Lantau	Northwest Lantau	Northeast Lantau	Total
2015	24	31	10	0	65
2016	9	27	11	0	47
2017	(Data being analysed)				

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

- (c) 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 as follows:

Calendar year	Number of CWDs stranded				
	North Lantau waters near Castle Peak	SCLKCMP	Waters around Chek Lap Kok	Tai O	Other areas
2013	3	1	2	2	1
2014	2	0	1	2	7
2015	2	2	1	2	8
2016	1	0	0	0	3
2017	0	1	1	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 as follows:

Calendar year	Number of finless porpoises stranded				
	North Lantau waters near Castle Peak	SCLKCMP	Waters around Chek Lap Kok	Tai O	Other areas
2013	0	0	0	0	19
2014	0	0	0	1	32
2015	0	0	0	0	21
2016	0	0	0	0	17
2017	0	0	0	0	18

The numbers of other stranded cetaceans recorded over the past 5 years in North Lantau waters near Castle Peak, SCLKCMP, waters around Chek Lap Kok and Tai O are as follows:

Calendar year	Number of other cetaceans stranded				
	North Lantau waters near Castle Peak	SCLKCMP	Waters around Chek Lap Kok	Tai O	Other areas
2013	0	0	0	0	0
2014	0	0	0	0	5
2015	0	0	0	0	1
2016	0	0	0	0	2
2017	0	0	0	0	3

- (d) AFCD conducts regular water quality monitoring at various marine parks and marine reserve and measures and analyses 21 parameters, which are air temperature, water temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, Secchi disc depth, 5-day biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solid, turbidity, ammoniacal nitrogen, unionized ammonia, nitrite nitrogen, nitrate nitrogen, total inorganic nitrogen, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, total nitrogen, orthophosphate phosphorus, total phosphorus, chlorophyll-*a*, *Escherichia coli* and faecal coliforms. The water quality of the marine parks and marine reserve was good and complied with the corresponding Water Quality Objectives (WQO) set by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), except for total inorganic nitrogen (TIN) which is an indicator of nutrient enrichment.

Subject to the influence of water current, the discharge from the river on the periphery of SCLKCMP is rich in nutrients, resulting in TIN concentrations at the aforementioned location being in excess of the WQO over the past 5 years, and that in BMP also exceeded the WQO in 2017. The TIN in Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve (CDMR) showed fluctuations. Measured TIN concentrations (in mg/L) in the aforementioned marine parks and in CDMR are tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	SCLKCMP (0.3mg/L)	BMP (0.3mg/L)	CDMR (0.1mg/L)
2013	0.92	/	0.18
2014	0.84	/	0.30
2015	1.23	/	0.20
2016	0.95	/	0.12
2017	1.09	0.73	0.10

Note:

1. The Water Quality Objective for annual depth-averaged TIN in the respective water control zones are shown in brackets.
 2. Water quality monitoring in BMP commenced only after its designation in 2017.
- (e) Based on the findings of the long-term dolphin monitoring by AFCD, the waters of Lung Kwu Chau within SCLKCMP remain an important habitat of CWDs. The monitoring results of the Passive Acoustic Monitoring initiated in 2017 on the spatial, seasonal and diurnal patterns of CWDs in SCLKCMP and BMP indicated that the designation of marine parks had positive effects on the conservation of CWDs. Please refer to item (a) above regarding the recurrent expenditures involved in the CWD conservation measures.
- (f) AFCD will continue to monitor the occurrence of cetaceans in Hong Kong waters. The Department does not have any estimate on the future abundance of cetaceans.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB027****(Question Serial No. 2709)**

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 of illegal felling of Agarwood over the past 5 years, including the total number of cases, numbers of cases detected, numbers of persons arrested, numbers of persons convicted, the lowest and highest penalties, the total number of trees involved, etc.
- (b) What were the details of the Department's work on combating the illegal felling as well as the conservation of Agarwood in the past year? How would the Department evaluate the effectiveness of the relevant work?
- (c) What are the details and estimated expenditure involved in the conservation of Agarwood in the financial year of 2018-19?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 40)

Reply:

- (a) Statistics on cases involving illegal felling of Incense Trees over the past 5 years are as follows:

Calendar year	Number of cases	Number of persons arrested	Number of prosecutions	Maximum penalty (imprisonment)	Minimum penalty (imprisonment)	Estimated number of trees involved
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	8*	30 months	2 months	172
2017	53	9	1	30 months	-	102

* The figure was revised according to information provided by the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police).

- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has implemented a series of measures to protect Incense Trees against illegal felling. AFCD has established a special task force to step up patrols in the countryside against illegal felling of Incense Trees. An Inter-departmental Task Force on Wildlife Crime, comprising representatives of AFCD, the Environment Bureau, the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) and the Police, has been established to develop strategies on intelligence exchange and co-ordinate joint enforcement operations to combat wildlife crime, including the illegal felling of Incense Trees. For example, joint operations by AFCD and the Police have been increased, and both parties have strengthened collaboration with the residents living in the vicinity of Incense Trees to enhance intelligence exchange and facilitate early detection of illegal activities. Metallic tree guards and mesh fences have been installed to provide a secured barrier against felling or vandalism of some selected large and mature specimens of Incense Tree. AFCD also performs wound-dressing for the damaged trees with anti-fungal paint to suppress the formation of agarwood in order to discourage illegal harvesting. In addition, AFCD has been conducting training sessions from time to time to help frontline staff of the Police and C&ED to identify Incense Tree/agarwood and detect illegal activities, and has launched a pilot scheme to deploy quarantine detector dogs to facilitate the detection of agarwood smuggling at boundary control points. AFCD is also conducting a pilot scheme using the Infrared Sensor Camera Trap to monitor Incense Trees at several strategic locations. Other protective measures include restocking of Incense Trees in the countryside, supporting relevant research studies that could enhance the conservation of Incense Trees, as well as promulgating tree protection through education and publicity programmes. Long-term monitoring of important populations of Incense Trees is in place to check on the effectiveness of the protection measures and conservation status of Incense Trees.
- (c) A provision of \$8.3 million has been earmarked for 2018-19 to implement the measures detailed in item (b) above.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB028****(Question Serial No. 3208)**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:

- (a) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in various marine parks and country parks over the past 5 years?
- (b) Would the Department consider establishing additional marine parks and country parks in the future? What are details of the plan and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 60)Reply:

- (a) The manpower and expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in the planning, management and protection of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve, as well as organising the related education and publicity activities over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Manpower (as at the end of the financial year)	Expenditure (\$ million)
2013-14	897	316
2014-15	848	333
2015-16	809	337
2016-17	810	344
2017-18 (revised estimate)	769	362

- (b) To prepare for the designation of the Robin's Nest as a country park, AFCD has commissioned an 18-month consultancy study in 2017 to formulate a detailed management plan for the proposed country park. Upon completion of the study, AFCD will seek the views of stakeholders including the local villagers, relevant Rural

Committees, District Council and other concerned groups on the designation proposal, and take forward the statutory procedures as stipulated under the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) with a view to completing the designation procedures by 2020.

Regarding marine parks, we have designated The Brothers Marine Park in December 2016. We are now going through the statutory procedures with an aim to designating the proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park (SWLMP) by the end of 2018. In addition, we plan to combine the proposed Soko Islands Marine Park and the proposed marine park for the Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 1 project into one single marine park to enhance the effectiveness of conservation, management and enforcement of the marine park. AFCD and the Environmental Protection Department are working on the preparation work, with an aim to designating the proposed marine park by 2019. Another proposed marine park in the pipeline, planned to be designated by 2024, is the mitigation measure for the Expansion of Hong Kong International Airport into a Three-Runway System project.

AFCD will redeploy existing staff for the management and operation of SWLMP. The manpower required for the other proposed country park and marine parks mentioned above will be reviewed at a later stage.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB029

(Question Serial No. 1963)

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 of biodiversity and promotion of compatible use of country and marine parks, what is the expenditure involved in 2018-19? What are the specific measures?

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

Reply:

Country and marine parks are designated and managed for the purposes of nature conservation, recreation and education. Biodiversity conservation measures implemented by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in country and marine parks include vegetation and habitat management, hill fire prevention and fighting, development control, patrolling and law enforcement, and biodiversity and water quality monitoring. AFCD also provides and maintains various facilities to facilitate and promote compatible uses of country and marine parks, including hiking, camping, mountain biking, photo taking, barbecuing, boating, swimming, snorkeling, scuba diving, canoeing and dolphin watching. Relevant education and publicity programmes are conducted for students and the general public. These include school visits, eco-tours, guided tours at visitor or education centres, hiking and tree planting, family days, exhibitions, educational and public engagement workshops and volunteer schemes. To publicise these programmes and promote nature appreciation, AFCD disseminates the information through leaflets, posters, thematic websites, mobile applications and social media.

In 2018-19, the estimated expenditure of AFCD on biodiversity conservation in country and marine parks and promotion of the compatible use of country and marine parks is \$53.7 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB030

(Question Serial No. 1964)

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 specific measures will the Government take to carry out licensing control of international trade in endangered species (especially ivory) and to curb illegal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong in 2018-19? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 2)

Reply:

The Government is committed to protect 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. Joint and targeted operations, both local and international, would be undertaken to strengthen the frontline enforcement against endangered species smuggling.

In addition, the Legislative Council enacted the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (the Amendment Ordinance) on 31 January this year in order to phase out the local trade in ivory in 3 phases by 31 December

2021, and also to increase the penalties related to the smuggling and illegal trade of endangered species, i.e. the maximum penalty for offences convicted on indictment is a fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years. The Amendment Ordinance will take effect on 1 May 2018. After the Amendment Ordinance has taken effect for 3 months (i.e. starting from 1 August 2018), all import and export of ivory (save for antique ivory) for commercial purposes will be banned. C&ED and AFCD will strengthen enforcement at import and export control points, and combat the smuggling of endangered species (including ivory). Possession of pre-Convention (i.e. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)) ivory for commercial purposes is currently exempted from licensing requirement provided that the ivory can be proved pre-Convention. Nevertheless, starting from 1 August 2018, such ivory will be subject to the licensing requirement. Current holders of pre-Convention ivory will be required to apply to AFCD for a license to possess the ivory concerned for commercial purposes. When processing the applications, AFCD staff will inspect the pre-Convention ivory concerned (including measuring weight, taking photos and sticking tamper-proof holograms for the ivory). Regarding the new measures, AFCD has compiled guidelines for the staff members concerned, and also regularly assesses the measures to ensure that the enhanced control of ivory can be effectively implemented. 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.

The estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the protection of endangered species in 2018-19 are \$43.3 million and 55 staff respectively, of which \$31.6 million and 39 staff are for enforcing the Ordinance. There is no breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved in ivory control.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB031

(Question Serial No. 3157)

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 issues concerning marine parks and marine reserves under this Programme, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The work progress of and expected time required for setting up the proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park and Soko Islands Marine Park.
- (b) The numbers, sizes and locations of sites resumed under Section 17 of the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476 of the Laws of Hong Kong) over the past 5 years.
- (c) The numbers of fishing permits issued to various types of fishing vessels in each marine park and marine reserve over the past 3 years.

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

Reply:

- (a) Regarding the proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park (SWLMP), the Government has prepared the draft map and published the required notice in the gazette on 23 June 2017 for public inspection, with an aim of designating SWLMP by the end of 2018. In addition, the Government plans to combine the proposed Soko Islands Marine Park and the proposed marine park for the Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 1 into one single marine park of approximately 2 000 hectares. This approach will facilitate the effective management and operation of the marine park in the future. We aim to designate the said proposed marine park in 2019.
- (b) Over the past 5 years, no land was resumed by the Government under Section 17 of the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476).

- (c) The numbers of fishing permits issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to various types of fishing vessels in each marine park over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18) are tabulated below. No fishing permits have been issued for fishing in the Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve.

Name of marine park	Number of permits issued for fishing in the respective marine parks		
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Hoi Ha Wan (HHW) and Yan Chau Tong (YCT) ¹	256 (73)	251 (68)	243 (66)
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau	80	80	81
Tung Ping Chau (TPC) ²	202	202	197
The Brothers	-	-	472
Total³	355	350	737

Remarks:

1. Some of the fishing permits issued by AFCD in the past cover TPC, YCT and/or HHW (see Note 2 below). The figures in brackets show the numbers of fishing permits issued solely for HHW/YCT.
2. Some fishing permits issued for TPC also cover YCT/HHW.
3. The row "Total" gives the total number of permits for fishing in marine parks in a particular year. As some permits issued cover more than 1 marine park, the figure shown in the row "Total" for a particular year does not equal to the sum of the respective numbers of fishing permits issued for each marine park in that particular year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB032****(Question Serial No. 3206)**

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 actions against illegal fishing activities in marine parks and marine reserve, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) What were the numbers involved in and the effectiveness of the enforcement against illegal fishing activities in marine parks over the past 3 years? What were the penalties and fines imposed?
- (b) What were the expenditures and manpower deployed by the Government to combat illegal fishing activities in marine parks over the past 3 years?
- (c) 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?

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

Reply:

- (a) The number of prosecutions targeted at illegal fishing activities in marine parks over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18) and the penalties and fines imposed are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Number of cases	Total fine (\$)
2015-16	18	22,800
2016-17	5	9,500
2017-18 (up to February)	8 (5 cases are still in progress of prosecution)	3,800

- (b) The expenditure and manpower involved in the management of marine parks and marine reserve, including enforcement against illegal fishing, by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18) are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	16.8	37
2016-17	21.3	39
2017-18 (revised estimate)	23.8	44

- (c) Over the past 3 years, 11 patrol vessels were deployed by AFCD to conduct patrols in the marine parks and marine reserve and surrounding 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 Hoi Ha Wan, Yan Chau Tong, Tung Ping Chau, Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau and The Brothers Marine Parks, Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve and the proposed Southwest Lantau and South Lantau Marine Parks. The numbers of patrols conducted over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18) are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Number of patrols
2015-16	3 200
2016-17	3 204
2017-18 (up to February)	3 742

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB033

(Question Serial No. 3246)

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 2014 up to now.
- (b) What were the respective manpower and expenditures 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 2018-19, including the locations, areas, and respective country parks involved, etc.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 61)

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. Whenever suitable enclaves are 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 2014, the Authority has consulted CMPB on 3 enclaves assessed to be suitable for incorporation into country parks, namely Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong, and the site near Nam Shan. Details of the relevant CMPB meetings are tabulated below:

Dates of CMPB meetings	Purposes
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 the 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 the 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.
11 April 2017, 15 August 2017 and 24 November 2017	To update the progress of the statutory procedures on the proposals to incorporate Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and the site near Nam Shan into the respective country parks.

- (b) The assessment on the suitability of enclaves for incorporation into country parks and the designation form part of the regular country park work of AFCD. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.

- (c) Currently, there are still 19 enclaves that have not been incorporated into country parks or got their proper uses determined through statutory planning. AFCD is conducting assessments on the suitability of these enclaves for incorporation into country parks. As mentioned in part (a) above, 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

ENB034

(Question Serial No. 3247)

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 the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476), please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the numbers of prosecutions and convictions initiated, and the maximum penalties imposed upon conviction under the said Ordinances over the past 3 years?
- (b) Will the Department conduct any review in 2018-19 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. (LegCo use): 63)

Reply:

- (a) The number of prosecutions and convicted cases under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) and the 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
2015	800	790	21	20
2016	757	601	27	20
2017	757	882*	8	5

* The number of convicted cases is higher than the number of prosecutions in 2017 because some prosecutions made in 2016 were convicted in 2017.

Over the past 3 years, the maximum penalties imposed under Cap. 208A and Cap. 476A were a fine of \$3,500 and \$8,000 respectively.

- (b) The maximum penalty upon conviction under Cap. 208A is a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for 1 year while that under 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**ENB035****(Question Serial No. 3248)**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) as well as the management of country parks, marine marks and marine reserve, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) What were the number of complaints received in relation to unlawful occupation of land within country parks, marine parks and marine reserve, as well as the locations and sizes involved in each case and the Government's follow-up actions (including but not limited to prosecutions and requirement for reinstatement) over the past 2 years?
- (b) Please set out in the following table the details of the cases involving occupation of government land within country parks, marine parks and marine reserve for over 6 months, the reason for such cases yet to be handled by the Government as well as the follow-up actions:

Period of land occupation	Country park, marine park or marine reserve involved	Size of land involved	Reason(s) for the case yet to be handled	Follow-up action(s)

- (c) 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?

Reply:

- (a) Over the past 2 years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has received 7 complaints related to the unlawful occupation of government land within country parks. 5 country parks were involved, including the Sai Kung East, Sai Kung West, Ma On Shan, Pat Sin Leng and Lion Rock Country Parks. In general, upon receipt of such complaints, AFCD will conduct follow-up investigations and initiate prosecutions under the legislation administered by it when 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. AFCD does not have information on the size of the affected areas in these complaints.

There was no such complaint concerning marine parks and marine reserve over the past 2 years.

- (b) 2 of the above cases involved occupation of government land for more than 6 months. Details of these cases are tabulated as follows:

Time of complaint received	Country park involved	Occupation of government land in country park	Follow-up action(s)
January 2016	Sai Kung West	Erection of metal hoarding	The complaint was also lodged to the Lands Department (LandsD) for follow-up actions. In October 2016, the metal hoarding was found to have been partly removed. AFCD will continue to monitor the situation and follow up with LandsD for removal of the remaining metal hoarding.
June 2017	Pat Sin Leng	Development of an orchard on private land affecting the adjacent Government land in country park	The case was referred to LandsD for follow-up actions. AFCD will continue to monitor the situation.

- (c) 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**ENB036****(Question Serial No. 3249)**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. (LegCo use): 66)Reply:

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

Calendar year	Number of cases of suspected illegal structures and graves	Country park involved
2015	9	Lantau, Ma On Shan, Plover Cove, Tai Lam, Tai Tam and Sai Kung West

Calendar year	Number of cases of suspected illegal structures and graves	Country park involved
2016	10	Kam Shan, Lantau, Ma On Shan, Pat Sin Leng, Tai Mo Shan, Sai Kung West and Shek O
2017	10	Tai Lam, Sai Kung West, Sai Kung East, Pat Sin Leng, Lantau North (Extension), Lantau South, Ma On Shan and Lion Rock

Over the past 3 years, AFCD did not detect or receive any report of such case in the marine parks and marine reserve.

- (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 tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of prosecutions*
2015	4
2016	17
2017	1

* 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 2018-19, 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 2018-19, the overall provision earmarked for AFCD to carry out law enforcement duties in country parks is \$52.5 million, involving 133 staff.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB037

(Question Serial No. 3535)

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 protection of and enforcement in country parks and enclaves, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) What were the numbers of cases involving excavation, felling of trees and landfill in enclaves which degraded the local natural landscape over each of the past 3 years? What were the locations, sizes involved and the follow-up actions taken by the Government in each case?
- (b) Currently, the details of various pieces of private land (including the lot numbers, locations and sizes) within country parks are kept in the database of the Cartographic Unit under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). When did AFCD last update the database? What arrangement will be made for updating in the future?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 68)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducts regular patrols in country parks including country park enclaves. Over the past 3 years, AFCD has not received or detected any unauthorised excavation, felling of trees or landfilling in the enclaves that have been incorporated into country parks.

For other enclaves that have not been incorporated into country parks, AFCD will take enforcement action under the Forests and Countryside Ordinance (Cap. 96) if there is unauthorised felling of trees on government land, and/or refer the cases to the relevant government departments for follow-up action under their respective ambit. Over the past 3 years, there were 12 cases of unauthorised felling of trees on government land in these enclaves. The details are tabulated below:

Name of enclave	Location (District)	Area or number of trees affected	Follow-up action
2015			
Tai Tan, Uk Tau, Ko Tong, Ko Tong Ha Yeung	Uk Tau (Tai Po)	About 40 stems of bamboos	Offender prosecuted and fined \$10,000.
Chau Mei, Tai Tong, Chau Tau and Sha Tau	Tai Tong (Tai Po)	14 trees	No enforcement action could be taken as the responsible party could not be identified.
Kuk Po San Uk Ha, Kuk Po Lo Wai, Yi To, Sam To, Sze To and Ng To	Kuk Po (North)	76 trees	No enforcement action could be taken as the responsible party could not be identified.
2016			
Ngong Ping	Ngong Ping (Islands)	2 trees	No enforcement action could be taken as the responsible party could not be identified.
Wong Keng Tei and Tsam Chuk Wan	Tsam Chuk Wan (Sai Kung)	About 50 stems of bamboos	Offender prosecuted and fined \$2 000.
Sha Lo Tung	Lo Wai (Tai Po)	0.26 hectares	No enforcement action could be taken as the responsible party could not be identified.
Chau Mei, Tai Tong, Chau Tau and Sha Tau	Chau Mei (Tai Po)	23 trees	No enforcement action could be taken as the responsible party could not be identified.
Sha Lo Tung	Lei Uk (Tai Po)	10 trees	No enforcement action could be taken as the responsible party could not be identified.
Kuk Po San Uk Ha, Kuk Po Lo Wai, Yi To, Sam To, Sze To and Ng To	Kuk Po (North)	24 trees	No enforcement action could be considered as the responsible party could not be identified.
Fung Hang	Fung Hang (North)	446 trees	No enforcement action could be taken as the responsible party could not be identified.
2017			
To Kwa Ping	To Kwa Ping (Tai Po)	1 tree	No enforcement action could be taken as the responsible party could not be identified.
Kuk Po San Uk Ha, Kuk Po Lo Wai, Yi To, Sam To, Sze To and Ng To	Kuk Po (North)	1 tree	No enforcement action could be taken as the responsible party could not be identified.

Over the past 3 years, the number of cases with warning letters and statutory notices issued by the Planning Department, and prosecutions and convictions in respect of unauthorised land filling / excavation in enclaves covered by Development Permission Area plans is as follows:

Year Enclaves involved	Number of cases with warning letters issued	Number of cases with statutory notices issued	Number of prosecutions	Number of convictions
2015 - Sha Lo Tung - Ho Pui, Tin Sam, Sam Ka Tsuen, San Uk Tsuen, San Uk Ha, Lo Wai, Leng Pui and Kau Tam Tso - Wong Chuk Yeung - Tai Tan, Uk Tau, Ko Tong and Ko Tong Ha Yeung	3	5	0	0
2016 - Tai Ho, Site near Wong Kung Tin - So Lo Pun - Sha Lo Tung - Tai Tan, Uk Tau, Ko Tong and Ko Tong Ha Yeung	3	10	2	1
2017 - Pak Lap	0	2	0	0

- (b) Information concerning the location, size and lot number of private land within country parks is compiled by the Lands Department (LandsD). The last update of AFCD's cartographic database with such information was conducted in early March 2018. We will continue to liaise with LandsD to update the information in the database from time to time.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB038

(Question Serial No. 3536)

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 reserve mentioned in this Programme, would the Government advise this Committee on 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 in the past 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. (LegCo use): 70)

Reply:

- (a) In 2017, there were a total of 2 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 and the Ping Chau Country Trail on Tung Ping Chau.

- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has liaised with the land owners with a view to resolving the blockage of footpaths. In the aforementioned 2 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 on AFCD's website (www.hiking.gov.hk/pathinfo/announcement_eng.php).
- (c) We will maintain communication with 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 practicable.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB039

(Question Serial No. 0860)

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 numerous cases of cruel killing of wild animals which occurred one after another in Hong Kong in recent years,

- (a) how much manpower has the Department deployed to carry out the work on protecting wild animals in 2017-18? What were the specific projects involved, the expenditure and effectiveness of each project respectively?
- (b) what measures will the Department implement to enhance the protection of wild animals and natural ecology in 2018-19? What are the specific details and objectives of various measures, the manpower and estimated expenditure involved, and the implementation timetable respectively?
- (c) has the Department studied and made reference to the experience in protecting wild animals from the Mainland and overseas countries, including through the utilisation of innovative technology to enhance the protection of local wild animals? If yes, what are the results and any plan to introduce the new measures in the future? If the Department has not studied the overseas experience, will it do so in the future?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 32)

Reply:

- (a) & (b) The Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) stipulates that without permission, no person shall have in his possession of hunting appliance, or hunt any wild animals by means of hunting appliance. Upon conviction, the maximum penalty is a fine of \$50,000. If any person hunts or has in his possession of any "protected wild animals" scheduled under Cap. 170, the maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$100,000 and an imprisonment for one year. In addition, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Cap. 169)

stipulates that any person who cruelly treats any animal or causes any unnecessary suffering to any animal is liable, upon conviction, to a fine of \$200,000 and 3 years imprisonment.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) spares no effort in combating illegal hunting of wild animals, and patrols the countryside regularly. AFCD will remove any traps found immediately, and will display notices to remind the public that using hunting appliance is unlawful. If there is sufficient evidence, AFCD will prosecute the offenders. AFCD will also arrange joint operations with the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to step up patrols at sites where animal traps are regularly discovered, and to dispatch education leaflets to the nearby public.

Besides, an inter-departmental task force on wildlife crime has been established to further strengthen collaboration and intelligence exchange. Regular meetings between the enforcement agencies, including the Police and the Customs and Excise Department, and green groups have been held.

The number of patrols conducted by AFCD, the number of animal traps seized, the number of prosecuted cases and the penalty imposed in 2017-18 are tabulated below. As these activities form part of the nature conservation work of AFCD, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

	2017-18 (up to January 2018)
Patrols arranged	1 590 times
Animal traps seized	137 units
Prosecuted case	1 case
Fine imposed	\$800

In 2018-19, AFCD will continue to maintain vigilance against illegal hunting activities, and to raise public awareness towards better protection of wild animals in Hong Kong.

- (c) AFCD has been keeping in view experience of other places and innovative technology emerging in the market, with a view to devising more effective strategies to protect wild animals in Hong Kong. AFCD will also conduct trials on the use of new technology, e.g. unmanned aerial vehicles, camera traps and microchips, for search, surveillance and enforcement purposes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB040

(Question Serial No. 2768)

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 numerous nuisance cases caused by wild monkeys affecting residents of Shatin and they even broke into residential premises to cause disturbances in recent years, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the total numbers of complaints or help-seeking cases received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (the Department) in relation to nuisance caused by wild monkeys affecting residents in 2017-18?
- (b) What is the current manpower dedicated by the Department to address the issue mentioned in item (a)? Is the relevant manpower expected to increase in 2018-19? What is the expenditure involved?
- (c) Would the Department allocate resources and manpower in 2018-19 to implement targeted measures, including the introduction of innovative technology to prevent recurrence of similar incidents and to strengthen the protection for residents' lives and properties? If yes, what are the details of the respective measures as well as the manpower and expenditures involved? If resources and manpower will not be allocated or that targeted measures will not be implemented, how would the Department strengthen the protection for residents?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 65)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is highly concerned about the nuisance caused by monkeys in residential areas. Upon receiving relevant reports, AFCD will deploy staff to the scene as soon as possible to chase away or capture the monkeys, and offer advice and education leaflets to the concerned public or management offices after investigating the situation and causes of monkey occurrence. Moreover, AFCD will set up traps to capture the lingering monkeys in residential areas to address the

persistent nuisance caused by them. AFCD would also contact other government departments to follow up the problems arising from monkey nuisance, such as environmental hygiene problems. If necessary, AFCD would arrange talks for the concerned residents or management offices on the handling of monkey nuisance and the drawbacks of feeding monkeys and not handling refuse properly. Furthermore, AFCD has been carrying out contraceptive/neutering operations on monkeys in Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks since 2007. Regular surveys are conducted to monitor the changes in monkey populations.

In 2017-18 (up to January 2018), a total of 317 complaints or cases requesting assistance in relation to monkey nuisance have been received. In 2017-18, 12 AFCD officers were involved in handling the complaints and conducting neutering operations and public education with respect to monkey nuisance, incurring an expenditure of about \$4.8 million. In 2018-19, AFCD will continue to earmark 12 officers and allocate \$5 million to implement the aforementioned measures, review the work of handling monkey nuisance and consult wildlife conservation experts from various places with a view to developing a more comprehensive monkey management plan. AFCD will also commission a consultancy study to enhance the designs of refuse/recycling bins and refuse collection points to prevent wild animals, including monkeys, from getting food from refuse/recyclables, so as to discourage them from straying into residential areas in search of food.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB210****(Question Serial No. 3705)**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:

Under this Programme, the Government stated that there will be a net increase of 47 posts in 2018-19. Would the Government inform this Committee of the respective post titles, functions and estimated full-year expenditure on salaries of the aforesaid 47 new posts?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 202)Reply:

Details of the 47 posts are tabulated below:

Area of work	Rank	Number of posts	Annual provision (\$ million)
New posts created			
To monitor and patrol country park enclaves	Field Officer II	2	1.8
	Field Assistant	5	
To prepare for the setting up of a marine park for the Three Runway System Project	Fishery Officer	1	0.7
To strengthen education and publicity services provided by Hong Kong Wetland Park	Field Officer I	2	2.1
	Field Officer II	4	
To take forward new nature conservation and biodiversity initiatives	Senior Forestry Officer	4	18.9
	Forestry Officer	8	
	Senior Field Officer	2	
	Field Officer I	8	
	Field Officer II	8	
To strengthen the management of wild pigs	Forestry Officer	1	1.9
	Field Officer II	2	
	Field Assistant	3	

Offset by			
Lapse of time-limited posts for the enhancement of regulatory control in ivory trade	Field Officer I	-1	-1.1
	Field Officer II	-2	
Net change		47	24.3

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB211****(Question Serial No. 3706)**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:

Would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- What were the respective numbers of monkeys in Kam Shan Country Park, Lion Rock Country Park and Shing Mun Country Park in each year over 2015-17?
- What were the numbers of complaints received by the Department about nuisances caused to the public by monkeys over each of the past 3 years?
- What were the numbers of monkeys caught by the Government over each of the past 3 years?
- What were the operational expenses involved in the management of monkeys over each of the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 203)Reply:

The number of monkeys in Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks was maintained at about 1 800 in total over the past 3 years. As the scope of activities of most of the monkeys covers more than 1 country park, the respective numbers of monkeys in the above country parks are not available. The number of complaints received about monkey nuisance, the number of monkeys captured and the expenditure involved in the management of monkeys during the same period are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Number of monkeys captured	532	472	310 (up to January 2018)
Number of complaints about monkey nuisance	513	527	317 (up to January 2018)
Expenditure involved (\$ million)	5.0	4.2	4.8 (revised estimate)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB212****(Question Serial No. 3761)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Would the Government advise this Committee on the numbers of sightings of Green Turtles in Hong Kong each year since 2012? What were the numbers of eggs laid in Hong Kong each year? What were the numbers of eggs successfully hatched? Has the Government adopted any measures to attract Green Turtles to re-visit Hong Kong? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons for not adopting measures to attract Green Turtles to re-visit Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 259)Reply:

The sandy beach at Sham Wan, Lamma Island is the only regular nesting site of green turtles in Hong Kong. The number of sightings of green turtles and the number of eggs laid and hatched over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of sightings	Number of eggs laid	Number of eggs hatched
2013	4	No nesting record	-
2014	7	No nesting record	-
2015	5	No nesting record	-
2016	5	About 130	0
2017	4	No nesting record	-

Green turtles return to their nesting sites once every several years. In order to minimise disturbance to green turtles including their nests and eggs, the sandy beach at Sham Wan was gazetted as a Restricted Area under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap.170) in 1999. Access to the area is restricted during the period from 1 June to 31 October each year.

During the restricted period, patrols will be conducted to control unauthorised access/activities and to monitor the nesting activities of green turtles. Before the onset of the nesting season each year, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will carry out conservation management on the nesting site including removal of climbing plants and refuse. AFCD will also arrange for contractors to survey and remove ghost nets in Sham Wan bay as necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB213****(Question Serial No. 3765)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (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 was the overall abundance of Chinese white dolphins (CWDs) in the 4 waters where they were mainly sighted, namely Southwest Lantau, West Lantau, Northwest Lantau and Northeast Lantau over the past 3 years? Has the Government assessed whether the reclamation project carried out for the construction of the Airport's third runway has affected and led to a decrease in the abundance of CWDs? What is the effectiveness of setting up the Brothers Marine Park? Besides, what is the present progress of designation of the proposed marine parks at Southwest Lantau and Soko Islands respectively?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 263)Reply:

The estimated abundance of Chinese white dolphins (CWDs) in Southwest Lantau, West Lantau, Northwest Lantau and Northeast Lantau over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Abundance				
	Southwest Lantau	West Lantau	Northwest Lantau	Northeast Lantau	Total
2015	24	31	10	0	65
2016	9	27	11	0	47
2017	(Data being analysed)				

Under the proposed Expansion of the Hong Kong International Airport into a Three-Runway System project, the project proponent is required to carry out a comprehensive environmental monitoring and audit (EM&A) programme which includes systematic surveys on CWDs in Southwest Lantau, West Lantau, Northwest Lantau and Northeast Lantau waters. Action and limit levels and an event action plan for CWDs have also been formulated and devised to audit the environmental performance of the waters concerned. The monitoring results of the EM&A programme so far did not exceed the

action or limit levels nor triggered the event action plan for CWDs. There was thus no indication that the project has resulted in a decline of dolphin occurrence.

Management measures implemented at The Brothers Marine Park (BMP), including restrictions on vessel speed, control of fishing activities, and regulation of recreational activities, would help enhance fisheries resources and improve the habitat of marine life (including CWDs). A passive acoustic monitoring initiated in 2017 on the spatial and temporal patterns of CWDs in BMP confirmed that although dolphins were seldom sighted in BMP during the daytime, they did regularly occur there at night, albeit at a low level probably attributed to the effects of construction activities. Once short-term disturbance associated with construction activities is over, it is expected that dolphins will return to their previous occurrence hotspots such as the waters of the Brothers Islands.

Regarding the proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park (SWLMP), the Government has prepared the draft map and published the required notice in the gazette on 23 June 2017, with the aim of designating SWLMP within 2018. In addition, the Government proposes to combine the proposed Soko Islands Marine Park and the proposed marine park for the Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 1 into one single marine park of approximately 2 000 hectares in order to facilitate more effective management and operation of the marine park in the future. This approach will facilitate the future management and operation of the marine park. We aim to designate the proposed marine park in 2019.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB214

(Question Serial No. 5668)

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 advise on the details of the provision for the Hong Kong Biodiversity Education Centre in 2018-19.
- (b) Please advise on the expenditure on organic fertiliser among the total expenditure on fertiliser involved in producing seedlings in the 2018-19 Estimates.
- (c) Please advise on the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)'s expenditures involved on the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation over the past 5 years, as well as AFCD's estimated expenditure on the same aspects in 2018-19.
- (d) What were AFCD's expenditures on the management, maintenance and improvement of facilities in country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves over the past 5 years, as well as AFCD's estimated expenditure on the same aspects in 2018-19?
- (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 2018-19 for education and publicity on protection of country parks and its details?
- (f) What were AFCD's specific expenditures involved in the study of country park extension in Hong Kong over the past 5 years?
- (g) What is AFCD's specific expenditure involved in the study of country park extension in Hong Kong in 2018-19?

- (h) What is AFCD's specific expenditure involved in the study of excising part of the country parks in Hong Kong for housing development in 2018-19?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 199)

Reply:

- (a) In 2018-19, 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 expenditure on educational programmes, cleansing, security, building maintenance and staff cost.
- (b) The provision earmarked for the purchase of fertilisers for seedling production in 2018-19 is \$35,000, of which \$24,000 will be used on organic fertilisers.
- (c) The expenditure on education and publicity on nature conservation over the past 5 years and the provision earmarked for 2018-19 are tabulated below:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2013-14	41
2014-15	43
2015-16	41
2016-17	50
2017-18 (revised estimate)	71
2018-19 (estimate)	70

- (d) The expenditure involved in 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 2018-19 are tabulated below:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2013-14	164
2014-15	174
2015-16	178
2016-17	194
2017-18 (revised estimate)	192
2018-19 (estimate)	219

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

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Volume (tonnes)
2013-14	41	3 700
2014-15	46	3 800
2015-16	54	3 600
2016-17	48	3 500
2017-18 (revised estimate)	53	3 300

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

Calendar year	Number of prosecutions
2013	200
2014	126
2015	135
2016	61
2017	62

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, teacher's training, guided tours at visitor centres and education centres, thematic exhibition, educational workshops, public lectures and public engagement programmes such as nature ambassador scheme and volunteer scheme. A provision of \$27.2 million has been earmarked in 2018-19 for this area of work.

- (f) - (g) The assessment on the suitability of sites for country park extension forms part of AFCD's work in the planning and management of country parks. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.
- (h) AFCD has no plan to conduct any study of excising part of country parks in Hong Kong and no expenditure will be involved in 2018-19.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB215

(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:

Regarding the management of country parks,

- (a) Please advise on the expenditures of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation over the past 3 years, as well as AFCD's estimated expenditure on the same aspects in 2018-19.
- (b) What were AFCD's expenditures involved in the management, maintenance and improvement of facilities in country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves over the past 3 years, as well as AFCD's estimated expenditure on the same aspects in 2018-19?
- (c) Over the past 3 years, what were the expenditures incurred by AFCD on collecting refuse in country parks? What was the total volume of refuse collected in country parks? What was the total volume of refuse collected on hiking trails in country parks? 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 2018-19 for education and publicity on protection of country parks and its details?
- (d) AFCD has removed all 500 odd litter bins from hiking trails of country parks since mid-December 2017. Has the Department deployed staff to inspect the hygiene conditions of hiking trails in the first two months of 2018? If yes, what are the details? During the same period, has the Department deployed staff to collect refuse on hiking trails? If yes, what are the details? What was the total volume of refuse collected? If the Department has no plan to deploy staff to collect litter on hiking trails, what policy does the Department have in place to cope with littering upon removal of litter bins?

- (e) Please provide details, locations, expenditures involved, dates of commencement and completion of all projects approved under the minor recreational facilities and roadworks projects in country parks over the last 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 238)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on education and publicity on nature conservation over the past 3 years and the provision earmarked for 2018-19 are tabulated below.

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2015-16	41
2016-17	50
2017-18 (revised estimate)	71
2018-19 (estimate)	70

- (b) 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 3 years and the estimated expenditure in 2018-19 are tabulated below.

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2015-16	178
2016-17	194
2017-18 (revised estimate)	192
2018-19 (estimate)	219

- (c) The expenditure on keeping country parks clean and the volume of refuse collected in country parks by AFCD over the 3 years are tabulated below.

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Volume (tonnes)
2015-16	54	3 600
2016-17	48	3 500
2017-18 (revised estimate)	53	3 300

AFCD does not have a separate breakdown on the amount of refuse collected on hiking trails.

Over the past 3 years, the number of prosecutions related to littering under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) is tabulated below.

Calendar year	Number of prosecutions
2015	135
2016	61
2017	62

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, teacher's training, guided tours at visitor centres and education centres, thematic exhibition, educational workshops, public lectures and public engagement programmes such as nature ambassador scheme and volunteer scheme. A provision of \$27.2 million has been earmarked in 2018-19 for this area of work.

(d) AFCD is committed to keeping and promoting a clean environment in country parks. To step up the promotion efforts, AFCD has launched the "Take Your Litter Home" public education programme since 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. To tie in with the publicity and education activities, refuse containers and recycle bins along the hiking trails within country parks have been progressively removed in late 2017. AFCD will maintain the cleaning service to upkeep the cleanliness of country parks. In addition, AFCD will continue with the education and publicity efforts to cultivate the green concept of waste reduction. AFCD will also step up patrol and cleaning, and take law enforcement action when necessary. By AFCD's observations, the general cleanliness and hygiene conditions of the hiking trails are well maintained in the first 2 months of 2018. AFCD does not have a separate breakdown on the amount of refuse collected on hiking trails.

(e) Details of the improvement works carried out by AFCD in country parks over the past 3 years are tabulated below.

Works item[#] / Financial year	2015-16 (\$ million)	2016-17 (\$ million)	2017-18 (revised estimate) (\$ million)
Upgrading of hiking trails and related facilities (e.g. fencing, waymarks, etc) in various country parks	3.3	3.7	3.4
Construction of mountain bike trails in Tai Lam Country Park	0.7	1.3	0.7
Reconstruction of forest tracks in various country parks	0.9	3.3	3.7
Improvement of visitor centres and interpretation panels in various country park	3.3	4.5	2.7
Reconstruction of rainshelters in various country parks	0.7	3.2	1.9

Works item[#] / Financial year	2015-16 (\$ million)	2016-17 (\$ million)	2017-18 (revised estimate) (\$ million)
Provision of a star gazing site near Sai Wan, in Sai Kung East Country Park	-	0.2	0.1
Improvement of septic tank system of public toilets in various country park	-	1.8	-
Others (e.g. minor structures, outdoor furniture, minor slope works, etc.)	1.5	1.5	1.6
Total[*]	10.4	19.5	14.1

[#] Except for the project “Provision of a Star Gazing Site near Sai Wan, in Sai Kung East Country Park” which will be continued in 2018-19, all the above minor improvement works (including the construction of mountain bike trails by sections in Tai Lam Country Park) were commenced and completed within the same financial year.

^{*} The improvement works include both the works recorded under the block vote for minor recreational facilities and roadworks (subhead 610) and works (subhead 600) which was also used for improvement works carried out by AFCD in country parks.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB216

(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:

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. (LegCo use): 4013)

Reply:

Incense Tree is a native tree species found 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. To tackle this difficulty, AFCD is conducting a trial using a drone-based hyperspectral imaging system to survey Incense Trees.

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 the following aspects: 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 encouraging reports of any illegal felling activities;
- (d) installation of tree guards to prevent felling or vandalism of important individuals of Incense Tree;
- (e) conducting a field trial on the use of infrared sensor camera trap for monitoring of Incense Trees in the countryside;
- (f) wound-dressing for the damaged trees with anti-fungal paint to suppress the formation of agarwood in order to discourage illegal harvesting;
- (g) assisting in organising training sessions to help frontline staff of the Police and the Customs and Excise Department to identify Incense Trees/agarwood and detect illegal activities; and
- (h) launching a pilot scheme to deploy quarantine detector dogs to facilitate detection of agarwood smuggling at the land control borders.

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 Trees 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 2018-19, 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 \$8.3 million for strengthening the conservation of Incense Trees.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB217

(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:

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?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 4017)

Reply:

- (a) Barrier-free facilities in the country parks and their respective locations are listed in the 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

the construction of ramps and installation of handrails along the footpaths to accessible toilets). Officers in charge of the country park 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. AFCD will maintain communication with the relevant stakeholders to collect their views on barrier-free trails and facilities in country parks.

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	Sham Tseng Barbecue Site
	Aberdeen Country Park	Hok Tau No. 6 Barbecue Site
Tai Tam Country Park	Aberdeen Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied (P.H.A.B.) Site	
	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	52 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: http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_rec/cou_vis_dis.html

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB218****(Question Serial No. 3979)**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 provide the number of toilets in various country parks over the territory and the total number as well as the number and proportion of barrier-free toilets installed.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 7208)Reply:

There are 64 flushing toilets in country parks and special areas. 52 of them (i.e. 81%) are provided with barrier-free cubicles. The distribution of flushing toilets in various country parks and special areas is tabulated below:

Country parks / Special areas	Number of flushing toilets	Number of flushing toilets with barrier-free cubicles
Aberdeen Country Park	1	1
Clear Water Bay Country Park	2	2
Kam Shan Country Park	1	1
Lantau North Country Park	1	1
Lantau South Country Park	1	1
Lion Rock Country Park	1	0
Lung Fu Shan Country Park	1	0
Ma On Shan Country Park	3	3
Pat Sin Leng Country Park	7	6
Plover Cove Country Park	2	2
Pok Fu Lam Country Park	1	0
Sai Kung East Country Park	5	2
Sai Kung West Country Park	8	7
Sai Kung West Country Park (Wan Tsai Extension)	2	2

Country parks / Special areas	Number of flushing toilets	Number of flushing toilets with barrier-free cubicles
Shing Mun Country Park	4	4
Tai Lam Country Park	5	5
Tai Mo Shan Country Park	2	2
Tai Tam Country Park	3	2
Tai Tam (Quarry Bay Extension) Country Park	2	2
Hong Kong Wetland Park (Special Area)	8	6
Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve (Special Area)	1	0
Tsiu Hang (Special Area)	3	3
Total	64	52

Besides flushing toilets, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has provided 116 hired portable toilets (of which 7 are barrier-free portable toilets) and 47 dry toilet pits at remote locations lacking supplies of water and electricity to meet the needs of country parks users.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB219

(Question Serial No. 4680)

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. (LegCo use): 4018)

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 handrails along footpaths to accessible toilets, etc.). 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 handrails. 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), it is required to apply for a permit in advance for bringing a vehicle into a country park or a 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

ENB220

(Question Serial No. 4359)

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:

How did the Government enhance public awareness towards nature conservation over the past 3 years? What were the expenditures involved? Besides, has the Government ever enforced legislation related to nature conservation? What are the details of the enforcement work?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 358)

Reply:

Over the past 3 years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducted a series of education and publicity programmes on conservation and appreciation of nature for students and the general public. These programmes included school visits, eco-tours, teacher's training, guided tours at visitor centres and education centres, thematic exhibition, educational workshops, competitions, public lectures and public engagement programmes such as nature ambassador scheme and volunteer scheme. To publicise the programmes and promote appreciation of nature, AFCD also organised roving exhibitions, published leaflets and posters, and maintained thematic websites, mobile applications and social media platforms, etc.

In 2017, AFCD organised a series of nature appreciation, public engagement and educational activities under the Country Parks 40th Anniversary Celebration Programme, including tree planting events, guided tours, hiking and camping events, trail maintenance workshops and public lectures. AFCD also partnered with 40 organisations in the "Hong Kong Biodiversity Festival 2017" to organise more than 100 educational activities, and hosted an art exhibition at the city centre to promote Hong Kong's rich biodiversity.

The expenditure involved in promoting public awareness towards nature conservation over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2015-16	41
2016-17	50
2017-18 (revised estimate)	71

AFCD enforces legislation relevant to nature conservation, including the Forests and Countryside Ordinance (Cap. 96), the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170), the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) and the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation (Cap. 476A). The total numbers of prosecutions initiated under the above legislation in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 (up to February 2018) are 852, 932 and 674 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB221

(Question Serial No. 4360)

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:

What were the details of the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation by the Government over the past 3 years? What were the details of the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 359)

Reply:

Over the past 3 years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has conducted a series of education and publicity programmes on conservation and appreciation of nature for students and the general public. These programmes included school visits, eco-tours, teacher's training, guided tours at visitor centres and education centres, thematic exhibition, educational workshops, competitions, public lectures and public engagement programmes such as nature ambassador scheme and volunteer scheme. To publicise the programmes and promote appreciation of nature, AFCD has organised roving exhibitions, published leaflets and posters, and maintained thematic websites, mobile applications and social media platforms, etc.

In 2017, AFCD organised a series of nature appreciation, public engagement and educational activities under the Country Parks 40th Anniversary Celebration Programme, including tree planting events, guided tours, hiking and camping events, trail maintenance workshops and public lectures. AFCD also partnered with 40 organisations in the "Hong Kong Biodiversity Festival 2017" to organise more than 100 educational activities, and hosted an art exhibition at the city centre to promote Hong Kong's rich biodiversity.

The manpower and expenditure involved in education and publicity on nature conservation over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Manpower (Number of staff)	Expenditure (\$ million)
2015-16	74	41
2016-17	81	50
2017-18 (revised estimate)	79	71

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB222****(Question Serial No. 4361)**

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:

What were the details of the Government's work on the promotion of geo-conservation over the past 3 years? What were the details of the manpower and expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 360)

Reply:

Over the past 3 years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has conducted the following publicity and education activities for the promotion and popularisation of geo-conservation: (a) production of multilingual science publications and electronic books for visitors; (b) overseas promotion through the international platforms of the Global Geoparks Network; (c) upgrading the skills of the geopark guides through the Geopark Guide System in conjunction with non-governmental organisations; (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 its facebook page; (f) collaboration with local communities to set up and operate education and visitor centres, including the Volcano Discovery Centre; and (g) maintaining thematic website and other social media platforms of the geopark.

The expenditure and manpower involved in these areas of work over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	8.0	21
2016-17	8.0	23
2017-18 (revised estimate)	8.0	24

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB223****(Question Serial No. 4373)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

The Department procured a patrol vessel in 2013-14. What was the utilisation situation of the patrol vessel concerned over the past 3 years? What were the expenditures on the manpower, maintenance and other related expenses involved?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 401)Reply:

The patrol vessel procured in 2013-14 is mainly deployed for patrol and law enforcement in marine parks and marine reserve. 2 or more staff are required to man the vessel, depending on the specific tasks on the day of operation.

The utilisation rate, maintenance cost and fuel expenditure of the subject vessel over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Utilisation rate (day)	Maintenance cost (\$)	Fuel expenditure (\$)
2015-16	236	125,000	89,000
2016-17	192	100,000	95,000
2017-18 (revised estimate)	166*	100,000	90,000

* up to the end of February 2018

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB224

(Question Serial No. 6040)

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 provide a detailed breakdown of the following information for the past 5 years:

- (a) The numbers of operations carried out by the wild pig hunting teams, the operation areas, the numbers of wild pigs killed, the numbers of members of the wild pig hunting teams, their salaries and other expenditures, as well as the numbers of wild pig occurrences reported in the 18 districts and the numbers of injuries and deaths caused by wild pigs.
- (b) On the other hand, does the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department have the statistics on the number of wild pigs across the territory? If yes, what are the numbers in the respective districts? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 204)

Reply:

- (a) In general, upon receipt of reports about wild pigs that were injured, trapped in urban areas or causing nuisances by straying into residential areas, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will deploy staff to attend to the scene. AFCD's veterinary officers will also be deployed to the scene to assist in catching the wild pigs with tranquiliser dart guns as necessary. The wild pigs caught will be released in remote and suitable locations in the countryside, including country parks, if circumstances warrant.

In addition, there are 2 wild pig hunting teams (the hunting teams) in Hong Kong, formed by a maximum of 20 civilian volunteers each, which are responsible for wild pig hunting operations. No expenditure of the AFCD is incurred. Only when there are confirmed public reports of damage caused by wild pigs or they are threatening human safety and property on a frequent basis, and that the preventive and other kinds of measures are not effective will AFCD notify the hunting teams to conduct hunting

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)027

(Question Serial No. 1627)

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:

- (a) What were the total numbers of dogs received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department each year over the past 3 years? Through what channels were the dogs received and their numbers? How did the Department handle such dogs? How many of them were eventually euthanised, re-homed, neutered and returned, as well as directly released back to their habitats?
- (b) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in handling the dogs received over the past 3 years? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower for handling the dogs received in 2018-19?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 52)

Reply:

- (a) The number of dogs received and handled by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years is tabulated at the **Annex**.

Stray dogs caught will be put in the Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of AFCD for observation. For dogs with a microchip implanted, AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these dogs will stay in AMCs temporarily for about 10 to 20 days. For those without a microchip, 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 dogs 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 dogs that are not suitable for adoption or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanised.

The 3-year Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme for stray dogs conducted at the 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long by 2 animal welfare organisations since early 2015 has been completed in January 2018. A total of 65 and 37 dogs have been neutered and returned to the trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long respectively. These figures are not included in the table at the **Annex**.

- (b) AFCD does not have a separate breakdown on the expenditure for the management of stray dogs. The expenditure and manpower involved in catching stray animals and handling animals caught over the past 3 years and the estimated expenditure for 2018-19 are tabulated below.

Financial year	Expenditure on catching stray animals (\$ million)	Expenditure on handling stray animals caught (\$ million)	Total expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	29.0	3.6	32.6	179
2016-17	28.5	3.4	31.9	187
2017-18 (revised estimate)	29.2	3.7	32.9	187
2018-19 (estimate)	29.2	3.7	32.9	187

Annex

Calendar year	Stray dogs caught	Dogs given up by owners	Dogs received through other channels	Dogs reclaimed by owners	Dogs re-homed	Dogs euthanised
2015	2 412	1 284	378	774	651	2 421
2016	1 919	1 003	343	637	513	1 814
2017	1 566	1 024	336	560	588	1 478

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)028

(Question Serial No. 1938)

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 Government will implement a new regulatory regime to strengthen the regulation of animal trading and dog breeding activities. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) What are the manpower and expenditure involved?
- (b) What are the numbers of various licences issued since the implementation of the new regime?
- (c) What are the numbers of complaints received, as well as regular inspections and surprise inspections conducted?
- (d) What is the number of prosecutions and what are the penalties imposed?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 28)

Reply:

- (a) In 2017-18, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) deployed 30 staff to regulate animal trading and dog breeding, and the estimated expenditure for this area of work is \$16.4 million.
- (b) The number of applications for Animal Trader Licences (ATLs), Dog Breeder Licences (DBLs) and one-off permits received and approved since the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations came into effect on 20 March 2017 and up to end of February 2018 is as follows:

Licence / Permit	Number of applications			
	Received	Approved	Under processing	Rejected or withdrawn
ATL (dogs)	85	67	7	11
ATL (others)	291	249	30	12
DBL (category A)	23	14	3	6
DBL (category B)	38	17	17	4
One-off permit	1	1	N/A	N/A

- (c) The number of complaints related to animal trading and dog breeding activities received by AFCD between March 2017 and end of February 2018 is 425. The number of routine inspections and surprise checks conducted in the same period is 4 899.
- (d) Between March 2017 and end of February 2018, 10 cases of selling of animals (8 cases involving dogs and 2 cases involving other animals) without a licence or permit have been successfully prosecuted. Offenders were fined between \$1,500 and \$10,000.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)029

(Question Serial No. 1939)

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, regarding handling of animal cruelty in Hong Kong, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the expenditures involved?
- (b) How many reported cases of suspected animal cruelty were received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department?
- (c) What were the numbers of successful prosecutions instituted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance? What were the minimum and maximum penalties imposed?
- (d) How many applications for review of cases under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance were lodged by the Department of Justice on the grounds that the penalties imposed were too lenient? What were the results of these appeals?
- (e) Will the Government review the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 29)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on the prevention of animal cruelty, including enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) (the Ordinance), over the past 3 years is as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2015-16	2.6
2016-17	2.9
2017-18 (revised estimate)	3.0

- (b) The number of complaints related to suspected animal cruelty received by AFCD and the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) over the past 3 years is as follows:

Calendar year	Number of complaints related to suspected animal cruelty
2015	236
2016	262
2017	275

Upon investigation, most of them were found to be related to nuisance with no elements of cruelty.

- (c) The number of successful prosecutions under the Ordinance and the relevant penalties over the past 3 years are as follows:

Calendar year	Number of convicted defendants	Penalties	
		Fine (\$)*	Range of imprisonment
2015	10	2,000	14 days to 2 months
2016	11	5,000	28 days to 6 months
2017 (up to September)	18	4,000	10 days to 5 months

* Only one case in each of the 3 calendar years involved a penalty of fine.

- (d) Over the past 3 years, no applications have been lodged for the review of cases on the grounds that the penalties imposed were too lenient.
- (e) The Government attaches great importance to enhancing animal welfare. To further enhance the protection of animal welfare, as stated in the Policy Agenda announced in October 2017, we are reviewing the existing legislation related to animal welfare, in particular the Ordinance, by making reference to international experience and trend as well as the actual situation in Hong Kong. We are also exploring the introduction of a concept of positive duty of care on animal keepers, having regard to the opinions previously expressed by animal welfare organisations and relevant stakeholders. AFCD will also compile codes of practice on keeping different kinds of animals, such as dogs and cats, to enhance public's knowledge on proper animal keeping and safeguarding animal welfare. The Government will formulate legislative proposals and consult relevant stakeholders upon conclusion of the review.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)030

(Question Serial No. 1940)

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

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 30)

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 2014-15 to 2016-17, a total of 26 applications have been received from 12 AWOs. The subventions sought by these AWOs have been partially funded. The details of projects under application as well as the amounts of subvention applied for and given to different AWOs over the past 3 financial years are listed in the tables below:

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

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount sought (\$)	Amount approved (\$)	Amount released (\$)
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	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	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
Total			2,819,232	524,000	469,860

*No claim for reimbursement from the AWO concerned has been received.

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

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount sought (\$)	Amount approved (\$)	Amount released (\$)
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	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming animals	1,571,000	100,000	100,000
4	Society for Abandoned Animals	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	Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong)	To conduct an Animal Caring Ambassador Programme	200,000	45,000	44,854
		Total	3,041,155	532,000	513,364

Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for and approved in 2016-17 and released in 2017-18)

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount sought (\$)	Amount approved (\$)	Amount released (\$)
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	84,602
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide vaccination and food for rehoming animals	218,400	130,000	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To provide preventive medical treatment for rehoming animals	1,962,000	100,000	100,000
4	Society for Abandoned Animals	To produce educational materials for promoting animal welfare and responsible pet ownership	53,040	42,000	42,000
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	62,000	48,000	45,120
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide preventive medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	320,000	46,000	46,000
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 promote adoption, produce educational materials and further improve the organisation website	40,500	21,000	18,300
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 surgical equipment for veterinary treatment and provide human counselling service	3,200,000	0	-
Total			6,175,940	500,000	494,022

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)031

(Question Serial No. 1941)

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:

Given that the Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme will soon be completed, what is the effectiveness of the programme? Will the Government expand the scheme to cover other districts? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 31)

Reply:

The 3-year Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme for stray dogs conducted at the 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long by 2 animal welfare organisations (AWOs) since early 2015 has been completed in January 2018. A total of 65 and 37 dogs have been neutered and returned to the 2 trial sites respectively. The consultant commissioned by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is currently analysing the findings to assess the trial programme's effectiveness. AFCD will consider the way forward upon completion of the assessment, and plans to report the findings and assessment to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene in mid-2018. Meanwhile, the 2 AWOs concerned will continue to take care of the dogs at the trial sites.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)032

(Question Serial No. 1942)

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:

According to the Government's reply to this Committee last year, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department planned to install cattle grids on a trial basis in the Sai Kung Country Park to prevent the cattle from leaving their usual dwelling places. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the provision and manpower earmarked by the Department?
- (b) What is the progress of this project?
- (c) What obstacles is the Department currently facing?
- (d) Is there any timetable for the installation of cattle grids?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 32)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the relevant departments have carried out a detailed study on cattle grids, which found that such facilities are generally used on private land in farms in foreign countries to prevent cattle from going outside the farms. With reference to the overseas experience, it is considered that there are potential safety hazards to road users if cattle grids are installed on local public roads.

In the light of the above, and in the absence of viable options to address the safety concerns, the cattle grid proposal will not be pursued further.

AFCD's manpower and expenditure involved in the above work are absorbed within existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)033

(Question Serial No. 1943)

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 operation of the 4 animal management centres over the past 3 years, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the numbers of animals caught each year and their respective types;
- (b) the numbers of animals received by each animal management centre each year and their sources;
- (c) the numbers of animals desexed;
- (d) the numbers of animals rehomed;
- (e) the numbers of animals euthanised;
- (f) the manpower and 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. (LegCo use): 33)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) 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) Number of stray animals caught over the past 3 years

Calendar year	Stray animals caught			
	Dogs	Cats	Other Animals ¹	Total
2015	2 412	1 359	1 418	5 189
2016	1 919	876	1 494	4 289
2017	1 566	674	1 640	3 880

¹ Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), cattle, reptiles and birds etc.

(b) Number of animals received and kept over the past 3 years

AMC	2015			2016			2017		
	Dogs	Cats	Others ²	Dogs	Cats	Others ²	Dogs	Cats	Others ²
AMC/HK	524	263	35	412	201	109	451	147	26
AMC/K	842	507	53	688	322	85	584	266	72
AMC/NTS	689	233	87	614	187	25	500	131	128
AMC/NTN	2 019	558	4 854	1 551	343	1 891	1 391	279	1 552

² Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs and poultry/birds, etc.

Most animals received and kept were stray animals caught by AFCD, animals surrendered by owners and seized animals. AFCD does not have the breakdown of animals received by each AMC by source.

(c) Number of rehomed animals desexed by veterinary clinics engaged by AFCD over the past 3 years

Calendar year	Number of rehomed animals desexed		
	Dogs	Cats	Rabbits
2015	419	85	6
2016	279	39	2
2017 (up to November)	240	21	1

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

Calendar year	Number of animals rehomed		
	Dogs	Cats	Others ³
2015	651	168	83
2016	513	136	92
2017	588	67	94

³ 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		
	Dogs	Cats	Others ⁴
2015	2 421	696	3 469
2016	1 814	449	748
2017	1 478	381	801

⁴ Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptile, pigs / cattle and poultry / birds, etc.

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

Financial year	Total number of posts in the 4 AMCs ⁵		Turnover rate	
	Veterinary Officer	Technical / Frontline staff	Veterinary Officer	Technical / Frontline staff
2015-16	4	175	0%	4.0%
2016-17	4	183	0%	4.9%
2017-18	4	183	0%	7.7%

⁵ The 4 AMCs are overseen by 1 Senior Veterinary Officer.

(g)–(i) Number of inspections conducted (relating to licensed animal trading, dog breeding, 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 penalty imposed	Lowest penalty imposed
2015	5 749	10	\$500	\$450
2016	6 203	2	\$500	\$500
2017	5 885	0	N/A	N/A

(j) Operational expenditure of the 4 AMCs over the past 3 years

Financial year	Operational expenditure (\$ million)			
	AMC / NTN	AMC / NTS	AMC / K	AMC / HK
2015-16	22.1	15.8	19.8	14.2
2016-17	22.6	16.1	20.1	14.5
2017-18 (revised estimate)	24.4	17.4	21.8	15.7

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)034

(Question Serial No. 1944)

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 any 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. (LegCo use): 34)

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 has conducted an average of 12 600 investigations each year in relation to cases involving improper control of dogs and dog biting. Information on the number of relevant convictions under the Ordinance over the past 3 years and the penalty imposed is as follows:

Calendar year	Prosecution against improper control of dogs	
	Number of convicted cases	Heaviest penalty imposed
2015	246	A fine of \$2,000
2016	174	A fine of \$4,000
2017	192	A fine of \$2,000

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)035

(Question Serial No. 1945)

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:

Currently, numerous working dogs assist in the work of government departments. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the current number of working dogs in government departments?
- (b) What are the criteria for selecting working dogs?
- (c) What are the years of service for working dogs in general?
- (d) What measures have been taken to safeguard the health of working dogs? Are there any guidelines?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 35)

Reply:

Government departments may deploy working dogs to assist their officers in performing duties. The number of dogs deployed, the criteria for selection of working dogs and the length of the dogs' service may vary from one department to another, having regard to the duties of the working dogs, as well as actual needs and other considerations of the department concerned.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) at present has 11 Quarantine Detector Dogs (QDDs) for the control of import and export of animals, plants and their products at the boundary control points. The criteria for selecting QDDs include whether they have good physical agility and coordination, strong work incentive and concentration, and abilities to detect and indicate target items as well as to stay calm in working environment. QDDs will normally start serving at around 2 years old and retire at around 8 years old. AFCD does not have information on working dogs in other Government departments.

AFCD has devised guidelines covering the routine resting and working hours, diet and exercise for QDDs, etc. to ensure the health of QDDs. QDD handlers will take safety precautions at work for QDDs, such as provision of sufficient water whenever they are required to work under hot environment to prevent them from having heatstroke, and conducting daily check on the health status of their QDDs. A Veterinary Officer of AFCD will also conduct annual health check for QDDs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)036****(Question Serial No. 1946)**

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 safety of pet food, would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) Does the Government put in place any relevant legislation to impose regulation in this regard? Has any prosecution been initiated under the abovementioned legislation?
- (b) What were the numbers of complaints received in each of the past 3 years, and what follow-up actions were taken?
- (c) Has the Government investigated into and tested the pet food available in the local market?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 36)

Reply:

- (a) Currently, there is no legislation regulating specifically the sale of pet food in Hong Kong.
- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has received 15 complaints over the past 3 years, as tabulated below:

Calendar year	Number of complaints concerning pet food
2015	5
2016	3
2017	7
Total	15

Upon receipt of a complaint, AFCD will contact the complainant, the manufacturer / importer / distributor of the pet food concerned to gather more information of the case,

and may, depending on the nature of the case, advise the complainant on possible follow-up action.

- (c) AFCD has commissioned a study in October 2017 to sample and test pet food products that are commonly available in the market of Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)037****(Question Serial No. 0716)**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:

- (a) Would the Government set out the proportions of local vegetables and imported vegetables handled by the wholesale markets under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past 5 years?
- (b) Would the Government set out the proportions of local vegetables and imported vegetables handled by the wholesale markets under the Vegetable Marketing Organization over the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 8)Reply:

- (a) The percentage of local and imported vegetables marketed through wholesale markets under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

Calendar year	Vegetables marketed through wholesale markets under AFCD	
	Local (%)	Imported (%)
2013	1.0	99.0
2014	1.0	99.0
2015	1.2	98.8
2016	1.0	99.0
2017	1.1	98.9

- (b) The percentage of local and imported vegetables marketed through the wholesale market under the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

Calendar year	Vegetables marketed through VMO	
	Local (%)	Imported (%)
2013	1.7	98.3
2014	1.7	98.3
2015	1.7	98.3
2016	1.3	98.7
2017	1.4	98.6

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)038****(Question Serial No. 0717)**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:

- (a) Would the Government set out the quantities and proportions of local vegetables and imported vegetables handled by the Premium Vegetable Section, Vegetable Marketing Organization over the past 5 years?
- (b) Would the Government set out the manpower and expenditure involved in handling local vegetables by the Premium Vegetable Section, Vegetable Marketing Organization over the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 9)Reply:

- (a) The volume and percentage of local and imported vegetables handled by the Premium Vegetable Section (PVS), Vegetable Marketing Organization over the past 5 years are tabulated below.

Calendar year	Vegetables handled by PVS			
	Local		Import	
	Volume (tonnes)	Percentage (%)	Volume (tonnes)	Percentage (%)
2013	362	15	2 088	85
2014	427	18	1 972	82
2015	403	19	1 740	81
2016	261	14	1 616	86
2017	290	15	1 650	85

- (b) There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure for handling local and imported vegetables by PVS. The overall manpower and expenditure of PVS over the past 5 years are tabulated below.

Financial year	Manpower (number of staff)	Expenditure (\$ million)
2013-14	58	12.5
2014-15	67	13.5
2015-16	53	13.5
2016-17	53	12.5
2017-18 (revised estimate)	52	12.8

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)039

(Question Serial No. 1492)

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 introduce a new regulatory regime in the forthcoming year to reinforce the regulation of animal trade and dog breeding in order to promote animal welfare. In this regard, would the Government advise the Committee on the following:

- (a) The numbers of applications received and approvals of Category A and Category B Licences and one-off permits by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the average processing time of each application, and whether there is sufficient manpower to handle the relevant applications since the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations came into force in March 2017. If yes, please provide the details. If not, please provide the reason(s).
- (b) The number of complaints received by AFCD in relation to dogs offered for sale on the internet without a licence or one-off permit, and the number and details of complaints which were substantiated and with relevant persons penalised since the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations came into force in March 2017.
- (c) The number of inspections and surprise checks conducted, and the number of cases of non-compliance with licensing requirements and the additional conditions of the licences by animal traders found in the aforementioned inspections and surprise checks as well as the details of the punishments in each of the past 3 years.
- (d) What are the manpower and expenditure involved in the supervision of relevant work by the Department in the forthcoming year?

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 9)

Reply:

- (a) The number of applications for Dog Breeder Licences (DBLs) and one-off permits received and approved since the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations came into force on 20 March 2017 and up to end of February 2018 is as follows:

Licence / Permit	Number of applications			
	Received	Approved	Under processing	Rejected or withdrawn
DBL (category A)	23	14	3	6
DBL (category B)	38	17	17	4
One-off permit	1	1	N/A	N/A

The processing time of applications varies, depending on whether the applicants have submitted all the necessary supporting documents and information and whether the premises concerned are available for inspection and in compliance with the licensing standards. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) aims to issue the licences / permits in 3 working days if the above requirements are fulfilled.

AFCD deploys 30 staff to regulate animal trading and dog breeding activities, including processing the licence/permit applications. The manpower allocated for this area of work is considered sufficient at this stage.

- (b) From March 2017 up to end of February 2018, 150 complaints have been received by AFCD in relation to dogs offered for sale on the internet without a licence or one-off permit. AFCD has followed up all these cases and conducted further investigation (including decoy operations) into 31 cases with suspicious illegal activity. Amongst these cases, 8 cases of dog selling without a permit have been successfully prosecuted, 21 cases are still under investigation and 2 cases were dropped due to insufficient evidence.
- (c) Information on the number of inspections and surprise checks conducted on animal trading and dog breeding activities, successful prosecutions initiated against breaches of licensing conditions and trading animals without a valid licence or permit, as well as the relevant penalties over the past 3 years is as follows:

Calendar year	Number of routine inspections and surprise checks	Successful prosecutions against breach of licensing conditions		Successful prosecutions against trading animals without a valid licence or permit	
		Number of cases	Range of fine (\$)	Number of cases	Range of fine (\$)
2015	4 999	10	450 to 500	7	1,000 to 2,000
2016	5 265	2	500	3	1,000 to 2,000
2017	4 995	0	N/A	11	400 to 5,000

- (d) In 2018-19, AFCD will continue to deploy 30 staff to regulate animal trading and dog breeding. A provision of \$16.4 million has been earmarked for this area of work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)040

(Question Serial No. 2077)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

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 estimated expenditure items of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (the Fund) in 2018-19, including the subvention schemes under the Fund and the districts involved.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 47)

Reply:

The Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) supports projects that foster the sustainable development and enhance the overall competitiveness of the agricultural industry. The Farm Improvement Scheme (FIS) under SADF provides direct grants to farmers for acquisition of modern or mechanised farming equipment and materials for improving farming efficiency and productivity. \$4.9 million has been earmarked for the administration of SADF in 2018-19.

As at 1 March 2018, a total of 180 FIS applications have been received from the farms located in Yuen Long, North, Tai Po, Tuen Mun, Sai Kung, Tsuen Wan and Islands Districts. So far, 169 applications have been approved.

In addition, a total of 22 applications, seeking funding support for projects that may benefit the local agricultural industry as a whole, have been received. Among them, two applications have been withdrawn by the applicants, and one application has been rejected on the advice of the SADF Advisory Committee. The other applications are being processed.

It is estimated that \$30 million of new grants under SADF will be disbursed in 2018. Actual disbursement of grants will depend on implementation progress of approved projects. For FIS applications, the grants would be given in the form of reimbursement upon approved applicants' acquisition of the equipment / materials.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)041****(Question Serial No. 2079)**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:

Safeguarding animal welfare is one of the objectives of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.

- (a) Please set out the measures, initiatives, manpower and expenditure involved under the animal welfare policy.
- (b) Please set out the respective numbers of stray animals trapped, neutered and returned, as well as the manpower and expenditures involved in the work in each of the following regions over the past 5 years.

	New Territories East	New Territories West	Kowloon East	Kowloon West	Hong Kong Island
2013					
2014					
2015					
2016					
2017					

- (c) Please set out the respective numbers of stray animals rehomed, and the manpower and expenditures involved in the work in each of the following regions over the past 5 years.

	New Territories East	New Territories West	Kowloon East	Kowloon West	Hong Kong Island
2013					
2014					
2015					
2016					
2017					

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 49)

Reply:

- (a) In 2017-18, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has taken the following measures and initiatives to safeguard and promote animal welfare as well as strengthening the management of stray animals:
- (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) implementing the new licensing regime under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B) (the Regulations) to regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale;
 - (iii) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals;
 - (iv) enhancing enforcement 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, animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management;
 - (vii) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities; and
 - (viii) assisting the AWOs concerned in implementing the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs.

The expenditure and manpower involved in the above work over the past 5 years are as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2013-14	46.7	186
2014-15	52.1	189
2015-16	50.5	194
2016-17	53.7	207
2017-18 (revised estimate)	57.7	209

- (b) Over the past years, AFCD has been carrying out the “Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation” (CSR) programme for stray cattle and assisting AWOs concerned in implementing the TNR trial programme for stray dogs.

The CSR programme for stray cattle was 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. The number of cattle captured, sterilised and relocated under the CSR programme over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

Calendar year	Sai Kung	Lantau Island
2013	111	82
2014	26	32
2015	46	20
2016	42	23
2017	42	22

The expenditure and manpower involved over the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2013-14	3.4	8
2014-15	4.7	8
2015-16	2.3	6
2016-17	2.4	6
2017-18 (revised estimate)	3.1	7

As regards the TNR trial programme for stray dogs, it was conducted at 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long by 2 AWOs between early 2015 and January 2018. A total of 65 and 37 dogs have been neutered and returned to the trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long respectively. The consultant commissioned by AFCD is currently analysing the findings to assess the trial programme's effectiveness. The average annual expenditure and manpower deployed by AFCD since the commencement of the programme in 2015 are around \$1.2 million and 2 staff respectively.

- (c) Information on the number of animals re-homed by the 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of AFCD over the past 5 years is as follows:

Calendar year	Animals re-homed[#]			
	Dogs	Cats	Other animals*	Total
2013	770	206	116	1 092
2014	679	212	75	966
2015	651	168	83	902
2016	513	136	92	741
2017	588	67	94	749

[#] The decrease in the number of animals re-homed is mainly due to the decrease in the number of stray animals caught and animals received by the AMCs through various channels over the past years.

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

Animal re-homing forms part of AFCD's on-going work in animal management and promotion of animal welfare. As such, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)042****(Question Serial No. 2080)**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:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is committed to introducing modern technology and practices to local farmers.

- (a) Please set out the human resources and expenditures involved over the past 5 years.
- (b) Please state the distribution of active farms over the past 5 years by districts (including the numbers and sizes of farms, and whether in public/private ownership)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
San Tin					
Kam Tin					
Fung Kat					
Ha Tsuen					
Ping Shan					
Hung Shui Kiu					
Tuen Mun					
Castle Peak					
Lam Tei					
Koon Lam					
Shap Pat Heung					
Pat Heung					
Shek Kong					
Ng Ka Tsuen					
Ta Kwu Ling					
Ping Che					
Sheung Shui					
Tsiu Keng					
Kwu Tung					
Fanling					

Sai Kung					
Mui Wo					
Others					

- (c) Please state the numbers of farms over the past 5 years by districts (including the sizes, average farm sizes, and whether in public/private ownership)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
San Tin					
Kam Tin					
Fung Kat					
Ha Tsuen					
Ping Shan					
Hung Shui Kiu					
Tuen Mun					
Castle Peak					
Lam Tei					
Koon Lam					
Shap Pat Heung					
Pat Heung					
Shek Kong					
Ng Ka Tsuen					
Ta Kwu Ling					
Ping Che					
Sheung Shui					
Tsiu Keng					
Kwu Tung					
Fanling					
Sai Kung					
Mui Wo					
Others					

- (d) Demographics are rather significant for technological practices and support. Please set out the ages of farmers (including the average, the median, the oldest and the youngest), the sex, academic qualifications and the average length of farming over the past 5 years.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Average age					
Median age					
Oldest age					
Youngest age					
Academic qualifications					
Average length of farming					

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 50)

Reply:

- (a) The manpower and expenditure involved in promoting modern agricultural technology and practices to local farmers over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2013-14	17.4	39
2014-15	16.4	39
2015-16	16.7	39
2016-17	22.0	50
2017-18 (revised estimate)	25.8	57

- (b) & (c) It is estimated that there were about 2 300 to 2 400 crop farms in the territory over the past 5 years. These farms are mainly located in the North and Yuen Long Districts. The estimated area of agricultural land in active farming use over the past 5 years is tabulated below. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not have breakdown of number of farms by district and information on land ownership.

District	Estimated Area in active farming use ¹ (hectare)				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
North	290	270	280	280	280
Yuen Long	220	220	230	240	250
Tai Po	60	70	60	60	60
Tuen Mun	70	70	50	50	40
Islands	40	40	30	30	30
Sai Kung	20	20	20	20	20
Tsuen Wan	20	20	10	10	10
Others	20	10	10	10	10
Total	730¹	710¹	690¹	700¹	710¹

¹ Rounded to the nearest 10 hectares.

- (d) AFCD does not have the requested demographic data.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)043****(Question Serial No. 2087)**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 new agricultural policy and the study on agricultural priority areas:

- (a) Please set out the manpower and expenditure involved in the study and provide the details of the work.
- (b) Please set out the numbers of applications for agricultural land rehabilitation and the areas involved over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 18)Reply:

- (a) The Government intends to commission a consultancy study in 2018 to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land as Agricultural Priority Areas, and explore suitable policies and measures to incentivise owners to put fallow agricultural land into long-term agricultural use for local agricultural development. 7 staff are involved in this area of work apart from their other duties, and there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure incurred by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for undertaking the work associated with the above consultancy study.
- (b) 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 over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of new applications	51	44	45	65	58
Land area involved (hectare)	7.8	8.9	8.0	8.3	8.7

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)044****(Question Serial No. 0761)**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 trawl ban in Hong Kong waters, please advise on the following:

- (a) the numbers of (i) patrols and (ii) joint operations conducted in the marine parks/marine reserve set out below each year over 2015-16 to 2017-18

Year		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park	Patrol			
	Joint operation			
Yan Chau Tong Marine Park	Patrol			
	Joint operation			
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park	Patrol			
	Joint operation			
Tung Ping Chau Marine Park	Patrol			
	Joint operation			
Cape D'Aguiar Marine Reserve	Patrol			
	Joint operation			
The Brothers Marine Park	Patrol			
	Joint operation			

- (b) the numbers of cases relating illegal fishing activities in the marine parks/marine reserve mentioned in item (a) respectively each year over 2015-16 to 2017-18 regarding: (i) the number of complaint cases received; (ii) the number of cases relating illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations but could not successfully make arrests; (iii) the number of persons arrested and cases; (iv) the number of persons convicted and cases; (v) the maximum and minimum penalties imposed on the persons convicted; and (vi) the number of repeated offenders arrested and cases (please set them out in the table below)

	Year		
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Number of complaint cases received			
Number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations (cases which could not successfully make arrests)			
Number of successful arrests (number of persons arrested)			
Number of successful prosecutions (number of persons successfully prosecuted)			
Maximum and minimum penalties			
Number of repeated offences (number of repeated offenders)			

- (c) the numbers of (i) patrols and (ii) joint operations conducted in the Hong Kong waters (except in various marine parks/marine reserve) set out below each year over 2015-16 to 2017-18

Waters		Financial Year		
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Waters over the Hong Kong territory	(i)			
	(ii)			
Waters around Cheung Chau	(i)			
	(ii)			
Waters around Shek Kwu Chau	(i)			
	(ii)			
Waters around Soko Islands	(i)			
	(ii)			
Waters off the Brothers	(i)			
	(ii)			
Waters off Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau	(i)			
	(ii)			

- (d) the numbers of cases relating to illegal fishing activities in the waters mentioned in item (c) respectively each year over 2015-16 to 2017-18 regarding: (i) the number of complaint cases received; (ii) the number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations but could not successfully make arrests; (iii) the number of persons arrested and cases; (iv) the number of persons convicted and cases; (v) the maximum and minimum penalties imposed on the persons convicted; and (vi) the number of repeated offenders arrested and cases (please set them out in the table below)

	Year		
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Number of complaint cases received			
Number of cases relating to illegal fishing			

activities detected during patrols or joint operations (cases which could not successfully make arrests)			
Number of successful arrests (number of persons arrested)			
Number of successful prosecutions (number of persons successfully prosecuted)			
Maximum and minimum penalties			
Number of repeated offences (number of repeated offenders)			

- (e) Would the Government consider strengthening the measures in combating illegal fishing activities, including: (i) purchasing additional patrol launches; (ii) increasing the number of patrols; (iii) increasing the number of joint operations; and (iv) imposing heavier penalty. If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (f) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in enforcement operations against “illegal trawling” over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (g) What were the numbers of patrol launches, patrol areas and numbers of patrols conducted against “illegal trawling” over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18)?

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

Reply:

- (a) The number of (i) patrols conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD); and (ii) its joint operations[^] mounted with the Marine Police and the Marine Department at marine parks and marine reserve over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Financial year/ Location		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (as at end February 2018)
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park	(i)	832	788	756
	(ii)	14	14	10
Yan Chau Tong Marine Park	(i)	416	394	547
	(ii)	13	13	10
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park	(i)	373	398	345
	(ii)	2	1	0
Tung Ping Chau Marine Park	(i)	832	788	507
	(ii)	14	11	10
Cape D’Aguilar Marine Reserve	(i)	286	343	357
	(ii)	1	1	0
The Brothers Marine Park	(i)	0	114	391
	(ii)	0	0	0

[^] concurrently with operations of relevant Mainland authorities in nearby Mainland waters in some cases.

- (b) Statistics on illegal fishing activities at marine parks and marine reserve over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

	Financial year		
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (as at end February 2018)
Number of complaints received	3	1	3
Number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations (cases which could not successfully make arrests)	29 (0)	8 (0)	8 (0)
Number of successful arrests (number of persons arrested)	29 (29)	8 (8)	8 (8)
Number of successful prosecutions (number of persons successfully prosecuted)	18 (18)	5 (5)	3 (3)
Maximum and minimum penalties	A fine of \$500 to \$3,000	A fine of \$1,500 to \$2,000	A fine of \$800 to \$1,500
Number of repeated offences (number of repeated offenders)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

- (c) The number of (i) patrols conducted by AFCD; and (ii) its joint operations[^] mounted with the Marine Police and the Marine Department in the following waters (except marine parks and marine reserve) over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Financial year/ Waters		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (as at end January 2018)
Waters over the Hong Kong territory	(i)	1 497	1 562	1 367
	(ii)	38	63	53
Waters around Cheung Chau, Shek Kwu Chau and Soko Islands	(i)	460	520	508
	(ii)	38	63	39
Waters off the Brothers	(i)	76	72	54
	(ii)	0	0	0
Waters off Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau	(i)	86	77	60
	(ii)	0	0	0

[^] concurrently with operations of relevant Mainland authorities in nearby Mainland waters in some cases.

- (d) Statistics on illegal fishing activities in the waters mentioned in part (c) over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

	Financial year		
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (as at end January 2018)
Number of complaints received	96	115	105
Number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations (Number of cases which could not successfully make arrests)	44 (13)	75 (53)	24 (18)
Number of successful arrests (Number of persons arrested)	31 (43)	22 (35)	6 (12)
Number of successful prosecutions (Number of persons successfully prosecuted)	30 (42)	14 (25)	4 (9)
Maximum and minimum penalties	A fine of \$200 to \$100,000; imprisonment for 1 day to 2 months	A fine of \$700 to \$100,000; imprisonment for 2 weeks to 2 months	A fine of \$4,000 to \$5,000; imprisonment for 2 months
Number of repeated offences (Number of repeated offenders)	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)

- (e) AFCD enforces the relevant legislation through a risk-based approach, deploying resources flexibly to conduct random and targeted patrols in local waters (including marine parks and marine reserve) having regard to the circumstances to combat illegal fishing activities. AFCD has procured an additional patrol vessel in June 2017 for the purpose. AFCD also maintains close liaison with the Marine Police and the Marine Department with a view to mounting joint operations (including using the “vessel arrest system” to intercept trawlers who refuse to stop for inspection) as and when appropriate.

Under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171), any person who uses prohibited fishing gear for fishing is liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and an imprisonment for 6 months upon conviction. In addition, under the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476), any person who carries out illegal fishing activities in marine parks and marine reserve is liable to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and an imprisonment for one year upon conviction. We believe that the penalty provisions are effective deterrent to illegal fishing activities. AFCD will continue to enhance enforcement, exchange information and intelligence with the relevant government departments and Mainland authorities, adjust its enforcement strategy from time to time in the light of circumstances and intelligence gathered, and collaborate with the relevant parties to combat illegal fishing activities.

- (f) The expenditure and manpower involved in the enforcement against illegal fishing activities (including trawling) over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	12.9	18
2016-17	13.2	18
2017-18 (revised estimate)	19.3	18

- (g) From 2015 to 2017, 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 number of patrols conducted by AFCD in 2015, 2016 and 2017 are about 1 440, 1 540 and 1 630 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)045****(Question Serial No. 0762)**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 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 (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (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 (2015-16 to 2017-18)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 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 a breakdown on the figures for different kinds of freshwater fish.

Calendar year	Total quantity (tonnes)	Daily average quantity (tonnes)	Highest daily quantity (tonnes)	Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)
2015	55 473	152	215	12
2016	47 362	129	221	33
2017	41 196	113	160	24

Information on the wholesale quantity of marine fish traded over the past 3 years (2015 to 2017) 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
2015	26,065	25,621 [^]	26,310	26,484	26,645	26,638	27,039	27,363	27,811	28,243 [*]	27,674	27,433
2016	26,740	27,070	26,651	26,615 [^]	26,768	26,835	27,389	27,133	27,364	27,601 [*]	27,238	27,146
2017	27,090	26,866	26,532	26,365 [^]	26,671	26,764	27,155	27,522	27,639	27,671	27,716 [*]	27,271

^{*}Highest monthly average value in the respective calendar year

[^]Lowest monthly average value in the respective calendar year

Information on the monthly average wholesale price of marine fish over the past 3 years (2015 to 2017) is shown in **Annex B**.

- End -

Wholesale quantity of marine fish over the past 3 years (2015 to 2017)

Calendar year	Fish	Total quantity (tonnes)	Daily average quantity (tonnes)	Highest daily quantity (tonnes)	Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)
2015	Golden thread (紅衫)	2 836.5	7.8	8.9	5.4
	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	6.2
	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
2017	Golden thread (紅衫)	2 901.2	7.9	9.2	6.5
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	2 806.6	7.7	10.2	6.3
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	1 997.9	5.5	7.1	4.0
	Big-eyes (木棉)	2 173.9	6.0	8.1	3.9
	Scads (池魚)	1 283.9	3.5	5.2	1.6
	Breams (立魚)	1 965.4	5.4	6.7	4.4
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	1 374.9	3.8	5.3	2.7
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	1 438.5	3.9	4.9	3.4
	Croakers (或魚)	858.3	2.4	3.2	1.5

Data on Filefish (沙鯪) are not readily available.

Monthly average wholesale price of marine fish over the past 3 years (2015 to 2017)

Calendar year	Fish	Monthly average wholesale price (\$/kg)											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2015	Golden thread (紅衫)	68.91*	55.67	61.01	52.82	49.42^	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^	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^	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^	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^	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^	72.15	74.51	72.91
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	36.87	37.10	38.55	36.80	36.62^	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^	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^	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^	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^	46.85	45.15	44.64
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	84.95	74.44^	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^	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^	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^	69.96	74.59	81.35
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	41.64^	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^	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^	24.58	29.09	29.10	29.73*	25.69	23.12	23.13	24.02
2017	Golden thread (紅衫)	62.64^	77.61	69.14	66.10	77.60	83.36	84.56*	82.98	64.97	67.03	74.43	82.20
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	51.14	53.70	55.07	47.27^	52.53	55.85	54.73	53.58	47.51	47.56	56.06*	54.21
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	115.13	106.17	134.73*	131.81	91.29	78.36	81.95	79.66	76.72^	92.37	100.72	98.64
	Big-eyes (木棉)	81.15	89.61	85.81	85.08	87.85	94.90	95.33	93.18	80.35^	86.34	94.42	97.17*
	Scads (池魚)	21.75	22.01	20.21	20.78	25.14	29.59*	29.34	25.27	17.65^	20.24	22.01	22.39
	Breams (立魚)	85.78	90.93*	88.49	85.35	87.89	90.38	88.76	87.57	78.54^	83.71	86.51	89.64
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	45.28	49.89	44.39	46.37	50.26	57.05*	55.89	53.89	43.77^	44.47	45.61	47.05
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	76.24	78.14	75.71	78.99	80.34	84.87*	82.55	79.03	63.81^	69.22	70.19	75.10
	Croakers (或魚)	23.78	24.20	23.26^	27.00	28.54	33.79	34.58*	34.33	27.44	24.97	26.41	28.42

Data on Filefish (沙鯪) 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)046****(Question Serial No. 0763)**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 quantity, 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 (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (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 (2015-16 to 2017-18)?

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

Calendar year	Total quantity (tonnes)	Daily average quantity (tonnes)	Highest daily quantity (tonnes)	Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)
2015	246 710	676	927	106
2016	238 163	651	808	103
2017	240 617	659	842	60

- (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
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
2017	9,792	9,799	9,225	9,116	8,948^	9,501	10,390	10,386	10,885*	10,750	10,452	10,445

* Highest monthly value

^ Lowest monthly value

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)047****(Question Serial No. 0764)**

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 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 (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (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 (2015-16 to 2017-18)?

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

Calendar year	Total quantity (tonnes)	Daily average quantity (tonnes)	Highest daily quantity (tonnes)	Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)
2015	63 501	174	359	8
2016	65 842	180	392	6
2017	66 102	181	392	4

- (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
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 [^]
2016	14,097	15,738*	15,052	15,320	14,658	13,520	12,794	12,316 [^]	14,267	13,252	13,707	13,877
2017	13,865	13,657	13,465	12,747	11,574	11,333 [^]	12,703	14,258	15,000	14,665	14,580	15,103*

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
2015	16,232	15,929 [^]	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 [^]	13,053	13,439
2017	13,510	13,736	13,748	13,587	13,523	12,880	12,103 [^]	14,181	14,993*	13,452	14,093	14,329

* Highest monthly average wholesale price

[^] Lowest monthly average wholesale price

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)048****(Question Serial No. 0779)**

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 fish rafts in Hong Kong, please advise on:

- (a) the respective numbers of fish rafts in various fish culture zones of Hong Kong over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18);
- (b) the manpower and the expenditures involved in conducting inspections at each fish culture zone over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18) and the time frame for the inspections.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 22)

Reply:

- (a) The number of licensed fish rafts in various fish culture zones over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Fish culture zone	2015-16	2016-17	2017-2018 (up to end-February 2018)
Ap Chau	4	4	4
Cheung Sha Wan	62	62	60
Kai Lung Wan	42	41	39
Kat O	34	34	32
Kau Lau Wan	20	20	20
Kau Sai	73	66	64
Leung Shuen Wan	70	70	65
Lo Fu Wat	33	33	33
Lo Tik Wan	72	70	68
Ma Nam Wat	42	41	42
Ma Wan	96	96	96
O Pui Tong	45	9	3

Fish culture zone	2015-16	2016-17	2017-2018 (up to end-February 2018)
Po Toi	6	6	6
Po Toi O	45	38	38
Sai Lau Kong	4	2	2
Sha Tau Kok	109	108	109
Sham Wan	172	173	173
Sok Kwu Wan	145	145	145
Tai Tau Chau	105	105	101
Tap Mun	104	81	76
Tiu Cham Wan	5	5	0
Tung Lung Chau	58	58	58
Wong Wan	17	15	15
Yim Tin Tsai	261	257	254
Yim Tin Tsai East	189	194	201
Yung Shue Au	272	277	280
Total	2 085	2 010	1 984

- (b) To ensure the operation of fish rafts is in compliance of the Marine Fish Culture Ordinance (Cap. 353), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department conducts regular patrol and inspection in the 26 fish culture zones. The expenditure and manpower involved over the past 3 years are tabulated below. There is no breakdown by individual fish culture zone.

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	8.0	17
2016-17	8.2	18
2017-18 (revised estimate)	8.9	18

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)049****(Question Serial No. 0783)**

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:

Fish farmers shall obtain permits issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (the Department) before temporarily relocating their fish rafts out of the fish culture zones. Regarding this matter, please advise on the following:

- (a) The numbers of the permits concerned that were issued by the Department over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18). Please set out the numbers with a breakdown by the fish rafts in various fish culture zones.
- (b) The details and progress concerning the Department's consideration on setting up permanent sites for relocating fish rafts at some of the potential locations.

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

Reply:

- (a) The number of permits issued and the fish culture zones (FCZs) involved over the past 3 years for temporary relocation of fish rafts is tabulated below.

Financial year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (up to end-February 2018)
Number of permits issued for temporary relocation of fish rafts and FCZs involved	1 (Sok Kwu Wan FCZ)	1 (Kau Sai FCZ)	1 (Sok Kwu Wan FCZ)

- (b) As the environmental factors and marine / navigation safety vary in each case, setting up permanent sites for temporarily relocation of fish rafts is not feasible. Nevertheless, in case of contingencies and emergencies, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), with the consent of the Marine Department (MD),

will allow fish farmers to move their fish rafts to designated areas before their permit applications are approved. AFCD also maintains close liaison with MD so as to provide assistance to the affected fish farmers as soon as possible.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)050

(Question Serial No. 0785)

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 manpower and the expenditures involved over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18) and the time frame for the surveys;
- (b) the manpower and the expenditures involved in employing external local trawlers to conduct the surveys over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18) 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 so as to ensure that the terms of the contracts are duly complied with;
- (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. (LegCo use): 28)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducted surveys from 2010 to 2017 to monitor the recovery of fisheries resources after the implementation of the trawl ban (end of 2012) in Hong Kong waters. Data collection for about 4 years subsequent to the trawl ban (up to early 2017) was conducted,

followed by data analysis. The expenditure and manpower involved over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	6.8	3
2016-17	6.6	3
2017-18 (revised estimate)	4.8	3

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

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	2.0	1
2016-17	1.8	1
2017-18* (revised estimate)	-	-

*The surveys were completed in early 2017.

Taking into account the results of the above surveys, AFCD would further consider the way forward including planning further surveys for monitoring of the fisheries resources and habitats in the Hong Kong waters.

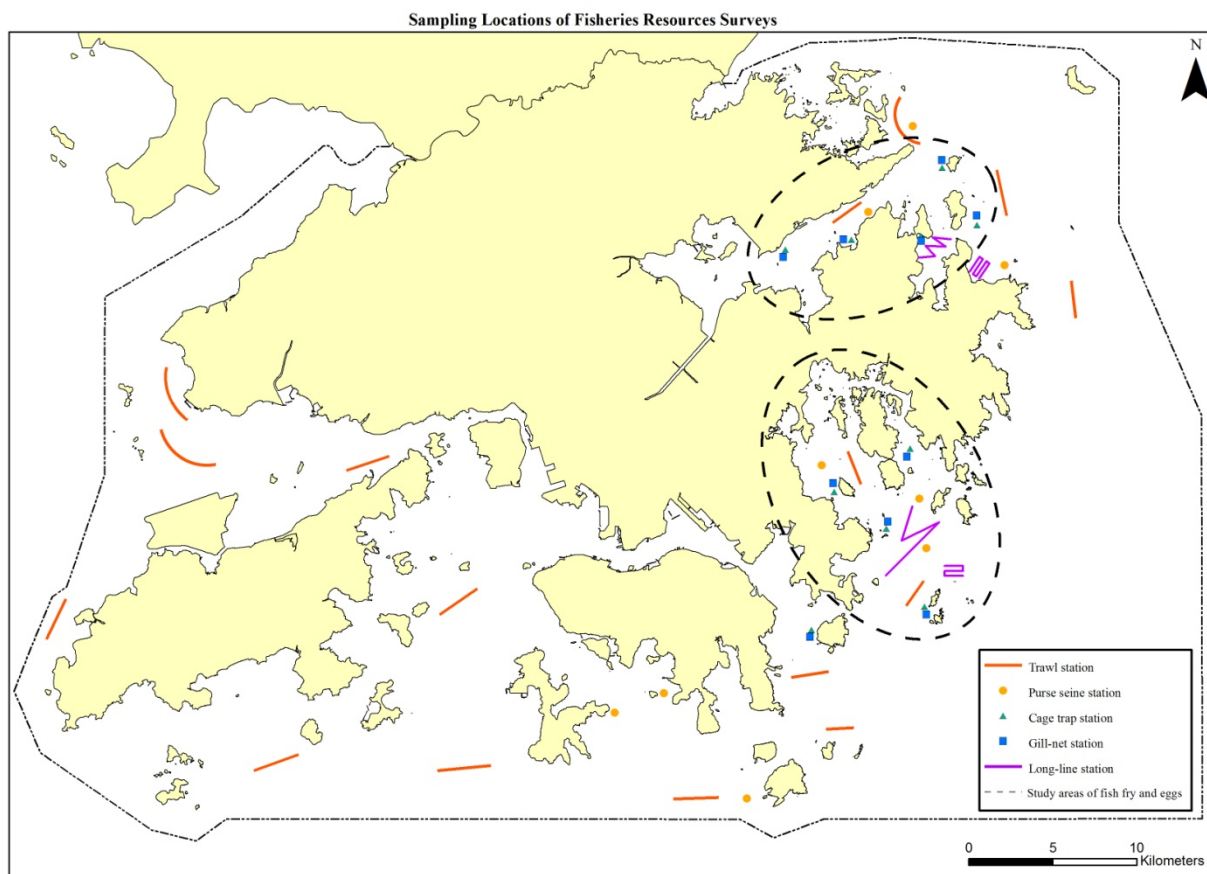
- (c) The surveys mentioned in Part (a) above include:
- (i) the territory-wide trawling surveys collected samples at 16 stations in the waters of Hong Kong by local trawlers chartered by AFCD to monitor fisheries resources at the sea bottom on a monthly basis;
 - (ii) the purse-seine surveys collected samples at 9 stations to monitor fisheries resources at the middle to upper level 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 2 months; and
 - (iv) the surveys on fish fry and eggs were conducted in wet, dry and peak seasons with sampling stations scattered around the Tolo Channel, Long Harbour and Port Shelter which are spawning and nursery grounds.

A map indicating the sampling stations is at [Annex](#).

- (d) AFCD informed relevant fishermen associations of the sampling locations and frequency of the trawling surveys by letters each year. Furthermore, AFCD informed

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 monitored the performance of the contractor by going on board during surveys to ensure that the terms of contract were complied with.
- (f) In addition to notifications to the relevant fishermen associations mentioned in (d) above, AFCD had hired a pilot boat to assist in the trawling surveys. The pilot boat navigated the trawlers along the survey path to avoid any fishing gear already deployed in the waters by fishermen. AFCD did not receive any complaint about the surveys.



- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)051

(Question Serial No. 0786)

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 the local agricultural industry, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the locations of the agricultural land, active agricultural land, and arable land, in Hong Kong over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18) (please show with a map). What were the areas of the said land?
- (b) What were the manpower and expenditures involved in the investigations conducted by the Department over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (c) 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)?
- (d) Further to the above question, how many hectares of agricultural land are leasable under the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme?
- (e) The Government announced in the 2016 Policy Address to implement New Agricultural Policy. What are the details, effectiveness, manpower and expenditure involved in the relevant work?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 29)

Reply:

- (a) 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 4 400 hectares. The estimated area of agricultural land in active farming use over the past 3 years is tabulated by district below. The survey did not provide information on the boundaries of the relevant land for compiling a location map.

District / Calendar year	Estimated Area in active farming use (hectare) ¹		
	2015	2016	2017
North	280	280	280
Yuen Long	230	240	250
Tai Po	60	60	60
Tuen Mun	50	50	40
Islands	30	30	30
Sai Kung	20	20	20
Tsuen Wan	10	10	10
Others	10	10	10
Total	690¹	700¹	710¹

¹ Rounded to the nearest 10 hectares.

- (b) As the survey on agricultural land use forms part of the ongoing work of AFCD, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower involved.
- (c) & (d) 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. At present, about 11.5 hectares of agricultural land is available for leasing under ALRS. In addition, as one of the measures under the New Agriculture Policy (NAP), the Government is planning to establish an Agricultural Park (Agri-Park) in Kwu Tung South.
- (e) The Government has been implementing NAP since 2016 to promote the modernisation and sustainable development of the local agricultural industry. Details of the key measures are set out below:
- We intend to establish an Agri-Park to help nurture agro-technology and knowledge on modern farm management. The Government has commissioned a consultancy study in 2017 to carry out the detailed design and site investigation work for infrastructure support of the Agri-Park;
 - We intend to commission a consultancy study in 2018 to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land as Agricultural Priority Areas, and explore suitable policies and measures to incentivise owners to put fallow agricultural land into long-term agricultural use for local agricultural development;
 - We have set up a \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) to provide financial support for the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture which is open for applications since December 2016. As at 1 March 2018, a total of 180 applications seeking financial assistance for individual farms to acquire farming equipment and/or materials from the Farm Improvement Scheme under SADF have been received. So far, 169 applications have been approved, involving a total funding commitment of about \$5 million. 3 applications have been rejected and the rest are being processed. In addition, a total of 22 applications, seeking funding support for projects that may benefit the local agricultural industry as a whole, have been

received. Among them, 2 applications have been withdrawn by the applicants, and 1 application has been rejected on the advice of the SADF Advisory Committee. The other applications are being processed; and

- We have completed a review on facilitating technology-based agricultural production (including new agro-technology such as hydroponics and aquaculture) in industrial buildings. In this respect, the Town Planning Board (TPB) has revised the definition of terms used in statutory plans and technology-based agricultural production is regarded generally as “Non-polluting Industrial Use”, which is always permitted in industrial buildings without the need for separate application to TPB. This use in general also does not contravene the “Industrial Purposes” stipulated in land lease.

In 2017-18, apart from the existing resources in AFCD for supporting local agriculture, 23 staff and \$13.5 million are involved in the above area of work under NAP.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)052****(Question Serial No. 0790)**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 (2015-16 to 2017-18).
- (b) Please set out in tabular form the numbers of red tides occurred in Hong Kong over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18), with a breakdown by district.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 33)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:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	8.5	10
2016-17	9.5	10
2017-18 (revised estimate)	14.0	12

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

District/ Financial year	Number of red tides observed		
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
North	3	4	1
Tai Po	3	4	5
Sha Tin	0	0	1
Sai Kung	6	6	5
Southern	1	4	5
Islands	3	2	2
Tuen Mun	1	1	2
Kwun Tong	0	1	2

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)053

(Question Serial No. 0791)

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 (2015-16 to 2017-18):

- (a) What was the administrative and technical support provided for the schemes?
- (b) What were the details of the expenditures and manpower involved?
- (c) What were the expenditures 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. (LegCo use): 34)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department 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:

Calendar year	2015	2016	2017
Number of staff	1	1	1
Expenditure (\$ million)	0.9	0.9	0.9
Number of landowners participating in ALRS	23	28	41
Number of new applications / land area involved (hectare)	45 / 8.0	65 / 8.3	58 / 8.7
Number of successful cases	41	29	9
- Total land area involved (hectare)	5.4	4.0	2.1
- Range of annual rental (per dau chung [^])	\$800 to \$10,400	\$1,400 to \$32,100	\$160 to \$12,000
- Average waiting time (year)	5	4	5.5
Number of applications on the waiting list as at year-end / land area involved (hectare)	287 / 70.6	300 / 67.6	347 / 74.7

[^]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 New Development Area and Yuen Long South projects. Under SALRS, the Government would proactively identify suitable government land and landowners who are willing to lease or sell their land suitable for agricultural re-site/rehabilitation, and carry out matching. Details of SALRS will be announced by the Government in due course.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)054

(Question Serial No. 0792)

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 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 (2015-16 to 2017-18);
- (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 (2015-16 to 2017-18);
- (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 (2015-16 to 2017-18);
- (d) the monthly average prices, as well as the highest and the lowest monthly prices of imported minor poultry over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18);
- (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 (2015-16 to 2017-18);
- (f) the percentage of live chickens, minor poultry and day-old chicks imported from various places over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18);
- (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 2017-18 and the estimated expenditure in 2018-19.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 35)

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
2015	Imported	61 300	168	2 900	1 400
	Local	4 055 016	11 110	47 912	1 500
2016	Imported ^{&}	32 000	87	2 000	2 000
	Local	4 041 960	11 043	48 475	300
2017	Local ^{&}	4 199 354	11 505	43 200	6 555

[&] There has been no import of live chickens from the Mainland since 17 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
2015	Imported	0	9 100	3 800	1 600 [^]	4 600	4 500	4 500	4 600	2 000	14 000 [*]	0	12 600
	Local	213 588 [^]	477 914 [*]	300 499	258 176	311 638	302 603	333 812	355 418	399 170	343 366	363 073	395 759
2016	Imported ^{&}	20 000 [*]	12 000 [^]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Local	344 191	406 393 [*]	348 978	342 916	369 978	311 710	312 465	311 558	327 883	284 585 [^]	311 900	369 403
2017	Local ^{&}	417 938 [*]	301 859 [^]	333 008	352 741	382 650	317 583	330 195	327 848	325 968	365 823	339 811	403 930

^{*} Highest monthly quantity

[^] Lowest monthly quantity

[&] There has been no import of live chickens from the Mainland since 17 February 2016.

- (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
2015	Imported	-	79.58	74.42	74.30	74.16	81.97 [*]	81.40	72.34	66.00	62.37 [^]	-	75.73
	Local	48.07	57.60	72.76 [*]	68.41	71.12	70.45	63.13	51.46	47.19	41.98	40.20 [^]	69.58
2016	Imported ^{&}	68.97 [^]	82.67 [*]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Local	68.33	77.23 [*]	69.93	55.10	44.71	42.87 [^]	44.38	57.17	71.65	74.38	67.81	57.41
2017	Local ^{&}	47.74	52.49 [*]	38.83	33.96 [^]	43.21	49.62	49.08	48.46	45.17	49.64	46.31	48.80

- * Highest monthly average price in the respective calendar year
- ^ Lowest monthly average price in the respective calendar year
- & There has been no import of live chickens from the Mainland since 17 February 2016.

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

Calendar year	Quantity	Daily average quantity	Highest daily quantity	Lowest daily quantity
2015	465 305	1 275	3 930	840
2016	590 598	1 614	5 600	750
2017	76 720 [#]	210	7 350	900

[#] There has been no import of live minor poultry from the Mainland since 16 February 2017.

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
2015	0	19 650 [^]	39 020	43 650	47 675	44 065	38 125	44 185	44 540	45 425	47 830	51 140 [*]
2016	51 150	36 979	45 130	48 910	58 172	8 790 [^]	42 160	53 230	53 630	61 942	73 765 [*]	56 740
2017 [#]	48 650 [*]	28 070 [^]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

^{*} Highest monthly quantity

[^] Lowest monthly quantity

[#] There has been no import of live minor poultry from the Mainland since 16 February 2017.

(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
2015	-	70.5	70.9	70.6	70.4	70.3 [^]	71.3	70.6	70.8	71.3	71.4 [*]	71.2
2016	71.5	70.9 [^]	72.6	72.3	76.4	77.9	77.8	74.5	76.0	77.6	79.2 [*]	76.1
2017 [#]	76.6 [^]	77.7 [*]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

^{*} Highest monthly average price in the respective calendar year

[^] Lowest monthly average price in the respective calendar year

[#] There has been no import of live minor poultry from the Mainland since 16 February 2017.

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

Calendar year	Quantity	Daily average quantity	Highest daily quantity	Lowest daily quantity
2015	1 600 330	4 384	40 960	3 500
2016	1 763 710	4 819	39 600	1 250
2017	2 011 700	5 512	34 480	2 800

The monthly quantity of imported day-old chicks 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
2015	26 960 [^]	39 960	42 460	71 440	123 960	204 400 [*]	172 720	179 040	176 840	179 060	188 940	194 550
2016	178 430	185 720	225 460 [*]	184 460	182 520	30 700 [^]	0	44 540	155 760	217 560	172 400	186 160
2017	134 800 [^]	176 800	154 600	136 080	159 340	180 340	163 240	173 000	191 040 [*]	177 020	190 320	175 120

* Highest monthly quantity

[^] Lowest monthly quantity

(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:

Calendar year	Percentage of chickens imported from			Percentage of minor poultry imported from		Percentage of day-old chicks imported from	
	Guangdong	Shenzhen	Hainan	Guangdong	Zhuhai	Guangdong	Zhuhai
2015	0	0	100	30	70	55	45
2016	0	0	100	42	58	70	30
2017	-	-	-	47	53	88	12

(g) The revised estimate for the expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) incurred on CSWTWPM in 2017-18 in this area of work is \$17.7 million and the manpower involved is 18 staff. The resources earmarked for 2018-19 are at a similar level as for 2017-18.

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).

Separately, 42 staff in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) are involved in inspection of imported live food animals. There is no separate breakdown of manpower involved in inspection of live chickens and minor poultry. FEHD's revised estimate in 2017-18 and the estimate for 2018-19 for handling import of live chickens and minor poultry for AI surveillance are \$8.9 million and \$11.5 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)055

(Question Serial No. 0800)

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 expenditures and manpower involved in the Government's regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18);
- (b) the details, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the Government's regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry in 2018-19;
- (c) the total amount and quantities of local and imported flowers over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18);
- (d) the measures that the Government currently takes to promote the local flower cultivation industry, as well as the expenditure and manpower so involved.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 43)

Reply:

- (a), (b) & (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:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of AFCD staff)
2015-16	6.0	13
2016-17	7.7	17
2017-18 (revised estimate)	8.4	18

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 2018-19, AFCD will continue to provide the above-mentioned services to crop farmers including florists with a similar level of resources as in 2017-18.

- (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.

Calendar year	Value of local production (\$ million)	Value of net import (\$ million)
2015	147	379
2016	154	244
2017	158	406

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)056

(Question Serial No. 0801)

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 2018-19.
- (b) The types of pig and bird vaccines introduced into the local industry and the expenditure involved respectively over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18).
- (c) The total expenditures involved respectively in vaccinating pigs and birds over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18). 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 (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (e) Did the Government take any new measure to strengthen the work on prevention of avian influenza over the past year?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 44)

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 2018-19 are \$52.4 million and 59 staff respectively.

- (b) AFCD has, since January 2018, required all local farms to apply to new batches of chickens a new bivalent vaccine that could guard against both H5 and H7N9 AI viruses. AFCD provided technical assistance in the process and there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.
- (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 (2015-2017), there was 1 case of detection of H7N9 AI virus from 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) Over the past year, AFCD assessed the suitability of and assisted in the introduction of the new bivalent AI vaccine as stated in (b) above for use in local chicken farms. At retail level, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department strengthened AI testing by introducing a rapid test for environmental samples collected from live poultry retail outlets since February 2017.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)057****(Question Serial No. 0802)**

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 stepping up monitoring of aquaculture environment, please advise on the following:

- (a) The expenditures and manpower of the Government for monitoring water quality and red tides respectively over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18).
- (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 (2015-16 to 2017-18).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 45)

Reply:

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

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	8.5	10
2016-17	9.5	10
2017-18 (revised estimate)	14.0	12

- (b) The number of red tides observed in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 (up to February) is 11, 12 and 10 respectively. Information on these incidents is tabulated below:

Financial year	Time (month)	Location	Causative species	
2015-16	April 2015	Port Shelter, Mirs Bay, southern waters, Long Harbour, East Lamma Channel	<i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i>	
	May 2015	East Lantau, Junk Bay, southern waters	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	
	June 2015	Deep Water Bay, Repulse Bay	<i>Pseudo-nitzschia pungens</i>	
	August 2015	Mirs Bay	<i>Gyrodinium impudicum</i>	
	November 2015	Silverstrand Beach	<i>Trichodesmium erythraeum</i>	
	December 2015	Tolo Harbour	<i>Karenia mikimotoi</i>	
	January 2016		Tolo Harbour, Mirs Bay, Long Harbour	<i>Karenia mikimotoi</i> , <i>Karenia papilionacea</i>
			East Lantau	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
	February 2016		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 2016		Port Shelter, southern waters, Tolo Harbour, Long Harbour, Mirs Bay, South Lantau, Junk Bay	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	
2016-17	April 2016	Pui O Beach, Junk Bay, Cheung Chau	<i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i> <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	
	August 2016	Tolo Harbour	<i>Gonyaulax verior</i> <i>Heterocapsa pygmaea</i>	
	September 2016	Rocky Harbour	<i>Neoceratium furca</i>	
	November 2016	Tsam Chuk Wan	<i>Phaeocystis globosa</i>	
	December 2016		Yeung Chau, Tai Tau Chau	<i>Mesodinium rubrum</i>
			Junk Bay	<i>Phaeocystis globosa</i>
	January 2017		Long Harbour	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
			Deep Bay, Urmston Road, southern waters, Golden Beach, Cafeteria New Beach, Castle Peak Beach, Pui O Beach	<i>Phaeocystis globosa</i>
			Tolo Harbour	<i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i> <i>Tripos furca</i>
	February 2017		Shing Mun River Channel	<i>Plagioselmis prolunga</i>
Southern waters			<i>Mesodinium rubrum</i>	

	March 2017	Stanley Main Beach, Silverstrand Beach	<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
2017-18 (up to February)	April 2017	Tolo Harbour, Mirs Bay, southern waters, Port Shelter, Lei Yue Mun, Tathong Channel	<i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i>
		Golden Beach, Cafeteria New Beach	<i>Thalassiosira tealata</i>
		Hap Mun Bay Beach	<i>Cochlodinium convolutum</i> <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
	May 2017	Deep Water Bay Beach	<i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i> <i>Prorocentrum rhathymum</i>
	June 2017	Tolo Harbour	<i>Chaetoceros salsugineum</i>
	July 2017	Junk Bay, Tathong Channel	<i>Pseudo-nitzschia pungens</i>
		Southern waters, Lantau	<i>Cerataulina pelagica</i>
		Southern waters, East Lantau, Victoria Harbour	<i>Thalassiosira pseudonana</i>
	September 2017	Lei Yue Mun, Tathong Channel	<i>Chaetoceros salsugineum</i>
	February 2018	Three Fathoms Cove	<i>Mesodinium rubrum</i>

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)058

(Question Serial No. 0803)

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 chickens and pigs imported from the Mainland over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (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 (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (d) It is stated in the Hong Kong Strategy and Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance that the Government would explore how to seek proper support and veterinary services for the industry in order to prevent and treat diseases. What is the progress of the work?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 46)

Reply:

- (a) & (b) Over the past 3 calendar years, 1 case of using prohibited antimicrobial by a local pig farm was successfully prosecuted, with the offender convicted. In addition, there were 1 case each of suspected usage of prohibited antimicrobial and restricted antimicrobial exceeding maximum residue level in local pig farms. Prosecution was not initiated for either case due to insufficient evidence.

- (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 the testing of samples collected by FEHD, and regular inspection of local livestock and poultry farms to monitor the health of pigs and chickens on farms and advise local farmers on the proper use of veterinary drugs, including antimicrobials. The above work of AFCD forms part of its overall farm management and disease prevention programme for local livestock and poultry farms. There is no separate breakdown for the expenditure and manpower involved.
- (d) Following the announcement of the Hong Kong Strategy and Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance in July 2017, AFCD has been engaging local veterinary associations, tertiary institutions and the farming sector with a view to facilitating and supporting projects for the provision of veterinary services to food animal production farms by the non-government veterinary sector. Such projects could also include formulation of tailor-made farm-specific disease management plans for the purposes of disease prevention and minimising usage of antimicrobials, and assisting farmers in sourcing vaccines and other veterinary medications. Applications seeking funding support from the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund for implementing such projects have been received, and are being processed, by AFCD.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)059

(Question Serial No. 0804)

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 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 (2015-16 to 2017-18)? Please set out the information with a breakdown by the 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 47)

Reply:

- (a) As at 31 December 2017, there are about 2 300 crop farms (including vegetables, flowers and orchards) with a total cultivated area of about 710 hectares. These farms are mainly located in the Yuen Long District and the North District. Amongst these crop farms, there are 309 organic vegetable farms which have joined the Organic Farming Support Service Scheme of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department with a total area of about 109 hectares. It is estimated that there are 137 leisure farms with a total area of about 130 hectares. Regarding farms in industrial buildings, there are 7 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 (VMCSs) and vegetable depots as at 31 December 2017 by district is tabulated below:

District	VMCS	Vegetable depots
Yuen Long	13	1
North	9	0
Tuen Mun	3	1
Islands	2	0
Tai Po	1	0
Tsuen Wan	1	0
Total	29	2

Information of marine fish culture farms, pond fish farms and oyster rafts as at 31 December 2017 is as follows –

- There were about 940 licensed marine fish culture farms with about 1 990 fish rafts in 25 designated Fish Culture Zones*. The size of farms ranged from 13 to about 6 800 m².
- There were about 320 pond fish farms with about 1 370 fish ponds, mainly in the north-west New Territories. The size of pond fish farms ranged from 80 to 424 810 m².
- There were about 7 700 oyster rafts in Deep Bay. The size of rafts ranged from 96 to 300 m².

* There are 26 designated Fish Culture Zones 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 respectively. There was no licensed marine fish culture farm in Tiu Cham Wan Fish Culture Zone.

- (b) Over the past 3 years, the number 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 as at 31 December 2017 are tabulated below:

Pig Farms

	2015			2016			2017		
	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (Number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (Number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	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	3965.31	2 000	Yuen Long	3 965.31	2000	Yuen Long	3 965.31	2 000	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
Total	104 181.98	74 640		104 181.98	74 640		104 181.98	74 640	

Chicken Farms

	2015			2016			2017		
	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (Number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (Number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	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	2 477.98	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
Total	61 489.38	1 300 500		62 324.83	1 300 500		62 324.83	1 300 500	

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)060****(Question Serial No. 0805)**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:

- (a) What were the numbers of floating fishermen in Hong Kong and their fishing vessels over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18)? What were the production values?
- (b) 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. (LegCo use): 48)Reply:

- (a) The Government does not have information on the numbers of Hong Kong and Macao floating fishermen and their fishing vessels and their production values. Information of the numbers of local fishing vessels and capture fishermen over the past 3 years (2015 to 2017) is tabulated below:

Calendar year (as at the end of the period)	Number of local fishing vessels[#]	Number of local capture fishermen[^]
2015	6 628	10 500
2016	6 631	10 790
2017	6 502	10 600

[#] 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).

[^] Based on the annual survey on capture fishermen conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD).

- (b) AFCD provides a wide range of support 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

FHB(FE)061

(Question Serial No. 0806)

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, expenditures 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 (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (b) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (c) Since the introduction of the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund and its Equipment Improvement Project, how many project applications have been received, approved, rejected and are being examined in total? What are these projects by type (e.g. capture, culture, leisure fishing or others)?
- (d) Further to the above question, what were the numbers of the above projects over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 49)

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 expenditure and manpower involved in promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18) are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	75.6	92
2016-17	83.0	104
2017-18 (revised estimate)	106.5	106

- (b) The expenditure and manpower involved in the administration of SFDF over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18) are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	1.1	3
2016-17	2.1	7
2017-18 (revised estimate)	2.5	7

- (c) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has received 29 applications under SFDF. Details of these applications are tabulated as follows:

Number / Type of applications	Aquaculture	Recreational Fisheries	Others	Total
Received	19	5	5	29
Approved	6	2	-	8
Rejected	6	1	4	11
Withdrawn by the applicant	3	1	1	5
Under processing	4	1	-	5

AFCD started inviting fisheries organisations to apply for funding support under SFDF for acquisition of equipment for fishermen or fish farmers since December 2017. No such application has been received so far.

- (d) Details of the applications under SFDF over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18) are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Number of applications*			
	Received	Approved	Rejected	Withdrawn by the applicant
2015-16	8	4	4	3
2016-17	5	1	2	1
2017-18	1	1	5	1

* Applications received in a particular financial year may not be concluded in the same financial year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)062

(Question Serial No. 0807)

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, as well as other co-operative societies respectively over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18);
- (b) the expenditures and manpower involved in co-operative societies related to the fisheries and agriculture industries, as well as other co-operative societies respectively over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 50)

Reply:

The requested information is tabulated at **Annex**.

Industry	Financial year								
	2015-16			2016-17			2017-18 (revised estimate)		
	Number of co-operative societies (as at end of the period)	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)	Number of co-operative societies (as at end of the period)	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)	Number of co-operative societies (as at end February 2018)	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
Agriculture and fisheries	112	2.4	6	111	3.5	7	111	3.4	7
Others	69	4.8	9	64	5.0	9	64	4.9	9
Total	181	7.2	15	175	8.5	16	175	8.3	16

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)063

(Question Serial No. 0812)

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 expenditures and manpower involved in the establishment of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund, the Agricultural Park and the Agricultural Priority Areas over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (b) What is the current estimated total expenditure involved in the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund, the Agricultural Park and the Agricultural Priority Areas?
- (c) Since the introduction of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and the Farm Improvement Scheme, how many project applications received, approved, rejected and are being examined? What are these projects by type (e.g. planting, culture, industrial buildings or others)?
- (d) Further to the above question, what were the numbers of the above projects over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (e) What is the progress of the work on the Agricultural Park and the Agricultural Priority Areas? What are the estimated work schedules for the two projects?
- (f) What were the details, expenditures 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 (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (g) What are the details, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in planning and promoting the sustainable development of agriculture in 2018-19?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 51)

Reply:

- (a) & (b) The Government has been implementing the New Agriculture Policy (NAP) since 2016 to promote the modernisation and sustainable development of the local agricultural industry. The expenditure and manpower of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in administering the \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF), preparing for the establishment of the Agriculture Park (Agri-Park) and preparing for a consultancy study on Agricultural Priority Areas (APA) under the NAP over the past 2 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2016-17	5.1	13
2017-18 (revised estimate)	8.7	16

In 2018-19, \$13.2 million has been earmarked for implementing the above work.

- (c) & (d) As at 1 March 2018, a total of 180 applications seeking financial assistance for individual farms to acquire farming equipment and/or materials from the Farm Improvement Scheme (FIS) under SADF have been received. So far, 169 applications have been approved, involving a total funding commitment of about \$5 million. 3 applications have been rejected and the rest are being processed.

In addition, a total of 22 applications seeking funding support for projects that may benefit the local agricultural industry as a whole have been received. Among them, 2 applications have been withdrawn by the applicants, and 1 application has been rejected on the advice of the SADF Advisory Committee. The other applications are being processed. The project proposals are summarised as follows:

Category	Number of applications
Promoting farm mechanisation and modernisation	3
Research and development of new products and new farming practices, and transfer of knowledge	13
Facilitating rehabilitation of fallow agricultural land	2
Promoting brand-building and marketing of local agricultural produce	4

- (e) The engineering feasibility study of the Agri-Park was completed in early 2017. The Agri-Park will be delivered in 2 phases. Phase 1 will be developed in a relatively small scale (about 11 hectares), with a view to enabling its partial commissioning for use by farmers as early as possible. A consultant appointed in 2017 is carrying out the detailed design and site investigation work for infrastructure support of the Agri-Park. We plan to consult the Legislative

Council Panel, the Public Works Subcommittee and Finance Committee on the construction works of Phase 1 (including the proposed roads) in late 2018 or early 2019.

The Government will commission a consultancy study on APA in 2018 to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land and explore suitable policies and measures to incentivise owners to put fallow agricultural land into long-term agricultural use for local agricultural development. Given that a considerable amount of agricultural land in the New Territories is involved, it is estimated that the study may take several years to complete.

- (f) & (g) 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 reach out to customers and organising the annual FarmFest to showcase local agricultural and fishery production; (v) administering 3 funds to provide loans to farmers as development and / or working capital; and (vi) implementing the various measures under NAP. The expenditure and manpower involved in the above area of work are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	33.4	74
2016-17	42.1	91
2017-18 (revised estimate)	52.0	99

In 2018-19, 114 staff and \$62.6 million have been earmarked for this area of work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)064

(Question Serial No. 0813)

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 (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (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, the numbers of hydroponic farms and the distribution of the local hydroponic farming industry (by the 18 districts) respectively?

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

Reply:

- (a) The “Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre” (C.E.H.R&D Centre) was established in 2013 and has been 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.

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of VMO staff)
2015-16	1.7	5
2016-17	1.5	5
2017-18 (revised estimate)	1.4	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 7 varieties of baby salad green being produced, i.e. Mizuna, Oak Leaf Lettuce, Red Asian Mustard, Chinese Flat Cabbage, Rocket, Red Komatsuna and Broccoli. About 8 kg of vegetables are produced daily at a wholesale value of about \$200 per kg and sold through 11 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 has completed a review on facilitating technology-based agricultural production (including new agro-technology such as hydroponics and aquaculture) in industrial buildings. In this respect, the Town Planning Board (TPB) has revised the definition of terms used in statutory plans and technology-based agricultural production is regarded generally as “Non-polluting Industrial Use”, which is always permitted in industrial buildings without the need for separate application to TPB. This use in general also does not contravene the “Industrial Purposes” stipulated in land lease. 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. This area of work is an integral part of AFCD’s overall programme to support local agriculture and there is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.
- (d) Currently, there are 37 local hydroponic farms producing annually over 815 tonnes of vegetables with an estimated value of \$79 million. Distribution of the hydroponic farms is tabulated below.

District	Number
Yuen Long	19
North	8
Kwun Tong	3
Kwai Tsing	2
Sai Kung	1
Sham Shui Po	1
Shatin	1
Tsuen Wan	1
Tuen Mun	1
Total	37

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)065

(Question Serial No. 3212)

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 following:

The total values of locally produced fresh food and agricultural and fisheries products for supply to the local market over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 38)

Reply:

The total values of locally produced fresh agricultural and fisheries products* supplied to the local market in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were about \$2,600 million, \$2,540 million and \$2,480 million respectively.

*Including live pigs, live chickens, live and chilled fish and shellfish, vegetables and fruits.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)066

(Question Serial No. 3251)

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 loans in relation to the agriculture and fisheries industries, please advise on the following:

Currently, what loans does the Government provide to the agriculture and fisheries industries respectively?

- (a) Over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18), what were the numbers of applications for the above loans and the numbers of loans approved?
- (b) What was the total amount of the fund(s) and the total loans granted in respective year?
- (c) Over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18), what were the expenditures and manpower involved in handling the above loans?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 56)

Reply:

- (a)&(b) Currently, the Government provides credit facility to crop and fish farmers and fishermen through 7 loan funds administered by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. They are the J.E. Joseph Trust Fund, the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund, the Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund, the Fisheries Development Loan Fund, the Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund, the World Refugee Year Loan Fund and the Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere Loan Fund.

The total capital of the above loan funds, the number of applications, the number of loans and amount issued over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Capital (as at 31 December) (\$ million)	Number of loans		Amount of loans issued [#] (\$ million)
		Applications	Issued [*]	
2015	1,294.7	360	322	386.3
2016	1,295.4	276	287	217.9
2017	1,296.1	466	459	240.1

*Referring to the number of loans with their first instalment issued in the respective calendar year.

[#] Referring to the total amount of loans issued in the respective calendar year, including all stages of instalments.

- (c) The expenditure and manpower involved in the administration of the agriculture and fisheries loan funds are subsumed in the allocation to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for promoting the sustainable development of local agricultural and fisheries industries and no separate breakdown is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)067****(Question Serial No. 3252)**

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 expenditures and manpower involved in processing the applications under the Scheme over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (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 (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (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 (2015-16 to 2017-18)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 55)

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 tabulated below:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	1.1	3
2016-17	1.2	3
2017-18 (revised estimate)	1.2	3

(b) The number of applications and deckhands involved by types of fishing vessels over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

		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
2015-16	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

2016-17	Number of applications	59	47	55	19	60	81	267	37	625
	Number of deckhands involved	310	188	246	107	429	478	1 733	214	3 705

2017-18 (as at end February 2018)	Number of applications	51	43	51	24	45	71	253	44	582
	Number of deckhands involved	279	179	228	133	324	454	1 680	248	3 525

(c) The number of contravening cases in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 (as at end February 2018) is 20, 17 and 9 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)068

(Question Serial No. 3254)

- Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
- Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
- 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 reprovisioning of livestock farms, please advise on the following:

- (a) The distribution of those sites currently designated as (i) livestock waste prohibition areas, (ii) livestock waste control areas and (iii) livestock waste restriction areas (mark the locations and boundaries of such sites in different colours on a map); the respective numbers of (i) pig farms and (ii) chicken farms operating in those 3 types of areas in each of the past 5 years; the differences in respect of the restrictions (including the requirements and procedure regarding application for operating a livestock farm) imposed by the Government on the operation of livestock farms in those 3 types of areas.
- (b) The sites which are in compliance with the relevant provisions of the 2 aforesaid pieces of legislation and other relevant legislation and are available to farmers for building new livestock farms or reprovisioning existing farms, as well as the sizes of such sites (mark the locations of such sites on a map).
- (c) As farmers may, through the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme, identify sites for relocating their livestock farms, has any farmer who had been affected by planned developments succeeded in identifying suitable sites for relocating their farms through the Scheme over the past 3 years? If yes, what are the details? If not, has the Government put in place new measures to help such farmers in reprovisioning their livestock farms and suitably expanding their farms to improve their livestock keeping technology?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 58)

Reply:

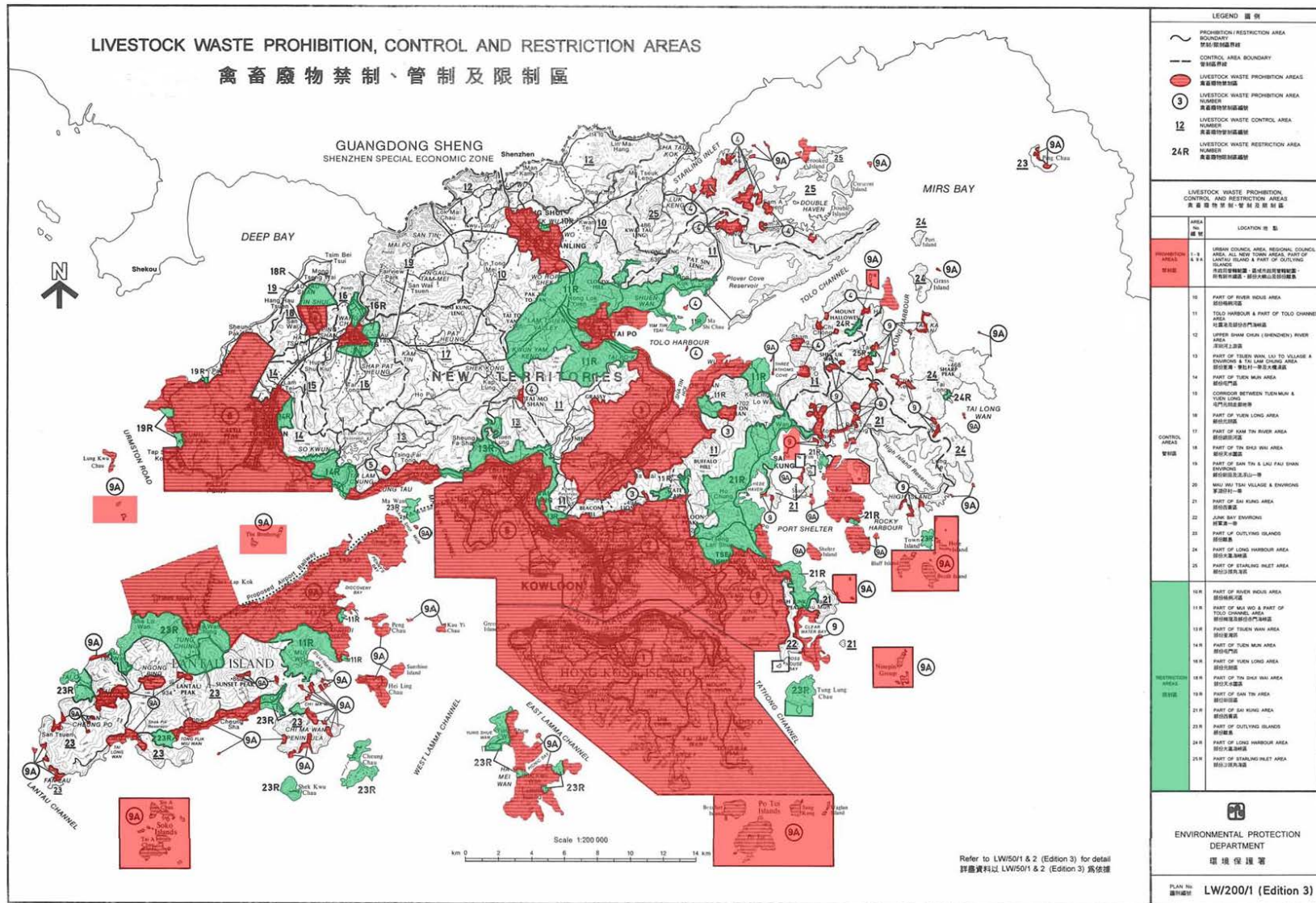
Having consulted the Environmental Protection Department, reply to the various parts of the question is set out below.

- (a) Under sections 15, 15A and 15AA of the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354) (the Ordinance), Hong Kong is classified into 3 areas, namely livestock waste prohibition, control and restriction areas as shown in the Annex. Their control on the operation of livestock farms is generally as follows:
- (i) urban areas of Hong Kong are livestock waste prohibition areas, where livestock keeping is banned;
 - (ii) within livestock waste control areas, a livestock keeper must apply for licence from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and comply with the Waste Disposal (Livestock Waste) Regulations (Cap. 354A) (the Regulations); and
 - (iii) within livestock waste restriction areas (i.e. area in the New Territories and on outlying islands), no livestock keeping is allowed, unless the relevant premises had been in use continuously for livestock keeping during the 12 months before 1994 and the livestock keeper holds a licence from AFCD, or is authorised to do so by the Director of Environmental Protection, and the livestock keeping operation complies with the Regulations.

Over the past 5 years, the number of licensed livestock farms in the 3 areas is as follows:

Calendar year	Livestock waste prohibition areas		Livestock waste control areas		Livestock waste restriction areas	
	Pig farms	Chicken farms	Pig farms	Chicken farms	Pig farms	Chicken farms
2013	0	0	42	27	1	3
2014	0	0	42	26	1	3
2015	0	0	42	26	1	3
2016	0	0	42	26	1	3
2017	0	0	42	26	1	3

- (b) & (c) In the event that a licensed livestock farm is affected by Government development projects, the licensee may consider relocation. The relocation site must fulfil the requirements under the Ordinance and the Regulations governing the handling of livestock waste; the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Licensing of Livestock Keeping) Regulation (Cap. 139L) with regard to livestock keeping control, biosecurity, environmental protection, etc.; and the relevant legislation and regulations relating to planning and land controls. Whether an individual site is suitable for relocation would be subject to its actual circumstances, and thus we do not have the information of sites and land area available for relocation of livestock farms. Since 2015, there has not been any relocation of livestock farm arising from Government development projects.



Prepared by Survey & Mapping Office, Lands Department May 1994 地政總署測繪處繪製 一九九四年五月

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)069

(Question Serial No. 3255)

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 imports of birds, poultry and ostriches, please advise on the following:

- (a) Over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18), what were the numbers of birds imported? Please set out by bird species (in particular those endangered species which require possession licences) and place of import.
- (b) Over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18), what were the numbers of shops with animal trader licences?
- (c) Currently, how many birds in Hong Kong are accompanied with possession licences issued by the Government? Over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18), what were the numbers of possession licences issued by the Government?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 59)

Reply:

- (a) The information on the number of birds imported into Hong Kong with places of export is provided at the **Annex**.
- (b) The number of holders of animal trader licence (ATL) for selling of birds over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of holders of ATL for selling birds
2015	75
2016	80
2017	57

- (c) According to the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) (the Ordinance), possession of live endangered birds which are listed in Appendix I, and of live endangered birds which are listed in Appendix II and are of wild origin, requires a licence to possess (PL) for each keeping premises if they are kept for commercial purposes. A PL can cover more than 1 species / individuals. Currently, there are 29 valid PLs in respect of live endangered birds, covering 3 017 individuals of 47 species.

The number of PLs issued (including licence renewed) covering live endangered birds over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of PLs for live endangered birds
2015	4
2016	2
2017	17

Birds Imported into Hong Kong from 2015 to 2017

Calendar year	Species	Quantity (Head)	Country/place of export
2015	<i>Amazona aestiva</i> *	247	Mali, Czech Republic, Philippines
	<i>Amazona amazonica</i> *	200	Suriname
	<i>Amazona farinose</i> *	26	Czech Republic, Suriname, Denmark
	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i> *	113	Czech Republic, Philippines, Suriname
	<i>Amazona ochrocephala ochrocephala</i> *	4	Denmark
	<i>Ara ararauna</i> *	165	Mali, Czech Republic, Philippines
	<i>Ara ararauna x Ara chloroptera</i> *	10	Czech Republic, Philippines, Denmark
	<i>Ara chloropterus</i> *	92	Mali, Czech Republic, Suriname, Belgium
	<i>Aratinga solstitialis</i> *	128	Mali, Malaysia
	<i>Cacatua alba</i> *	1	Denmark
	<i>Cacatua galerita</i> *	2	Malaysia
	<i>Cacatua leadbeateri</i> *	13	Czech Republic, Denmark
	<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i> *	2	Czech Republic
	<i>Diopsittaca nobilis</i> *	50	Mali, Suriname
	<i>Eclectus roratus</i> *	90	Mali
	<i>Eclectus roratus vosmaeri</i> *	4	Philippines
	<i>Eolophus roseicapilla</i> *	101	Mali
	<i>Guarouba guarouba</i> *	1	Philippines
	<i>Lorius chlorocercus</i> *	6	Thailand
	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i> *	200	Uruguay
	<i>Neopsephotus bourkii</i> *	16	Belgium
	<i>Nestor notabilis</i> *	1	Denmark
	<i>Orthopsittaca manilata x Ara severus</i> *	1	Philippines
	<i>Pionites leucogaster</i> *	4	Philippines, Belgium
	<i>Pionites melanocephalus</i> *	225	Mali, Czech Republic, Suriname
	<i>Pionus chalcopterus</i> *	3	Denmark
	<i>Poicephalus gulielmi</i> *	500	Mali
	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i> *	405	Mali, Philippines
	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i> *	1	Philippines
	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i> *	2 559	Mali, Philippines, Democratic Republic of the Congo
	<i>Psittacus erithacus timneh</i> *	350	Mali
	<i>Pyrrhura lepida</i> *	2	Denmark
<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>	49	Spain, Thailand	
<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	2 070	Malaysia	
<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>	800	Mozambique	

Calendar year	Species	Quantity (Head)	Country/place of export
	<i>Crithagra citrinipectus</i>	100	Mozambique
	<i>Crithagra mozambicus</i>	8100	Mozambique
	<i>Crithagra sulphuratus</i>	100	Mozambique
	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>	100	Malaysia
	<i>Lonchura maja</i>	500	Malaysia
	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	500	Malaysia
	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	500	Malaysia
	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	251	Czech Republic, Japan, Mali
	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	16	Japan, Malaysia
	<i>Passer luteus</i>	200	Mali
	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	46	Belgium, Malaysia
	<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>	1 860	Mozambique, Tanzania
	<i>Serinus canaria</i>	200	Czech Republic
	<i>Serinus citrinipectus</i>	1 175	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus flaviventris</i>	600	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus leucopygius</i>	11 600	Malaysia, Mali, Senegal
	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>	11 670	Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, Tanzania
	<i>Serinus sulphuratus</i>	500	Mozambique, Tanzania
	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	300	Malaysia, Mali
	<i>Vidua camerunensis</i>	200	Malaysia
<i>Vidua macroura</i>	200	Mali	
<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>	400	Mali	
2016	<i>Amazona aestiva</i> *	216	Mali, Czech Republic
	<i>Amazona aestiva xanthopteryx</i> *	5	Denmark
	<i>Amazona amazonica</i> *	397	Singapore, Suriname
	<i>Amazona dufresniana</i> *	20	Singapore, Suriname
	<i>Amazona farinosa</i> *	172	Singapore, Suriname
	<i>Amazona festiva</i> *	41	Singapore
	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i> *	212	Mali, Czech Republic, Denmark, Singapore, Philippines, Suriname
	<i>Amazona oratrix</i> *	6	Belgium, Netherland
	<i>Ara ararauna</i> *	321	Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Mali, Philippines, Singapore, Suriname
	<i>Ara ararauna x Ara chloroptera</i> *	6	Czech Republic, Denmark, Philippines
	<i>Ara chloropterus</i> *	228	Mali, Czech Republic, Belgium, Denmark, Singapore, Suriname
	<i>Ara macao</i> *	3	Belgium
	<i>Ara militaris</i> *	2	Netherland
	<i>Aratinga guarouba</i> = <i>Guarouba guarouba</i> *	1	Philippines
	<i>Aratinga solstitialis</i> *	51	Mali
<i>Aratinga wagleri</i> *	500	Peru	

Calendar year	Species	Quantity (Head)	Country/place of export
	<i>Cacatua alba</i> *	3	Czech Republic, Denmark
	<i>Cacatua ducorpsii</i> *	3	Czech Republic
	<i>Cacatua galerita</i> *	5	Czech Republic, Philippines
	<i>Chalcopsitta atra</i> *	10	Syrian Arab Republic
	<i>Deropterus accipitrinus</i> *	1	Czech Republic
	<i>Diopsittaca nobilis</i> *	123	Czech Republic, Mali, Singapore, Suriname
	<i>Eclectus roratus</i> *	57	Czech Republic, Mali
	<i>Eolophus roseicapilla</i> *	105	Czech Republic, Mali, Belgium
	<i>Eos bornea</i> *	37	Syrian Arab Republic
	<i>Lorius garrulus</i> *	125	Syrian Arab Republic
	<i>Orthopsittaca manilata</i> *	20	Singapore
	<i>Pionites leucogaster</i> *	6	Czech Republic, Philippines
	<i>Pionites melanocephalus</i> *	341	Czech Republic, Mali, Singapore, Suriname
	<i>Pionus chalcopterus</i> *	5	Czech Republic
	<i>Pionus menstruus</i> *	51	Czech Republic, Singapore
	<i>Poicephalus gularis</i> *	300	Mali
	<i>Poicephalus robustus</i> *	1	Czech Republic
	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i> *	1 370	Mali, Senegal
	<i>Propyrrhura auricollis = Primolius auricollis</i> *	13	Czech Republic
	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i> *	622	Mali, Philippines, Singapore
	<i>Psittacus erithacus timneh</i> *	150	Mali
	<i>Pyrrhura molinae</i> *	1	Philippines
	<i>Ramphastos tucanus</i> *	8	Singapore, Suriname
	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i> *	13	Singapore, Suriname
	<i>Chloropsis cyanopogon</i>	50	Malaysia
	<i>Chloropsis sonnerati</i>	50	Malaysia
	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	2 063	Malaysia, Mali
	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>	250	Mozambique
	<i>Crithagra citrinipectus</i>	150	Mozambique
	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>	1 150	Mozambique
	<i>Crithagra mozambicus</i>	3 050	Mozambique
	<i>Geokichla citrina</i>	20	Malaysia
	<i>Irena puella</i>	20	Malaysia
	<i>Megalaima pulcherrima</i>	10	Malaysia
	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	146	Denmark, Mali
	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	70	Malaysia
	<i>Psilopogon pyrolophus</i>	30	Malaysia
	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	100	Mali
	<i>Pteroglossus azara</i>	4	The Netherlands
	<i>Serinus alario</i>	150	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>	100	Mali

Calendar year	Species	Quantity (Head)	Country/place of export
	<i>Serinus citrinpectus</i>	810	Mali, Mozambique
	<i>Serinus flaviventris</i>	500	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus leucopygius</i>	12 460	Mali, Senegal
	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>	10 180	Mali, Mozambique, Senegal
	<i>Serinus sulphuratus</i>	560	Mali, Mozambique
	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>	300	Peru
	<i>Sitta azurea</i>	20	Malaysia
	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>	150	Mozambique
	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>	650	Mali, Mozambique
	<i>Zoothera interpres</i>	20	Malaysia
	<i>Zoothera peronii</i>	10	Malaysia
2017	<i>Amazona aestiva</i> *	30	Czech Republic
	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i> *	32	Czech Republic
	<i>Ara ararauna</i> *	7	Czech Republic
	<i>Ara ararauna x Ara chloroptera</i> *	2	Czech Republic
	<i>Ara chloropterus</i> *	5	Czech Republic
	<i>Cacatua alba</i> *	2	Czech Republic
	<i>Cacatua galerita</i> *	2	Czech Republic
	<i>Amandava subflava</i>	290	Guinea, Mali
	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>	50	Guinea
	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	935	Malaysia
	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>	100	Mozambique
	<i>Crithagra mozambicus</i>	3 250	Mozambique
	<i>Dryonastes courtoisi</i>	2	U.K.
	<i>Lamprotornis iris</i>	20	Guinea
	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>	50	Guinea
	<i>Mandingda nitidula</i>	70	Mali
	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	100	Malaysia
	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	31	Australia, Malaysia
	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	1	Singapore
	<i>Serinus alario</i>	100	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>	500	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus citrinpectus</i>	1 000	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus flaviventris</i>	550	Mozambique
<i>Serinus leucopygius</i>	7 580	Guinea, Mali	
<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>	6 080	Guinea, Mali, Mozambique	
<i>Serinus sulphuratus</i>	400	Mozambique	
<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	220	Guinea	

*Endangered species under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)070

(Question Serial No. 3514)

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 2017-18 revised estimate is lower than the original estimate by 23.9%. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 61)

Reply:

The revised estimate under this programme for 2017-18 is decreased by 23.9% (or \$108.1 million) over the original estimate for 2017-18 mainly due to less than expected cash flow requirement for the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) and Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund. The demand for the Farm Improvement Scheme under SADF for acquisition of farming equipment was lower than expected. In addition, the cash flow of some of the approved projects has been delayed having regard to their implementation progress. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue to encourage the agriculture and fisheries sector to make the best use of the 2 funds.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)071

(Question Serial No. 3515)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

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 Artificial reefs project, please advise on the following:

- (a) The situation of deployment of artificial reefs, the numbers of artificial reefs deployed and the areas concerned over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18).
- (b) Has the Government ever assessed the effectiveness of the artificial reefs project?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 62)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has deployed artificial reefs (ARs) in the Hong Kong waters for enhancing fisheries resources and improving the environment for mariculture. Over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18), AFCD has deployed 5 units of specially designed ARs, known as biofilters, for enhancing the environment of the Yim Tin Tsai (East) Fish Culture Zone (FCZ).
- (b) To assess the effectiveness of ARs in enhancing fisheries resources, AFCD has conducted underwater surveys on the fisheries resources in ARs areas. Results from the above surveys indicate that areas with ARs deployed support higher diversity and abundance of fish species as compared with the natural habitat. Over 220 species of fish, including high-valued species like groupers, breams, snappers and sweetlips, have been found using ARs for feeding, shelter, as well as spawning and nursing. Monitoring studies commissioned by AFCD have found that biofilters are effective in removing organic matters generated from mariculture activities and improving the water quality of FCZs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)072

(Question Serial No. 3517)

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:

Given that some visitors have indiscriminately fed cattle various kinds of food at Sai Kung Shap Sze Heung recently, please advise on the following:

- (a) The number of inspections carried out by the Department in the light of the indiscriminate feeding of cattle over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18).
- (b) The respective total numbers of prosecutions instituted and persons arrested by the Department for feeding cattle indiscriminately over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18). What were the offences involved in the prosecutions and arrests? What were the penalties imposed upon conviction?
- (c) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in the aforesaid issue over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18)? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved in 2018-19?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 89)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not encourage members of the public to feed stray cattle, even though it is not against the law. Stray cattle by nature forage in the wild. Providing food for cattle may affect their natural behaviour and survival instinct, causing them to become reliant on human for food. AFCD has put up publicity banners and posters to enhance public awareness of stray cattle and remind the public not to disturb or feed stray cattle when encountering them. The manpower and expenditure required are absorbed within AFCD's existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)073

(Question Serial No. 3519)

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 Government stated in this year's Policy Address that it would "expand the existing fish culture zones, improve the fish culture environment and promote the development of marine fish culture". Please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the sizes and average densities of rafts in fish culture zones over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18)? (Please set out by the 26 fish culture zones)
- (b) What were the total sizes of fish culture zones over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (c) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in processing matters related to fish culture zones over the past 3 years (2015-16 to 2017-18)?
- (d) The Government launched a pilot scheme in 2014 to issue new marine fish culture licences on a limited basis, with the aim of collecting data for assessing the environmental impact of issuing the new licences. What is the present progress, and what is the number of new licences issued since 2014?
- (e) The Department is planning to expand the area of the Yim Tin Tsai fish culture zone to improve the raft density, and conducting a consultancy study to identify sites for designating new fish culture zones. What are the expenditure and manpower involved in the above matters, and what are the work progress and effectiveness?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 91)

Reply:

- (a) Information on the total area and average densities of rafts in the 26 fish culture zones (FCZs) over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Fish culture zone	Financial year					
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-2018 (up to end-February 2018)	
	Total raft area (m ²)	Raft density* (%)	Total raft area (m ²)	Raft density (%)	Total raft area (m ²)	Raft density (%)
Ap Chau	300	7.2	300	7.1	255	6.1
Cheung Sha Wan	10 276	4.8	10 308	4.8	10 292	4.8
Kai Lung Wan	5 607	20.7	5 562	20.6	5 251	19.4
Kat O	3 318	10.2	3 281	10.1	3 339	10.3
Kau Lau Wan	1 324	11.8	1 205	10.8	1 241	11.1
Kau Sai	12 654	27.4	12 794	27.7	12 786	27.7
Leung Shuen Wan	6 321	36.5	6 346	36.7	6 037	34.9
Lo Fu Wat	1 505	27.9	1 469	27.2	1 469	27.2
Lo Tik Wan	22 745	20.8	22 038	20.2	22 026	20.2
Ma Nam Wat	4 845	12.1	5 141	12.8	5 128	12.8
Ma Wan	13 842	29.9	13 914	30.1	13 881	30.0
O Pui Tong	2 069	2.0	298	0.3	277	0.3
Po Toi	278	9.3	274	9.1	276	9.2
Po Toi O	3 503	9.2	3 482	9.1	3 410	8.9
Sai Lau Kong	334	4.6	142	2.0	142	2.0
Sha Tau Kok	13 062	7.3	12 697	7.1	12 686	7.0
Sham Wan	13 380	7.4	12 760	7.1	12 421	6.9
Sok Kwu Wan	27 426	19.4	27 392	19.4	27 313	19.3
Tai Tau Chau	12 858	20.5	11 715	18.7	12 150	19.3
Tap Mun	7 464	10.3	7 686	10.6	7 525	10.4
Tiu Cham Wan	1 350	7.9	1 350	7.9	0	0.0
Tung Lung Chau	12 703	15.9	12 700	15.9	12 703	15.9
Wong Wan	2 375	10.6	2 063	9.2	2,063	9.2
Yim Tin Tsai	22 402	16.4	21 996	16.1	21 098	15.5
Yim Tin Tsai (East)	19 987	13.4	19 926	13.3	20 075	13.4
Yung Shue Au	35 522	10.4	34 343	10.0	35 958	10.5
Total	257 450	12.3	251 182	12.0	249 802	11.9

* Raft density refers to the ratio of the total raft area of an FCZ to the total FCZ area.

- (b) There is no change in the total area of FCZs over the past 3 years, which is about 209 hectares.
- (c) The expenditure and manpower involved in the licensing of marine fish culture and conducting patrol and inspection in FCZs over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	9.2	20
2016-17	9.3	21
2017-18 (revised estimate)	10.5	21

- (d) Under a pilot scheme since 2014, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has issued 10 marine fish culture licences to applicants under the Marine Fish Culture Ordinance (Cap. 353) for 3 FCZs (at Wong Wan, O Pui Tong and Sham Wan) with surplus carrying capacity. Among them, 5 of the licensees set up mariculture operations in the said FCZs. Currently, 4 licensees are conducting mariculture activities under the pilot scheme. AFCD monitors these operations to ensure compliance with the licence conditions. In parallel, AFCD collects data to evaluate the environmental implications arising from the new licences issued. The evaluation will be completed by the end of 2018.
- (e) Consultancy studies have been commissioned by AFCD on the expansion of the Yim Tin Tsai FCZ and identification of new FCZs in Hong Kong. The total consultancy fee is around \$3.7 million. Manpower on overseeing the consultancy studies is absorbed within existing resources of AFCD. AFCD is consulting various stakeholders on the expansion of the Yim Tin Tsai FCZ, and finalising the consultancy study to identify sites for designating new FCZs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)074

(Question Serial No. 3520)

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 Hong Kong waters available for entering by and fishing on fishing vessels, please advise on the following:

- (a) Please indicate on a map the existing areas which are available for entering by and conducting various kinds of operations on fishing vessels.
- (b) Apart from the restricted areas of the airport, principal fairways, traffic separation schemes (except separation zones), typhoon shelters, the areas stipulated in Section 14 of Chapter 548F of the Laws of Hong Kong, core areas of marine parks, marine reserve, fish culture zones, public bathing beaches, waters where reclamation projects are being conducted and the Kwai Chung Control Station, which Hong Kong waters are not available for conducting fishing activities on and entering by fishing vessels? What are the areas of Hong Kong waters which are available/unavailable for entering by and conducting fishing activities on fishing vessels?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 92)

Reply:

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, typhoon shelters, principal fairways, restricted areas of the airport, public bathing beaches and works areas of 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.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)075

(Question Serial No. 3524)

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 2018-19? What are the manpower and estimated expenditure involved?
- (b) The Department did provide technical advice on organic cultivation to farmers to assist them in capturing high-value market niches in the past. What were 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 numbers, distribution, farming areas, production quantities 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?
- (f) Currently, organic farmers are facing inadequate marketing channels or high cost of sales, how would the Government provide assistance to them?

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

Reply:

(a) In 2018-19, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to promote organic farming and the marketing of local organic produce through technical assistance to local farmers under the Organic Farming Support Service (OFSS) Scheme, joint efforts with the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) and the Federation of Vegetable Marketing Cooperative Societies (FVMCS) 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 2018-19 are 22 staff and \$8.4 million respectively.

(b) & (f) In addition to the aforesaid efforts, AFCD has been providing 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 the setting up of farmers' markets in order to reach out to customers. In this regard, AFCD cooperates with VMO, the local organic farming sector and other voluntary organisations in actively marketing local organic produce to the general public, such as organising the annual FarmFest to showcase local produce. To facilitate consumers to purchase local organic produce, AFCD has jointly developed with VMO a mobile application "Local Veggie Fresh" which operates on both Android and iOS platforms. Local organic vegetables are generally sold at a premium price higher than conventional vegetables.

Furthermore, 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 explore new marketing channels.

(c) As at February 2018, 308 farms in Hong Kong had joined the OFSS, which account for about 16% of all local vegetable farms. Occupying a total land area of 107 hectares, these organic farms produce about six tonnes of organic vegetables per day on average, accounting for less than 0.3% of the total fresh vegetables supply in Hong Kong. AFCD does not have statistics on the value of the local organic production. Local organic farms are mostly found in the following 7 major areas in the New Territories: Ng Ka Tsuen, Tai Kong Po, Ping Che, Fanling, Pat Heung, Sheung Shui and Tai Po.

(d) The Government commissioned a consultancy study on organic food in 2011 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 (the Panel) of the Legislative Council in February 2013. Having regard to 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 about organic food. The Government briefed the Panel in March 2017 on the work in support of organic food production and certification.

- (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. Moreover, 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)076****(Question Serial No. 2170)**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:

During 2018-19, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will focus its work on implementing the new agriculture policy to proactively support the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) What were the throughputs of local agricultural and fishery products and their percentages to the total throughputs of the Marketing Organizations over the past 5 years, according to the statistics from the Vegetable Marketing Organization and the Fish Marketing Organization?
- (b) What were the expenditure and manpower involved in the Department's projects and policies in relation to the sales promotion of local agricultural products?
- (c) Regarding the \$500 million "Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund" established in 2016, please provide the details of the projects implemented, dates of implementation, expenditures involved, staff establishment and ranks involved in processing the applications, as well as the numbers of farmers benefited.

Project implemented under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund	Date of implementation	Expenditure involved	Staff establishment and rank(s) involved in processing the applications	Number of farmers benefited

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 9)Reply:

- (a) The volume and percentage of local vegetables marketed through the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) over the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Calendar year	Vegetables marketed through VMO		
	Total throughput (tonnes)	Local Production	
		Volume (tonnes)	Percentage (%)
2013	137 288	2 360	1.7
2014	129 164	2 144	1.7
2015	122 476	2 050	1.7
2016	106 591	1 362	1.3
2017	98 998	1 365	1.4

The Fish Marketing Organization (FMO) does not have statistics on the volume of local fishery products marketed through its markets and hence its percentage to the total throughput of FMO.

- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) helps the industry to set up weekend farmers' markets and organises large-scale carnivals, such as the annual FarmFest, to promote local agricultural products and to help farmers tap into the niche market for local produce. To facilitate consumers to purchase local produce, AFCD has jointly developed with VMO a mobile application "Local Veggie Fresh" which operates on both Android and iOS platforms. AFCD will also enhance support for farmers, in particular the marketing of local produce through branding, group promotion and advertising. The manpower and expenditure involved in marketing local agricultural products are an integral part of AFCD's overall programme to support local agriculture and there is no separate breakdown.
- (c) The Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) supports projects that foster the sustainable development and enhance the overall competitiveness of the agricultural industry. As at 1 March 2018, a total of 180 applications seeking financial assistance for individual farms to acquire farming equipment and/or materials from the Farm Improvement Scheme (FIS) under SADF have been received. So far, 169 applications have been approved, involving a total funding commitment of about \$5 million. 3 applications have been rejected and the rest are being processed.

In addition, a total of 22 applications, seeking funding support for projects that may benefit the local agricultural industry as a whole, have been received. Among them, 2 applications have been withdrawn by the applicants, and 1 application has been rejected on the advice of the SADF Advisory Committee. The other applications are being processed.

A dedicated team of 7 staff (at the rank / equivalent rank of Executive Officer II, Agricultural Officer, Field Officer I and Field Officer II) is involved in processing the applications. In addition, AFCD's accounting staff also provide accounting support to the team apart from their other duties. \$4.9 million has been earmarked for the administration of SADF in 2018-19.

It is estimated that \$30 million of new grants under SADF will be disbursed in 2018. Actual disbursement of grants will depend on implementation progress of approved

projects. For FIS applications, the grants would be given in the form of reimbursement upon approved applicants' acquisition of the equipment / materials.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)077

(Question Serial No. 2626)

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 throughput at the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) market under the indicators for "Agriculture" of the Controlling Officer's Report,

- (a) What are the reasons for the decrease in the actual amount from 106 591 tonnes in 2016 to 98 998 tonnes in 2017?
- (b) Among the vegetables marketed through VMO, what were the proportions of vegetables imported from the Mainland to those produced by local farms over the past 5 years (i.e. from 2013 to 2017)? What were their respective amounts (in tonnes)? Please set out the figures by year and types of vegetables.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 40)

Reply:

- (a) The decrease in the quantity of vegetables marketed through the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) in 2017 was mainly due to keen competition from direct marketing of vegetables bypassing the wholesale market.
- (b) The percentage and volume of vegetables from local and mainland farms marketed through VMO in the past 5 years are tabulated below. We do not have a separate breakdown for individual vegetable variety.

Calendar year	Vegetables marketed through VMO			
	Local		Mainland	
	Volume (tonnes)	Percentage (%)	Volume (tonnes)	Percentage (%)
2013	2 360	1.7	134 928	98.3
2014	2 144	1.7	127 020	98.3
2015	2 050	1.7	120 426	98.3
2016	1 362	1.3	105 229	98.7
2017	1 365	1.4	97 633	98.6

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)078

(Question Serial No. 1050)

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 mentioned that it would strengthen measures for stray animals management. What are these measures? What is the estimated expenditure involved in this area of work in 2017-18?

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 19)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has taken various measures to strengthen the management of stray animals. These include:

- (a) actively promoting the serious responsibility and commitment that go with pet keeping, through public education and publicity programmes to disseminate messages on proper care of animals and responsible pet ownership;
- (b) enhancing enforcement against pet owners in contravention of relevant legislation;
- (c) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to, animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management;
- (d) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities; and
- (e) assisting AWOs concerned in implementing the Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme for stray dogs.

In 2017-18, the estimated expenditure involved in the management of stray animals is \$36.9 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)079

(Question Serial No. 1051)

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 are the details?
- (b) What are the details regarding the measures for strengthening stray animals management?

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 1)

Reply:

- (a) The Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) (the Regulations), which came into force on 20 March 2017, strengthens the regulation of animal trading and dog breeding activities. Enhancements to the regulatory regime are summarised below:
- (i) Aside from the Animal Trader Licence (ATL) originally in place for regulating animal trading, 2 types of licences and 1 type of permit have been introduced, namely:
- Dog Breeder Licence (DBL) (category A) for any individual who keeps 4 or fewer female dogs for breeding purposes at a premises, and sells, or offers to sell, those breeding dams or their offspring. Any individual may hold only one DBL (category A) at any one time;
 - DBL (category B) for any person who keeps a number of female dogs for breeding purposes up to the limit provided for in the licence at a premises, and sells, or offers to sell, those breeding dams, their offspring or dogs from other approved sources; and
 - One-off permit (OP) for any licensed dog keeper who sells, or offers to sell, his / her dog. A maximum of 2 OPs can be granted to any individual within

any 4-year period;

- (ii) Licence and OP holders are prohibited from selling a dog to any person under the age of 16;
 - (iii) The Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation may refuse to grant or renew, or may cancel a licence, if he is not satisfied that the applicant or licensee, as the case may be, is a suitable person to hold the licence. He is also empowered to exempt a person from the requirement to obtain an ATL if he is satisfied that the person is conducting genuine rehoming for animal welfare purposes on a non-profit-making basis; and
 - (iv) The penalty levels for contravention of the Regulations have been increased. Under the Regulations, the maximum penalty for carrying on a business as an animal trader without a licence, or any person who sells, or keeps for breeding and sells, a dog without a licence or an OP is \$100,000, while that for contravening a condition attached to a licence or an OP is \$50,000.
- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has implemented various measures to strengthen the management of stray animals. These include:
- (i) 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;
 - (ii) enhancing enforcement against pet owners in contravention of relevant legislation;
 - (iii) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to, animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management;
 - (iv) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities; and
 - (v) assisting the AWOs concerned in implementing the Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme for stray dogs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)080

(Question Serial No. 1315)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks,
(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 subvention of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, please advise on the following:

- (a) Please set out, by the names of the organisations, the amount of funding allocated with the aim of supporting animal welfare organisations (AWOs), the background information of AWOs having received support from the Government over the past 3 years, the respective estimated funding in 2018-19, the criteria for each organisation to receive subvention and the amounts of subvention received, how will the Government assess the effectiveness of the relevant programme.
- (b) Please set out, in tabular form, the name, nature, responsible organisation and the amount of subvention of each project under the Biodiversity Education Project over the past 3 years and in 2018-19.

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 26)

Reply:

- (a) 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.

The eligibility criteria for application for subvention are set out in **Annex 1**. Only applicants that fulfil the criteria and with applications that are project-based and directly related to the promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management will be considered by AFCD. When vetting applications, AFCD will assess –

- the objective(s) and expected result(s) of the proposed project;

- cost-effectiveness of the project; and
- the reasonableness of the proposed expenditure.

From 2014-15 to 2016-17, a total of 24 applications from 10 AWOs were approved. The amounts of subvention provided to different AWOs over the past 3 years are set out in **Annex 2**. In 2017-18, 11 projects to be carried out in 2018-19 have been approved. Details are in **Annex 3**. The background information of these AWOs could be found from their respective websites.

AFCD has all along been monitoring the implementation of the subvention scheme. Document review and audit inspections are conducted to monitor the implementation and assess the outcome of subvented programmes, making reference to the activities and items proposed in the applications as approved by AFCD. Thus far, the results of all subvented programmes are found to be satisfactory.

- (b) AFCD has established the Subvention for Biodiversity Education since 2016 to encourage local non-profit making organisations to conduct education programmes promoting biodiversity to the public.

A total of 21 and 14 applications for subvention were approved in 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively. Detailed are in **Annex 4**.

Eligibility criteria for application for subvention

- (1) The organisation must be:
 - (i) a society as defined by section 2(1) of the Societies Ordinance (Cap. 151) and registered under section 5A(1) of that Ordinance;
 - (ii) a company registered under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622) (or Cap. 32 as in force at the time of the registration); or
 - (iii) a body of persons, or charity, as defined by section 2(1) of the Registered Trustees Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 306) which has been granted a certificate of incorporation under section 4(1) of that Ordinance.
- (2) The organisation must also be a charitable institution or trust of a public character that is exempt from tax under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) (re-homing partners of AFCD are exempted from this requirement).
- (3) The core services and activities of the organisation must be related to promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management and it must be actively engaged in such services/activities over the past 3 years or more (re-homing partners of AFCD are exempted from the 3-year requirement).
- (4) The organisation must be well-managed and properly constituted with good record keeping and accounting systems.
- (5) Organisations charging an adoption or re-homing fee must possess an exemption from holding an animal trader licence under section 5A of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B). For re-homing partners without charitable status, at least one individual acting on behalf of the organisation must possess the individual exemption.

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

	AWOs	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	76,679
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	150,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	120,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	48,181
5	Hong Kong Rescue Puppies	0*
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	45,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	30,000
Total		469,860

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

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

	AWOs	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	73,934
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	125,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	100,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	41,620
5	Hong Kong Cats	16,365
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	45,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	28,000
8	Society for Abandoned Animals	38,591
9	Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong)	44,854
Total		513,364

(iii) **Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2016-17 and released in 2017-18)**

	AWOs	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	84,602
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	100,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	45,120
5	Hong Kong Cats	18,300
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	46,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	28,000
8	Society for Abandoned Animals	42,000
Total		494,022

Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for and approved in 2017-18)*

	AWOs	Amount approved (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	85,000
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	82,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	48,000
5	Sai Kung Stray Friends	48,000
6	Cheung Chau Animal Care	28,000
7	Hong Kong Cats	20,500
8	Hong Kong Paws Guardian	24,000
9	Kirsten's Zoo	45,000
10	Animal Friends	45,000
11	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	45,000
	Total	600,500

* The amount of subvention will be released in 2018-19.

Subvention for biodiversity education in 2016-17

	Subvented organisations	Programmes	Amount released (\$)
1	Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong	To promote awareness on the relationship between biodiversity and geodiversity.	43,138
2	Association for Tai O Environment and Development	To enhance understanding of the conservation of incense tree through guided tours and public participation.	32,507
3	BLOOM Association Hong Kong Ltd.	To provide training for recreational divers to participate in collection of baseline information for reef fish diversity and distribution.	76,470
4	Business Environment Council Limited	To produce a video to promote the biodiversity along Lantau Tung O Ancient Trail.	98,308
5	Department of Science and Environmental Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong	To enhance understanding of local biodiversity through guided tours and hands-on educational activities.	22,164
6	ECO Association Limited	To enhance knowledge on Chinese white dolphin and other marine lives through guided tours and workshops.	72,167
7	Ecobus	To promote public awareness on city biodiversity through guided tours.	55,900
8	Environmental Association Limited	To raise the awareness of overwintering of butterflies and geo-areas through workshops and guided tours.	46,852
9	Firefly Conservation Foundation Limited	To promote knowledge on insect diversity in Hong Kong through guided tours and workshops.	45,760
10	Footprint	To promote local biodiversity and its importance in our daily lives through guided tours.	64,573
11	Grateful Green Group	To instil knowledge on biodiversity conservation and nature appreciation through green ambassadors training.	89,258

	Subvented organisations	Programmes	Amount released (\$)
12	Green Power Limited	To enhance understanding of coastal and marine ecology through guided tours.	12,850
13	Hong Kong Maritime Museum Limited	To enhance understanding of coral diversity in local water through exhibitions and guided tours.	61,123
14	Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong	To raise environmental awareness on local biodiversity and marine debris issues.	26,192
15	Ocean Park Corporation	To enhance the public understanding of biodiversity and the threats faced by local wildlife.	31,720
16	Plastic Free Seas	To raise the awareness on marine plastic pollutions through guided tours and experiential activities.	8,339
17	Produce Green Foundation	To enhance public knowledge on the biodiversity in farmland and sustainability through volunteer training and guided tours.	85,576
18	Sustainable Ecological Ethical Development Foundation Limited	To enhance understanding of local biodiversity and farmland through guided tours.	0*
19	Tai Tam Tuk Foundation	To promote the diversity of bamboo species in Hong Kong through building a bamboo jungle gym.	36,298
20	The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society	To promote local biodiversity to people with hearing impairment through training and guided tours.	18,466
21	World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong	To promote nature appreciation through process drama and geo-caching.	99,440
	Total		1,027,101

* No claims for reimbursement from the subvented organisation concerned have been received.

Subvention for biodiversity education in 2017-18

	Subvented organisations	Programmes	Amount released (\$)
1	Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong	To promote geodiversity and biodiversity through seminars, guided tours, workshops and exhibitions.	59,978
2	Association for Tai O Environment and Development	To introduce fung shui wood, incense tree and the culture of Hakka village through seminars and guided tours.	34,947
3	BLOOM Association Hong Kong Limited	To educate the public about conservation of reef fish by establishing a Reef Fish Web-portal	148,000
4	Caritas Chan Chun Ha Field Studies Centre	To develop teaching materials and organise field studies on arthropods for secondary school students.	142,200
5	Department of Science and Environmental Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong	To introduce local biodiversity to teachers and students of primary and secondary schools through guided tours and experiential programmes.	72,813
6	Ecobus	To raise public awareness on biodiversity and environmental protection through guided tours and field studies.	47,149
7	Environmental Association Limited	To organise various educational programmes to promote butterflies in Hong Kong to the general public.	122,922
8	Environmental Life Science Society, SS, HKUSU	To organise training courses on local biodiversity for university students and secondary school teachers. Participants will also learn about skills in organising ecological surveys.	77,646
9	Footprint	To promote biodiversity knowledge through organising citizen science activities which allow members of the public to conduct ecological surveys.	71,556
10	Green Power Limited	To raise public awareness on coastal and marine ecology through guided tours and experiential programmes.	9,899
11	Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong	To raise public awareness on biodiversity through eco-tours, night safari and mudflat clean-up.	19,435

	Subvented organisations	Programmes	Amount released (\$)
12	Produce Green Foundation	To promote agricultural biodiversity through docent training and education programmes on organic farming.	71,021
13	Tai Tam Tuk Foundation Limited	To organise a citizen science event to encourage members of the public to participate in ecological surveys and learn about biodiversity.	126,489
14	Tung Chung Catholic School	To develop teaching materials and offer training on ecological surveys for primary schools and kindergartens teachers.	0*
	Total		1,004,055

* No claims for reimbursement from the subvented organisation concerned have been received.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)081

(Question Serial No. 1706)

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, the Government has mentioned that a study was commissioned last October to test the safety of pet food sold in the local market, and the study is expected to be completed in 3 years.

- (a) Please list out the respective estimated numbers of tests to be conducted and samples, items to be tested in each of the coming 3 years, as well as the estimated expenditure involved in the study and the organisation(s) to be commissioned.
- (b) Why is it expected to complete the study in 3 years? Does the Government have any plan to impose regulation on pet food?

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 24)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has commissioned Eurofins Food Testing Hong Kong Limited in October 2017 to sample and test pet food products that are commonly available in the market of Hong Kong. A total of 360 samples of different pet food products would be collected and tested against certain harmful substances, micro-organisms, such as Salmonella, Aflatoxin and Melamine, as well as heavy metals. Since pet food products for sale in Hong Kong are imported from different places, and available in different forms, such as dry food, wet food, freeze-dried and frozen food, we will collect information about available products for sale in Hong Kong, and determine the list of products to be tested, before the contractor collects samples for testing by batches. As different forms may be subject to different testing arrangements, and some of the tests may need to be conducted in overseas laboratories should there be no suitable local facilities for the purpose, the tests would take a longer time to complete. Upon completion of the consultancy study, AFCD will analyse the findings to assess the situation of pet food safety in Hong Kong with a view to mapping out the way forward. The consultancy fee is \$3.5 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)082****(Question Serial No. 0889)**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 animal euthanasia, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the actual expenditures and breakdown (e.g. the expenditures on the procurement of medical equipment, administration fees, etc.) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 financial years?
- (b) What were the numbers of animal cases handled by AFCD over the past 3 years?

Year	Stray animals caught			Animals abandoned by owners			Animals received through other channels			Animals reclaimed by owners			Animals re-homed			Animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others
2015																		
2016																		
2017																		

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffery (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 31)Reply:

- (a) The expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in the catching of stray animals and euthanasia of animals over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure on catching operations (\$ million)	Expenditure on euthanasia of animals (\$ million)
2015-16	29.0	1.4
2016-17	28.5	0.9
2017-18 (revised estimate)	29.2	1.1

AFCD does not have further breakdown of the above expenditure items.

- (b) The number and species of animals handled by AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated at the **Annex**.

Annex

Calendar year	Stray animals caught			Animals given up by owners			Animals received through other channels			Animals reclaimed by owners			Animals re-homed			Animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
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
2017	1 566	674	1 640	1 024	84	39	336	65	204	560	269	10	588	67	94	1 478	381	801

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

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)083

(Question Serial No. 0890)

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 2017-18, what measures did the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department take to strengthen the management of stray animals and promotion of animal welfare, and how much was the actual expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 32)

Reply:

In 2017-18, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has taken various measures to safeguard and promote animal welfare as well as strengthening the management of stray animals. These include:

- (a) 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;
- (b) implementing the new licensing regime under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) (the Regulations) to regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale;
- (c) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals;
- (d) enhancing enforcement against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant legislation;
- (e) 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);

- (f) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management;
- (g) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities; and
- (h) assisting the AWOs concerned in implementing the Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme for stray dogs.

In 2017-18, the revised estimate for the management of stray animals and promotion of animal welfare is \$57.7 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)084

(Question Serial No. 1277)

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 “arrest by appointment” of the kitten “Po Tsz” (transliteration) from a medicine store at On Tat Estate, Kwun Tong by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (the Department) resulting from its alleged wounding has sparked heated discussions on the handling of animals suspected to be infected with rabies. Would the Department advise the Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the respective numbers of rabies tests conducted by the Department on (1) dogs, (2) cats and (3) other animals which were suspected to be infected with rabies between 2015 and 2017?
- (b) What were the respective numbers of (1) dogs, (2) cats and (3) other animals confirmed ultimately to be infected with rabies between 2015 and 2017?
- (c) What were the respective numbers of (1) dogs, (2) cats and (3) other animals suspected to be infected with rabies, which were required to be isolated for observation in (i) quarantine centres, (ii) veterinary clinics and (iii) the keepers’ homes between 2015 and 2017?
- (d) What was the total expenditure involved in the operations conducted to handle suspected animal rabies cases between 2015 and 2017?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 18)

Reply:

- (a) In order to protect public health, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will investigate all animal biting cases in accordance with the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421). The animals concerned will be put under observation for a period of 7 days, from the date of the incident. In general, only animals died during the observation period will be tested for rabies. Between 2015 and 2017, the number of cases submitted by AFCD to the Government Laboratory for rabies pathology testing is listed below:

Calendar year	Number of cases [#]	
	Dogs	Cats
2015	7	1
2016	1	0
2017	3	0

[#]There is no case involving other animals (i.e. all other mammals except human) that requires rabies pathology testing.

- (b) There were no confirmed animal rabies cases between 2015 and 2017.
- (c) The number of dogs, cats and other animals required to undergo rabies observation in AFCD's Animal Management Centres (AMCs), veterinary clinics and the keepers' homes between 2015 and 2017 is tabulated below:

Calendar year	AFCD's AMCs [#]		Veterinary clinics [#]		Keepers' homes [#]	
	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats
2015	197	15	0	0	403	4
2016	204	15	0	0	391	2
2017	185	7	0	2	422	5

[#]There is no case involving other animals (i.e. all other mammals except human) that requires rabies observation.

- (d) AFCD has put in place a comprehensive programme for rabies control. Measures implemented under the programme include: (i) imposing import control and quarantine requirements on animals with potential risk of rabies infection; (ii) requiring all dogs over 5 months of age to be licensed, microchipped and vaccinated against rabies; (iii) conducting investigation into animal biting cases (mostly involving dogs and cats) and putting the animals involved under quarantine for rabies observation; (iv) strengthening management of stray animals; (v) enhancing enforcement against pet owners in contravention of relevant legislation; and (vi) promoting the importance of rabies prevention, responsible pet ownership and proper control of dogs through public education and publicity. The expenditure involved in this area of work in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 is \$31.1 million, \$30.4 million and \$34.9 million respectively. There is no separate breakdown on expenditure for conducting operations to handle suspected rabies cases.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)085****(Question Serial No. 1132)**

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) Further to the above question, what were the respective numbers of the received animals being re-homed, euthanised and handled by other methods?
- (c) What were the numbers of prosecutions regarding abandoned animals over the past 3 years?
- (d) What were the numbers of dogs neutered during the Department's implementation of the Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme for stray dogs in Yuen Long and Cheung Chau over the past 3 years? What is the progress and how much has the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 1)

Reply:

- (a) Information on the number of animals received by the Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (AFCD), broken down by source, over the past 3 years is tabulated below.

Cats

Calendar year	Stray cats caught	Cats given up by owners	Cats seized during inspection / enforcement action	Cats received through other channels
2015	1 359	129	2	71
2016	876	107	3	67
2017	674	84	3	62

Dogs

Calendar year	Stray dogs caught	Dogs given up by owners	Dogs seized during inspection / enforcement action	Dogs received through other channels
2015	2 412	1 284	27	351
2016	1 919	1 003	17	326
2017	1 566	1 024	61	275

Other animals*

Calendar year	Stray animals caught	Animals given up by owners	Animals seized during inspection / enforcement action
2015	1 418	109	3 590
2016	1 494	56	674
2017	1 640	39	204

*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) Information on the numbers of animals received by AMCs which have been reclaimed, euthanised and rehomed over the past 3 years is tabulated below.

Cats

Calendar year	Reclaimed	Rehomed	Euthanised
2015	626	168	696
2016	400	136	449
2017	269	67	381

Dogs

Calendar year	Reclaimed	Rehomed	Euthanised
2015	774	651	2 421
2016	637	513	1 814
2017	560	588	1 478

Other animals[#]

Calendar year	Reclaimed	Rehomed	Euthanised
2015	11	83	3 469
2016	1	92	748
2017	10	94	801

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

- (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 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.

Information on the number of convictions under Section 23 of the Ordinance over the past 3 years and the relevant penalties is given below.

Calendar year	Prosecution against improper control of dogs	
	Number of convicted cases	Heaviest penalty imposed
2015	246	A fine of \$2,000
2016	174	A fine of \$4,000
2017	192	A fine of \$2,000

- (d) The 3-year Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs conducted at the 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long by 2 animal welfare organisations (AWOs) since early 2015 has been completed in January 2018. A total of 65 and 37 dogs have been neutered and returned to the two trial sites respectively. The consultant commissioned by AFCD is currently analysing the findings to assess the trial programme's effectiveness. AFCD will consider the way forward upon completion of the assessment, and plans to report the findings and assessment to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene in mid-2018. Meanwhile, the 2 AWOs concerned will continue to take care of the dogs at the trial sites.

The expenditure incurred by AFCD over the past 3 years (between 2015-16 and 2017-18) for the TNR trial programme is around \$1.2 million per year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)086

(Question Serial No. 1133)

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 stray cattle management measures, would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) What are the manpower and expenditure involved in the publicity and education of the prohibition against inappropriate feeding of stray cattle as well as other matters in relation to stray cattle in 2018-19?
- (b) What were the numbers of cattle fed with contraceptives under the pharmacological sterilisation programme by the Department over the past 3 years and the success rate of the measure? What was the number of new-born cattle under the programme?
- (c) Whether the Department will launch any new programme or measure targeted at the stray cattle in the Islands District in 2018-19. If yes, what are the relevant expenditure and manpower involved?
- (d) Please set out the numbers of stray cattle died/euthanised due to accidents or diseases over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 2)

Reply:

- (a) In 2018-19, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has earmarked 7 staff and \$6.4 million for the management of stray cattle (including relevant publicity and education work). There is no separate breakdown for different activities under this area of work.
- (b) 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 3 phases. The first phase, involving testing of the drug in captive cattle, was completed in 2014. The results indicated that the drug yielded a success rate of approximately 70% in

rendering infertility in cattle. A second phase of testing the drug in free-roaming cattle and buffalo was completed in 2016, which showed similar result as in the first phase for cattle, while the success rate for buffalo was inconclusive and further test is needed. The third phase is currently being conducted to monitor the longevity and the long-term effect of Gonacon and continue to test the drug in free-roaming buffalo. A total of 172 cattle and buffalo have been involved in the study so far. AFCD does not have the number of new-born cattle.

- (c) AFCD has commenced a herdsmen programme on Lantau Island starting from February 2018. Under the programme, 3 herdsmen are hired to herd cattle away from roads mainly in black-spot areas with a view to minimising nuisance and safeguarding welfare of the cattle. In 2018-19, \$0.43 million has been earmarked for the programme.
- (d) The number of cases involving sick / injured cattle and the number of cattle euthanised due to sickness or injury over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Calendar year	Number of cases involving sick / injured cattle[#]	Number of cattle euthanised
2015	112	18
2016	118	51
2017	151	26

[#] A case may involve more than one cattle. The same cattle may be involved in more than one case.

AFCD does not have the number of cattle died due to accidents.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)087

(Question Serial No. 2884)

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 the provision of sign language interpretation service over the past 5 years, would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) Whether sign language interpretation service was available. If yes, what were the numbers of times and occasions for which sign language interpretation service were provided each year, and the respective reasons for requiring such service?
- (b) Further to the above question, what were the numbers of sign language interpreters, their salaries and respective organisations involved each year? What was the total expenditure involved in this regard each year?
- (c) Whether the Department would consider allocating more resources to improve the communication with deaf and/or hearing-impaired persons. If yes, please provide the details (including the measures, manpower, expenditure, timetable, etc.). If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 52)

Reply:

In the past 5 years (as at 28 February 2018), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has not received any request for sign language interpretation services. Arrangement would be made for the provision of the services on a need basis. AFCD will also ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to improve communication with deaf and/or hearing-impaired persons on a need basis. For example, in 2017-18, a guided tour for hearing-impaired persons to appreciate biodiversity in country parks was jointly organised with the Hong Kong Society for the Deaf, and sign language interpretation service was provided with the resources allocated for the event.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)088

(Question Serial No. 3290)

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 5 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.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 63)

Reply:

There was no departmental staff with the same types of duties of the outsourced service staff in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past 5 years.

Other information requested is tabulated below:

Financial year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Total number of outsourced service staff employed	546	469	475	494	614
Total expenditure on staff (\$ million)	661.7	700.7	721.7	754.5	811.0
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers (\$ million)	64.2	69.6	77.2	88.2	99.3
Percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers against total expenditure on staff	9.7%	9.9%	10.7%	11.7%	12.2%
Nature of outsourced services	Cleansing and security guard services				
Duration of the relevant contracts (months)	5 to 60	5 to 60	9 to 60	6 to 60	4 to 60

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)089

(Question Serial No. 2700)

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) The Chief Executive Mrs Carrie LAM has mentioned on her official webpage that she will be more concerned about animal welfare, and stated in the 2017 Policy Agenda that the Government would promote animal welfare and further review the existing legislation related to animal welfare, including exploring the introduction of a concept of positive duty of care on animal keepers into the legislation. In this connection, what are the plans and progress of the said initiatives? Has any provision been earmarked in the estimates for the implementation of the initiatives? If yes, what is the figure?
- (b) Will the Government consider introducing an animal protection act? If yes, what is the legislative timetable? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 31)

Reply:

The Government attaches great importance to enhancing animal welfare, and has been adopting a multi-pronged approach towards animal welfare and management, including strengthening public education, handling and preventing acts of animal cruelty, proper control on animal trading, and management of stray animals, as well as fostering close partnership with animal welfare organisations (AWOs).

To further enhance the protection of animal welfare, as stated in the Policy Agenda announced in October 2017, we are reviewing the existing legislation related to animal welfare, in particular the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169), by making reference to international experience and trend as well as the actual situation in Hong Kong. We are also exploring the introduction of a concept of positive duty of care on animal keepers, having regard to the opinions previously expressed by AWOs and relevant stakeholders. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will also compile codes of practice on keeping different kinds of animals, such as dogs and cats, to enhance public's knowledge on proper animal keeping and safeguarding animal

welfare. The Government will formulate legislative proposals and consult relevant stakeholders upon conclusion of the review.

In 2018-19, AFCD has earmarked about \$58 million and 209 staff for the promotion of animal welfare and animal management.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)090

(Question Serial No. 2701)

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 catching and handling community animals over the past 5 years? Please provide an exhaustive breakdown of all the expenditures under the grand total, including those expenses on maintaining the dog-catching teams, procurement of animal traps, animal rehoming and euthanasia of animals, etc. If the statistics concerned is not available, will the Department keep a record starting from the forthcoming year so as to enable the public to know better whether the public funds concerned are being utilised properly?
- (b) What were the expenditures involved in the “trap-neuter-vaccinate-return” scheme (the trial scheme) for dogs over the past 5 years? What are the latest numbers of dogs trapped and returned in various districts under the trial scheme? Given that the trial scheme will be completed this year, what are the Department’s criteria for assessing the effectiveness of the trial scheme? Under what circumstances will the scheme be extended, the number of sites for implementing the scheme be increased, or the scheme be suspended? What is the way forward of the scheme?
- (c) What are the respective estimated expenditures involved in the euthanasia of animals and the said trial scheme in the financial year 2018-19? Will the Department suspend or reduce the euthanasia of community animals, and reallocate all the provision for the work to the implementation of the trial scheme and for opening the 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs) for animal rehoming? If yes, what are the details of implementation and estimated expenditures? If not, what are the reasons why it is not possible to replace euthanasia of animals with other methods?
- (d) How does the Department catch community animals? What are the types and numbers of the existing animal traps kept by the Department?

- (e) What are the respective types and numbers of the animals given up by owners, caught by the Department or received through other channels over the past 5 years? What are the respective types and numbers of animals reclaimed, rehomed or euthanised over the past 5 years?
- (f) What are the manpower (including civil servants and outsourced staff) and overall expenditures on salaries of the existing 4 AMCs of the Department? Please set out the breakdowns of the overall expenditures on salaries by ranks of staff (including veterinary officers, field officers, frontline staff, etc.).
- (g) Enhancement of animal welfare has become a global trend. As Hong Kong is an international city, would the Government consider treating community animals from the perspectives of civilisation and conservation instead of the perspectives of food safety and environmental hygiene, promoting harmony between humans and animals and transforming Hong Kong into an animal-friendly city?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 32)

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 AMCs for observation. For animals with a microchip implanted, AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in AMCs temporarily for about 10 to 20 days. For those without a microchip, 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 condition 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 are not suitable for adoption 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 over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure on catching operations (\$ million)	Expenditure on handling of stray animals caught (\$ million)	Total expenditure (\$ million)
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	28.5	3.4	31.9
2017-18 (revised estimate)	29.2	3.7	32.9

AFCD does not have a separate breakdown on the expenditure on catching operations for dogs, procurement of animal traps, and animal re-homing.

- (b) & (c) The 3-year Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme for stray dogs conducted at the 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long by 2 AWOs since early 2015 has been completed in January 2018. A total of 65 and 37 dogs have been neutered and returned to the 2 trial sites respectively. The consultant commissioned by AFCD is currently analysing the findings to assess the trial programme's effectiveness, including whether the performance targets set out in the protocol agreed with the 2 AWOs are met (e.g. catching at least 80% of stray dogs in the trial sites during the first 6 months of the programme, achieving an average of 10% annual decrease in the population of stray dogs in the trial sites during the trial period, and complaints received should be matching with, or lower than, the territory-wide average during the trial period). AFCD will consider the way forward upon completion of the assessment, and plans to report the findings and assessment to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene in mid-2018. Meanwhile, the 2 AWOs concerned will continue to take care of the dogs at the trial sites.

The average annual expenditure of AFCD since the commencement of the programme in 2015 is around \$1.2 million.

In 2018-19, about \$1 million has been earmarked for the euthanasia of animals. AFCD has no plan to re-allocate the expenditure involved in the euthanasia of animals for other purposes. Notwithstanding this, AFCD will continue to take various measures to strengthen the management of stray animals, thereby reducing the number of stray animals and as a corollary reducing the number of animals to be disposed of by euthanasia. The measures include:

- (i) actively promoting the serious responsibility and commitment that go with pet keeping, through public education and publicity programmes to disseminate messages on proper care of animals and responsible pet ownership;
 - (ii) enhancing enforcement against pet owners in contravention of relevant legislation;
 - (iii) 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
 - (iv) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities.
- (d) In general, upon receipt of complaints or reports from members of the public regarding nuisance caused by stray animals (mostly dogs and cats), AFCD will conduct follow-up inspections and arrange catching operations using suitable methods including setting up animal traps as necessary. All animal traps including snares and cage traps used by AFCD are specially designed or carefully selected to ensure that they are safe to animals. All the animal traps deployed will be subject to

close monitoring and retrieved immediately upon completion of the catching operations.

At present, AFCD has a total of 240 cage traps for catching dogs and cats, 56 snares for catching dogs, 12 snares and 54 cage traps for catching monkeys, and 4 cage traps and 2 corral traps for catching wild pigs.

- (e) The number and species of stray animals caught, animals given by owners and received through other channels by AFCD, and the number and species of animals reclaimed by the owners, rehomed and euthanised over the past 5 years are tabulated at the **Annex**.
- (f) Information on the existing staff establishment of the 4 AMCs, including civil servants and outsourced staff, is tabulated as follows:

	New Territories North AMC	New Territories South AMC	Kowloon AMC	Hong Kong AMC
Veterinary Officer	1	1	1	1
Field Officers	15	11	18	12
Frontline staff	42	28	30	27
Outsourced cleansing staff	4	4	3	4
Total	62	44	52	44

Note: The 4 AMCs are overseen by 1 Senior Veterinary Officer.

The estimated expenditure on the staff cost of the 4 AMCs in 2017-18 is \$63.6 million. Breakdown of salaries by rank of staff is not available as the salaries vary amongst the staff of the same rank.

- (g) The Government attaches great importance to enhancing animal welfare, and has been adopting a multi-pronged approach towards animal welfare and management, including strengthening public education, handling and preventing acts of animal cruelty, proper control on animal trading, and management of stray animals, as well as fostering close partnership with AWOs.

To further enhance the protection of animal welfare, as stated in the Policy Agenda announced in October 2017, we are reviewing the existing legislation related to animal welfare, in particular the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169), by making reference to international experience and trend as well as the actual situation in Hong Kong. We are also exploring the introduction of a concept of positive duty of care on animal keepers, having regard to the opinions previously expressed by AWOs and relevant stakeholders. AFCD will also compile codes of practice on keeping different kinds of animals, such as dogs and cats, to enhance public's knowledge on proper animal keeping and safeguarding animal welfare.

Annex

Calendar year	Stray animals caught			Animals given up by owners			Animals received through other channels			Animals reclaimed by the owner			Animals re-homed			Animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2013	4626	2866	444	1871	222	105	1271	136	1001	1379	779	315	770	206	116	5353	1861	1015
2014	3676	1836	1374	1464	132	28	809	78	656	1235	576	253	679	212	75	3868	1039	1594
2015	2412	1359	1418	1284	129	109	378	73	3590	774	626	11	651	168	83	2421	696	3469
2016	1919	876	1494	1003	107	56	343	70	674	637	400	1	513	136	92	1814	449	748
2017	1566	674	1640	1024	84	39	336	65	204	560	269	10	588	67	94	1478	381	801

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

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)091

(Question Serial No. 2702)

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 numbers of suspected animal cruelty complaint cases, the total number of animal cruelty cases, the numbers of cases detected, the types and numbers of animals involved in the cases, the numbers of persons arrested, the numbers of persons convicted and their respective penalties (amounts of fine and terms of imprisonment) over the past 10 years.
- (b) What were the expenditures involved in the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance over the past 10 years? The number of animal cruelty cases in Hong Kong has been on the increase in recent years, with the detection rate lower than 40% over the past 5 years. In this regard, would the Government consider raising the penalties of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance and for animal abandonment, as well as classifying animal abandonment as an act of cruelty to animals? If yes, what is the timetable for the relevant legislation amendment? If not, what are the justifications? Are there any other measures to curb the increasingly rampant cruelty to animals more effectively?
- (c) What were the details of the initiatives and expenditure of the inter-departmental special working group established by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong), as well as the "Animal Watch Scheme" launched by the Police in the past year? Has the Department earmarked expenditure on the abovementioned initiatives in 2018-19? If yes, would the Department consider dedicating the estimated expenditure for the establishment of an animal police team?
- (d) Regarding the issue of establishing an animal police team, the Department stated last year that "the Government considers that the existing mechanism has proved to be effective and therefore has no plan to establish an animal police team." In this regard, do the Government's criteria of assessing the effectiveness of the existing

mechanism include a set of value-for-money indicators in the assessment of effectiveness of initiatives? If yes, what are the details of the indicators? If not, what are the Government's justification(s) and assessment criteria in considering that the existing mechanism is effective? Would the Government devise a set of value-for-money indicators to assess the effectiveness of initiatives in order to prove to and convince the public with key performance indicators, such as data, etc., that the existing mechanism is indeed effective?

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

Reply:

- (a) The number of suspected animal cruelty related complaints received and details of successful prosecutions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) (the Ordinance)[^] initiated by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of suspected animal cruelty complaints received	Number of persons convicted	Penalties imposed	
			Range of fine	Range of imprisonment
2013	242	15	\$500 to \$2,000	14 days to 8 months
2014	237	24	\$2,000 to \$20,000	6 days to 16 months
2015	236	10	\$2,000 [#]	14 days to 2 months
2016	262	11	\$5,000 [#]	28 days to 6 months
2017	275	18 [*]	\$4,000 [#]	10 days to 5 months

[^]The types and number of animals involved in the cases as well as the number of persons arrested are not available.

[#]Only one case in each of the 3 calendar years involved a penalty of fine.

^{*}The number covers the period from January to September 2017.

- (b) The expenditure of AFCD on the prevention of animal cruelty, including the enforcement of the Ordinance, over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$million)
2013-14	1.7
2014-15	2.0
2015-16	2.6
2016-17	2.9
2017-18 (revised estimate)	3.0

The Government attaches great importance to enhancing animal welfare. To further enhance the protection of animal welfare, as stated in the Policy Agenda announced in October 2017, we are reviewing the existing legislation related to animal welfare, in particular the Ordinance, by making reference to international experience and trend as well as the actual situation in Hong Kong. We are also exploring the introduction of a concept of positive duty of care on animal keepers, having regard to the opinions previously expressed by animal welfare organisations and relevant stakeholders. AFCD will also compile codes of practice on keeping different kinds of animals, such as dogs and cats, to enhance public's knowledge on proper animal keeping and safeguarding animal welfare. The Government will formulate legislative proposals and consult relevant stakeholders upon conclusion of the review.

- (c) & (d) In 2011, AFCD, in conjunction with the Police, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong)(SPCA), set up an inter-departmental special working group (WG) for forging close cooperation and mutual support in handling animal cruelty cases. The WG 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 WG 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.

In parallel, the Police launched the Animal Watch Scheme (the Scheme) in 2011 in collaboration with AFCD, SPCA, veterinary associations and other animal concern groups. Since 2017, the College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences of the City University of Hong Kong has also been invited to take part in the Scheme. The Scheme adopts a holistic approach by promoting wider public participation, strengthening the existing co-operation between agencies, and enhancing the professionalism of officers in the investigation and prosecution of such cases through different training programmes and forums. Under the Scheme, relevant departments and organisations undertake their respective duties, with the Police and AFCD, for intelligence exchange and investigation of animal cruelty cases.

All reports of animal cruelty received by the Police are now taken up by crime investigation teams to ensure comprehensive investigation and early detection of cases. AFCD also supports and complements the work of other departments and organisations in the areas of education, intelligence gathering, publicity and investigation, and provides expert advice on animal cruelty cases. Where necessary, AFCD conducts post-mortem examination to find out the cause of animal deaths. SPCA provides medical service to maltreated animals and runs a 24-hour hotline to gather information on animal abuse cases from the public so as to assist the work of the law enforcement officers.

The expenditure required for the above work is absorbed within the relevant departments' existing resources. There is no separate breakdown for the estimated expenditure involved.

Under the Scheme, 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 investigations. 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. All stakeholders engaged consider that the Scheme has been operating well and is effective in combating animal cruelty. Nevertheless, the Police would regularly review the effectiveness of the Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)092

(Question Serial No. 2703)

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) The amount of subventions for animal welfare organisations (AWOs) under the Operating Account is estimated to be \$500,000. Please set out **by year** and **with an exhaustive breakdown** the names of the organisations that have submitted applications to the Department, the projects and amounts of subventions applied for, the application results (including organisations with applications approved or rejected) and the amounts of subventions granted, etc. since the inception of the scheme.
- (b) Among the AWOs having been granted subventions, is there any organisation that has been granted more than once? If yes, please set out the name(s) of the organisation(s), year(s) of application, the project(s) and amount(s) of subvention(s) applied for and the amount(s) of subvention(s) granted.
- (c) I have repeatedly enquired the Department about the criteria for vetting subvention applications, however, the Department has not yet replied directly. I now request that the Department provide an explanation of the vetting principles, criteria and justifications of subvention applications in order to support that the \$500,000 estimate has been previously and will be utilised properly in the forthcoming year.
- (d) Regarding the implementation and effectiveness of the subvention scheme, the Department stated that it would “conduct document review and audit inspections” and that “thus far, the results of all subvented programmes are found to be satisfactory”. In this regard, what were the actual number and the details of “document review and audit inspections” conducted? What are the criteria for assessing the subvention scheme?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 34)

Reply:

- (a) 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.

Over the past 5 years, a total of 46 applications for subvention were received from 15 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 project to AFCD for consideration. Details of the applications are at **Annex 1**.

- (b) The information on the names of the organisations receiving subvention funding more than once, the year of approval and relevant amounts over the past 5 years is at **Annex 2**.

- (c)&(d) The eligibility criteria for application for subvention are set out in **Annex 3**. Only applicants that fulfil the criteria and with applications that are project based and directly related to the promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management will be considered by AFCD. When vetting applications, AFCD will assess:

- the objective(s) and expected result(s) of the proposed project;
- cost-effectiveness of the project; and
- reasonableness of the proposed expenditure.

AFCD has all along been monitoring the implementation of the subvention scheme. Document review and audit inspections are conducted to monitor the implementation and assess the outcome of subvented programmes, making reference to the activities and items proposed in the applications as approved by AFCD. Approved funds will normally be issued in the form of a reimbursement after acceptance of reports, satisfactory performance of the project and presentation of proof of expenditure (e.g. invoices). In this connection, all the approved projects have been reviewed and examined prior to the release of funds, so as to ensure the proper use of public money. AFCD does not have the statistics on the number of related document review and audit inspections conducted.

Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2013-14 and released in 2014-15)

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount sought (\$)	Amount approved (\$)	Amount released (\$)
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	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To operate their centre, organise workshops and revamp their 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	Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) (SPCA) and Society for Abandoned Animals (SAA)	To continue their 2-year education programme on village dog management	Applied for in 2012-13	Approved in 2012-13	13,200 ¹ (SPCA)
Total			2,156,232	487,000	447,374

¹AFCD 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 claim for reimbursement from the AWO concerned has been received.

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

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount sought (\$)	Amount approved (\$)	Amount released (\$)
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	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	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
Total			2,819,232	524,000	469,860

*No claim for reimbursement from the AWO concerned has been received.

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

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount sought (\$)	Amount approved (\$)	Amount released (\$)
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	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	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
		Total	3,041,155	532,000	513,364

Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for and approved in 2016-17 and released in 2017-18)

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount sought (\$)	Amount approved (\$)	Amount released (\$)
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	84,602
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide vaccination and food for rehoming animals	218,400	130,000	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To provide preventive medical treatment for rehoming animals	1,962,000	100,000	100,000
4	SAA	To produce educational materials for promoting animal welfare and responsible pet ownership	53,040	42,000	42,000
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	62,000	48,000	45,120
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide preventive medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	320,000	46,000	46,000
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 promote adoption, produce educational materials and further improve the organisation website	40,500	21,000	18,300
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 surgical equipment for veterinary treatment and provide human counselling service	3,200,000	0	-
Total			6,175,940	500,000	494,022

Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for and approved in 2017-18)²

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount sought (\$)	Amount approved (\$)
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	140,000	85,000
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide preventive care and food for rehoming animals	324,000	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To enhance rehoming facilities	1,629,579	82,000
4	SPCA	To promotion animal welfare on public transport	210,000	0
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	60,000	48,000
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide preventive medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	400,150	48,000
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 produce educational materials for promotion of animal welfare and adoption	24,700	20,500
9	Hong Kong Paws Guardian	To conduct education and publicity for responsible pet ownership	92,000	24,000
10	Conservation of Earth and Animal Association	To conduct animal ophthalmology project and dental health plan, and purchase a mobile medical vehicle	5,140,000	0
11	Kirsten's Zoo	To provide preventive care and food for rescued and rehomed animals	270,000	45,000
12	Animal Friends	To subsidise medical costs for rehoming animals	250,000	45,000
13	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	To enhance public awareness on animal welfare and adoption	62,390	45,000
Total			8,682,819	600,500

²The amount of subvention will be released in 2018-19. The figures on the amount to be released for these programmes are not available yet.

List of AWOs receiving AFCD subvention funding more than once

AWOs		Amount released (\$)			
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	84,339	76,679	73,934	84,602
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	150,000	150,000	125,000	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	120,000	120,000	100,000	100,000
4	SAA	-	-	38,591	42,000
5	SPCA	13,200	-	44,854	-
6	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	44,835	48,181	41,620	45,120
7	Sai Kung Stray Friends	35,000	45,000	45,000	46,000
8	Cheung Chau Animal Care	-	30,000	28,000	28,000
9	Hong Kong Cats	-	-	16,365	18,300

Remarks: Subventions approved in 2017-18 will be released in 2018-19.

Eligibility criteria for application for subvention

- (1) The organisation must be:
 - (i) a society as defined by section 2(1) of the Societies Ordinance (Cap. 151) and registered under section 5A(1) of that Ordinance;
 - (ii) a company registered under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622) (or Cap. 32 as in force at the time of the registration); or
 - (iii) a body of persons, or charity, as defined by section 2(1) of the Registered Trustees Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 306) which has been granted a certificate of incorporation under section 4(1) of that Ordinance.
- (2) The organisation must also be a charitable institution or trust of a public character that is exempt from tax under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) (rehoming partners of AFCD are exempted from this requirement).
- (3) The core services and activities of the organisation must be related to promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management and it must be actively engaged in such services/activities over the past 3 years or more (re-homing partners of AFCD are exempted from the 3-year requirement).
- (4) The organisation must be well-managed and properly constituted with good record keeping and accounting systems.
- (5) Organisations charging an adoption or re-homing fee must possess an exemption from holding an animal trader licence under section 5A of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B). For re-homing partners without charitable status, at least one individual acting on behalf of the organisation must possess the individual exemption.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)093

(Question Serial No. 2705)

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, **by year** and **with an exhaustive account**, the Department's total expenditures involved in dealing with community cattle, as well as the expenditures under the grand total (including the handling of public complaints, carrying out "Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation" programme, the manpower, administrative expenses of the Cattle Management Team (the Team) and the purchase of medicines, etc.) over the past 5 years and in the financial year 2018-19.
- (b) Please set out the details of the work and the total expenditures, with an exhaustive breakdown, of the Team over the past 5 years.
- (c) Please set out, by year and by district, the breakdowns (excluding the number of repeated capture or relocation) of community cattle being captured, sterilised and relocated since the launching of the "Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation" programme (the programme), and the breakdowns which involved injured/sick and euthanised cattle?
- (d) Apart from the figures on the number of cattle surveyed in 2013, has the Department conducted a territory-wide survey on cattle and buffalos? If yes, what are the latest figures? If not, when will the Department conduct another survey to enable the Department and the public to have a better understanding of the latest condition of the cattle in Hong Kong?
- (e) The Department stated that sterilised cattle would be ear-tagged for continuous monitoring and analysis of their distribution and population. In this connection, what are the respective numbers of cattle which went missing or died of unnatural cause after relocation since the launching of the programme? If such information is currently not available, will the Department conduct surveys on this aspect? If yes, when and how will the survey be conducted? If not, how can the Department review the effectiveness of the programme on the control of the cattle population without keeping track of the number of the relocated cattle?

- (f) I have asked the Department about the criteria for selecting cattle for participating in the programme and was given the reply that “the major consideration ... was the herd structure of the cattle. Cattle within the same family or herd would be relocated together”. However, local cattle conservation organisations found that the Department had repeatedly relocated individual calves last year. The calves had excessive weight loss and went missing due to their failure in integrating with the herd in the translocated site. Their current whereabouts are still unknown. Why did the Department act against “the major consideration”?
- (g) What are the reasons for cattle relocation? Please set out, by year and by district, the number of cattle being relocated due to such reasons since the launching of the programme.
- (h) The Department stated that they would carefully assess the recipient sites in rural areas or country parks to ensure that there are adequate food and water to sustain the relocated herd before relocating the cattle. However, the relocated site at the grassland outside Chong Hing in Sai Kung has along been criticised by the local cattle organisations as barren and could not provide adequate food for the herd. In this connection, based on what criteria has the Department determined whether there are adequate food and water in the relocated site?
- (i) The Department has repeatedly stated that the relocated cattle are in good health. Is the Department’s judgement based on a set of parameters or indicators which reflected the health of the cattle? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the criteria on which the Department determines that the cattle are in good health? How does the Department assess the current criteria? Will the Department consider devising a set of scientific and objective parameters and indicators to reflect the health of the cattle?
- (j) Please set out, by year and by district, the numbers of site visits conducted for monitoring the health of the cattle at the relocated sites by the departmental staff since the launching of the programme.
- (k) How does the Department assess the effectiveness of the programme? Do the criteria include a set of value-for-money indicators to assess the effectiveness of the programme? If yes, what are the specific details of the indicators? If not, what are the criteria for the assessment of the effectiveness of the programme? Will the Department devise a set of value-for-money indicators to assess the effectiveness of the programme in order to prove to and convince the public to accept the judgement of the Department with key performance indicators, such as data?
- (l) What were the numbers of complaints received regarding cattle in various districts over the past 5 years?
- (m) What is the latest progress of the study on the installation of cattle grids? When will the plan be finalised?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 36)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure and manpower involved in stray cattle management (including the “Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation” (CSR) programme) over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure and manpower for such work in 2018-19 are tabulated below:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2013-14	4.2	8
2014-15	6.7	8
2015-16	3.0	6
2016-17	3.2	6
2017-18 (revised estimate)	4.2	7
2018-19 (estimate)	6.4	7

The expenditure for conducting the CSR programme over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure for 2018-19 are tabulated below:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2013-14	3.4
2014-15	4.7
2015-16	2.3
2016-17	2.4
2017-18 (revised estimate)	3.1
2018-19 (estimate)	3.1

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not have further breakdown of the above expenditure items.

- (b) AFCD has adopted a multi-pronged approach for managing stray cattle. One of the key measures is the 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. AFCD will monitor the health of the feral cattle herds by conducting inspections regularly at locations where they reside. 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 responding to calls on rescuing and treating injured cattle, and liaising with different stakeholders to manage stray cattle in different areas in Hong Kong.

The expenditure on the management of stray cattle is provided in part (a) above.

- (c) & (l) The number of stray cattle captured, sterilised and relocated under the CSR programme over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of cattle	
	Lantau Island	Sai Kung
2013	82	111
2014	32	26
2015	20	46
2016	23	42
2017	22	42

Information on cases of injured / sick cattle handled by AFCD as well as complaints related to cattle nuisance received by district over the past 5 years is tabulated in the **Annex**.

- (d) AFCD plans to conduct a survey in the second half of 2018 to obtain updated statistics on the population of stray cattle and buffalo.
- (e) & (k) AFCD has been monitoring the feral cattle as a herd in different locations where they roam. While AFCD does not keep track of the whereabouts of individual cattle, we conduct inspections every week at locations frequented by cattle, in order to observe their health condition. Different aspects will be taken into account when evaluating the effectiveness of the CSR programme, such as the number of nuisance complaints, reports on cattle-related traffic obstructions and accidents, health conditions of cattle as well as distribution and quantity of cattle, etc. AFCD will review effectiveness of the programme when updated information on the cattle population as mentioned in part (d) above is available.
- (f) Cattle living in the wild tend to vary in body size; therefore, their age cannot be solely judged by their body size. AFCD officers estimate the age of the cattle by their teeth. During catching operations, the cows and their suckling calves are both caught by AFCD as far as possible. Before relocating any cattle, AFCD's veterinary surgeons will conduct examinations and assessments to ensure that the cattle are in good health and capable of foraging on their own, without the need of suckling.
- (g) It is common to find feral cattle herds that originally live within urban towns wander on busy traffic roads as their routine movement tracks. This inevitably causes traffic obstruction or even accidents which pose dangers to animals as well as road users, in addition to the nuisance caused to residents. To safeguard the safety of both the cattle and public, cattle captured from town are sterilised and relocated to a country park in the same district as far away as possible from the main traffic roads and residential areas.

Please refer to part (c) above for the number of cattle relocated over the past 5 years.

- (h) Cattle herds have been found dwelling at the grassland near the Chong Hing Water Sports Center (CHWSC) before the implementation of the CSR programme. The grassland is located within the Sai Kung Country Park, and the relocated cattle are

free to move in the country park, including outside the area of CHWSC. There are sufficient plants in the country park which are suitable for the cattle's consumption in different seasons. Moreover, there are plants of different sizes which could provide shade for cattle. In the past several years, there has been no evidence that the health of cattle has been affected by food shortage or environmental factors.

- (i)&(j) Inspections are conducted by AFCD regularly at locations where the feral cattle herds reside, and the condition of cattle is assessed in accordance with "Body Condition Scoring System", which is an internationally recognised scoring system. Herd health is monitored and checked by observing the posture, gait, appetite and excretion of the cattle. Should there be any abnormalities identified, the cattle will be treated accordingly by a veterinarian. Inspections of relocated cattle are conducted by AFCD around 3 times a week, amounting to at least 200 inspections annually for Sai Kung and Lantau Island.
- (m) AFCD and the relevant departments have carried out a detailed study on cattle grids. Such facilities are generally used on private land in farms in foreign countries to prevent cattle from going outside the farms. With reference to the overseas experience, it is considered that there are potential safety hazards to road users if cattle grids are installed on local public roads.

In the light of the above, and in the absence of viable options to address the safety concerns, the cattle grid proposal will not be pursued further.

Annex

Calendar year	Number of cattle related complaints received and followed up					Number of cases involving injured / sick cattle [#]					Number of cattle euthanised (heads)				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Lantau	58	76	71	91	39	33	70	39	36	17	6	3	3	6	3
Sai Kung	41	12	13	11	10	40	61	41	41	66	9	8	6	10	5
Northeast and Central New Territories	15	25	19	22	14	21	39	32	41	68	15	38	9	35	18
Subtotal	114	113	103	124	63	94	170	112	118	151	30	49	18	51	26

[#] A case may involve more than one cattle. The same cattle may be involved in more than one case.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)094

(Question Serial No. 2708)

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 2018-19. 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 the total numbers of cases, the numbers of cases detected, the numbers of persons arrested, the numbers of persons convicted, the penalties imposed, as well as the types of the items involved, quantities of the imported products, composition or species of animals involved and their final export destinations, etc., of the cases of importing 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? Would 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 which types of animals they are obtained from) or counterfeit?
- (d) Would 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. (LegCo use): 39)

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 (FHB) and the Environment Bureau (ENB) respectively. The relevant expenditure incurred by AFCD over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure earmarked for this area of work in 2018-19 are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2013-14	14.4
2014-15	16.3
2015-16	17.9
2016-17	19.0
2017-18 (revised estimate)	20.1
2018-19 (estimate)	26.0

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:

Calendar year	Number of inspections / operations
2013	101 922
2014	84 557
2015	68 845
2016	62 445
2017	58 230

- (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. Destinations of the convicted cases are believed to be various cities in the region.

Calendar year	Number of persons convicted	Confiscated item	Quantity involved	Species	Penalty
2013	1	Crocodile watchstrap	2 pieces	Crocodylia species	A fine of \$3,500
2014	1	Cheetah skin*	1 piece	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	A fine of \$60,000
2015	No case				

Calendar year	Number of persons convicted	Confiscated item	Quantity involved	Species	Penalty
2016	3	Elephant belt	4 pieces	Elephantidae species	6 weeks imprisonment and a fine of \$50,000
		Crocodile belt	4 pieces	Crocodylia species	A fine of \$6,000
		Crocodile belt and wallet [#]	6 pieces	Crocodylia species	A fine of \$12,000
2017	4	Crocodile belt [@]	6 pieces	Crocodylia species	2 weeks imprisonment
		Lizard wallet ^{&}	1 piece	<i>Varanus</i> species	2 weeks imprisonment
		Lizard wallet ⁺	1 piece	<i>Varanus</i> species	2 weeks imprisonment suspended for 2 years
		Crocodile handbag [%]	8 pieces	Crocodylia species	2 months imprisonment suspended for 2 years

[~]AFCD's measures on the control of the import of animals and their products under the Regulation are overseen by FHB.

⁼AFCD's measures on the control of the import of animals and their products under the Ordinance are overseen by ENB.

^{*}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.

[@]The confiscated items of the case also included 0.36kg of worked ivory.

[&]The confiscated items of the case also included 0.25kg of worked ivory.

⁺The confiscated items of the case also included 0.27kg of worked ivory.

[%]The confiscated items of the case also included 0.41kg of worked ivory.

- (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. 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 to combating endangered species smuggling, the Ordinance has recently been amended to increase the penalties for offences under the Ordinance by a significant margin. The revised maximum penalty for offences convicted on indictment is a fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years. 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)095****(Question Serial No. 1965)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (609) Minor irrigation works in the New Territories (block vote)

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 Subhead 609 Minor irrigation works in the New Territories (block vote), the Government's estimate for 2018-19 is higher than that for 2017-18. 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 2017-18.
- (b) Please tabulate, by administrative district, the minor irrigation works projects expected to commence in 2018-19.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 3)

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 2017-18 are tabulated below:

District	Project
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 Kan Tau Wai and Lo Shue Ling Tsuen, Ta Kwu Ling; (b) Repair of concrete channel and pavement works at Tsiu Keng, Sheung Shui; and

District	Project
	(c) Repair and maintenance of the pump house chamber in pumping station at Ngau Tam Mei (Part I)
Sha Tin and Tai Po	(a) Construction of an irrigation pipe to connect from end catchpit to existing rain water collection system at Nam Shan Village; and (b) Clearing the pump house chamber in pumping station at Lam Tsuen River Pumping Station No.1 and No.3
Yuen Long	(a) Re-construction / repair / clearing of damaged concrete channels at Yeung Ka Tsuen; (b) Repair of the aged irrigation pipeline at Ho Pui Tsuen, Kam Tin (Part I); and (c) Repair and maintenance of the pump house chamber in pumping station at Shek Wu Tong (Part I)

- (b) The minor irrigation works projects in the NT under the purview of AFCD planned to commence in 2018-19 are tabulated below:

District	Project
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) Re-construction / repair / clearing of concrete channel and pavement works at Tam Shui Hang, Sheung Shui; (b) Repair and maintenance of the pump house chamber in pumping station at Ngau Tam Mei (Part II); and (c) Repair of the aged irrigation pipeline at Hok Tau Wai, Fanling
Sha Tin and Tai Po	(a) Clearing the pump house chambers in pumping stations at Lam Tsuen River Pumping Station No.2 and No.4; (b) Repair of the aged irrigation pipeline at Fung

District	Project
	Yuen, Tai Po; and (c) Re-construction / repair / clearing of concrete channel and pavement works at Fa Sam Hang, Sha Tin
Yuen Long	(a) Repair of the aged irrigation pipeline at Ho Pui Tsuen, Kam Tin (Part II); (b) Repair of the aged irrigation pipeline at Cheung Po Tsuen, Pat Heung; (c) Repair of the aged irrigation pipeline at Tsing Tam Tsuen, Pat Heung; and (d) Repair and maintenance of the pump house chamber in pumping station at Shek Wu Tong (Part II)
Tuen Mun	Replacement of an old damaged irrigation pipeline at Lam Tei Irrigation Reservoir, Tuen Mun
Lantau Island	(a) Repair of the aged irrigation pipeline at Tai O; (b) Repair of the aged irrigation pipeline at Shap Long, Chi Ma Wan Road; and (c) Adding irrigation pipeline to connect a weir to existing irrigation system at Tai Long Wan Tsuen

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)096

(Question Serial No. 0631)

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 requests for assistance handled by government fresh food wholesale markets, it is estimated that there will be an increase from 16 690 cases in 2017 to 18 300 cases in 2018. What are the reasons, types of cases and the departmental expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 1)

Reply:

As the biennial review and adjustment of rental for Government wholesale markets will take effect in 2018, it is anticipated that the number of enquiries from market tenants on matters relating to the rental adjustment and tenancy renewal may increase in the year. Apart from rental and related matters, the types of assistance requested would also include daily operation and management matters, market facility maintenance and repair works. As handling requests for assistance is part of wholesale market management work of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, there is no breakdown on the departmental expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)097

(Question Serial No. 3125)

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 area of wholesale markets managed under the Government fresh food wholesale markets is reduced in size from 295 645 square metres in 2016 to an estimate of 293 014 square metres in 2018. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 52)

Reply:

The reduction of area in 2018 is due to the release of a portion of land at the Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market for the development of a waterfront promenade and widening of a proposed pedestrian walkway between the future public housing estates and the MTR Nam Cheong Station.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)098

(Question Serial No. 3178)

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 provision of services to facilitate quarantine and export of plants, animals and plant/animal by-products, how many types of plants, animals and their by-products in total have been issued with quarantine certificates, which are recognised by the Mainland authorities, by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department so far, under the exemptions in the Catalogue of Animals and Plants, and Animal and Plant Products Prohibited from Being Carried or Posted into the People's Republic of China (Announcement No. 1712) revised by the Mainland in 2012, so that the eligible products can enter the Mainland? Please set out in tabular form the names of the animals, plants and products concerned by year.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 53)

Reply:

In the past 5 years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has issued phytosanitary certificates for living plants, fresh vegetables, dried plant products (including coffee beans, nuts, wooden product and horse feed), seeds, timber, cereal grains and pulses to facilitate the exportation of these products from Hong Kong to the Mainland. These products are all covered in the Catalogue of Animals and Plants, and Animal and Plant Products Prohibited from being Carried or Posted into the People's Republic of China (Announcement No. 1712) (the Catalogue). For animals brought into the Mainland, dog and cat are exempt under the Catalogue, provided that the dog / cat is accompanied by an animal health certificate from the exporting place. To this end, the animal health certificates issued by private veterinarians and endorsed by AFCD are also accepted.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)099

(Question Serial No. 1392)

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 are the relevant manpower and estimated expenditure involved in the preparation for the establishment of the Agricultural Park in 2018-19?
- (b) Regarding offering free training on sustainable fisheries operations and expanding existing fish culture zone(s), what is the expected number of participants in the free training in 2018? What are the location(s) and area(s) of the existing fish culture zone(s) to be expanded?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 5)

Reply:

- (a) 7 staff are involved in the work associated with the establishment of the Agricultural Park in addition to their other duties in 2018-19. An estimated salary expenditure of \$3.8 million is earmarked in 2018-19.
- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been providing free training to assist fishermen in developing sustainable fisheries and related operations. It is estimated that about 500 fishermen would participate in the training programme in 2018.

AFCD is consulting relevant stakeholders on the proposal to expand the Yim Tin Tsai Fish Culture Zone which is located in inner Tolo Harbour. The proposed expanded area is about 5 hectares. AFCD is also exploring possible sites for the expansion / development of other fish culture zones.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)100

(Question Serial No. 1393)

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) Regarding the antimicrobial resistance surveillance and testing on food animals in local farms, are the surveillance and testing conducted in all farms? If not, please list out the respective locations of the farms concerned.
- (b) After surveillance and testing, what follow-up measures would the Government take?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 6)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducts both regular and surprise inspections to all local livestock farms to check their antimicrobial usage (including the types of antimicrobials in stock, the purpose of usage, and manner in which antimicrobials are administered). Monitoring of veterinary drug (including antimicrobials) residue in live pigs is conducted at the slaughterhouse level by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department whereas that in local live chickens is conducted at the farm level by AFCD. Any irregularities detected will be referred to relevant authorities for further investigation. Detection of usage of prohibited veterinary drugs in food animals would be announced by the departments concerned.

In addition, AFCD also educates farmers on issues related to antimicrobial resistance and the importance of good farming practices to minimise the use of antimicrobials in livestock animals.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)101

(Question Serial No. 1415)

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 has mentioned that new boundary control points will be set up in 2018-19. What is the estimated manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 31)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department have offices in various boundary control points (BCPs) for carrying out inspection and quarantine operations of animals, animal products and plants. In 2018-19, the additional manpower and expenditure earmarked for providing such services at new BCPs are 16 staff and \$22 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)102

(Question Serial No. 3250)

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 the procedures and enforcement of declaration of interests by officers of all ranks of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) What were the number of cases involving AFCD officers in relation to conflicts of interests (including but not limited to failure to declare his/her or his/her spouse's possession of land within or near country parks, marine parks and marine reserve) in each of the past 5 years? What were the details of the follow-up actions taken in each case?
- (b) In view of a senior AFCD officer being involved in a case in 2015 in which he/she made an application for construction of a small house within a country park, what measures has AFCD put in place to prevent officers of the Department from receiving benefits by taking advantages of their positions?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 67)

Reply:

Over the past 5 years, there was one complaint case against an officer in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). The complaint was thoroughly looked into in accordance with the prevailing rules and guidelines on "conflict of interest". It was concluded that the complaint was unsubstantiated.

AFCD is committed to maintaining a high standard of integrity and conduct among the staff, and relevant circular is brought to the attention of all staff on a regular basis to remind them of the importance to avoid conflict of interest. Officers from the Independent Commission Against Corruption are also invited to hold seminars and induction sessions on "Conflict of Interest" for supervisors and new recruits respectively on an annual basis.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)103

(Question Serial No. 3538)

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 advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) The numbers of requests for assistance in identifying agricultural land or building agricultural structures received by the Department, and the numbers of cases referred to the Lands Department in 2016-17 and 2017-18.
- (b) The numbers of cases of assistance successfully rendered in identifying agricultural land for rehabilitation, and the areas of agricultural land for rehabilitation involved in 2016-17 and 2017-18.
- (c) Was any statistical work on the area of agricultural land in each of 18 districts performed in 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 item (c) was not performed, will the Department perform such work in 2018-19? If yes, what are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 72)

Reply:

- (a) & (b) Farmers who wish to build 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) provides a one-stop-service and receives application forms on behalf of LandsD for preliminary processing. In 2016 and 2017, 22 and 40 applications respectively 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 and 2017 are tabulated below:

Calendar year	Number of new applications	Number of successful cases	Area of farmland leased out (hectare)
2016	65	29	4.0
2017	58	9	2.1

- (c) The estimated area of agricultural land in active farming use by district in 2017 is tabulated below:

District	Estimated area in active farming use (hectare)¹
North	280
Yuen Long	250
Tai Po	60
Tuen Mun	40
Islands	30
Sai Kung	20
Tsuen Wan	10
Others	10
Total	710

¹ Rounded to the nearest 10.

- (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)245

(Question Serial No. 3704)

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 Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19 under this Programme, the Government stated that it would implement the new agriculture policy to proactively support the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture, including preparing for the establishment of the Agricultural Park, processing applications for the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and commissioning a consultancy study on agricultural priority areas. Would the Government advise this Committee on the manpower and estimated yearly salary expenditure involved in implementing the new agriculture policy in 2018-19?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 201)

Reply:

A total of 40 staff involving a provision of \$14.4 million for staff cost have been earmarked for the implementation of the New Agriculture Policy in 2018-19.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)246

(Question Serial No. 3711)

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:

Would the Government advise on the following:

- (a) What are the details regarding the efforts made by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in 2018-19 in relation to building up its capacity for testing of a number of equine diseases to facilitate the movement of competition horses between Hong Kong and the Conghua Equine-Disease Free Zone? What is the number of the competition horses expected to be processed at the Conghua Equine-Disease Free Zone by the Department? What is the expenditure in 2018-19? What are the manpower and salaries involved in this regard?
- (b) The Conghua Horse Training Centre is expected to commence operation in August 2018. What is the number of competition horses expected to be transported monthly between Hong Kong and Conghua by AFCD? How would the Department ensure that the horses will not be in contact with wild animals during equine transportation from Conghua to Hong Kong?
- (c) The equine quarantine authority of Australia stated earlier that the imports of horses from Hong Kong into Australia would be suspended until the completion of the review on the biosafety control of the Equine Disease Free Zone between Hong Kong and Conghua. Under such circumstances, horses from Hong Kong are not able to be transported to Australia directly for competitions or retirement and Australian competition horses are not able to be transported to Hong Kong for international competitions. Has the Department furthered the discussions with the equine quarantine authority of Australia for solving the problem? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 208)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has established a new Equine Disease Division (EDD) for the provision of equine disease testing services. In 2018-19, EDD will set up the laboratory facilities for equine testing and develop internationally recognised testing protocols for equine diseases. It is estimated that some 3 000 tests would be conducted by EDD in 2018-19 in relation to the surveillance programme for the movement of horses between Hong Kong and the Conghua Equine Training Centre (CTC). \$7.9 million and 4 staff have been earmarked for this area of work in 2018-19.
- (b) Upon commissioning of CTC, it is estimated that around 700 to 1 200 horses will be transported between Hong Kong and CTC per month. To safeguard the health of horses, CTC is established within the Equine Disease Free Zone (EDFZ), both of which will be subject to stringent biosecurity measures. In addition, all the horses will be transported through a designated route which is specifically designed to minimise the biosecurity risks, including preventing the horses from contacting with wild or other animals, in purpose-built trucks under real time monitoring by the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC). HKJC will report any abnormalities of horses during transportation to AFCD immediately for follow up actions.
- (c) AFCD and HKJC have been liaising closely with the relevant authorities in Australia on the recent suspension of importation of horses from Hong Kong. The Australian authorities concerned are conducting a comprehensive risk assessment. AFCD and HKJC are providing the relevant information to, and will arrange visits and inspections to the relevant facilities in Hong Kong and CTC/EDFZ for, the Australian authorities with a view to facilitating the early completion of the assessment and resumption of horse movement between Hong Kong and Australia.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)247

(Question Serial No. 3762)

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 2017, the number of stray animals that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) caught was 3 880. What were the types of animals, manpower and expenditure involved? How did the Department handle them? What was the proportion of animals eventually euthanised, neutered and returned, released back to their habitats and re-homed? What was the expenditure involved in the above ways of handling?

In 2018, AFCD estimates that the number of stray animals to be caught is 3 900. How does the Department come up with such a figure? What types of animals does AFCD expect to catch? What are the manpower and expenditure involved? Is the number of stray animals caught a factor of the performance rating for AFCD?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 260)

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, AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in AMCs temporarily for about 10 to 20 days. For those without a microchip, 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 (AWOs) for adoption by members of the public. Only animals that are not suitable for adoption or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanised.

The number and species of stray animals caught, animals given up by owners and received through other channels by AFCD, and the number and species of animals reclaimed by the owners, re-homed and euthanised in 2017 are tabulated in the **Annex**.

Besides, AFCD has been carrying out the “Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation” (CSR) programme for stray cattle and assisting AWOs in implementing the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs. The CSR programme for stray cattle was 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 2017, 64 cattle were captured, sterilised and relocated under the programme. The 3-year TNR trial programme for stray dogs conducted at the 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long by 2 AWOs since early 2015 has been completed in January 2018. A total of 65 and 37 dogs have been neutered and returned to the trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long respectively during the trial period.

The revised estimate and manpower involved in the management of stray animals, including catching operations and handling of stray animals as well as the CSR programme for stray cattle and TNR programme for stray dogs, in 2017-18 are \$36.9 million and 196 staff respectively.

The estimated number of stray animals caught in 2018 will be similar to that in 2017. With AFCD’s continuous implementation of measures on managing stray animals, the number of stray animals caught has decreased by around 50% from 2013 to 2017. The expenditure and manpower earmarked for this area of work in 2018-19 are \$36 million and 194 staff respectively.

- End -

Annex

Calendar year	Stray animals caught			Animals given up by owners			Animals received through other channels			Animals reclaimed by the owners			Animals re-homed			Animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2017	1 566	674	1 640	1 024	84	39	336	65	204	560	269	10	588	67	94	1 478	381	801

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

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)248

(Question Serial No. 5133)

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 total numbers of cats received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department each year over the past 3 years? Through what channels were the cats received and their numbers? How did the Department handle such cats? How many of them were eventually euthanised, re-homed, neutered and returned, as well as directly released back to their habitats?

What were the expenditures and manpower involved in handling the cats received over the past 3 years? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower for handling the cats received in 2018-19?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 267)

Reply:

The number of cats received and handled by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years is tabulated at the **Annex**.

Stray cats caught will be put in the Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of AFCD for observation. For cats with a microchip implanted, AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these cats will stay in AMCs temporarily for about 10 to 20 days. For those without a microchip, 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 cats 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 cats that are not suitable for adoption or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanised.

AFCD has not carried out any trapped, neutered and returned programmes for stray cats.

AFCD does not have a separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower for the management of stray cats. The expenditure and manpower involved in catching stray animals and handling animals caught over the past 3 years and the expenditure and manpower earmarked for 2018-19 are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure on catching stray animals (\$ million)	Expenditure on handling stray animals caught (\$ million)	Total expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	29.0	3.6	32.6	179
2016-17	28.5	3.4	31.9	187
2017-18 (revised estimate)	29.2	3.7	32.9	187
2018-19 (estimate)	29.2	3.7	32.9	187

- End -

Annex

Calendar year	Stray cats caught	Cats given up by the owners	Cats received through other channels	Cats reclaimed by the owners	Cats re-homed	Cats euthanised
2015	1 359	129	73	626	168	696
2016	876	107	70	400	136	449
2017	674	84	65	269	67	381

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)249****(Question Serial No. 5667)**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 expenditures involved in the promotion of organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 5 years? What is the estimated expenditure on the promotion of organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production by AFCD in 2018-19?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 198)Reply:

The expenditure involved in the promotion of organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past 5 years and the estimate for 2018-19 are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Organic cultivation (\$ million)	Intensive greenhouse production (\$ million)
2013-14	6.3	4.9
2014-15	5.6	4.9
2015-16	5.8	4.9
2016-17	6.4	7.1
2017-18 (revised estimate)	8.1	7.7
2018-19 (estimate)	8.4	7.7

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)250****(Question Serial No. 5669)**

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 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 2018-19.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 200)

Reply:

The expenditure incurred by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for the management of stray animals as well as safeguarding and promoting animal welfare over the past 5 year is tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2013-14	46.7
2014-15	52.1
2015-16	50.5
2016-17	53.7
2017-18 (revised estimate)	57.7

The estimated expenditure for this area of work in 2018-19 is \$57.7 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)251

(Question Serial No. 3807)

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:

It is learnt that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department conducts active agricultural land investigations.

- (a) Please provide the latest survey result of active farmland by districts.
- (b) How are the active agricultural land investigations conducted? (e.g. What is the scope of investigation? Are on-site investigations conducted for all the agricultural land within the scope of investigation, or only for some of the agricultural land with a view to projecting the total area?)
- (c) What were the manpower and expenditures involved in conducting the active agricultural land investigations over the past 5 financial years?
- (d) How will the data collected through the active agricultural land investigations be applied?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 65)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducts continuous rolling on-site surveys on farmland in Hong Kong to collect data about the agricultural land use for crop production. The data collected is used to estimate the land area under active cultivation for monitoring the development situation of the agricultural sector. The estimated area of agricultural land in active farming use by district in 2017 is tabulated below:

District	Estimated Area in active farming use¹ (hectare)
North	280
Yuen Long	250
Tai Po	60
Tuen Mun	40
Islands	30
Sai Kung	20
Tsuen Wan	10
Others	10
Total	710¹

¹Rounded to the nearest 10 hectares.

As the survey on agricultural land use forms part of the ongoing work of AFCD, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)252

(Question Serial No. 3904)

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:

How many hectares of agricultural land could be used for rehabilitation at present? Is there a limit to the size of agricultural land that each individual can apply for rehabilitation? What is the maximum size of agricultural land available for rehabilitation? How many applicants are there on the waiting list? What is the average waiting time?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 4012)

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 11.5 hectares of agricultural land is available for leasing. There is no restriction on the size of farmland that an applicant may apply. In 2017, the average waiting time for successful cases was 5.5 years. 347 applicants were on the waiting list as at end 2017.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)253****(Question Serial No. 3906)**

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. (LegCo use): 4015)

Reply:

Information on the operation of the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

Calendar year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of new applications	51	44	45	65	58
Number of successful cases	14	12	41	29	9
- Total land area involved (hectare)	6.2	2.6	5.4	4.0	2.1
- Average waiting time (year)	4.0	5.0	5.0	4.0	5.5
Number of applications on the waiting list as at year-end	258	278	287	300	347

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)254

(Question Serial No. 3908)

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 implemented by the Government, please advise on:

- (a) The details of expenditure on implementing the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme, including the departmental manpower and expenditure involved; the numbers 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.
- (d) Has the Government put in place any measure 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. (LegCo use): 4019)

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 in 2017 are tabulated below:

Calendar year	2017
Number of staff	1
Expenditure (\$ million)	0.9
Number of landowners participating in ALRS	41
Number of new applications / land area involved (hectare)	58 / 8.7
Number of successful cases	9
- Total land area involved (hectare)	2.1
- Range of farm sizes of individual case (dau chung [*])	0.5 to 13.4
- Range of annual rental (per dau chung*)	\$160 to \$12,000
- Average / longest waiting time (year)	5.5 / 8
Number of applications on the waiting list as at year-end / land area involved (hectare)	347 / 74.7

*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 ALRS, and provide farmers with technical advice and services to return fallow land to active farming. In addition, the Government intends to commission a consultancy study in 2018 to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land as Agricultural Priority Areas, and explore 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)255****(Question Serial No. 4117)**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. (LegCo use): 4016)Reply:

Information on local hydroponic farms gathered by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department as at 28 February 2018 is tabulated as follows:

Location	District	Number of farms	Farm area (m ²)	Production area (m ²)	Zoning on Outline Zoning Plan
Agricultural Land	Yuen Long	10	51 070	16 020	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
		3	440	550	Open Space
		1	300	180	Open Storage
		1	140	300	Government, Institution or

Location	District	Number of farms	Farm area (m ²)	Production area (m ²)	Zoning on Outline Zoning Plan
					Community
	North	7	28 310	6 130	Agriculture
		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	3	500	920	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)256

(Question Serial No. 4902)

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 provide the numbers of animals which were caught, re-homed and euthanised by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) as well as their average periods of stay at the facilities of AFCD before being euthanised and re-homed, with a breakdown by type, over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 7209)

Reply:

The information requested is in the **Annexes**.

- End -

Annex 1

The number and type of stray animals caught, and animals given up by the owners, received through other channels by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), reclaimed by the owners, re-homed and euthanised

Calendar year	Stray animals caught			Animals given up by the owners			Animals received through other channels			Animals reclaimed by the owners			Animals re-homed			Animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
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
2017	1 566	674	1 640	1 024	84	39	336	65	204	560	269	10	588	67	94	1 478	381	801

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

The average period that the received animals were kept by AFCD

Calendar year	Average period (days)		
	Dogs	Cats	Others [^]
2013	9.0	8.2	30.1
2014	8.8	9.4	31.2
2015	9.5	9.7	15.5
2016	10.9	13.0	53.8
2017	13.1	13.0	65.8

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

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)257

(Question Serial No. 6200)

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. (LegCo use): 4014)

Reply:

The \$500 million Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund has received a total of 29 applications since its inception in July 2014. So far, 8 applications have been approved, involving a total commitment of about \$41.2 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)258

(Question Serial No. 4481)

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 animals, please advise on the following:

- (a) the names of the medication used for euthanising animals (please list out separately if different animals are administered with different medication);
- (b) the manpower, the expenditure on manpower and other expenditure (if any) involved in euthanasia of animals;
- (c) the procedures for and expenditure on handling carcasses of cats and dogs;
- (d) the methods of and expenditure on handling carcasses of other animals (if different from cats and dogs)

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 62)

Reply:

- (a) The drugs used in the euthanasia of animals are Ketamine, Xylazine and Pentobarbital Sodium.
- (b) The staff and other expenditure on euthanasia of animals in 2017-18 is about \$1 million.
- (c) & (d) Animal carcasses (including cats, dogs and other animals), after disinfection, will be disposed of at government landfill sites. There is no breakdown on the manpower and expenditure for this area of work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)259

(Question Serial No. 4904)

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 animals, please advise on the following:

- (a) The site areas, floor areas, floor areas accommodating different species of animals (cats/dogs/other animals), capacities for different species of animals (cats/dogs/other animals), plot ratios, manpower and the respective expenditure, as well as other expenditures (if any) of the 4 Animal Management Centres.
- (b) The numbers of animals caught, given up by owners or received through other channels, as well as the animals' minimum, maximum and average periods of stay at the Animal Management Centres before being euthanised over the past 3 years.
- (c) Whether there is the possibility or plan to expand the existing or construct new Animal Management Centres and the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 64)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) 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 of the 4 AMCs is provided below.

Site and floor area

	AMC / NTN	AMC / NTS	AMC / K	AMC / HK
Site Area (m ²)	3 500	3 707	1 277	2 300
Floor Area (m ²)	3 370	2 298	1 227	2 167

Maximum capacity of animal accommodation¹

AMC	Maximum capacity (Numbers) ¹			
	Dog kennel	Cat kennel	Bird cage	Enclosure for other animals
AMC / NTS	80	30	--	--
AMC / NTN	130	80	25	16
AMC / K	90	30	--	--
AMC / HK	50	30	--	--
Total	350	170	25	16

¹The 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, only one animal will be housed in each kennel as far as possible for the sake of better disease control and animal welfare.

Manpower and expenditure involved in operating the 4 AMCs in 2017-18 (revised estimate)

AMC	Manpower ² (Number of staff)	Expenditure (\$ million)
AMC / NTN	58	24.4
AMC / NTS	40	17.4
AMC / K	49	21.8
AMC / HK	40	15.7

²The 4 AMCs are overseen by 1 Senior Veterinary Officer.

AFCD does not have a separate breakdown of the floor areas accommodating different species of animals and plot ratio of the 4 AMCs.

- (b) Stray animals caught will be put in AMCs for observation. For animals with a microchip implanted, AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in AMCs temporarily for about 10 to 20 days. For those without a microchip, 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 are unsuitable for adoption or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanised.

The number of animals caught, animals given up by owners and received through other channels by AFCD as well as the average period that the animals were kept in AMCs over the past 3 years are in the **Annex**.

- (c) The Government is planning to relocate the existing AMC / K to another location within the same district to enhance the facilities for providing a better animal keeping environment and promoting animal welfare and responsible pet ownership.

- End -

The number and type of stray animals caught, and animals given up by owners and received through other channels by
the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Calendar year	Stray animals caught			Animals given up by the owners			Animals received through other channels		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2015	2 412	1 359	1 418	1 284	129	109	378	73	3 590
2016	1 919	876	1 494	1 003	107	56	343	70	674
2017	1 566	674	1 640	1 024	84	39	336	65	204

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

The average period that the animals were kept in Animal Management Centres

Calendar year	Average period (days)		
	Dogs	Cats	Others[#]
2015	9.5	9.7	15.5
2016	10.9	13.0	53.8
2017	13.1	13.0	65.8

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

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)260

(Question Serial No. 4905)

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 animals, please advise on the followings:

- (a) The purposes of the subvention for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong)(\$1 million per year);
- (b) The list of other animal welfare organisations (AWOs) granted with government subventions, and the respective amounts of the subventions concerned;
- (c) The purposes of the subventions for the said organisations (please illustrate respectively);
- (d) The criteria for becoming a subvented AWO, and (whether the Government discloses) the application procedures, etc.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 65)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been collaborating with animal welfare organisations (AWOs) to enhance animal welfare and promote better animal management.

Regarding the subvention to the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) in 2017-18, major activities supported are summarised as follows:

- (i) conducting the Spay Neuter Assistance Programme, operating the mobile spay/neuter unit, carrying out other desexing initiatives and re-homing of animals, with a view to reducing stray animals;
- (ii) facilitating Government departments in the enforcement of relevant legislation, including investigating suspected cruelty and other illegal activities involving animals, operating a 24-hour hotline and deploying inspectorates to handle

matters relating to animal welfare, cruelty, and rescue, etc., and providing training for the inspectorate and other parties; and

(iii) organising education activities to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership.

(b) - (d) The AWOs that received subvention in 2017-18, the respective amounts and the projects involved are provided in **Annex 1**.

The eligibility criteria for application for subvention are set out in **Annex 2**. Only applicants that fulfil the criteria and with applications that are project-based and directly related to the promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management will be considered by AFCD. When vetting applications, AFCD will assess -

- the objective(s) and expected result(s) of the proposed project;
- cost-effectiveness of the project; and
- reasonableness of the proposed expenditure.

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.

- End -

**Subvention from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department to
Animal Welfare Organisations
(applied for and approved in 2016-17 and released in 2017-18)**

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount Released (\$)
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	84,602
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide vaccination and food for rehoming animals	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To provide preventive medical treatment for rehoming animals	100,000
4	Society for Abandoned Animals	To produce educational materials for promoting animal welfare and responsible pet ownership	42,000
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	45,120
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide preventive medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	46,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	To promote adoption, produce educational materials and further improve the organisation website	18,300
Total			494,022

Eligibility criteria for application for subvention

- (1) The organisation must be:
 - (i) a society as defined by section 2(1) of the Societies Ordinance (Cap. 151) and registered under section 5A(1) of that Ordinance; or
 - (ii) a company registered under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622) (or Cap. 32 as in force at the time of the registration); or
 - (iii) a body of persons, or charity, as defined by section 2(1) of the Registered Trustees Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 306) which has been granted a certificate of incorporation under section 4(1) of that Ordinance.
- (2) The organisation must also be a charitable institution or trust of a public character that is exempt from tax under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) (rehoming partners of AFCD are exempted from this requirement).
- (3) The core services and activities of the organisation must be related to promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management and it must be actively engaged in such services/activities over the past 3 years or more (re-homing partners of AFCD are exempted from the 3-year requirement).
- (4) The organisation must be well-managed and properly constituted with good record keeping and accounting systems.
- (5) Organisations charging an adoption or re-homing fee must possess an exemption from holding an animal trader licence under section 5A of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B). For re-homing partners without charitable status, at least one individual acting on behalf of the organisation must possess the individual exemption.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)261

(Question Serial No. 3784)

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:

Would the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Please provide figures on the expenditure for the management of accredited farms over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure in the financial year 2018-19.
- (b) Please set out the number and size (in hectares) of accredited farms over the past 5 years by region: locally in Hong Kong and in the Mainland (by provinces).
- (c) Please provide figures on the expenditure of the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure in the financial year 2018-19.
- (d) Please provide the numbers of stalls provided to various vegetable marketing co-operative societies by VMO at the Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Vegetable Market over the past 5 years and the rental incomes involved.
- (e) Please provide figures on the manpower and expenditure for "regulating credit unions and co-operative societies" over the past 5 years and the estimated manpower and expenditure in the financial year 2018-19.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 82)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure involved in the accreditation and support of local and Mainland farms under the Accredited Farm Scheme over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure in 2018-19 are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	
	Local	Mainland*
2013 – 14	2.3	1.5
2014 – 15	2.4	1.9
2015 – 16	2.5	2.0
2016 – 17	1.4	2.3
2017-18 (revised estimate)	1.6	2.6
2018-19 (estimate)	1.6	2.7

* Funded by the Agricultural Development Fund of the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO).

- (b) Information on the number of and the area occupied by accredited farms is tabulated as follows:

As at 31 December	Local		Mainland			
	Number of farms	Area (hectare)	Guangdong		Ningxia	
			Number of farms	Area (hectare)	Number of farms	Area (hectare)
2013	261	81	26	1 322	10	1 356
2014	267	83	25	1 153	13	1 776
2015	272	84	23	1 080	13	1 825
2016	276	84	24	1 263	12	1 726
2017	283	85	22	1 185	11	1 727

- (c) The total expenditure of VMO over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure in 2018-19 are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2013-14	52.6
2014-15	57.8
2015-16	56.3
2016-17	55.7
2017-18 (revised estimate)	60.3
2018-19 (estimate)	60.5

- (d) VMO charges commission on the value of sales of vegetables at its wholesale market rather than rental. Currently, a total of 27 Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Societies are operating in the VMO market. The amount of commission income received by VMO from the sales of vegetables of those co-operative societies over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Commission income (\$ million)
2013-14	30.3
2014-15	27.8
2015-16	28.2
2016-17	21.8
2017-18 (revised estimate)	19.8

- (e) The expenditure and manpower involved in the supervision of co-operative societies and credit unions over the past 5 years and in 2018-19 are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Co-operative societies		Credit unions	
	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2013-14	6.6	15	4.6	10
2014-15	7.2	15	5.1	10
2015-16	7.2	15	5.4	10
2016-17	8.5	16	5.6	10
2017-18 (revised estimate)	8.3	16	5.3	10
2018-19 (estimate)	8.3	16	5.3	10

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)262****(Question Serial No. 4228)**

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 set out the revenues from commission of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's (AFCD) wholesale markets over the past 5 years. What are the reasons for the increase / decrease of the figures?
- (b) Please set out the revenues from commission of the Vegetable Marketing Organization's (VMO) wholesale markets over the past 5 years. What are the reasons for the increase / decrease of the figures?
- (c) Please set out the wholesale volumes of vegetables through AFCD's wholesale markets over the past 5 years. What are the reasons for the increase/decrease of the figures?
- (d) Please set out the wholesale volumes of vegetables through VMO's wholesale markets over the past 5 years. What are the reasons for the increase / decrease of the figures?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 147)

Reply:

- (a) Rental and other income received by government wholesale food markets over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Total income (\$ million)
2013-14	95
2014-15	99
2015-16	100
2016-17	104
2017-18 (revised estimate)	103

The increase in total income over the years was mainly the result of rental adjustment.

- (b) Commission income received by the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) from the sales of vegetables over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Commission income (\$ million)
2013-14	69
2014-15	61
2015-16	65
2016-17	51
2017-18 (revised estimate)	48

The decrease in commission income is due to a reduction in volume of vegetables traded at the wholesale market.

- (c) & (d) The volume of vegetables marketed through government wholesale food markets and VMO over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Government wholesale food markets (tonnes)	VMO (tonnes)
2013	260 383	137 288
2014	256 171	129 164
2015	246 710	122 476
2016	238 163	106 591
2017	240 617	98 998

The decrease in volume is due to keen competition from direct marketing of vegetables.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)263****(Question Serial No. 4286)**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:

- (a) What were the numbers of Mainland fishing vessels intercepted for suspected illegal fishing, the numbers of Mainland fishermen involved, the respective numbers of persons who were prosecuted and convicted due to illegal fishing in each year over the past 5 years?
- (b) Among the value of output of the Hong Kong capture fishery, what was the amount involved in Hong Kong waters and from offshore fishing operations over the past 5 years?
- (c) Currently, what is the application progress of the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund? How many funds and programmes will be used on "identifying new fisheries resources and fishing grounds in the South China Sea"?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 207)Reply:

- (a) The information on illegal fishing activities involving Mainland fishing vessels and Mainland fishermen over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

Calendar year	Number of Mainland vessels intercepted	Number of Mainland fishermen involved	Number of Mainland fishermen prosecuted and convicted*
2013	3	6	6
2014	7	53	7
2015	12	45	21
2016	3	6	5
2017	1	5	5

* All the Mainland fishermen prosecuted were convicted.

- (b) The estimated production value of the local capture fisheries sector in Hong Kong waters and from waters outside Hong Kong over the past 5 years, is tabulated below:

Calendar year	Estimated value (\$ million)		
	From Hong Kong waters	From waters outside Hong Kong	Total
2013	870	1,470	2,340
2014	680	1,850	2,530
2015	730	1,610	2,340
2016	860	1,700	2,560
2017	860	1,740	2,600

- (c) As at mid-March 2018, the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) has received a total of 29 applications. Amongst these applications, 8 applications have been approved, involving a total commitment of about \$41.2 million; 5 applications have been withdrawn by the applicants and 11 applications have been rejected. The remaining 5 applications are being processed. SFDF has not received any application involving project for exploring new fisheries resources and fishing grounds in the South China Sea.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)264****(Question Serial No. 4292)**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 respective total areas of active farmland and abandoned farmland owned by the Government or private individuals over the past 5 years.

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Active farmland (hectare)	Government land					
	Private land					
	Total area					
Abandoned farmland (hectare)	Government land					
	Private land					
	Total area					
Total area (hectare)						

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 213)Reply:

According to the survey on agricultural land use conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the estimated area of active and abandoned farmland over the past 5 years is tabulated below.

Calendar year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Active farmland (hectare)	730	710	690	700	710
Abandoned farmland (hectare)	3 790	3 780	3 810	3 740	3 690
Total area (hectare)	4 520	4 490	4 500	4 440	4 400

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 hectares.

AFCD does not have breakdown on land ownership of the farmland.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)265

(Question Serial No. 4362)

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 details of the Government's work on the prevention of the introduction and spread of animal and plant diseases, and the manpower and expenditures involved in the work over the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 361)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has adopted a multi-pronged approach in the prevention of the introduction and spread of animal and plant diseases in Hong Kong. Major areas of work include:

- (a) regulating the import of animals, plants and their products under relevant legislation, including the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance (Cap. 139), the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421) and the Plant (Importation and Pest Control) Ordinance (Cap. 207), through implementing licensing and permit control, imposing risk-based quarantine requirements, conducting inspections at boundary control points, and combating smuggling;
- (b) regulating local chicken and pig farming through licensing control and enhanced inspections of the farms to ensure their compliance with the biosecurity, farm hygiene and related requirements and taking enforcement against non-compliant farms, implementing vaccination and disease surveillance programmes, and providing farmers with technical assistance and training on disease prevention and control;
- (c) regulating local animal and bird trading through licensing control, regular inspections of licensed premises to ensure their compliance with the licence conditions and related requirements, and taking enforcement against non-compliant cases;
- (d) implementing a comprehensive programme for rabies control through imposing import control and quarantine requirements on animals with potential risk of rabies infection,

mandatorily requiring all dogs over 5 months of age to be licensed, microchipped and vaccinated against rabies, taking enforcement action against pet owners in contravention of the relevant legislation, investigating into animal biting cases (mostly involving dogs and cats) and putting animals involved under quarantine for rabies observation, and taking various measures for the management of stray animals;

- (e) carrying out jointly with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department a comprehensive surveillance programme on avian influenza, including collection of samples at all levels of the live poultry supply chain, dead birds and the environment for testing; and
- (f) organising various education and publicity activities for farmers, traders and other relevant stakeholders on the prevention and control of animal and plant diseases.

The expenditure and manpower involved in the above work over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	276.7	500
2016-17	293.0	517
2017-18 (revised estimate)	332.5	519

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)266

(Question Serial No. 4363)

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 details of the Government's work on promoting and safeguarding animal welfare over the past 3 years? What were the manpower and various expenditures involved in this regard? Has the Government received any help-seeking cases and complaints? What were the numbers of help-seeking cases and prosecutions and the details?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 362)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has taken various measures to safeguard and promote animal welfare. These include:

- (a) 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;
- (b) implementing the new licensing regime under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) (the Regulations) to regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale;
- (c) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals;
- (d) enhancing enforcement against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant legislation;
- (e) 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);

- (f) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to, animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management;
- (g) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities; and
- (h) assisting the AWOs concerned in implementing the Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme for stray dogs.

The manpower and expenditure involved in the above work over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Manpower (Number of staff)	Expenditure (\$ million)
2015-16	194	50.5
2016-17	207	53.7
2017-18 (revised estimate)	209	57.7

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) (Ordinance) is the primary legislation for safeguarding animal welfare, which mainly relates to prohibiting and punishing acts of cruelty to animals. The number of complaints (including requests for assistance) and details of successful prosecutions under the Ordinance initiated by AFCD and the Hong Kong Police Force over the past 3 years are as follows:

Calendar year	Number of animal cruelty complaints received	Number of persons convicted	Penalties imposed	
			Fine (\$) #	Range of imprisonment
2015	236	10	2,000	14 days to 2 months
2016	262	11	5,000	28 days to 6 months
2017	275	18*	4,000	10 days to 5 months

Only one case in each of the 3 calendar years involved a penalty of fine.

* For the period from January to September 2017.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)267

(Question Serial No. 4364)

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 details of the Government's work on rabies prevention over the past 3 years? What were the manpower and expenditures involved (by District Council constituency areas)?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 363)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has put in place a comprehensive programme for rabies control. Measures implemented under the programme include:

- (a) imposing import control and quarantine requirements on animals with potential risk of rabies infection;
- (b) requiring all dogs over 5 months of age to be licensed, microchipped and vaccinated against rabies;
- (c) conducting investigation into animal biting cases (mostly involving dogs and cats) and putting the animals involved under quarantine for rabies observation;
- (d) strengthening management of stray animals;
- (e) enhancing enforcement against pet owners in contravention of relevant legislation; and
- (f) promoting the importance of rabies prevention, responsible pet ownership and proper control of dogs through public education and publicity.

The expenditure and manpower involved in the above work over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	31.1	179
2016-17	30.4	187
2017-18 (revised estimate)	34.9	187

AFCD does not have a breakdown of the above by district.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)268****(Question Serial No. 4365)**

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 inspection of farms where food animals are kept, what were the numbers and the details of the inspections conducted over the past 3 years? Has the Government issued any verbal or written warning and initiated any prosecution against irregularities in this respect? What were the details?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 364)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department conducts regular inspection to local licensed livestock farms, including 43 pig farms and 29 chicken farms, to monitor the health of the livestock, ensure strict implementation of biosecurity measures and compliance of hygiene requirements by the farms, and offer technical advice to farmers on good farming practice. The number of inspections carried out, verbal or written warnings issued, and prosecutions taken over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of inspections	Number of verbal / written warnings	Number of prosecutions
2015	4 173	9	3
2016	4 106	19	1
2017	4 445	10	0

The warnings issued and prosecutions taken were mainly related to breaching of licence conditions on biosecurity and livestock waste treatment requirements.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)269

(Question Serial No. 4366)

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 inspections of premises and establishments where animals are kept for exhibition or trading purposes did the Government conduct over the past 3 years? What were the details of and expenditure on each operation? Has the Government ever issued any oral or written warning and initiated any prosecution for irregularities? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 365)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducts regular inspection to animal trading, dog breeding and animal exhibition establishments. Should there be any irregularities detected, AFCD will conduct further investigation and, depending on the nature and gravity of the case, issue warning to or take enforcement against the establishment concerned as necessary.

The number of inspections conducted on animal trading, dog breeding and animal exhibition establishments, and the number of written warnings issued and successful prosecutions initiated against breaching of licence conditions or trading / exhibiting animals without a valid licence or permit over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of inspections	Number of written warnings issued against breaching of licence conditions *	Number of successful prosecutions initiated		
			Against breaching of licence conditions	Against trading animals without a valid licence or permit	Against illegal exhibition
2015	5 488	6	10	7	1
2016	5 694	4	2	3	0
2017	5 238	15	0	11	0

* Only written warnings were issued for breaching licence conditions for animal trading, dog breeding and animal exhibition establishments.

Conducting inspections to animal trading, dog breeding and animal exhibition establishments forms part of the ongoing work of AFCD, and there is no breakdown on the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)270****(Question Serial No. 4367)**

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 inspections of marine fish culture farms did the Government conduct over the past 3 years? What were the details of, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved in each operation? Has the Government issued any verbal or written warning and initiated any prosecution against irregularities in this respect? What are the details and numbers concerned?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 366)

Reply:

In 2015, 2016 and 2017, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducted 6 659, 7 550, and 6 485 inspections of the marine fish culture farms in 26 fish culture zones respectively. In each inspection, a team of 3 staff was involved in checking the compliance of marine fish culture farms with the regulatory requirements.

Actions would be taken against any irregularities found during inspections. Information on the actions taken against irregularities over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Calendar year	Number of written warnings issued*	Number of prosecutions initiated
2015	297	0
2016	474	1
2017	323	3

* AFCD only issues warnings in written form.

The total expenditure involved in conducting regular patrol and inspection on the marine fish culture farms in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 is \$8.0 million, \$8.2 million, and \$8.9 million respectively. There is no breakdown on individual inspections.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)271****(Question Serial No. 4368)**

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 verbal and written warnings issued as well as prosecutions initiated against offenders under relevant legislation over the past 3 years? What were the details?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 367)

Reply:

Under Programme (3), the number of verbal and written warnings issued and prosecutions initiated in accordance with the relevant legislation under the purview of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of warnings issued		Number of prosecutions initiated
	Verbal	Written	
2015	0	433	1 050
2016	2	646	743
2017	0	515	749

Majority of the prosecutions were made under the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421) against keeping of dogs without valid licences and improper control of dogs, whilst most of the warnings were made under the Marine Fish Culture Ordinance (Cap. 353) against contravention of conditions under the Marine Fish Culture Licence and the Pesticides Ordinance (Cap. 133) against improper labelling of pesticides and exposing pesticides for sale without a licence.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)272****(Question Serial No. 4369)**

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 applications for livestock farm licences and marine fish culture licences, the numbers of licences issued and the numbers of rejected applications over the past 3 years? What were the manpower and expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 368)

Reply:

Information on livestock keeping licences and marine fish culture licences over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

	Calendar year		
	2015	2016	2017
Livestock keeping licence			
Number of applications received*	31	19	22
Number of licences issued	31	19	22
Number of applications rejected	0	0	0
Marine fish culture licence			
Number of applications received*	969	951	938
Number of licences issued	969	949	938
Number of applications rejected	0	2	0

* All applications were for licence renewal.

Handling of applications for livestock keeping licences and marine fish culture licences forms part of the ongoing work of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)273****(Question Serial No. 4370)**

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 registration for local fishing vessels conducted by the Government over the past 3 years? What were the numbers of applications rejected? What were the reasons? What were the manpower and expenditures involved in this regard?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 369)

Reply:

The registration of local fishing vessels is a one-off exercise and has largely been completed. The number of registration conducted in 2015, 2016 and 2017 is 90, 34 and 21 respectively*. No application was rejected during the past 3 years.

Apart from handling new registrations, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department also handles cancellation of registrations and amendments to the registrations arising from changes to the registered vessels, with the latter involving physical inspection of the vessels depending on the circumstances. The total expenditure and manpower involved in administering the registration scheme over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	1.1	3
2016-17	1.1	3
2017-18 (revised estimate)	1.6	3

* The number of registered fishing vessels in 2015, 2016 and 2017 is 4 347, 4 127 and 4 133 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)274

(Question Serial No. 4372)

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 details of the Government's measures for stray animals management over the past 3 years? What were the numbers of animals trapped, neutered and returned? What were the manpower and expenditures involved in this regard? What were the details of the Government's work on the education and publicity of the "trap-neuter-return" programme? What were the manpower and expenditures involved in this regard (by District Council constituency areas)?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 370)

Reply:

Over the past 3 years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has taken various actions to strengthen the management of stray animals, including –

- (a) 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;
- (b) enhancing enforcement against pet owners in contravention of relevant legislation;
- (c) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to, animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in re-homing of animals and carry out activities relating to animal welfare and management;
- (d) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities, including the "Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation" (CSR) programme; and
- (e) assisting AWOs concerned in implementing the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs.

The CSR programme for stray cattle was 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. During the implementation of the CSR programme, AFCD has maintained close liaison with relevant stakeholders to explain the objectives and details of the programme to them and solicit their support. AFCD has put up publicity banners and posters to enhance public awareness of stray cattle and remind the public not to feed and disturb the stray cattle when encountering them.

The number of cattle relocated under the CSR programme in these 2 regions over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Sai Kung	Lantau Island
2015	46	20
2016	42	23
2017	42	22

The expenditure and manpower involved in conducting the CSR programme over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2015-16	2.3	6
2016-17	2.4	6
2017-18 (revised estimate)	3.1	7

The 3-year TNR trial programme for stray dogs conducted at the 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long by 2 AWOs since early 2015 has been completed in January 2018. A total of 65 and 37 dogs have been neutered and returned to the trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long respectively. The consultant commissioned by AFCD is currently analysing the findings to assess the trial programme's effectiveness. Meanwhile, the 2 AWOs concerned will continue to take care of the dogs at the trial sites. Before and during the implementation of the trial programme, AFCD, jointly with the 2 AWOs concerned, carried out extensive consultation and communication with the relevant rural committees, district councils and management offices of housing estates to explain the objectives and details of the trial programme to them as well as solicit their support. The average annual expenditure and manpower deployed by AFCD over the past 3 years (between 2015-16 and 2017-18) in connection with the trial programme are around \$1.2 million and 2 staff respectively.

AFCD does not have breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved in the above two programmes by district.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)275****(Question Serial No. 6324)**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 set out the numbers, sizes and production outputs of local and Mainland accredited farms, their respective sales volumes in Hong Kong, as well as the Department's manpower and expenditures involved in this regard over the past 10 years.

	Number of Mainland accredited farms	Size of Mainland accredited farms	Total production output of Mainland accredited farms	Total sales volume of Mainland accredited farms in Hong Kong	The Department's manpower involved in Mainland accredited farms	The Department's expenditure involved in Mainland accredited farms
2007						
2008						
2009						
2010						
2011						
2012						
2013						
2014						
2015						
2016						

	Number of local accredited farms	Size of local accredited farms	Total production output of local accredited farms	Total sales volume of local accredited farms in Hong Kong	The Department's manpower involved in local accredited farms	The Department's expenditure involved in local accredited farms
2007						
2008						
2009						
2010						
2011						
2012						
2013						
2014						
2015						
2016						

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 148)

Reply:

The number and size of local and Mainland accredited farms, their respective sales volume through the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO), as well as the manpower and expenditure involved in the accreditation and support of these farms under the Accredited Farm Scheme over the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Number of farms, area and sales volume

As at 31 December	Local			Mainland		
	Number of farms	Area (hectare)	Sales volume of accredited vegetables through VMO (tonnes) [#]	Number of farms	Area (hectare)	Sales volume of accredited vegetables through VMO (tonnes) [#]
2013	261	81	1 108	36	2 678	19 338
2014	267	83	935	38	2 929	20 175
2015	272	84	896	36	2 905	19 555
2016	276	84	594	36	2 989	14 493
2017	283	85	572	33	2 912	12 733

[#]The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not have information of the farms' sales through other marketing channels.

Manpower and expenditure

Financial year	Local		Mainland	
	Manpower* (Number of staff)	Expenditure* (\$ million)	Manpower# (Number of staff)	Expenditure# (\$ million)
2013-14	3	2.3	8	1.5
2014-15	3	2.4	8	1.9
2015-16	3	2.5	8	2.0
2016-17	3	1.4	8	2.3
2017-18 (revised estimate)	3	1.6	8	2.6

*Funded by AFCD.

#Funded by the Agricultural Development Fund of VMO.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)276

(Question Serial No. 5435)

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, please provide their annual balances, amounts of Government injection, investments or other incomes, and the total expenditures in 2016-17 and 2017-18. If there are other funds under the ambit of the Bureau but not included below, please also provide the above information.

- (a) Agricultural Products Scholarship Fund;
- (b) Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere Loan Fund;
- (c) Fisheries Development Loan Fund;
- (d) Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund (FMOLF) including the Fishing Moratorium Loan Scheme set up under FMOLF;
- (e) J.E. Joseph Trust Fund;
- (f) Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund;
- (g) Marine Fish Scholarship Fund;
- (h) Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund;
- (i) Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund;
- (j) Vegetable Marketing Organization Agricultural Development Fund;
- (k) Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund; and
- (l) World Refugee Year Loan Fund.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 98)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department currently administers a total of 12 funds related to the agriculture and fisheries industries. They are the Agricultural Products Scholarship Fund (APSF), Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere Loan Fund (CARELF), Fisheries Development Loan Fund (FDLF), Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund (FMOLF), J.E. Joseph Trust Fund (JEJTF), Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund (KAALF), Marine Fish Scholarship Fund (MFSF), Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF), Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF), Vegetable Marketing Organization Agricultural Development Fund (VMOADF), Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund (VMOLF), and World Refugee Year Loan Fund (WRYLF).

The requested information is tabulated at the **Annex**.

Amount of Government injection, income, expenditure and fund balance of various funds related to the agricultural and fisheries industries

Fund	Amount of government injection (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2017)	Calendar year					
		2016			2017		
		Income [#] (\$ million)	Expenditure [^] (\$ million)	Fund balance (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2016)	Income [#] (\$ million)	Expenditure [^] (\$ million)	Fund balance (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2017)
APSF	-	< 0.1	0.3	6.5	0.1	0.2	6.2
CARELF	-	< 0.1	0.1	0.2	< 0.1	0.0	0.2
FDLF	1,100.0 [*]	6.2	173.0	456.9	9.2	176.8	311.4
FMOLF	60.0 [*]	0.6	38.3	108.7	0.7	53.6	92.9
JEJTF	0.8	0.1	1.0	18.6	0.2	1.0	19.1
KAALF	2.0	0.1	4.0	10.8	0.1	4.2	10.7
MFSF	-	< 0.1	0.4	4.7	< 0.1	0.1	4.6
SADF	500.0 [*]	-	-	500.0	-	1.9	498.1
SFDF	500.0 [*]	-	10.5	489.5	-	11.5	478.0
VMOADF	-	0.4	41.2	52.9	0.4	32.1	32.8
VMOLF	-	0.1	1.6	12.7	0.1	2.3	12.7
WRYLF	-	< 0.1	0.0	2.0	< 0.1	0.0	2.0

* Government commitment

Including interest income from loan borrowers, bank deposits and Government bonds

^ Including grants/loans issued

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)277

(Question Serial No. 5864)

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:

Will the Department implement a Cat Colony Care Trial Programme in the future? If yes, what are the details and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 61)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not have any plan to implement a trap, neuter and return (TNR) programme for stray cats. Nevertheless, AFCD will continue to work closely with the Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) on the Cat Colony Care Programme which adopts the TNR method to manage stray cat populations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)278****(Question Serial No. 5166)**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 set out the numbers of licences issued to local leisure farms under the following ordinances over the past 5 years:

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Amusement Rides (Safety) Ordinance					
Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance					
Places of Public Entertainment Ordinance					

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 560)Reply:

There is no licensing regime specific to leisure farming in Hong Kong. As such the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not have comprehensive information of farms offering leisure farming activities. Farms conducting leisure farming activities that are bound by the licensing requirements imposed under the respective legislation have to apply for the relevant licences with the relevant Government department(s) direct. AFCD does not have the information of various licences issued by other Government departments to farms.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)279****(Question Serial No. 5168)**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 locally-operated hydroponic farming, would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) Please provide the numbers of 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.) over the past 5 years.

(Please provide a separate table for each year)

Location	District	Number	Area	Total production area	Zoning on the Outline Zoning Map
Agricultural Land					
Industrial Building					
Green Belt					
Others (please specify)					

- (b) To support modernisation of local agricultural technology, the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) established at the Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Vegetable Market (CSWWVM) in 2013 the first "Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre" (C.E.H. R&D Centre) in Hong Kong. Please provide the following information: the annual total weights and daily average weights of harvested and saleable hydroponic vegetables, as well as that of hydroponic vegetables lost due to dull sale and return, of the C.E.H. R&D Centre in 2013-2014, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18.

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Annual total weight and daily average weight of harvested and saleable hydroponic vegetables					
Annual total weight and daily average weight of hydroponic vegetables lost due to dull sale and return					
Number of retail outlets					

- (c) To support modernisation of local agricultural technology, VMO established at CSWWVM in 2013 the first C.E.H. R&D Centre in Hong Kong. Please provide the following information: the total expenditures, total revenues, annual total retail volumes and revenues of hydroponic vegetables, annual total wholesale volumes and revenues of hydroponic vegetables, as well as annual total and daily average production volumes of hydroponic vegetables, of the C.E.H. R&D Centre in 2013-2014, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18.

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Total expenditure					
Total revenue					
Annual total retail volume and revenue of hydroponic vegetables					
Annual total wholesale volume and revenue of hydroponic vegetables					
Annual total production volume of hydroponic vegetables					
Daily average production volume of hydroponic vegetables					

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 562)

Reply:

- (a) Information on local hydroponic farms gathered by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department since 2014 is tabulated in **Annex 1**.

(b) & (c) The “Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre” is fully funded by the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) for demonstrating the technology and equipment for hydroponic production, with a view to facilitating technology transfer to the trade. Currently, half of its floor area is used for production with the rest for research and development. The requested information according to VMO is tabulated in **Annex 2**.

**Distribution of local hydroponic farms
(from 2014 to 2017)**

(a) As at 31 December 2014

Location	District	Number	Area occupied (m²)	Total production area (m²)	Zoning on the Outline Zoning Plan
Agricultural Land	Yuen Long	3	8 056	6 980	Agriculture
		1	230	161	Open Storage
		1	1 800	1 260	Coastal Protection Area
		1	556	390	Open Space
		1	7 400	5 920	Industrial
	North	1	1 400	980	Agriculture
		2	2 124	1 485	Agriculture / Green Belt
	Tuen Mun	1	100	70	Village Type Development
Industrial Building	North	1	10	20	Industrial
	Kwai Chung	1	200	400	Industrial
		1	110	220	Other Specified Use
	Kwun Tong	2	430	1 044	Other Specified Use
Green Belt	Yuen Long	1	7 400	5 920	Green Belt
	North	1	720	500	Green Belt
Others *	Sham Shui Po	1	250	504	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.

(b) As at 31 December 2015

Location	District	Number	Area occupied (m²)	Total production area (m²)	Zoning on the Outline Zoning Plan
Agricultural Land	Yuen Long	3	39 000	10 670	Agriculture
		1	300	180	Open Storage
		1	2 500	2 000	Coastal Protection Area
		1	556	390	Open Space
		1	11 000	6 000	Industrial
		1	6 000	3 350	Village Type Development
	North	1	2 000	1 700	Agriculture
		1	6 000	4 000	Agriculture / Green Belt
	Tuen Mun	1	6 000	2 000	Village Type Development
Industrial Building	North	1	100	75	Industrial
	Kwai Chung	1	300	300	Industrial
		1	200	180	Other Specified Use
	Kwun Tong	2	480	890	Other Specified Use
Green Belt	Yuen Long	1	3 500	2 500	Green Belt
	North	1	720	500	Green Belt
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.

(c) As at 31 December 2016

Location	District	Number	Area occupied (m²)	Total production area (m²)	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.

(d) As at 31 December 2017

Location	District	Number	Area occupied (m²)	Total production area (m²)	Zoning on Outline Zoning Plan
Agricultural Land	Yuen Long	10	51 070	16 020	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
		3	440	550	Open Space
		1	300	180	Open Storage
		1	140	300	Government, Institution or Community
	North	7	28 310	6 130	Agriculture
		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	3	500	920
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.

**Information on the Controlled Environment Hydroponic
Research and Development Centre**

Hydroponic vegetables produced

Financial year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Saleable Volume					
- Total weight	6 563 kg	8 379 kg	6 061 kg	3 329 kg	2 881 kg
- Daily average weight	18 kg	23 kg	17 kg	9 kg	8 kg
Unsold Volume (Including those used for promotional activities)					
- Total weight	2 254 kg	4 477 kg	3 038 kg	1 268 kg	1 276 kg
- Daily average weight	6 kg	12 kg	8 kg	3 kg	3 kg
Number of retail outlets	57	75	44	11	11

Income and Expenditure

Financial year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (revised estimate)
Total expenditure (\$ million)	1.9	2.1	1.7	1.5	1.4
Total revenue [^] (\$ million)	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.4
Total volume of marketed hydroponic vegetables [#]	4 309 kg	3 902 kg	3 023 kg	2 061 kg	1 605 kg
Total / Daily average production volume of hydroponic vegetables	Refer to saleable volume in the above table				

[^] Arising from marketed hydroponic vegetables.

[#] No separate breakdown on the volume/revenue of wholesale and retail.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)280****(Question Serial No. 5169)**

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 (the Scheme), would the Government inform this Committee of the followings:

- (a) Please provide the average waiting time for successful cases of the Scheme, percentages of farmland successfully matched, sizes of farmland successfully leased out and numbers of successful applicants, as well as the rents per dau chung per year for successful cases over the past 5 years;

Year	Average waiting time for successful cases	Percentage of farmland successfully matched	Size of farmland successfully leased out (hectares) and number of successful applicants	Rent per dau chung* per year for successful cases
2013				
2014				
2015				
2016				
2017				

- (b) Please provide, in tabular form, a detailed breakdown of the geographic distribution of the successful applicants in the 18 districts in Hong Kong, and the respective total rents paid in the districts in each of the past 5 years, by District Council districts.

Geographic distribution of successful applicants	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
North					
Yuen Long					
Tai Po					
Tuen Mun					
Sai Kung					
Islands					
Sha Tin					
Tsuen Wan					
Other districts					

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 563)

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 relevant statistics of successful cases under ALRS are tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of successful cases	Land area leased out (hectare (ha)) / Percentage relative to total land area available for leasing [#] (%)	Range of annual rental (per dau chung [*])	Average waiting time (year)
2013	14	6.2 ha / N.A.	\$850 to \$43,500	4
2014	12	2.6 ha / N.A.	\$300 to \$7,000	5
2015	41	5.4 ha / N.A.	\$800 to \$10,400	5
2016	29	4.0 ha / 27%	\$1,400 to \$32,100	4
2017	9	2.1 ha / 16%	\$160 to \$12,000	5.5

[#] Prior to 2016, AFCD did not keep record on the total land area available for leasing under ALRS for a particular year. Whether the land available could be successfully leased out depends on a number of factors, including whether the size and location of the land could meet the needs of prospective tenants; whether the soil and irrigation are suitable for growing the intended crops; whether the tenancy terms (in particular the asking rent and tenancy period) are acceptable to prospective tenants, etc.

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

District/ Calendar year	Number of successful cases / Average annual rental (per case)*				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
North	4 / \$2,900	9 / \$6,400	34 / \$8,200	13 / \$13,800	4 / \$25,300
Yuen Long	8 / \$90,900	-	3 / \$6,000	8 / \$36,400	4 / \$18,300
Tai Po	1 / \$1 [^]	1 / \$7,000	-	1 / \$50,000	1 / \$8,000
Sai Kung	-	2 / \$3,700	-	5 / \$2,200	-
Islands	-	-	4 / \$2,200	2 / \$5,300	-
Sha Tin	1 / \$10 [^]	-	-	-	-

* Subject to factors including asking price of landowners and size of the farmland leased out.

[^] Nominal rent was charged by the respective landowner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)281****(Question Serial No. 5210)**

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) Could the Government set out the revenues from commission of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's (AFCD) wholesale markets over the past 5 years? What are the reasons for the increase / decrease of the figures?
- (b) Could the Government set out the revenues from commission of the Vegetable Marketing Organization's (VMO) wholesale markets over the past 5 years? What are the reasons for the increase / decrease of the figures?
- (c) Could the Government set out the wholesale volumes of vegetables through AFCD's wholesale markets over the past 5 years? What are the reasons for the increase / decrease of the figures?
- (d) Could the Government set out the wholesale volumes of vegetables through VMO's wholesale markets over the past 5 years? What are the reasons for the increase / decrease of the figures?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 604)

Reply:

- (a) Rental and other income received by government wholesale food markets over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Total income (\$ million)
2013-14	95
2014-15	99
2015-16	100
2016-17	104
2017-18 (revised estimate)	103

The increase in total income over the years was mainly the result of rental adjustment.

- (b) Commission income received by the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) from the sales of vegetables over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Financial Year	Commission income (\$ million)
2013-14	69
2014-15	61
2015-16	65
2016-17	51
2017-18 (revised estimate)	48

The decrease in commission income is due to a reduction in volume of vegetables traded at the wholesale market.

- (c) & (d) The volume of vegetables marketed through government wholesale food markets and VMO over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Government wholesale food markets (tonnes)	VMO (tonnes)
2013	260 383	137 288
2014	256 171	129 164
2015	246 710	122 476
2016	238 163	106 591
2017	240 617	98 998

The decrease in volume is due to keen competition from direct marketing of vegetables.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)282****(Question Serial No. 5212)**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 set out the numbers, sizes and production outputs of local and Mainland accredited farms, their respective sales volumes in Hong Kong, as well as the Department's manpower and expenditures involved in this regard over the past 10 years.

	Number of Mainland accredited farms	Size of Mainland accredited farms	Total production output of Mainland accredited farms	Total sales volume of Mainland accredited farms in Hong Kong	The Department's manpower involved in Mainland accredited farms	The Department's expenditure involved in Mainland accredited farms
2007						
2008						
2009						
2010						
2011						
2012						
2013						
2014						
2015						
2016						

	Number of local accredited farms	Size of local accredited farms	Total production output of local accredited farms	Total sales volume of local accredited farms in Hong Kong	The Department's manpower involved in local accredited farms	The Department's expenditure involved in local accredited farms
2007						
2008						
2009						
2010						
2011						
2012						
2013						
2014						
2015						
2016						

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 606)

Reply:

The number and size of local and Mainland accredited farms, their respective sales volume through the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO), as well as the manpower and expenditure involved in the accreditation and support of these farms under the Accredited Farm Scheme over the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Number of farms, area and sales volume

As at 31 December	Local			Mainland		
	Number of farms	Area (hectare)	Sales volume of accredited vegetables through VMO (tonnes)#	Number of farms	Area (hectare)	Sales volume of accredited vegetables through VMO (tonnes)#
2013	261	81	1 108	36	2 678	19 338
2014	267	83	935	38	2 929	20 175
2015	272	84	896	36	2 905	19 555
2016	276	84	594	36	2 989	14 493
2017	283	85	572	33	2 912	12 733

#The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not have information of the farms' sales through other marketing channels.

Manpower and expenditure

Financial year	Local		Mainland	
	Manpower* (Number of staff)	Expenditure* (\$ million)	Manpower# (Number of staff)	Expenditure# (\$ million)
2013-14	3	2.3	8	1.5
2014-15	3	2.4	8	1.9
2015-16	3	2.5	8	2.0
2016-17	3	1.4	8	2.3
2017-18 (revised estimate)	3	1.6	8	2.6

*Funded by AFCD.

#Funded by the Agricultural Development Fund of VMO.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)283****(Question Serial No. 5213)**

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:

What were the numbers of Mainland fishing vessels intercepted for suspected illegal fishing, the numbers of Mainland fishermen involved, the respective numbers of persons who were prosecuted and convicted due to illegal fishing in each year over the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 607)

Reply:

The information on illegal fishing activities involving Mainland fishing vessels and Mainland fishermen over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

Calendar year	Number of Mainland vessels intercepted	Number of Mainland fishermen involved	Number of Mainland fishermen prosecuted and convicted*
2013	3	6	6
2014	7	53	7
2015	12	45	21
2016	3	6	5
2017	1	5	5

* All the Mainland fishermen prosecuted were convicted.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)284****(Question Serial No. 5214)**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:

Among the value of output of the Hong Kong capture fishery, what was the amount involved in Hong Kong waters and from offshore fishing operations over the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 608)Reply:

The estimated production value of the local capture fisheries sector in Hong Kong waters and from waters outside Hong Kong over the past 5 years, is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Estimated value (\$ million)		
	From Hong Kong waters	From waters outside Hong Kong	Total
2013	870	1,470	2,340
2014	680	1,850	2,530
2015	730	1,610	2,340
2016	860	1,700	2,560
2017	860	1,740	2,600

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)285

(Question Serial No. 5215)

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:

Currently, what is the application progress of the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund? How many funds and programmes will be used on “identifying new fisheries resources and fishing grounds in the South China Sea”?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 609)

Reply:

As at mid-March 2018, the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) has received a total of 29 applications. Amongst these applications, 8 applications have been approved, involving a total commitment of about \$41.2 million; 5 applications have been withdrawn by the applicants and 11 applications have been rejected. The remaining 5 applications are being processed. SFDF has not received any application involving projects for exploring new fisheries resources and fishing grounds in the South China Sea.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)286****(Question Serial No. 5257)**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 respective total areas of active farmland and abandoned farmland owned by the Government or private individuals over the past 5 years.

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Active farmland (hectare)	Government land					
	Private land					
	Total area					
Abandoned farmland (hectare)	Government land					
	Private land					
	Total area					
Total area (hectare)						

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 715)Reply:

According to the survey on agricultural land use conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the estimated area of active and abandoned farmland over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

Calendar year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Active farmland (hectare)	730	710	690	700	710
Abandoned farmland (hectare)	3 790	3 780	3 810	3 740	3 690
Total area (hectare)	4 520	4 490	4 500	4 440	4 400

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 hectares.

AFCD does not have breakdown on land ownership of the farmland.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)287

(Question Serial No. 6039)

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 provide a detailed breakdown of the following information for the past 5 years:

- (a) The total numbers of stray cattle in Hong Kong, and the respective numbers by districts (Lantau Island, Sai Kung/Ma On Shan, North East New Territories and Central New Territories).
- (b) The respective numbers of reports of road obstructions and nuisance caused by stray cattle in each of the above 4 districts, and the major affected areas.
- (c) The respective numbers of stray cattle that died of unnatural causes, such as car accidents and hunting, etc., in each of the above 4 districts.
- (d) The respective numbers of cattle that were born and died of natural causes in each of the above 4 districts.
- (e) The respective numbers of cattle that were captured, sterilised and relocated in each of the above 4 districts, as well as the sites for relocation.
- (f) Was the manpower of the Cattle Management Team sufficient for dealing with stray cattle in Hong Kong?

In addition, what is the result of the study conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department on the installation of a cattle grid for confining the movements of stray cattle?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 203)

Reply:

- (a) 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 are tabulated as follows:

	Estimated number of stray cattle (head)				
	Lantau Island	Sai Kung / Ma On Shan	North East New Territories	Central New Territories	Total
Buffalo	80	0	0	50	130
Brown cattle	200	500	200	200	1 100
Total	280	500	200	250	1 230

- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not keep figures of cattle related road blockage complaints, but cattle related complaints such as nuisance, crop damage and potential threat to public safety are recorded. The number of cattle nuisance complaints received by district over the past 5 years is tabled below:

District / Calendar year	Number of cattle related complaints received and followed up				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Lantau Island	58	76	71	91	39
Sai Kung	41	12	13	11	10
Northeast and Central New Territories	15	25	19	22	14
Subtotal	114	113	103	124	63

- (c) & (d) AFCD does not have the information requested.
- (e) 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.

The number of cattle relocated under the CSR programme over the past 5 years is tabulated as follow:

Calendar year	Lantau Island	Sai Kung
2013	82	111
2014	32	26
2015	20	46
2016	23	42
2017	22	42

- (f) AFCD will review from time to time the manpower needs to ensure that issues related to stray cattle are dealt with promptly and properly.

AFCD and the relevant departments have carried out a detailed study on cattle grids, which found that such facilities are generally used on private land in farms in foreign countries to prevent cattle from going outside the farms. With reference to the overseas experience, it is considered that there are potential safety hazards to road users if cattle grids are installed on local public roads. In the light of the above, and in the absence of viable options to address the safety concerns, the cattle grid proposal will not be pursued further.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)288****(Question Serial No. 6042)**

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 provide a detailed breakdown of the following information for the past 5 years:

- (a) The numbers of veterinary surgeons and veterinary clinics registered under the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance in Hong Kong.
- (b) The number of complaints by year, the major reasons for such complaints, the numbers of complaints accepted and then put under investigation, the number of substantiated cases of misconduct, the penalties imposed, and whether there is any veterinary surgeon having his/her license revoked due to the complaints.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 206)

Reply:

- (a) The number of registered veterinary surgeons in Hong Kong at year-end of the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of registered veterinary surgeons
2013	695
2014	746
2015	823
2016	861
2017	920

We do not keep on a routine basis the number of veterinary clinics. Nevertheless, the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong (VSB) has conducted a survey which covered this in 2016. According to that survey, there were 146 private veterinary clinics in Hong Kong.

- (b) All complaints against registered veterinary surgeons are handled by VSB in accordance with the Rules of the Veterinary Surgeons Board (Disciplinary Proceedings) made under sections 6 and 18(3) of the Veterinary Surgeons Registration

Ordinance (Cap. 529). Majority of the complaints were against the result or process of diagnosis and treatment or surgery by the registered veterinary surgeons concerned. The number of complaints received by VSB and substantiated upon completion of disciplinary inquiry hearings over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of complaints received	Number of complaints referred to disciplinary inquiry[*]	Number of inquiry hearings completed[^]	Number of complaints found substantiated upon inquiry hearings
2013	50	7	3	3
2014	53	6	13	9
2015	57	9	3	3
2016	54	5	12	12
2017	56	0	8	4

* All complaints received are handled by a Preliminary Investigation Committee for determining whether to make a recommendation to the Board for disciplinary inquiry or whether the case should be dismissed.

[^] Including complaint cases brought forward from previous years.

The orders made for the above 31 complaints found substantiated over the past 5 years are as follows:

Order	Number of cases involved
Removal of name from the register for a period from 3 to 12 months	7
Reprimand and compulsory participation in continuing professional development programme / professional seminar	21
Reprimand	2
Compulsory participation in continuing professional development programme	1

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)289****(Question Serial No. 6043)**

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 provide a detailed breakdown of the following information for the past 5 years:

- (a) The manpower, numbers of veterinary officers, as well as their annual pay adjustments and turnover rates, of the 4 animal management centres under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD).
- (b) In addition, the numbers of inspections of construction sites conducted by AFCD, the numbers of dogs found on construction sites, the numbers of licensed dogs on construction sites, and the numbers of dogs sent to the animal management centres upon completion of construction work, in accordance with the Code of Practice for Keeping Dogs on Construction Sites.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 207)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) currently has 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs). They are located in the New Territories North, New Territories South, Kowloon and Hong Kong Island respectively.

The staff establishment and turnover rate of the 4 AMCs over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Establishment of the 4 AMCs * (Number of posts)		Turnover rate	
	Veterinary Officer	Technical / frontline staff	Veterinary Officer	Technical / frontline staff
2013-14	4	168	0%	6.5%
2014-15	4	171	0%	2.9%
2015-16	4	175	0%	4.0%
2016-17	4	183	0%	4.9%

Financial year	Establishment of the 4 AMCs * (Number of posts)		Turnover rate	
	Veterinary Officer	Technical / frontline staff	Veterinary Officer	Technical / frontline staff
2017-18	4	183	0%	7.7%

*The 4 AMCs are overseen by 1 Senior Veterinary Officer.

The staff cost for the above staff in the 4 AMCs over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Staff expenditure for the 4 AMCs (\$ million)
2013-14	48.6
2014-15	53.1
2015-16	55.5
2016-17	57.5
2017-18 (revised estimate)	61.1

Salary adjustment of AFCD staff is based on the Government's established annual payment adjustment mechanism.

- (b) To safeguard the welfare of dogs kept on construction sites, AFCD has devised the "Code of Practice for Keeping Dogs on Construction Sites" which sets out measures to be taken for keeping dogs on such sites. Complaints received by AFCD in the past 3 years about stray or unattended dogs being found near construction sites were all related to dog nuisance. In response to these complaints, AFCD conducted over 200 inspections each year to investigate and catch dogs as appropriate. AFCD does not have a separate breakdown on the number of dogs found on construction sites or sent to the AMCs from such sites.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)290****(Question Serial No. 6045)**

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 2018-19, the estimated amount of government subventions provided to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) is \$500,000, which is the same as in previous years. Could the Government advise this Committee on: the lists of AWOs granted with government subventions over the past 3 years and whether the Government has considered increasing the amount of subventions in order to catch up with the inflation rate or to subsidise more AWOs.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 208)

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.

The amount of subvention provided to different AWOs over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

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

	AWOs	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	76,679
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	150,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	120,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	48,181
5	Hong Kong Rescue Puppies	0*
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	45,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	30,000
Total		469,860

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

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

	AWOs	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	73,934
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	125,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	100,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	41,620
5	Hong Kong Cats	16,365
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	45,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	28,000
8	Society for Abandoned Animals	38,591
9	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong)	44,854
Total		513,364

(c) Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2016-17 and released in 2017-18)

	AWOs	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	84,602
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	100,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	45,120
5	Hong Kong Cats	18,300
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	46,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	28,000
8	Society for Abandoned Animals	42,000
Total		494,022

AFCD will closely monitor the situation and adjust the provision for the subvention in future as long as resources permit, with a view to supporting AWOs in carrying out programmes and activities conducive to enhancing animal welfare and promoting better animal management.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)291

(Question Serial No. 6046)

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) has come into force for almost a year. Could the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) The number of staff of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department responsible for issuing licences and implementing regulation on private breeders. What are the specific details of the work and respective salaries of the staff in this regard?
- (b) The latest numbers of applicants and various licences issued under Cap. 139B.
- (c) The numbers of complaints received monthly in relation to illegal breeding establishments and those breeding establishments that failed to meet the requirements.
- (d) The numbers of inspections conducted by the Department at various breeding establishments with different licences.
- (e) The numbers of decoy operations conducted by the Department on the internet and on-site at the breeding establishments, as well as the number of prosecutions instituted.
- (f) The numbers of breeding establishments that were successfully prosecuted and convicted, as well as their respective penalties.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 209)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has deployed 30 staff for the implementation of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) (the Regulations) in 2017-18. Major areas of work include:

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has established a new Equine Disease Division (EDD) for the provision of equine disease testing services. In 2018-19, EDD will set up the laboratory facilities for equine testing and develop internationally recognised testing protocols for equine diseases with reference to the guidelines and standards set by the World Organization for Animal Health. \$7.9 million has been earmarked for this area of work in 2018-19.

- (b) To monitor the health status of horses at the Equine Disease Free Zone (EDFZ) in Conghua, the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) is required to collect samples from horses and the environment for regular surveillance of equine diseases. HKJC will report any notifiable diseases detected in the horses timely to AFCD. Follow up actions will be taken promptly and jointly by AFCD, HKJC and the relevant Mainland authorities to prevent and control the outbreak of equine diseases within EDFZ in accordance with the contingency protocols to be formulated together with the relevant Mainland authorities.

- (c) Apart from Australia, no other place has raised any concern over EDFZ or indicated any intention to suspend import of horses from Hong Kong.

- End -

- (i) processing applications for licences including verifying 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;
- (ii) inspecting licensed animal trading and dog breeding premises to ensure compliance with the licensing requirements;
- (iii) collecting samples from female dogs for breeding and offspring for DNA testing to verify the parentage and the source of dogs; and
- (iv) carrying out investigations upon complaints or irregularities detected.

The revised estimate of staff cost involved in 2017-18 is \$11.3 million.

- (b) The number of applications for Animal Trader Licences, Dog Breeder Licences (DBLs) and one-off permits received and approved since the Regulations came into force on 20 March 2017 and up to end of February 2018 is tabulated as follows:

Licence / Permit	Number of applications			
	Received	Approved	Under processing	Withdrawn or rejected
Animal Trader Licence	376	316	37	23
DBL (category A)	23	14	3	6
DBL (category B)	38	17	17	4
One-off permit	1	1	N/A	N/A

- (c) The number of complaints against dog breeding for sale received by AFCD between March 2017 and end of February 2018 is 37.
- (d) The number of inspections conducted in relation to Dog Breeder Licences between March 2017 and end of February 2018 is 257.
- (e) & (f) The number of decoy operations against alleged breeding of dogs for sale on the internet / via instant messages / on-site conducted by AFCD between March 2017 and end of February 2018 is 27. So far, 4 cases of dog selling without a permit have been successfully prosecuted and the fines imposed range from \$1,500 to \$5,000.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)292

(Question Serial No. 6047)

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 Hong Kong Jockey Club Conghua Horse Training Centre will commence operation this August, replacing Shatin as the training centre for Hong Kong competition horses. In this connection, Australia's Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has suspended the imports of Hong Kong horses into Australia since last October, and Australian competition horses are not able to be transported to Hong Kong for participation in international competitions. It is stated in the Budget that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will build up its capacity for testing equine diseases. Regarding this matter, could the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) How will AFCD build up its capacity for testing equine diseases? Will additional expenditure be incurred? Will the testing standard be set according to the original standard of Hong Kong or that of the Ministry of Agriculture of China?
- (b) Will AFCD require the Hong Kong Jockey Club to provide regular quarantine reports on the environment of the Conghua Equine Disease Free Zone and the transportation channel? If animals or citizens of Hong Kong are infected with any disease through the Conghua Equine Disease Free Zone, will there be any immediate contingency or punitive mechanism?
- (c) Are there any other countries who have questioned the Conghua Equine Disease Free Zone or plan to follow the practice of Australia's Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to cease engaging in imports and exports in Hong Kong after the Equine Disease Free Zone has commenced operation?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 210)

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-ENB01****(Question Serial No. S0038)**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 management of country parks and country park enclaves by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, please advise on:

- (a) The sizes of private land in each country park and country park enclave.
- (b) The future management plan of the area near Sai Wan apart from the provision of a star-gazing site.
- (i) Has the Government considered how to support local restaurants and stores?
- (ii) Has the Government explored the feasibility of developing home-stay lodgings?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dickReply:

- (a) There are a total of 24 country parks and 77 country park enclaves in Hong Kong. The information on the sizes of private land in each country park are as follows:

Name of country park	Approximate size of private land (hectares)
Shing Mun Country Park	0.49
Kam Shan Country Park	0.01
Lion Rock Country Park	0.83
Aberdeen Country Park	0.50
Tai Tam Country Park	0
Sai Kung East Country Park	54.48
Sai Kung West Country Park	74.70

Name of country park	Approximate size of private land (hectares)
Plover Cove Country Park	58.25
Lantau South Country Park	22.73
Lantau North Country Park	3.50
Pat Sin Leng Country Park	100.70
Tai Lam Country Park	57.45
Tai Mo Shan Country Park	11.73
Lam Tsuen Country Park	4.67
Ma On Shan Country Park	22.63
Kiu Tsui Country Park	1.03
Plover Cove (Extension) Country Park	46.58
Shek O Country Park	0.02
Pokfulam Country Park	0
Tai Tam (Quarry Bay Extension) Country Park	0.01
Clear Water Bay Country Park	0.82
Sai Kung West Country Park (Wan Tsai Extension)	0.44
Lung Fu Shan Country Park	0
Lantau North (Extension) Country Park	0

The information on the sizes of private land in country park enclaves is not available.

- (b) The management work of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) at Sai Wan includes the provision and maintenance of recreational facilities, cleaning services, tree planting and vegetation management, etc., so as to provide a safe and pleasant place for recreational activities compatible with country parks to the general public, and at the same time enhance biodiversity, conserve the nature and facilitate ecotourism. Since the inclusion of Sai Wan into the country park, some new facilities, such as a hiking trail from Sai Wan Pavilion to Sai Wan beach and a campsite had been established and are open for public enjoyment. Besides the star-gazing terrace which will be constructed in 2018-19, AFCD has planned to upgrade the sewage treatment system at the two existing public toilets, reconstruct the refuse collection and recycling point, as well as provide a new sitting-out area to cope with the increasing demand from villagers and visitors.

AFCD has discussed with villagers the possibility of and the requirements of the regulations relevant to using existing facilities and village houses to provide home-stay and catering services to visitors. We will continue to communicate with the villagers and provide technical advice for them in exploring the feasibility of transforming the village houses of those interested villagers into food stalls or home-stay lodgings in a lawful and sustainable manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-ENB02****(Question Serial No. S0039)**

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 by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the preventive measures against damage to the environment:

- (a) AFCD stated that it would continue to conduct regular patrols in country parks and country park enclaves. What were the numbers of patrols conducted, the time and the manpower involved over the past 5 years?
- (b) What were the numbers of occurrence of hill fires in the 18 districts over the past 5 years?
- (i) What were the respective dates and the numbers of occurrence, the numbers of warning letters issued and the numbers of prosecutions?
- (ii) What measures have been taken in preventing hill fires and the expenditures involved over the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

- (a) The number of patrols in country parks and country park enclaves conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in the past 5 years is tabulated below:

Calendar year	Number of patrols
2013	18 877
2014	18 284
2015	17 137
2016	18 570
2017	18 840

AFCD does not have a separate breakdown of time and manpower deployed for this area of work.

- (b)(i) From 2013 to 2017, there were 104 cases of hill fires which had affected country parks and special areas. The details are in the **Annex**.

During the same period, there were 67 prosecutions for illegal lighting or use of fire in country parks and special areas, and no written warning relating to the control of fires had been issued by AFCD.

- (b)(ii) AFCD has taken various measures in the prevention of hill fire in country parks and special areas. Fire danger warning signs are erected in all country parks to alert the public the fire risk on the day. Fire breaks, water tanks, fire lookouts and other facilities / equipment have been constructed and maintained to prevent the spread of hill fires and to facilitate hill fire fighting during an outbreak. The AFCD Fire Control Centre (FCC) and fire crews are on a 24-hour shift standby on days when the fire risk is high. FCC handles reports of hill fire outbreaks in country parks, coordinates AFCD fire crews to attend hill fire outbreaks at the first instant, and contacts the Hong Kong Fire Services Department for taking actions where necessary. Furthermore, the government has launched publicity programmes through school talks, Announcements in the Public Interest, village visits, posters, as well as collaborating with hiking / volunteer groups in distributing fire prevention leaflets to hikers during the Ching Ming Festival and Chung Yeung Festival in order to educate the public about the prevention of hill fires.

The expenditure incurred in hill fire prevention and hill fire fighting over the past 5 years in country parks and special areas is tabulated below:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2013-14	34
2014-15	36
2015-16	35
2016-17	38
2017-18 (revised estimate)	38

Hill fires which had affected country parks and special areas from 2013 to 2017

Serial No.	Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	Country park or special area affected
North District		
1	2013/01/06	Pat Sin Leng
2	2013/10/06	Pat Sin Leng
3	2013/10/25	Plover Cove
4	2013/12/09	Plover Cove
5	2014/01/14	Plover Cove
6	2014/01/23	Pat Sin Leng
7	2014/02/03	Plover Cove
8	2014/10/19	Pat Sin Leng
9	2014/10/25	Pat Sin Leng
10	2015/01/11	Plover Cove
11	2017/04/04	Pat Sin Leng
Yuen Long District		
12	2013/01/30	Tai Lam
13	2013/03/11	Tai Lam
14	2013/10/13	Tai Lam
15	2013/10/13	Tai Lam
16	2013/10/13	Lam Tsuen
17	2013/12/26	Tai Lam
18	2014/03/23	Tai Lam
19	2014/10/19	Tai Lam
20	2014/10/19	Tai Lam
21	2015/01/18	Tai Lam
22	2015/01/23	Tai Lam
23	2015/04/05	Tai Lam
24	2015/04/05	Tai Lam
25	2016/10/05	Lam Tsuen
26	2016/10/06	Lam Tsuen
27	2017/01/22	Lam Tsuen
28	2017/01/24	Lam Tsuen
29	2017/02/14	Tai Lam
30	2017/04/02	Lam Tsuen
31	2017/04/04	Tai Lam
32	2017/04/05	Tai Lam
33	2017/11/23	Tai Lam
34	2017/12/26	Tai Lam

Tsuen Wan District		
35	2014/01/27	Tai Lam
36	2014/01/27	Tai Lam
37	2014/02/04	Tai Lam
38	2015/01/22	Tai Mo Shan
39	2015/10/21	Tai Lam
40	2016/02/11	Shing Mun
41	2016/03/27	Tai Lam
42	2016/12/27	Tai Lam
43	2017/02/04	Tai Lam
44	2017/02/09	Tai Mo Shan
45	2017/03/07	Tai Lam
46	2017/10/22	Tai Mo Shan
47	2017/12/25	Tai Mo Shan
Sha Tin District		
48	2013/01/09	Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve
49	2013/01/29	Ma On Shan
50	2013/12/07	Ma On Shan
51	2013/12/24	Ma On Shan
52	2014/01/13	Ma On Shan
53	2014/01/15	Lion Rock
54	2014/01/16	Lion Rock
55	2014/01/22	Lion Rock
56	2014/12/16	Lion Rock
57	2014/12/16	Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve
58	2014/12/17	Ma On Shan
59	2015/11/27	Ma On Shan
60	2016/02/11	Ma On Shan
61	2017/01/20	Ma On Shan
62	2017/01/21	Ma On Shan
63	2017/02/17	Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve
64	2017/03/03	Golden Hill
65	2017/03/03	Golden Hill
66	2017/10/29	Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve
67	2017/12/19	Lion Rock
68	2017/12/24	Lion Rock
Islands District		
69	2013/12/09	Lantau South
70	2014/03/23	Lantau North
71	2014/04/05	Lantau North
72	2014/04/05	Lantau South

73	2015/04/05	Lantau North
74	2015/04/05	Lantau North (Extension)
75	2016/10/09	Lantau South
76	2016/10/09	Lantau South
77	2017/04/02	Lantau North
78	2017/04/04	Lantau North
79	2017/04/04	Lantau North
80	2017/12/21	Lantau North (Extension)
Tai Po District		
81	2013/02/15	Pat Sin Leng
82	2013/02/22	Shing Mun
83	2013/12/05	Sai Kung West
84	2014/02/02	Pat Sin Leng / Plover Cove
85	2015/10/21	Tai Mo Shan
86	2015/10/21	Sai Kung East
87	2016/04/04	Pat Sin Leng
88	2016/12/27	Sai Kung East
89	2017/02/04	Tai Mo Shan
90	2017/04/04	Tai Mo Shan
91	2017/10/28	Sai Kung West
Tuen Mun District		
92	2013/12/28	Tai Lam
93	2014/07/30	Tai Lam
94	2015/11/26	Tai Lam
95	2016/01/25	Tai Lam
96	2016/01/26	Tai Lam
97	2016/12/18	Tai Lam
Sai Kung District		
98	2013/02/26	Sai Kung East
99	2013/10/06	Ma On Shan
100	2013/10/13	Sai Kung East
101	2013/11/30	Clear Water Bay
102	2014/03/23	Sai Kung East
103	2014/03/26	Sai Kung East
Eastern District		
104	2014/01/29	Tai Tam

Note: There is no hill fire in country parks and special areas in Kwai Tsing, Central and Western, Southern, Wan Chai, Sham Shui Po and Wong Tai Sin Districts during the past 5 years. There is no country park or special area in Kowloon City, Kwun Tong and Yau Tsim Mong Districts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-ENB03

(Question Serial No. S0049)

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) It is stated under the indicators for nature conservation and country parks that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department planted about 400 000 tree seedlings in 2016 and 2017 respectively. What were the expenditures involved?
- (b) The number of hill fires in 2017 was more than double the number in 2016. What were the numbers of trees destroyed in those fires in 2016 and 2017 respectively?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

- (a) The expenditures on the planting of tree seedlings in 2016-17 and 2017-18 were \$10.7 million and \$10.3 million respectively.
- (b) The numbers of hill fires and trees damaged in the hill fires in country parks over the past 2 years are tabulated below:

Calendar year	2016	2017
Number of hill fires	13	29
Number of trees damaged	10 600	1 647

-End-

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-FHB(FE)01

(Question Serial No. S0029)

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:

Further to Reply Serial No. FSTB(FS)071, please inform this Committee of the following:

The value of domestic exports of fresh produce and agricultural and fishery products from Hong Kong to overseas regions and countries in 2017 was merely \$100,000, marking a decrease of 98% as compared to that in 2016. What is/are the reason(s) for the decrease? What measures and policies does the Government put in place to boost the value of domestic exports of fresh produce and agricultural and fishery products from Hong Kong to overseas regions and countries?

Asked by: Hon AU Nok-hin

Reply:

Hong Kong is a service-oriented economy, with a relatively small agricultural and fisheries sector which primarily serves the local population. The Government's policy aims to promote the sustainable development of the agricultural and fisheries industry which can provide local consumers with quality products. Whether farmers / fishermen choose to export their products is an entirely market-driven decision.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-FHB(FE)02

(Question Serial No. S0085)

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:

Further to Reply Serial No. FHB(FE)077 which stated that “the decrease in the quantity of vegetables marketed through the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) in 2017 was mainly due to keen competition from direct marketing of vegetables bypassing the wholesale market”, what measures and policies will the Government put in place to increase the vegetables marketed through VMO?

Asked by: Hon AU Nok-hin

Reply:

In response to the highly competitive market, the Vegetable Marketing Organization is striving to improve its services to retain business. It has been working with wholesalers and other stakeholders to develop branding for products traded through its market, reengineer its services to meet the needs of wholesalers and customers, optimise its various trading facilities, and expand its product range.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-FHB(FE)03

(Question Serial No. SV024)

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:

A follow-up question on Reply Serial No. FHB(FE)028:

Please set out the number of dogs legally bred by year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

Since the commencement of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations in March 2017 and up to end of March 2018, a total of 470 dogs were bred by licensed dog breeders.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-FHB(FE)04****(Question Serial No. SV023)**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:

A follow-up question on Reply Serial No. FHB(FE)076:

Please advise on the production quantity of local fish.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-kiReply:

The quantity of the local fisheries production (capture and aquaculture fisheries) over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

Calendar year	Local fisheries production (tonnes)
2013	173 000
2014	164 000
2015	148 000
2016	147 000
2017	132 000

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-FHB(FE)05

(Question Serial No. SV025)

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:

A follow-up question on Reply Serial No. FHB(FE)093:

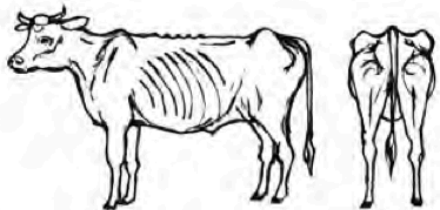
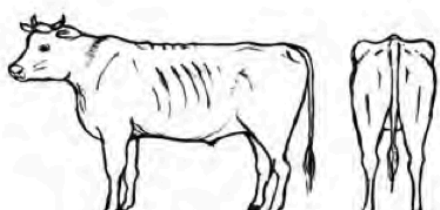
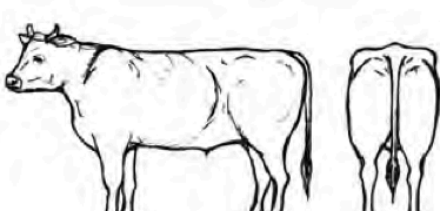
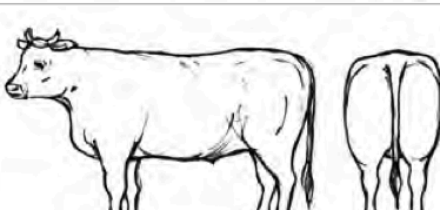
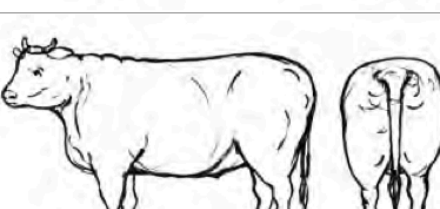
Please provide copies of documents about the "Body Condition Scoring System".

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia

Reply:

The Body Condition Scoring System is a method recognised internationally in the veterinary field to evaluate the fat amount of an animal, which can in turn reflect the condition of the animal. It is done by either visual inspection or a combination of visual inspection and palpation of key bone structures for fat cover. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department adopts a body condition scoring system on a scale of 5 for evaluating stray cattle, with score 1 being emaciated and score 5 being obese (Annex). The score may be related to a number of factors such as the amount of food intake, age, nutrition, disease, pregnancy status and lactation status of an animal.

The Body Condition Scoring System in a scale of 5

	<p>Condition score 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backbone prominent Hips and shoulder bones prominent Ribs clearly visible Tail-head area recessed Skeletal body outline
	<p>Condition score 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backbone visible Hips and shoulder bones visible Ribs visible faintly Tail-head area slightly recessed Body outline bony
	<p>Condition score 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hip bones visible faintly Ribs generally not visible Tail-head area not recessed Body outline almost smooth
	<p>Condition score 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hip bones not visible Ribs well covered Tail-head area slightly lumpy Body outline rounded
	<p>Condition score 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hip bones showing fat deposit Ribs very well covered Tail-head area very lumpy Body outline bulging due to fat

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-FHB(FE)06

(Question Serial No. S0078)

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:

To follow up on Reply Serial No. FHB(FE)090, which stated that "In general, these animals will stay in animal management centres (AMCs) temporarily for about 10 to 20 days. For those without a microchip, AMCs will keep them for at least 4 days to allow time for their owners to reclaim them. Only animals that are not suitable for adoption or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanised, would the Government provide a supplementary reply regarding the following questions:

- (a) What was the respective average duration of stay at AMCs for the animals not suitable for adoption and the animals not adopted among those that were euthanised, by animal types (i.e. dogs, cats and other animals), over the past year?
- (b) What were the respective average occupancy rates of the 4 AMCs over the past year? (If possible, please set out the data by months.)
- (c) As mentioned by the Director, a 4-day observation has been implemented under the current ordinance. Would the Government provide additional information on relevant legislation and explain with justifications why 4 days are sufficient?
- (d) If the accommodation space in AMCs allows, will the Government consider making legislative amendment to extend the 4-day limit? If not, what are the reasons?
- (e) Does the above 4-day observation include public holidays? If holidays are involved, will the owners be unable to reclaim their animals or shorten the duration for reclaiming their animals as a result of the staff on leave in the department concerned? What measures have been taken to ensure that the owners can reclaim their animals as usual during holidays?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy

Reply:

- (a) The average duration of stay of animals in Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) by species in 2017 is tabulated below:

Calendar year	Average period (days)		
	Dogs	Cats	Others ¹
2017	13.1	13.0	65.8

¹ Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs / cattle, poultry / birds, etc.

AFCD does not have separate statistics on the average duration of stay of animals in AMCs which were euthanised.

- (b) AFCD does not have statistics on the average occupancy rate of AMCs.
- (c) & (d) The Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421) (the Ordinance) aims to control rabies and related public health risks. According to section 38(2)(c) of the Ordinance, if the owner / keeper of an animal detained under the Ordinance cannot after reasonable inquiry be found or ascertained within 4 days after the commencement of such detention, the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation may order the forfeiture of the animal or dispose of it in a way as he considers appropriate. This is in general applicable to stray dogs and cats caught by AFCD. This could help prevent spreading of rabies, while allowing sufficient time for owners / keepers to reclaim the animals back. Regarding other stray animals (for example reptiles), reference is made to the above arrangement as to allow reasonable time for owners to reclaim them.

In addition to allowing time for reclaiming stray animals, AMCs will also try to proactively locate the owner of a microchipped animal, based on the information available. For those animals without owners or those handed over to AFCD by their owners, AFCD will assess their suitability for rehoming, and then try to arrange re-homing as far as possible.

A 4-day period is only the minimum duration for animal detention at AMCs. In practice, where the circumstances in AMCs permit, animals will be allowed to stay in AMCs much longer than 4 days, as shown in part (a) above. We have no plan to amend the current arrangement.

- (e) The “4-day period” stated in (c) & (d) above refers to 4 calendar days. AMCs provide services 7 days a week including Sundays and public holidays. The general public may go to AMCs to reclaim their animals during AMCs’ office hours.

-End-