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

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**Replies to written questions raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27**

**Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
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| EEB(F)033 | 3190 | Hon FAN Hoi-kit, Alex | 11 | (-) Not specified |
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| EEB(F)035 | 0420 | Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven | 11 | (-) Not specified |
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| EEB(F)038 | 3225 | Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven | 11 | (-) Not specified |
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| EEB(F)040 | 0501 | Hon LEE Kwong-yu | 11 | (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets |
| EEB(F)041 | 0951 | Hon LEE Kwong-yu | 11 | (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets |
| EEB(F)042 | 0392 | Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic | 11 | (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services |
| EEB(F)043 | 3095 | Hon LEUNG Chun, Jonathan | 11 | (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets |
| EEB(F)044 | 1332 | Hon SHIU Ka-fai | 11 | (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets |

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| EEB(F)047 | 1487 | Hon TANG Ming-sum, Michelle | 11 | (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets |
| EEB(F)048 | 1489 | Hon TANG Ming-sum, Michelle | 11 | (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services |
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| EEB(F)050 | 0993 | Hon YANG Wing-kit | 11 | (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets |
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| EEB(F)139 | 3586 | Hon CHAN Hoi-yan | 11 | (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets |
| EEB(F)140 | 3320 | Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven | 11 | (-) Not specified |
| EEB(F)141 | 3325 | Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven | 11 | (-) Not specified |
| EEB(F)142 | 3326 | Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven | 11 | (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services |
| EEB(E)001 | 1692 | Hon CHAN Hoi-yan | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)002 | 1955 | Hon CHAN Siu-hung | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)003 | 1364 | Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)004 | 0972 | Hon CHEUNG Pui-kong | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)005 | 0973 | Hon CHEUNG Pui-kong | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)006 | 1206 | Hon FAN Hoi-kit, Alex | 12 | (-) Not specified |
| EEB(E)007 | 1993 | Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)008 | 0360 | Hon FONG Kwok-shan, Christine | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)009 | 0308 | Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven | 12 | (-) Not specified |
| EEB(E)010 | 0309 | Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven | 12 | (-) Not specified |

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| EEB(E)012 | 0424 | Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven | 12 | (-) Not specified |
| EEB(E)013 | 2594 | Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven | 12 | (-) Not specified |
| EEB(E)014 | 0867 | Hon LAM Chun-sing | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)015 | 2747 | Hon LAM Chun-sing | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)016 | 0029 | Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)017 | 0221 | Hon LAMPORT Jonathan Stuart | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)018 | 2670 | Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)019 | 2671 | Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)020 | 0750 | Hon LAU Man-kwan, Julia | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)021 | 3105 | Hon LAU Man-kwan, Julia | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)022 | 0455 | Hon LEE Hoey Simon | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)023 | 0838 | Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)024 | 1143 | Hon QUAT Elizabeth | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)025 | 1510 | Hon TAM Chun-kwok | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)026 | 1488 | Hon TANG Ming-sum, Michelle | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)027 | 2879 | Hon YANG Wing-kit | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)028 | 0727 | Hon YIU Pak-leung | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)029 | 0736 | Hon YIU Pak-leung | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)030 | 0737 | Hon YIU Pak-leung | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)031 | 0744 | Hon YIU Pak-leung | 12 | (-) Not specified |

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| EEB(E)190 | 3419 | Hon CHAN Pok-chi | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)191 | 3359 | Hon CHU Lap-wai | 12 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |
| EEB(E)192 | 3449 | Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven | 12 | (-) Not specified |
| CSTB200 | 0830 | Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic | 17 | (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks |

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)005

(Question Serial No. 2158)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the regulation of animal trading and breeding activities, would the Government advise this Committee of the following information over the past 3 years:

- (a) the manpower and expenditure involved each year;
- (b) the number of licences issued each year by category;
- (c) the number of dogs bred locally each year; and the breeds of the dogs;
- (d) the number of cats and dogs permitted to be imported and exported; the number of imported cats and dogs subject to quarantine and the average quarantine period; the number of smuggled animals each year;
- (e) the numbers of cats and dogs traded each year by animal traders who were required to provide the relevant transaction records upon request from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, as well as those which have been microchipped;
- (f) the numbers of complaints received and substantiated cases each year; the respective numbers of prosecutions and the penalties imposed;
- (g) the number of regular inspections, surprise inspections and decoy operations conducted each year; and
- (h) as the breeding of cats is not subject to statutory control over animal breeding, whether the Government will review the relevant legislation; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

- (a) Animal trading and dog breeding activities are regulated by the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B). The manpower and expenditure involved in the relevant work by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in each of the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) | Manpower (number of staff) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 21.4 | 30 |
| 2024-25 | 24.4 | 30 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 25.7 | 30 |

- (b) The numbers of Animal Trader Licences (ATLs), Dog Breeder Licences (DBLs) and one-off permits issued by AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of licences issued | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| | ATL | DBL (category A) | DBL (category B) | One-off permit |
| 2023 | 343 | 9 | 18 | 0 |
| 2024 | 285 | 5 | 22 | 0 |
| 2025 | 252 | 7 | 15 | 0 |

- (c) The number of dogs bred by local licensed dog breeding establishments over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of dogs bred by licensed dog breeding establishments[#] |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 2 245 |
| 2024 | 1 663 |
| 2025 | 1 477 |

[#] The breeds of dogs were mainly Poodle, Bichon Frise, Pomeranian, Corgi and Shiba Inu.

- (d) The import of live animals is regulated by the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance (Cap. 139) and the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421). The importers must obtain permits from AFCD prior to importation of live animals. The number of cats and dogs imported into Hong Kong with permits issued by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of cats and dogs imported |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 4 465 |
| 2024 | 4 447 |
| 2025 | 4 371 |

Export of animals does not require AFCD's approval in general. However, AFCD will issue animal health certificates on request. The number of animal health certificates issued by AFCD for export of cats and dogs over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of animal health certificates issued[#] (Cats and dogs) |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 8 624 |
| 2024 | 6 828 |
| 2025 | 5 438 |

[#] An animal health certificate may cover more than one animal. AFCD does not keep a breakdown on the number of cats and dogs.

For importation of cats and dogs, AFCD classifies places into different groups according to different risks of rabies, with reference to information about the surveillance of animal diseases from the World Organisation for Animal Health. Since 1 December 2024, AFCD has introduced Group IIIA for exporting countries/places, thereby increasing the number of groups from 3 to 4. Cats and dogs imported from Groups I and II places are exempt from quarantine, provided that relevant requirements can be fulfilled. For cats and dogs imported from Group IIIA countries/places, their quarantine period has been significantly shortened from 120 days to 30 days upon their arrival in Hong Kong, provided that they meet the relevant quarantine requirements. The original Group III countries/places have been renamed as Group IIIB countries/places. Since the incubation period of rabies can be up to several months, the quarantine period for importing cats and dogs from Group IIIB countries/places remains no less than 120 days. The numbers of cats and dogs imported from Group III countries/places in 2023 and 2024 are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Cats | Dogs |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2023 | 52 | 56 |
| 2024 | 52 | 51 |

The quarantine period for all the cats and dogs above was 120 days.

Since the introduction of Group IIIA countries/places, the numbers of cats and dogs imported from Group IIIA and Group IIIB countries/places are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Group IIIA | | Group IIIB | |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | Cats | Dogs | Cats | Dogs |
| 2025 | 37 | 35 | 76 | 53 |

The numbers of illegally imported live animals seized by AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Cats/ Dogs | Other mammals | Birds | Pet reptiles | Food poultry | Food reptiles |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2023 | 15 | 5 | 757 | 803 | 5 | 6 |
| 2024 | 11 | 5 | 416 | 188 | 0 | 4 |
| 2025 | 22 | 5 | 1 790 | 1 137 | 0 | 15 |

- (e) The numbers of cats and dogs sold by licensed animal traders and breeders and the number of microchips over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of dogs sold/microchipped | Number of cats sold/microchipped |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 3 598 / 3 598 | 4 231 / 0 |
| 2024 | 2 530 / 2 530 | 1 436 / 767* |
| 2025 | 1 991 / 1 991 | 1 021 / 1 021 |

* The Department has implemented the Code of Practice and Licence Conditions applicable to ATs for cat trading since April 2024, requiring all the cats for sale or offered for sale to be microchipped.

- (f) The number of complaints received by AFCD in relation to animal trading and breeding activities, the number of prosecutions instituted, as well as the penalties imposed over the past 3 years are as follows:

| Year | Complaints received (cases) | Successful prosecutions for breach of licensing conditions | | Successful prosecutions for trading animals without a valid licence or permit | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| | | Number of cases | Fine (\$) | Number of cases | Fine (\$) |
| 2023 | 385 | 20 | 1,500 to 5,000 | 34 | 1,000 to 20,000 |
| 2024 | 360 | 19 | 2,500 to 5,000 | 37 | 1,000 to 8,000 |
| 2025 | 377 | 26 | 1,000 to 5,000 | 39 | 1,000 to 15,000 |

- (g) The number of inspections (including routine ones, surprise checks and decoy operations) conducted on animal trading and dog breeding activities over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of inspections |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| 2023 | 4 964 |
| 2024 | 4 048 |
| 2025 | 3 347 |

- (h) The Department has updated the Code of Practice and Licence Conditions of ATs for cat trading since April 2024 to require licensees to maintain records of the source of all the cats for sale or offered for sale and implant a microchip in all these cats, and raised the facility requirements for on licensed premises, such as specifying the minimum area and size of each enclosure in the premises to provide cats with appropriate space to move around, so as to safeguard animal welfare and public health.

Dogs are larger in size and require more space to move around. In previous investigation of cases of illegal operation of animal trading business, the Government found that some persons operated dog breeding facilities at the same time, where dogs were confined to small cages and were unable to move freely, and their welfare was far from satisfactory. Therefore, the Government amended the Public Health (Animals

and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B) in 2017 to regulate the breeding of dogs for sale. Currently, AFCD has not found any serious animal welfare issue on premises where cats are bred for sale, but will continue to closely monitor the situation of cat breeding for sale in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)006

(Question Serial No. 2159)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the provision of subventions to local animal welfare organisations (AWOs) as well as animal welfare, would the Government inform this Committee of the following information over the past 3 years:

- (a) the number of successful applications for subventions, including the projects of successful applications, the amounts of subvention sought by the AWOs and the amount of subvention that they have been granted each year in tabular form;
- (b) the expenditure involved in public education and publicity activities to promote animal welfare each year;
- (c) the number and details of collaboration with AWOs each year and the plans for collaboration in the coming year;
- (d) the number of animals handed to AWOs by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) each year as well as the successful rate and number of rehoming;
- (e) how AFCD monitors the operation of and use of subvention by AWOs;
- (f) the number of non-profit-making AWOs currently operating rehoming centres on government sites (please set out the specific locations and size of the sites); and
- (g) the number of "animal boarding establishments" granted with planning permission in Hong Kong at present and their locations as well as whether the Government has conducted inspections at these establishments?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

- (a) The relevant information on applications for subventions received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) from animal welfare organisations (AWOs) over the past 3 years is set out at **Annex**.
- (b) The expenditure of AFCD on public education and publicity programmes to promote animal welfare over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 22.3 |
| 2024-25 | 21.6 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 21.4 |

- (c) Over the past 3 years, AFCD and AWOs jointly organised a total of 12 events (2 in 2023, 7 in 2024 and 3 in 2025), such as pet adoption days and carnivals, to promote animal welfare and rehoming. In 2026, AFCD will continue to organise different events with AWOs for promoting animal welfare and rehoming, and the message of pet inclusivity.
- (d) The number of animals handed by AFCD to AWOs for rehoming and the rehoming rate in each of the past 3 years are tabulated below:

| Year | Number of animals handed by AFCD to AWOs for rehoming (rehoming rate⁺) | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| | Dogs | Cats | Other animals[*] |
| 2023 | 319 (38.3%) | 174 (50.0%) | 123 (2.1%) |
| 2024 | 328 (41.0%) | 155 (39.9%) | 96 (5.4%) |
| 2025 | 266 (37.8%) | 123 (46.8%) | 107 (3.1%) |

⁺ Animals received by AFCD but subsequently reclaimed by owners were not counted towards the rehoming rate.

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

- (e) AFCD will verify the payment receipts submitted by AWOs and partnering AWOs to confirm that the expenditures are spent in compliance with the purposes of subvention applications. Besides, AFCD will visit the relevant facilities of AWOs during the assessment of applications as partnering AWOs and visit them regularly afterwards.
- (f) Currently, there are 3 AWO-operated rehoming centres located on government sites, namely in Ko Po San Tsuen, Kam Tin and San Ping Circuit, Tuen Mun, which are all subsidised by the Development Bureau. One of the rehoming centres with a capacity of about 50 animals has commenced service in late 2021; another one with a capacity of about 150 animals has commenced service in early 2024; and the construction works of another one with a capacity of about 245 animals is expected to complete within this year. The areas of these 3 sites are 1 050 m², 1 370 m² and 4 200 m² respectively.
- (g) As at February 2026, a total of 99 premises were holding valid animal boarding establishment licences issued by AFCD under the Public Health (Animals) (Boarding Establishment) Regulations (Cap. 139I), of which 15 were located on Hong Kong Island, 38 in Kowloon and 46 in New Territories. AFCD deploys staff to conduct regular and surprise inspections of licensed animal boarding establishments to ensure that such premises are in compliance with the licensing requirements.

- (i) In 2023, AFCD received 12 applications, of which 11 were accepted. The amounts of subvention sought and released to AWOs are tabulated as follows:

| | AWOs | Projects under application | Amount sought (\$) | Amount released (\$) |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Cheung Chau Animal Care | Management of stray animals in Cheung Chau and promotion of animal welfare | 82,000 | 35,000 |
| 2 | Hong Kong Animal Adoption Centre | To provide preventive care and food for animals pending adoption | 376,000 | 80,000 |
| 3 | Hong Kong Dog Rescue | Adult dog rehome and long-term dog care scheme | 940,035 | 180,000 |
| 4 | Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation | Animal rehome, rescue and education programme 2023 | 150,000 | 79,728 |
| 5 | Hong Kong Rabbit Society | Rabbit education, welfare and medical scheme | 265,000 | 60,000 |
| 6 | Kirsten's Zoo | Ongoing rescue of animals, animal rehome scheme and catteries improvement scheme | 330,000 | 112,610 |
| 7 | Lifelong Animal Protection (LAP) | LAP Companion Animal Rescue and Education Centre (CARES) | 375,000 | 100,000 |
| 8 | Paws United Charity | Medical cost for an animal rehome scheme and publicity expenditure on rehoming activities | 483,600 | 241,894 |
| 9 | Sai Kung Stray Friends | To provide preventive care for animals rescued and pending adoption | 244,400 | 128,073 |
| 10 | Society for Abandoned Animals | Refurbishment works for ward No.2 and outdoor playground | 578,000 | 300,000 |
| 11 | Team for Animals in Lantau South (TAILS) | Animal rehome scheme | 625,000 | 0 [#] |
| Total | | | 4,449,035 | 1,317,305 |

[#] No subvention was released due to failure to submit a work report and proof of expenditure in accordance with the requirements.

(ii) In 2024, AFCD received 15 applications, of which 12 were accepted. The amounts of subvention sought and released to AWOs are tabulated as follows:

| | AWOs | Projects under application | Amount sought (\$) | Amount released (\$) |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Animals Asia Foundation | Professor Paws Programme, including the production of educational leaflets | 872,298 | 0 [#] |
| 2 | Cheung Chau Animal Care | Management of stray animals in Cheung Chau and promotion of animal welfare | 82,000 | 35,000 |
| 3 | Hong Kong Animal Adoption Centre | To provide preventive care and food for animals pending adoption | 284,000 | 80,000 |
| 4 | Hong Kong Dog Rescue | Adult dog rehome and long-term dog care scheme | 998,020 | 218,170 |
| 5 | Hong Kong Rabbit Society | Rabbit medical scheme | 280,000 | 60,000 |
| 6 | Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association | Homebound Animals - Forever Families- to provide medical care, preventive care and food for animals pending adoption | 1,370,000 | 64,379 |
| 7 | Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation | Animal rehome, rescue and education programme 2024 | 130,000 | 122,493 |
| 8 | Kirsten's Zoo | Ongoing rescue of animals, animal rehome scheme | 434,000 | 99,194 |
| 9 | Paws United Charity | Medical cost for an animal rehome scheme and publicity expenditure on rehoming activities | 830,000 | 350,000 |
| 10 | Sai Kung Stray Friends | To provide preventive care for animals rescued and pending adoption | 244,400 | 135,000 |
| 11 | Society for Abandoned Animals | To create 2D graphic animation for animal welfare education | 230,000 | 120,000 |
| 12 | Team for Animals in Lantau South (TAILS) | Animal rehome scheme | 350,000 | 63,017 |
| Total | | | 6,104,718 | 1,347,253 |

[#] No subvention was released due to failure to complete the project before the deadline and provide a half-year/full-year report and proof of expenditure.

(iii) In 2025, AFCD received 18 applications, of which 14 were accepted. The amounts of subvention sought and released to AWOs are tabulated as follows:

| | AWOs | Projects under application | Amount sought (\$) | Amount released (\$) |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Cheung Chau Animal Care | Management of stray animals in Cheung Chau and promotion of animal welfare | 85,000 | 35,000 |
| 2 | Hong Kong Animal Adoption Centre | Animal rehome scheme 2025 | 298,000 | 57,470 |
| 3 | Hong Kong Dog Rescue | Adult dog rehome and long-term dog care scheme | 1,151,400 | 204,775 |
| 4 | Hong Kong Rabbit Society | Rabbit medical scheme | 350,000 | 50,000 |
| 5 | Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association | Homebound Animals - Forever Families 2025 - to provide medical care, preventive care and food for animals pending adoption | 767,940 | 130,000 |
| 6 | Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation | Animal rehome, rescue and education programme 2025 | 140,000 | 138,480 |
| 7 | Kirsten's Zoo | Ongoing rescue of animals, animal rehome scheme | 485,000 | 91,214 |
| 8 | Lifelong Animal Protection (LAP) | LAP Companion Animal Rescue and Education Shelter (CARES) - Phase TWO | 475,000 | 100,000 |
| 9 | Paws United Charity | Application for subvention for medical fund, rehoming activity fund, and education and publicity fund | 877,000 | 354,401 |
| 10 | Sai Kung Stray Friends | Dog welfare programme | 463,560 | 135,000 |
| 11 | Society for Abandoned Animals | Works for new cat ward | 55,000 | 55,000 |
| 12 | Team for Animals in Lantau South (TAILS) | Animal rehome scheme | 250,000 | 42,683 |
| 13 | Home for Homeless Dog | Animunity - animal rescue, animal rehome and education programme | 876,085 | 18,473 |
| 14 | Tobby's Friends Foundation Limited | Animal medical fund | 100,000 | 10,000 |
| Total | | | 6,373,985 | 1,422,496 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)007

(Question Serial No. 2160)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the animal management work of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past 3 years, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) in tabular form, the number of animals received and their respective types (including animals confiscated, caught and surrendered by owners) each year, as well as the ways of handling them (including animals reclaimed by owners, rehomed and euthanised);
- (b) the number of animals received by each animal management centre (AMCs) each year; the average staying period for animals;
- (c) the number of animals neutered by animal type;
- (d) the manpower and turnover rates of each AMC;
- (e) the operational expenditure of each AMC;
- (f) the number of inspections conducted as well as enforcement actions and prosecutions taken each year; and
- (g) the number of dog training courses organised by the Department for dog owners, and the details and number of participants; whether the Department will introduce relevant courses for other animals such as cats, tortoises and rabbits; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

- (a) The number and respective types of animals received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years as well as the ways they were handled are tabulated at Annex.
- (b) The number of animals received in various animal management centres (AMCs) over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| AMC | The number of animals received | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|--------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| | 2023 | | | 2024 | | | 2025 | | |
| | Dogs | Cats | Others* | Dogs | Cats | Others* | Dogs | Cats | Others* |
| Hong Kong Animal Management Centre (AMC/HK) | 105 | 76 | 2 208 | 112 | 70 | 35 | 129 | 76 | 67 |
| Kowloon Animal Management Centre (AMC/K) | 164 | 109 | 69 | 130 | 117 | 78 | 179 | 120 | 208 |
| New Territories South Animal Management Centre (AMC/NTS) | 265 | 105 | 67 | 223 | 130 | 122 | 210 | 106 | 646 |
| New Territories North Animal Management Centre (AMC/NTN) | 517 | 134 | 3 389 [#] | 547 | 148 | 1 507 [@] | 396 | 118 | 2 475 [#] |
| Total | 1 051 | 424 | 5 733 | 1 012 | 465 | 1 742 | 914 | 420 | 3 396 |

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

Most of them are illegally imported animals.

@ Most of them were seized during law enforcement operations.

The average detention period of animals (including stray animals, animals surrendered by owners and exhibits) kept at AMCs are tabulated as follows:

| Year | 2023 | | | 2024 | | | 2025 | | |
|----------------------------------------------|------|------|---------|------|------|---------|------|------|--------------------|
| | Dogs | Cats | Others* | Dogs | Cats | Others* | Dogs | Cats | Others* |
| Average detention period (days) [^] | 40.7 | 65.2 | 66.8 | 45.2 | 86.4 | 116.6 | 53.7 | 89.9 | 194.9 [^] |

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

[^] A substantial number of exhibits have been in custody for over two years and can only be processed after conclusion of the case.

- (c) The number of rehomed animals neutered by veterinary clinics engaged by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of rehomed animals neutered | | |
|------|------------------------------------|------|---------|
| | Dogs | Cats | Rabbits |
| 2023 | 100 | 70 | 4 |
| 2024 | 72 | 60 | 10 |
| 2025 | 81 | 35 | 3 |

- (d) The staff establishment and turnover rate of AMCs over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Total number of posts of the 4 AMCs ⁺ | | Turnover rate | |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| | Veterinary Officer | Technical/ Frontline staff | Veterinary Officer | Technical/ Frontline staff |
| 2023-24 | 4 | 187 | 0% | 4.8% |
| 2024-25 | 4 | 184 | 0% | 6.5% |
| 2025-26 | 4 | 169* | 0% | 2.4% |

⁺ The 4 AMCs were overseen by 1 Senior Veterinary Officer.

^{*} The reduction in technical/frontline staff was primarily due to restructuring, which resulted in the redeployment of relevant staff to other divisions.

- (e) The operational expenditure of the 4 AMCs over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Operational expenditure (\$ million) | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|-------|--------|
| | AMC/NTN | AMC/NTS | AMC/K | AMC/HK |
| 2023-24 | 29.5 | 20.5 | 24.4 | 21.0 |
| 2024-25 | 29.9 | 20.7 | 27.6~ | 21.5 |
| 2025-26* (revised estimate) | 27.4 | 20.3 | 29.2~ | 20.4 |

^{*} Since the fourth quarter of 2025, the management work on animal business licence has been transferred to other divisions, resulting in the reduction in the relevant expenditure of AMC.

[~] AMC/K was relocated to the Animal Management and Animal Welfare Building Complex in the third quarter of 2024. New operational expenses have been incurred due to facility upgrade.

- (f) The numbers of inspections conducted relating to licensed animal trading, dog breeding, boarding, riding, exhibition establishments and temporary exhibition establishments and successful prosecutions against owners/operators of these premises over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of inspections | Number of successful prosecutions |
|-------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 6 206 | 20 |
| 2024 | 5 338 | 20 |
| 2025 | 4 777 | 26 |

- (g) The numbers of sessions and participants of the Dog Obedience Training Course held by AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of sessions held | Number of participants |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2023 | 9 | 253 |
| 2024 | 6 | 164 |
| 2025 | 4 | 107 |

The Dog Obedience Training Course consists of two parts, namely the theoretical and practical sessions. In theoretical sessions, learners gain knowledge of the theory of basic dog obedience training, including dog behaviours and mentality, positive reinforcement training methods as well as various training tools and techniques, etc. For practical sessions, learners shall attend with their dogs in order to learn the skills and relevant actions of giving orders and treats to dogs.

For the time being, AFCD has no plan to introduce related training courses for other animals (e.g. cats, tortoises, rabbits, etc.). The main reasons are that the demand in the community is relatively low and there are no recognised or qualified trainers in the market. AFCD will continue to promote animal welfare through various platforms, including organising roving exhibitions in the 18 districts and pet adoption activities, as well as holding talks at schools and housing estates on a regular basis to promote the messages of “Be a Responsible Pet Owner” and taking proper care of animals.

| Calendar year | Stray animals caught | | | Animals surrendered by owners | | | Animals received through other channels | | | Animals reclaimed by owners | | | Animals rehomed | | | Animals humanely dispatched | | |
|---------------|----------------------|------|---------|-------------------------------|------|---------|-----------------------------------------|------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------|---------|-----------------|------|---------|-----------------------------|------|---------|
| | Dogs | Cats | Others* | Dogs | Cats | Others* | Dogs | Cats | Others* | Dogs | Cats | Others* | Dogs | Cats | Others* | Dogs | Cats | Others* |
| 2023 | 463 | 184 | 995 | 446 | 122 | 129 | 142 | 118 | 4 673 [#] | 219 | 76 | 12 | 319 | 174 | 123 | 372 | 90 | 821 |
| 2024 | 425 | 157 | 1 206 | 408 | 163 | 170 | 179 | 145 | 435 | 212 | 77 | 19 | 328 | 155 | 96 | 436 | 145 | 403 |
| 2025 | 398 | 168 | 1 465 | 360 | 114 | 145 | 156 | 138 | 1 840 [#] | 211 | 157 | 12 | 266 | 123 | 107 | 375 | 130 | 788 |

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

Mainly including animals illegally imported.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)008****(Question Serial No. 2161)**

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Over the past 3 years, regarding the safety of pet food, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) the figure of imported pet food each year;
- (b) the number and nature of complaints received each year, and the follow-up actions taken;
- (c) whether the Government has investigated into and tested the pet food available in the local market (including those ready-made and freshly made); if yes, the details; if not, the reasons;
- (d) the number of local operators engaging in manufacturing, processing or import of pet food and the market share of their products in the pet food market in Hong Kong; and
- (e) given the Government replied this Committee earlier that it was studying the provision of guidelines on the safety standards and labelling information of pet food for the pet food industry, the latest progress?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

- (a) According to the figures of the Census and Statistics Department, the quantity of pet food imported to Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Quantity of pet food imported (tonnes) |
|------|----------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 57 883 |
| 2024 | 53 280 |
| 2025 | 49 624 |

- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) received 7, 10 and 11 complaints in 2023, 2024 and 2025 respectively, which were mainly related to the quality of pet food and business practices. Upon receipt of a complaint, AFCD will contact the complainant and the manufacturer/importer/distributor of the pet food concerned to gather more information of the case, and may, depending on the nature of

the complaint, take appropriate follow-up actions, such as suggesting that the complainant make arrangement with the seller for return of the purchase or refund.

- (c) AFCD had earlier commissioned a consultancy study to collect 360 samples of different pet food products commonly available in the Hong Kong market, including dry and wet dog food products, dry and wet cat food products and food products for other pets, to test for the presence of any harmful substances and micro-organisms (such as Salmonella, *Escherichia coli* (including O157), *Listeria monocytogenes*, aflatoxin, melamine, malathion, lead and arsenic). The study was completed in February 2020. The report showed that the results of all samples tested were below the upper limits on the above harmful substances and micro-organisms generally set by major pet food producing countries/places.
- (d) AFCD does not keep figures related to local operators engaging in manufacturing, processing and/or import of pet food products.
- (e) AFCD is currently establishing guidelines on the safe production, food labelling and storage of pet food for reference by the local trade (including manufacturers and sellers) and pet owners, and has commenced consultation with the trade and stakeholders. Depending on the feedback received, the guidelines are expected to be issued in the second quarter of 2026. AFCD will also continue to step up the relevant public education work in order to remind the pet food industry and pet owners to handle and use pet food properly. In addition, AFCD will continue to monitor the local pet food production and its overall safety situation, as well as the development of pet food regulatory models in the Mainland and overseas, to ensure the practice of Hong Kong meets the practical needs of the society.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)009

(Question Serial No. 2162)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding local veterinary services and related pet grooming services, would the Government advise this Committee of the following information over the past 3 years:

- (a) the number of local newly registered veterinary surgeons and the countries or regions where their veterinary qualification was acquired;
- (b) the number of veterinary specialists by speciality;
- (c) the change in the ratio of pets to veterinary surgeons;
- (d) the number of existing veterinary clinics and the details of the Government's existing regulatory measures on veterinary clinics;
- (e) the number of complaints about veterinary surgeons received each year, reasons for the complaints, details of the cases accepted and the penalties imposed;
- (f) the average time taken by the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong for processing each case, as well as the longest and shortest processing time taken on the cases;
- (g) the number of complaints received by the Government about pet grooming services which do not require any licences currently; whether the Government will step up regulation of the provision of such services;
- (h) as the Government replied to this Committee earlier that it would explore the feasibility of setting up a registration system for veterinary assistants, the relevant details and progress; and
- (i) in view of the numerous pet insurance products available in the market, whether the Government has received any related complaints; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

- (a) According to the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong (VSB), the number of local newly registered veterinary surgeons over the past 3 years, by the country/region where they acquired their accredited qualifications, is tabulated as follows:

| Country/region where the accredited qualification was acquired | Number of newly registered veterinary surgeons | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| Australia | 41 | 39 | 31 |
| Brazil | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Belgium | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Canada | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Chile | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Europe | 10 | 15 | 14 |
| Hong Kong, China | 11 | 11 | 20 |
| Japan | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| New Zealand | 3 | 6 | 0 |
| South Africa | 7 | 8 | 10 |
| Taiwan, China | 30 | 20 | 14 |
| United Kingdom | 32 | 37 | 44 |
| United States | 4 | 8 | 8 |
| Total | 143 | 144 | 141 |

- (b) According to VSB, there were 73, 100 and 109 registered veterinary surgeons who were granted authorisation to advertise as, or profess to be, specialists in Hong Kong in 2023, 2024 and 2025 respectively. Some of these veterinary surgeons have more than one speciality qualification. Details of the speciality qualifications (showing position as at December 2025) are tabulated as follows:

| Speciality qualification | Number of veterinary surgeons |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Anaesthesia and Analgesia | 14 |
| Avian Practice | 1 |
| Canine and Feline Practice | 7 |
| Companion Animals (Internal Medicine) | 8 |
| Dental Practice | 4 |
| Dermatology | 3 |
| Emergency and Critical Care | 4 |
| Equine Practice | 1 |
| Equine Surgery | 1 |
| Exotic Companion Mammal Practice | 3 |
| Feline Medicine | 4 |
| Internal Medicine (Cardiology) | 7 |
| Internal Medicine (Oncology) | 10 |
| Laboratory Animal Medicine | 1 |
| Large Animal Surgery | 2 |
| Neurology | 5 |
| Ophthalmology | 3 |

| Speciality qualification | Number of veterinary surgeons |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Poultry Practice | 2 |
| Reptile and Amphibian Practice | 2 |
| Small Animal Medicine | 1 |
| Small Animal Internal Medicine | 7 |
| Small Animal Surgery | 16 |
| Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging | 2 |
| Veterinary Pathology | 5 |
| Veterinary Preventive Medicine | 2 |
| Zoological Medicine | 5 |

- (c) According to the Thematic Household Survey conducted by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD), there were about 221 100 dogs and 184 100 cats being kept by households in Hong Kong in 2018. According to VSB's data on the number of registered veterinary surgeons in 2018, the veterinary surgeon-to-pet (dogs and cats) ratio was about 1:410 that year, which is far above the ratios of other places at that time (e.g. Singapore (1:2 543), the United Kingdom (1:2 374) and the United States (1:3 072)). C&SD does not have the statistics of Hong Kong households keeping cats or dogs between 2019 and 2025, and the number of local registered veterinary surgeons has increased from 988 in 2018 to 1 432 in 2025, representing an increase rate of 45%.
- (d) According to VSB, there were 1 208, 1 317 and 1 432 local registered veterinary surgeons in 2023, 2024 and 2025 respectively. While VSB does not keep the number of veterinary clinics in Hong Kong, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides on its website a list of local veterinary clinics which have voluntarily agreed to be listed for the reference of the public.

VSB is established under the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529) (the Ordinance) and charged with the responsibility for the regulation, registration and disciplinary control of the professional activities of veterinary surgeons to ensure that the veterinary care services of Hong Kong are maintained at a high standard. All registered veterinary surgeons have received professional training before practising in Hong Kong, and obtained the qualifications for registration specified under the Ordinance, and are required to comply with the Ordinance and the Code of Practice for the Guidance of Registered Veterinary Surgeons (CoP) promulgated by VSB. The CoP provides veterinary surgeons with guidelines on various aspects of conduct, including professional ethics, clinic premises and equipment, advertising and other operational details, etc. If a veterinary surgeon breaches the CoP, VSB may take disciplinary actions against the surgeon.

- (e) In handling a complaint received, VSB must conduct investigation and follow up on the case in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Ordinance and Rules of the Veterinary Surgeons Board (Disciplinary Proceedings). Every case should first be investigated by a Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC) of VSB, to decide if it should be referred to an Inquiry Committee (IC) established under the Ordinance for disciplinary inquiries. Over the past 3 years, the number of complaint cases received by VSB, cases referred to IC for disciplinary inquiry and complaint cases found substantiated upon inquiry are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of complaint cases received | Number of complaint cases that are not referred to IC after preliminary investigation [#] | Number of complaint cases received during the year that are still under preliminary investigation [#] | Number of cases received during the year that are referred to IC [#] | Number of inquiries completed during the year* | Number of cases found substantiated |
|------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 52 | 40 | 5 | 7 | 14 | 12 |
| 2024 | 51 | 38 | 12 | 1 | 9 | 8 |
| 2025 | 46 | 16 | 29 | 1 | 8 | 4 |

[#] Progress as at end 2025.

* Including complaint cases previously received and referred for disciplinary inquiries that have been completed during the year.

Over the past 3 years, the nature of complaint cases received by VSB involving registered veterinary surgeons is as follows:

| Nature of complaints | Percentage |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Disregard of professional responsibility to animals | 74% |
| Communication with clients | 10% |
| Medical records | 5% |
| Charges | 6% |
| Others | 5% |

Over the past 3 years, ICs completed 31 inquiry cases, 24 of which were found substantiated, involving 26 veterinary surgeons. Orders made by ICs in respect of these veterinary surgeons are tabulated as follows:

| Relevant Order | Number of veterinary surgeons involved |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Removal of names of relevant veterinary surgeons from the register of registered veterinary surgeons (register) for 3 months, reprimand in writing and compulsory participation in continuing professional development programme/professional seminar | 1 |
| Removal of names of relevant veterinary surgeons from the register for 6 months, reprimand in writing and compulsory participation in continuing professional development programme/professional seminar | 2 |
| Removal of names of relevant veterinary surgeons from the register for 6 months, suspended for 24 months, reprimand in writing and compulsory participation in continuing professional development programme/professional seminar | 2 |

| Relevant Order | Number of veterinary surgeons involved |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Reprimand in writing and compulsory participation in continuing professional development programme/ professional seminar and/or other requirements for raising professional level | 18 |
| Reprimand in writing | 3 |
| Total | 26 |

- (f) Amongst the cases received and processed by VSB over the past 3 years, the average, shortest and longest processing times are tabulated below:

| | Average processing time (month) | Shortest processing time (month) | Longest processing time (month) |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 9.1 | 3.1 | 24.3 |
| 2024 | 8.8 | 5.2 | 21.6 |
| 2025 | 5.9 | 4.3 | 8.4 |
| 3-year average | 7.9 | Not applicable | Not applicable |

The investigation and collection of required information and supporting evidence often take time. Processing time of complaints also depends on a number of factors, including the time required by relevant parties (the complainant and the veterinary surgeon being complained of, etc.) to provide necessary information and the complexity of the cases (e.g. whether multiple veterinary surgeons or other law enforcement agencies are involved).

- (g) AFCD did not receive any complaints about pet grooming services over the past 3 years. A licence from AFCD is currently not required for the operation of pet grooming business, but AFCD will conduct inspections to relevant shops from time to time to check against any illegal animal trading or suspected animal cruelty. Upon detection of the aforementioned situation, AFCD will conduct investigations and take corresponding actions, including joint operations with the Hong Kong Police Force. Should there be sufficient evidence, prosecution will be instituted.
- (h) In response to the community's concern about veterinary assistants, VSB has set up a working group to conduct a survey on the number of veterinary assistants in Hong Kong as well as the current situation of and demand for the relevant accredited courses in veterinary nursing. VSB launched a survey on the veterinary nursing profession from August to November 2025 to gather demographic information from registered veterinary surgeons, veterinary nursing practitioners (such as veterinary nurses, veterinary assistants, and veterinary technicians), as well as clinic owners. Information collected includes the number of practitioners engaged in veterinary nursing, their qualifications, areas of work, and their perspectives on regulation of the veterinary nursing profession. VSB is consolidating the survey findings for further analysis. Based on analysis of the survey findings and with reference to the situations of the profession in Hong Kong and abroad, VSB will explore the need for and feasibility of

establishing a regulatory framework for veterinary nursing practitioners or a voluntary enrolment register.

- (i) The regulation of pet insurance products is currently not under the purview of AFCD, and no related complaints were received over the past years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2601)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the capturing of animals over the past 3 years, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. whether statistics on the numbers of animals, such as wild pigs, cattle, cats, dogs, in the local community are compiled each year;
2. the type and number of animal traps currently used by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD);
3. the manpower and expenditure involved in capturing animals each year;
4. the number of complaints and help-seeking cases received from the public in relation to animals (set out by wild pigs, cattle, cats, dogs, etc.) each year;
5. further to the above question, the numbers of animals captured and euthanised;
6. the number of illegal animal traps seized each year, the number of animal injuries caused, the number of enforcement actions and prosecutions taken; the black spots with seizure of traps; and whether the use of closed-circuit television (CCTV) to step up enforcement will be considered;
7. the effectiveness of expanding the Feeding Ban Area to the entire territory of Hong Kong with the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance amended by the Government;
8. the results of installing nearly 100 infrared cameras by the AFCD at locations with wild pig nuisance; and whether there was any Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programme for animals in the community such as wild pigs, cattle, cats, dogs, etc.; if so, the details; if not, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

- 1) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not keep the numbers of stray cats and dogs in the territory. Since 2019, the AFCD has launched a wild pig population survey project. By using infrared automatic cameras and spatial statistical analysis models, the population density of wild pigs in the countryside is estimated for wild pig population projection across the countryside in Hong Kong, with a view to monitoring the population trend in the long term. The population of wild pigs across the countryside in the territory over the past 3 years is as follows:

| Year* | Population of wild pigs across the countryside in the territory (head) |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | About 1 360 |
| 2024 | About 900 |

* The AFCD is currently conducting analysis and estimations for the wild pig population survey in 2025, hence the figure for 2025 is not available.

In addition, according to a territory-wide population survey on stray cattle conducted in 2022, there were around 1 120 stray cattle in the rural areas of Hong Kong. The estimated numbers of stray cattle are tabulated as follows:

| Breed | Number of stray cattle (head) |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Buffalo | 180 |
| Brown cattle | 940 |
| Total | 1 120 |

2. The numbers and types of animal traps currently used by the AFCD are tabulated with a breakdown by animal type as follows:

| Animal type | Type of animal traps | Number |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Wild pigs | Cage traps | 49 |
| | New netting traps | 12 |
| Cats | Cage traps | 71 |
| Dogs | Cage traps | 45 |
| | Snares | 67 |

3. The expenditures and manpower involved in the management work (including capture) for wild pigs and stray animals in each of the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Wild pig management work (including capture) | | Stray animal management work (including capture) | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Manpower (Number of staff) | Expenditure (\$ million) | Manpower (Number of staff) | Expenditure (\$ million) |
| 2023-24 | 33 | 21.8 | 139 | 44.2 |
| 2024-25 | 33 | 22.1 | 135 | 44.6 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 33 | 20.2 | 132 | 51.1 [#] |

[#] The full operation of the Kowloon Animal Management Centre at the Animal Management and Animal Welfare Building Complex in 2025-26 has led to an increase in expenditure.

4. The numbers of nuisance complaints and reports for assistance related to animals received by the AFCD in each of the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of complaints and reports for assistance | | | |
|------|-------------------------------------------------|--------|------------|------------|
| | Wild pigs | Cattle | Stray cats | Stray dogs |
| 2023 | 1 128 | 75 | 397 | 1 230 |
| 2024 | 1 098 | 73 | 428 | 1 554 |
| 2025 | 1 130 | 77 | 422 | 1 232 |

5. The number of animals captured and the number of animals humanely dispatched by the AFCD in each of the past 3 years with a breakdown by animal type are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of animals captured | | | |
|------|----------------------------|--------|------------|------------|
| | Wild pigs | Cattle | Stray cats | Stray dogs |
| 2023 | 489 | 64 | 184 | 463 |
| 2024 | 672 | 68 | 157 | 425 |
| 2025 | 723 | 54 | 168 | 398 |

| Year | Number of animals humanely dispatched | | | |
|------|---------------------------------------|--------|------------|------------|
| | Wild pigs | Cattle | Stray cats | Stray dogs |
| 2023 | 487 | 19 | 68 | 117 |
| 2024 | 657 | 10 | 59 | 160 |
| 2025 | 719 | 2 | 80 | 125 |

6. The AFCD is committed to combatting illegal hunting activities with a view to protecting wild animals. Upon receipt of public reports on any suspected illegal hunting of wild animals, the AFCD will investigate and follow up the case as soon as possible, including deploying staff to the scene to inspect and collect evidence. If there is sufficient evidence, the AFCD will institute prosecution against the offenders. In addition, the AFCD deploys staff to patrol the countryside areas from time to time, especially illegal hunting black spots (i.e. locations where animal traps or illegal hunting of wild animals had been detected). Such black spots are mainly distributed across the outlying areas of the New Territories and along parts of urban fringe. If any animal trap is found, the AFCD staff will remove it immediately, and display notices at conspicuous locations of the scene to remind the public that using animal traps is unlawful, and they shall not commit such offence. The numbers of illegal animal traps seized by the AFCD, animal deaths or injuries, law enforcement and prosecution cases in each of the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of illegal animal traps | Number of animal deaths or injuries | Number of law enforcement cases | Number of prosecution cases |
|------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2023 | 137 | 52 | 4 | 2 |
| 2024 | 133 | 7 | 13 | 7 |
| 2025 | 80 | 5 | 11 | 5 |

On the other hand, the AFCD will continue to review the feasibility of applying technology to assist in monitoring local wild animal activities and carrying out enforcement work. Since 2018, the AFCD has commissioned local universities to install infrared cameras in the main habitats of wild animals and illegal hunting black spots in Hong Kong to monitor and detect in real-time any suspicious human activities. The AFCD is exploring the introduction of closed-circuit television systems at illegal hunting black spots to enhance the monitoring and detection of illegal hunting activities, so as to further improve law enforcement efficiency.

7. The Government has been adopting a multi-pronged approach to combat illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons. The Government enacted the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 (Amendment Ordinance) in 2024 to expand the prohibition on feeding of wild animals to cover feral pigeons, increase the maximum penalty for illegal feeding to a fine of \$100,000 and imprisonment for 1 year, and at the same time introduce a fixed penalty of \$5,000, and expand the categories of enforcement officers to cover appointed officers of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Housing Department, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement. Meanwhile, the Government has enhanced promotional and educational efforts to raise public awareness of not to feed wild animals and feral pigeons.

In our assessment, the enforcement efforts, coupled with management measures such as promotion and education, have started to yield results. Regarding feral pigeons, according to the population surveys by the AFCD, the total number of feral pigeons at the feral pigeon congregation points across all districts in the territory dropped from about 13 500 at the time shortly after the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance (fourth quarter of 2024) to about 12 100 in the first quarter of 2025. The next phase of territory-wide feral pigeon population surveys commenced in the fourth quarter of 2025, with preliminary findings expected in the second quarter of 2026.

Regarding wild pigs, the estimated population of wild pigs in the territory decreased from about 1 830 in 2022 to about 900 in 2024, the number of wild pig nuisance black spots (as defined according to indicators such as gatherings resulting from illegal feeding and injury cases) decreased from 42 in 2022 to 9 in 2025, while the number of human injury cases caused by wild pigs reduced from 36 in 2022 to 4 in 2025.

Regarding monkeys, routine patrols and monkey population surveys conducted by the AFCD showed a substantial reduction in food debris left behind by human feeding at a major black spot on Tai Po Road adjacent to Kam Shan and Lion Rock Country Parks, indicating a significant decrease in illegal feeding activities. In fact, the number of complaints about monkey nuisance received by the AFCD reduced by 18% from 382 in 2024 to 313 in 2025. Given that the total number of patrols by the AFCD at illegal black spots of monkey feeding in each month remained stable, the number of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued decreased from an average of 10 FPNs per month between September and December 2024 to an average of 2 FPNs or below per month between May 2025 and February 2026.

With continuous enhancement in enforcement efforts by the AFCD and relevant departments to combat illegal feeding activities, reduce food sources, gradually restore the foraging habits of wild animals and feral pigeons to their natural state, the issue of

nuisance will continue to improve. The AFCD will continue to work with relevant departments to closely monitor the latest developments in illegal feeding activities across the territory and take targeted enforcement actions, along with other animal management measures, to effectively combat the illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons.

8. Since 2023, the AFCD has installed infrared cameras to monitor the occurrence of wild pigs coupled with new trapping devices, with a view to improving the efficiency of wild pig capture operations. In 2025, the AFCD conducted over 400 capture operations and successfully captured 723 wild pigs, representing an increase of about 140% as compared with 292 wild pigs captured in 2022. In addition, the AFCD has installed infrared cameras at some black spots of illegal feeding to detect the occurrence of wild pigs and illegal feeding activities, for the purpose of collecting information and arranging enforcement actions.

The AFCD carried out the Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP) for wild pigs between late 2017 and November 2021, which involved over 350 operations and 458 wild pigs, but the effectiveness of the relevant operations was far from catching up with the reproduction rate of wild pigs. Moreover, after wild pigs are habituated to being fed by people, they will return to the urban or residential areas relentlessly to seek food even after being relocated to the countryside. To step up control over the safety risks and public hygiene problems caused by wild pigs, the AFCD launched the wild pig capture and humane dispatch operations in November 2021 to replace the CCRP.

Regarding stray dogs, the Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme (the programme) was conducted by 2 animal welfare organisations (AWOs) at 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Tai Tong, Yuen Long between February 2015 and January 2018, while the AFCD was responsible for monitoring and handling related complaints and commissioning an independent consultant to conduct investigation and analysis. As the dogs under the programme at the trial site in Tai Tong, Yuen Long had all been rehomed, the programme was terminated in August 2022. As for trial site in Cheung Chau, the co-ordinating organisation of the programme agreed to continue managing and monitoring the dogs under the programme, and provide the AFCD with regular reports on the condition, average lifespan and changes in the number of the dogs concerned. As at January 2025, a total of 106 dogs have been neutered under the programme and returned to their original habitat. Although the programme has not achieved the performance target of reducing the number of stray dogs at the trial sites for the time being, the AFCD will provide the relevant assistance to AWOs or other organisations that are interested in implementing the Trap-Neuter-Return programme, including assisting them in liaising with the relevant District Councils and district stakeholders.

The AFCD will also continue to help the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to control the number of stray cats by means of trap, neuter and return under the Cat Colony Care Programme.

The AFCD adopts a multi-pronged approach for managing stray cattle, including performing surgical sterilisation on stray cattle to stabilise the stray bovine population and minimise the nuisance caused by them to the public. The AFCD officers will capture stray cattle and perform surgical sterilisation on them. Over the past 3 years,

the AFCD officers sterilised 94 stray cattle in total. Those sterilised ones will be ear-tagged for identification. Upon recovery from the surgical wounds, they will be returned to suitable locations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)011****(Question Serial No. 3220)**

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Over the past 3 years, regarding the handling of animal cruelty, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the manpower, expenditure and specific details of the work;
- (b) the total number of reported cases of suspected animal cruelty received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD);
- (c) the number of successful prosecutions instituted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (the Ordinance) and the penalty imposed on each case;
- (d) the number of applications for review of cases under the Ordinance lodged by the Department of Justice (DoJ) on the grounds that the penalties imposed were too lenient, and the results of these appeals;
- (e) the number of cases in which DoJ decided not to institute prosecution under the Ordinance, and the details; and
- (f) the preparatory work of AFCD in reviewing the Ordinance, and the legislative timetable?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

- (a) Upon receipt of reports on suspected animal cruelty cases, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and/or the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) will undertake investigations and initiate prosecutions subject to sufficient evidence. AFCD will also conduct relevant inspections as necessary. The manpower and expenditure involved in handling animal cruelty cases by AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) | Manpower (Number of staff) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 3.0 | 17 |
| 2024-25 | 3.5 | 17 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 4.4 | 17 |

(b) and (c) The number of reports on suspected animal cruelty received and details of successful prosecutions instituted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) (the Ordinance) by HKPF and AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of reports on suspected animal cruelty received* | Number of successful prosecutions | Penalties imposed | |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | Fine (\$) | Range of imprisonment |
| 2023 | 441 | 23 | 5,000 to 6,000 | 10 days to 1 year |
| 2024 | 494 | 25 | 500 to 4,500 | 14 days to 6 months |
| 2025 | 571 | 20 [#] | N/A [#] | 2 days to 6 months [#] |

* Upon investigation, most cases were found to involve nuisance and not related to animal cruelty.

[#] Figures on prosecution are up to September 2025.

- (d) Over the past 3 years, there was no application for review of sentence for cases under the Ordinance lodged by the Department of Justice (DoJ) on the grounds that the penalties imposed were too lenient.
- (e) Over the past 3 years, there were 22 cases in relation to the Ordinance in which DoJ decided not to institute prosecution. Relevant details were not available in the records of DoJ.
- (f) In examining the amendments to the Ordinance, the Government understood that there were divergent views among stakeholders on the introduction of “Duty of Care” at the present stage and the penalty level for animal cruelty. The Government will continue to collect and consider opinions from all parties, and will strive to formulate concrete proposals within this year.

In addition, AFCD will continue to promote the “Duty of Care” of animal owners through public education and publicity activities, including educating the public through various channels such as thematic website, social media and roving exhibitions, including putting up posts on social platform to explain how to take proper care of animals, in order to foster public understanding of the content and importance of “Duty of Care”.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)012

(Question Serial No. 1696)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the modernisation as well as the upgrading and transformation of the agriculture and fisheries industries, please advise of the following:

- i. the respective numbers of persons engaged in the local agriculture and fisheries industries at present;
- ii. the current numbers of farms permitted to join the “Agri enJoy” Scheme, persons engaged in the industries involved, as well as the respective numbers of applications received, rejected and put on the waiting list by the Department since the launch of the Scheme; and
- iii. the current numbers of licensees permitted to operate the leisure fishing business, persons engaged in the industries involved, as well as the respective numbers of applications received, rejected and put on the waiting list by the Department since the launch of the Scheme.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 46)

Reply:

- i. In 2025, the number of persons engaged in the local agriculture industry is about 4 300, while the number of persons engaged in the local fisheries industry, which includes capture fisheries, mariculture, pond fish culture and oyster farming, is about 13 400.
- ii. and iii. To promote the diversified and sustainable development of local leisure farming and leisure fisheries, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been actively promoting the “Agri enJoy” and “Fish enJoy” Schemes in recent years to assist the industries in providing leisure activities as their ancillary business, so as to enhance their income, promote local agricultural and fisheries products, while enabling the public to gain first-hand knowledge and experience of agricultural and fisheries production.

As of February 2026, AFCD received a total of 115 applications for the “Agri enJoy” Scheme. Among them, 1 farm withdrew due to resumption of land

for development, 3 were rejected, and another 3 are being processed. There are currently 108 “Agri enJoy” farms, and the total number of workers is 216.

As of February 2026, AFCD received a total of 58 applications for the “Fish enJoy” Scheme, with 1 application still being processed. There are currently 57 fish farms granted eligible status under the “Fish enJoy” Scheme, and the total number of workers is 114.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3241)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding enhancing the promotion and marketing of local agricultural and fisheries products:

1. the expenditures on support, testing and brand promotion for the Accredited Farm Scheme and the Accredited Fish Farm Scheme in each of the past 3 years, as well as the estimated expenditure on establishing a new unified brand for local agricultural and fisheries products in 2026-27;
2. as the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) sets the targets for agricultural and fisheries production units registered under the new unified brand in 2026 at 385 and 185, the standards for setting the targets; and
3. the specific details of the establishment of the new unified brand for local agricultural and fisheries products by AFCD, including the testing and certification standards for agricultural and fisheries products as well as the sales restrictions.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yun (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is actively working with the industries to take forward the various initiatives under the Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries, including the launch of a new unified brand for local agricultural and fisheries (A&F) products in the middle of this year, which aims to promote awareness of products and provide the public with high-quality and fresh food, and enhance the competitiveness of products to increase the income levels of fishermen and farmers.

1. The expenditures on support, testing and brand promotion for the Accredited Farm Scheme (AFS) and the Accredited Fish Farm Scheme (AFFS) in each of the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------|
| | AFS | AFFS |
| 2023-24 | 9.1 | 13.7 |
| 2024-25 | 6.3 | 13.7 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 7.1 | 14.0 |

To raise the credibility of the new unified brand, the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund has allocated a grant of about \$15 million to subsidise agricultural and fisheries organisations in engaging the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency as the certification body to develop a set of certification, testing and traceability mechanisms for local A&F products. In addition, to enhance the publicity and promotion for the new unified brand, the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund has allocated a grant of about \$15 million to subsidise agricultural and fisheries organisations in engaging Ocean Park Hong Kong to launch a series of promotional, educational and experiential activities, including public guided tours to local fisheries and farms, school promotions and outreach activities, to promote the new unified brand to the public. Ocean Park will also organise events such as exchange forums, workshops and company guided tours to enhance the catering and retail industries' awareness of the new unified brand and their understanding of local procurement and environment responsibility. The manpower and financial expenditures incurred by AFCD will be absorbed by the existing resources and therefore no separate breakdown is available.

2. For agricultural products, AFCD expects a total of 385 production units to participate in the new unified brand in 2026, including 275 local accredited farms registered under AFS, and 110 certified organic farms participating in the Organic Farming Support Service and engaging in commercial production. For fisheries products, AFCD expects that all 177 local accredited fish farms currently registered under AFFS will switch to the new unified brand, and with publicity and promotion efforts, the number of local fish farms participating in the new unified brand is expected to increase to 185.
3. The new unified brand will encompass a wide variety of certified local A&F products. Within 2026, the production units under the new unified brand will cover crop farms and fish farms, while livestock farms will be covered in the next stage. The certification body will ensure that participating fishermen and farmers follow the production standards and cultivation methods set out by AFCD and comply with the food safe, reduced carbon and high-quality indicators and testing requirements. Certified products will be attached with a traceability label to enable consumers to obtain information on the fisheries or farms where they were produced. We will also invite wholesalers, retailers and the catering industry to participate in the scheme and use local-brand A&F produce.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3242)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the “Local Fresh” online store, mobile app, and physical store launched by the Vegetable Marketing Organization and the Fish Marketing Organization:

1. please list out in detail the expenditure for “Local Fresh”, including administrative expenditure, manpower, logistics, and rent, in each of the past 3 years, as well as the estimated expenditure for 2026-27;
2. what are the numbers and values of agricultural and fisheries products sold on “Local Fresh” in each of the past 3 years?
3. at present, how many “Local Fresh” members are there, and how many of them used the platform in the past month?
4. the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department plans to establish a new unified brand for local agricultural and fisheries products by mid-2026. Does the Department have any plan to expand the “Local Fresh” platform to strengthen the promotion of the new brand? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

1. The expenditure of “Local Fresh” is funded by the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) and the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO). Since the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department provides overall administrative support to VMO and FMO, the Department does not keep a breakdown of the expenditure and manpower that the two organizations devote to supporting “Local Fresh”.
2. Over the past three years, the quantities and value of agricultural and fisheries products sold annually under “Local Fresh” are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Agricultural products | | Fisheries products | |
|------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Weight (tonnes) | Value (\$ million) | Weight (tonnes) | Value (\$ million) |
| 2023 | 31.7 | 1.6 | 4.0 | 0.9 |
| 2024 | 14.8 | 1.0 | 2.5 | 0.6 |
| 2025 | 17.2 | 1.1 | 1.9 | 0.5 |

As the pandemic subsided and businesses returned to normality, the consumption patterns of the public have changed, and the sales performance of “Local Fresh” has returned to pre-pandemic levels. In recent years, VMO and FMO have also been committed to expanding their offline sales network to facilitate consumers. Since 2023, 10 new retail outlets have been added in chain supermarkets, bringing the total number of physical retail outlets in Hong Kong to about 100.

3. As at February 2026, “Local Fresh” had 32 300 members, among whom 320 used the platform over the past month.

4. FMO/VMO have been actively assisting the industry to promote their local premium agricultural and fisheries products through the “Local Fresh” e-commerce platform and the physical store. To complement the launch of the new unified brand for local agricultural and fisheries products in mid-2026, “Local Fresh” will be repositioned as the specialty store for the new unified brand. Through its online store, mobile application, and physical store, the platform will focus on promoting and selling products under the new unified brand, making it convenient for the public to purchase. FMO/VMO will enhance the “Local Fresh” online store and mobile application by establishing a dedicated section for sales, thematic introductions and promotions of products under the new unified brand to provide users with richer product information, such as nutritional content and cooking recipes, so as to enhance the overall shopping experience.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)015

(Question Serial No. 1648)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) the details and expenditure involved in the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance, and the percentage in the overall expenditure of the Department in each of the past 5 years;
- (2) the details and expenditure involved in public education and the protection of animal rights and welfare, and the percentage in the overall expenditure of the Department in each of the past 5 years; and
- (3) the number of suspected cases of animal cruelty received in each of the past 5 years; among them, the number of successful prosecutions instituted, as well as the number of persons arrested, the number of persons convicted and the respective penalties in each case.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

- (1) Upon receiving reports on suspected animal cruelty cases, the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) and/or the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will conduct investigations, and prosecution will be instituted if there is sufficient evidence.

AFCD's expenditure involved in the above work over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) | Percentage of the overall departmental expenditure (%) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2021-22 | 2.6 | 0.1 |
| 2022-23 | 2.3 | 0.1 |
| 2023-24 | 3.0 | 0.2 |
| 2024-25 | 3.5 | 0.2 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 4.4 | 0.2 |

- (2) AFCD has been promoting animal welfare through public education and publicity programmes, which include promoting “Responsible Pet Ownership” and proper care of animals, advising the public against the abandonment of pets, reminding the public that they should consider various factors before keeping pets, as well as encouraging animal rehoming. Over the past 5 years, AFCD produced and broadcast educational videos and Announcements in the Public Interest on animal welfare through various platforms; published and distributed leaflets, posters and pamphlets on animal welfare through various channels; disseminated the latest information on animal welfare through a thematic website; placed advertisements on various platforms (e.g. public transport); organised roving exhibitions in the 18 districts, “virtual reality games” exhibitions, dog obedience training courses, pet adoption activities and held talks at schools and housing estates on a regular basis, etc. The expenditure involved is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure on education and promotion of animal welfare (\$ million) | Percentage of the overall departmental expenditure (%) |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2021-22 | 23.8 | 1.3 |
| 2022-23 | 21.3 | 1.1 |
| 2023-24 | 22.3 | 1.1 |
| 2024-25 | 21.6 | 1.0 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 21.4 | 1.0 |

- (3) The number of reports on suspected animal cruelty received and details of prosecutions instituted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) by HKPF and AFCD over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of reports of suspected animal cruelty received* | Number of prosecutions instituted | Number of persons arrested | Number of successful prosecutions | Number of persons convicted | Penalties imposed | |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | | | | Fine (\$) | Range of imprisonment |
| 2021 | 256 | 21 | 55 | 15 | 16 | 2,000 to 2,500 | 1 month and 12 days to 5 months |
| 2022 | 263 | 21 | 32 | 20 | 24 | 1,000 to 3,000 | 8 days to 10 months |
| 2023 | 441 | 25 | 43 | 23 | 23 | 5,000 to 6,000 | 10 days to 1 year |
| 2024 | 494 | 32 | 59 | 25 | 27 | 500 to 4,500 | 14 days to 6 months |
| 2025 | 571 | 25 [#] | 47 | 20 [#] | 21 [#] | N/A [#] | 2 days to 6 months [#] |

* Upon investigation, most cases were found to involve nuisance and not related to animal cruelty.

Figures on prosecutions in 2025 are up to September 2025.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)016

(Question Serial No. 1657)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the operation of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) and the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF), would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. regarding the 2 Funds, (i) the numbers of applications received; (ii) the numbers of applications rejected; and (iii) the reasons for rejection over the past 2 years, with a breakdown by (a) Innovative Projects; (b) Application Projects; and (c) Support Services Projects;
2. regarding the Farm Improvement Scheme and the Equipment Improvement Project under the 2 Funds, (i) the numbers of applications received; (ii) the numbers of applications approved; (iii) the amounts of grants approved; (iv) the details of the projects; and (v) the percentage increase or decrease as compared with the previous year, with a breakdown by (a) individual applications and (b) group applications;
3. regarding the Marine Fish Culture Licences (Mirs Bay Fish Culture Zone) under SFDF, (i) the number of applications received; (ii) the number of applications approved; (iii) the application organisations and the details; and (iv) the amount of grant approved over the past 2 years; and
4. the latest balance of the funds; and whether further injection into the 2 Funds in future will be needed?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

1. The respective numbers of general applications by category of project under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) and the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) over the past 2 years are tabulated as follows:

SADF

| Year | Number of applications received | | | Number of applications rejected |
|------|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Innovative Projects | Application Projects | Support Services Projects | |
| 2024 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 1* |
| 2025 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |

* The relevant application was rejected for failure to meet the assessment criteria in terms of project needs, feasibility, and expected outcomes for application projects.

SFDF

| Year | Number of applications received | | | Number of applications rejected |
|------|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Innovative Projects | Application Projects | Support Services Projects | |
| 2024 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 2025 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 0 |

2. The Farm Improvement Scheme (FIS) and the Equipment Improvement Project (EIP) under SADF and SFDF respectively provide funding support to farmers and fishermen for upgrading their equipment or materials in order to improve production or promote sustainable development. Since 2023, enhancement measures have been implemented for FIS and EIP, allowing eligible farmers and fishermen to submit applications in their personal capacity or submit group applications.

The respective numbers of applications and amounts of grants of FIS and EIP over the past 2 years are tabulated as follows:

FIS

| Year | Number of applications received | Number of applications approved | Number of applications rejected | Amount of grants approved (\$ million) | Percentage increase/decrease as compared with the previous year |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Individual applications | | | | | |
| 2024 | 45 | 42 | 0 | 1.7 | +240.0% |
| 2025 | 11 | 10 | 0 | 1.0 | -41.2% |
| Group applications* | | | | | |
| 2024 | 0 | N/A | | | |
| 2025 | 0 | N/A | | | |

* No group applications were received over the past 2 years primarily because farmers were very familiar with the application procedures and did not require any agent to apply on their behalf.

EIP

| Year | Number of applications received | Number of applications approved* | Number of applications rejected* | Amount of grants approved (\$ million) | Percentage increase/decrease as compared with the previous year |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Individual applications | | | | | |
| 2024 | 247 | 689 | 16 [@] | 37.7 | +435.5% |
| 2025 | 147 | 198 | 0 | 11.1 | -70.6% |
| Group applications (each application involved about 60 to 250 fishermen/fish farmers) | | | | | |
| 2024 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 25.2 | N/A [^] |
| 2025 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 11.6 | -54.0% [#] |

* Including applications received in the previous year.

As the industry has gradually become more familiar with the application procedures, applications tend to be submitted in personal capacity, and group applications have decreased significantly.

[^] SFDF did not approve any EIP (group applications) in 2023.

[@] The main reasons for rejection include the applicant's failure to meet the eligibility criteria, or the fact that the proposed equipment or materials to be purchased do not contribute to improving production or promoting sustainable development.

3. Over the past 2 years, SFDF received a total of 3 applications related to marine fish culture licence applications for operation in the Mirs Bay fish culture zone, the details of which are tabulated as follows:

| Name of organisation | Project duration (months) | Amount of grants involved (\$ million) | Status of the project |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Hong Kong Aquaculture Innovation Limited | 60 | 5.0 | Approved |
| Uni-China Fisheries (Hong Kong) Limited | 63 | 15.0 | Approved |
| Hong Kong Agriculture and Fisheries Development Co., Limited | 60 | 14.0 | Under process |

4. As at December 2025, the unspent commitment of SADF and SFDF were approximately \$740 million and \$660 million respectively. We expect that the current unspent commitment of the two funds is adequate to meet the needs in the coming years. We will continue to monitor the spending progress of both funds and the development needs of the industries.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)017

(Question Serial No. 1807)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Not Specified

Question:

Regarding the training of talents for the local agricultural and fisheries industries, would the Government inform this Committee of:

- (1) the total number of training courses or workshops tailor-made for agricultural and fisheries practitioners organised by the Government over the past 3 years; and among these, the number and proportion of courses involving smart agricultural and fisheries technologies; and the total number of vocational training programmes tailor-made for youths and new entrants intended to join the agricultural and fisheries industries; and
- (2) the total number of support schemes launched by the Government aiming to facilitate the start of fisheries and agricultural operation; and the cumulative numbers of applications received, successful applications and cases where operations have commenced?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pok-chi (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

- (1) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provided training on an ongoing basis to local farmers and fishermen and those who intend to join the agricultural and fisheries industries, equipping them with the relevant skills and knowledge, and promoting modern technology and practices with a view to promoting modernisation and sustainable development of the local agricultural and fisheries industries. The modes of training generally include training courses, technical talks, workshops, forums and field visits. Regarding the fisheries industry, the training covers different areas such as maritime safety knowledge and practical skills, advanced aquaculture technologies and management, disease prevention and treatment, aquatic product processing and development of leisure fisheries. To support the sustainable development of the local aquaculture industry, AFCD, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE), has in recent years actively organised aquaculture-related programmes covering mariculture and pond fish culture, aquatic product processing, marketing and promotion, etc. IVE launched the “Diploma in Modernised Aquaculture” programme in 2025, and will launch the new “Professional Diploma in Deep-Sea Mariculture” programme in 2026. Regarding the agricultural

industry, AFCD promoted to local farmers the advanced production technologies, including organic farming, horticulture techniques, soil management, integrated pest and disease control management, controlled-environment hydroponic farming, multi-layer farming, greenhouse production and application of modern farm machinery, and introduced new crop varieties for local propagation. In addition, AFCD has launched the Hydroponic Cultivation Attachment Programme since 2022, providing professional knowledge in operating indoor controlled-environment hydroponic farms and opportunities for hands-on experience to those who intend to join the local hydroponic agricultural sector.

Over the past 3 years, the total number of training activities for agricultural and fisheries industries is tabulated as follows, among which about 20% involved training in smart agricultural and fisheries technologies.

| Year | Total number of training activities for agricultural and fisheries industries | Number of courses involved training in smart agricultural and fisheries technologies | Training programmes for youths who intend to join the agricultural and fisheries industries and new entrants |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 41 | 8 | 5 |
| 2024-25 | 34 | 7 | 3 |
| 2025-26 (as at Feb 2026) | 28 | 5 | 3 |

- (2) AFCD also provides financial assistance through the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund and the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund to support projects that enhance the skills or technology of the industry to facilitate entrepreneurship. A cumulative of 41 applications have been received, and 21 projects were approved and/or have commenced operation, which include supporting the industry in developing deep-sea mariculture and cultivating high value-added species in new fish culture zones, supporting the industry in developing community-based leisure fisheries, subsidising local capture fishermen to enrol in training for local vessel operation certificates, and assisting farmers intending to switch to organic farming to apply for organic certification, so as to enhance the skills of the industry and promote industry transformation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)018

(Question Serial No. 1808)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

According to the Accounts of the Government, the provision under Subhead 609 Minor irrigation works in the New Territories (block vote) of the Capital Account for a programme to provide irrigation works to assist agricultural development in the New Territories is \$5,563,000, which is \$2,049,000 higher than the revised estimate for 2025-26, representing an increase of 58.3%. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) the specific basis on which the increased cash flow requirement was calculated; and
- (2) the respective estimated numbers of new irrigation and rehabilitation projects to be commenced and carried out in 2026-27? Please set out the locations and anticipated construction dates?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pok-chi (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

- (1) The provision under Subhead 609 is mainly for rehabilitating and improving irrigation facilities in the New Territories and Lantau Island to support and enhance the daily operation and sustainable development of the agriculture activities there. A breakdown of the works projects and the revised estimates for 2025-26 are tabulated as follows:

| Works projects | Revised estimate for 2025-26 (\$ million) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) Minor irrigation works in the New Territories | 1.3 |
| (2) Reconstruction of irrigation facilities in the New Territories and Lantau Island, Phase 9 | 2.2 |
| Total expenditure | 3.5 |

A breakdown of the works projects and the estimated expenditures for 2026-27 are tabulated as follows:

| Works projects | Revised estimate for 2026-27 (\$ million) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) Minor irrigation works in the New Territories | 1.5 |
| (2) Reconstruction of irrigation facilities in the New Territories and Lantau Island, Phase 10 | 4.1 |
| Total expenditure | 5.6 |

The estimate for 2026-27 is higher than the revised estimate for 2025-2026 mainly due to genuine construction needs, such as the rehabilitation of more irrigation pipes and increase in procurement of materials, and the inclusion of factors such as inflation. The Department will closely monitor the expenditures on the project projects in 2026-27 and make suitable adjustments as necessary.

- (2) In 2026-27, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department plans to carry out 2 irrigation works and rehabilitation projects at various locations in the New Territories and Lantau Island, including Kwu Tung in Sheung Shui, Pat Heung in Yuen Long, Hok Tau, as well as Sham Wat Road in Lantau Island. The first and second works projects will commence in the second and third quarters in 2026 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1810)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In recent years, illegal fishing activities have occurred from time to time in Hong Kong waters, threatening the sustainable development of the marine ecosystem and fisheries resources. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the number of enforcement operations and their effectiveness against illegal fishing activities in marine parks over the past 3 years, as well as the penalties and fines imposed;
- (2) the expenditure and staff establishment involved in the enforcement operations against illegal fishing activities in marine parks over the past 3 years;
- (3) the number of patrols conducted in marine parks and marine reserve over the past 3 years;
- (4) the manpower and expenditure deployed by the Government for the application of technologies, such as unmanned aircraft and AI recognition, in combatting illegal fishing over the past 3 years; and
- (5) the resources deployed by the Government for public education and publicity programmes to raise public awareness to combat illegal fishing over the past 3 years, and the relevant expenditure and effectiveness?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pok-chi (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

- (1) Under the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation (Cap. 476A), any person who carries out illegal fishing activities in marine parks and marine reserve is liable to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment for 1 year upon conviction. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has set up a sea enforcement team to focus on combatting illegal fishing activities in local waters (including the marine parks and the marine reserve), and enforces the relevant legislation to combat illegal fishing activities through a risk-based approach by deploying resources flexibly to conduct random and targeted patrols in the marine parks and the marine reserve having regard to the circumstances and intelligence collected. AFCD will continue to exchange intelligence with relevant government departments and Mainland

authorities and adjust the enforcement strategy from time to time in the light of circumstances with a view to making joint efforts to combat illegal fishing activities.

The number of enforcement operations against illegal fishing in marine parks over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Item | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 (as at Feb 2026) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Number of illegal fishing cases found during patrols or joint operations (number of cases in which no arrest was successfully made) | 44 (31) | 77 (52) | 44 (31) |
| Number of successful arrests (number of persons arrested) | 13 (13) | 25 (25) | 13 (13) |
| Number of successful prosecutions (number of persons successfully prosecuted) | 11 (11) | 23 (23) | 1* (1) |
| The lowest and highest penalties imposed | A fine of \$500 to \$1,000 | A fine of \$1,500 to \$2,000 | A fine of \$600 |

* As at February 2026, 12 cases in 2025-26 are still under investigation.

- (2) The expenditure and manpower of the sea enforcement team involved in the law enforcement work against illegal fishing in local waters (including the marine parks and the marine reserve) over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) | Manpower (number of staff) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 31.8 | 43 |
| 2024-25 | 34.8 | 43 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 34.8 | 42 |

AFCD does not keep a breakdown of the figures involved in combatting illegal fishing activities in marine parks.

- (3) The number of patrols conducted by AFCD in each marine park and marine reserve over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Location | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 (as at Feb 2026) |
|----------------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park | 644 | 662 | 541 |
| Yan Chau Tong Marine Park | 519 | 516 | 488 |
| Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park | 407 | 370 | 286 |
| Tung Ping Chau Marine Park | 357 | 330 | 304 |

| Location | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 (as at Feb 2026) |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Cape D’Aguilar Marine Reserve | 460 | 448 | 415 |
| The Brothers Marine Park | 398 | 354 | 313 |
| Southwest Lantau Marine Park | 485 | 528 | 396 |
| South Lantau Marine Park | 215 | 338 | 270 |
| North Lantau Marine Park [#] | | 193 | 365 |

[#] North Lantau Marine Park was established in November 2024.

- (4) AFCD has been proactively exploring the application of technology to assist in identifying fishing vessels engaging in illegal fishing and enhancing enforcement efficiency. AFCD has developed a real-time satellite automatic identification system which assists with the enforcement team’s follow-up investigation and tracking by analysing real-time satellite data in relation to vessels, such as their navigation speeds, directions, vessel digital identities, licence numbers and past tracks, to enhance the efficiency in combatting illegal fishing. AFCD also explores the use of artificial intelligence (AI) technology to analyse satellite information and videos to strengthen the capability of analysing past tracks and forecasting the navigation directions of vessels as well as using unmanned aircraft to assist in detection for more effective identification and tracking of fishing vessels suspected of engaging in illegal fishing activities so as to facilitate the planning and investigation of the enforcement team. Besides, AFCD is also participating in a pilot project under the “Low-altitude Economy Regulatory Sandbox” by adopting unmanned aircraft to patrol Hong Kong waters, with a view to covering a large area of waters from an elevated viewpoint of unmanned aircraft and enhancing the capability and efficiency in gathering intelligence, and exploring the identification of fishing vessels with AI technology at the same time. In addition, AFCD has also developed a video-analytics system by applying video-analytics technology and AI to carry out real-time monitoring of vessels in marine parks for the detection of suspected illegal fishing activities.

The expenditure of AFCD on using technology to assist with its sea enforcement tasks over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 4.8 |
| 2024-25 | 3.8 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 1.1 [#] |

[#] Part of the expenditure for 2023-24 and 2024-25 was used for the development and hardware configuration of the video-analytics system. The installation of the system has been substantially completed in 2025. Therefore, the estimated expenditure for 2025-26 is lower than that of the previous two years.

As the manpower for the above work is absorbed by AFCD’s existing resources, no breakdown is available.

- (5) AFCD's routine fisheries management and marine conservation promotion work includes public education and publicity programmes to promote the message of combatting illegal fishing, such as disseminating the message online and on social media, distributing leaflets during patrols; putting up signs at suitable piers; organising various educational activities and talks for the industry, schools, and the public; and launching the Citizen Scientist Programme. These activities can raise public awareness of illegal fishing, relevant regulations, and marine ecosystem conservation.

The expenditure of AFCD involved in the promotion and educational activities in fisheries management and marine conservation over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows. No breakdown of the figures for public education and publicity programmes in relation to combatting illegal fishing is available.

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 17.4 |
| 2024-25 | 18.0 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 19.5 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1811)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) launched the “Agri enJoy” Scheme in 2024 to facilitate farms engaged in commercial agricultural production to operate agriculture-related ancillary businesses, so as to increase their income and promote their agricultural products. Members of the public will also get a chance to experience and learn more about agricultural production. AFCD will enhance promotion and introduction of “Agri enjoy” farms through various channels, such as websites and social media platforms. AFCD will also continue to organise large-scale events, such as the annual FarmFest and other fishermen and farmers’ markets, to assist “Agri enjoy” farms in promoting their agriculture-related ancillary businesses. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee:

- (1) regarding the FarmFest held in January this year, the final statistics on the number of visitors and overall sales on each of the 3 event days, and whether the target of 160 000 visitors has been reached; and
- (2) the categories of stalls (listed by local delicacies, organic and healthy food, household goods, exhibitions, etc.) at FarmFest this year, which housed over 430 stalls, among which over 220 are selling local agricultural and fisheries products?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pok-chi (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

- (1) FarmFest 2026 (the FarmFest) was successfully organised between 9 and 11 January 2026 and attracted over 156 000 visitors, which is close to the target attendance of 160 000 visitors. There were about 31 000, 61 000 and 64 000 visitors on the 3 event days respectively. The sales of local agricultural and fisheries products were satisfactory, with overall sales exceeding \$6.68 million.
- (2) The FarmFest housed 432 stalls, the type and number of which are tabulated as follows:

| Type | Number |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Local fisheries products | 80 |
| Local agricultural products | 142 |
| Commercial* | 176 |
| Cooked food | 6 |
| Education and others | 28 |

* Selling delicacies, organic and healthy food, household goods, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)021

(Question Serial No. 1812)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the operation of the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) and the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF), please advise on the following:

- (1) the average time for processing each application for SFDF and SADF;
- (2) the number of approved projects under SFDF and SADF in each of the past 5 years;
- (3) the average total amount of funding approved each year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pok-chi (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

- (1) Under the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) and the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF), the processing of an application with all necessary information provided would normally be completed within 6 months. To further expedite the vetting process, SFDF and SADF implemented a series of enhancement measures in February 2023, which included the establishment of task forces to provide targeted support for all potential applicants before they submit formal applications, including advising them on the refinement of their project proposals and preparation of the necessary documents. The two Funds have also further streamlined the application procedures, such as vetting by paper circulation those general project applications of a simpler nature and involving funding of no more than \$2 million. Over the past 3 years, it took 4 months on average for the two Funds to complete the vetting of each application.

- (2) and (3) The details of the number of applications approved and the total amount of grants approved under the two Funds over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | SADF | | SFDF | |
|------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| | Number of applications approved* | Total amount of grants approved (\$ million) | Number of applications approved@ | Total amount of grants approved (\$ million) |
| 2021 | 32 | 16.7 | 6 | 51.1 |
| 2022 | 20 | 30.0 | 2 | 12.2 |
| 2023 | 97^ | 34.1 | 169# | 8.2 |
| 2024 | 65^ | 22.5 | 694# | 76.1 |
| 2025 | 17^ | 45.5 | 203# | 58.1 |

* Including general applications and those for the Farm Improvement Scheme (FIS)

@ Including general applications and those for the Equipment Improvement Project (EIP)

^ The significant increase in the number of approved applications from 2023 onwards is mainly due to enhancement measures implemented under SADF, including an increase in the grant ratio and ceiling for the FIS. Following the subsequent increase in the number of farmers who have received grants, the number of applications stabilised and the number of approved projects dropped. Meanwhile, the large-scale resumption of agricultural land in recent years may have dampened farmers' willingness to purchase new farming equipment and materials, thereby reducing demand for applying for grants in 2025.

The significant increase in the number of approved applications from 2023 onwards is mainly due to the acceptance of fishermen's applications for the EIP in their personal capacity as well as an increase in the grant ratio and ceiling following the expanded coverage of SFDF and the implementation of enhancement measures. Subsequently, following the increase in the number of fishermen/fish farmers who have received grants, the number of applications in 2025 stabilised and the number of approved projects dropped.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)022

(Question Serial No. 1813)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the research and development (R&D) of fish fry in Hong Kong, particularly the “Hong Kong Oyster” Hatchery Project led by The University of Hong Kong (HKU) and other projects funded by the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF), the Government has stated that such R&D efforts help enhance the sustainable development of the local fisheries industry. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) data on the practical effectiveness concerning the actual aquaculture performance of the “Hong Kong Oysters”, as the Government previously announced that HKU had successfully produced and delivered over 5 000 strings of triploid oyster spat to oyster growers in Lau Fau Shan;
- (2) whether the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) or relevant research institution has compared the specific data on the survival rate and growth rate of triploid oyster spat against ordinary oyster spat since the delivery of the “Hong Kong Oysters”; if yes, their latest actual survival rate and their average size in each season;
- (3) whether the environmental factors (such as climate change and water quality) that previously led to a mortality rate of up to 80% for local oysters persisted during the research trials; and the reduction in percentage points of the actual mortality rate of the newly produced oyster spat when facing these specific environmental pressures;
- (4) whether the Government has developed specific key performance indicators (KPIs) (e.g. successful hatching rate, fish fry survival rate) to review if the R&D projects on fish fry are successful given R&D of fish fry is more difficult and with a longer cycle as compared to that of oyster spat; and whether the SFDF grants already spent are required to be returned if the project ultimately fails to achieve commercial mass production;
- (5) as SFDF and the Fisheries Enhancement Fund (FEF) currently provides funding support for aquatic R&D, how does the Government co-ordinate the research directions of both Funds to avoid duplication of resources; and
- (6) given that an additional HK\$20 million will be allocated for the promotion modernised aquaculture in new Fish Culture Zones (FCZs) as mentioned in the Estimates this year, whether the Government will require these newly funded projects to prioritise the adoption of fry technology successfully developed by local universities (such as HKU) so as to establish a complete “R&D-application” industrial chain?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pok-chi (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

- (1) and (2) According to reports submitted by the grantee, as at 2025, the grantee has distributed over 30 000 strings of triploid oyster seeds of the “Hong Kong Oysters” to local oyster farmers reared with project funding. The oyster strings delivered to oyster farmers are currently undergoing trials in Deep Bay, and are expected to reach marketable size by mid-2026 at the earliest. According to the latest data submitted by the grantee, the survival rate of triploid oyster spat is similar to that of traditional oyster spat, but their growth rate is faster; over the one-year trial, as compared to traditional oyster spat, they are on average over 10% longer in length, over 30% heavier in gross weight, and over 70% heavier in shucked oyster weight. The grantee will provide detailed data upon project completion.
- (3) During the trial phase of the project, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) did not receive reports of mass oyster mortality. As the Government is implementing a management plan for oyster rafts in Deep Bay, there is a notable reduction in the number of oyster rafts and an improvement in the aquaculture environment in Deep Bay. Oyster farmers within the area also pointed out that there have been no incidents of mass oyster mortality in Deep Bay due to abnormal aquaculture environment conditions over the past 2 years. Preliminary data from the grantee showed that the mortality rate for both traditional and newly developed oyster spat has remained at about 30%, which is considered a normal level, while the growth rate of the newly developed oyster spat is about 10% faster than that of traditional oyster spat. The grantee will provide detailed data upon project completion.
- (4) When processing applications for the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF), AFCD requires applicants to develop specific and quantifiable performance indicators, such as successful hatching rate, fish fry survival rate and annual production for their projects, so that the Department can assess the effectiveness of the projects. If the progress of the project is unsatisfactory, AFCD will require the grantee to provide solutions/improvement plans, and will, subject to the outcome and the actual situation of the project, assess whether it is necessary to adjust or stop the funding, or even recover the funding already disbursed in accordance with the established procedures.
- (5) To prevent duplicate funding, when a new application for SFDF is received, AFCD will contact other Government-managed funds/schemes or other funding agencies (such as the Environment and Conservation Fund, the Innovation and Technology Fund, the Fisheries Enhancement Fund of the Airport Authority, and other public, private, and overseas agencies) to verify whether the project has received other funding, or obtained loans from existing fisheries loan funds. Applicants are also required to declare whether their projects have been or are being considered/funded by other funding agencies (including public, private, and overseas agencies). In general, funding will not be approved under SFDF for projects that have already received other funding or obtained loans from fisheries loan funds to ensure the efficient use of resources.

- (6) In 2025-26, SFDF approved 3 projects related to modernised deep-sea mariculture. AFCD encourages the industry to collaborate with local universities or organisations to adopt locally developed aquaculture-related technologies, including fish fry hatching and the development of a new type of feed. Depending on the actual situation of individual projects, grantees may decide on their own their partnering organisation and the technologies to be applied. AFCD does not mandate that funded aquaculture projects must prioritise the adoption of fry-related technology developed by local universities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1814)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

According to the information of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) has approved grants for multiple breeding and hatchery projects, including a project to introduce fish hatching and larval rearing techniques in brackish water ponds with a view to supplying marine fish fry, the grant of which amounts to approximately \$4.4 million. The 2025 Policy Address clearly states the target of increasing local mariculture production by tenfold within 15 years, while the industry has relayed that there is room for improvement in the current grant level and processing time.

- (1) What were the projects under application, the utilisation of grants, the expected outcome of the approved projects and the commercial benefits generated over the past 3 years?
- (2) What are the details of the measures and projects, including the work plan and budget, to be launched in the coming year? As far as breeding and hatchery projects are concerned, what are the medium-to-long-term strategic plans?
- (3) What is the specific resources allocated for providing infrastructures in new fish culture zones (including the provision of deep-sea cages, technical support and monitoring systems). Please provide a timetable.
- (4) What are the specific amounts of grants under SFDF for research and development (R&D) of fish fry? What is the estimated number of funded projects?
- (5) How will the Government ensure that the outcomes of local R&D of fish fry can systematically translate into practical applications for the industry, while establishing a stable local fish fry supply system, thereby reducing reliance on imported fish fry?
- (6) Does the Government have any plan to set specific targets and timetable as regards the provision of additional processing facilities for fisheries products?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pok-chi (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

(1), (2), (4) and (5)

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides financial support for projects on the research and development (R&D) of fish fry through the

Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF). Over the past 3 years, a total of 2 relevant approved projects are in progress, details of which are tabulated as follows:

| Title of approved projects | Amount of grant involved (\$ million) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Hatchery Seed Production for Sustainable Oyster Aquaculture in Hong Kong | 5.3 |
| Trial of Culture of Threadfin Fish in Hong Kong's Marine Fish Culture Farms | 1.9 |

It is expected that the projects can help the industry overcome the current technical challenges in the development of the oyster industry and the mariculture of threadfin fish fry in Hong Kong, thereby promoting the sustainable and diversified development of the local mariculture industry. As both projects are still in progress, the commercial benefits cannot be evaluated at the moment. AFCD will continue to assist and monitor the grantees in implementing the aforesaid projects and will share the project outcome with the industry. R&D of fish fry is an important aspect of the development of the aquaculture industry. AFCD will continue to encourage and assist the industry in making good use of SFDF to conduct relevant projects.

In addition, AFCD conducted trials on the hatching of fertilised Jade Perch eggs in earlier years. Batches of fertilised Jade Perch eggs were imported from Australia and hatched and reared in temperature-controlled tanks to produce local fish fry. Subsequently, AFCD successfully mastered induced spawning and fry rearing techniques and was able to produce Jade Perch fry in mass quantities, so as to lower the fry production cost and stabilise the supply of fry. Since 2015, AFCD has supplied the industry with Jade Perch fry at an affordable price and of a stable quality every year, with a cumulative of over 1 million fish fry so far.

The Government also plans to set up a Fisheries Research Centre in San Tin Technopole to conduct research and experiments on modernised aquaculture, including research projects related to fry hatching and species selection. The centre is expected to be completed by 2031. AFCD will continue to engage in technical exchanges with local, Mainland and overseas experts, and provide technical support and training to the industry in promoting R&D of fish fry and upgrading fry health management, thereby facilitating the sustainable development of the aquaculture industry.

- (3) The infrastructures set up by AFCD in the new fish culture zones (FCZs) for 2026-27 include 2 units of modernised steel truss cages and a real-time water quality monitoring system set up with Government funding. These facilities are expected to be installed in phases from the second quarter of 2026. In addition, AFCD has also completed the installation of 1 set of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) gravity-type cages with 1 unit of floating management platform to support the operation in the new FCZs. The estimated expenditure of AFCD on the infrastructure in the new FCZs for 2026-27 is about \$41 million.
- (6) Apart from the existing fish processing centre of the Aberdeen Wholesale Fish Market, AFCD and Fish Marketing Organization are planning to allocate space in existing wholesale fish markets for processing facilities for fisheries products. The new

processing facilities are expected to commence operation by 2027. Meanwhile, AFCD also encourages the industry to make use of SFDF support in carrying out projects related to fisheries product processing.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)024

(Question Serial No. 1816)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Tourism is one of the four pillar industries in Hong Kong. Local agricultural and fisheries tourism, as an emerging attraction for tourists, can be promoted by integrating it with the “Integrated Development of Culture, Sports and Tourism” policy. The “Fish enJoy” Scheme and the “Agri enJoy” Scheme are important projects for revitalising agricultural and fisheries tourism. Please advise of the following:

- (1) the specific projects under the “Fish enJoy” Scheme and the “Agri enJoy” Scheme contributing to the Government’s promotion of “Ecology + Tourism” in the past year;
- (2) the resources to be provided to expand the number of participating premises, enhance the tourism supporting facilities, and strengthen external publicity in the coming year;
- (3) since the launch of the “Agri enJoy” Scheme, the number of guided tours, farming experiential activities and workshops organised as farm activities to promote the sale of agricultural products or to promote farming education, the number of participants of each activity and their effectiveness; and
- (4) since the launch of the “Fish enJoy” Scheme, the number of guided tours, aquaculture experiential activities and workshops organised as fish farm activities to promote the sale of fisheries products or to promote fisheries education, the number of participants of each activity and their effectiveness.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pok-chi (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

- (1) To promote the diversification and sustainable development of local leisure farming and fisheries, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been actively promoting the “Agri enJoy” Scheme and the “Fish enJoy” Scheme in recent years to assist the industries in offering leisure activities as their ancillary business to increase their income, promote local agricultural and fisheries products, and provide members of the public with more opportunities to learn about and experience agricultural and fisheries production in person.

As at February 2026, a total of 108 farms have joined the “Agri enJoy” Scheme. To encourage “Agri enJoy” farms to offer more diversified experiences to visitors,

AFCD has further relaxed restrictions on the use of food ingredients from April 2025 onwards. At present, “Agri enJoy” farms issued with a food factory licence may add other food ingredients (such as meat) and toppings (such as dried fish and dried shrimps) to prepare dishes mainly with self-grown crops of the farms. Farms may also use food ingredients from licensed food factories to assist in the production of dessert mainly with self-grown crops (such as shaved ice with fruit and fruit jellies), as well as using electrical appliances to prepare bakery products mainly with self-grown crops. In addition, “Agri enJoy” farms can provide leisure ancillary activities, such as provision of “pick-your-own crops” activities, sale of self-grown crops, and provision of farming education activities (such as guided tours, farming experiential activities and workshops). The “Agri enJoy” Scheme has been operating for about a year and a half since its launch. Last August, we conducted an annual progress assessment for farms which have participated in the scheme for a year, including compiling statistics on their visitor number, sales, and income changes. The results showed that about 70% of the surveyed farms reported an increase in their overall income. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the scheme, keep in view the needs of the industry, while continuously enhancing the scheme and ramping up publicity and promotion.

On leisure fisheries, fish farms participating in the “Fish enJoy” Scheme must be mainly engaged in aquaculture. Permitted leisure ancillary activities include recreational fishing, sale of self-cultured fisheries products, sale of dishes made mainly with their own fisheries products and non-flame cooking methods, and organising activities related to fisheries education (such as guided tours, culturing and harvesting experiences and workshops). As at February 2026, a total of 57 fish farms have joined the “Fish enJoy” Scheme. We expect that the scheme can increase fish farmers’ income through the above leisure fisheries activities, and promote the diversification and sustainable development of the fisheries industry.

We will continue to create favourable conditions, offer training, financial and technical support to fishermen, fish farmers and farmers, and enhance publicity and promotion, with a view to assisting the industries in developing leisure farming and fisheries.

- (2) AFCD is enhancing publicity and promotion to enrich the experience of the public and attract more members of the public to participate in leisure farming and fisheries activities, so as to lure more fishermen, fish farmers and farmers to join the “Fish enJoy” Scheme and the “Agri enJoy” Scheme. AFCD is developing and integrating the attractions and resources of natural ecosystems and countryside recreation in districts across the territory in conjunction with the “Fish enJoy” Scheme and the “Agri enJoy” Scheme, so as to design integrated in-depth experiential signature routes with local characteristics, encompassing “eating, playing, shopping and learning”, to provide the public with rich and diversified leisure and recreational experiences. We are also developing an integrated website for leisure farming and fisheries, and ecological and geological resources managed by the Department to provide the public and tourists with information on eco-tourism and leisure farming and fisheries in a one-stop manner. In addition, AFCD is planning to organise the Leisure Farming and Fisheries Expo (the Expo) in the third quarter of 2026, which aims to enhance public awareness and

participation in leisure farming and fisheries. The Expo will promote unique leisure farming and fisheries activities and in-depth tours, and showcase the diversity of local leisure farming and fisheries as well as rich natural ecological resources, while at the same time promoting the message of sustainable agricultural and fisheries eco-tourism through workshops, experiential tours, talks, and sales booths. As the expenditure on the promotion of leisure farming and fisheries is absorbed by the recurrent resources of AFCD, no breakdown is available.

- (3) - (4) Farmers and fish farmers joining the “Fish enJoy” Scheme and the “Agri enJoy” Scheme will arrange activities for members of the public to participate in accordance with the operation and business needs of their fish farms/farms. AFCD does not keep the relevant information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1817)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department organised the “Smart Aquaculture Seminar & Exhibition” in 2025, showcasing cutting-edge technologies such as underwater drones, AI monitoring systems, Internet of Things, and big data systems, reflecting that the industry attached great attention to smart transformation. However, the industry currently lacks systematic funding support for real-world application of AI technologies, and there is no dedicated funding category for AI-powered smart aquaculture projects under the existing Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF). Please advise of the following:

- (1) the respective projects and expenditures on infrastructural support, credit facility, technical assistance and advice provided by the Government to fishermen over the past 3 years;
- (2) the respective projects and expenditures on infrastructural support, credit facility, technical assistance and advice provided by the Government to farmers over the past 3 years;
- (3) the expenditure deployed by the Government to promote the application of AI in the fisheries industry, for example, the introduction of technologies such as smart water quality monitoring, automated feeding, AI disease detection, and unmanned vessel patrols, to local fish farms over the past 3 years; and
- (4) whether there will be dedicated resource arrangements in the coming year for the smart transformation of the agricultural and fisheries industries, including supporting the industries in introducing AI culture management systems to assist traditional farms and fish farms in upgrading to smart production modes; if yes, the details and expenditure involved, as well as the specific targets and timetable.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pok-chi (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

- (1) Regarding the support for fisheries infrastructure, specific projects in support of deep-sea mariculture include the operation of a modern mariculture demonstration farm equipped with a steel truss cage at the Tung Lung Chau Fish Culture Zone (FCZ) to provide mariculture demonstration and technical training for the industry and those who are interested in engaging in deep-sea mariculture. To further expand the scope for

development of the mariculture industry, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) also designated 4 new FCZs at Wong Chuk Kok Hoi, Mirs Bay, Outer Tap Mun and Po Toi (Southeast) in December 2023, providing an area of about 590 hectares for mariculture. The new FCZs are located in open waters with better currents, which facilitate the adoption of modern aquaculture facilities and technology such as steel truss cages or high-density polyethylene (HDPE) gravity-type cages with resistance to strong wind and wave, as well as automated feeding and real-time monitoring systems. The establishment of the new FCZs facilitates fishermen to operate aquaculture in an intensification mode, and promotes and assists fishermen in switching to a modernised and sustainable mode of operation, thereby promoting the sustainable development of the local fisheries industry. Marine fish culture licences for operation in FCZs at Wong Chuk Kok Hoi and Mirs Bay were open for application from the fourth quarter of 2024, and a total of 2 applications were approved in the first round, both of which also received grants under the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF), involving a total grant amount of about \$20 million. AFCD also arranges for the provision of 2 units of modernised steel truss cages, and 3 sets of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) gravity-type cages with 1 unit of floating management platform set up with government funding in the new FCZs for renting to the industry, so as to lower their investment costs. The installation of the first batch of facilities in the Mirs Bay FCZ was completed in early 2026, while the 2 units of modernised steel truss cages are expected to be installed in batches from the second quarter of 2026 onwards. In the third quarter of 2025, AFCD opened applications for marine fish culture licences for using the government cages. As of February 2026, AFCD approved 2 applications for the use of government cages, 1 of which received a grant under SFDF, involving a grant of about \$15 million.

Regarding the development of modernised pond fish culture, AFCD encourages fish farmers to gradually enhance the use of modern technologies that can complement the operation of traditional fish ponds, such as remote real-time monitoring systems, smart control equipment and renewable energy systems. AFCD also explores with fish farmers the development of eco-friendly pond fish culture with a view to maintaining the ecosystems while ensuring the economic benefits of fisheries production to achieve a balance between aquaculture and conservation. AFCD introduced modernised aquaculture equipment and a smart aquaculture management platform to the demonstration farm at Au Tau Fisheries Office (Fisheries Office) in Yuen Long in the fourth quarter of 2025, and tried out the container eco-culture system. AFCD will promote the use of the relevant technologies and provide support to the industry within this year. Looking ahead, AFCD will provide suitable land and infrastructure for the development of modernised aquaculture at the Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park. We plan to establish “ecologically-enhanced fishponds” of some 200 hectares to serve the dual functions of nature conservation and pond fish culture, as well as a “fisheries enhancement area” of about 40 hectares to pursue high-density, high-tech and high-yield aquaculture operations.

The expenditure involved in AFCD’s measures on supporting general fisheries infrastructure over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 11.2 |
| 2024-25 | 16.5 [#] |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 35.3 [#] |

[#] Including \$1.6 million (2024-25) and about \$20 million (2025-26) for the installation of modernised steel truss cages, HDPE gravity-type cages and a floating management platform for renting to the industry

AFCD has been providing technical support and introducing modern technology and practices to local fishermen with a view to promoting the modernisation and sustainable development of the local fisheries industries. The work includes: (i) implementing the Accredited Fish Farm Scheme to promote good aquaculture practices such as enhancing biosecurity, feed management and the aquaculture system; (ii) applying new technologies in the monitoring of aquaculture environment; (iii) exploring and introducing new culture technology and facilities; and (iv) introducing new high-value culture species such as pearl oysters and lobsters in addition to new fish species. AFCD also promotes to local fishermen the above advanced production technologies through organising technical seminars, workshops and training programmes, with a view to assisting them in enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of their fish farms. In addition, AFCD and the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE) also co-organise aquaculture-related programmes covering mariculture and pond fish culture, aquatic product processing, marketing and promotion, etc. IVE launched the “Diploma in Modernised Aquaculture” programme in 2025, and will launch the “Professional Diploma in Deep Sea Mariculture” programme in 2026.

The expenditure involved in the above technical support and training work over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 33.8 |
| 2024-25 | 39.1 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 43.2 |

The amount of loans for infrastructural development under the Fisheries Development Loan Fund (FDLF) over the past 3 years is as follows:

| Year | Amount of loans issued[#] (\$ million) |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 33.8 |
| 2024 | 12.9 |
| 2025 | 3.4 |

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

Besides, AFCD also provides the industry with infrastructural support as well as technical assistance and advice through financial assistance under SFDF. The details of the approved projects over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Title of approved projects | Amount of grant approved (\$ million) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Recreational Fishing Development and Fishermen Training Programme (Southern District) | 6.3 |
| Fish Pump Sharing Project | 1.2 |
| Aquaculture Practices Enhancement and Support Services in Hong Kong | 11.7 |
| Fishermen Enhancement Training Course — Subsidy for local fishermen holding Mainland Marine Fisheries Officer Certificates to upgrade their local certificates of competency | 1.2 |
| Promoting proper design of bright light apparatus for fishing | 1.0 |
| Trial of Culture of Threadfin Fish in Hong Kong's Marine Fish Culture Farms | 1.9 |
| Mariculture Operation Using Non-steel (HDPE) Fish Cages in the New Fish Culture Zone in Mirs Bay | 5.0 |
| Mariculture Operation Using Non-steel (HDPE) Fish Cages in the New Fish Culture Zone in Wong Chuk Kok Hoi | 15.0 |
| Leisure Fisheries Development and Promotion on Dual Uses of Vessels | 1.7 |
| Unified Brand Hong Kong Awareness Building Campaign | 14.9 |
| Mariculture Operation Using Government-Provided Deep Sea Cages in the New Fish Culture Zone in Mirs Bay | 15.0 |

- (2) Regarding the support for agricultural infrastructure, AFCD has established the Agricultural Park (Agri-Park) in Kwu Tung South. Agri-Park Phase 1 (with an area of about 11 hectares) has progressively commenced operation since late 2022. The Government is actively preparing for the planning work for Agri-Park Phase 2 First Stage (with an area of about 19 hectares). Meanwhile, the Government facilitated the establishment of a “Modernised Techno-Agricultural Park” (with an area of about 11 hectares) led by a local agricultural organisation through the public-private partnership approach, and provided a grant of \$2 million through the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) to support the agricultural organisation in carrying out preliminary planning and infrastructure works. Currently, about 2 hectares of farmland within “Modernised Techno-Agricultural Park” have been leased to modernised commercial farms, which will progressively commence production.

The expenditure of AFCD involved in the relevant measures over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 10.6 |
| 2024-25 | 27.6 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 14.6 |

AFCD has been providing technical support and introducing modern technology and practices to local farmers with a view to promoting the modernisation and sustainable development of the local agriculture industry. The work includes: (i) promotion of organic farming; (ii) implementation of the Accredited Farm Scheme, such as providing guidance to farmers on the adoption of good horticultural practices and the proper use of pesticides to improve the quality of vegetables; (iii) development and promotion of new farming techniques, such as multi-layer farming and smart greenhouse, to raise productivity; (iv) demonstration of controlled environment hydroponic farming and showcasing the related equipment through the Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre; (v) introduction of new or improved crop varieties for local propagation; (vi) promotion of an integrated pest and disease control management system; and (vii) introduction and promotion of the use of various modern farm machinery through the farm machinery and equipment lending services to raise productivity. AFCD also promotes the above advanced production technologies to local farmers through organising technical seminars, workshops and training programmes, with a view to assisting them in enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of their farms.

The expenditure involved in the above technical support and training work over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 35.4 |
| 2024-25 | 38.2 |
| 2025-26 (revised expenditure) | 39.1 |

The Government provides credit facilities to local farmers for the purposes of agricultural production and development through 3 loan funds, including the J.E. Joseph Trust Fund, the Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund and the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund. Over the past 3 years, the agricultural loans issued by AFCD were mainly used as production-related liquid capital (such as for the purchase of seeds, fertilisers, feeds, etc.) rather than for infrastructure.

Besides, AFCD also offers financial support through the SADF to provide infrastructural support, technical assistance, and advice to the industry. The details of the approved projects over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Title of approved projects | Amount of grant approved (\$ million) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Architectural Design Guidelines for Multilayer Livestock Farms | 2.0 |
| Comprehensive Agricultural Support and Promotion Scheme 2.0 | 14.2 |
| Hong Kong Seed Technology and Education Center 2.0 | 14.9 |
| Research and Development of Bio-Fortification Technology for Precision Hydroponics | 3.6 |
| Management, Operation and Support for an Organic Certification System, and Publicity and Education of Organic Certification | 14.9 |
| Study of New Catalytic Oxidation Technology for Controlling Odour Emission and Bacterial Growth in Pig Farms | 2.0 |
| Provision of an effective swine extension service to local pig farms resulting in improved productivity and pig health for the benefit of human consumers | 14.2 |
| Provision of veterinary services to ensure and support the health and productivity of the chicken farms in Hong Kong | 3.3 |
| Preliminary planning, site formation and infrastructure works for “Modernised Techno-Agricultural Park” | 2.0 |
| Establishment of an executive team to facilitate the sustainable development of local agriculture | 10.6 |
| Development of “Certification Scheme and Traceability System of Local Agricultural and Fisheries Products” to enhance competitiveness of local agricultural and fisheries products | 14.9 |

- (3) AFCD has been actively exploring the use of technology to assist in the management of FCZs, including the use of unmanned aircraft to perform aerial patrols and collect high-resolution images and videos in real-time to assist with law enforcement. AFCD will install closed-circuit television systems in new FCZs to assist in monitoring the operation in FCZs through real-time images. Besides, to further enhance the overall accuracy and operational efficiency of monitoring, AFCD will explore the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to improve the capability in the analysis of images, thereby enhancing the management of FCZs as well as the ability to identify and track fishing vessels suspected of illegal fishing. AFCD is currently participating in a pilot project on the use of unmanned aircraft for patrolling Hong Kong waters under the “Low-altitude Economy Regulatory Sandbox”, with a view to enhancing the efficiency in gathering intelligence from an elevated viewpoint, while exploring the use of AI to identify fishing vessels. Regarding marine conservation, AFCD is also developing a video analytics system by applying video analytics and AI technologies to carry out real-time monitoring of vessels in marine parks for the detection of suspected illegal fishing activities. In recent years, AFCD introduced a real-time phytoplankton monitoring system equipped with AI analytic technology at FCZs to enhance AFCD’s detection and response capabilities during incidents of red tides/toxic algae. Since the above work is part of AFCD’s routine duties, AFCD does not keep a breakdown of the relevant expenditures.

- (4) The Government will continue to drive the development of the local agricultural and fisheries industries in accordance with the Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries, thereby facilitating the industries in adopting modernised and environmentally friendly modes of operation on all fronts. In the coming year, AFCD will continue to use the steel truss cages in the Tung Lung Chau FCZ, the Au Tau Fisheries Office (Fisheries Office) in Yuen Long, Tai Lung Experimental Station and the Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre as demonstration farms to promote the use of modernised aquaculture equipment and the smart aquaculture management platform while providing relevant technical support. Besides, AFCD will continue to co-organise with IVE short courses including those related to smart aquaculture technologies, so as to promote smart aquaculture. Regarding the agricultural industry, AFCD will continue to promote the smart greenhouse farming technology to enhance farm productivity by controlling the growing environment of crops and preventing pests and diseases through the Internet of Things (IoT) technology, and plans to launch a smart farming launch programme at the Tai Lung Experimental Station in 2027, under which several smart greenhouses will be made available for rent to the industry by phases for modernised crop production. Meanwhile, AFCD will continue to develop and promote vertical hydroponic farming to assist the industry in enhancing the land utilisation rate and production efficiency.

In addition, AFCD provides financial assistance through two sustainable development funds (SFDF and SADF). The funded projects cover advanced new technologies for the agricultural and fisheries industries, which are to assist the production units of the traditional agricultural and fisheries industries in upgrading to smart production modes. AFCD will continue to encourage and support the industries to make good use of the funds in taking forward such projects.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)026

(Question Serial No. 1818)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Government has been promoting the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture and has established Agri-Park Phase 1 in Kwu Tung South. The project has finished in phases and commenced operation since late 2022, with the aim of providing a stable operating environment with modernised technology introduced, in the hope of raising local crop yield. Upon entering into full operation, Agri-Park Phase 1 is expected to produce 340 tonnes of vegetables annually. However, according to the report issued by the Audit Commission in April 2024, there were delays and an increase in construction costs during the development of Agri-Park Phase 1, while there was room for improvement in the operation and monitoring of some farms.

In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) regarding the construction costs and infrastructure status of Agri-Park Phase 1, the eventual total construction cost as at this financial year; whether the eventual actual expenditure has exceeded the budget compared to the initial funding proposal of \$176 million to the Legislative Council and the subsequent estimated construction cost of \$167 million;
- (2) regarding the lease of farms and the production effectiveness of the first stage of Agri-Park Phase 1, the latest statistics on the respective numbers of farms available for lease in total, farms leased out, as well as farms in crop production;
- (3) the current target and actual production volumes; the number and percentage of farmland left fallow; for those tenants who have failed to meet the production target or left the farmland fallow for a long time, whether the Government has issued any warnings, provided additional technical support, or initiated the mechanism for non-renewal of leases; if yes, the distribution; and
- (4) the annual total production volumes and total gross production value of crops produced by the Park and supplied to the local market since it came into operation, as well as how far these figures fall short of the annual production target of around 340 tonnes of vegetables as originally expected?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pok-chi (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

(1) To better accommodate the need for agricultural purpose, the Government has exercised the delegated authority to adjust the approved project estimate for Agri-Park Phase 1 to about \$190 million, further enhancing the infrastructure at Agri-Park Phase 1. The Civil Engineering and Development Department is finalising the account of the works for Agri-Park Phase 1. It is expected that the final cost will not exceed the latest approved project estimate.

(2) and (3) Agri-Park Phase 1 has progressively come into operation since the end of 2022. All the farmland in Phase 1 has been fully leased out to 20 farmers, 18 of whom are undertaking crop production. Construction works for the remaining pieces of farmland have been completed, and 2 farmers are making preparations for crop production. According to the tenancy conditions, farmers are required to formulate a production plan with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) every year, setting the target crop production above 3 tonnes per dau chung* which is the average production of crop farm in Hong Kong. With regard to the few farmers who have not met the target, AFCD has requested them in writing to make improvements in accordance with the tenancy conditions, and has provided corresponding technical support accordingly based on their farming situation. Some of these farmers have made notable improvement in their farming performance. AFCD will continue to monitor the situation closely, provide the necessary technical support, and make follow-ups in accordance with the tenancy conditions.

* “Dau chung” is a unit for measuring farming area for crops. 1 dau chung is equivalent to 7 260 square feet.

(4) The total production volume and total production value of Agri-Park Phase 1 in each year since it came into operation are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Total production volume[#] (tonnes) | Total production value (HK\$ million) |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 62 | 1.2 |
| 2024 | 82 | 1.6 |
| 2025 | 154 | 3.6 |

[#] The farmland of Agri-Park has come into operation progressively. During the initial period of operation, the production was lower as it took time for farmers to prepare the land for farming in a totally new farming environment. In 2025, about half of the farmland was still at the initial stage of operation. It is expected that the production can gradually increase and meet the target of 340 tonnes about a year later.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1832)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

According to the 8 major areas of development outlined in the Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Government is creating a favourable operating environment for the agriculture and fisheries industries, with continuous efforts for fish restocking being one of the initiatives. In recent years, mobile fishermen and the Ocean Development Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality mentioned that many tourists wish to participate in fish restocking and scientific fish release. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the actual expenditure of the Government on fish restocking in each of the past 5 years, with a breakdown of fry purchase, quarantine, temporary breeding, transportation, execution of release, monitoring, and public activities;
- (2) over the past 5 years, whether there were reports of sick or dead fry after release; if yes, the figures and the follow up action taken;
- (3) the sources of fry for release, the criteria for selecting fry species, and how to ensure that the genetic structure of the wild population will not be affected;
- (4) the procedures of quarantine, disease monitoring, and temporary breeding before release;
- (5) the criteria selecting the restocking site and the ecological assessment mechanism, and how to ensure that synergistic effect can be created with marine parks, "no-fishing" areas, and artificial reef areas;
- (6) the quantitative data for each of the following indicators over the past 5 years: survival rate, recapture rate, population density, growth status, and contribution to catch; and
- (7) the estimated expenditure of the Government on fish restocking and adjustments to be made to resource allocation in the coming year, and the target and timetable?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pok-chi (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

Since 2000, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has from time to time conducted science-based restocking at multiple locations in Hong Kong waters, releasing over 150 000 juvenile fish in total. Science-based restocking includes the release of appropriate juveniles of aquatic organisms to their natural environment at the appropriate

time, allowing them to grow and reproduce, thereby facilitating the restoration and enhancement of fisheries resources.

- (1) AFCD did not organise fish restocking exercises between 2021 and 2023. AFCD’s expenditures on fry procurement, quarantine and transportation, release operation and monitoring as well as the organisation of public engagement activities over the past 2 years are tabulated as follows:

| Item | 2024-25 (\$ million) | 2025-26 (\$ million) |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Fry procurement, quarantine and transportation | 0.40 | 0.40 |
| Release operation and monitoring | 0.59 | 0.64 |
| Organisation of public engagement activities | 0.28 | 0.37 |
| Total expenditure | 1.27 | 1.41 |

- (2) Minimal natural wastage of juvenile fish occurs during transportation. Contractors will deal with and dispose of them immediately and properly. No cases of disease or mass mortality among juvenile fish have been detected during such process.

- (3)-(6) AFCD makes references to the relevant guidelines, including our nation’s Provisions on the Propagation and Release of Aquatic Organisms and the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations when conducting science-based restocking exercises in Hong Kong waters. The basic principles of science-based restocking exercises, which include releasing juvenile fish of appropriate sizes that are supplied by reputable hatcheries and the juvenile fish must be native species originating from the territory or waters adjacent to the South China Sea/broodstock whose population is linked with those in Hong Kong or waters adjacent to the South China Sea, to ensure that the genetic structures of wild populations will not be affected. Furthermore, juvenile fish must undergo quarantine prior to release and be arranged to acclimatise to the environment of local waters at suitable locations to enhance their survival rates. Marine parks, which generally feature artificial reefs or are under appropriate fisheries management, are identified as the preferred release sites to provide sufficient protection for the released juvenile fish and a suitable habitat for their growth. Adequate post-release monitoring will be conducted at the release site to assess the condition of the released juvenile fish. Previous underwater surveys showed that some juvenile fish displayed high site fidelity to artificial reefs and tended to inhabit them. Besides, divers also recorded that juvenile fish took refuge in the cavities and crevices of the artificial reefs and preyed on organisms on their surfaces, reflecting that the artificial reefs provided both shelter and food for the juvenile fish. Previous monitoring revealed that nearby fish communities have not been adversely affected, and some of the released juvenile fish could still be found in the nearby waters for a period of time (about a year) following the release. AFCD will further assess the overall effectiveness of the fish restocking exercises through the Long-Term Fisheries Resources Monitoring Programme conducted in local waters.

- (7) In 2026-27, AFCD will allocate about \$1.4 million for the work on restocking. We plan to organise another joint restocking exercise with the Ocean Development Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality again on the National Fish Releasing Day on 6 June this year. It is expected that AFCD will release about 60 000 juvenile fish in total in Hong Kong waters throughout the year. Meanwhile, several workshops and school talks will be conducted. AFCD will, through optimising fish release practices and monitoring and exploring the procurement of locally produced fry, etc., deploy the resources available to increase the number of fry and the new species as far as possible, while organising more public activities to enable more people to participate in and understand science-based restocking through different means, thereby raising the effectiveness of restocking.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)028

(Question Serial No. 3061)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Government will establish a new unified brand for local agricultural and fisheries products in mid-2026 to replace the existing Accredited Farm Scheme and Accredited Fish Farm Scheme, and the new unified brand will cover organic farms and livestock farms. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the relevant details, expenditure, and manpower involved;
- (2) the details regarding the implementation of a set of certification, testing, and traceability mechanisms;
- (3) the reasons for setting the targets for agricultural and fisheries production units registered under the new unified brand in 2026 at 385 and 185 respectively, which shows an increase over the current actual figures for the existing accredited vegetable farms (300) and accredited fish farms (177) as stated in the document; and
- (4) the marketing support and training currently provided to the agricultural and fisheries industries, as well as the expenditure and the evaluation of effectiveness?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pok-chi (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Government is committed to promoting the sustainable development of the agricultural and fisheries industries and is actively working with the industries to take forward the various initiatives under the Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries. Among these initiatives, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will launch a new unified brand for local agricultural and fisheries (A&F) products in the middle of this year, which aims to promote awareness of products and provide the public with high-quality and fresh food, while enhancing the competitiveness of products to increase the income levels of fishermen and farmers.

- (1) and (2) To raise the credibility of the new unified brand, the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) has allocated a grant of about \$15 million to subsidise agricultural and fisheries organisations in engaging the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency as the certification body to develop a set of certification, testing and traceability mechanisms for local A&F products. The certification body will

ensure that participating fishermen and farmers follow the production standards and cultivation methods set out by AFCD and comply with the food safe, reduced carbon and high-quality indicators and testing requirements. The new brand will encompass a wide variety of certified local A&F products, which will be attached with a traceability label to enable consumers to obtain information on the fish farms/farms where they were produced. We will also invite wholesalers, retailers and the catering industry to participate in the scheme and use local-brand produce.

Besides, to enhance the publicity and promotion for the new unified brand, the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) has allocated a grant of about \$15 million to subsidise agricultural and fisheries organisations in engaging Ocean Park Hong Kong to launch a series of promotional, educational and experiential activities, including public guided tours to local fisheries and farms, school promotions and outreach activities, to promote the new unified brand to the public. Meanwhile, Ocean Park will also organise events such as exchange forums, workshops and company guided tours to enhance the catering and retail industries' awareness of the new unified brand and their understanding of local procurement and environmental responsibility. It is expected that the project can increase the willingness of the public as well as the catering and retail industries to purchase local A&F products, thereby enhancing the competitiveness of local A&F products. The manpower and financial expenditure incurred by AFCD will be absorbed by the existing resources and therefore no separate breakdown is available.

- (3) For agricultural products, the target of 385 production units under the new unified brand has been determined based on the number of local accredited farms currently registered under the Accredited Farm Scheme (AFS) and organic farms participating in the Organic Farming Support Service. It is expected that all 275 local accredited farms currently registered under AFS will be transferred to the new unified brand (not applicable to the remaining 25 accredited farms located in the Mainland), while about 110 certified organic farms participating in the Organic Farming Support Service and engaging in commercial production will also participate. For fisheries products, it is expected that all 177 local accredited fish farms currently registered under the Accredited Fish Farm Scheme (AFFS) will switch to the new unified brand. AFCD expects that with the publicity and promotion efforts, the number of local fish farms participating in the new unified brand will increase to 185.
- (4) Regarding marketing support, AFCD has been collaborating with the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) and the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO) to organise various promotional activities, including the annual major public event of FarmFest, and participate in various food exhibitions held in Hong Kong such as the Food Expo to promote high-quality local products to the public. Besides, FMO/VMO have jointly developed the "Local Fresh" mobile app and shopping website and established regular physical sales channels with a number of retailers to sell their high-quality local A&F products, with around 100 sales locations, including large supermarkets and specialty retail stores. AFCD together with FMO/VMO also regularly organise holiday bazaars at the physical store and thematic sales activities at supermarket chains to enhance publicity and expand sales channels for the industries.

In addition, SFDF and SADF may offer grants to agricultural and fisheries organisations or relevant bodies for organising a variety of activities, training programmes, workshops and seminars to promote the agricultural and fisheries industries and their products, assisting the industries in promoting their products to the public and facilitating industry practitioners' acquisition of knowledge on marketing and brand building. Details of ongoing approved projects are tabulated as follows:

| Title of approved projects | Amount of grant approved (\$ million) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| SADF | |
| Comprehensive Agricultural Support and Promotion Scheme 2.0 | 14.2 |
| Management, Operation and Support for an Organic Certification System, and Publicity and Education of Organic Certification | 14.9 |
| Development of "Certification Scheme and Traceability System of Local Agricultural and Fisheries Products" to enhance competitiveness of local agricultural and fisheries products | 14.9 |
| SFDF | |
| Unified Brand Hong Kong Awareness Building Campaign | 14.9 |

Marketing is part of AFCD's work on supporting the agricultural and fisheries industries and therefore no separate breakdown is available.

Regarding evaluation of effectiveness, all measures have yielded positive results. Each year, FarmFest houses several hundreds of stalls selling local A&F products, attracting large numbers of members of the public to visit and make purchases. Over the past 3 years, average attendance reached 160 000, while the sales of local A&F products were satisfactory, the sales value averaging over \$6 million, which was conducive to fostering the promotion and sales of local A&F products directly. The "Local Fresh" platform and various exhibition events have successfully expanded the customer base for local products. As of 28 February 2026, there were 32 300 members of the "Local Fresh" platform.

SADF-funded projects have been well received by the public and farmers, achieving the aim of promoting local agricultural products. For example, the project "Comprehensive Agricultural Support and Promotion Scheme 2.0" mainly provides farming support services to local organic farmers, including organising the Tai Po Farmers' Market and promoting local organic farming. During the first 2 years of the project, there were about 100 000 participants. In addition, the project "Management, Operation and Support for an Organic Certification System, and Publicity and Education of Organic Certification" mainly provides organic certification services and assists with the marketing of local organic agricultural products. The number of participants in the farmers' markets and promotional

activities organised under this project was about 39 000. The SADF and SFDF projects related to the new unified brand were launched at the end of 2025 and are expected to play a positive role in raising public awareness and enhancing the market competitiveness of local A&F products. AFCD will continue to monitor the progress and effectiveness of these projects.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)029****(Question Serial No. 3064)**

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the development of leisure fisheries, please advise of the following:

- (1) the number of fish raft licenses issued for leisure fishing over the past 3 years;
- (2) the number of leisure fishing projects in progress and the number of participants over the past 3 years;
- (3) whether the Government has assessed the economic benefits brought by the leisure fisheries industry; and
- (4) the funding and manpower deployed in supporting and taking forward the development of leisure fisheries.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pok-chi (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

- (1) To help marine fish farmers diversify their business, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been issuing Recreational Fishing Consent Letters, allowing holders of marine fish culture licences to operate leisure fishing business on their fish rafts.

The number of Recreational Fishing Consent Letters issued by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of Recreational Fishing Consent Letters issued |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 66 |
| 2024-25 | 66 |
| 2025-26 | Not applicable* |

* In September last year, AFCD launched the “Fish enJoy” Scheme, and fish farmers holding a valid Recreational Fishing Consent Letter were transferred to the “Fish enJoy” Scheme.

Fish farms participating in the “Fish enJoy” Scheme must be mainly engaged in aquaculture. Permitted leisure ancillary activities include leisure fishing, sale of self-

cultured fisheries products, sale of dishes made mainly with their own fisheries products by non-flame cooking methods, and organising activities related to fisheries education (such as guided tours, culturing and harvesting experiences and workshops). Fish farmers holding valid Recreational Fishing Consent Letters were all transferred to the “Fish enJoy” Scheme”.

- (2) AFCD subsidised projects relating to leisure fisheries through the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF), including “Hong Kong Pearl Farm Centre” and “Leisure Fisheries Development and Fishermen Training Programme (Southern District)”. Last year, AFCD also launched the “Tai Po and Sham Wan Leisure Fisheries Experiential Tours” in collaboration with a fishermen association and the business sector, under which guided tours led by fishermen guides were organised for the public to participate and experience captured fisheries, mariculture and fisherman-culture-related leisure fisheries activities at two mariculture rafts under the “Fish enJoy” Scheme in the waters in the vicinity of Tolo Harbour. The numbers of participants in the above leisure fisheries projects over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of participants | | |
|---------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| | Hong Kong Pearl Farm Centre* | Leisure Fisheries Development and Fishermen Training Programme (Southern District) | Tai Po and Sham Wan Leisure Fisheries Experiential Tours# |
| 2023-24 | 2 444 | 5 221 | Not applicable |
| 2024-25 | 1 463 | 2 125 | Not applicable |
| 2025-26 | Not applicable* | 6 410 | 240 |

* The project ceased operation in 2025

The project commenced in July 2025

Fish farmers participating in the “Fish enJoy” Scheme will organise activities for public participation, based on the operational circumstances of their fish farms and their business needs. AFCD does not keep relevant information.

- (3) Currently, AFCD does not require operators of mariculture rafts under the “Fish enJoy” Scheme to provide economic data on their operations. However, the industry has responded positively to the development of leisure fisheries. As the “Fish enJoy” Scheme has been launched for about half a year only, AFCD will closely monitor developments in leisure fisheries and assess the overall economic benefits brought by the leisure fisheries in a timely manner.
- (4) The promotion of leisure fisheries is the routine duties of AFCD. AFCD does not keep a breakdown of the relevant figures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)030****(Question Serial No. 3065)**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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

It is stated in paragraph 208 of the Budget Speech that the Government will continue to take forward the Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the number of Hong Kong fishermen, the number of their fishing vessels, and their production values over the past 3 years;
- (2) the work progress and expenditure on upgrading and transformation of the agricultural and fisheries industries; and
- (3) the work progress and funds invested on the development of modernised pond fish culture and deep-sea mariculture?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pok-chi (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)Reply:

- (1) Vessels navigating in Hong Kong waters are required to hold a valid operating licence issued by the Marine Department (MD) which certifies the vessels' safety and seaworthiness. In addition, vessels engaging in fishing operations in Hong Kong waters are required to further register with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171). The number of fishing vessels holding an MD licence, local fishing vessels registered with AFCD and the estimated number of local capture fishermen as well as the estimated production value of their fishing operations over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year (as at the end of the year) | Number of local fishing vessels holding an MD licence[#] | Number of local fishing vessels registered with AFCD[*] | Estimated number of local capture fishermen[^] | Estimated Production value (\$ million)[^] |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 6 260 | 4 340 | 10 239 | 2,353 |
| 2024 | 6 125 | 4 412 | 10 181 | 2,404 |
| 2025 | 6 064 | 4 384 | 10 124 | 2,266 |

- # Based on MD'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 number of local fishing vessels registered under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171). As some of the local fishing vessels registered with MD (such as trawlers and fish carriers) do not engage in fishing operations in Hong Kong waters, they are not required to register with AFCD and are therefore not included in the number of fishing vessels in this column.
- ^ Based on the fisheries survey on capture fishermen conducted by AFCD.

- (2) The Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries (the Blueprint) sets out specific work targets to raise the quantity, quality and value of local agricultural and fisheries products, with a view to assisting with the upgrading and transformation of the local agricultural and fisheries industries. The Government is implementing a series of measures, and the major work progress is as follows:

Regarding the agricultural industry, the first urban farm opened in October 2025 at Ma On Shan Sai Sha Road Garden. AFCD is working with relevant departments to continue identifying suitable parks for setting up modernised urban farming projects, so as to provide development opportunities for the industry. In addition, Agricultural Park Phase 1 has commenced operation since late 2022, while the development of Phase 2 First Stage is under planning. Meanwhile, AFCD has facilitated the establishment of a "Modernised Techno-Agricultural Park" through the public-private partnership approach, and the farmland under the first phase has been gradually handed over to farmers to commence crop production. On the promotion of leisure farming, AFCD launched the "Agri enJoy" Scheme in June 2024 to facilitate farms mainly engaged in commercial crop production in offering leisure activities as their ancillary business, so as to increase farmers' income. As at February 2026, 108 farms have joined the scheme. Regarding livestock farming, the Government is carrying out formation works on a site in Lo Wu, which is targeted to be completed within 2026, to facilitate the construction and operation of the first multi-storey, modernised and environmentally-friendly pig farm for the livestock industry. AFCD expects to announce the result of the operator selection exercise in the second quarter of 2026.

Regarding the fisheries industry, the new fish culture zones (FCZs) at Wong Chuk Kok Hoi and Mirs Bay are open for licence applications from the fourth quarter of 2024, and a total of 2 applications were approved in the first round, both of which also received grants under the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF), involving a total amount of grants of about \$20 million. AFCD also provides 2 units of modernised steel truss cages, and 3 sets of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) gravity-type cages with 1 unit of floating management platform set up with government funding in the new FCZs for renting to the industry, so as to lower their investment costs. The installation of the first batch of facilities in the Mirs Bay FCZ was completed in early 2026, while the 2 units of modernised steel truss cages are expected to be installed in batches from the second quarter of 2026. In the third quarter of 2025, AFCD opened applications for marine fish culture licences for using the government cages. As at February 2026, the Government approved a total of 2 applications for the use of government cages, 1 of which received a grant under SFDF, involving a grant of about \$15 million. Regarding pond fish culture, AFCD introduced remote monitoring and smart equipment to promote the modernisation of pond fish culture, and tried out the container eco-culture system at

the demonstration farm at the Au Tau Fisheries Office in Yuen Long in the fourth quarter of 2025. To further promote the diversified development of leisure fisheries and open up new sources of income for fish farmers, AFCD launched the “Fish enJoy” Scheme in September last year to facilitate inland fish farms and mariculture rafts engaged in aquaculture production to offer leisure activities as their ancillary business, with a view to promoting the development of leisure fisheries. As at February 2026, a total of 57 fish farms have joined the “Fish enJoy” Scheme.

In addition, a new unified brand for local agricultural and fisheries products will be launched in the middle of this year to enhance product competitiveness through certification, traceability, and promotion. The Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and SFDF have each allocated a grant of about \$15 million to subsidise the establishment of the certification mechanism and the promotional activities on brand building.

AFCD will continue to maintain close liaison with the agricultural and fisheries industries, and continue to take forward various initiatives in accordance with the action agenda set out in the Blueprint. As facilitating the upgrading and transformation of the local agricultural and fisheries industries is part of the regular work of AFCD, the Department does not keep a breakdown of the relevant expenditure.

- (3) Details of the work progress of AFCD in developing modernised pond fish culture and deep-sea mariculture over the past 3 years are set out in Part (2), and the expenditure involved is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 46.6 |
| 2024-25 | 55.8 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 69.5* |

* The increased estimated expenditure is mainly used for setting up modernised steel truss cages, HDPE gravity-type cages, and floating management platform for renting to the industry.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)031

(Question Serial No. 3195)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

On facilitating agricultural and fisheries production and improving productivity, the estimate for agriculture, fisheries and fresh food wholesale markets is 9.9% higher than the revised estimate for 2025-26. What items will the increased provision be mainly used for?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pok-chi (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

In 2026-27, the estimate for Programme (1) is \$55.7 million (or 9.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025-26. The increase is mainly due to: (i) the increase in the funding requirement for the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund and the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (\$42.9 million) to improve infrastructural support and provide technical assistance to local farmers and fishermen and assist local agriculture and fisheries industries in upgrading and transforming towards sustainable development; and (ii) the increase in the funding requirement for the establishment of deep sea cages at new fish culture zones (\$9.9 million) to facilitate efficient production and improve the quality of fisheries products.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)032

(Question Serial No. 1284)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

One of the aims of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is to safeguard the welfare of animals, and control the diseases in animals and plants through the enforcement of relevant legislation, the work of which involves the inspection of animals and plants imported into Hong Kong. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) at present, imported cats and dogs are required to undergo the corresponding application procedures for various groups of source countries or places; please tabulate the following information about Group IIIA countries over the past 3 years by category: (i) the number of applications; (ii) the number of animals placed under quarantine at quarantine facilities; (iii) the number of cases failing the rabies antibody test during the quarantine period; and (iv) the number of animals that were eventually approved for import into Hong Kong;
- (b) as far as the application and quarantine work for the import of cats and dogs is concerned, the respective figures on manpower, manpower expenditures and administrative costs; and
- (c) whether there is any plan to review the grouping of exporting countries or places; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHONG Ho-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

- (a)(i) The numbers of permits issued for import of cats and dogs from Group IIIA countries/places since the introduction of Group IIIA countries/places on 1 December 2024 are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of permits issued* (Cats and dogs) | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|----------|---------|----------|-------|
| | Macao, China | Lithuania | Chinese Mainland | Malaysia | Hungary | Thailand | Total |
| 2025 | 5 | 0 | 93 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 101 |

* A permit may cover more than one animal. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not keep a breakdown of the numbers of cats and dogs covered by the permits issued.

- (ii) The numbers of cats and dogs imported from Group IIIA countries/places undergoing quarantine at quarantine facilities are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of imported cats and dogs | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------------|-----------|------------------|----------|---------|----------|-------|
| | Macao, China | Lithuania | Chinese Mainland | Malaysia | Hungary | Thailand | Total |
| 2025 | 7 | 0 | 62 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 72 |

- (iii) No cases have been found failing the rabies antibody test during the quarantine period.
- (iv) The import of cats and dogs mentioned in (a)(ii) above were approved following a quarantine period of not less than 30 days.
- (b) AFCD regulates the import of animals into Hong Kong through a permit system and conducts import quarantine checks at various boundary control points and Hong Kong International Airport. The expenditures and manpower involved over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure ^{Note} (\$ million) | Manpower (number of staff) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 64.6 | 102 |
| 2024-25 | 64.3 | 102 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 63.4 | 101 |

Note: Including manpower and administrative expenditure. AFCD does not keep a breakdown of the relevant figures.

- (c) AFCD regulates the import of cats and dogs through a permit system under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Regulations (Cap. 139A) and the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A), aiming to prevent the transmission of animal diseases and rabies into Hong Kong. To enhance the quarantine arrangements of imported cats and dogs, AFCD introduced Group IIIA countries/places in December 2024 after making reference to results of risk assessment by expert consultants, classifying the source countries/places of imported cats and dogs into four groups: Group I includes rabies-free places (i.e. where rabies has been absent for a long time); Group II includes places where rabies cases are few and under effective control; Group IIIA includes places that do not meet the requirements of Group II but have satisfactory regulation of veterinary services and official controls on health certification; whereas Group IIIB includes places where

rabies cases are reported and not under effective control. In general, places that do not meet the requirements of Group I, II, or IIIA (or their situations cannot be determined) will be included in Group IIIB.

Following the implementation of the new quarantine arrangements, 6 countries/places are currently included in Group IIIA, namely the Mainland, Macao, Lithuania, Malaysia, Hungary and Thailand. Cats and dogs imported from Group IIIA countries/places that meet the relevant quarantine requirements and are accompanied by an animal health certificate issued or countersigned by official veterinarians will have their quarantine period significantly reduced from the current 120 days to 30 days upon arrival in Hong Kong. The new arrangements aim to facilitate pet owners in bringing their pet cats and dogs to Hong Kong. AFCD will closely refer to the latest information on animal diseases announced by the World Organisation for Animal Health, and optimise the quarantine requirements of imported dogs and cats in a timely manner based on operational experience, stakeholder opinions, risk assessment and other factors. Besides, AFCD will continue to communicate with Group IIIB countries/places that have often exported cats and dogs to Hong Kong, inviting them to provide the relevant information for consideration of inclusion in Group IIIA, and will explore with the relevant authorities in the Mainland on optimising the current arrangements for the export of cats and dogs from the Mainland to Hong Kong. In addition, for any exporting places that wish to have their grouping reassessed, AFCD will provide them with a questionnaire upon receipt of their requests and make further assessments after receiving the relevant information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3190)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the funding for and effectiveness of the modernised mariculture demonstration farm (demonstration farm) established by the Special Administrative Region Government at Tung Lung Chau in 2021, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. the details of expenditures of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on staff establishment, remuneration, daily operation as well as repair and maintenance for managing the demonstration farm each year since the demonstration farm came into operation (2021 to 2025-26), as well as the relevant estimated expenditures for 2026-27;
2. the total expenditure of the AFCD on engaging academic institutions to conduct mariculture studies at the demonstration farm to collect data over the past 3 years; as well as the estimated expenditure on the consultancy study on the translation of the research outcomes into specific proposals, and the promotion of such specific proposals, to support the upgrading and transformation of the industry; and
3. the total numbers of industry outreach, reception and exchange activities organised or participated in by the AFCD since the demonstration farm came into operation, as well as the total expenditure involved in these activities, the average cost for each activity and the accumulated total number of professionals and industry practitioners who have been received at these activities?

Asked by: Hon FAN Hoi-kit, Alex (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. To guide the local mariculture industry to adopt a modern and sustainable operation, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has established a modern mariculture demonstration farm (demonstration farm) at the Tung Lung Chau fish culture zone in 2021. AFCD has been hiring contractors to manage and maintain the demonstration farm. The average annual expenditure is about \$3 million, which is similar to the estimated expenditure for 2026-27.
2. Between 2020 and 2024, with support from the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University provided lectures and hands-on training

at the demonstration farm to conventional mariculturists and people who intend to join the mariculture industry and collected mariculture data, with a view to helping the local trade to develop modernised and sustainable mariculture practices. The amount of the grant approved for the project was about \$6.8 million. In addition, AFCD organised technical seminars, workshops and training programmes to promote to local fishermen the outcomes of research projects, with a view to assisting them in enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of their fish farms. Since promoting the research outcomes is part of the routine work of AFCD, AFCD does not keep a breakdown of the expenditure in this regard.

In addition, to utilise the demonstration farm effectively for trial projects on aquaculture technology, the Government, through a collaboration agreement, has been providing part of the cages of the demonstration farm to a fishermen association since 2024 to launch operation on a commercial scale. The association invited a local academic institution to collect and record aquaculture, operational and economic data for the project, as well as providing training for local fishermen and developing a standard operating protocol.

3. Since the demonstration site came into operation, AFCD has organised a total of 87 events for promotion to industry, receiving delegations and exchange visits. The total expenditure involved was \$650,000, which was mainly transportation costs. The average cost for every event was about \$7,500, and the total number of professionals and practitioners received was about 1 000.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)034

(Question Serial No. 3191)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the financial arrangements for deep-sea mariculture development through the designation of new fish culture zones (FCZ) and provision of technical support as outlined in the Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries released by the Environment and Ecology Bureau, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of applications for the new FCZ licences currently received, the total capital investment of the submitted projects, and the projected value added to the fisheries value;
2. the number of applicants applying for the new FCZ licences who have also applied for the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) to develop modernised marine fish farms, the total amount of grants for the approved projects, the average amount of grants per approved project, and the cumulative amounts of grants approved by SFDF to date; and
3. on promoting the upgrading and transformation of the mariculture industry, whether the Department would, on the basis of the existing SFDF, consider formulating more targeted schemes to provide dedicated funding (such as funding for the purchase of deep-sea mariculture equipment, research and development of eco-friendly fish feed, or training allowances for young fishermen), with a view to encouraging the industry to adopt new technologies and attracting recruit new blood to join the industry; if yes, the estimated additional expenditure involved and the implementation schedule; if not, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon FAN Hoi-kit, Alex (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

1. To further expand the scope for development of the mariculture industry, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) designated 4 new fish culture zones (FCZ) at Wong Chuk Kok Hoi, Mirs Bay, Outer Tap Mun and Po Toi (Southeast). Marine fish culture licences for operation in the FCZs at Wong Chuk Kok Hoi and Mirs Bay were open for application from the fourth quarter of 2024. A total

of 9 applications for the licence had been received in the first round, and 2 of which were approved.

AFCD also provides 2 units of modernised steel truss cages, and 3 sets of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) gravity-type cages with 1 unit of floating management platform set up with government funding in the new FCZs for renting to the industry, so as to lower their investment costs. In the third quarter of 2025, AFCD opened applications for marine fish culture licences for using the government cages. As of February 2026, AFCD received 3 applications for the use of government cages, and 2 of which were approved.

The total investment for the 4 approved applications above amounts to about \$80 million. It is estimated that the annual production will be about 1 280 tonnes in total, while the annual production value will be about \$84 million.

2. As of February 2026, the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) approved 3 applications for operation in new FCZs, involving a total amount of grants of about \$35 million, with an average amount of grants of about \$11.7 million per application. The cumulative amount of grants approved by SFDF amounts to about \$360 million.
3. AFCD provides the industry with financial support through SFDF to help fishermen adopt a sustainable and high value-added mode of operation and fund projects and research that help enhance the overall competitiveness of the industry, with a view to facilitating development of the industry in terms of application of advanced technology and intensification of production and leveraging the opportunities arising from the development of the Greater Bay Area. The current funding scope of SFDF includes areas of encouraging the industry to adopt new technologies and attracting new blood to join the industry. The commitment amount is adequate to meet the needs in the next few years.

Related projects approved previously under SFDF include the research on making use of local food waste to produce pellet feed for the local mariculture industry, the research on extracting the residual parts of Chinese medicine as aquaculture feed additives, hands-on training and lectures to help the local trade to develop modernised and sustainable mariculture practices, and financial support for the industry to carry out commercial mariculture operations in new FCZs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)035

(Question Serial No. 0420)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is stated in paragraph 135 of the Budget Speech that a new unified brand will be established for quality local agricultural and fisheries products. Please advise of the following:

- (a) the achievements of the Branding and Promotion Subcommittee established under the Advisory Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in 2025;
- (b) regarding the certification, testing and traceability mechanisms supporting the establishment of the brand as stated in the Speech, the specific work plan, the corresponding timetable, the present work progress and the relevant budget allocation; and
- (c) the expenditures involved in the publicity and promotion of the brand, as well as the expected outcomes.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

The Government is committed to promoting the sustainable development of the agricultural and fisheries industries and is actively working with the industries to take forward the various initiatives under the Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries. Among these initiatives, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will launch a new unified brand for local agricultural and fisheries (A&F) products in the middle of this year, which aims to promote awareness of products and provide the public with high-quality and fresh food, while enhancing the competitiveness of products to increase the income levels of fishermen and farmers.

- (a) In 2025, AFCD set up a new Branding and Promotion Subcommittee under the Advisory Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries to provide advice on the certification scheme and promotion strategies for the establishment of the new brand. The Subcommittee has held 4 meetings to date. It has decided on the core positioning of the new unified brand and the preliminary design for the brand logo, and reviewed the framework of the new unified brand, setting out the direction and objectives for the long-term development and market positioning of the new brand.

- (b) To raise the credibility of the new unified brand, the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund has allocated a grant of about \$15 million to subsidise agricultural and fisheries organisations in engaging the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency as the certification body to develop a set of certification, testing and traceability mechanisms for local A&F products. The certification body will ensure that participating fishermen and farmers follow the production standards and cultivation methods set out by AFCD and comply with the food safety, reduced-carbon and high-quality indicators and testing requirements. AFCD will launch the new unified brand in mid-2026. The new brand will encompass a wide variety of certified local A&F products, which will be attached with a traceability label to enable consumers to obtain information on the fish farms/farms where they were produced. The new brand will also encourage wholesalers, retailers and the catering industry to clearly indicate the certified local A&F products they sell or use at their sales points or on their menus so that consumers can easily identify the products and feel confident in purchasing them. The manpower and financial expenditures involved in setting up the system will be absorbed by the existing resources of AFCD, therefore no breakdown is available.
- (c) To enhance the publicity and promotion for the new unified brand, the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund has allocated a grant of about \$15 million to subsidise agricultural and fisheries organisations in engaging Ocean Park Hong Kong to promote the new unified brand through a series of promotional, educational and experiential activities, including public guided tours to local fish farms and farms, school promotions and outreach activities. Meanwhile, Ocean Park will organise events such as exchange forums, workshops, and guided tours for enterprises to enhance the catering and retail industries' awareness of the new unified brand and their understanding of local procurement and environmental responsibility. It is expected that the project can increase the willingness of the public as well as the catering and retail industries to purchase local A&F products, thereby enhancing the competitiveness of local A&F products.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)036****(Question Serial No. 0426)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the utilisation of public fresh food wholesale markets to enhance their efficiency, please advise of the following:

- (a) the current utilisation rates of the public fresh food wholesale markets in Hong Kong;
- (b) as the Government proposed the "single site, multiple use" approach to make better use of land resources, whether the Government has conducted any feasibility study over the past 5 years on fully utilising wholesale markets, including reviewing land use planning and related restrictions, so as to ensure the wholesale function while enabling the markets to serve diversified functions such as retail, catering, and tourism; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons; and
- (c) as it was proposed in the "Invigorating Island South" initiative to revitalise the Aberdeen Wholesale Fish Market, the current progress and specific timetable, as well as the overall project estimates and the breakdown of the expenditure (such as the construction of food processing facilities and catering area) of the modification works.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is responsible for the management of the 4 Government Wholesale Food Markets (markets). As at 28 February 2026, the occupancy rates of stalls of the markets are tabulated as follows:

| Government Wholesale Food Markets | Occupancy rate of market stalls (percentage) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market | 99.4 |
| Western Wholesale Food Market | 97.9 |
| Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market | 100.0 |
| North District Temporary Wholesale Market for Agricultural Products | 71.7 |

(b) and (c) The objective of establishing wholesale food markets is to facilitate the wholesaling activities of the trade. On the premise that the normal operation of the markets and the safety of market users are not compromised, and that the current planning and land lease conditions of the markets are complied with, AFCD is open to using the markets for purposes other than wholesaling. While AFCD has not conducted any dedicated feasibility study on the adoption of the “single site, multiple use” model for wholesale markets over the past 5 years, it has been exploring the feasibility of introducing uses other than fresh food wholesaling in the markets with relevant government departments and local stakeholders. Furthermore, AFCD is also working with relevant departments to explore using the vacant piers and associated waterfront areas at Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market and Western Wholesale Food Market as public open spaces, aligning with the waterfront development planning for the neighbourhood. When exploring the opening up of wholesale markets for other uses, apart from reviewing land planning and related restrictions, AFCD should also take into account technical issues such as the original overall design and facilities of the markets, traffic management, and crowd control, while carefully examining the impact of such arrangements on the management and operations of the markets. In addition to the fresh food wholesale markets managed by the Government, under the efforts of the Invigorating Island South Office of the Development Bureau, the Environment and Ecology Bureau and AFCD, along with the Fish Marketing Organization and other relevant government departments, are exploring the feasibility of constructing a new food and beverage (F&B) building in the area around the Aberdeen Wholesale Fish Market for F&B, retail and processing of fisheries products, etc. We will review the implementation arrangements in a timely manner upon completion of the above study.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)037

(Question Serial No. 3224)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the development of leisure farming, please advise of the following:

- a. please list by quarter, the respective numbers of applications submitted and successful applications under the “Agri enJoy” Scheme launched by the Government in 2024; the average processing time for each application; and
- b. whether the Government will consider lifting restrictions for leisure farming on the policy front apart from the “Agri enJoy” Scheme, so that more leisure farming activities can be offered.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

- a. To promote the development of leisure farming, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) launched the “Agri enJoy” Scheme in June 2024 to facilitate farms engaged in commercial crop production to offer leisure activities as their ancillary business, so as to increase farmers’ income, promote their agricultural products, as well as provide members of the public with opportunities to learn about and experience agricultural production. As at February 2026, a total of 108 farms have joined the scheme. AFCD received a total of 115 applications. The average processing time for each application was about 3 weeks. The number of applications received in each quarter is tabulated as follows:

| Quarter | Number of applications | Number of approved applications (Note 3) |
|------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 2024 Q2 (Note 1) | 4 | 4 |
| 2024 Q3 | 23 | 20 |
| 2024 Q4 | 50 | 49 |
| 2025 Q1 | 20 | 20 |
| 2025 Q2 | 13 | 13 |
| 2025 Q3 | 1 | 1 |
| 2025 Q4 | 3 | 1 |
| 2026 Q1 (Note 2) | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 115 | 108 |

Note 1: Since the “Agri enJoy” Scheme was launched in June 2024, the figure does not cover the number of applications for the entire quarter.

Note 2: Figure as at February 2026, and does not include the number of applications for the entire quarter.

Note 3: 1 farm withdrew due to land resumption, 3 applications were rejected, and 3 other applications are under processed.

- b. To facilitate the organisation of such ancillary activities by “Agri enJoy” farms, the Government relaxed restrictions to allow room for the development of the industry, including the inclusion of ancillary activities directly related to commercial crop farming as endorsed by the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation in the definition of “Agricultural Use” in statutory plans, and to provide assistance to “Agri enJoy” farms in applying for food business licence to sell light meals prepared with self-grown crops and non-flame cooking. The Government has further relaxed restrictions on the use of food ingredients from April 2025 onwards, so as to encourage “Agri enJoy” farms to provide visitors with more varieties of food. At present, “Agri enJoy” farms issued with a food factory licence may add other food ingredients (such as meat) and toppings (such as dried fish and dried shrimps) to prepare dishes mainly with self-grown crops. Farms may also use food ingredients from licensed food factories in the production of dessert mainly with self-grown crops (such as shaved ice with fruit and fruit jellies), as well as using electrical appliances to prepare bakery products mainly with self-grown crops. The “Agri enJoy” Scheme has been operating for about a year and a half since its launch. Last August, we conducted an annual progress assessment for farms which have participated in the scheme for a year, including compiling statistics on their visitor number, sales, and income changes. The results showed that about 70% of the surveyed farms reported an increase in their overall income. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the scheme, keep in view the needs of the industry, while continuously enhancing the scheme and strengthening publicity and promotion.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)038

(Question Serial No. 3225)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the imports and exports of fresh food as well as agricultural and fisheries products, please advise of 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.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

The total values of locally produced fresh agricultural and fisheries products (including live pigs, live chickens, live and chilled fish and shellfish, vegetables and fruits) supplied to the local market in 2023, 2024 and 2025 were about \$2.51 billion, \$2.48 billion and \$2.42 billion respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)039

(Question Serial No. 3300)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the development of leisure fisheries, please advise of the following:

- a. the number of fish raft licenses issued for leisure fishing over the past 3 years;
- b. the respective numbers of leisure fishing projects in progress and participants over the past 3 years;
- c. (a) the respective numbers of fish rafts/fish farms which have applied for the “Fish enjoy” Scheme and the successful applications since its launched in September 2025, listed by month; and (b) further to the above question, the average processing time for each application and the staff establishment involved; and
- d. support measures to be taken by the Government in future to promote the development of leisure fisheries, such as pier ancillary facilities, staff training and publicity programmes, and the specific estimate and plan.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

- a. To help marine fish farmers diversify their business, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been issuing Recreational Fishing Consent Letters, allowing holders of marine fish culture licences to operate leisure fishing business on their fish rafts.

The number of Recreational Fishing Consent Letters issued by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of Recreational Fishing Consent Letters issued |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 66 |
| 2024-25 | 66 |
| 2025-26 | Not applicable* |

* In September last year, AFCD launched the “Fish enJoy” Scheme, and fish farmers holding a valid Recreational Fishing Consent Letter were transferred to the “Fish enJoy” Scheme.

Fish farms participating in the “Fish enJoy” Scheme must be mainly engaged in aquaculture. Permitted leisure ancillary activities include leisure fishing, sale of self-cultured fisheries products, sale of dishes made mainly with their own fisheries products by non-flame cooking methods, and organising activities related to fisheries education activities (such as guided tours, culturing and harvesting experiences and workshops). Fish farmers holding a valid Recreational Fishing Consent Letter were all transferred to the “Fish enJoy” Scheme”.

- b. AFCD subsidised projects relating to leisure fisheries through the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF), including “Hong Kong Pearl Farm Centre” and “Leisure Fisheries Development and Fishermen Training Programme (Southern District)”. Last year, AFCD also launched the “Tai Po and Sham Wan Leisure Fisheries Experiential Tours” in collaboration with a fishermen association and the business sector, under which guided tours led by fishermen guides were organised for the public to participate and experience captured fisheries, mariculture and fisherman-culture-related leisure fisheries activities at two mariculture rafts under the “Fish enJoy” Scheme in the waters in the vicinity of Tolo Harbour. The numbers of participants in the above leisure fisheries projects over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of participants | | |
|---------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| | Hong Kong Pearl Farm Centre* | Leisure Fisheries Development and Fishermen Training Programme (Southern District) | Tai Po and Sham Wan Leisure Fisheries Experiential Tours# |
| 2023-24 | 2 444 | 5 221 | Not applicable |
| 2024-25 | 1 463 | 2 125 | Not applicable |
| 2025-26 | Not applicable* | 6 410 | 240 |

* The project ceased operation in 2025

The project commenced in July 2025

Fish farmers participating in the “Fish enJoy” Scheme will organise activities for public participation, based on the operational circumstances of their fish farms and their business needs. AFCD does not keep relevant information.

- c. As at February 2026, AFCD received a total of 58 applications. Among them, 57 fish farms have been approved to participate in the “Fish enJoy” Scheme, with the remaining 1 application still being processed. The numbers of applications and approvals for mariculture rafts and inland fish farms under the “Fish enJoy” Scheme since its launch in September 2025, with a breakdown by month, are tabulated as follows:

| Month | Mariculture rafts | | Inland fish farms | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Number of applications | Numbers of approvals ^{Note} | Number of applications | Numbers of approvals ^{Note} |
| Sep 2025 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Oct 2025 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Nov 2025 | 23 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Dec 2025 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| Jan 2026 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 1 |
| Feb 2026 | 16 | 26 | 0 | 0 |
| Cumulative total | 47 | 47 | 11 | 10 |

Note: Including applications received in that month and earlier

Under normal circumstances, the Department will complete the application process within 14 working days upon receipt of all the required documents. Regarding manpower establishment, AFCD will implement the relevant work with existing resources, a breakdown of figures is not available.

- d. AFCD will continue to provide funding through SFDF for projects that promote the development of leisure fisheries, such as launching a demonstration project for the “Fish enJoy” fishing vessel scheme, where fishermen will be allowed to use modified fishing vessels that meet the safety requirements to carry passengers at sea to experience fishing operations, so as to promote local fishing culture. On staff training, AFCD will organise a series of training courses in 2026, covering vessel operation, first aid, online marketing, and AI application, with a view to assisting fishermen and fish farmers in acquiring a comprehensive knowledge required for starting a business, operating, and promoting leisure fisheries activities. On publicity programmes, AFCD is developing and integrating the attractions and resources of natural environment and countryside recreation in districts across the territory to design integrated in-depth experiential signature routes with local characteristics, encompassing “eating, playing, shopping and learning”, to provide the public with rich and diversified leisure and recreational experiences in conjunction with the “Fish enJoy” Scheme and the “Agri enJoy” Scheme. We are also developing an integrated website for leisure farming and fisheries, and ecological and geological resources managed by the Department to provide the public and tourists with information on eco-tourism and leisure farming and fisheries in a one-stop manner. In addition, AFCD is planning to organise the Leisure Farming and Fisheries Expo (the Expo) in the third quarter of 2026, which aims to enhance public awareness and participation in leisure farming and fisheries. The Expo will promote unique leisure farming and fisheries activities and in-depth tours, and showcase the diversity of local leisure farming and fisheries as well as rich natural ecological resources, while at the same time promoting the message of sustainable agricultural and fisheries eco-tourism through workshops, experiential tours, talks, and sales booths. The above work is the routine duties of AFCD. AFCD does not keep a breakdown of the relevant figures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0501)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Farm Improvement Scheme (FIS) provides grants to farmers for acquisition of farming equipment and materials. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) under the FIS, (i) the numbers of applications submitted in the name of an individual and in the name of a corporation; (ii) the numbers of applications for procuring equipment and materials by categories; (iii) the numbers of successful applications by categories; and (iv) the amounts of grants for successful applications by categories over the past 3 years;
- (b) regarding farmers who have been reimbursed under the FIS for the procurement of farming equipment or materials, besides deploying staff to the farms or designated locations to check if the relevant equipment or materials are in normal operation, whether staff will be deployed to inspect and check such farming equipment on a regular basis; if yes, the details of inspections and staff deployment; if not, the reasons;
- (c) as far as farmers who have been using such farming equipment or materials are concerned, should such equipment be found damaged, whether the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will consider providing farmers with partial subsidy for repair costs to support the sustainable development of the agricultural industry; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons; and
- (d) whether the AFCD will assist farmers in recycling damaged or deteriorated farming equipment and materials; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kwong-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

- (a) The numbers of applications submitted in the name of an individual and in the name of a corporation, the numbers of successful applications, and the amount of grants for successfully applications under the Farm Improvement Scheme (FIS) over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of applications submitted in the name of an individual | Number of applications submitted in the name of a corporation | Number of successful applications | Amount of grants for successful applications* (\$ million) |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 114 | 8 | 117 | 0.5 |
| 2024 | 45 | 0 | 42 | 1.7 |
| 2025 | 9 | 2 | 10 | 1.0 |

* Referring to the amount of grants disbursed in the relevant year.

A total of 52 items of farming equipment/materials are currently included in the approved list of farming equipment and materials that meet the objectives of FIS. In addition, applicants may also propose equipment or materials not included in the approved list in their applications for consideration by the Advisory Committee of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund. Major farming equipment/materials purchased by applicants include cultivator tillers, brush cutters, and parts for facilities such as irrigation systems and planting sheds. As an application generally covers multiple categories of farming equipment/materials, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not have a breakdown of applications by category.

- (b) Successful applicants are required to purchase the approved farming equipment/materials first, and then apply to AFCD for reimbursement. When vetting each reimbursement application, AFCD will conduct on-farm inspections to verify and record the purchased equipment/materials, and mark the equipment. All the approved applications are subject to a 2-year monitoring period from the issue date of the cheque. AFCD will perform regular on-farm inspections by random sampling to check and ensure that all the equipment/materials being funded are put to proper use at the designated farms throughout the 2-year period.
- (c) and (d) The objective of FIS is to assist farmers in modernising their farming operations by providing a one-off direct grant for their acquisition of small-scale farming machinery, equipment and materials. The equipment purchased will become the production tools for farmers' permanent use, but the grants do not cover maintenance and repair costs. AFCD will not provide assistance in the recycling of the damaged farming equipment/materials.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)041

(Question Serial No. 0951)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Environment and Ecology Bureau (Food Branch) will continue to monitor various measures for supporting the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) since Agricultural Park (Agri-Park) has been handed over to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for operation in November 2022: (i) the number of applications by year; (ii) the number of successful applications by year; (iii) among the successful applications, the number of farmers affected by earlier development projects who have submitted application; (iv) the size of farm allocated to each successful applicant; (v) the rental level based on the farm size; (vi) the average lease term of farmers; and (vii) the number of farms in full production of crops;
- (b) regarding the development of Phase 2 Stage 1 of Agri-Park, the respective expenditures of the Government's Agri-Park on (i) the preparatory work; (ii) the promotion of research and development of modern farming techniques; and (iii) the application of technologies; and
- (c) the land use planning of Phase 2 of Agri-Park to support research and development as well as application of biotechnology for agricultural purposes?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kwong-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

- (a) AFCD has established an Agricultural Park (Agri-Park) in Kwu Tung South to help nurture agro-technology and knowledge of modern farm management, and assist farmers engaged in commercial production who have been affected by Agri-Park development and other government development projects implemented within the same timeframe. Agri-Park Phase 1 has progressively come into operation since the end of 2022. So far, farmland in Agri-Park Phase 1 has been fully leased out to 20 farmers who were displaced by the Agri-Park project and other government development projects implemented within the same timeframe. There is no remaining farmland available for leasing out. The areas of farmland allocated to farmers, which are similar in size to those affected by government development projects, are tabulated as follows:

| Area of farmland (dau chung*) | Number of farmers | Total area (dau chung*) |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 5 | 5 |
| 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 3 | 6 | 18 |
| 4 | 3 | 12 |
| 6 | 2 | 12 |
| 7 | 1 | 7 |
| 24 | 1 | 24 |
| Total | 20 | 82 |

* “Dau chung” is a unit for measuring farming area for crops. 1 dau chung is equivalent to 7 260 square feet.

The standard tenancy period of farmland in Agri-Park is 5 years. Currently, the annual rent of farmland is \$903 per dau chung. There are 18 farmers undertaking crop production, involving a total of 68 dau chung. Construction works for the remaining pieces of farmland have been completed, and 2 farmers are making preparations for crop production.

- (b) In 2026-27, the estimated expenditure on carrying out the work on Agri-Park by AFCD is \$11.7 million. AFCD does not keep a breakdown of figures on the preparatory work for Agri-Park Phase 2 and the promotion of research and development as well as application of modern agro-technology at Agri-Park Phase 2.
- (c) On the Agri-Park Phase 2 First Stage project, the Government is actively preparing for the planning work for the project and will take forward the project works in a timely and orderly manner. To refine the planning and enhance farming-related infrastructure such as irrigation, power supply and farm paths for transportation uses, while supporting the introduction and application of modernised equipment and technologies for farm production at Agri-Park, the Government will make reference to the experience from the development of Phase 1, including the construction of infrastructure, the trial use of Internet of Things (IoT) technology to achieve automated irrigation for enhancing production efficiency, as well as the application of advanced agro-technology and equipment in the “Modernised Techno-Agricultural Park” established through the public-private partnership approach.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)042

(Question Serial No. 0392)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's (AFCD) has streamlined the quarantine procedures for pets returning to Hong Kong from designated countries to further facilitate pets travelling between Hong Kong, the Mainland and other places. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) whether AFCD has earmarked additional manpower and resources in 2026-27 to handle the work in relation to the streamlined quarantine procedures; if yes, the additional manpower and administrative expenditure involved;
- (2) the number of applications for bringing pets (please set out by cats, dogs and other animals) into Hong Kong from places listed in Group I, II and IIIA, the number of applications submitted through the Trade Single Window, and the average processing time by AFCD for each application in each of the past 3 financial years (2023-24 to 2025-26); and
- (3) the latest progress of discussion between the Government, the Mainland and other designated countries in relation to the mutual recognition of quarantine arrangements?

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

- (1) In 2026-27, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will deploy existing manpower and resources to cope with the work related to the streamlined quarantine arrangements for cats and dogs imported from designated countries/places, and no additional manpower and expenditures will be involved.
- (2) The import requirements from Group I, Group II and Group IIIA countries/places only apply to the import of cats and dogs. The numbers of permits issued for import of cats and dogs from the said groups over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of permits issued for import of cats and dogs* | | |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| | Group I | Group II | Group III [^] |
| 2023 | 1 207 (316) | 1 544 (225) | 107 (0) |
| 2024 | 1 142 (676) | 1 596 (685) | 105 (0) |
| 2025 | 1 089 (681) | 1 463 (719) | Group IIIA [#] |
| | | | Group IIIB [^] |
| | | | 101 (0) |
| | | | 92 (0) |

* A permit may cover more than one animal, including cats and dogs.

Group IIIA countries/places has been introduced since 1 December 2024, and the quarantine period has been shortened from 120 days to 30 days.

[^] The quarantine period is 120 days.

The figure within () represents the number of applications via the Trade Single Window.

After the applicant submitted the required information (including the specified form, a copy of the applicant's Hong Kong Identity Card or passport, as well as the vaccination record and the confirmation proof from the animal quarantine facility for animals from Group IIIA/B countries/places,) and payment of the permit fee, the permit will be issued within 5 working days.

- (3) AFCD regulates the import of cats and dog through a permit system under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Regulations (Cap. 139A) and the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A), aiming to prevent the transmission of animal diseases and rabies into Hong Kong. To enhance the quarantine arrangements of imported cats and dogs, AFCD introduced Group IIIA countries/places in December 2024 after making reference to results of risk assessment by expert consultants, classifying the source countries/places of imported cats and dogs into four groups: Group I includes rabies-free places (i.e. where rabies has been absent for a long time); Group II includes places where rabies cases are few and under effective control; Group IIIA includes places that do not meet the requirements of Group II but have satisfactory regulation of veterinary services and official controls on health certification; whereas Group IIIB includes places where rabies cases are reported and not under effective control. In general, places that do not meet the requirements of Group I, II, or IIIA (or their situations cannot be determined) will be included in Group IIIB.

Following the implementation of the new quarantine arrangements, 6 countries/places are currently included in Group IIIA, namely the Mainland, Macao, Lithuania, Malaysia, Hungary and Thailand. The Mainland has been included in Group IIIA since June 2025. Cats and dogs imported from the Mainland that meet the relevant quarantine requirements and are accompanied by an animal health certificate issued by Mainland official veterinarians will have their quarantine period significantly reduced from the current 120 days to 30 days upon arrival in Hong Kong. The arrangements aim to facilitate pet owners in bringing their pet cats and dogs from the Mainland to Hong Kong. AFCD will closely monitor the latest information on animal diseases announced by the World Organisation for Animal Health, and optimise the quarantine requirements of imported dogs and cats in a timely manner based on operational experience, stakeholder opinions, risk assessment and other factors. Besides, AFCD will continue to communicate with Group IIIB countries/places that have often exported cats and dogs to Hong Kong, inviting them to provide the relevant information for consideration of inclusion in Group IIIA, and will explore with the relevant authorities

in the Mainland on optimising the current arrangements for the export of cats and dogs from the Mainland to Hong Kong. In addition, for any exporting places that wish to have their grouping reassessed, AFCD will provide them with a questionnaire upon receipt of their requests and make further assessments after receiving the relevant information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3095)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the key performance measures in respect of agriculture and fisheries, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) as the production of livestock declined from 18 500 tonnes in 2024 to 16 300 tonnes in 2025 (a decline by about 12%), whether the Department has gained an understanding of the reasons for the decline; if yes, the details and whether the Department will roll out measures to raise the production of livestock;
- 2) as the throughput at Vegetable Marketing Organization market declined from 45 741 tonnes in 2024 to 37 209 tonnes in 2025 (by 18.7%), whether the Department has gained an understanding of the reasons for the decline; if yes, the details and whether the Department will roll out measures to help raise the throughput of vegetables; and
- 3) the throughput at Fish Marketing Organization markets saw a decline, though not as drastic as that of vegetables, from 38 211 tonnes in 2024 to 36 426 tonnes in 2025 (a decline by about 4.7%), whether the Department has gained an understanding of the reasons for the decline; if yes, the details and whether the Department will roll out measures to help raise the throughput of fish?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Chun, Jonathan (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

- 1) The production of local livestock in 2025 was 16 300 tonnes, decreased by about 12% compared to 2024. This was mainly affected by the outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) in January 2025. The outbreaks of ASF in individual pig farms have affected local live pig production in recent years. To assist local pig farms in strengthening ASF prevention and control, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has implemented a host of measures, including organising expert lectures, conducting epidemiological investigations of ASF, introducing new biosecurity requirements to pig farms with previous ASF outbreaks, distributing ASF rapid test kits to local pig farmers, formulating new guidelines on pig carcass disposal, strengthening disinfection at animal carcass collection points, as well as maintaining contact with pig farmers and disseminating the latest information through SMS groups. The

Department will remain vigilant and closely monitor the epidemic situation of ASF, and will take measures as appropriate and necessary.

- 2) The vegetable throughput at Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) market in 2025 was 37 209 tonnes, decreased by about 19% as compared to 2024. This was mainly because vegetables were marketed through other channels. In recent years, the vegetable wholesale model has changed. To enhance its competitiveness, VMO has reformed and optimised its market operation and explored opportunities in various directions, including promoting other operation models that are more efficient, such as leasing designated trading spaces to wholesalers through a Rental System to enhance operational efficiency and develop value-added services such as processing of fruit and vegetable, wholesale of agricultural produce, and logistics and distribution. In addition, VMO will optimise market facilities, including providing market users with offices and cold storage facilities to support their business development and enhance competitiveness.
- 3) Due to changes in the public's consumption choices and patterns, the throughput of marine fish at wholesale fish markets (fish markets) under the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO) in 2025 decreased by about 4.7% as compared to 2024. FMO will review the utilisation of fish markets, streamline operational procedures, and provide diversified services and facilities to cope with the needs of market users and enhance the competitiveness of fish markets.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)044

(Question Serial No. 1332)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In 2026-27, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue to facilitate livestock farmers to develop and adopt modernised and environmentally friendly operation in multi-storey buildings. Would the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the estimated expenditure (including construction costs and recurrent expenditure) involved for these multi-storey buildings; and
2. whether financial support will be provided to livestock farmers intending to operate in these multi-storey buildings; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

1. Advocating the application of multi-storey, environmentally-friendly and enclosed buildings for livestock farming within the industry is one of major initiatives proposed in the Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Government has reserved a site in Lo Wu, and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has also made open invitation for applications from the industry to construct and operate the first multi-storey, modernised, and environment-friendly pig farm on the site on a self-financing basis, with the selection result expected to be announced in the second quarter of 2026. Only then will the information on the estimated expenditure for construction and operation to be incurred by the selected organisation be available.
2. The Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund of AFCD may provide financial support to the selected organisation. The organisation may apply for funding from the SADF on a matching basis for subsidising the construction and operation of the multi-storey pig farm.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)045****(Question Serial No. 3142)**

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In recent years, the number of reported cases of suspected animal cruelty received by the Government has been on the rise. Over the past 3 years, regarding the work on handling animal cruelty, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the manpower and expenditure;
2. the numbers of reported cases of suspected animal cruelty received, substantiated cases, successful prosecutions, and the penalty imposed; and
3. the progress of the preparatory work for amending the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance as proposed by the Government, the legislative timetable and the scope of coverage?

Asked by: Hon TAM Chun-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

1. Upon receipt of reports on suspected animal cruelty cases, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and/or the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) will undertake investigations and initiate prosecutions if there is sufficient evidence. AFCD will also conduct relevant inspections as necessary. The manpower and expenditure involved in handling animal cruelty cases by AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) | Manpower (Number of staff) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 3.0 | 17 |
| 2024-25 | 3.5 | 17 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 4.4 | 17 |

2. The respective numbers of reports on suspected animal cruelty received by HKPF and AFCD, as well as prosecutions instituted, successful prosecutions and penalties imposed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) (the Ordinance) over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of reports on suspected animal cruelty received* | Number of prosecutions instituted | Number of successful prosecutions | Penalties imposed | |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | | Fine (\$) | Range of imprisonment |
| 2023 | 441 | 25 | 23 | 5,000 to 6,000 | 10 days to 1 year |
| 2024 | 494 | 32 | 25 | 500 to 4,500 | 14 days to 6 months |
| 2025 | 571 | 25 [#] | 20 [#] | Not applicable [#] | 2 days to 6 months [#] |

* Upon investigation, most cases were found to involve nuisance and not related to animal cruelty.

Figures on prosecutions are up to September 2025.

3. In examining the amendments to the Ordinance, the Government understood there were divergent views among stakeholders on the introduction of “Duty of Care” at the present stage and the penalty level for animal cruelty. The Government will continue to collect and consider the opinions from all parties, and strives to formulate concrete proposals within this year.

In addition, AFCD will continue to promote the “Duty of Care” of pet owners through public education and publicity campaigns, including educating the public through various channels such as thematic website, social media and roving exhibitions, including putting up posts on social platform to explain how to properly care for animals, in order to foster public understanding of the content and importance of “Duty of Care”.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1897)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is stated in paragraph 208 of the Budget Speech that the Government will continue to take forward the Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries (the Blueprint). In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of registered local fishing vessels operating in Hong Kong as at February this year; the number of fishermen currently engaged in capture fisheries in Hong Kong, whether the Government maintains figures of fishing vessels and fishermen engaged in offshore fisheries; the total economic output of the fisheries industry in Hong Kong in the past year;
2. according to the Blueprint, the Government indicated that it would promote the development of offshore fisheries, including formulating and implementing suitable and feasible measures to assist capture fishermen in capitalising on new opportunities in offshore fisheries. In this connection, what are the Government's plans and strategies to promote the future development of offshore fisheries in Hong Kong? In particular, how will innovative technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) be utilised to drive the upgrading and transformation of the industry and enhance its competitiveness?
3. further to the above, please provide the number of fishermen who applied for the Fisheries Development Loan Fund (FDLF) and the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) to develop offshore fisheries over the past year; the number of applications, the average loan or grant amounts, and the average application processing time; and
4. our country is vigorous promoting the development of offshore fisheries. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has also introduced the Administrative Rules on Hong Kong and Macao Floating Fishing Vessels and Fishermen, setting out various supporting measures benefitting Hong Kong and the fisheries industry. In this connection, what are the Government's plans to encourage and assist fishermen in Hong Kong to seize the opportunities to develop offshore fisheries in future? How will it collaborate and co-operate with the relevant Mainland authorities to strive for legal participation of more Hong Kong and Macao residents in the development of offshore fisheries of our country?

Asked by: Hon TAN Sunny (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

1. As at the end of 2025, there were 6 064 local fishing vessels registered with the Marine Department in Hong Kong, and about 10 120 local fishermen engaged in fishing activities. Currently, no local fishing vessels are registered for engaging in offshore fisheries. As far as we understand, only a small number of fishermen in Hong Kong are developing offshore fisheries outside Hong Kong. In 2025, the production of capture fisheries industry of Hong Kong was about 90 000 tonnes of fisheries produce valued at about \$2.3 billion.
2. In order to promote the development of offshore fisheries, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will provide technical support to fishermen interested in developing offshore fisheries, including exploring suitable fishing grounds, arranging field visits etc., as well as advising them on the feasibility of their development plans and assisting fishermen in liaising with relevant organisations in the Mainland or other places to obtain the information required for the development of offshore fisheries when necessary. In terms of financial support, local fishermen associations may apply for grants from the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) for developing offshore fisheries, including conducting relevant field visits, arranging vocational training needed, launching pilot schemes, or facilitating transformation through innovative technologies such as artificial intelligence. Previously, an offshore fisheries study tour project and a pilot scheme on a distant water fishing project received grants under SFDF. In addition, fishermen may also consider applying for the Fisheries Development Loan Fund (FDLF) to modify existing fishing vessels or construct new ones to facilitate the transformation and development of offshore fisheries.
3. In 2025, no applications were received from fishermen for developing offshore fisheries under both FDLF and SFDF.
4. We will continue to explore with the relevant Mainland authorities the opportunities and feasibility for Hong Kong mobile fishermen to switch to developing offshore fisheries, and will continue to maintain liaison and exchanges with local and overseas organisations, with a view to providing appropriate support to fishermen who are interested in developing offshore fisheries.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)047

(Question Serial No. 1487)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will establish a new unified brand for local agricultural and fisheries products in mid-2026. The Accredited Farm Scheme (AFS) and the Accredited Fish Farm Scheme (AFFS) will be phased out following the establishment of the new unified brand. Local vegetable farms and fish farms registered under the AFS and AFFS respectively will be transferred to the new unified local brand within 2026. The new unified brand will also cover organic farms and livestock farms. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- a) how the target of a total of 385 agricultural production units registered under the new unified brand was set;
- b) given the information shown on the AFCD webpage indicates that there were 123 crop production farms certified by the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre as at 28 February 2026, which, when taking the existing 300 accredited farms in 2025 into account, brings the total number of units to over 400, how the operation of the existing accredited farms, organic farms and livestock farms will be affected by setting the target number of agricultural production units under the new unified brand at 385;
- c) further to the above question, whether any of the two types of registered farms will be “eliminated” from the new unified brand;
- d) further to the above question, the criteria to be adopted for “selecting” the production units for the new unified brand;
- e) as it is stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention that following the establishment of the new unified brand, the Government will facilitate centralised promotional efforts and enhance the brand value, so as to raise public awareness of and demand for local premium products and strengthen their overall competitiveness, what specific measures for publicity and promotion are; and
- f) whether any specific KPIs have been set for the effectiveness of the relevant promotional efforts?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ming-sum, Michelle (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

- a) to d) To enhance the competitiveness of local agricultural and fisheries (A&F) products, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will launch a new unified brand for A&F products in the middle of this year, supported by clear certification, testing and traceability mechanisms to strengthen consumer confidence. Production units participating in the new unified brand are required to meet the production standards set out by AFCD for A&F products. By 2026, the production units under the new unified brand will cover crop farms and fish farms, while livestock farms will be covered in the next stage. For agricultural products, the target of 385 production units under the new unified brand has been determined based on the number of local accredited farms currently registered under the Accredited Farm Scheme (AFS) and organic farms participating in the Organic Farming Support Service. It is expected that all 275 local accredited farms currently registered under AFS will be transferred to the new unified brand (the new unified brand is not applicable to the remaining 25 accredited farms located in the Mainland), while about 110 organic farms will also participate (the remaining ones are organic farms organised by non-governmental organisations or those providing educational services). Other crop farms interested in participating in the new unified brand must meet the eligibility criteria for the scheme. Such farms must be engaged in commercial crop production in Hong Kong, follow the production standards set out by AFCD, comply with food safety standards and testing requirements under the legislation of Hong Kong, and be subject to regular inspections by AFCD or its recognised organisations.
- e) To enhance the publicity and promotion for the new unified brand, the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) has allocated a grant of about \$15 million to support agriculture and fisheries organisations in engaging Ocean Park Hong Kong to promote the new unified brand through a series of promotional, educational and experiential activities, including public guided tours to local fish farms and farms, school promotion and outreach activities. Meanwhile, Ocean Park will organise events such as exchange forums, workshops and guided tours for enterprises to enhance the catering and retail industries' awareness of the new unified brand and their understanding of local procurement and environmental responsibility. It is expected that the project can increase the willingness of the public as well as the catering and retail industries to purchase local A&F products, thereby enhancing the competitiveness of local A&F products.
- f) To assess the effectiveness of the promotion for the new brand, Ocean Park Hong Kong has set out a number of performance indicators for the promotion items, including the number of promotional, educational and experiential activities organised and their attendance, statistics including the number of followers, posts and interactions on social media platforms, as well as the increase in recognition of the new brand among the public and the catering and retail sectors. Besides, AFCD will conduct ongoing assessments on the demand and supply of products under the new brand to monitor the growth in the number of participating farms and fish farms, as well as catering and retail outlets selling products under the new brand, so as to make timely adjustments to promotional strategies.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)048

(Question Serial No. 1489)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Given that the number of animals vaccinated and quarantined in Hong Kong decreased significantly by 4.6% from 53 031 in 2024 to 50 567 in 2025, and the indicator for this year was further lowered to 50 200. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- a) the distribution of the countries or places of origin for the animals involved in these figures;
- b) the reasons for the continued decline and downward adjustment of these figures;
- c) with effect from June 2025, the Department optimised the quarantine arrangements for cats and dogs imported from the Mainland, accepting animal health certificates issued by official veterinarians of Mainland Customs of all regions. As long as all requirements of Group IIIA are complied with, the quarantine period upon arrival in Hong Kong can be shortened to 30 days. What is the change in the number of imported cats and dogs after the implementation of this policy?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ming-sum, Michelle (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

- a) The numbers of animals vaccinated and quarantined are composed of several sets of figures. The details are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Vaccinated | | Quarantined | | Total |
|------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| | No. of local dogs vaccinated against rabies | No. of imported dogs vaccinated against rabies [@] | No. of cats and dogs quarantined at Animal Management Centres [*] | No. of cats and dogs quarantined at Airport Animal Hostel [#] | |
| 2024 | 51 405 | 1 280 | 107 | 239 | 53 031 |
| 2025 | 49 085 | 1 197 | 163 | 122 | 50 567 |

[@] The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not keep a breakdown by the place of origin of the imported dogs vaccinated against rabies.

^{*} Most quarantined cats and dogs (approximately 90%) were from Chinese Mainland.

[#] Quarantine may be required when processing customs clearance documents.

- b) The decline in the number of local dogs vaccinated against rabies was probably related to the decrease in the population of local pet dogs. The number of cats and dogs detained at the Airport Animal Hostel depends on the number of animals requiring boarding during transit and the number of cases requiring time to process documents for imports, which normally fluctuates each year. As for the increase in the number of cats and dogs quarantined at Animal Management Centres, it was mainly due to the implementation of optimised quarantine arrangements which shortened the quarantine period for Group IIIA countries/places, as well as the increase in quarantine facilities at the animal quarantine centre at Kai Tak.
- c) To optimise the quarantine arrangements for imported cats and dogs, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department introduced Group IIIA countries/places in December 2024, with the quarantine period shortened from 120 days to 30 days. Under the requirements for the newly created Group IIIA countries/places, cats and dogs imported from Group IIIA countries/places must be vaccinated against rabies and undergo a rabies neutralising antibody titre test (RNATT) with a satisfactory result not less than 90 days before export. Although the Mainland was included in Group IIIA countries/places in June 2025, animal owners required time to arrange for vaccination and RNATT, etc. for their cats and dogs in order to meet the said requirements. Therefore, the number of cats and dogs imported from the Mainland in 2025 did not increase significantly. It is expected that the number of cats and dogs imported from the Mainland will increase in 2026.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3127)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The throughput at the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) market in 2025 decreased significantly by nearly 20% compared to that of 2024, from 45 741 tonnes to 37 209 tonnes. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- a) the reasons for the decrease;
- b) the reasons for the nearly 20% decrease in the number of new loans from 52 to 44;
- c) given the decrease in the throughput at VMO market coincides with that in the number of new loans, whether there is a correlation between them; if so, the nature of such correlation;
- d) given the number of new grants dropped by over 20% from 63 in 2024 to 49, while the amount of grants approved nearly doubled from \$18.4 million to \$38.1 million, and the average amount of grant rose from \$290,000 to \$770,000, i.e. despite a substantial increase in the total public funding, the number of grants approved dropped, so as the throughput at VMO market, whether there is a misallocation of resources; if not, the reasons for the decrease in the number of grants in contrast to the significant rise in the amount of grants; and
- e) whether the effectiveness of the grant and loan measures mentioned above is regularly reviewed; if so, the details of such reviews; if not, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ming-sum, Michelle (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

- a) The decrease in the throughput at the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) market in 2025 was mainly due to the intense competition from other vegetable distribution channels, with some vendors choosing not to sell vegetables through the wholesale markets.
- b) and c) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) administers 3 agricultural loan funds, namely the J.E. Joseph Trust Fund (JEJTF), the Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund (VMOLF), and the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund (KAALF), to provide credit facility to local farmers for the purposes of agricultural production and development. The demand for

loans is subject to the operational needs and financial positions of the farmers. There was no direct correlation between VMO market throughput and the production of farmers and the number of loans.

- d) The number of new grants listed here refers to the number of grants under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) and does not involve the above agricultural loan funds. The Farm Improvement Scheme (FIS) under SADF subsidises farmers to acquire modern equipment to improve productivity; while “general application” provides financial support to programmes, projects and research that would facilitate the development of modern and sustainable agriculture.

The decrease in the number of new grants was due to the decline in FIS applications. In February 2023, enhancement measures were implemented for SADF, including an increase in the grant ratio and ceiling for FIS, which led to a significant increase in the number of new grants between 2023 and 2024. Subsequently, following the increase in the number of farmers who had received grants, the application demand stabilised and the number of new grants dropped. Meanwhile, the large-scale resumption of agricultural land in recent years might have dampened farmers’ willingness to purchase new farming equipment, thereby reducing demand for applying for grants in 2025. The grant ceiling for each FIS application is set at \$50,000; overall speaking, the amount of grant for each case remains roughly the same.

The rise in the total amount of grant was related to the increase in grants disbursed for projects approved under “general applications” for SADF. The Government disburses grants in instalments according to the grant agreement and the actual progress of each project; as the instalment payments for individual projects increased in 2025, the total amount of grant rose accordingly, but it did not represent a significant rise in the average amount of grant for each case.

- e) Regarding the agricultural loan funds, AFCD regularly prepares reports on the applications, approved cases, progress, and repayment status of the relevant loan funds for the KAALF Committee and the trustee of the fund, and submits the audited accounts and annual reports of JEJTF and KAALF to the Legislative Council (LegCo) annually for scrutiny. As for the audited account of VMOLF, it will be submitted by VMO to LegCo annually for scrutiny. In addition, the Government has recently reviewed the policy objectives, operating models, and financial arrangements of JEJTF and KAALF, which are segregated from the Government accounts, and has prudently assessed their actual circumstances. Following the review, it was found that the relevant loan funds did not have excessive balance and their operations were cost-effective.

Regarding SADF, AFCD will review from time to time the effectiveness of approved or completed projects in fostering the sustainable development of the agricultural industry. Upon project completion, the grantee should submit a final report and an audited account, specifying the benefits brought to the industry by the project and its financial position, as well as share the achievements of the project with the industry. The report will be uploaded onto SADF website for public inspection. The SADF Advisory Committee will also scrutinise the

relevant report, and may carry out inspections or require the grantee to attend meetings where necessary, with a view to examining the effectiveness of the project. In addition, AFCD will also organise seminars and sharing sessions to share with the industry the achievements of SADF in promoting the sustainable development of the agricultural industry. The industry generally recognises that the approved projects can enhance its competitiveness while supporting the sustainable development of the local agricultural industry. Overall speaking, since the establishment of SADF, progress has been made with initial achievements, benefitting over 950 farmers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)050

(Question Serial No. 0993)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 208 of the Budget Speech that “research and development (R&D) of fish fry and development of processing facilities for local fisheries products will continue to be supported by the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF).” In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the fish fry R&D projects approved by SFDF over the past 3 years; and, following the support for the development of processing facilities for local fisheries products by SFDF, how the local fisheries products will be assisted in entering high value-added markets such as supermarket chains or hotels at the local, national and international levels.

Asked by: Hon YANG Wing-kit (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

The Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) aims to help fishermen adopt a sustainable and high value-added operation mode, and fund projects and research so as to enhance the overall competitiveness of the industry. Over the past 3 years, SFDF approved a 24-month project on the research and development (R&D) of fish fry, namely the “Trial of Culture of Threadfin Fish in Hong Kong’s Marine Fish Culture Farms”, involving a grant of about \$1.9 million. The project will introduce threadfin fish fry to Hong Kong’s marine fish culture farms through salinity acclimatisation experiments and the development of new types of threadfin fish feed. The project aims to assist the industry in mastering the latest technique in threadfin fish mariculture, with a view to taking forward the sustainable development of the local mariculture industry.

R&D of fish fry is an important aspect of the development of the aquaculture industry. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will ramp up support for R&D of fish fry in future with the plan to set up a fisheries research centre in San Tin Technopole to conduct scientific research and experiments in modernised aquaculture, including research projects related to fry hatching and species selection. AFCD will continue to provide technical support and training to the industry in promoting the outcomes of R&D of fish fry and upgrading fry health management, thereby facilitating the sustainable development of the aquaculture industry.

Based on the experience drawn from the fish processing centre of the Aberdeen Wholesale Fish Market, AFCD and Fish Marketing Organization (FMO) are planning to convert some of the spaces in existing wholesale fish markets into additional processing facilities, with a view to assisting the industry in exploring high value-added markets. Meanwhile, AFCD encourages the industry to leverage support from SFDF to conduct projects related to fish processing so as to develop and produce more locally processed premium products, for example, the cherry wood smoked fish series and collagen jelly jointly developed by AFCD, FMO, the fisheries industry and the Research Institute for Future Food of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University in recent years.

To help local fisheries products enter the high value-added local and mainland retail and catering markets, FMO has been promoting and supplying local agricultural and fisheries (A&F) products in shopping hotspots of tourists (including hotels, theme parks, and cruise ships). In addition, AFCD is actively preparing for the launch of a new unified brand, which will be supported by certification, testing and traceability mechanisms, for Government-certified local A&F products in mid-2026. AFCD aims to enhance publicity and promotion targeting the business sector through a series of comprehensive publicity and promotion campaign for the new brand, such as holding business forums, exchanges, workshops and guided tours, to enhance their awareness of the local A&F products as well as understanding of local procurement and environment responsibility, thereby raising their desire to purchase local A&F products and boosting the sales of local A&F products in tandem. AFCD, in collaboration with FMO, will also actively seek co-operation with the retail and catering sectors to explore new marketing channels, which includes organising visits, workshops, seminars and business matching events to foster business exchanges between the retail and catering sectors and local A&F industries, thereby encouraging them to source and use local produce. Meanwhile, AFCD and FMO will continue to export and sell local premium fisheries products to the Mainland with tariff-free concessions through the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, and will actively participate in promotional activities in the Mainland, including participation in the Shenzhen International Fisheries and Seafood Expo and other suitable exhibitions, so as to promote locally processed fisheries products to the catering industry, superstores and e-commerce companies in the Mainland.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0778)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Government conducted a public consultation on the proposed amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) in 2019, and received a majority support for introducing a “duty of care”, updating the definition of cruelty to animals, significantly increasing the penalty levels, and expressly prohibiting unnecessary “mutilations”, including tail-docking, ear-cropping, de-barking and de-clawing. However, the relevant amendments have not yet been introduced into the Legislative Council for scrutiny. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. over the past 3 years (2023-2025), the figures on reports, investigations, prosecution rate, and convictions of suspected animal cruelty; whether there are analyses of the trend and causes for animal cruelty; regarding the widely supported proposal in the 2019 public consultation to prohibit unnecessary mutilations (such as tail-docking and ear-cropping), the current progress and timetable of the Government;
2. given the recent incidents of dog poisoning, bird abuse to death, a large number of animal negligence cases, and the frequent occurrence of unnecessary mutilations such as ear-cropping and tail-docking, whether the Government will consider taking administrative measures (such as strengthening the inter-departmental dedicated investigation mechanism, optimising the report handling process, increasing resources for the Animal Crime Police Teams, enhancing regulation of veterinary services, and promoting the prohibition on unnecessary mutilations) before the legislation is amended, so as to further enhance enforcement efficiency and successful prosecution rate;
3. how the Government assesses the inadequacy of current legislation and enforcement mechanisms in deterring and preventing animal cruelty, and the short-term measures that can be taken to strengthen public education and community protection efforts immediately to prevent more innocent animals from suffering?

Asked by: Hon YIU Ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1. The number of reports on suspected animal cruelty received and the details of successful prosecutions instituted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) (Ordinance) by the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) and the Agriculture,

Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of reports on suspected animal cruelty received* | Number of prosecutions instituted | Number of successful prosecutions |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 441 | 25 | 23 |
| 2024 | 494 | 32 | 25 |
| 2025 | 571 | 25 [#] | 20 [#] |

* Upon investigation, most cases were found to involve nuisance and not related to animal cruelty.

Figures on prosecutions are up to September 2025.

With the enhanced public understanding of animal welfare and increased concern for animal cruelty, the number of reports on suspected animal cruelty is on the rise over the past 3 years. AFCD and HKPF will conduct investigation into all reported cases, and institute prosecutions where animal cruelty is found with sufficient evidence. However, the vast majority of reported cases received by AFCD were found not related to animal cruelty but were related to nuisance or other situations after investigation. For instance, where the animal frequently makes sound or where odours emanate from a premises, this may mislead the reporters into thinking that the animals suffered from acts of cruelty. Furthermore, some cases may involve failure to take proper care of animals (such as the failure to provide adequate space) but does not involve cruelty. For these cases, AFCD would give verbal advice and improvement suggestions to the owners concerned after inspecting the scene, reminding them to keep their pets in a responsible manner, and make follow-ups later.

In examining the amendments to the Ordinance, the Government understood that there were divergent views among stakeholders on the introduction of “Duty of Care” at the present stage and the penalty level for animal cruelty. The Government will continue to collect and consider the opinions from all parties, and strives to formulate concrete proposals within this year.

2. HKPF, AFCD and the Hong Kong Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) have jointly implemented the Animal Watch Scheme to effectively prevent and detect suspected cases of animal cruelty with a multi-partite approach. For example, HKPF would invite AFCD and SPCA officers to provide professional advice at the scene of an animal cruelty case and assist thereafter where necessary. Currently, members of the public may report suspected animal cruelty cases immediately by calling the 999 Report Centre or reporting to AFCD through 1823. The existing channels for reporting crime are well known to the public and has worked well. The Government will continue to review the operational details of the tripartite co-operation and explore ways to enhance information exchange and experience sharing to further improve the efficiency of law enforcement.
3. Under the Ordinance, any person who conducts act of cruelty to an animal commits an offence and, upon conviction, is liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for 3 years. Apart from law enforcement efforts, public education, particularly targeting pet owners, can effectively prevent animal abuse. AFCD

continues to promote messages on animal welfare through public education and publicity campaigns. Regarding “Duty of Care” for pet owners, AFCD has launched a series of publicity initiatives, including putting up posts on social platform to explain how to properly care for animals, in order to foster public understanding of the content and importance of “Duty of Care”. The Department will continue to collaborate with animal welfare organisations to organise activities promoting information, including how to recognise and meet animals’ needs for diet, environment, health and behaviour.

AFCD will promote the message of “Responsible Pet Ownership” and information on “Control Your Dogs Properly” across all 18 districts of Hong Kong, including producing Announcements in the Public Interest as well as leaflets and posters, setting up thematic website on animal welfare and “Be a Responsible Pet Owner”, placing advertisements on public transport, websites and social platforms, and implement village and community campaigns, including holding talks in schools and housing estates, as well as roving exhibitions, to further ramp up publicity efforts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)052

(Question Serial No. 0726)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026-27, the Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries will continue to be taken forward to promote the upgrading and transformation of the agriculture and fisheries industries. Please advise this Committee of the following:

1. since the launch of the “Fish enJoy” Scheme, the number of fish farms participating in the scheme; whether the Government has assessed the positive impact on fishermen since launch; and the Government’s plan to further promote the “Fish enJoy” Scheme;
2. since the launch of the “Agri enJoy” Scheme, the number of farms participating in the scheme; whether the Government has assessed the positive impact on farmers since launch, and the Government’s plans to further promote the “Agri enJoy” Scheme; and
3. apart from the “Fish enJoy” Scheme and the “Agri enJoy” Scheme, the Government’s plans to further assist local farmers and fishermen in developing eco-tourism.

Asked by: Hon YIU Pak-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) launched the “Fish enJoy” Scheme in September last year to facilitate inland fish farms and mariculture rafts engaged in aquaculture to offer leisure activities as their ancillary business, with a view to promoting the development of leisure fisheries. Fish farms participating in the “Fish enJoy” Scheme must be mainly engaged in aquaculture. Permitted leisure ancillary activities include leisure fishing, sale of self-cultured fisheries products, sale of dishes made mainly with their own fisheries products by non-flame cooking methods, and organising activities related to fisheries education (such as guided tours, culturing and harvesting experiences and workshops). As at February 2026, a total of 57 fish farms have joined the “Fish enJoy” Scheme. We expect that the scheme can increase fish farmers’ income through the above leisure fisheries activities, and promote the diversification and sustainable development of the fisheries industry. As the “Fish enJoy” Scheme has launched for just half a year and AFCD has not conducted annual assessment yet, the performance of its effectiveness is not available for the time being.

AFCD plans to further expand the “Fish enJoy” Scheme to fishing vessels by developing a “Fish enJoy” fishing vessel scheme for the operation of leisure fishing businesses under the “dual uses of vessels” model, where fishermen will be allowed to use modified fishing vessels that meet the safety requirements to carry passengers at sea to experience fishing operations, so as to promote local fishing culture and assist capture fishermen in switching to a sustainable mode of operation and increasing their income. We will provide financial support through the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund, and launch a demonstration project for the “Fish enJoy” fishing vessel scheme this year. We will continue to monitor the needs of the industry, while continuously enhancing the schemes, providing financial and technical support, and enhancing publicity and promotion, with a view to assisting the industry in developing leisure fisheries.

2. AFCD launched the “Agri enJoy” Scheme in June 2024 to facilitate farms engaged in commercial crop production to offer leisure activities as their ancillary business, so as to increase farmers’ income, promote their agricultural products, as well as provide members of the public with opportunities to learn about and experience agricultural production. As at February 2026, a total of 108 farms have joined the scheme. The “Agri enJoy” Scheme has been operating for about a year and a half since its launch. Last August, we conducted an annual progress assessment for farms which have participated in the scheme for a year, including compiling statistics on their visitor number, sales, and income changes. The results showed that about 70% of the surveyed farms reported an increase in their income. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the scheme, keep in view the needs of the industry, while continuously enhancing the scheme and ramping up publicity and promotion.
3. To further assist local farmers, fish farmers and fishermen in developing eco-tourism with agricultural and fisheries characteristics, AFCD is exploring and integrating the attractions and resources of natural environment and countryside recreation in the vicinity of local leisure fish farms and farms, so as to design integrated in-depth experiential signature routes with local characteristics, encompassing “eating, playing, shopping and learning”, to provide the public with rich and diversified leisure and recreational experiences. We are also developing an integrated website for leisure farming and fisheries, and ecological resources to provide the public and tourists with information on the natural and geological resources managed by AFCD, as well as activities under the “Fish enJoy” Scheme and the “Agri enJoy” Scheme, in a one-stop manner. In addition, AFCD is planning to organise the Leisure Farming and Fisheries Expo (the Expo) in the third quarter of 2026, which aims to enhance public awareness and participation in leisure farming and fisheries. The Expo will promote unique leisure farming and fisheries activities and in-depth tours, and showcase the diversity of local leisure farming and fisheries as well as rich natural ecological resources, while at the same time promoting the message of sustainable agricultural and fisheries eco-tourism through workshops, experiential tours, talks, and sales booths.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)139

(Question Serial No. 3586)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Under the Programme, the estimated expenditure of “new grants” for the fisheries industry reaches \$99 million, which is significantly higher than the actual expenditures for the past 2 years. A review of the estimated expenditures of the Department in the past 2 years also reveals a similar situation, with the relevant estimated expenditure far exceeding the actual expenditure of the previous year. Please advise of the following:

- i. the number of applications for grants received and the number of grants approved by the Department, and the accumulated number of applications (please set out by the type of grants) in each of the past 3 years;
- ii. the highest amount of grant (and its type), the lowest amount of grant (and its type), the average amount of grant, and the median amount of grant involved in the relevant expenditure in each of the past 3 years;
- iii. upon checking, over the past 2 years, the actual number of new grants is relatively close to the original estimate; however, the overall amount of grant is far lower than the original estimate. What is the main reason for this?
- iv. the work plan of the Department to ensure the use of the relevant grants is effective and is in line with the policy objectives.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

- i. The details of the number of applications for the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

General Application:

| Year | Number of applications received in the year | Accumulative number of applications received | Number of applications approved in the year | Accumulative number of applications approved |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 4 | 54 | 1 | 22 |
| 2024 | 3 | 57 | 3 | 25 |
| 2025 | 9 | 66 | 4 | 29 |

Note: As of 2025, the accumulative number of general applications received was 66, with 29 approved, 18 rejected, 12 withdrawn by the applicants, and the remaining 7 still being processed.

Equipment Improvement Project (EIP) (Group Application):

| Year | Number of applications received in the year | Accumulative number of applications received | Number of applications approved in the year | Accumulative number of applications approved |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 2 | 17 | 0 | 11 |
| 2024 | 1 | 18 | 2 | 13 |
| 2025 | 0 | 18 | 1 | 14 |

Note: As of 2025, the accumulative number of EIP (Group Applications) received was 18, with 14 approved and 4 withdrawn by the applicants.

EIP (Individual Application)*:

| Year | Number of applications received in the year | Accumulative number of applications received | Number of applications approved in the year | Accumulative number of applications approved |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 822 | 822 | 168 | 168 |
| 2024 | 246 | 1 068 | 689 | 857 |
| 2025 | 147 | 1 215 | 198 | 1 055 |

* Opens for application from February 2023.

Note: As of 2025, the accumulative number of EIP (Individual Applications) received was 1 215, with 1 055 approved, 17 rejected, 20 withdrawn by the applicants, and the remaining 123 still being processed.

ii. The amounts of grant approved under SFDF by type of applications over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

General Application:

| Year | Number of approved applications | Amount of grant for each approved application (\$ million) | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| | | Average | Lowest | Highest | Median |
| 2023 | 1 | 1.16 | 1.16 | 1.16 | 1.16 |
| 2024 | 3 | 4.65 | 1.07 | 11.73 | 1.22 |
| 2025 | 4 | 8.86 | 0.56 | 14.86 | 9.93 |

EIP (Group Application):

| Year | Number of approved applications | Amount of grant for each approved application (\$ million) | | | |
|------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|
| | | Average | Lowest | Highest | Median |
| 2023 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2024 | 2 | 12.61 | 11.27 | 13.98 | 12.61 |
| 2025 | 1 | 11.60 | 11.60 | 11.60 | 11.60 |

EIP (Individual Application)*:

| Year | Number of approved applications | Amount of grant for each approved application (\$'000)# | | | |
|------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|
| | | Average | Lowest | Highest | Median |
| 2023 | 168 | 40 | 20 | 100 | 50 |
| 2024 | 689 | 50 | 20 | 100 | 50 |
| 2025 | 198 | 60 | 20 | 100 | 50 |

* Opens for application from February 2023.

Starting from February 2023, the grant ceiling for each production unit has been raised from \$30,000 to \$50,000. Fishermen/fish farmers who have been funded before the grant ceiling was raised may apply for another grant with a ceiling of \$20,000 for their funded production unit; in addition, eligible applicants who own more than one production unit may apply for a total of 2 grants with a ceiling of \$50,000 each, i.e. a total grant ceiling of \$100,000.

iii. Over the past 2 years, the actual overall amount of grant disbursed under SFDF was lower than the original estimate mainly due to the lower-than-expected number of general applications involving higher amounts of grant. Meanwhile, the implementation progress of some approved projects in previous years was slower than expected, causing a delay in the disbursement of grant instalments. Besides, after an EIP (Individual Application) is approved, applicants can purchase the relevant fishery equipment/materials within 1 year at their own expense, and claim reimbursement from AFCD on the production of a receipt. Therefore, the actual amount of grant and the time of disbursement for each application may vary from the original estimate.

iv. AFCD will review the effectiveness of approved or completed projects under SFDF in fostering the sustainable development of the fisheries industries through the existing monitoring mechanism. AFCD will conduct monitoring meetings with the grantee and deploy staff to inspect the implementation of a project, and hold review meeting(s) upon completion of a project in order to assess the effectiveness of the project. The grantee is required to make timely submission of the progress/annual/final reports as well as financial statements/the audited accounts, specifying the implementation of the approved project as well as the benefits brought to the industry and its financial position. The final report of the project will be uploaded onto the SFDF website for public inspection. AFCD and the Advisory Committee of SFDF will also scrutinise the relevant reports, and may carry out inspections or require the grantee to attend meetings where necessary, with a view to examining the effectiveness of the project. In addition, some projects will also organise seminars and sharing sessions to share with the industry the achievements of the projects.

An overview of the presently completed and ongoing projects shows that SFDF has supported the fisheries industry across various areas and promoted the sustainable development of aquaculture, capture and leisure fisheries. The approved projects include introduction, optimisation, transfer of new aquaculture technologies and related training, introduction of new aquaculture species, brand-building and marketing of fisheries produce, provision of professional veterinary consultation and drug prescription services at fish farms, development of quality pellet feed from food waste and development of leisure fisheries projects.

These projects are in line with the policy objectives under the Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries, and can provide the industries with support in terms of production technologies and sales, facilitating the enhancement of productivity, as well as the development towards modernisation, intensification and diversification of the local fisheries industry. Overall speaking, since the establishment of SFDF, progress has been made with initial achievements, benefitting more than 5 230 fishermen/fish farmers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)140****(Question Serial No. 3320)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding fish restocking exercises, please advise of the following:

- the actual expenditures incurred by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department on restocking exercises, the number of exercises held, the number of participants and the quantity of fish released over the past 3 years;
- the estimated expenditure and the plan for the exercises for 2026-27; and
- whether the Government has any plan to adopt public-private-partnership in developing restocking exercises as one of the eco-tourism experience projects, thereby reducing public expenditure and creating new areas of economic growth.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

Since 2000, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has from time to time conducted science-based restocking at multiple locations in Hong Kong waters, releasing over 150 000 juvenile fish in total. Science-based restocking includes the release of appropriate juveniles of aquatic organisms to their natural environment at the appropriate time, allowing them to grow and reproduce, thereby facilitating the restoration and enhancement of fisheries resources.

- AFCD's expenditures on restocking exercises, as well as the numbers of activities, participants and juvenile fish released over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Total expenditure (\$ million) | Number of public activities | Number of participants | Number of juvenile fish released |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | No restocking exercise was held | | | |
| 2024-25 | 1.27 | 2 | Approx. 120 | Approx. 36 000 |
| 2025-26 | 1.41 | 3 | Approx. 200 | Approx. 45 000 |

- In 2026-27, AFCD will allocate about \$1.4 million for the work on restocking. We plan to organise another joint restocking exercise with the Ocean Development Bureau

of Shenzhen Municipality again on the National Fish Releasing Day on 6 June this year. It is expected that AFCD will release about 60 000 juvenile fish in total in Hong Kong waters throughout the year. Meanwhile, several workshops and school talks will be conducted.

- (c) AFCD hopes that, by gradually enhancing publicity and educational efforts, the public will be able to participate in and understand science-based restocking through different means, be encouraged to support and participate in restocking exercises in lieu of inappropriate animal releases and make proper use of the relevant resources on science-based restocking. We will continue to co-operate with religious groups and other relevant organisations, provide them with technical advice on science-based restocking and encourage them to organise restocking activities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)141

(Question Serial No. 3325)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The introduction of urban farming into Hong Kong is one of the major initiatives proposed in the Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries. In recent years, many new or existing large-scale shopping malls and commercial buildings have been provided with farming area. Regarding the setting up of urban farms, please advise of the following:

- (a) the support and programmes (funding or technical support) offered by the Government for the setting up of urban farms to lower the threshold for aspiring investors over the past 3 years, with a breakdown by item;
- (b) regarding the expensive construction costs of urban farms, whether the Government has conducted analysis and explored ways and techniques to lower the costs; whether the Government will consider adjusting the criteria by reducing the size requirement for each urban farm to enhance the attractiveness to investors; and
- (c) in terms of policy support and resource allocation, the Government's plan for the setting up of urban farms to promote the sustainability of the local agriculture industry in future.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 47)

Reply:

- (a) The Government has allocated a suitable site at Ma On Shan Sai Sha Road Garden for the first pilot project on modern urban farming. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has leased out the site and the urban farm structure to a trade member engaging in modernised agricultural production for operation. The urban farm opened in October 2025 and serves as a reference for developing feasible models for urban farms.

In addition, to facilitate the development of urban farming by the trade, the Government has obtained consent from the Town Planning Board in 2024 to revise the Definition of Terms used in statutory plan for "Open Space" to include "urban farm", so as to allow the setting up of urban farms to be operated on a commercial basis in suitable "Open Space" areas (such as parks and outdoor public open space in urban areas and New Development Areas (NDAs)). Urban farming has been incorporated into the

assessment scheme of the Building Environment Assessment Method Plus as one of the indicators for green buildings with a view to encouraging private development projects to include elements of urban farming for operation by trade members engaging in modernised agricultural production. AFCD will continue to liaise with District Councils, local organisations and groups to introduce and promote urban farming to them.

Regarding financial and technical support, trade members engaging in modernised agricultural production may apply for funding on a matching basis under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund from AFCD to upgrade and switch to high-tech, high-value-added modern commercial operation modes. Besides, from time to time AFCD provides the trade with technical support on farming technologies which are applicable to urban farming. Examples include “controlled environment hydroponic technology”, “multi-layer farming” and “smart greenhouse”, etc.

- (b) The “multi-layer farming” method is commonly adopted in urban farms for crop production, utilising facilities such as greenhouses or indoor cultivation systems to boost yield and make efficient use of urban land. Since greenhouses and indoor cultivation systems are facilities for agricultural production, we are exploring the feasibility of appropriately adjusting the building requirements for urban farming facilities with relevant departments to lower the entry threshold for operators, so as to enhance the attractiveness to the trade and investors.
- (c) The Government will introduce urban farming elements into the planning stage of NDAs in future, and will make good use of urban spaces in Northern Metropolis and other NDAs (such as areas already designated as parks/public space) for related uses. Meanwhile, in collaboration with the relevant departments, AFCD will continue to identify suitable locations in existing parks/public space in various districts for setting up modernised urban farm projects. The Government has also planned to set up modernised hydroponic farms-cum-stalls on suitable government buildings for operation by the trade upon application, with a view to promoting the concept of “harvest-to-sale”, thereby blending farming into urban life and at the same time promoting the sustainable development of the local agricultural industry.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)142

(Question Serial No. 3326)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the care of animals kept in ponds, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the distribution of ponds keeping fish and tortoises in each district, and the department they are under the purview of;
- (b) the number of reports of massive deaths of fish and tortoises received by the Government over the past 3 years; and
- (c) as it is learnt that recently, deaths of fish and tortoises were caused in a housing estate during pond cleaning due to the contractor's lack of experience, whether the Government has reviewed the incident, and the measures to be taken to prevent future occurrences?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 49)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not keep the number of ponds keeping fish and tortoises in each district. Generally speaking, the respective government departments manage facilities under their purview; as for private organisations and housing estates, the animal keepers and facility managers are responsible for managing such facilities.
- (b) Over the past 3 years, AFCD received 2 reports on suspected massive deaths of fish or tortoises in ponds.
- (c) Regarding the incident, AFCD deployed staff to the scene on a number of occasions to follow up, and conduct inspections with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), with a view to making recommendations for improvement to the management company, including providing clean water and an adequate supply of oxygen for the animals, and monitoring the health status of the animals concerned on a regular basis. AFCD will continue to monitor the incident and urge the management company to follow up on the above recommendations. To better safeguard animal welfare, AFCD has provided the Housing Department and the Leisure and Cultural

Services Department with a code of practice, setting out in detail the animal welfare issues that merit attention when managing outdoor ponds. Where necessary, the AFCD is also willing to organise talks for the management and frontline staff of the departments to enhance their knowledge of animal welfare and handling suspected animal cruelty incidents.

As for animal keeping at private organisations and housing estates, the animal keepers and facility managers concerned should consult professionals on aspects including facility design, animal diets and disease prevention, as well as points to note in maintaining the facilities (such as pond cleaning), and monitor the condition of the facilities and animals on a regular basis to ensure animal health and welfare.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)001

(Question Serial No. 1692)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is stated in the Programme that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue to implement the "Four Peaks" tourism project and measures to enhance the educational, recreational and sustainable eco-tourism functions of country parks in 2026-27. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. the manpower and estimated expenditure for implementing the "Four Peaks" tourism project;
2. the specific details of the work plan, in particular, the relevant content and estimated expenditure on enhancement of hiking trail facilities, connection to nearby tourist spots, journey planning, and strengthening of publicity; and
3. how the Government prevents individual tourist spots from exceeding their visitor carrying capacity, whether carrying capacity assessments will be conducted and the adoption of reservation system or diversion measures will be studied in relevant locations, and whether technology will be used for monitoring to balance tourism development and nature conservation; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

- 1-2. To promote the "Four Peaks" tourism project, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is enhancing hiking trail facilities at relevant attractions, including repairing the hiking trails using the handcrafted trail approach, and providing additional passing places to improve hiking safety; carrying out minor improvement works to provide additional facilities, including directional signs and hiking information boards, to provide clearer guidance, and providing additional basic leisure facilities, such as picnic tables and benches, at suitable locations so as to provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy recreations and connect to nature; and conducting thematic planting of native flowering plants along the hiking trails to enhance the appeal of natural scenery. The facility enhancement work for the country parks has commenced progressively in the first half of 2025 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

The AFCD will also work with the Tourism Commission and the Hong Kong Tourism Board in linking up the tourism sector and operators of nearby tourist spots to further work out the planning for green tourism itineraries and tourism product development, and promote them to tourists through various channels. The AFCD launched the promotion of the “Four Peaks” tourism project during the peak hiking season at the end of 2025. For example, the AFCD co-operated with Ngong Ping 360 in November 2025 to organise a digital stamp-collection hiking event at Ngong Ping to take the lead in promoting the Lantau Peak route, and promoted the Peak route during the Hong Kong Trail 40th Anniversary Celebration Programme launched in the same month. The total number of participants of the two events was about 12 000 people. The AFCD plans to launch the green tourism itineraries of the “Four Peaks” through a series of promotional activities during the hiking season in the second half of 2026.

Previously, the expenditure involved in the development of the “Four Peaks” tourism project was part of the daily management and routine education and publicity work of the country parks. The AFCD does not keep the relevant figures. However, the AFCD will be provided with an additional funding for the development of the “Four Peaks” tourism project in 2026-27, and the relevant estimated expenditure is \$7.8 million. There are 153 staff involved in the daily management, education and publicity work of country parks. The AFCD does not keep a breakdown of the estimated expenditure and staff establishment for the individual items of the “Four Peaks” tourism project.

3. When developing eco-tourism, we must consider the carrying capacity of the countryside, on the premise of protecting and respecting the ecological environment, so as to ensure the healthy development of eco-tourism. In fact, Hong Kong is rich in scenic spots in the countryside. The promotion of the “Four Peaks” tourism project aims to divert tourists to different attractive hiking trails throughout Hong Kong, all of which are provided with comprehensive ancillary transport and peripheral tourist facilities that can enhance visitors’ experience, and minimise the impact of visitor activities on individual hiking trails and the natural ecology of the countryside.

To assist in monitoring and managing visitor flow, the AFCD has installed a total of 86 automatic visitor counters in 12 country parks and 2 special areas since 2022, and plans to gradually expand them to the remaining country parks and special areas to replace manual counting. Moreover, the AFCD is piloting the use of unmanned aircraft to monitor visitor flow at the East Dam of the High Island Reservoir, and publishes information on visitor flow on the “Enjoy Hiking” website in a timely manner to help visitors plan their journey. The AFCD also plans to pilot the use of unmanned aircraft to patrol and make broadcast in the vicinity of Po Pin Chau of the East Dam during peak tourist seasons to remind visitors to beware of their safety. In addition, the AFCD is exploring the approach to assess the carrying capacity of some hiking hotspots, and formulate appropriate visitor management measures to ensure the sustainable development of tourism in country parks. We will study whether a reservation system should be introduced at certain hotspots.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)002

(Question Serial No. 1955)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) stated that it would review effectiveness of measures for enhanced management and protection of wild animals, including the enforcement, education and publicity of the feeding ban on wild animals and feral pigeons. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) the respective numbers of public complaints about the feeding of wild pigs and feral pigeons received, the law enforcement operations conducted and prosecutions instituted by the AFCD against feeding of wild pigs and feral pigeons, as well as the expenditures and manpower involved over the past 3 years;
- (2) the publicity and education work carried out by the AFCD on the feeding ban of wild pigs and feral pigeons respectively, as well as the expenditures involved over the past 3 years; and
- (3) given that from time to time, there have been news about sightings of and attacks on people by wild pigs in Hong Kong, and the AFCD responds with wild pig capture and humane dispatch operations, the numbers of reports on sightings of or nuisance and injuries caused by wild pigs received by the AFCD over the past 3 years as well as the wild pigs humanely dispatched in each year; whether the Department considers the target of controlling the wild pig population has been achieved as expected through wild pig capture and humane dispatch operations; and whether the number of wild pigs has decreased?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

- (1) The numbers of complaints, enforcement operations, fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued and prosecutions by summons instituted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) regarding illegal feeding of wild pigs over the past 3 years are tabulated as follow:

| Year | Illegal feeding of wild pigs | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Number of complaints (case) | Enforcement operations (number) | FPNs (number) [#] | Prosecutions by summons (case) |
| 2023-24 | 81 | 1 382 | 0 | 23 |
| 2024-25 | 109 | 1 575 | 26 | 5 [#] |
| 2025-26 (as at Feb 2026) | 85 | 1 497 | 15 | 1 [#] |

[#] The Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 (Amendment Ordinance) came into effect on 1 August 2024, introducing a fixed penalty of \$5,000. Therefore, no FPNs were issued against the illegal feeding of wild pigs in 2023-24. Following the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance, AFCD officers will generally first carry out law enforcement actions through the fixed penalty system, hence the decrease in the number of prosecution cases by summons.

The numbers of complaints, enforcement operations, FPNs issued and prosecutions by summons instituted by the AFCD regarding illegal feeding of wild birds or feral pigeons over the past 3 years are tabulated as follow:

| Year | Illegal feeding of wild birds or feral pigeons [*] | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Number of complaints (case) | Enforcement operations (number) | FPNs (number) [^] | Prosecutions by summons (case) |
| 2023-24 | 54 | 59 | 0 | 1 |
| 2024-25 | 1 118 | 1 235 | 36 | 11 [^] |
| 2025-26 (as at Feb 2026) | 1 406 | 1 628 | 66 | 3 [^] |

^{*} Reports on illegal feeding of feral pigeons often also involve illegal feeding of wild birds.

[^] The Amendment Ordinance came into effect on 1 August 2024, expanding the prohibition on feeding of wild animals to cover feral pigeons. Therefore, no FPNs were issued for illegal feeding of wild birds or feral pigeons in 2023-24, and there were relatively fewer complaints, enforcement operations, and prosecutions by summons. Following the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance, AFCD officers will generally first carry out law enforcement actions through the fixed penalty system, hence the decrease in the number of prosecution cases by summons.

The expenditures and manpower of the AFCD on the management of wild pigs and feral pigeons over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) | | Manpower (number of staff) | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| | Management of wild pigs ⁺ | Management of feral pigeons ⁺ | Management of wild pigs ⁺ | Management of feral pigeons ⁺ |
| 2023-24 | 21.8 | 6.0 | 33 | 8 |
| 2024-25 | 22.1 | 5.1 | 33 | 11 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 20.2 | 8.0 | 33 | 16 |

⁺ Since handling complaints of illegal feeding and related law enforcement actions are part of the routine work on animal management, the AFCD does not keep a breakdown of the expenditure.

- (2) The AFCD has been disseminating information on the feeding ban requirements and penalties, as well as the adverse impacts of animal feeding, etc., to the public of different age groups through diverse publicity and education activities. The Department has launched a series of campaigns with the themes of “All for No Feeding” and “Mission P.”, including placing advertisement and broadcasting short videos on different platforms such as public transport, at terminals, etc., disseminating educational information via social media, setting up education booths, displaying banners at feeding black spots or feral pigeon congregation points, and hosting talks and workshops at schools, elderly centres, and housing estates.

Besides, to enhance publicity for inbound tourists, the AFCD displayed “All for No Feeding” advertisements and broadcast short videos at the airport, high-speed rail station, and border control points, and distributed leaflets at border control points during long public holidays in the Chinese Mainland to remind the public and tourists not to feed wild animals and feral pigeons.

The expenditures on the publicity and education work on feeding ban of wild pigs and feral pigeons incurred by the AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure on the publicity and education (\$ million) | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| | Wild pigs | Feral pigeons |
| 2023-24 | 3.6 | 1.0 |
| 2024-25 | 2.8 | 1.0 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 1.9 | 1.0 |

- (3) The numbers of reports on sightings of or nuisance and injuries caused by wild pigs received by the AFCD in each district over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| District | Number of reports on wild pig sightings or nuisance/ Number of reports on injuries | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 (as at Feb) |
| Islands | 8 / 0 | 6 / 0 | 16 / 0 |
| Kwai Tsing | 22 / 0 | 16 / 0 | 15 / 0 |
| North | 45 / 0 | 49 / 1 | 50 / 1 |
| Sai Kung | 164 / 2 | 174 / 2 | 217 / 0 |
| Sha Tin | 161 / 1 | 136 / 1 | 117 / 2 |
| Tai Po | 201 / 1 | 198 / 0 | 139 / 0 |
| Tsuen Wan | 57 / 0 | 76 / 1 | 41 / 1 |
| Tuen Mun | 37 / 0 | 49 / 0 | 41 / 0 |
| Yuen Long | 40 / 0 | 42 / 0 | 61 / 0 |
| Kowloon City | 8 / 1 | 2 / 0 | 5 / 0 |
| Kwun Tong | 13 / 0 | 24 / 0 | 28 / 0 |
| Sham Shui Po | 21 / 0 | 21 / 0 | 10 / 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 24 / 0 | 21 / 0 | 7 / 0 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 1 / 1 | 1 / 0 | 0 / 0 |
| Central and Western | 83 / 0 | 71 / 1 | 63 / 0 |
| Eastern | 46 / 0 | 71 / 0 | 46 / 0 |
| Southern | 103 / 0 | 110 / 1 | 148 / 0 |
| Wan Chai | 59 / 1 | 51 / 0 | 59 / 1 |
| Total | 1 093 / 7 | 1 118 / 7 | 1 063 / 5 |

The AFCD has been adopting a multi-pronged approach to address wild pig nuisance and illegal feeding, including routine patrols and enforcement operations, the provision of preventive measures including the use of wildlife-proof refuse collection facilities, and the enhancement of publicity and education initiatives to reduce food sources that attract wild pigs and prevent them from causing nuisance. Besides, the AFCD will conduct operations to capture and humanely dispatch wild pigs which pose potential danger or cause nuisance to the public, thereby strengthening control over the safety risk and public hygiene issues posed by wild pigs.

The numbers of wild pigs captured and humanely dispatched by the AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of wild pigs captured | Number of wild pigs humanely dispatched* |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 540 | 525 |
| 2024-25 | 685 | 672 |
| 2025-26 (as at Feb 2026) | 705 | 697 |

* Including wild pigs humanely dispatched due to injury.

We assess that the multi-pronged approach is yielding results, and the wild pig nuisance issue in Hong Kong has gradually improved. The estimated population of wild pigs across the territory decreased from about 1 830 in 2022 to about 900 in 2024; the number of wild pig nuisance black spots (designated based on indicators such as wild pig gatherings and injury cases resulting from illegal feeding) decreased from 42 in 2022 to 9 in 2025; and the number of human injury cases caused by wild pigs reduced from 36 in 2022 to 4 in 2025.

We will continue to monitor the wild pig nuisance issue and the changes in their population to maintain ecological balance, and focus on managing wild pigs that appear in urban areas or near residential areas and cause nuisance, thereby reducing conflicts between humans and wild pigs and effectively managing the wild pig issue.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)003

(Question Serial No. 1364)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the implementation of the “Four Peaks” (the Peak, Tai Mo Shan, Lantau Peak and Sai Kung Hoi) tourism project and measures to enhance the educational, recreational and sustainable eco-tourism functions of country parks, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. given that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is implementing the relevant work in phases and facility enhancement is expected to be completed by the end of this year, please list out in tabulated form the scope and details of the enhancement works to be carried out at the above four locations in the 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years, as well as the estimated expenditure and completion time;
2. currently, there are various camps (including government camps and camps operated by non-governmental organisations/groups) along the “Four Peaks” tourist routes, whether the Government has reviewed the current status of these camps and their function in the “Four Peaks” tourism project, and considered earmarking dedicated funding in the coming financial years to assist operating organisations in the maintenance of camps and facility enhancement to align with the development direction of the “Four Peaks” tourism project; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons; and
3. upon completion of the facility enhancement of the “Four Peaks” tourist routes by the end of this year, whether the Government has earmarked or sought dedicated funding for publicity and educational activities to enhance public and tourist awareness of the routes; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

1. For the “Four Peaks” project, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is carrying out minor improvement works to enhance hiking trail facilities, which include installing more directional signs and hiking information boards to provide clearer guidance for visitors; conducting thematic planting of native flowering plants along the hiking trails to enhance the appeal of natural scenery; providing additional basic leisure facilities, such as picnic tables and benches, at suitable locations, and repairing the hiking trails using the handcrafted trail approach, so as to provide

opportunities for visitors to enjoy recreations and connect to nature; and providing additional passing places to improve hiking safety. The facility enhancement work for the country parks has commenced progressively in the first half of 2025, and is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

The facility enhancement work carried out by the AFCD at the “Four Peaks” in 2025-26 forms part of the daily management work of the relevant country parks. The AFCD does not keep a breakdown of the relevant figures. The estimated expenditure for carrying out facility enhancement work in 2026-27 is \$5 million. The AFCD does not keep a breakdown of the estimated expenditure of the enhancement works at individual locations.

2. The AFCD discussed with the Camping Association and operators of the camps near the “Four Peaks” to link up the relevant camps with the “Four Peaks” tourism project, so as to promote alternative accommodations and green tourism experiences, and planned to collaborate on the promotion of the “Four Peaks” tourism. The work mainly involves linking up relevant camps and promoting the “Four Peaks” tourism project for launching for tourists as soon as possible. Currently, the AFCD does not have any plan to earmark funding to assist camps with maintenance and facility enhancement.
3. The AFCD is collaborating with the tourism sector and operators of nearby tourist spots to further work out the planning for green tourism itineraries and tourism product development, and co-operates with the Tourism Commission and the Hong Kong Tourism Board to promote them to tourists through various channels. The AFCD launched the promotion of the “Four Peaks” tourism project during the peak hiking season at the end of 2025. For example, the AFCD co-operated with Ngong Ping 360 in November 2025 to organise a digital stamp-collection hiking event at Ngong Ping to take the lead in promoting the Lantau Peak route, and promoted the Peak route during the Hong Kong Trail 40th Anniversary Celebration Programme launched in the same month. The total number of participants of the two events was about 12 000 people. The AFCD plans to launch the green tourism itineraries of the “Four Peaks” through a series of promotional activities during the peak hiking season in the second half of 2026.

The relevant publicity and education work of the AFCD in 2025-26 forms part of the AFCD’s routine education and publicity work. The AFCD does not keep a breakdown of the relevant figures. The estimated expenditure for carrying out relevant publicity and education work in 2026-27 is \$2.8 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)004

(Question Serial No. 0972)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In recent years, the number of tourists has remained high, and the resulting littering has drawn frequent public criticism, and the relevant expenditures on cleansing and management, and induced expenditures have also increased accordingly. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. over the past 3 years, the annual expenditures on procurement of litter clean-ups, waste transportation services, cleansing staffing, and maintenance of relevant facilities such as rubbish bins in the Hong Kong Geopark and all country parks in Hong Kong, the annual number of visitors to the above parks over the same period, and whether the Government has made corresponding budget planning for the increase in visitor numbers and cleansing expenditures;
2. over the past 3 years, the number of fixed penalty notices issued by the Government for illegal littering in the geopark and country parks and the actual amount of fines collected in total;
3. over the past 3 years, the specific and quantifiable performance indicators set for assessing the use of public money on waste management, and whether the Government has conducted a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of public money spending; and
4. in addition to direct cleansing expenditures, whether the Government has any plan to allocate a dedicated budget for upgrading waste sorting facilities in parks, promoting visitor etiquette, and controlling visitor flow in popular country parks to reduce waste at source; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Pui-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

1. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is responsible for daily cleansing work in country parks. The AFCD staff and outsourced contractors collect litter from and cleanse AFCD-managed barbecue areas, campsites, picnic sites, hiking trails, toilets, etc.

The AFCD’s expenditure on daily cleansing work in country parks (including the Geopark) over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 79.9 |
| 2024-25 | 89.6 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 85.2 |

The estimated expenditure on daily cleansing work for 2026-27 is similar to the revised estimate for 2025-26.

Since the amount on the contract of cleansing service provision by the contractor covers costs of litter collection, waste transportation, and cleansing staff, no breakdown of the relevant figures can be provided. In addition, as most areas of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (the Geopark) are located within country parks and special areas, the cleansing work and related expenditures for the Geopark are covered in those of the country parks. No breakdown of the relevant figures can be provided.

The annual numbers of visitors to country parks and the Geopark over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | No. of visitors to country parks (million) | No. of visitors to the Geopark (million) |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 13 | 1.6 |
| 2024 | 11 | 1.7 |
| 2025 | 11 | 1.6 |

With the launch of the “Four Peaks” tourism project by the AFCD later this year, we will closely monitor the changes in the overall number of visitors to country parks.

2. The number of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued by the AFCD for illegal littering in country parks and the actual amount of fines collected over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of FPNs | Actual amount of fines collected (\$) # |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 8 | 18,300 |
| 2024 | 7 | 18,000 |
| 2025 | 42 | 105,300 |

The fixed penalty for illegal littering has been raised from \$1,500 to \$3,000 since 22 October 2023. The actual amount of fines collected may be subject to multiple factors, including the amount of fixed penalty (\$1,500 or \$3,000, subject to the time of offence), any additional fine and costs ordered by the magistrate to recover the fine, and any outstanding amounts of fine not yet

received. Therefore, the average actual amount collected for every FPN is not \$3,000 across the board.

- 3 and 4. The AFCD has conducted country park visitor questionnaire surveys since 2015-16. Results revealed that the proportion of respondents rated the cleanliness and tidiness of country park trails as “Satisfactory” or above consistently remained above 90%. Meanwhile, since 2015, the AFCD has been promoting the concept of “Take Your Litter Home”. Over the past decade, the amount of litter collected in country parks has decreased by over 40%, reflecting a gradual improvement in most hikers’ litter-disposal habits and the effectiveness of the promotional activities. The AFCD will continuously monitor and review the policy implementation and make timely adjustment to the strategies.

The total amount of litter collected by the AFCD in country park areas over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Total amount of litter (tonnes) |
|-------------|----------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 2 700 |
| 2024 | 2 309 |
| 2025 | 2 175 |

Regarding waste reduction at source, the AFCD has been promoting messages of “Take Your Litter Home”, “Reduce Waste”, etc. through various channels, including school visits, guided tours, visitor centres in country parks, online videos and social media. The AFCD will flexibly deploy manpower to step up patrol, education and promotion, and law enforcement at popular locations in country parks as necessary in the light of actual circumstances.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)005

(Question Serial No. 0973)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Government has implemented the feeding ban on wild animals and feral pigeons and enhanced management and protection of wild animals in Hong Kong through law enforcement, education and publicity measures. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. the overall expenditures on implementing the feeding ban on wild animals and feral pigeons, as well as on enhancing management and protection of wild animals over the past year, with a breakdown by 3 key areas, namely “law enforcement operations (including frontline staffing, patrol equipment, procurement and maintenance of surveillance devices)”, “education and publicity (including advertisements, public events, promotional material production, school promotion)”, and “supporting measures for management and protection of wild animals”;
2. the numbers of fixed penalty notices issued by the Government for illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons respectively; the actual amount of fines imposed in total; and
3. whether the Government has carried out a comprehensive review on the effectiveness of public money spending; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Pui-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. The revised estimated expenditures on wild animal and feral pigeon management by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for 2025-26 are tabulated as follows:

| | Animal management* (\$ million) | Education and publicity (\$ million) |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Monkeys | 9.6 | 2.0 |
| Wild pigs | 20.2 | 1.9 |
| Feral pigeons | 8.0 | 1.0 |

* The breakdown on animal management already covers law enforcement operations and supporting management and protection measures. The AFCD does not keep a breakdown of the relevant expenditure.

2. From the commencement of the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance (Amendment Ordinance) to February 2026, the AFCD, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the Housing Department (HD) issued a total of 435 fixed penalty notices (FPNs) against illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons. The actual amount of fines collected is about \$1.85 million in total.
3. The Government has been adopting a multi-pronged approach to combat illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons. Regarding law enforcement, the Government enacted the Amendment Ordinance in 2024 to expand the prohibition on feeding of wild animals to cover feral pigeons, increase the maximum penalty for illegal feeding to a fine of \$100,000 and imprisonment for 1 year, introduce a fixed penalty of \$5,000, and, at the same time, expand the categories of enforcement officers to cover appointed officers of the FEHD, the LCSD and the HD, with a view to enhancing deterrence. Meanwhile, the Government has stepped up promotional and educational efforts to raise public awareness about not to feed wild animals and feral pigeons.

In our assessment, the enforcement efforts, coupled with management measures such as promotion and education, have started to yield results, and public money has been spent effectively. Regarding feral pigeons, according to the population surveys by the AFCD, the total number of feral pigeons at the feral pigeon congregation points across all districts in the territory dropped from about 13 500 at the time shortly after the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance (fourth quarter of 2024) to about 12 100 in the first quarter of 2025. The next phase of territory-wide feral pigeon population surveys commenced in the fourth quarter of 2025, with preliminary findings expected in the second quarter of 2026.

Regarding wild pigs, the estimated population of wild pigs in the territory decreased from about 1 830 in 2022 to about 900 in 2024; the number of wild pig nuisance black spots (as defined according to indicators such as gatherings resulting from illegal feeding and injury cases) decreased from 42 in 2022 to 9 in 2025; and the number of human injury cases caused by wild pigs reduced from 36 in 2022 to 4 in 2025.

Regarding monkeys, routine patrols and monkey population surveys conducted by the AFCD showed a substantial reduction in food debris left behind by human feeding at a major black spot on Tai Po Road adjacent to Kam Shan and Lion Rock Country Parks, indicating a significant decrease in illegal feeding activities. In fact, the number of complaints about monkey nuisance received by the AFCD reduced by 18% from 382 in 2024 to 313 in 2025. Given that the total number of patrols by the AFCD at illegal black spots of monkey feeding in each month remained stable, the number of FPNs

issued decreased from an average of 10 FPNs per month between September and December 2024 to an average of 2 FPNs or below per month between May 2025 and February 2026.

With continuous enhancement in enforcement efforts by the AFCD and relevant departments to combat illegal feeding activities, reduce food sources, gradually restore the foraging habits of wild animals and feral pigeons to their natural state, and increase public awareness of the adverse consequences of feeding wild animals and feral pigeons, the number and nuisance of wild animals and feral pigeons will continue to improve. The AFCD will continue to work with relevant departments to closely monitor the latest developments in illegal feeding activities across the territory and take targeted enforcement actions, along with other animal management measures, to effectively combat the illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)006****(Question Serial No. 1206)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the Government's work on the protection of endangered species, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of seizure cases under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586), the quantity of seized items and the estimated value over the past 5 years (2021-2025), with a breakdown by year;
2. seizure figures of the following categories of seized items in the aforesaid years:
 - (a) ivory and ivory products;
 - (b) pangolin scales;
 - (c) wood logs/chips (including red sandalwood, rosewood and agarwood);
 - (d) orchids, American ginseng, dried seahorses, shark fins and leather products of reptiles;
 - (e) other endangered species;
3. the respective numbers of individuals arrested and prosecuted for breaching the Ordinance, as well as the highest penalty imposed and the average amount of fine among the successful convictions, in the aforesaid years.

Asked by: Hon FAN Hoi-kit, Alex (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. Figures on enforcement under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance over the past 5 years are tabulated below:

| Year | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of cases | 330 | 343 | 469 | 544 | 598 |
| Quantity of seized items (kg) | 408 000 | 22 300 | 23 000 | 39 000 | 67 000 |

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) did not conduct valuations for the items seized from each case hence no information on the total estimated value of seized items is available.

2. The number of seizure cases under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

| Year | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Ivory and ivory products | 1 | 21 | 7 | 4 | 5 |
| Pangolin scales | – | 3 | 2 | – | – |
| Wood logs/chips | 23 | 21 | 12 | 9 | 24 |
| Orchids | 52 | 37 | 71 | 204 | 256 |
| American ginseng | 144 | 124 | 218 | 126 | 134 |
| Dried seahorses | 23 | 28 | 15 | 16 | 12 |
| Shark fins | 32 | 10 | 20 | 29 | 14 |
| Leather products of reptiles | 31 | 21 | 15 | 14 | 6 |
| Other endangered species | 111 | 103 | 135 | 163 | 174 |

As some seizure cases involve more than one type of species, the total number of seizures across all types of species will be greater than the total number of cases for the year.

3. The numbers of arrests made and prosecutions instituted under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance over the past 5 years are tabulated below:

| Year | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|----------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of persons arrested | 151 | 149 | 276 | 308 | 374 |
| Number of persons prosecuted | 34 | 24 | 33 | 32 | 28 |
| Number of persons convicted | 29 | 28 | 23 | 28 | 27 |
| Maximum penalty imposed (imprisonment) | 6 months | 6 weeks (suspended sentence of 18 months) | 30 months | 39 months | 30 months |
| Maximum fine imposed (\$) | 60,000 | 3,000 | 10,000 | 15,000 | 30,000 |
| Average amount of fine (\$) | 10,500 | 2,000 | 3,600 | 3,700 | 5,600 |

As prosecution takes time, persons arrested might not be prosecuted and convicted within the same year. In addition, some cases of first-time and minor offences were given warnings instead of being prosecuted upon seeking legal advice.

To raise the awareness of the public and travellers of the control on the import and export of endangered species, the AFCD continued to enhance publicity through various channels, including television and radio broadcasts, press releases, press conferences and social media, as well as placing advertisements on public transport, restaurants, websites and mobile applications, and displaying posters at various Government venues. In addition, the AFCD distributed leaflets, displayed posters and broadcast the relevant messages at boundary control points, as well as placing advertisement on electronic panels at control points in the Mainland, to strengthen publicity and education for travellers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1993)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026-27 that the work of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will include implementing the "Four Peaks" tourism project and measures to enhance the educational, recreational and sustainable eco-tourism functions of country park, as well as promoting awareness of nature conservation and safe and compatible use of country parks and marine parks. Regarding these work objectives, and in view of the number of visitors received were far beyond the capacity of country parks in recent years, with incidents of hikers damaging the ecological environment from time to time, and even serious hiking accidents and problems of illegal littering, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the specific plans of the Government to increase the staff establishment and financial resources of the AFCD in order to step up management of and patrol in country parks and marine parks; the details of budget allocation in 2026-27, including whether there will be additional patrol teams, enforcement manpower, or educational and promotional resources, and the relevant estimated expenditures;
2. whether the Government has any plan to further establish an inter-departmental collaboration mechanism with the Police, the Fire Services Department, and relevant law enforcement departments to regulate the behaviour of visitors for safety; if so, the collaboration arrangements, the frequency of joint operations and the evaluation of effectiveness, and the estimated expenditure on law enforcement;
3. given that the promotion of "Four Peaks" tourism and sustainable eco-tourism will further increase the visitor flow, how the Government assesses and manages the ecological carrying capacity of country parks to avoid environmental damages and safety risks caused by over-tourism; regarding the preliminary planning for setting specific monitoring indicators (such as daily visitor caps, the introduction of reservation systems or pilot scheme on fee-charging), the resource allocation plan of the Government over the next 5 years for the long-term goal of balancing tourism development and nature conservation; and
4. the specific plan on facilities and works involved under Subhead 610 Minor recreational facilities and roadworks in country parks (block vote), as the estimated expenditure for this year is 30.4% higher than last year?

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

1. The management work for country parks conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) includes regular cleansing, the construction and maintenance of hiking trails and recreational facilities, prevention of hill fire, tree care, etc. The management work for marine parks includes regular cleansing, the setting up and maintenance of facilities, and ecological monitoring. The conservation work for country parks and marine parks includes routine patrols, education and publicity, as well as law enforcement. The above tasks are mainly carried out by AFCD staff, while some are outsourced to contractors. The allocation for AFCD's management and conservation work in 2026-27 is about \$452 million, an increase of about \$12 million from the estimate for 2025-26. In view of the increasing number of visitors to some countryside hotspots, the AFCD will increase manpower as appropriate to strengthen management, patrols and law enforcement at the relevant hotspots, and will deploy more resources in publicity and education, such as preparing for the launch of an official Xiaohongshu account to enhance promotion of Hong Kong's natural scenery and hiking routes as well as safety tips on hiking and outings, hiking safety and hiking etiquette to Mainland tourists. On the management and conservation work for marine parks, the allocation for 2026-27 is about \$80.3 million, an increase of about \$5.4 million from the previous year. It will mainly be used for the management and conservation work for marine parks, including strengthening collaboration with relevant Mainland organisations to co-organise publicity activities to jointly promote marine etiquette and eco-friendly guided tours, and conduct ecological monitoring studies. In addition, the AFCD will enhance education and publicity signage at marine parks with more visitors and publish educational materials to strengthen promotion and raise environmental awareness among visitors, while deploying additional staff to step up efforts in patrols and cleansing services during peak visiting periods.
2. The AFCD attaches great importance to hiking safety and has been encouraging the public and tourists to use the hiking trails under its management and maintenance, while promoting such hiking trails through the "Enjoy Hiking" website. Besides, the AFCD has consolidated and uploaded a list of locations with higher risks and records of fatal and serious accidents in country parks onto the "Enjoy Hiking" website, and installed warning signs near dangerous areas in the country parks to remind visitors not to go there to avoid accidents.

The AFCD will continue to organise public education activities or joint operations from time to time, through various publicity and education channels, and in collaboration with relevant government departments. For example, it organises the annual Mountaineering Safety Promotion Day in collaboration with the Civil Aid Service and other relevant departments to promote messages on hiking safety to visitors on an ongoing basis. As the relevant work forms part of the routine education and publicity work for country parks, the AFCD does not have a breakdown of the estimated expenditure.

3. The promotion of the "Four Peaks" project aims to divert tourists to different attractive hiking trails throughout Hong Kong, all of which are provided with comprehensive ancillary transport and peripheral tourist facilities that can enhance visitors' experience, and minimise the impact of visitor activities on individual hiking trails and the natural

ecology of the countryside.

The AFCD is currently exploring how to assess the carrying capacity of some hiking hotspots and formulate suitable visitor management measures to ensure sustainable tourism development in country parks. In assessing the usage and carrying capacity of country parks, the Government will take into account the actual circumstances of different scenic spots in the country parks, including their topography and terrain, the capacity of accommodating supporting facilities, the safety of visitors, the ecological environment, the number and location of entry and exit points, and the connectivity with public transport. The AFCD will deploy manpower flexibly where necessary by, for example, hiring contract staff, to step up patrols, publicity and education, and law enforcement work at popular countryside locations in country parks in accordance with the actual circumstances.

4. The provision under Subhead 610 is mainly used for improving visitor, recreational and infrastructural facilities in country parks as well as the procurement of related materials. To enhance services and the environment in country parks, the AFCD plans to carry out various enhancement works projects, including renovation works of Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre, renovation works of Volcano Discovery Centre, as well as renewal of interpretation systems and facilities in Geopark. Thus, the estimated expenditure is higher than that for 2025-26. A breakdown of the works projects and the estimated expenditure for 2026-27 under Subhead 610 are tabulated as follows:

| Works projects | Estimated expenditure for 2026-27 (\$ million) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Procurement of materials for minor recreational facilities in country parks | 6.0 |
| Repair projects of hiking trails in country parks | 6.0 |
| Enhancement works of recreational facilities in country parks | 6.0 |
| Construction and improvement works of mountain bike trails in country parks | 1.3 |
| Enhancement works of visitor information in tree walks | 0.9 |
| Installation works of automatic people counters in country parks | 1.1 |
| Minor slope works | 0.7 |
| Repair works of shelters in country parks | 5.5 |
| Repair works of forest tracks in country parks | 4.1 |
| Renovation works of Volcano Discovery Centre | 1.2 |
| Renovation works of Aberdeen Tree Centre | 1.5 |
| Renovation works of Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre | 0.6 |
| Design and installation works of interpretation systems in Geopark | 1.2 |
| Total expenditure | 36.1 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0360)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Government oversees the management and operation of country parks and marine parks. Please inform this Committee of:

1. the details of expenditure on the construction of toilets at Long Ke Wan; and
2. taking Long Ke Wan as an example, whether consideration will be given to using prefabricated components or portable toilets in building toilets at tourist hotspots in the countryside to reduce construction costs, and connecting to sewage and power supply systems.

Asked by: Hon FONG Kwok-shan, Christine (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

1. The total estimate for the project to provide new public toilets at Long Ke Wan Campsite in Sai Kung East Country Park is approximately \$29.8 million.
2. To ensure reasonable construction costs, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) generally undertake projects on reconstruction or construction of toilets in country parks on term contracts for minor works, with market prices determined through open competitive tendering. The ArchSD will suitably adopt the "Modular Integrated Construction" (MiC) method for individual projects as appropriate, for instance the provision of new public toilets at Long Ke Wan Campsite. Free-standing MiC modules are pre-fabricated off-site in factories, and then transported to the site for assembly into buildings, thereby shortening construction time, reducing material waste, enhancing construction efficiency and site safety. All toilets reconstructed or constructed in country parks will be equipped with power supply systems; as for sewage disposal, given these toilets are generally located in remote areas and unable to connect to the public sewerage network, low-carbon and green designs such as membrane bioreactor will be adopted for sewage treatment and the treated effluent will be reused for flushing, wherever practicable.

Long Ke Wan Campsite is a popular campsite, which attracts many visitors to visit and camp during weekends and holidays. Currently, only dry toilets are available at the campsite. The existing toilet facilities fail to provide campers and hikers with hygienic and comfortable facilities and services. Therefore, we consider it necessary to construct new toilets at Long Ke Wan Campsite to improve toilet hygiene and enhance the overall service of the country park. Due to Long Ke Wan's remote location, lack of water and power supply, and the fact that the nearest carriageway is a half-hour walk away, materials need to be transported by sea, and the works are relatively difficult, the costs of works are higher. The AFCD and the ArchSD will closely monitor the progress to control the expenditure of the project.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)009****(Question Serial No. 0308)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the effectiveness in combatting illegal feeding, please advise of the following:

- (a) the numbers of complaints the Department received from the public about nuisances or attacks by wild monkeys, wild pigs, or feral pigeons, and the numbers of human injury cases over the past 3 years;
- (b) the respective numbers of fixed penalty notices the Department issued against illegal feeding of monkeys, wild pigs and feral pigeons over the past 3 years;
- (c) as it is learnt that the Department has adopted the AI-CCTV system in monitoring illegal feeding of monkeys, the number of installations, their locations and the expenditures involved. Please set out the number of successful prosecutions as a result of the application of such technology, with a breakdown by quarter.
- (d) further to the above question, is there any plan to promote the aforesaid technology in combatting other illegal feeding acts; if yes, the plan and the timetable; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

- (a) The numbers of complaints from the public about nuisances or attacks and injuries caused by monkeys, wild pigs, or feral pigeons received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of reports on nuisances or attacks (cases)/ Number of reports on injuries (cases) | | |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| | Monkeys | Wild pigs | Feral pigeons |
| 2023 | 307 / 8 | 1 128 / 9 | 943 / 0 |
| 2024 | 382 / 8 | 1 098 / 7 | 1 377 ⁽¹⁾ / 0 |
| 2025 | 313 / 11 | 1 130 / 4 | 2 064 ⁽¹⁾ / 0 |

⁽¹⁾ The number of reports on feral pigeon nuisance received by the AFCD has increased significantly since mid-2024. This is mainly due to the increase in complaints and reports received after the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment)

Ordinance 2024 (Amendment Ordinance), which aims to strengthen enforcement against illegal feeding of feral pigeons, came into operation in August 2024. The Government has enhanced publicity and education work at the same time to raise public awareness of the importance of not feeding feral pigeons. The AFCD will continue to closely monitor the latest development of illegal feeding activities across the territory, and take targeted enforcement operations to combat the same effectively.

- (b) The total numbers of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued by the AFCD and the relevant departments (including the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Housing Department) against illegal feeding of monkeys, wild pigs and feral pigeons over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of FPNs | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|
| | Monkeys | Wild pigs | Feral pigeons |
| 2023 ⁽²⁾ | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2024 | 38 | 12 | 49 |
| 2025 | 31 | 24 | 163 |

⁽²⁾ The Amendment Ordinance introduced a fixed penalty with the amount of \$5,000. In the first month of the implementation (i.e. August 2024), enforcement officers gave verbal warnings before taking enforcement actions. Starting from 1 September 2024, immediate enforcement actions were taken without prior verbal warnings. Therefore, the figure on the number of FPNs issued against illegal feeding in 2023 is not available, and the enforcement figure for the entire year of 2024 is also not available.

- (c) The AFCD has installed closed-circuit television systems equipped with artificial intelligence (AI) technology in two car parks at Kam Shan Country Park since early 2024 to identify whether acts of feeding are involved in the interactions between humans and wild animals such as monkeys. The expenditure on equipment rental, installation and daily management, etc., is about \$1.26 million. The numbers of successful prosecutions instituted by the AFCD with the aid of the systems against illegal feeding of monkeys by quarter between 2024 and 2025 are tabulated as follows:

| Year and quarter | Number of successful prosecutions instituted with the aid of AI systems against illegal feeding of monkeys (cases) |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan-Mar 2024 | 0 |
| Apr-Jun 2024 | 0 |
| Jul-Sep 2024 | 1 |
| Oct-Dec 2024 | 5 |
| Jan-Mar 2025 | 0 |
| Apr-Jun 2025 | 0 |
| Jul-Sep 2025 | 3 |
| Oct-Dec 2025 | 1 |

- (d) The AFCD continues to enhance the application of technology in combatting illegal feeding. The AFCD has been piloting a surveillance system equipped with AI technology since September 2025 to enhance the effectiveness in combatting illegal feeding of feral pigeons. The first pilot trial is being carried out at the feeding black spot near the Hang Hau MTR Station. In addition, the AFCD is exploring to pilot AI patrol robot at other feeding black spots and make use of its functions of moving around on its own and broadcasting for targeted promotion of the feeding ban regulation. The department is also examining the use of unmanned aircraft to help combat illegal feeding.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)010****(Question Serial No. 0309)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

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

- (a) the expenditure involved in public education and promotion of the feeding ban by the Department over the past 3 years;
- (b) the numbers of complaints the Department received from the public about nuisance of or attack by wild monkeys and the numbers of human injury cases over the past 3 years;
- (c) the manpower and expenditure involved in the investigation and study on the control of wild monkeys, as well as the contraception and sterilisation for wild monkeys over the past 3 years; and
- (d) whether the management plan for monkeys has been updated; if yes, the progress, timetable and details involved; if not, the reasons; and the details of the review conducted in 2025-26.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure incurred by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on public education and publicity on the prohibition of feeding of monkeys over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million)* |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 4.0 |
| 2024-25 | 3.3 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 2.0 |

* Although the expenditure directly allocated for public education and publicity on the prohibition of feeding of monkeys has decreased, the AFCD continues to disseminate information on the feeding ban requirements and associated penalties, as well as the adverse impacts of feeding wild animals, etc. to the public through publicity and education campaigns with the theme of "All for No Feeding" and

“Mission P.” concurrently. These campaigns also included the prohibition of feeding of monkeys and produced positive effects in promoting the message.

- (b) The number of complaints about monkey nuisance/attack received by the AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of complaints about monkey nuisance/attack |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 320 |
| 2024-25 | 392 |
| 2025-26 (as at Feb 2026) | 276 |

- (c) The AFCD’s expenditure and manpower involved in handling the work of monkey nuisance (including the investigation and study on the control of monkeys, as well as the contraception and sterilisation for monkeys) over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) | Manpower (number of staff) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 11.8 | 17 |
| 2024-25 | 11.2 | 17 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 9.6 | 17 |

The AFCD arranges for a contractor (Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong) to conduct regular sterilisation operations for monkey populations in Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks, and has expanded the sterilisation operations to the monkey populations causing nuisance to residential areas near the fringe of other country parks since 2018. In each operation, about 10 staff of the contractor were involved.

- (d) The AFCD completed the review of the existing monkey sterilisation programme in 2023-24, and reported the relevant results to the Nature Conservation Subcommittee (Subcommittee) under the Advisory Council on the Environment in December 2023. Members of the Subcommittee supported the AFCD’s ongoing operation on sterilisation of monkeys for controlling the monkey population.

The AFCD is conducting a comprehensive review on its management strategies for wild animals (including monkeys) to enhance the existing wild animal management work. We will formulate a concrete management action plan, including collecting statistics about wild animals in a more systematic manner, to obtain more accurate information on their population and control their population size, while exploring the introduction of more applied technologies to assist in enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement, as well as strengthening public education work. During the process, reference will be made to the Mainland and overseas experiences, and relevant experts will be consulted. It is expected that the review will be completed in the first half of 2026.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)011

(Question Serial No. 0310)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding wild pigs, please advise of the following:

- (a) the projected population of wild pigs in Hong Kong over the past 3 years;
- (b) the number of help-seeking cases and complaints received and the total value of property losses as reported by the public in relation to wild pig sightings over the past 3 years;
- (c) the number of operations conducted by the Government; the number of wild pigs captured, among which the number of female wild pigs injected with contraceptive vaccines and surgically sterilised; the number of wild pigs relocated to the countryside away from residential areas; the number of wild pigs euthanised; and the number of wild pigs hunted over the past 3 years;
- (d) the expenditure and manpower dedicated to the work in relation to wild pigs over the past 3 years; please set out the major expenditures;
- (e) the number of arrests made and successful prosecutions instituted in relation to illegal feeding of wild pigs over the past 3 years as well as the average, maximum and minimum penalties imposed respectively;
- (f) the number of wild pig carcasses found in Hong Kong and the number of wild pigs captured in each of the past 3 years, and whether the Government has conducted African Swine Fever (ASF) testing on the said wild pigs; and
- (g) whether the Government will implement any new measures to strengthen the work on prevention of ASF.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

- (a) Since 2019, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has launched a wild pig population survey project. By using infrared automatic cameras and spatial statistical analysis models, the population density of wild pigs in the countryside is estimated for wild pig population projection across the countryside in Hong Kong, with a view to monitoring their population trend in the long term. The population of wild pigs across the countryside in the territory over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year* | Population of wild pigs across the countryside in the territory |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | About 1 360 |
| 2024 | About 900 |

* Since the AFCD is currently conducting analysis and estimations for the wild pig population survey in 2025, the figure for 2025 is not available for the time being.

- (b) The number of reports on wild pig sightings or nuisance received by the AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of reports on wild pig sightings or nuisance |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 1 093 |
| 2024-25 | 1 118 |
| 2025-26 (as at Feb 2026) | 1 063 |

The AFCD does not keep information on property losses due to nuisance caused by wild pigs as reported by members of the public.

- (c) Wild pig hunting operations were suspended in 2017 and formally terminated in 2019. The AFCD carried out the Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP) for wild pigs from late 2017 to early November 2021, but the effectiveness of the related operations was far from catching up with the reproduction rate of wild pigs. Moreover, after wild pigs are habituated to being fed by people, they will return to the urban or residential areas relentlessly to seek food even after being relocated to the countryside.

Therefore, the AFCD has implemented new measures since November 2021 to replace the CCRP. Measures taken include launching capture operations against wild pigs which pose potential danger or cause nuisance to the public, so as to reduce the potential danger posed or nuisance caused by wild pigs in the area. During the operations, veterinary officers will use dart guns to capture wild pigs and dispatch them humanely by drug injection.

Figures on wild pig capture and humane dispatch operations conducted by the AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of CCRP operations against wild pigs | Number of wild pig capture and humane dispatch operations | Number of wild pigs captured | Number of wild pigs humanely dispatched* |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | The CCRP ceased | 307 | 540 | 525 |
| 2024-25 | | 341 | 685 | 672 |
| 2025-26 (as at Feb 2026) | | 400 | 705 | 697 |

* Including wild pigs humanely dispatched due to injury.

- (d) The manpower and expenditure involved in the AFCD's work in relation to wild pig management (including follow-ups to complaints on wild pig nuisance, handling wild

pigs which pose potential danger or cause nuisance to the public, conducting patrols and law enforcement actions to combat illegal feeding, and carrying out publicity and education initiatives) over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Manpower (number of staff) | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 33 | 21.8 |
| 2024-25 | 33 | 22.1 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 33 | 20.2 |

- (e) Intentional feeding is the main cause of the wild pig nuisance issue. To step up the efforts in curbing wild pig feeding activities, the Government amended the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) twice in 2022 and 2024 to expand the Feeding Ban Area to the entire territory of Hong Kong and increase the maximum penalty for illegal feeding of animals to a fine of \$100,000 and imprisonment for 1 year, while introducing a fixed penalty system of \$5,000 to strengthen the deterrent effect, thereby resolving the wild pig nuisance issue at source.

The AFCD will arrange inspections at wild pig feeding black spots from time to time and take law enforcement actions against anyone who has fed wild pigs illegally, based on availability of sufficient evidence. The AFCD will also review and adjust the patrol and enforcement arrangements in accordance with the actual circumstances, including stepping up blitz and enforcement operations, as well as conducting joint enforcement operations with relevant departments where necessary.

The number of prosecutions instituted, the number of successful prosecutions and the penalties imposed by the AFCD against illegal feeding of wild pigs over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of prosecutions instituted for illegal feeding of wild pigs^{+#} | Number of successful prosecutions for illegal feeding of wild pigs^{+#} | Fine (\$) |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 23 | 19 | 450 to 1,000 (Average: 621) |
| 2024-25 | 5 [^] | 13 | 300 to 5,000 (Average: 1,439) |
| 2025-26 (as at Feb 2026) | 1 [^] | 0 | Not applicable |

⁺ Some of the prosecutions instituted in the year might be processed in the following year.

[#] Each case of prosecution involved 1 person only.

[^] Following the enactment of the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 in August 2024, a fixed penalty of \$5,000 has been introduced. AFCD officers will normally first carry out law enforcement actions through the fixed penalty system, hence the decrease in the number of prosecutions. Besides, since

the fixed penalty system came into operation to February 2026, the AFCD issued a total of 41 fixed penalty notices for illegal feeding of wild pigs.

- (f) The number of wild pig carcasses collected by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of wild pig carcasses[@] |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 757 |
| 2024-25 | 880 |
| 2025-26 (as at Feb 2026) | 774 |

[@] Including wild pigs captured and humanely dispatched by the AFCD.

With a view to strengthening the surveillance of African Swine Fever (ASF) on local wild pigs, the AFCD has been working with the FEHD on a surveillance programme for ASF on local wild pigs since late 2019, which includes testing for ASF in wild pig carcasses reported by the FEHD. The programme covers the New Territories and Kowloon as well as other areas found with a large number of wild pig deaths. For early detection of potential cases, the programme also collects samples from humanely dispatched wild pigs for ASF testing.

- (g) The AFCD has been closely monitoring the epidemic situation of ASF and taking corresponding measures in a timely manner. In response to the outbreaks of ASF in local pig farms in recent years, new measures which have been implemented by the AFCD include:
- (i) inviting Mainland experts to organise talks on ASF, explaining the latest information on ASF for the pig rearing industry, as well as advising on preventive and control measures against ASF, with a view to curbing the spread of ASF in local pig farms;
 - (ii) collaborating with Mainland and international veterinary experts in conducting epidemiological investigations on outbreaks of ASF in local pig farms, as well as providing guidelines on biosecurity measures to local pig farms;
 - (iii) imposing new biosecurity requirements on pig farms with previous ASF outbreaks from 28 October 2025 onwards, and incorporating the requirements into the conditions of the Livestock Keeping Licence for those pig farms for strict monitoring and control;
 - (iv) distributing rapid antigen test kits for ASF virus to all local pig farms ahead of the high-risk season of ASF in stepping up prevention of the disease; and
 - (v) distributing the new guidelines on proper disposal of pig carcasses to local pig farmers in the first quarter of 2026 to raise awareness and provide guidance on how to properly dispose of pig carcasses, thereby preventing the spread of ASF and other swine diseases among local pig farms;
 - (vi) arranging for contractors to carry out daily disinfection at animal carcass collection points during the high-risk season of ASF from 2026 onwards, thereby further reducing the risk of potential pathogen spreading between local pig farms; and
 - (vii) maintaining close liaison with pig farmers via SMS groups to disseminate the latest information on ASF as well as biosecurity measures in pig farms.

The AFCD will remain vigilant and closely monitor the epidemic situation, and will take further measures as appropriate and necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)012****(Question Serial No. 0424)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

Regarding the operation and effectiveness of marine parks and country parks, please advise of the following:

- (a) the operational expenditure and a breakdown of the major expenditure items of the various marine parks, marine reserve and country parks in Hong Kong over the past 3 years;
- (b) in view of the ecological conservation and educational values of the marine parks and marine reserve, the number of relevant activities (such as guided tours) organised at the aforesaid locations, the number of participants and the expenditures involved over the past 3 years with a breakdown by districts; how the Government assesses their conservation and educational values;
- (c) the Government's plan and measures for enhancing the public awareness of various marine parks and country parks, and the expenditures and manpower involved; and
- (d) whether quantifiable objectives have been set to give full play to the recreational and educational potential of marine parks and marine reserve, as well as their values; if yes, the details with a breakdown by locations; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)Reply:

- a. The major expenditure for marine parks and marine reserve incurred by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved carrying out duties such as coastal cleaning, enforcement and patrols, management and maintenance of facilities, ecological monitoring, and promotion of nature conservation and education programmes. The relevant operational expenditure over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 76.1 |
| 2024-25 | 73.1 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 74.9 |

The major expenditure for country parks incurred by the AFCD in carrying out cleaning, greening and vegetation management, construction and maintenance of facilities, enforcement and patrols, and promotion of nature conservation and education, etc. The relevant operational expenditure over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 428.7 |
| 2024-25 | 462.7 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 466.6 |

- b. The establishment of marine parks aims to facilitate marine conservation, educational and recreational activities, and has been an important platform for carrying out environmental and public educational activities. The diversified activities allow participants to experience the marine ecosystems up close, which helps enhance public awareness of marine conservation and foster awareness of cherishing the natural environment among the public. The AFCD organises about 100 guided tours, eco-tours, and field studies at Hoi Ha Visitor Centre and Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park (HHWMP) in Sai Kung; about 10 dolphin field trips each year in the marine parks in the western waters, allowing members of the public and students to observe wild Chinese White Dolphins and the ecology and conservation of marine mammals in Hong Kong; and about 30 seminars each year in schools across all districts to raise the awareness of marine conservation of the next generation. According to the results of questionnaire surveys, the aforesaid educational activities have all along been well-received by the public with participants highly commending that their content was interesting and effective in raising public awareness of marine conservation. The number of participants in 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 (as at February 2026) were 14 470, 13 830 and 9 800 respectively (Hoi Ha Visitor Centre has commenced enhancement works since early December 2025).

Besides, the AFCD regularly conducts ecological surveys in various marine parks to monitor the marine resources and biodiversity. For example, the AFCD organises the Hong Kong Reef Check every year to continuously monitor the status of coral communities in Hong Kong and publishes the survey results. The published survey results indicate that the coral ecosystem has remained healthy and stable.

Serving as a diverse and engaging platform, marine parks integrate environmental education into the daily life of the general public, promoting a culture of environmental stewardship. The AFCD, in collaboration with research institutions, further enhances the conservation and educational value of marine parks through restoring corals, organising Citizen Science Programme, and conducting the Hong Kong Reef Check, etc. These collaborative projects incorporate scientific elements, providing the public with more opportunities to gain a deeper understanding of marine conservation.

The expenditure of the AFCD involved in promoting conservation and educational activities as well as ecological monitoring in marine parks and marine reserve over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million)* |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 14.4 |
| 2024-25 | 11.7 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 17.9 |

* The AFCD does not maintain a breakdown of expenditure involved for individual activities.

- c. The AFCD has been adopting a multi-pronged approach to enhance public awareness of marine parks, which includes strengthening promotion of marine parks through the Hong Kong Marine Classroom website, the Department’s Facebook page, and promotional materials; organising guided tours and workshops at Hoi Ha Visitor Centre as well as school educational activities regularly to allow members of the public of different age groups to gain a deeper understanding of the ecology and conservation work in marine parks; providing additional interpretation panels, routes, and safety information in marine parks to improve the visitors’ experience and participation; and collaborating with non-governmental organisations, local communities, etc. to extend the reach. In 2026-27, the estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the relevant work are about \$17.2 million and 11 staff respectively.

Regarding the promotion of country parks, the AFCD has been promoting Hong Kong’s unique natural scenery and enhancing public awareness of country parks through various channels, including school visits, guided tours, country park visitor centres, online videos, and social media. The AFCD also provides a variety of hiking routes and comprehensive information on relevant sections through the “Enjoy Hiking” thematic website, allowing the public to choose suitable routes. The AFCD will continue to review and adjust its promotional strategies and content of information for ongoing dissemination through diverse channels, in order to promote country parks and enable the public to experience the natural beauty of Hong Kong. In 2026-27, the estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the relevant work are about \$36.8 million and 39 staff respectively.

- d. It may not be appropriate to set quantifiable objectives for recreational and educational potential. Currently, the AFCD regularly organises about 140 activities every year, allowing participants to experience marine ecosystems up close, enhancing public awareness of marine conservation and fostering awareness of cherishing the natural environment among the public. To further leveraging the recreation and education potential of marine parks, the AFCD commissioned consultancy studies on “Enhancement of the Recreation and Education Potential of Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park” and “Study on Visitors Management for Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park(HHWMP)” in 2019 and 2021 respectively, and consulted the Marine Parks Committee, with the aim to explore the enhancement of the recreation and education potential of the HHWMP and adjacent areas so as to broaden and diversify visitors’ experience in nature appreciation and outdoor leisure activities and encourage them to participate in and learn about marine conservation. The AFCD has implemented the recommendations of the studies, which include organising “Hoi Ha Festival” to promote participation and awareness of marine conservation of the fisheries sector and community and launching Citizen Science Programme for conserving marine life such as corals and fishes. In addition, the AFCD has actively promoted sustainable water sports at the HHWMP, including co-organising marine park kayak eco-tours with the Leisure and Cultural

Services Department, providing safety support services for water sports participants, organising activities such as “Kayaking Etiquette”, “Snorkelling Etiquette” and “Sustainable Recreational Water Activities Etiquette” for ongoing promotion of conservation and safety etiquette. This year, the AFCD will continue to enhance the promotion of ocean-friendly etiquette and the Code of Conduct for Dolphin Watching Activities in marine parks, launch Citizen Science Programme at Yan Chau Tong Marine Park and design a self-guided eco-tour route at Tung Ping Chau Marine Park to enhance public appreciation of the natural environment and encourage responsible exploration of nature.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)013

(Question Serial No. 2594)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the effectiveness of enforcement against illegal feeding of feral pigeons and minimising the nuisance of feral pigeons, please advise of the following:

- (a) to enhance the effectiveness of feeding ban enforcement, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), in collaboration with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, and the Housing Department, has established an inter-departmental working group on feeding ban enforcement (the Working Group). Please set out the resources (including manpower) allocated by each department and the number of patrols conducted by each department;
- (b) the number of joint enforcement operations conducted since the establishment of the Working Group, and their effectiveness;
- (c) regarding illegal feeding of feral pigeons, please set out the numbers of reports received and fixed penalty notices issued by the relevant departments in each month since August 2024 and, among them, the respective numbers of reports and successful prosecutions involving feeding of feral pigeons in private places (such as residential premises);
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to improve the effectiveness of handling complaints involving feeding of feral pigeons in private places, including reviewing relevant legislations to enhance enforcement effectiveness;
- (e) as it is learnt that the AFCD is reviewing the conditions of each monitoring point of feral pigeons, the changes in the number of feral pigeons at the monitoring points over the past 2 years; and
- (f) how the Government assesses the effectiveness of the feeding ban regulations and the above enforcement operations in minimising the nuisance of feral pigeons, whether there is any plan to introduce technology, such as low-altitude unmanned aircraft, to monitor feral pigeon nests and reduce the congregation of feral pigeons.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

- (a) Following the commencement of the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 (Amendment Ordinance) in August 2024, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), in collaboration with the Food

and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the Housing Department (HD), has established the Inter-departmental Working Group on Feeding Ban Enforcement (Working Group). The relevant departments will conduct routine patrols, and review and enhance strategies and implementation of the feeding ban through regular meetings.

From the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance in August 2024 to February 2026, the number of frontline enforcement officers from the relevant departments involved in enforcing the feeding ban and the number of patrols and enforcement operations against illegal feeding of feral pigeons or wild birds are tabulated below:

| Department | Number of frontline enforcement officers involved in enforcing the feeding ban | Number of patrols and enforcement operations against illegal feeding of feral pigeons or wild birds |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AFCD | about 220 | 2 799 |
| FEHD | about 220 | 3 792 |
| HD | about 200 | 2 726 |
| LCSD | about 230 | 3 743 |

Since the enforcement of the feeding ban is part of the routine work of the departments concerned, a breakdown of the expenditure involved is not available.

- (b) From the establishment of the Working Group to February 2026, the relevant departments conducted 85 joint enforcement operations to combat illegal feeding of feral pigeons or wild birds and issued a total of 8 fixed penalty notices (FPNs). Prior to the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance, the AFCD, in collaboration with the relevant departments, listed 42 locations across Hong Kong as monitoring points of feral pigeon congregation for indicative reference, and deployed staff to conduct regular on-site inspections to review the latest situation. In the initial period after the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance, less than 40% of the monitoring points had low levels of feral pigeons (i.e. fewer than 10). However, according to the AFCD's on-site inspections over the past half year, more than half of the 42 monitoring points have maintained consistently low levels of feral pigeons, and the overall environmental hygiene was generally satisfactory. The congregation of feral pigeons at some illegal feeding black spots, such as in the vicinity of Hang Hau MTR Station and Upper Ngau Tau Kok Estate, has improved.
- (c) The numbers of reports received and FPNs issued by the relevant departments regarding illegal feeding of feral pigeons or wild birds from August 2024 to February 2026 are tabulated as follows:

| Month | Number of reports received on illegal feeding of feral pigeons or wild birds[#] (total / involving private places) | Number of FPNs issued against illegal feeding of feral pigeons or wild birds[#] (total / involving private places) |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aug 2024* | 272 / 53 | 0 / 0* |
| Sept 2024 | 264 / 77 | 16 / 5 |
| Oct 2024 | 286 / 110 | 26 / 5 |
| Nov 2024 | 269 / 117 | 18 / 4 |
| Dec 2024 | 298 / 109 | 19 / 3 |
| Jan 2025 | 312 / 129 | 28 / 2 |
| Feb 2025 | 286 / 91 | 22 / 1 |
| Mar 2025 | 320 / 92 | 23 / 1 |
| Apr 2025 | 285 / 89 | 20 / 1 |
| May 2025 | 295 / 81 | 20 / 4 |
| Jun 2025 | 250 / 53 | 14 / 0 |
| Jul 2025 | 247 / 57 | 8 / 1 |
| Aug 2025 | 253 / 72 | 14 / 1 |
| Sept 2025 | 224 / 59 | 8 / 2 |
| Oct 2025 | 253 / 58 | 16 / 4 |
| Nov 2025 | 261 / 54 | 15 / 1 |
| Dec 2025 | 299 / 75 | 13 / 2 |
| Jan 2026 | 372 / 78 | 25 / 2 |
| Feb 2026 | 295 / 66 | 16 / 2 |

[#] Reports on illegal feeding of feral pigeons often also involve illegal feeding of wild birds.

* In the first month after the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance (i.e. August 2024), enforcement officers would first give verbal warnings prior to law enforcement actions. Starting from 1 September 2024, immediate enforcement actions will be taken without prior verbal warnings.

- (d) The Amendment Ordinance is applicable to all places across the territory, including private places or premises. Upon receiving reports on illegal feeding of feral pigeons in private places or premises, enforcement officers of the AFCD will initiate investigations, gather relevant information and evidence, and take appropriate enforcement actions depending on the situation. The AFCD will also request assistance from relevant property management offices or government departments where necessary. Based on the Department's experience in handling such cases, reports and effective intelligence from the public can assist enforcement officers in deploying operations for conducting investigation or instituting prosecution against offenders.

The AFCD will also explore other feasible measures, including strengthening publicity and education in collaboration with property management offices and members of the local communities, as well as the application of technology (such as artificial intelligence (AI) surveillance system) to further curb illegal feeding.

(e) and (f) The AFCD has been commissioning consultants to conduct territory-wide feral pigeon population surveys regularly since the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance, covering about 140 survey points across all districts in the territory. According to the findings, the total number of feral pigeons at the feral pigeon congregation points across all districts in the territory decreased by over 10% from about 13 500 at the time shortly after the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance (fourth quarter of 2024) to about 12 100 in the first quarter of 2025. The next phase of territory-wide feral pigeon population surveys commenced in the fourth quarter of 2025, with preliminary findings expected in the second quarter of 2026.

Besides, the AFCD is continually enhancing the application of technology in combatting illegal feeding. The AFCD has been piloting a surveillance system equipped with AI technology since September 2025 to identify feral pigeon congregation and illegal feeding and collect information, so as to enhance enforcement effectiveness. The first pilot trial is being carried out at the feeding black spot near the Hang Hau MTR Station. With the information gathered by the system, the AFCD planned its law enforcement operations in the fourth quarter of 2025, and succeeded in issuing FPNs to 2 persons for illegally feeding of feral pigeons. In addition, the AFCD is exploring to try out AI patrol robot at other feeding black spots and make use of its functions of moving around on its own and broadcasting for targeted promotion of the feeding ban, as well as studying the use of unmanned aircrafts to help combat illegal feeding.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)014

(Question Serial No. 0867)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the implementation of the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 (Amendment Ordinance), would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) since the Amendment Ordinance came into effect on 1 August the year before last to the end of July last year, and from August last year to the present, the respective numbers of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued by the Government against illegal feeding activities, prosecutions instituted, successful convictions, and the penalties involved, with a breakdown by the type of animals fed (i.e. (i) feral pigeons, (ii) wild birds, (iii) wild pigs, and (iv) monkeys);
- (2) since the Amendment Ordinance came into effect on 1 August the year before last to the end of July last year, and from August last year to the present, the respective numbers of complaints on suspected illegal feeding received by the Inter-departmental Working Group on Feeding Ban Enforcement (Working Group);
- (3) regarding the complaints mentioned in (2), the respective numbers of special patrols, enforcement operations, and joint enforcement operations arranged by the Working Group;
- (4) over the past year and this year to date, the respective staff establishments, strengths, and estimated expenditures involved in work related to the enforcement of the Amendment Ordinance;
- (5) over the past year and this year to date, the total number of feral pigeons at feral pigeon congregation spots across all districts of Hong Kong in each quarter, and the number of congregation spots where the Government found food residues from human feeding; and
- (6) the progress and effectiveness of the pilot scheme commenced since the third quarter of last year, in which the Government has installed mobile closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems at specific locations in an attempt to enhance monitoring of illegal feral pigeon feeding activities?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

- (1) Since the commencement of the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 (Amendment Ordinance) in August 2024, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), in collaboration with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Housing Department, has established an “Inter-departmental Working Group on Feeding Ban Enforcement”. The relevant departments conduct routine patrols, and review and enhance strategies and implementation of the feeding ban through regular meetings.

Since the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance, the respective numbers of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued by the AFCD and the relevant departments against illegal feeding activities, prosecutions by summons, successful convictions, and the penalties involved, with a breakdown by the type of animals fed, are tabulated as follows:

| August 2024 to July 2025 | Feral pigeons | Wild birds | Wild pigs | Monkeys |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| FPNs | 156 | 58 | 33 | 63 |
| Prosecutions by summons [^] | 15 | 9 | 2 | 8 |
| Successful convictions [^] | 11 | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Fines imposed for successful convictions (\$) | 1,500 to 10,500 | 5,000 to 10,300 | 0 | 2,000 to 10,500 |

| August 2025 to February 2026 | Feral pigeons | Wild birds | Wild pigs | Monkeys |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| FPNs | 84 | 23 | 8 | 10 |
| Prosecutions by summons [^] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Successful convictions [^] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Fines imposed for successful convictions (\$) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5,000 |

[^] Each enforcement case involved 1 person. Some of the prosecutions instituted in the year might be processed in the following year.

- (2) and (3) From the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance to February 2026, the work of the relevant departments in combatting illegal feeding of wild animals, wild birds and feral pigeons is tabulated as follows:

| | Number of complaints on suspected illegal feeding | Number of special patrols and enforcement operations | Number of joint enforcement operations |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| August 2024 to July 2025 | 3 569 | 9 378 | 45 |
| August 2025 to February 2026 | 2 051 | 6 849 | 40 |

- (4) Since the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance, there have been about 870 frontline enforcement officers from the relevant departments involved in enforcing the feeding ban. Since the enforcement of the feeding ban is part of the routine work of the departments concerned, a breakdown of the expenditure involved is not available.
- (5) The AFCD has been commissioning consultants to conduct territory-wide feral pigeon population surveys regularly since the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance, covering about 140 survey points across all districts in the territory. According to the findings, the total number of feral pigeons at the congregation points across all districts in the territory reduced by over 10% from about 13 500 at the time shortly after the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance (fourth quarter of 2024) to about 12 100 in the first quarter of 2025. The details are tabulated as follows:

| Region | 2024 Q4 (Number of feral pigeons) | 2025 Q1 (Number of feral pigeons) |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Hong Kong Island | about 3 400 | about 3 000 |
| Kowloon | about 5 800 | about 5 400 |
| New Territories | about 4 300 | about 3 700 |
| Total | about 13 500 | about 12 100 |

According to the consultant's survey findings, a total of 37 survey points were found to have food debris resulting from intentional feeding during the surveys in the fourth quarter of 2024, while in the first quarter of 2025, similar situation was found in only 30 survey points, which has decreased by around 20% compared to the previous quarter. Before the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance, the AFCD, in collaboration with the relevant departments, listed 42 locations across Hong Kong as monitoring points of feral pigeon congregation for indicative reference, and deployed staff to conduct regular on-site inspections to review the latest condition. During the initial period after the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance, only less than 40% of the monitoring points had low levels of feral pigeons (i.e. fewer than 10). However, according to the AFCD's on-site inspections over the past half year, more than half of the 42 monitoring points have maintained consistently low levels of feral pigeons, and the overall environmental hygiene was generally satisfactory. The congregation of feral pigeon at some illegal feeding black spots, such as in the vicinity of the Hang Hau MTR station and Upper Ngau Tau Kok Estate has improved. The AFCD and the relevant

departments will continue to strengthen enforcement at these locations, in order to combat illegal feeding activities.

The next phase of territory-wide feral pigeon population surveys commenced in the fourth quarter of 2025, with preliminary findings expected in the second quarter of 2026.

- (6) The AFCD has been piloting a surveillance system equipped with AI technology since September 2025 to identify feral pigeon congregation and illegal feeding and collect information, so as to enhance enforcement effectiveness. The first pilot trial is being carried out at the feeding black spot near the Hang Hau MTR Station. With the information gathered by the system, the Department planned its enforcement operations in the fourth quarter of 2025, and succeeded in issuing FPNs to 2 persons for illegal feeding of feral pigeons. The Department will continue to review the effectiveness of the system in combatting illegal feeding activities and explore the feasibility of applying the system at other black spots.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)015

(Question Serial No. 2747)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the control of nuisance caused by wild and stray animals, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the number of wild pigs in Hong Kong's countryside, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved in handling wild pig nuisance in each of the past 2 years and this year to date;
- (2) the number of wild pig capture operations conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the number of wild pigs captured in each month of the past 2 years and this year to date;
- (3) the number of reports on injuries caused by wild animals received by the AFCD in each of the past 2 years and this year to date, with a breakdown by animal type;
- (4) the respective numbers of cats and dogs received and captured by the AFCD and the number and proportion of cats and dogs rehomed in each of the past 2 year and this year to date; and
- (5) the number of animals humanely dispatched by the AFCD in each of the past 2 years and this year to date (with a breakdown by animal type)?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

- 1) Since 2019, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has launched a wild pig population survey project. By using infrared automatic cameras and spatial statistical analysis models, the population density of wild pigs in the countryside is estimated for wild pig population projection across the countryside in Hong Kong, with a view to monitoring the population trend in the long term. The population of wild pigs across the countryside in the territory over the past 2 years is tabulated as follows:

| Year* | Population of wild pigs across the countryside in the territory (head) |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2024 | about 900 |

* Since the AFCD is currently conducting analysis and estimations for the wild pig population survey in 2025, the figure for 2025 is not available for the time being.

The manpower and actual expenditure involved in wild pig management by the AFCD over the past 2 years (including carrying out patrols and enforcement actions to combat illegal feeding, conducting publicity and education initiatives, and handling wild pig nuisance) are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Wild pig management | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Manpower | Expenditure (\$ million) |
| 2024-25 | 33 | 22.1 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 33 | 20.2 |

- (2) The numbers of wild pig capture operations conducted and wild pigs captured by the AFCD each month over the past 2 years and in this year so far are tabulated as follows:

| Month \ Year | Number of wild pig capture operations/ Number of wild pigs captured | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------|
| | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | |
| Jan | 40/78 | 21/40 | 34/69 | |
| Feb | 17/29 | 25/50 | 31/45 | |
| Mar | 13/12 | 26/42 | Data not yet available | |
| Apr | 16/20 | 33/52 | | |
| May | 24/58 | 28/64 | | |
| Jun | 29/60 | 27/40 | | |
| Jul | 33/85 | 38/76 | | |
| Aug | 31/87 | 38/69 | | |
| Sep | 32/58 | 32/69 | | |
| Oct | 40/77 | 53/82 | | |
| Nov | 33/50 | 40/76 | | |
| Dec | 31/58 | 46/63 | | |
| Total | 339/672 | 407/723 | | 65/114 |

- (3) The numbers of reports on injuries caused by wild animals received by the AFCD over the past 2 years and in this year so far are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of reports on injuries | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| | Monkeys | Wild pigs |
| 2024 | 8 | 7 |
| 2025 | 11 | 4 |
| 2026 (as at Feb) | 2 | 2 |

- (4) The numbers of cats and dogs received and caught by the AFCD over the past 2 years and in this year so far are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of stray animals captured | | Number of animals surrendered by owners | | Animals received through other channels | | Number of animals rehomed | | Percentage of animals rehomed* | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------|------|---------------------------|------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | Dogs | Cats | Dogs | Cats | Dogs | Cats | Dogs | Cats | Dogs | Cats |
| 2024 | 425 | 157 | 408 | 163 | 179 | 145 | 328 | 155 | 41.0% | 39.9% |
| 2025 | 398 | 168 | 360 | 114 | 156 | 138 | 266 | 123 | 37.8% | 46.8% |
| 2026 (as at Feb) | 73 | 17 | 51 | 26 | 25 | 15 | 29 | 20 | 26.9% | 57.1% |

* Animals received by the AFCD but subsequently reclaimed by owners were not counted towards the rehoming rate.

- (5) The numbers of animals humanely dispatched by the AFCD over the past 2 years and in this year so far by animal type are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of animals humanely dispatched | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|------|------|----------------------------|
| | Wild pigs* | Dogs | Cats | Other animals [#] |
| 2024 | 657 | 436 | 145 | 403 |
| 2025 | 719 | 375 | 130 | 788 |
| 2026 (as at Feb) | 110 | 62 | 18 | 1 601 [^] |

* Including animals humanely dispatched due to injury

[#] Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle and poultry/birds

[^] Including 1 551 reptiles involved in illegal imports

The AFCD will arrange for the transfer of animals to animal welfare organisations for adoption by the public as far as possible. Only animals that are not suitable for rehoming or eventually not rehomed will be euthanised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)016

(Question Serial No. 0029)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the protection of endangered species and wild animals, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the amounts of subsidies provided by the Government to partnering conservation organisations, the key endangered species received and rescued, and the respective numbers of such animals rescued over the past 3 years; and
- (2) among the animal species rescued, the ultimate conservation outcome in terms of the following indicators: survival rate in captivity, percentage of successful release to the wild and percentage of successful reintroduction to nature; and for those unsuitable for release to the wild, the percentage of successful inclusion into the *ex-situ* conservation or propagation programmes?

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

- (1) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department provided a partnering conservation organisation with annual grants of \$1 million and a service contract worth about \$560,000 over the past 3 years, in support of their work in rescuing endangered species of conservation importance and other wild animals, including leopard cats, yellow-crested cockatoos, Burmese pythons, big-headed turtles and three-banded box turtles. It involved providing the animals with health checks, treatment and rehabilitation care, and where situation allowed, releasing the animals to the wild or carrying out *ex-situ* conservation breeding at an appropriate time.

The numbers of animals received and rescued by the partnering conservation organisation by species group over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Species group | Numbers of animals received and rescued | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| Mammal | 154 | 219 | 220 |
| Bird | 2 463 | 2 131 | 2 419 |
| Reptile | 2 116 | 1 015 | 1 468 |
| Amphibian | 10 | 1 | 7 |
| Total | 4 743 | 3 366 | 4 114 |

- (2) The percentages of survival, successful release to the wild, and *ex-situ* conservation among the animal rescued over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| | 2023 [#] | 2024 [#] | 2025 [#] |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Successful release to the wild | 44% | 38% | 48% |
| <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation | 1% | 1% | 1% |
| Survival rate* | 62% | 52% | 61% |

[#] Since it might take a long time for animals to undergo medical and rehabilitation treatment after they were received, the tabulated figures might not refer to the animals received in the same year.

* Most of the animals rescued were in poor health at the time of receipt. Some had to be humanly dispatched due to serious trauma, disease or loss of bodily functions, so as to relieve them from unnecessary suffering.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)017

(Question Serial No. 0221)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

A high-quality natural environment is the key to attracting global top talent and senior executives of multi-national enterprises to settle in Hong Kong. As stated in the Programme, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will implement the “Four Peaks” tourism project and related measures to enhance the educational, recreational, and sustainable eco-tourism functions of country parks. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. whether the Government has established an inter-departmental collaboration mechanism to present the “Four Peaks” tourism project and Hong Kong’s excellent country park resources as the core promotional package in order to “tell good stories of Hong Kong as a green and liveable city”, and promote the unique advantage of Hong Kong’s “half-hour natural living circle”, thereby enhancing the overall business attractiveness and liveability of Hong Kong;
2. regarding the enhancement of the recreational and eco-tourism functions of country parks, whether the Government would actively consider removing barriers and easing restrictions to introduce more high-value-adding supporting facilities with commercial potential and in line with the principle of sustainability; and
3. regarding high-spending overseas tourists and foreign professionals in Hong Kong, the specific plans and schedules of the Government in optimising the software and hardware facilities for “Four Peaks” tourism, as well as the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LAMPORT Jonathan Stuart (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

1. Hong Kong, a bustling metropolis with spectacular mountain and sea views, possesses rich and diverse green tourism resources, and the proximity of mountains and sea to the urban area, creating a unique allure. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been working closely with the Tourism Commission (TC) and the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB). For example, through the HKTB’s year-round promotional platform “Hong Kong Great Outdoors”, the AFCD introduces in detail and promotes Hong Kong’s unique natural scenery under themes such as hiking to strengthen the promotion of green tourism resources in country parks, including the

“Four Peaks”, allowing tourists to experience the natural charm of Hong Kong’s countryside and telling good stories of Hong Kong. The AFCD also collaborates with some economic and trade offices in the Mainland to promote Hong Kong’s natural scenery and hiking routes on their social media platforms (such as WeChat official accounts and Xiaohongshu).

2. The AFCD is upgrading the facilities in country parks, including taking forward larger-scale enhancement projects, such as setting up new type of camping facilities, tree-top adventure, and open museums on historical relics. Regarding new type of camping facilities and tree-top adventure, the AFCD commissioned feasibility studies to determine the site locations, design, modes of operation, fee levels and operation requirements, etc., of these facilities. The AFCD will collect and consider the views of the public and relevant stakeholders to assist in formulating modes of operation of these facilities.
3. To complement the “Four Peaks” project, the AFCD will carry out minor improvement works to enhance hiking trail facilities, which include installing more directional signs and hiking information boards to provide clearer guidance for visitors; conducting thematic planting of native flowering plants along the hiking trails to enhance the appeal of natural scenery; providing additional basic leisure facilities, such as picnic tables and benches, at suitable locations, and repairing the hiking trails using the handcrafted trail approach, so as to provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy recreations and connect to nature; and providing additional passing places on hiking trails to improve hiking safety. The facility enhancement work for the country parks has commenced progressively in the first half of 2025 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

The AFCD also collaborates with the TC and the HKTb in linking up the tourism sector and operators of nearby tourist spots to further work out the planning for green tourism itineraries and tourism product development and promote them to tourists through various channels. The AFCD launched the promotion of the “Four Peaks” tourism project during the peak hiking season at the end of 2025. For example, the AFCD co-operated with Ngong Ping 360 in November 2025 to organise a digital stamp-collection hiking event at Ngong Ping to take the lead in promoting the Lantau Peak route, and promoted the Peak route during the Hong Kong Trail 40th Anniversary Celebration Programme launched in the same month. The total number of participants of the two events was about 12 000 people. The AFCD plans to launch the green tourism itineraries of the “Four Peaks” through a series of promotional activities during the hiking season in the second half of 2026. Previously, the expenditure involved in the development of the “Four Peaks” tourism project was part of the daily management and routine education and publicity work of the country parks. The AFCD does not keep the relevant figures. However, the AFCD will be provided with an additional funding for the development of the “Four Peaks” tourism project in 2026-27, and the estimated expenditure is \$7.8 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)018****(Question Serial No. 2670)**

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In recent years, despite the Government's control over the population of wild pigs through capture and humane dispatch operations, wild pigs still intrude into farmlands and urban areas from time to time to forage for food, and even attack people. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following information over the past 3 years:

- 1) the distribution of wild pigs by District Council District, as well as the numbers of help-seeking and complaint cases on sightings of wild pigs;
- 2) the number of wild pig capture operations conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in each district; the manpower and the relevant expenditure involved;
- 3) the numbers of wild pigs captured and humanely dispatched each year; and
- 4) the numbers of prosecutions instituted and successful prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild pigs, as well as the respective penalties imposed.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

- 1) Since 2019, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has launched a wild pig population survey project. By using infrared automatic cameras and spatial statistical analysis models, the population density of wild pigs in the countryside is estimated for wild pig population projection across the countryside in Hong Kong, with a view to monitoring the population trend in the long term. However, the projected population of wild pigs by district is not available. The population of wild pigs across the countryside in the territory over the past 3 years is as follows:

| Year* | Population of wild pigs across the countryside in the territory (head) |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | About 1 360 |
| 2024 | About 900 |

* Since the AFCD is currently conducting analysis and estimations for the wild pig population survey in 2025, the figure for 2025 is not available for the time being.

The number of reports on wild pig sightings or nuisance received by the AFCD over the past 3 years with a breakdown by 18 districts is tabulated as follows:

| District | Number of reports on wild pig sightings or nuisance | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 (as at Feb 2026) |
| Islands | 8 | 6 | 16 |
| Kwai Tsing | 22 | 16 | 15 |
| North | 45 | 49 | 50 |
| Sai Kung | 164 | 174 | 217 |
| Sha Tin | 161 | 136 | 117 |
| Tai Po | 201 | 198 | 139 |
| Tsuen Wan | 57 | 76 | 41 |
| Tuen Mun | 37 | 49 | 41 |
| Yuen Long | 40 | 42 | 61 |
| Kowloon City | 8 | 2 | 5 |
| Kwun Tong | 13 | 24 | 28 |
| Sham Shui Po | 21 | 21 | 10 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 24 | 21 | 7 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Central and Western | 83 | 71 | 63 |
| Eastern | 46 | 71 | 46 |
| Southern | 103 | 110 | 148 |
| Wan Chai | 59 | 51 | 59 |
| Total | 1 093 | 1 118 | 1 063 |

- 2) The AFCD has been adopting a multi-pronged approach to address wild pig nuisance and illegal feeding, including routine patrols and enforcement operations, the provision of preventive measures including the use of wildlife-proof refuse collection facilities, and the enhancement of publicity and education initiatives to reduce food sources that attract wild pigs and prevent them from causing nuisance. Besides, the AFCD will conduct operations to capture and humanely dispatch wild pigs which pose potential danger or cause nuisance to the public, thereby strengthening control over the safety risk and public hygiene issues posed by wild pigs.

The number of wild pig capture operations conducted by the AFCD over the past 3 years with a breakdown by 18 districts is tabulated as follows:

| District \ Year | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 (as at Feb 2026) |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Islands | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Kwai Tsing | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| North | 9 | 11 | 14 |
| Sai Kung | 39 | 28 | 46 |
| Sha Tin | 23 | 37 | 50 |
| Tai Po | 29 | 35 | 42 |
| Tsuen Wan | 22 | 17 | 33 |
| Tuen Mun | 20 | 22 | 25 |
| Yuen Long | 5 | 19 | 29 |
| Kowloon City | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Kwun Tong | 4 | 6 | 6 |
| Sham Shui Po | 11 | 9 | 0 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Central and Western | 37 | 40 | 33 |
| Eastern | 27 | 39 | 23 |
| Southern | 50 | 43 | 33 |
| Wan Chai | 26 | 28 | 53 |
| Total | 307 | 341 | 400 |

The manpower and expenditures involved in the aforesaid work in relation to wild pig management (including carrying out patrols and enforcement actions to combat illegal feeding, conducting publicity and education initiatives, and handling wild pig nuisance) by the AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Manpower (number of staff) | Expenditure on management work (\$ million) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 33 | 21.8 |
| 2024-25 | 33 | 22.1 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 33 | 20.2 |

- 3) The numbers of wild pigs captured and humanely dispatched by the AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of wild pigs captured | Number of wild pigs humanely dispatched* |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 540 | 525 |
| 2024-25 | 685 | 672 |
| 2025-26 (as at Feb 2026) | 705 | 697 |

* Including wild pigs humanely dispatched due to injury.

- 4) Intentional feeding is the main cause of the wild pig nuisance issue. To step up the efforts in curbing wild pig feeding activities, the Government amended the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) twice in 2022 and 2024 to expand the Feeding Ban Area to the entire territory of Hong Kong, increase the maximum penalty for illegal feeding of animals to a fine of \$100,000 and imprisonment for 1 year, and introduce a fixed penalty system of \$5,000, with a view to strengthening the deterrent effect, thereby resolving the wild pig nuisance issue at source.

The AFCD will arrange patrols at wild pig feeding black spots from time to time and take law enforcement actions against anyone who has fed wild pigs illegally, based on availability of sufficient evidence. The AFCD will also review and adjust the patrol and enforcement arrangements in accordance with the actual circumstances, including stepping up blitz and enforcement operations, as well as conducting joint enforcement operations with relevant departments where necessary.

The number of prosecutions instituted, the number of successful prosecutions and the penalties imposed against illegal feeding of wild pigs over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of prosecutions instituted for illegal feeding of wild pigs^{+#} | Number of successful prosecutions for illegal feeding of wild pigs^{+#} | Fine (\$) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 23 | 19 | 450 to 1 000 (Average: 621) |
| 2024-25 | 5 [^] | 13 | 300 to 5 000 (Average: 1 439) |
| 2025-26 (as at Feb 2026) | 1 [^] | 0 | Not applicable |

⁺ Some of the prosecutions instituted in the year might be processed in the following year.

[#] Each case of prosecution involved 1 person only.

[^] Following the commencement of the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 in August 2024, a fixed penalty of \$5,000 has been introduced. AFCD officers will generally first carry out law enforcement actions through the fixed penalty system, hence the decrease in the number of prosecutions. Since the fixed penalty system came into operation to February 2026, the AFCD issued a total of 41 fixed penalty notices for illegal feeding of wild pigs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)019

(Question Serial No. 2671)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In recent years, popular outdoor scenic spots such as the Sai Kung East Country Park have attracted large numbers of visitors to go there for camping and recreational activities, leading to "over-tourism". In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) the numbers of law enforcement actions and prosecutions taken by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department against illegal behaviours including littering, illegal camping and illegal lighting at country parks over the past 3 years (please list out the related figures by country park);
- 2) further to the above question, the manpower deployed by the AFCD in conducting routine patrols and law enforcement work at country parks over the territory; and
- 3) besides enhancing law enforcement and publicity efforts, whether the Government will consider inviting private organisations to take part in the operation and management of popular scenic spots under the public-private-partnership model, so as to facilitate the development of ecotourism; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

- 1) Figures on prosecutions instituted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) against littering, illegal camping and illegal lighting at country parks (CPs) and special areas (SAs) over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Location | Number of prosecutions against littering | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| Shing Mun CP | 1 | 1 | 15 |
| Kam Shan CP | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Lion Rock CP | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Sai Kung East CP | 0 | 1 | 20 |
| Lantau South CP | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Lantau North CP | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Pat Sin Leng CP | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| Tai Lam CP | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Clear Water Bay CP | 6 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 8 | 7 | 42 |

| Location | Number of prosecutions against illegal camping | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| Shing Mun CP | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Lion Rock CP | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Aberdeen CP | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sai Kung East CP | 22 | 78 | 30 |
| Sai Kung West CP | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Plover Cove CP | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Lantau South CP | 2 | 0 | 7 |
| Pat Sin Leng CP | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| Tai Lam CP | 3 | 11 | 20 |
| Tai Mo Shan CP | 29 | 16 | 1 |
| Lam Tsuen CP | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Ma On Shan CP | 68 | 40 | 50 |
| Clear Water Bay CP | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| Sai Kung West (Wan Tsai Extension) CP | 41 | 53 | 0 |
| Tung Lung Fort SA | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Total | 199 | 214 | 116 |

| Location | Number of prosecutions against illegal lighting | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| Shing Mun CP | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Aberdeen CP | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Sai Kung East CP | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Plover Cove CP | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Pat Sin Leng CP | 2 | 6 | 0 |
| Tai Lam CP | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Tai Mo Shan CP | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| Ma On Shan CP | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Tai Tam (Quarry Bay Extension) CP | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Clear Water Bay CP | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| Sai Kung West (Wan Tsai Extension) CP | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Lung Fu Shan CP | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Tung Lung Fort SA | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 22 | 20 | 17 |

- 2) There are currently 157 staff in the AFCD who are responsible for conducting routine patrols and law enforcement work in CPs and SAs across the territory.

- 3) To better manage CPs, the AFCD is exploring the approach to assess the carrying capacity of some hiking hotspots, and formulate suitable visitor management measures to ensure the sustainable development of tourism in country parks. The AFCD will also introduce major enhancement projects, including the provision of a new type of camping facilities, tree top adventure and an open museum of historical relics, and is exploring the site locations, design, modes of operation, fee levels, operation requirements, etc., of these facilities. The AFCD will consult relevant stakeholders to determine the specific modes of operation for the facilities. We are receptive to different ideas of management models such as the public-private partnerships, and will inform the public of the details in due course.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)020

(Question Serial No. 0750)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

“Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026-27” include overseeing further study and planning for the development of the Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park and the Coastal Protection Park in the Northern Metropolis. Please provide:

1. the manpower and the estimates of expenditure involved;
2. the total project estimate of the Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park as a whole; and
3. whether additional basic visitor facilities including public toilets, drinking fountains, rain shelters and communications network facilities (such as Wi-Fi hotspots and mobile base stations) will be provided; if yes, the estimated quantities, locations and expenditures; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LAU Man-kwan, Julia (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is taking forward the development of the Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park (SPS WCP) at the Northern Metropolis and the feasibility study on the development of the Coastal Protection Park at Tsim Bei Tsui/Lau Fau Shan/Pak Nai. The manpower and estimated expenditures involved as well as the details of the facilities in the parks are as follows:

1. The AFCD's manpower and estimated expenditures on the work for the development of SPS WCP in 2026-27 are 10 staff and about \$11.3 million respectively. In addition to the development of SPS WCP, the aforesaid staff will also oversee studies to take forward the development of other parks under the Wetland Conservation Parks (WCPs) System in accordance with the recommendations set out in the Strategic Feasibility Study on the Development of WCPs System released in October 2024, and will also assess the way forward for wetland conservation on a continuous basis in light of the progress of potential projects under the Public-Private Partnership Scheme of the New Nature Conservation Policy. As for the Coastal Protection Park, the AFCD is carrying out the feasibility study by redeploying some of its existing manpower resources.

2. The Government is taking forward the development of SPS WCP in phases, including engaging engineering consultants to carry out the investigation study on SPS WCP and the detailed design for Phase 1. Upon substantial completion of the aforesaid work, we plan to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council later this year for the commencement of the works for Phase 1 as well as the detailed design for the Remaining Phase. The consultancy fee for the investigation study on SPS WCP is \$25.22 million, while that for the design and construction of SPS WCP Phase 1 is \$42.88 million. More accurate estimates of expenditures for the overall construction and operation of SPS WCP will only be available upon completion of the investigation study and the detailed design.
3. To enrich the eco-tourism experience for the public and visitors, the commissioned engineering consultant will lay out plans for the number and site selection of various visitor facilities (including public toilets, drinking fountains, rain shelters and communications network facilities). Details of SPS WCP will be determined progressively upon completion of the investigation study and the detailed design.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)021

(Question Serial No. 3105)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026-27 that the Department will take forward the phased development of Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park and feasibility study on the development of Coastal Protection Park at Tsim Bei Tsui/Lau Fau Shan/Pak Nai. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee whether it will consider implementing a low-density, eco-friendly health and wellness projects that integrates art and natural landscape, such as a high-end eco-convalescent centre serving various functions including health checks, healthcare and elderly-care services, in the above parks, so as to conserve and promote their geological and cultural heritage and develop tourism.

Asked by: Hon LAU Man-kwan, Julia (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

The Government is taking forward the development of the Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park (SPS WCP) to enhance the ecological function of the wetland ecosystem in the Deep Bay area, protect bird habitats and enrich biodiversity. We will enhance and proactively manage the fishponds and wetlands within SPS WCP and introduce modernised and sustainable aquaculture, while providing quality outdoor eco-education and recreation facilities, thereby achieving triple objectives of wetland conservation, eco-education, and recreation and tourism development, as well as the modernisation of aquaculture industry.

We plan to adhere to principles of environmental friendliness, low-carbon practices and innovation, while adopting elements such as landscape designs flexibly to enhance the characteristic, significance and attractiveness of SPS WCP, thereby developing it into a green tourism attraction that boasts the unique natural scenery in Hong Kong and the characteristics of local agriculture and fisheries industries. Meanwhile, we will explore, on the premise of not affecting the wetland conservation function of SPS WCP, the provision of facilities and activities for diversified, immersive and in-depth eco-education, recreation and eco-tourism at locations compatible with the ecological environment for public use and participation. About 10 hectares in the SPS WCP will be planned for the provision of associated facilities such as visitor centres, nature trails, bird hides, eco-lodges and open spaces.

The Government engaged an engineering consultant to commence detailed design work for Phase 1 in September 2025, and plans to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council later this year for the commencement of the works for Phase 1 as well as the detailed design for the Remaining Phase. Subject to funding approval, we plan to engage a consultant in the first quarter of 2027 to commence detailed design work for the Remaining Phase. Details of SPS WCP will be hammered out progressively upon completion of the investigation study and the detailed design.

As for the establishment of the Coastal Protection Park at Tsim Bei Tsui/Lau Fau Shan/Pak Nai, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department commissioned a consultancy to conduct a feasibility study in December 2024 to explore the proposed boundary, objectives, functions and management model, with a view to conserving natural coastlines, inshore mangrove and the mudflat ecosystems, as well as providing visitors with suitable outdoor eco-recreation space. The study includes the upcoming public engagement activities to gauge views from the public and stakeholders on the specific development plan of the Coastal Protection Park, including how to integrate elements of art, natural landscapes and eco-tourism.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)022

(Question Serial No. 0455)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

As eco-tourism in Hong Kong attracts a growing number of local and Mainland visitors, country parks are on the verge of overloading. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. how the Government assesses the visitor flow at various hiking trails, campsites and popular tourist attractions in country parks during different periods;
2. further to the above question, how the Government assesses the utilisation rates and carrying capacities of country parks;
3. how the Government strengthens the management and manpower deployment for country parks during peak periods;
4. how the Government makes good use of the technology to enhance the management of country parks;
5. the numbers of enforcement cases and types of offences handled by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in country parks in each of the past 3 years; and
6. the major projects, expenditures involved and manpower for raising awareness of environmental protection among country park visitors in each of the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon LEE Hoey Simon (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

1. The staff of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) currently counts the number of visitors at the main entry points of popular hiking trails and countryside locations in country parks by manual counting or automatic visitor counters to assess the visitor flow in country parks. Currently, a total of 86 automatic visitor counters have been installed in 12 country parks and 2 special areas, and the AFCD plans to gradually install counters to replace manual counting in the remaining country parks and special areas.
2. In assessing the usage and carrying capacity of country parks, the Government will take into account the actual circumstances of different scenic spots in the country parks, including their topography and terrain, the capacity of accommodating supporting

facilities, the safety of visitors, the ecological environment, the number and location of entry and exit points, and the connectivity with public transport.

3. The AFCD will deploy manpower flexibly where necessary subject to the actual situation, for example, hiring contract staff, to step up patrols, publicity and education, and law enforcement works at popular countryside locations in country parks.
4. The AFCD has been exploring the use of technology to enhance the management of country parks. For instance, apart from the automatic visitor counters mentioned above, the AFCD has installed smart hill fire detectors equipped with infrared thermal imaging, video analytics, and artificial intelligence technology in all 11 fire lookouts across country parks. These detectors provide round-the-clock and real-time detection to enhance the efficiency of hill fire detection and enable the AFCD to promptly deploy firefighting operations upon detection of hill fires, thereby minimising damages to the natural environment caused by hill fires.

In addition, in line with the Government's Smart City initiatives, the AFCD, in collaboration with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), commenced a pilot scheme to install the smart toilet system (including sensors such as cubicle and urinal occupancy sensors, people counting sensors and septic tank liquid level sensors) in some existing and new or reconstructed public toilets of country parks in August 2024. The AFCD is piloting the use of unmanned aircraft to patrol and make broadcast at hotspots in Sai Kung East Country Park such as in the vicinity of Po Pin Chau of the East Dam during peak tourist seasons to remind visitors to beware of their safety. The AFCD will continue to enhance the management of country parks through application of technologies, thereby providing better services.

5. Over the past 3 years, the number of prosecutions instituted by the AFCD under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) were 531 (2023), 692 (2024), and 455 (2025) respectively, mainly involving offences such as unauthorised possession or riding of bicycles or driving of vehicles, use of fire or camping outside designated sites, damage of plants, and littering.
6. Regarding raising awareness of environmental protection, the AFCD has been promoting Hong Kong's unique natural scenery and the message of care for the countryside environment through various channels, including school visits, guided tours, visitor centres in country parks, online videos and social media. The AFCD will continuously review and adjust its promotional strategies and content of promotional information, and continue to disseminate information through diversified channels to promote the code for visiting countryside, and messages of "Hiking Etiquette" and "Take Your Litter Home". Meanwhile, the AFCD has been working with the Tourism Commission and the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) to promote green tourism and provide important information on hiking safety and care for the environment to tourists through the HKTB's "Hong Kong Great Outdoors" thematic webpage and social media accounts. The AFCD also collaborates with the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in the Mainland and the Forestry Administration of Guangdong Province to promote Hong Kong's natural scenery and hiking routes on Mainland social media platforms, while promoting messages of hiking etiquette. The AFCD is preparing for the launch of an official Xiaohongshu account to enhance promotion of Hong Kong's natural scenery and hiking routes as well as safety tips on hiking and outings, hiking

safety and etiquette to Mainland tourists. In addition, the AFCD continues to update and enhance the “Enjoy Hiking” thematic website to provide information on hiking routes and attractions as well as hiking etiquette in Chinese, English, Japanese and Korean.

The expenditure and manpower involved in the promotion of nature conservation and education programmes for country parks by the AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) | Manpower (number of staff) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 33.4 | 39 |
| 2024-25 | 34.1 | 36 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 31.1 | 39 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0838)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the tackling of wild pig and wild monkey nuisance and the relevant wild animal management work, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the manpower and actual expenditures involved in the management of wild animals, such as wild pigs and monkeys, in each of the past 3 financial years (2023-24 to 2025-26); the relevant estimated manpower and expenditures for 2026-27; the rates of change as compared with the revised estimates for 2025-26, as well as the reasons;
- (2) the specific expenditures of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on "humane management" measures in 2026-27, including:
 - (i) the expenditures on sterilisation surgeries to be performed on wild pigs and monkeys, as well as the estimated number of surgeries to be completed;
 - (ii) the expenditures on habitat control (such as setting up barriers and removing food sources that attract wild animals);
 - (iii) the percentage of the two measures mentioned above in the overall expenditure on wild animal management;
- (3) the respective numbers of reports on wild pig sightings and nuisance received by the AFCD and wild pigs captured in Sha Tin and Tai Po Districts last year (2025-26); the numbers of reports of monkey nuisance and monkey captured in Shing Mun Country Park and adjacent areas (including Sha Tin District) over the same period; and
- (4) the effectiveness of law enforcement carried out by the "Inter-departmental Working Group on Feeding Ban Enforcement" established by the AFCD in collaboration with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Housing Department last year (2025-26), following the enactment of the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024, including:
 - (i) the numbers of inspections and joint enforcement operations;
 - (ii) the numbers of fixed penalty notices issued against illegal feeding activities and successful prosecutions; and
 - (iii) the number and distribution of infrared cameras currently installed at illegal feeding black spots across the territory.

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

(1)

The manpower and actual expenditures involved in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's (AFCD) management of wild animals over the past 3 years, such as wild pigs and monkeys (including carrying out patrols and enforcement actions to combat illegal feeding, conducting publicity and education initiatives, handling wild pig nuisance, and performing sterilisation on monkey populations), are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Wild Pig management | | Monkey management | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| | Manpower | Expenditure (\$ million) | Manpower | Expenditure (\$ million) |
| 2023-24 | 33 | 21.8 | 17 | 11.8 |
| 2024-25 | 33 | 22.1 | 17 | 11.2 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 33 | 20.2 | 17 | 9.6 |

The estimated manpower and expenditures for 2026-27 are roughly the same as those for 2025-26.

(2)

On wild pig management, the AFCD implemented the Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP) for wild pigs during the period between late 2017 and November 2021, but the effectiveness of the relevant operations was far from catching up with the reproduction rate of wild pigs. Moreover, after wild pigs are habituated to being fed by people, they will return to the urban or residential areas relentlessly to seek food even after being relocated to the countryside. Therefore, the AFCD has launched new operations to replace CCRP since November 2021 by capturing and humanely dispatching wild pigs that are near residential areas and pose threats to the public, with a view to stepping up control over the safety risks and public hygiene problems caused by wild pigs. Therefore, there is no estimated expenditure on contraception for wild pigs in 2026-27.

On monkey management, the AFCD arranges for a contractor (Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong) to conduct regular sterilisation operations for monkey populations in Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks, as well as those causing nuisance to residential areas near the fringe of country parks, and the target is to conduct sterilisation surgery on about 100 to 120 monkeys every year. The AFCD's estimated expenditure on contracting out the above work in 2026-27 is about \$2.2 million, which is roughly the same as that in 2025-26, accounting for about 22% of the total expenditure on monkey management.

Besides, the AFCD will continue to reduce the source of food that attracts monkeys and wild pigs through enforcing the feeding ban regulation and recommending preventive measures including the use of wildlife-resistant refuse collection facilities to persons or relevant departments affected, thereby preventing causing monkey nuisance. Since the aforesaid work is part of the routine work of the relevant departments, there is no breakdown of the relevant expenditure.

(3)

The numbers of reports on wild pig sightings or nuisance received as well as wild pigs captured by the AFCD in Sha Tin and Tai Po Districts in 2025-26 (as at February 2026) are tabulated as follows:

| Area | Number of reports on wild pig sightings or nuisance | Number of wild pigs captured and humanely dispatched |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sha Tin District | 117 | 75 |
| Tai Po District | 139 | 72 |

The numbers of reports on monkey nuisance received and monkeys captured by the AFCD in Shing Mun Country Park and adjacent areas, including Tsuen Wan, Sha Tin and Kwai Tsing in 2025-26 (as at February 2026) are tabulated as follows:

| Area | Number of reports on monkey nuisance | Number of monkeys captured[#] |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Shing Mun Country Park | 20 | 12 |
| Tsuen Wan District* | 17 | 1 |
| Kwai Tsing District* | 35 | 15 |
| Sha Tin District | 106 | 285 |

* Places outside Shing Mun Country Park.

This includes monkeys captured for causing nuisance, as well as those captured during sterilisation operations at country parks; monkeys will be released back into the country parks after the sterilisation surgery as appropriate.

(4)

Following the commencement of the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 in August 2024, the AFCD, in collaboration with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Housing Department, has established the Inter-departmental Working Group on Feeding Ban Enforcement. In addition to conducting routine patrols, the relevant departments will also review and enhance strategies and implementation of the feeding ban through regular meetings.

In 2025-26 (as at February 2026), the relevant departments carried out over 10 573 inspections and enforcement operations in response to reports on illegal feeding activities, as well as a total of 54 joint enforcement operations against illegal feeding. There were a total of 208 fixed penalty notices issued against illegal feeding of wild animals or feral pigeons, and 23 successful prosecutions by summons.

Besides, the AFCD installed over 100 infrared cameras at black spots of illegal feeding of wild pigs to aid in detecting illegal feeding activities and gathering relevant information to assist deployment of enforcement operations. We will flexibly deploy the devices in all districts across the territory in response to intelligence and actual circumstances.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)024

(Question Serial No. 1143)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is noted that there has been a growing number of people in recent years who want to keep endangered species or “exotic species” (i.e. non-native, wild or non-domesticated, non-traditional or unusual species) as pets, which will lead to a rise in illegal trafficking of animals or threaten the ecosystem. On the work to protect the above species, would the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the quantities of imported animals listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and other “exotic” animals in the past 3 years;
2. the types and quantities of endangered species and other “exotic” species involved in prosecutions, and the numbers of the prosecutions concerned;
3. the numbers in relation to cases of illegal import/export of endangered species and other “exotic” species, arrests, prosecutions and convictions; the maximum terms of imprisonment and amounts of fine; the endangered species involved and the numbers of seizures in the past 3 years;
4. the manpower and expenditures involved in the work to protect endangered species and other “exotic” species in the past 3 years; and
5. whether there are any measures to strengthen the monitoring of the smuggling of endangered species and the trade in “exotic pets”, such as considering legislative amendments?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1. The Government implements the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) regulations through the enforcement of the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586). The quantity of imported live animals of species listed in the appendices to CITES over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

| | | Quantity of imports (number) | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Year | | | | |
| Animal type | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | |
| Birds | 426 | 230 | 2 052 | |
| Reptiles | 445 143 | 324 745 | 474 765 | |
| Amphibians | 801 | 768 | 642 | |
| Fishes | 15 832 | 29 929 | 34 481 | |
| Molluscs | 339 | 189 | 110 | |
| Arthropods | 0 | 97 | 26 | |
| Corals | 70 288 | 49 896 | 53 783 | |

In addition, the quantities of imported live non-endangered pet birds and reptiles under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance (Cap. 139) over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| | | Quantity of imports (number) | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Year | | | | |
| Animal type | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | |
| Birds | 37 121 | 15 686 | 12 123 | |
| Reptiles | 323 092 | 243 883 | 214 004 | |

- The quantity of live animals of endangered species seized by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) under Cap. 586 for suspected illegal imports, exports or possessions (the AFCD does not have a breakdown on the number for pet keeping) and the number of successful prosecutions over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Animal type | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
| | Quantity seized (number) | Number of prosecutions | Quantity seized (number) | Number of prosecutions | Quantity seized (number) | Number of prosecutions |
| Birds | 52 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 21 | 5 |
| Reptiles | 593 | 3 | 191 | 14 | 3 735 | 15 |
| Fishes | 9 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 4 |
| Arthropods | 26 | 0 | 40 | 0 | 36 | 0 |
| Corals | 137 | 0 | 45 | 4 | 1 574 | 1 |

Note: Some seizure cases involve a large quantity of animals, such as a case involving 2 139 live turtles and a case involving 1 574 pieces of live corals in 2025. Since it took

time to investigate and seek legal advice, some cases of prosecution were not initiated in the same year as the seizure. Moreover, some seizure including, amongst others, certain reptile cases and coral cases, did not lead to prosecution because the evidence was considered insufficient upon investigation and/or seeking legal advice.

In addition, the quantities of imported live non-endangered pet birds and reptiles seized by the AFCD at the airport and land boundary control points for non-compliance with Cap. 139 and the number of successful prosecutions over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Animal type \ Year | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| | Quantity seized (number) | Number of prosecutions | Quantity seized (number) | Number of prosecutions | Quantity seized (number) | Number of prosecutions |
| Birds | 757 | 4 | 413 | 6 | 1 769 | 5 |
| Reptiles | 286 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 109 | 0 |

Note: As investigations take time, some prosecutions were not instituted in the year of seizure.

- Figures on prosecutions against suspected illegal imports and exports of live animals of endangered species instituted by the AFCD under Cap. 586 (the AFCD does not have a breakdown on the number for pet keeping) over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Number of persons prosecuted | 1 | 13 | 18 |
| Number of prosecution cases | 2 | 18 | 22 |
| Number of conviction | 2 | 5 | 21 |
| Maximum term of imprisonment | 30 months | 16 months | 24 months |
| Maximum amount of fine (\$) | N/A | 4,000 | 30,000 |
| Endangered species involved | 21 reptiles | 233 pieces of corals, 403 fish, 1 100 reptiles and 1 bird | 7 fish, 91 reptiles and 23 birds |

Figures on successful prosecutions against illegal imports of live non-endangered pet birds and reptiles instituted by the AFCD under Cap. 139 are tabulated as follows:

| Year | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of persons prosecuted | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| Number of prosecution cases | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| Number of convictions | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| Maximum term of imprisonment | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Maximum amount of fine (\$) | 15,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |

4. The work in protecting endangered species include licensing control of international trade in endangered species under Cap. 586, examination of cargoes imported and exported, and relevant inspections and enforcements as well as promotional and educational work for curbing the illegal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong. The expenditure and manpower involved in the above work by the AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) | Manpower (number of staff) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 47.8 | 55 |
| 2024-25 | 48.4 | 50 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 52.7 | 53 |

The AFCD regulates the import of animals into Hong Kong through a permit system under Cap. 139, performs quarantine and enforcement for imported animals at boundary control points and the Hong Kong International Airport, and carries out relevant promotional and educational work. The expenditure and manpower involved in the above work over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows (a breakdown of the figures for pet keeping is not available):

| Year | Expenditure (\$ million) | Manpower (number of staff) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 64.6 | 102 |
| 2024-25 | 64.3 | 102 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 63.4 | 101 |

5. The Government is committed to protecting endangered species and regulates the imports and exports as well as local trade in endangered species by enforcing Cap. 586, which gives effect to the CITES in Hong Kong. The Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP) convenes every 2 to 3 years to discuss matters such as CITES implementation and proposals to amend CITES Appendices, with a view to reviewing the relevant trade controls to enhance protection of endangered species. Following the conclusion of CoP, the Government will promptly initiate amendments to Cap. 586 to

include species newly listed in CITES Appendices in the amendments and implement the relevant trade controls to ensure that the trade control measures in Hong Kong are in compliance with CITES requirements.

Under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B), any person who sells or offers to sell animals or birds must hold an animal trader licence (ATL) issued by the AFCD. The types of animals or birds permitted to be traded by the trader will be specified on the licence. In general, the AFCD will not issue an ATL for the sale of animals of “exotic” species that are not approved for importation.

The AFCD has been working closely with the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department in conducting joint operations at various import control points and stepping up cargo examination to combat the smuggling of live animals and animal products, including endangered species. The Government will closely monitor the import of exotic animals and the trade of pets, and review the need to strengthen control measures in a timely manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)025

(Question Serial No. 1510)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026-27 that the Environment Branch will oversee further studies and planning for the development of Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park in the Northern Metropolis. Would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. as Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park will be developed in 2 Phases, the detailed timetable and planning for the works of the first phase covering an area of about 150 hectares of land to be commenced this year;
2. how the Government will implement the functions of the Park including birdwatching activities, the conservation of the wetlands in the Deep Bay area and the promotion of the modernisation of the aquaculture industry, as well as whether the Government has earmarked the relevant funding; if yes, the details and the relevant expenditures; if not, the reasons; and
3. regarding the works of the second phase, whether the Government has further details and the timetable?

Asked by: Hon TAM Chun-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

(1) – (2)

The Government is taking forward the development of the Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park (SPS WCP) in phases to enhance the ecological functions of the wetland ecosystem in the Deep Bay area and the Northern Metropolis, protect bird habitats and enrich biodiversity. We will enhance and proactively manage the fishponds and wetlands within SPS WCP and introduce modernised and sustainable aquaculture, while providing quality outdoor eco-education and recreation facilities, thereby achieving triple objectives of wetland conservation, eco-education, and recreation and tourism development, as well as the modernisation of aquaculture industry.

Most of the proposed area of SPS WCP will be used for ecological and fisheries enhancement measures. The Government plans to enhance and manage different habitats in SPS WCP through proactive conservation measures including setting up ecologically enhanced fish

ponds, modifying and restoring pond habitats to enhance ecological connectivity (such as consolidating smaller, fragmented ponds into larger waterbodies and creating artificial islands for wildlife use), reprofiling pond bunds in shallow areas, managing pond drain-down to increase feeding opportunities for waterbirds, as well as setting up remote monitoring systems, with a view to enhancing the overall ecological function of the wetlands. Modernised aquaculture practice, such as container eco-culture systems and pond eco-captive systems, will be introduced to some ecologically enhanced fishponds, while adopting techniques and equipment such as remote real-time monitoring systems, smart control facilities and renewable energy systems, so as to improve production efficiency. Enhanced freshwater wetland habitats will also be established in SPS WCP to provide birds and other wild animals with diverse wetland microhabitats by setting up zones of varying water depths, planting dense vegetation and preserving seasonal wetlands.

Besides, about 10 hectares in SPS WCP will be planned for the provision of eco-education, recreational and eco-tourism facilities, such as visitor centres, outdoor classrooms, bird hides, nature trails, open spaces for public use and eco-lodges to provide visitors with quality and diversified eco-tourism experiences.

SPS WCP Phase 1 development mainly covers about 150 hectares of fishponds and wetlands on Government land in the northern part of SPS WCP. The proposed content covers ecological enhancement measures, ecologically-friendly fisheries operations, modernised aquaculture facilities and techniques, as well as eco-education facilities and experience. In September 2025, the Government engaged an engineering consultant to commence detailed design for SPS WCP Phase 1. Upon completion of the design, we plan to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council later this year for the commencement of the works for Phase 1 as well as the detailed design for the Remaining Phase. Subject to funding approval, the works for Phase 1 are expected to commence in late-2026/early-2027, with completion targeted for 2031.

(3)

As for the works for the Remaining Phase of SPS WCP, we plan to engage a consultant in the first quarter of 2027 to commence detailed design for the facilities and works involved. More accurate cost estimates for the overall construction and operation of SPS WCP will be available upon completion of the investigation study and the detailed design.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)026

(Question Serial No. 1488)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Given that the Government is actively implementing the “Four Peaks” tourism project and measures to enhance the educational, recreational and sustainable eco-tourism functions of country parks, would the Government inform this Committee of:

- a) how the effectiveness of the measures will be reflected in the relevant performance indicators in the Estimates; and for instance, the indicators for the numbers of visitors to country parks remains at 11 million for 2024, 2025 and 2026, whether there will be corresponding changes or adjustments to these figures in future following the implementation of various promotional measures;
- b) among these 11 million visitors, whether the Government has more detailed statistics, including a breakdown of the numbers of locals and overseas tourists, for the purpose of formulating more targeted measures or policies to promote countryside tourism for specific groups of visitors in future; if yes, the figures; if not, the reasons; and
- c) as to address the issue of overcrowding at some popular countryside locations during holidays, such as the area near the East Dam of High Island Reservoir in Sai Kung, whether the Government has considered adopting technology, such as setting up a reservation system for tourist hotspots or a real-time visitor flow monitoring system open for use by the public and tourists, thereby suitably regulating the visitor flow at those hotspots; if yes, the plans and details; if not, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TANG Ming-sum, Michelle (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

- a) Following the implementation of the “Four Peaks” tourism project, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the project by tracking the feedback from all the sectors through the ongoing conduct of country park visitor questionnaire surveys, reports of the media and online platforms, and the changes in visitor numbers as recorded by the existing visitor counting mechanism.
- b) The number of visitors to country parks, comprising locals and tourists, includes the number of visitors to the “Four Peaks”. The AFCD will conduct visitor surveys for

“Four Peaks” activities, which include the major places where the tourists come from. The AFCD has been closely monitoring the usage of hiking hotspots in country parks, especially during peak tourist seasons such as the Golden Week, and makes advance preparation and deploys resources flexibly to strengthen management of facilities and visitor flow.

The AFCD has been working with the Tourism Commission and the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) to promote green tourism and provide important information on hiking safety and care for the environment to tourists through the HKTB’s “Hong Kong Great Outdoors” thematic webpage and social media accounts. The AFCD also collaborates with the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in the Mainland and the Forestry Administration of Guangdong Province to promote Hong Kong’s natural scenery and hiking routes as well as messages of hiking etiquette on Mainland social media platforms, and is preparing to launch an official Xiaohongshu account to enhance promotion to Mainland tourists. In addition, the AFCD continues to update and enhance the “Enjoy Hiking” thematic website to provide information on hiking routes and attractions in Chinese, English, Japanese and Korean, with a view to introducing Hong Kong’s natural scenery and green tourism experiences in a comprehensive manner.

- c) To assist in monitoring and managing visitor flow, the AFCD is piloting the use of unmanned aircraft to monitor visitor flow at the East Dam of the High Island Reservoir. The AFCD has also installed an automatic visitor counter at the East Dam, which uses infrared sensing technology to record the number of visitors and publishes the information on visitor flow on the “Enjoy Hiking” website in a timely manner to facilitate visitors to plan their journey. The AFCD plans to pilot the use of unmanned aircraft to patrol and make broadcast in the vicinity of Po Pin Chau of the East Dam during peak tourist seasons to remind visitors to beware of their safety. In addition, the AFCD is exploring the approach to assess the carrying capacity of some hiking hotspots, and formulate suitable visitor management measures to ensure the sustainable development of tourism in country parks, and will study whether a reservation system should be introduced at certain hotspots.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)027****(Question Serial No. 2879)**

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the law enforcement work for the feeding ban on feral pigeons, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. since the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 (Amendment Ordinance) took effect, the respective numbers of patrols and joint enforcement operations conducted by various departments in response to reports on the feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons in each year;
2. since the Amendment Ordinance took effect, the numbers of reports received and fixed penalty notices issued by various departments against illegal feeding of feral pigeons/wild birds in each year; and
3. whether the Government has assessed the effectiveness of the enforcement of the feeding ban; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon YANG Wing-kit (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

1. The Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 (Amendment Ordinance) came into operation on 1 August 2024. The numbers of patrols and joint enforcement operations conducted by various departments in response to reports on illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons/wild birds each year from the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance to February 2026 are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of reports on illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons/wild birds | Number of patrols | Number of joint enforcement operations |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 2024 | 1 499 | 3 079 | 21 |
| 2025 | 3 431 | 10 638 | 54 |
| 2026 (as at Feb) | 690 | 2 510 | 10 |

2. The numbers of reports received and fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued by various departments regarding illegal feeding of feral pigeons/wild birds each year from the

commencement of the Amendment Ordinance to February 2026 are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of reports on illegal feeding of feral pigeons/wild birds | Number of FPNs issued regarding illegal feeding of feral pigeons/wild birds |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2024 | 1 389 | 79 |
| 2025 | 3 285 | 201 |
| 2026 (as at Feb) | 667 | 41 |

3. The Government has been adopting a multi-pronged approach to combat illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons. Regarding law enforcement, the Government enacted the Amendment Ordinance in 2024 to expand the prohibition on feeding of wild animals to cover feral pigeons, increase the maximum penalty for illegal feeding to a fine of \$100,000 and imprisonment for 1 year, introduce a fixed penalty of \$5,000, and, at the same time, expand the categories of enforcement officers to cover appointed officers of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Housing Department, with a view to enhancing deterrence. Meanwhile, the Government has stepped up promotional and educational efforts to raise public awareness about not to feed wild animals and feral pigeons.

In our assessment, the enforcement efforts, coupled with management measures such as promotion and education, have started to yield results. Regarding feral pigeons, according to the population surveys by the AFCD, the total number of feral pigeons at the feral pigeon congregation points across all districts in the territory dropped from about 13 500 at the time shortly after the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance (fourth quarter of 2024) to about 12 100 in the first quarter of 2025. Regarding wild pigs, the estimated population of wild pigs in the territory decreased from about 1 830 in 2022 to about 900 in 2024; the number of wild pig nuisance black spots (as defined according to indicators such as gatherings resulting from illegal feeding and injury cases) decreased from 42 in 2022 to 9 in 2025; while the number of human injury cases caused by wild pigs reduced from 36 in 2022 to 4 in 2025. Regarding monkeys, routine patrols and monkey population surveys conducted by the AFCD showed a significant decrease in illegal feeding activities and a substantial reduction in food debris left behind by human feeding at major black spots in the area near Tai Po Road, adjacent to Kam Shan and Lion Rock Country Parks. The number of complaints about monkey nuisance received by the AFCD reduced by 18% from 382 in 2024 to 313 in 2025. Given that the total number of patrols by the AFCD at illegal black spots of monkey feeding in each month remained stable, the number of FPNs issued decreased from an average of 10 FPNs per month between September and December 2024 to an average of 2 FPNs or below per month between May 2025 and February 2026.

With continuous enhancement in enforcement efforts by the AFCD and relevant departments to combat illegal feeding activities, reduce food sources, gradually restore the foraging habits of wild animals and feral pigeons to their natural state, and increase public awareness of the adverse consequences of feeding wild animals and feral pigeons, the number and nuisance of wild animals and feral pigeons will continue to improve. The AFCD will continue to work with relevant departments to closely monitor the latest developments in illegal feeding activities across the territory and take targeted

enforcement actions, along with other animal management measures, to effectively combat the illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)028

(Question Serial No. 0727)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

1. In the 2021-22 Budget, the Government set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in country parks. Please list out the latest situation of the use of the provision, the progress of various works and the use of the remaining provision.
2. Regarding the project items "Provision of new type of camping facilities at Tai Tong Barbecue Area Site No. 7 within Tai Lam Country Park" and "Provision of tree top adventure facility at Pak Tam Chung in Sai Kung West Country Park", what are the Government's plans to operate and optimise the use of the new facilities so as to tie in with the development of "Ecology + Tourism"?
3. In view of their proximity to the urban area, the Devil's Peak Battery (including Devil's Peak Fort, the Gough Battery and the Pottinger Battery) have huge tourism potential. Will the Government consider turning the fortifications at Devil's Peak into an open museum through revitalisation?

Asked by: Hon YIU Pak-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1. In the 2021-22 Budget, the Government set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on country park facilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the relevant works departments are taking forward the relevant projects in phases. The project estimates and planned completion dates are tabulated in **Table 1**. After the implementation of the projects listed below, it is expected that the \$500 million fund will leave no surplus.

Table 1 List of Enhancement Projects for Country Park Facilities

| Name of project | (Approved) Project estimate (\$ million) | Progress | Completion/Planned completion date |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Public toilets | | | |
| Provision of a new public toilet at Pak Kung Au within Lantau South Country Park | 24.25 | Completed | 1st half of 2026 |
| Reconstruction of the public toilet at Bride's Pool Road within Pat Sin Leng Country Park | 23.75 | In progress | 1st half of 2026 |
| Reconstruction of the public toilet at Tai Tam Tuk within Tai Tam Country Park | 26.60 | In progress | 1st half of 2026 |
| Reconstruction of the public toilet and refreshment kiosk at Aberdeen Country Park physically handicapped and able-bodied barbecue site | 47.40 | In progress | 2nd half of 2026 |
| Provision of a new public toilet at Long Ke Wan Campsite within Sai Kung East Country Park | 29.80 | In progress | 2nd half of 2026 |
| Provision of a new public toilet at Twisk Campsite within Tai Lam Country Park | 29.40 | In progress | 1st half of 2027 |
| Reconstruction of the public toilet at Hok Tau Campsite within Pat Sin Leng Country Park | 27.60 | Pre-construction preparatory works in progress | 2nd half of 2027 |
| Reconstruction of the public toilet at Tai Tong Barbecue Area Site No. 6 within Tai Lam Country Park | 29.65 | Pre-construction preparatory works in progress | 2nd half of 2027 |
| Reconstruction of the public toilet at Lau Shui Heung within Pat Sin Leng Country Park | 24.75 | Pre-construction preparatory works in progress | 2nd half of 2028 |
| Provision of a new public toilet at Tung Lung Chau Campsite within Tung Lung Fort Special Area | 25.00 | Pre-construction preparatory works in progress | 2nd half of 2028 |

| Name of project | (Approved) Project estimate (\$ million) | Progress | Completion/Planned completion date |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Provision of a new public toilet at Quarry Bay Tree Walk within Tai Tam (Quarry Bay Extension) Country Park | 28.00 | Pre-construction preparatory works in progress | 2nd half of 2028 |
| Other projects | | | |
| Provision of a viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau and associated hiking facilities near East Dam within Sai Kung East Country Park | 12.25 | Completed | 2nd half of 2024 |
| Revitalisation of Lin Ma Hang Lead Mine Cave within Robin's Nest Country Park | 34.06 | Completed | 2nd half of 2024 |
| Provision of a viewing platform overlooking Aberdeen Upper Reservoir and associated physically handicapped and able-bodied recreation facilities within Aberdeen Country Park | 15.00 | In progress | 1st half of 2027 |
| Provision of an outdoor free exploration field at Lions Nature Education Centre within Tsiu Hang special area, Sai Kung | 26.40 | In progress | 1st half of 2027 |
| Provision of new type of camping facilities at Tai Tong Barbecue Area Site No. 7 within Tai Lam Country Park | 26.50 | Pre-construction preparatory works in progress | 1st half of 2028 |
| Provision of centre for historical relics interpretation in Shing Mun Country Park | 27.50 | Pre-construction preparatory works in progress | 2nd half of 2028 |
| Provision of tree top adventure facility at Pak Tam Chung in Sai Kung West Country Park | 29.40 | Pre-construction preparatory works in progress | 2nd half of 2028 |

| Name of project | (Approved) Project estimate (\$ million) | Progress | Completion/Planned completion date |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Provision of new type of camping facilities at Tai Mong Tsai Barbecue Area Nos. 13 & 14 within Sai Kung West Country Park | 20.00 | Pre-construction preparatory works in progress | 1st half of 2029 |
| Historical relics conservation works of Shing Mun Redoubt in Shing Mun Country Park | 28.70 | Pre-construction preparatory works in progress | 2nd half of 2029 |

2. Regarding the project items “Provision of new type of camping facilities at Tai Tong Barbecue Area Site No. 7 within Tai Lam Country Park” and “Provision of tree top adventure facility at Pak Tam Chung in Sai Kung West Country Park”, the AFCD commissioned feasibility studies to determine the site locations, design, modes of operation, fee levels and operation requirements, etc., of these facilities. The AFCD will actively collect and thoroughly consider the views of the public and relevant stakeholders to determine the specific modes of operation for these facilities and announce in due course.

3. The Devil’s Peak Battery is not located within the boundaries of a country park and is therefore not under the management of the AFCD. According to information provided by the Development Bureau (DEVB), under the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (Revitalisation Scheme), the Government will invite non-profit-making organisations to submit revitalisation proposals for revitalising selected government-owned historic buildings in the form of social enterprises. Under the scheme, the Government has rolled out 24 conservation projects to date, including those located in or near urban areas such as the Stone Houses (Kowloon City District), Mei Ho House (Sham Shui Po District), the Blue House Cluster (Wan Chai District), and the Bridges Street Market (Central and Western District), all of which are popular among the public and tourists. The Commissioner for Heritage’s Office of the DEVB has an established mechanism to review from time to time whether government-owned historic buildings are suitable for inclusion in the Revitalisation Scheme. Factors to be taken into account include historical value and architectural significance of the historic buildings, the location, area, scale and accessibility of the buildings, as well as the potential for social enterprise operation. Regarding the Fortifications at Devil’s Peak (i.e. the Devil’s Peak Battery mentioned in the Question), despite being a Grade 2 historic building, it is not currently included in the Revitalisation Scheme due to its relatively remote location, low accessibility, and the very limited floor area available for social enterprise operations. Nevertheless, the Government will continue to review other government-owned historic buildings under the above mechanism to identify suitable projects for inclusion in the Revitalisation Scheme and will announce relevant arrangements for selected projects in due course.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)029****(Question Serial No. 0736)**

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

1. Please list out the number of visitors to each country park and marine park in 2023, 2024 and 2025 and the proportion of tourists.
2. Does the Government have any plan to introduce different new technologies to monitor the number of visitors to each country park and marine park in real time to improve their management?
3. Regarding Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre, Ngong Ping Nature Centre, Lions Nature Education Centre, Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre, Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre, Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre and Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre, please list out the estimated expenditure and manpower involved, the number of visitors in 2025 (and the proportion of tourists among them), the number of places and attendance of the guided tour services provided, if any.
4. What measures will the Government take in 2026-27 to support the development of ecotourism as stated in the Development Blueprint for Hong Kong's Tourism Industry 2.0?

Asked by: Hon YIU Pak-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

1. The number of visitors to country parks over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not keep statistics on the proportion of tourists.

| Year | Number of visitors to country parks (million) |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 13 |
| 2024 | 11 |
| 2025 | 11 |

The number of visitors to marine parks and marine reserve over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows. The AFCD does not keep statistics on the proportion of tourists.

| Year | Number of visitors to marine parks and marine reserve |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 100 000 |
| 2024 | 79 000 |
| 2025 | 85 000 |

- The AFCD currently counts the number of visitors at the main entry points of popular hiking trails and countryside locations in country parks by manual counting or automatic visitor counters to assess the visitor flow in country parks. Currently, a total of 86 automatic visitor counters have been installed in 12 country parks and 2 special areas. The use of counters can significantly reduce input of human resources and enhance patrol efficiency, and they are highly accurate and stable. The AFCD plans to gradually install such counters to replace manual counting in the remaining country parks and special areas, as well as the popular locations in marine parks, and will consider using unmanned aircrafts to monitor visitor flows more efficiently.
- The AFCD manages and operates country park visitor centres to provide visitor information and nature education services to visitors, which is the routine education and publicity work in country parks. The estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the overall education and publicity work for country parks by the AFCD in 2026-27 are \$36.8 million and 39 staff respectively. The AFCD does not keep a breakdown of the operational expenses and staff establishment of each visitor centre.

The AFCD provides guided tour services at visitor/education centres in country parks and accepts advanced bookings by groups and walk-in enrolments. These tours, each with a quota of around 20 to 30 in general, introduce the ecology and cultural history of country parks and promote messages such as nature conservation, hiking etiquette, and hiking safety. In 2025, visitor/education centres in country parks conducted a total of 236 guided tours for 3 705 participants. The number of visitors to each visitor/education centre in country parks and the attendance of guided tour services are tabulated as follows. The AFCD does not keep statistics on the proportion of tourists.

| Visitor/education centre in country parks [#] | Number of visitors | Attendance of guided tour services |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre | 24 699 | 1 786 |
| Ngong Ping Nature Centre | 23 795 | 311 |
| Lions Nature Education Centre | 367 880 | 1 490 |
| Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre | 8 629 | No guided tour services provided |
| Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre | 31 979 | No guided tour services provided |
| Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre | 8 092 | 118 |
| Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre [#] | 6 972 | 0 |

[#] Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre was temporarily closed for renovation works until completion in November 2025, and was reopened in the same month.

- Among others, the AFCD is preparing for the “Four Peaks” tourism project, which features four scenic hiking trails with Hong Kong’s characteristics and fabulous

mountain and sea views, namely the Peak, Lantau Peak, Tai Mo Shan and Sai Kung Hoi, under the theme “Hills and Sea in the City within Arm’s Reach”. The project aims to deepen the development of green tourism by enhancing supporting facilities and incorporating additional tourism elements. The AFCD plans to launch the green tourism itineraries of the “Four Peaks” through a series of promotional activities during the peak hiking season in the second half of 2026.

At the same time, the AFCD seeks to enhance trails, improve the toilets, provide other suitable recreational and basic supporting facilities in country parks and gradually set up major enhancement facilities such as tree-top adventure, new type of camping facilities and museums of historical relics to enrich tourism experience.

The Hong Kong Tourism Board will leverage its year-round promotional platform “Hong Kong Great Outdoors” to introduce and promote Hong Kong’s unique natural scenery and countryside experiences in detail, under themes such as hiking, beaches and outdoor activities, sightseeing and island hopping, through a comprehensive range of promotional channels, including event guides, dedicated webpages, television features, social media, and mobile applications. The platform also conveys messages on nature conservation and environmental protection to visitors, so as to ensure the coexistence of nature conservation and tourism.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)030****(Question Serial No. 0737)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

The East Dam of High Island Reservoir in Sai Kung is very popular among tourists. Would the Government inform the Committee of the following:

1. the numbers of visitors to the East Dam of High Island Reservoir in Sai Kung in 2023, 2024 and 2025 respectively, the respective 10 dates with the highest single-day figure and the respect numbers of visitors, as well as the proportion of tourists over the said 3 years in table form;
2. in view of the huge popularity of the East Dam among tourists, the Government's measures to divert the visitor flow at the East Dam of High Island Reservoir in Sai Kung, and the manpower and expenditures involved;
3. whether the Government has any plan to leverage the newly opened Leung Shuen Wan Pier to encourage visitors to make better use of water-borne transport before going to the East Dam on foot, with a view to diverting some of the visitors, providing more diversified experience to East Dam visitors and encouraging them to spend near Leung Shuen Wan; and
4. the Government's measures to improve the hardware facilities of the East Dam to enhance visitors' experience at the East Dam?

Asked by: Hon YIU Pak-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)Reply:

1. Over the past 3 years, the average daily number of visitors to the East Dam of High Island Reservoir during weekends and public holidays is tabulated as follows. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not keep statistics on the proportion of tourists and the number of visitors on days other than weekends and public holidays.

| Year | Average daily number of visitors |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 1 051 |
| 2024 | 1 265 |
| 2025 | 1 418 |

Over the past 3 years, regarding the visitors to the East Dam of High Island Reservoir during weekends and public holidays, the 10 dates with the highest single-day figure and the respective numbers of visitors are tabulated as follows:

| Date | Number of visitors |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 17 Mar 2024 | 5 126 |
| 4 Apr 2024 | 5 056 |
| 24 Mar 2024 | 4 536 |
| 22 Mar 2025 | 4 232 |
| 18 Jan 2025 | 4 205 |
| 24 Feb 2024 | 4 045 |
| 11 Feb 2024 | 3 932 |
| 13 Jan 2024 | 3 817 |
| 21 Dec 2024 | 3 612 |
| 12 Jan 2025 | 3 448 |

2. The Government has taken targeted measures during weekends and public holidays, including carrying out traffic control at strategic locations at Pak Tam Chung, Man Yee Road and East Dam during peak visitor arrival and departure periods; the Transport Department has co-ordinated with the green minibus (GMB) operator to enhance service and extend service hours of GMB Route No. 9A (Pak Tam Chung - High Island Reservoir East Dam). The AFCD also increases and deploys manpower (about 20 people on average, subject to the circumstances) to station at East Dam during weekends and public holidays to strengthen crowd management, keep monitoring visitor flow and publish the information on visitor flow on the “Enjoy Hiking” website in a timely manner. Temporary crowd control measures will be implemented at the entrance of the Po Pin Chau Section of the High Island Geo Trail when necessary. The AFCD has also enhanced cleansing in the vicinity of the East Dam and provided temporary toilets and large rubbish bins for visitors during peak hiking season. In addition, the AFCD is promoting the “Four Peaks” tourism project, which aims to divert tourists to different attractive hiking trails throughout Hong Kong.

The above measures are part of the routine management, patrols, enforcement, and education and publicity work for country parks. The AFCD does not keep a breakdown of the estimated expenditure involved for individual locations.

3. Currently, visitors may take a kaito from Sai Kung Pier to High Island, which takes about 45 minutes, while the Leung Shuen Wan Pier is about 4 km from the East Dam of High Island Reservoir, which takes about 1 hour by walking. However, the kaitos currently run about every two hours, so visitors need to observe the kaito schedule. Regarding promotion, the AFCD has updated and listed out the information on routes from Leung Shuen Wan Pier to the East Dam of High Island Reservoir on the Hong Kong Geopark website to provide visitors with options, and will endeavour to enhance the promotion of relevant information in future.
4. The AFCD is planning to provide more covered seats and update maps on information boards at the East Dam of the High Island Reservoir to improve visitor facilities at the

East Dam of the High Island Reservoir, and erect a new geopark monument to attract visitors to the spot for taking photos. The relevant facilities are expected to be completed in 2026 and 2027 progressively. In addition, the AFCD has conducted assessments with the power supply company and identified potential locations for installing additional outlet points to provide water filling stations and beverage vending machines. The AFCD will also enhance and improve the railing facilities of the Po Pin Chau Section, so as to enhance visitor experience and ensure visitor safety.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)031****(Question Serial No. 0744)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

1. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will reduce 55 non-directorate posts from 2 308 to 2 253 in 2026-27. Please tabulate the staff establishment and vacancies in 2025-26 and 2026-27, and the posts to be deleted in 2026-27.
2. Regarding the staff establishment in 2025-26 and 2026-27, how many posts were/will be deployed for the management, patrolling and enforcement duties in country parks (including campsites), special areas, marine parks and marine reserve?
3. Regarding prosecutions instituted at country parks (including campsites), special areas, marine parks and marine reserve by the AFCD, please list out the numbers of prosecutions, successful prosecutions and associated penalties, as well as 5 cases with the lowest and highest penalties imposed in 2023, 2024 and 2025.
4. For some popular eco-attractions such as Sharp Island (Kiu Tsui) lying outside country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve, how would the Government step up patrols to protect the ecological environment of these areas?

Asked by: Hon YIU Pak-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

1. The staff establishment and the number of vacancies of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in 2025-26 and 2026-27 are tabulated as follows:

| Year (as at 31 March) | Staff establishment | Vacancies |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 2025-26 | 2 316 | 283 |
| 2026-27 | 2 261 | Not yet available |

The 55 non-directorate posts to be deleted in 2026-27 are tabulated as follows:

| Post | Number |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Senior Forestry Officer | 1 |
| Engineer | 1 |
| Forestry Officer | 2 |
| Field Officer I | 1 |
| Supervisor of Typing Services | 1 |
| Calligraphist | 2 |
| Photographer I | 1 |
| Clerical Assistant | 2 |
| Artisan | 4 |
| Motor Driver | 2 |
| Workman I | 37 |
| Workman II | 1 |

2. There were 699 staff at the various ranks under the AFCD whose duties involved the daily management, patrols, law enforcement and education work of country parks in 2025-26. There were 101 staff at the various ranks whose duties involved the management, patrols and law enforcement work of marine parks and marine reserve in 2025-26. The manpower in 2026-27 is roughly the same. The AFCD will deploy manpower flexibly where necessary by, for example, hiring contract staff, to step up patrols, publicity and education, and law enforcement work at popular countryside locations in accordance with the actual circumstances.
3. The numbers of prosecutions instituted, successful prosecutions, and related penalties imposed by the AFCD in relation to country parks and special areas over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of prosecutions instituted (cases) | Number of successful prosecutions (cases)* | Total amount of fine (\$) |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2023 | 531 | 646 | 331,650 |
| 2024 | 692 | 635 | 309,050 |
| 2025 | 455 | 524 | 430,330 |

* Including cases where prosecutions were initiated previously but concluded in that year.

The 5 successful prosecutions with the highest penalties imposed in relation to country parks and special areas are tabulated as follows:

| Date of offence | Offence | Amount of fine (\$) |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 5 Nov 2023 | Littering | 6,300* |
| 5 Jul 2025 | Littering | 6,300* |
| 13 Oct 2025 | Littering | 3,000# |
| 16 Nov 2025 | Littering | 3,000# |
| 16 Nov 2025 | Littering | 3,000# |

* Including the fixed penalty payable under the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570), plus additional fines and legal costs for recovery of the fixed penalty.

The fixed penalty payable under Cap. 570.

The 5 successful prosecutions with the lowest penalties imposed in relation to country parks and special areas are tabulated as follows:

| Date of offence | Offence | Amount of fine (\$) |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 25 Dec 2024 | Unauthorised possession or driving of a bicycle | 100 |
| 25 Dec 2024 | Unauthorised possession or driving of a bicycle | 100 |
| 9 Oct 2022 | Illegal camping | 150 |
| 9 Oct 2022 | Illegal camping | 150 |
| 16 Feb 2025 | Unauthorised possession or driving of a vehicle | 200 |

The numbers of prosecutions instituted, successful prosecutions, and related penalties imposed by the AFCD in relation to marine parks and marine reserve over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of prosecutions instituted (cases) | Number of successful prosecutions (cases)* | Total amount of fine (\$) |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2023 | 23 | 20 | 19,500 |
| 2024 | 19 | 17 | 29,300 |
| 2025 | 20* | 9 | 12,600 |

* As at February 2026, 10 cases in 2025 are still under investigation; of the remaining 10 cases, 9 have resulted in successful prosecutions.

The 5 successful prosecutions with the highest penalties imposed in relation to marine parks and marine reserve are tabulated as follows:

| Date of offence | Offence | Term of imprisonment/ Amount of fine (\$) |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 30 May 2024 | Anchoring outside designated mooring sites | Imprisonment for 14 days (suspended for 24 months) |
| 13 Oct 2024 | Illegal fishing | 2,000 |
| 8 Oct 2024 | Illegal fishing | 2,000 |
| 8 Oct 2024 | Illegal fishing | 2,000 |
| 8 Oct 2024 | Illegal fishing | 2,000 |

The 5 successful prosecutions with the lowest penalties imposed in relation to marine parks and marine reserve are tabulated as follows:

| Date of offence | Offence | Amount of fine (\$) |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 8 Apr 2023 | Illegal fishing | 500 |
| 2 Dec 2023 | Illegal fishing | 500 |
| 2 Dec 2023 | Illegal fishing | 500 |
| 2 Dec 2023 | Illegal fishing | 500 |
| 19 Feb 2024 | Illegal fishing | 500 |

4. On the premise of ecological conservation, the AFCD has been carrying out publicity and education work through various channels to promote green tourism and publicise hiking safety information to visitors, and to raise environmental awareness among visitors, appealing to them to protect the natural environment while appreciating the nature, as well as promoting key messages such as “Take Your Litter Home”. When engaging in water activities and appreciating nature, visitors should avoid disturbing marine life or causing an impact on the marine ecosystems. Taking Sharp Island as an example, the AFCD will deploy additional manpower during long holidays in the Mainland and the peak seasons in summers to distribute promotional leaflets to promote marine conservation messages appealing to visitors for protecting the nature while enjoying it, as well as reminding them to respect the geological and ecological features on the island, and not to collect, disturb, or harm marine life. The AFCD will also explore appropriate conservation measures to enhance conservation of habitats at Sharp Island and other locations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)032

(Question Serial No. 2761)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026-27, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. the progress, timetable and budget of the Government in “taking forward the phased development of the Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park and feasibility study on the development of the Coastal Protection Park at Tsim Bei Tsui/Lau Fau Shan/Pak Nai”; and
2. the progress, timetable and budget of the Government in “implementing the ‘Four Peaks’ tourism project and measures to enhance the educational, recreational and sustainable eco-tourism functions of country parks”.

Asked by: Hon YIU Pak-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

1. The Government is taking forward the development of the Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park (SPS WCP) in phases to enhance the ecological functions of the wetland ecosystem in the Deep Bay area, protect bird habitats and enrich biodiversity. We will enhance and proactively manage the fishponds and wetlands within SPS WCP and introduce modernised and sustainable aquaculture, while providing quality outdoor eco-education and recreation facilities, thereby achieving triple objectives of wetland conservation, eco-education, and recreation and tourism development, as well as the modernisation of aquaculture industry.

The scale of SPS WCP is vast, with Phase 1 covering about 150 hectares, which mainly covers fishponds and wetlands on Government land in the northern part of SPS WCP. In September 2025, the Government engaged an engineering consultant to commence detailed design for SPS WCP Phase 1. Upon completion of the design, we plan to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council later this year for the commencement of the works for Phase 1 as well as the detailed design for the Remaining Phase. Subject to funding approval, the works for Phase 1 are expected to commence in late-2026/early-2027, with completion targeted for 2031.

As for the Remaining Phase of SPS WCP, we plan to engage a consultant in the first quarter of 2027 to commence detailed design for the facilities and works involved. More accurate estimates for the overall construction and operation of SPS WCP will be available upon completion of the investigation study and the detailed design.

In addition, in December 2024, the AFCD engaged a consultant to conduct a feasibility study on the development of the Coastal Protection Park at Tsim Bei Tsui/Lau Fau Shan/Pak Nai to determine the proposed boundary, role, functions and management model. The contract fee for the study is about \$8.4 million, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2026. The study will involve launching public engagement activities shortly to solicit views from the public and stakeholders on the specific development proposals for the Coastal Protection Park. We will review the results of the study in due course and set a concrete timetable for the development of the Coastal Protection Park in the light of the development progress at Tsim Bei Tsui, Lau Fau Shan and Pak Nai areas.

2. To promote the “Four Peaks” tourism project, the AFCD is enhancing hiking trail facilities at relevant attractions, including repairing the hiking trails using the handcrafted trail approach and providing additional passing places to improve hiking safety; carrying out minor improvement works to provide additional facilities including directional signs and hiking information boards to provide clearer guidance, and providing additional basic leisure facilities, such as picnic tables and benches, at suitable locations so as to provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy recreations and connect to nature; and thematic planting of native flowering plants along the hiking trails to enhance the appeal of natural scenery. The facility enhancement works has commenced progressively in the first half of 2025 and are expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

The AFCD is also working with the Tourism Commission and the Hong Kong Tourism Board in linking up the tourism sector and operators of nearby tourist spots to further work out the planning for green tourism itineraries and tourism product development, and promote them to tourists through various channels. The AFCD launched the promotion of the “Four Peaks” tourism project during the peak hiking season at the end of 2025. For example, the AFCD co-operated with Ngong Ping 360 in November 2025 to organise a digital stamp-collection hiking event at Ngong Ping to take the lead in promoting the Lantau Peak route, and promoted the Peak route during the Hong Kong Trail 40th Anniversary Celebration Programme launched in the same month. The total number of participants of the two events was about 12 000 people. The AFCD plans to launch the green tourism itineraries of the “Four Peaks” through a series of promotional activities during the hiking season in the second half of 2026.

Previously, the expenditure involved in the development of the “Four Peaks” tourism project was part of the daily management and routine education and publicity work of the country parks, the AFCD does not keep the relevant figures. However, the AFCD will be provided with an additional funding for the development of the “Four Peaks” tourism project in 2026-27, and the relevant estimated expenditure is \$7.8 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)033****(Question Serial No. 2762)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

1. Please provide the number of visitors to Hong Kong Wetland Park (HKWP) in 2025, the proportion of tourists and the operating expenses of HKWP;
2. Please provide the number of visitors to Long Valley Nature Park (LVNP) in 2025, the proportion of tourists and the operating expenses of LVNP; and
3. Please provide the number of visitors to Mai Po Nature Reserve (MPNR) in 2023, 2024 and 2025, and the proportion of tourists.

Asked by: Hon YIU Pak-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)Reply:

- 1 and 2. The numbers of visitors to the Hong Kong Wetland Park (HKWP) and the Long Valley Nature Park (LVNP) in 2025, the proportion of tourists (i.e. non-local visitors) and the operating expenses are tabulated below:

| | Number of visitors | Proportion of tourists (%) | Operating expenses⁽¹⁾ (\$ millions) |
|------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| HKWP | 200 726 ⁽²⁾ | 6.68 ⁽²⁾ | 76.5 ⁽³⁾ |
| LVNP | 76 602 | Not applicable ⁽⁴⁾ | 39.0 |

⁽¹⁾ The revised estimate for 2025-26.⁽²⁾ The number of visitors and proportion of tourists decreased due to the partial or temporary closure of the themed exhibition galleries and some visitor facilities (including Entry Plaza, Atrium, Viewing Gallery, Indoor Play Area, Multi-function Rooms, Souvenir Shop and Café) for upgrading.⁽³⁾ Including expenses to support the upgrading programme for the exhibition and visitor facilities.⁽⁴⁾ Figures on the proportion of tourists are not available for LVNP.

3. The numbers of visitors to Mai Po Nature Reserve (MPNR) in 2023, 2024 and 2025 are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of visitors to MPNR⁽⁵⁾ |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | 28 050 |
| 2024 | 27 446 |
| 2025 | 28 469 |

⁽⁵⁾ Figures on the proportion of tourists (i.e. non-local visitors) for MPNR are not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)190

(Question Serial No. 3419)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the management and operation of country parks and marine parks mentioned in the 2025-26 Estimates, coupled with the growth in the number of visitors and the management pressure arising from the eco-tourism boom in recent years, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) against the backdrop of the eco-tourism boom in recent years, the respective numbers of visitors, management staff, and prosecutions for violating rules in country parks in each of the past 3 years; whether the growth in the number of visitors has led to an increase in the management and operational costs; the changes in the frequency of facilities maintenance, cleansing manpower and number of patrols, as well as the corresponding amount of expenditures involved;
- (2) whether there is any plan to increase management resources for 2026-27, such as adding patrolling staff and eco-tour guides; if so, the specific details; and
- (3) whether there is any plan to provide new infrastructure or upgrade existing infrastructure at popular eco-tourism hotspots in 2026-27, such as expanding car parks and temporary campsites, providing additional toilets and rubbish bins; if so, the specific projects and the estimated expenditures involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pok-chi (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

- (1) The numbers of visitors, patrols and prosecutions in country parks over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of visitors (million) | Number of patrols | Number of prosecutions |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2023 | 13 | 13 891 | 531 |
| 2024 | 11 | 14 266 | 692 |
| 2025 | 11 | 13 950 | 455 |

In 2025-26, there were 699 staff at various ranks under the AFCD whose duties involved the daily management, patrols, enforcement, and education work in country parks. The

scope of work was extensive, including the construction and maintenance of hiking trails and recreational facilities, prevention of hill fires, tree care, litter disposal, cleansing, etc. Despite a slight decrease in the number of visitors as compared to 2023, there was a slight increase in the AFCD's expenditure on maintenance of facilities and routine cleansing. The AFCD's expenditures involved in the repair and maintenance and routine cleansing of country park facilities, and patrols and enforcement work over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Expenditure on repairing facilities (\$ million) | Expenditure on routine cleansing (\$ million) | Expenditure on patrol and enforcement work (\$ million) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 84.4 | 79.9 | 71.5 |
| 2024-25 | 93.0 | 89.6 | 76.7 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate) | 96.8 | 85.2 | 80.3 |

- (2) The manpower involved in the management, patrols and enforcement work of country parks is expected to remain at a similar level in 2026-27. The AFCD will deploy manpower flexibly where necessary by, for example, hiring contract staff, to step up patrols and enforcement work at popular locations in country parks in accordance with the actual circumstances.
- (3) The AFCD is also carrying out country park facility enhancement works in phases at popular countryside locations. The project estimates and planned completion dates for projects expected to be completed in the 2026-27 are tabulated as follows:

| Name of project | (Approved) Project estimates (\$ million) | Progress | Planned completion date |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Public toilets | | | |
| Reconstruction of the public toilet at Bride's Pool Road within Pat Sin Leng Country Park | 23.8 | In progress | 1st half of 2026 |
| Reconstruction of the public toilet at Tai Tam Tuk within Tai Tam Country Park | 26.6 | In progress | 1st half of 2026 |
| Reconstruction of the public toilet and refreshment kiosk at Aberdeen Country Park physically handicapped and able-bodied barbecue site | 47.4 | In progress | 2nd half of 2026 |
| Provision of a new public toilet at Long Ke Wan Campsite within Sai Kung East Country Park | 29.8 | In progress | 2nd half of 2026 |

| Name of project | (Approved) Project estimates (\$ million) | Progress | Planned completion date |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Provision of a new public toilet at Twisk Campsite within Tai Lam Country Park | 29.4 | In progress | 1st half of 2027 |
| Other projects | | | |
| Provision of a viewing platform overlooking Aberdeen Upper Reservoir and associated physically handicapped and able-bodied recreation facilities within Aberdeen Country Park | 15.0 | In progress | 1st half of 2027 |
| Provision of an outdoor free exploration field at Lions Nature Education Centre within Tsiu Hang special area, Sai Kung | 26.4 | In progress | 1st half of 2027 |

On the premise of ecological conservation, the AFCD is reviewing the carrying capacity of some popular countryside locations to formulate corresponding measures to strengthen management and will deploy resources in a timely manner to ensure the sustainable development of eco-tourism.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)191

(Question Serial No. 3359)

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
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

According to media reports, public facilities at country parks, marine parks or beaches are overused during holidays, which affects hygiene and the ecological environment. Please advise of the following:

1. the manpower deployed by the Government for patrols and law enforcement at country parks and campsites, as well as whether the Government will consider expanding the manpower in future; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons;
2. the prosecution figures and reasons over the past 3 years, listed in tabular form;
3. how the Government will ramp up efforts in combatting illegal behaviour with a view to protecting nature and the ecological environment; and
4. the detailed plan to construct or repair public facilities at country parks in the coming year; whether the Government will consider providing more public ancillary facilities, as well as the estimated expenditures involved.

Asked by: Hon CHU Lap-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

1. There are currently 157 staff in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) who are responsible for conducting routine patrols and law enforcement work in country parks and special areas across the territory, and the manpower for 2026-27 will remain roughly the same. The AFCD will timely step up patrols and law enforcement work at popular locations in country parks by increasing manpower and redeploying staff as needed.
2. and 3. The AFCD is committed to combating illegal acts in country parks so as to protect the natural environment. The AFCD staff conduct daily patrols in various country parks and special areas. If irregularities are detected, the AFCD will take enforcement actions against persons involved under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) (the Regulations) and other relevant legislation. Over the past 3 years, the number of prosecutions instituted under the Regulations mainly involved offences such as unauthorised possession or riding of bicycles or driving of vehicles, use of fire or camping outside the designated areas, damage of

plants and littering. The relevant numbers of prosecutions are tabulated as follows:

| Year | Number of prosecutions |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 2023 | 531 |
| 2024 | 692 |
| 2025 | 455 |

The AFCD will continue to review and adjust patrol arrangements in country parks from time to time in the light of actual situations, and will organise special enforcement operations at individual locations or deploy technologies, such as artificial intelligence surveillance, as necessary to step up efforts in combatting illegal acts in country parks.

4. The AFCD provides various visitor facilities in country parks, such as hiking trails, picnic sites, barbecue areas, rain shelters, viewing points, etc., and will conduct routine patrols, maintenance and repair work of such facilities. The AFCD's estimated expenditure on the construction, repair and maintenance of the relevant facilities and hiking trails in country parks for 2026-27 is about \$98.1 million.

Besides, to increase the provision of supporting utility facilities in country parks, the Government set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on country park facilities in the 2021-22 Budget. The AFCD and the relevant works departments are taking forward the relevant projects in phases. The projects estimates and planned completion dates of the projects in 2026-27 are tabulated as follows:

| Name of project | (Approved) Projects estimates (\$ million) | Progress | Planned completion date |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Public toilets | | | |
| Reconstruction of the public toilet at Bride's Pool Road within Pat Sin Leng Country Park | 23.8 | In progress | 1st half of 2026 |
| Reconstruction of the public toilet at Tai Tam Tuk within Tai Tam Country Park | 26.6 | In progress | 1st half of 2026 |
| Reconstruction of the public toilet and refreshment kiosk at Aberdeen Country Park physically handicapped and able-bodied barbecue site | 47.4 | In progress | 2nd half of 2026 |
| Provision of a new public toilet at Long Ke Wan Campsite within Sai Kung East Country Park | 29.8 | In progress | 2nd half of 2026 |

| Name of project | (Approved) Projects estimates (\$ million) | Progress | Planned completion date |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------|
| Provision of a new public toilet at Twisk Campsite within Tai Lam Country Park | 29.4 | In progress | 1st half of 2027 |
| Other projects | | | |
| Provision of a viewing platform overlooking Aberdeen Upper Reservoir and associated physically handicapped and able-bodied recreation facilities within Aberdeen Country Park | 15.0 | In progress | 1st half of 2027 |
| Provision of an outdoor free exploration field at Lions Nature Education Centre within Tsiu Hang special area, Sai Kung | 26.4 | In progress | 1st half of 2027 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)192

(Question Serial No. 3449)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Long Valley Nature Park (LVNP) opened in November 2024 and is divided into three management zones, namely the Visitor Zone, the Agriculture Zone and the Biodiversity Zone. Regarding park operation, please advise of the following:

- (a) the number of visitors to the LVNP since its opening, listed by month, and the percentage of tourists;
- (b) the operating expenses and major expenditure items of the various zones of the LVNP over the past year in list form;
- (c) the change in farmland occupancy rates in the Agriculture Zone since the LVNP opened, listed by quarter;
- (d) the activities organised at the LVNP to attract visitors, as well as their dates and the number of participants in tabular form;
- (e) whether the Government has deployed resources to protect the farmland from disturbance of wild animals or birds; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons and whether there is a plan to do so; and
- (f) the Government's plans and measures to ramp up publicity for the LVNP and upgrade facilities in each zone, as well as the estimated expenditures.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 50)

Reply:

- (a) The number of visitors to the Long Valley Nature Park (LVNP) since its opening on 9 November 2024 is tabulated by month as follows:

| Year | Month | Number of visitors⁽¹⁾ |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 2024 | Nov | 4 988 |
| | Dec | 9 476 |

| Year | Month | Number of visitors⁽¹⁾ |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 2025 | Jan | 7 171 |
| | Feb | 5 358 |
| | Mar | 5 239 |
| | Apr | 5 533 |
| | May | 7 302 |
| | Jun | 6 823 |
| | Jul | 3 490 |
| | Aug | 2 944 |
| | Sep | 3 085 |
| | Oct | 8 588 |
| | Nov | 14 407 |
| | Dec | 6 662 |
| 2026 | Jan | 6 864 |
| | Feb | 10 744 |

⁽¹⁾ The LVNP does not keep figures on the proportion of tourists.

- (b) The total revised estimate of the LVNP for 2025-26 was about \$39 million. The major expenditure items are tabulated as follows:

| Major expenditure item⁽¹⁾ | Expenditure (\$ million) |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Salary expenses | 15.9 |
| Habitat management and monitoring work | 13.3 |
| General operation and maintenance | 8.1 |
| Conservation education, community promotion and ecotourism | 1.7 |

⁽¹⁾ The LVNP does not keep statistics on the expenditures with a breakdown by management zone.

- (c) The occupancy rate of the farmland in the Agriculture Zone since the opening of the LVNP is tabulated by quarter as follows:

| Year | Quarter | Occupancy rate of farmland in the Agriculture Zone (%) |
|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2024 | 4 | 100.0 |
| 2025 | 1 | 100.0 |
| | 2 | 100.0 |
| | 3 | 100.0 |
| | 4 | 100.0 |
| 2026 | 1 | 97.4 |

- (d) Over the past year, wetland conservation education programmes organised by the LVNP for the public included Guided Tours at Long Valley, fixed-point interpretation, handicraft workshops, experiential workshops on habitat management as well as other

thematic workshops. The numbers of programmes held and participants are tabulated by month as follows:

| Month | Number of programmes held | Number of participants (attendances) |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Mar 2025 | 36 | 468 |
| Apr 2025 | 26 | 296 |
| May 2025 | 18 | 164 |
| Jun 2025 | 16 | 173 |
| Jul 2025 | 11 | 108 |
| Aug 2025 | 18 | 154 |
| Sep 2025 | 6 | 31 |
| Oct 2025 | 18 | 296 |
| Nov 2025 | 26 | 462 |
| Dec 2025 | 23 | 239 |
| Jan 2026 | 23 | 341 |
| Feb 2026 | 21 | 246 |
| Mar 2026 | Figure not yet available | Figure not yet available |
| Total | 242 | 2 978 |

- (e) The LVNP is an ecological conservation facility integrating wetland conservation, farming operation and nature education in one place. Currently, through implementing habitat management and eco-friendly farming practice, the LVNP provides suitable habitats for diverse wildlife.

For example, the LVNP leases farmland in the Agriculture Zone to farmers for eco-friendly farming, encouraging them to reduce the use of chemical pesticides, retain vegetation on the bunds, maintain the hydrological cycle, and adopt tools or measures that can protect their crops while not harming wild animals, thereby striking a balance between farming production and biodiversity conservation. Regarding the impact of wild animals or wild birds on farmland, the LVNP has recommended farmers to use natural repellents and erect simple fencing, among other wildlife-friendly measures, thereby promoting the symbiotic relationship of human and nature.

The above modes of operation have been effective and yielding notable results since the opening of the LVNP. The LVNP will maintain constant communication with farmers to promote the coexistence of farming operation and biodiversity within the LVNP.

- (f) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to promote the LVNP and its educational activities through the LVNP's and other social media pages and websites. The LVNP, in collaboration with other departments, will also promote its educational facility for wetland conservation to schools. The above publicity and education work is part of the LVNP's routine work and does not involve additional expenditure.

The AFCD has been gradually enhancing the facilities in the LVNP upon its opening, including the addition of portable toilets, the provision of interpretation panels in the Visitor Zone and new exhibits at the Long Valley Nature Centre to introduce the LVNP's features. The relevant work is expected to be completed within 2026, with a total estimated expenditure of about \$4.1 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0830)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(LAI Kin-ming, Mickey)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

Upgrading works have been underway since 2024 for the exhibition galleries and the relevant facilities of the Hong Kong Wetland Park's Visitor Centre. They were originally scheduled for completion by the end of 2025, but they have still not fully re-opened. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the approved project estimates for the upgrading works; the actual expenditure for the upgrading works as at 2025-26; whether there will be cost overrun; if yes, the amounts of cost overrun to be incurred and the reasons;
- (2) the specific date for completion of the upgrading works as originally scheduled; the latest projected completion date; the major reasons for the delay in the upgrading works;
- (3) the respective numbers of visitors and ticket proceeds of the Hong Kong Wetland Park in 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26;
- (4) the respective expenditures earmarked for operation, maintenance of facilities and promotion of the Hong Kong Wetland Park in 2026-27, as well as the rates of change as compared with the revised estimates for 2025-26.

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

- (1) The total funding for the upgrading of exhibition and visitor facilities of the Hong Kong Wetland Park (HKWP) is around \$142 million. As at 2025-26, the actual expenditure incurred for the aforesaid project is around \$72.4 million, and no cost overrun is expected.
- (2) The aforesaid project was originally scheduled for completion by the end of 2025, and is now expected to complete from the end of 2026 to the first half of 2027 in phases. The major reasons for the delay in the project were that after the exhibit fabrication and installation contractor commenced the works on-site, it was found that modifications to some of the venues were required to ensure that the new exhibits and facilities to be

installed meet the statutory structural and fire safety requirements. In addition, some of the digital and multimedia audio-visual products originally planned for use were out of stock in the market, and the exhibit fabrication and installation contractor needed extra time to source suitable alternatives.

- (3) The numbers of visitors and ticket proceeds of HKWP in 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 are tabulated below:

| Year | Number of visitors | Ticket proceeds (\$ million) |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | 364 820 | 6.1 |
| 2024-25* | 231 284 | 3.8 |
| 2025-26 (revised estimate)# | 205 000 | 2.0 |

* The number of visitors and ticket proceeds decreased due to the partial or temporary closure of the themed exhibition galleries and some visitor facilities (including Entry Plaza, Atrium, Viewing Gallery, Indoor Play Area, Multi-function Rooms, Souvenir Shop and Café) for upgrading.

Figures are 2025-26 revised estimate, final number of visitors and ticket proceeds to be confirmed.

- (4) The estimated expenditure on operation of HKWP in 2026-27 is \$74.4 million, including the estimated expenditures on maintenance of facilities (\$14.4 million) and promotion (\$2.0 million).

The estimated expenditure on operation of HKWP for 2026-27 is broadly on a par with that for 2025-26. Since some exhibits and facilities will be replaced under the aforesaid upgrading project, the estimated expenditure on maintenance of facilities for 2026-27 is lower than that for 2025-26. The estimated expenditure on promotion will increase accordingly for the preparation of the reopening of the exhibition and visitor facilities.

- End -