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Conservation**

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in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2019-20**

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FHB(FE)311	4436	Hon KWONG Chun-yu	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
FHB(FE)312	4438	Hon KWONG Chun-yu	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
FHB(FE)313	4446	Hon KWONG Chun-yu	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
FHB(FE)314	4448	Hon KWONG Chun-yu	13	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
FHB(FE)315	4458	Hon KWONG Chun-yu	13	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
FHB(FE)316	3489	Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	13	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Session No.</b>	<b>Programme</b>
FHB(FE)317	3490	Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
FHB(FE)318	3491	Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
FHB(FE)319	3652	Hon MA Fung-kwok	13	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
FHB(FE)320	4244	Hon SHIU Ka-fai	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
FHB(FE)321	4503	Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
FHB(FE)322	4505	Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
FHB(FE)323	4506	Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
FHB(FE)324	4511	Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
FHB(FE)325	4686	Hon WU Chi-wai	13	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
FHB(FE)326	4687	Hon WU Chi-wai	13	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
CEDB(CIT)228	1509	Hon YIU Si-wing	11	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
S-ENB001	S088	Hon CHU Hoi-dick	7	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
S-ENB002	S036	Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven	7	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
S-FHB(FE)001	S083	Hon CHU Hoi-dick	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
S-FHB(FE)002	S084	Hon CHU Hoi-dick	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
S-FHB(FE)003	S085	Hon CHU Hoi-dick	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
S-FHB(FE)004	S086	Hon CHU Hoi-dick	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
S-FHB(FE)005	S087	Hon CHU Hoi-dick	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB001**

**(Question Serial No. 1379)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Over the past 3 years, regarding endangered species in Hong Kong, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the manpower and expenditures involved?
- (b) What were the numbers of prosecutions instituted under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance? What were the penalties imposed?
- (c) What were the numbers of illegal trading on the internet?
- (d) How many endangered animals were seized each year? What were their types?
- (e) What were the conditions of the animals seized in various control points?
- (f) What were the numbers of animals confiscated and handed to non-profit making organisations in Hong Kong for conservation?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure and manpower of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in controlling international trade in endangered species and curbing illegal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19 (revised estimate)</b>
<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	36.2	42.5	47.5

<b>Manpower (number of staff)</b>	51	55	57
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- (b) The number of prosecutions instituted under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance and the corresponding penalties imposed over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Number of prosecutions</b>	154	189	221
<b>Maximum penalty (imprisonment / months)</b>	8	3	8
<b>Minimum penalty (fine / \$)</b>	100	400	400

- (c) The number of cases involving illegal selling of endangered species through internet platforms and the quantity of live endangered animal species seized over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Number of cases</b>	12	19	9
<b>Number of individuals</b>	22	45	24

- (d) The number of live endangered animals seized over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Number of individuals</b>	2 336	2 812	4 140

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

- (e) The number of live endangered animals seized at various control points over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

<b>Calendar year/ Control point</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Hong Kong International Airport	1 885	2 488	2 915
China Ferry Terminal	--	6	--
Sea boundary	46	10	--
Lo Wu Control Point	6	21	6
Lok Ma Chau Control Point	94	--	14
Lok Ma Chau Spurline Control Point	25	--	15
Man Kam To Control Point	144	10	916
Shenzhen Bay Control Point	1	8	193

- (f) In 2016, 2017 and 2018, AFCD donated 172, 733 and 241 seized live endangered species respectively to local institutes/organisations for conservation purposes and/or temporary keeping.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB002**

**(Question Serial No. 3188)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the implementation of the first Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department:

What are the amount of resources and manpower to be deployed in the work related to the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan this year? What are the specific details of the Plan and the timeframe for its implementation?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) 2016-2021 is a 5-year plan setting out the strategy and action plan for conserving biodiversity and supporting sustainable development in Hong Kong. The 67 specific actions under BSAP are grouped under 4 major areas: (1) enhancing the existing conservation measures; (2) mainstreaming biodiversity in relevant policies, programmes, works and projects by public and private sectors; (3) improving the knowledge on biodiversity; and (4) enhancing public awareness of and participation in biodiversity. Since the launch of BSAP in December 2016, the actions have been implemented progressively in accordance with the planned timetable set out in the BSAP document.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has earmarked \$50 million and 33 staff for the implementation of BSAP in 2019-20 in accordance with the planned timetable. Major initiatives include enhancing the management of country parks and the Ramsar site; designating new country and marine parks; formulating and implementing species action plans; monitoring and studying priority species and habitats; compiling the List of Threatened Species for Hong Kong; developing a biodiversity information hub for sharing relevant data and knowledge; as well as promoting biodiversity awareness among the public and stakeholders through further publicity and education activities.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB003**

**(Question Serial No. 2951)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the Department's work on the "provision of nature conservation advice on development proposals, planning studies and environmental impact assessments":

- (a) Has the Department provided nature conservation advice to the relevant government departments on the development and reclamation plans of the East Lantau Metropolis? If yes, what are the details of the relevant advice? If not, has the Government sought nature conservation advice from the Department on the development and reclamation plans of the East Lantau Metropolis?
- (b) According to the Department, the Sunshine Island near the site of the development and reclamation plans of the East Lantau Metropolis was listed as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in 2015. The reason for listing the Sunshine Island as an SSSI was to protect the Bogadek's burrowing lizards (*Dibamus bogadeki*). According to the Department, the Bogadek's burrowing lizards are a reptile unique to Hong Kong, with their appearance only recorded on 3 islands (i.e. Sunshine Island, Shek Kwu Chau and Hei Ling Chau). In this connection, has the Department conducted any research or study on the impacts of the development and reclamation plans of the East Lantau Metropolis on the ecology, sustainability, etc., of the Bogadek's burrowing lizards? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) According to the Department, "the listing of SSSI is primarily an administrative device to alert government departments about the scientific importance of such sites, and that due consideration should be given to conservation when developments at or close to these sites are proposed". As far as the Department knows, have the relevant government departments "given due consideration to conservation", in particular the impacts on the Bogadek's burrowing lizards, when the preliminary concept of the development and reclamation plans of the East Lantau Metropolis was proposed?

- (d) What were details in the estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the Department's work on the "provision of nature conservation advice on development proposals, planning studies and environmental impact assessments" over the past 3 years and those in the coming year? Will the Department's work in the aforesaid aspect include the development and reclamation plans of the East Lantau Metropolis? If yes, what are the details of the relevant work?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

- (a) During the Government's formulation of the "Sustainable Lantau Blueprint", the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) had been providing advice from the nature conservation perspective, including potential impact(s) arising from the proposed development under the Blueprint (e.g. the East Lantau Metropolis) on important habitats and species (particularly sites and species of recognised conservation importance) as well as advice on various conservation measures concerning South Lantau.
- (b) The Bogadek's Burrowing Lizard (*Dibamus bogadeki*) is endemic to Hong Kong. It has only been recorded on Sunshine Island, Shek Kwu Chau and Hei Ling Chau. In order to enhance the protection of the Bogadek's Burrowing Lizard, Sunshine Island was listed as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in 2015, and the species' status on the island is regularly monitored by AFCD. AFCD will, in accordance with established procedures, examine the potential impacts of the development and reclamation proposals of the East Lantau Metropolis on the SSSI of Sunshine Island and make appropriate recommendations when the relevant departments put forward the detailed proposals and research materials in the future.
- (c) The "Sustainable Lantau Blueprint" promulgated by the Government in 2017 has recognised the significance of conserving the important species on Lantau and its surrounding waters (such as the Bogadek's Burrowing Lizard). AFCD notes that the relevant departments will conduct detailed planning and engineering studies of the proposed artificial island near Kau Yi Chau as well as an environmental impact assessment (EIA) on the development proposals formulated in accordance with established procedures.
- (d) AFCD is responsible for conserving local flora, fauna and natural habitats through offering conservation advice on development proposals, planning strategies and EIAs. These include:
- reviewing EIA studies;
  - enforcing the Environmental Permit (issued under the EIA Ordinance (Cap. 499)) conditions related to nature conservation;
  - carrying out compliance monitoring, impact monitoring and effectiveness monitoring related to ecological assessments;
  - commenting on planning applications, development plans (e.g. layout plans, outline zoning plans), site formation plans, lands matters and development proposals in respect of nature conservation;
  - commenting on strategic planning and transport studies; and

- vetting tree felling applications related to developments.

In the coming year, AFCD will continue to offer conservation advice on the various aspects above, including recommendations related to the development and reclamation proposals of the East Lantau Metropolis.

Over the past 3 years and in the coming year, AFCD's manpower and expenditure involved in the above work are as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of staff)</b>
2016-17	23.9	38
2017-18	25.6	38
2018-19 (revised estimate)	27.7	38
2019-20 (estimate)	29.0	41

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB004**

**(Question Serial No. 3101)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding country park enclaves (enclaves), would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How many enclaves which are not covered by statutory plans have been assessed on their suitability to be incorporated into country parks? What is the timeframe for such incorporation?
- (b) How many enclaves which are not covered by statutory plans have not been assessed on their suitability to be incorporated into country parks? What is the timeframe for completing the assessment?
- (c) What were the expenditures involved in the improvement works on the enclaves incorporated into country parks over the past 6 years?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 1090)

Reply:

- (a) In accordance with the provisions of the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) (the Ordinance), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has incorporated 6 enclaves into the respective country parks. The first batch of enclaves in Sai Wan, Kam Shan and Yuen Tun were incorporated on 30 December 2013 while the second batch of enclaves in Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and the site near Nam Shan were incorporated on 1 December 2017.
- (b) Currently, there are 19 enclaves that have not been incorporated into country parks or covered by statutory plans. AFCD is conducting assessments on the suitability of these enclaves for incorporation into country parks, and it will propose the incorporation of suitable enclaves into country parks in accordance with the statutory procedures as stipulated under the Ordinance.

- (c) The improvement works on the enclaves that have been incorporated into country parks form part of AFCD's regular work for country parks. There is no breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB005**

**(Question Serial No. 1158)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

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

- (a) Please set out the names, locations, sizes and dates of establishment of the marine parks and marine reserves currently established or to be established as well as the sizes of the core areas or restricted zones. Please also provide the boundary maps of these marine parks and marine reserves (including the core areas or restricted zones).
- (b) Please set out the numbers of fishing permits issued to various types of fishing vessels in each marine park and marine reserve, in the first year after the establishment of the marine parks and marine reserves and over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19).
- (c) What were the numbers of operations and the effectiveness of the enforcement operations against illegal fishing activities (including capture, angling as well as any other method) in marine parks over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)? What were the penalties and fines imposed?
- (d) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in the enforcement operations against illegal fishing activities in marine parks over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (e) What were the numbers of patrol vessels deployed by the Government to combat illegal fishing activities in marine parks, the area(s) patrolled, and the numbers of patrols conducted, over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (f) What is the progress of the review of fisheries management measures in marine parks?
- (g) There have been media reports on members of the public or visitors trespassing on marine parks for illegal fishing and conducting leisure activities. What educational

and publicity measures has the Government put in place to promote the matters to note or activities subject to regulation in marine parks?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

- (a) The names, locations, sizes, core area sizes and dates of designation of existing marine parks and marine reserve are tabulated below:

Name of existing marine park/ marine reserve	Location	Size (hectares)		Designation date
		Total	Core area	
Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve	Waters at the southeastern tip of Hong Kong Island	20	0	July 1996
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park	Sheltered bay located north of the Sai Kung West Country Park	260	0	July 1996
Yan Chau Tong Marine Park	Northeast coast of Plover Cove Country Park	680	0	July 1996
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park	Waters enclosing the islands of Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau on the western side of Hong Kong	1 200	0	November 1996
Tung Ping Chau Marine Park	Waters enclosing the small island Ping Chau northeastern waters of Hong Kong	270	7.4	November 2001
The Brothers Marine Park	Waters in the vicinity of The Brothers in northern Lantau	970	80	December 2016

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

Name of proposed marine park	Location	Size (hectares)		Tentative designation time
		Total	Core area	
Southwest Lantau Marine Park	Waters in the vicinity of Fan Lau in southwest Lantau	~ 650	0	2019
South Lantau Marine Park (combining the proposed Soko Islands Marine Park and the proposed marine park for Integrated Waste Management Facilities as a single marine park)	Waters in the vicinity of Soko Islands in southern Lantau	~ 2 067	~145	2020
Proposed Marine Park for the Three-Runway System	Waters around the airport in northern Lantau	~ 2 400	To be determined	2024

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

(b) The requested information is tabulated below:

Name of marine park/ marine reserve	Number of permits issued for the respective marine parks/marine reserve			
	1 <sup>st</sup> year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Cape D'Aguiar Marine Reserve	0	0	0	0
Hoi Ha Wan (HHW) and Yan Chau Tong (YCT) <sup>(i)</sup>	409	251	243	250
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau (SCLKC)	208	80	81	81
Tung Ping Chau (TPC) <sup>(ii)</sup>	280	202	197	200
The Brothers (BROS)	472	-	472	474
<b>Total</b> <sup>(iii)</sup>	---	<b>350</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>744</b>

Notes:

(i) Some fishing permits cover TPC, YCT and/or HHW (see Note (ii) below).

(ii) Some fishing permits issued for TPC also cover YCT/HHW.

(iii) The row "Total" gives the total number of fishing permits issued for the marine parks in a particular year. As some permits cover more than 1 marine park, the figure for a particular year in the row "Total" does not equal to the sum of the numbers of fishing permits issued for the marine parks each year.



- (c) The number of prosecutions against illegal fishing activities in marine parks over the past 3 years and the penalties imposed are tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Number of cases</b>	<b>Total fine (\$)</b>
2016-17	5	9,500
2017-18	6	7,300
2018-19 (up to February 2019)	8 (including 5 cases in the progress of prosecution)	3,300

- (d) The expenditure and manpower involved in the management of marine parks and marine reserve, including enforcement against illegal fishing, over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of staff)</b>
2016-17	21.3	39
2017-18	23.2	44
2018-19 (revised estimate)	25.8	51

- (e) Over the past 3 years, 11 patrol vessels have been deployed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to conduct patrols in the marine parks and marine reserve and surrounding waters to combat illegal fishing activities. As at the end of 2018, the number of patrol vessels has reduced to 8 as a few of the aged vessels are out of service and pending replacement. The Marine Police and their patrol vessels have also rendered assistance in law enforcement within marine parks and marine reserve upon our request.

The areas patrolled included existing and proposed marine parks and marine reserve. The numbers of patrols conducted over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

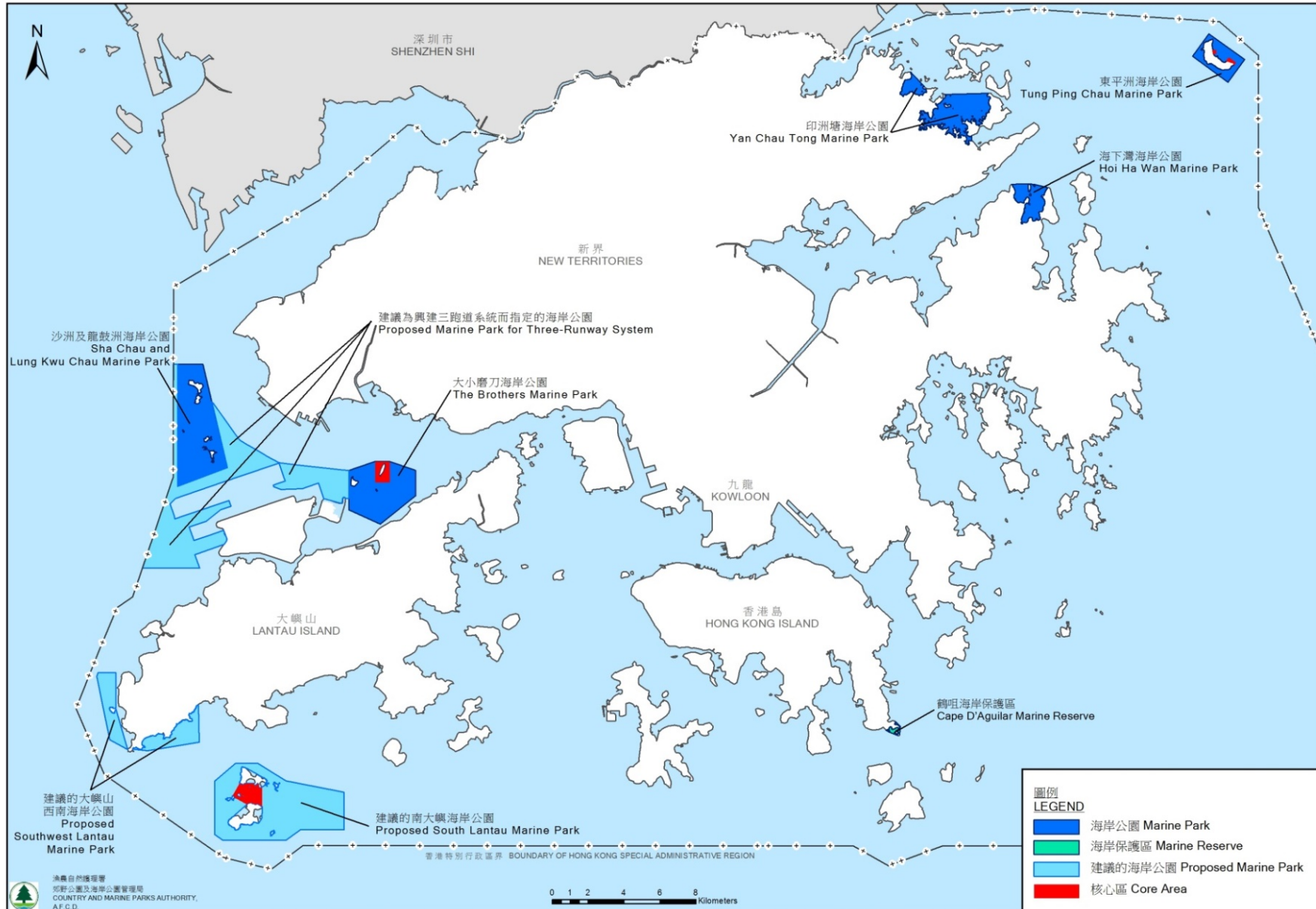
<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Number of patrols</b>
2016-17	3 204
2017-18	4 084
2018-19 (up to February 2019)	3 260

- (f) AFCD commissioned a consultancy study in March 2017 to review the fisheries management measures for marine parks with a view to addressing fishermen's concerns and promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry in Hong Kong without compromising the conservation objectives of marine parks. AFCD is currently examining the implementation details of the strategy proposed in the study, including legislative amendments, management arrangements as well as resource requirements, and plans to consult major fishermen representatives and the affected fishing permit holders later this year.

- (g) To promote public understanding of the importance of marine conservation and solicit their support to protect our marine parks and marine reserve, AFCD organises a variety of education activities targeting both students and the general public. Activities held included guided tours, field studies, public seminars, workshops and exhibitions. AFCD also produces leaflets, posters, videos and booklets to educate the public about our marine environment and the importance of protecting it. Apart from regular patrols and law enforcement, our marine park wardens and marine park ambassadors will distribute education materials and give advice to visitors to marine parks and marine reserve on the codes and regulations for visiting marine parks and marine reserve.

- End -

# Annex



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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB006**

**(Question Serial No. 1161)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

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

- (a) Over each of the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19), what were the respective expenditures incurred by the Government on protecting birds, promoting the development of aquaculture fisheries and agriculture, and assisting such industries in preventing birds from foraging for cultured fish products and crops, together with the details and effectiveness of such efforts?
- (b) Over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19), what were the numbers of complaints received by the Government about alleged unlawful bird-proof measures taken by fish farmers and farmers, the average and longest time taken to handle such cases, the numbers of prosecutions instituted against the contravention of the Wild Animal Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170), and the numbers of convictions thereof?
- (c) Over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19), has the Government made any assessment on the expenditures incurred by fish farmers and farmers on taking bird-proof measures, and their financial losses due to birds foraging for their cultured fish products and crops?
- (d) Over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19), how did the Government compensate fish farmers and farmers for their expenditures and financial losses as mentioned in item (c)? What measures have been put in place by the Government to assist them in reducing such expenditures and financial losses?
- (e) The Environment Bureau rolled out the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021 in December 2016, and commissioned professional consultant(s) to collect the latest information on cormorants preying on commercial fish ponds, review the effectiveness of the current preventive measures and develop methods to prevent cormorants from preying on fish ponds. What are the final findings?

- (f) Under the conservation and management of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, what are the differences between the regulation imposed by the Government on fish ponds and those outside the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site? Does the Government know whether the Ramsar Sites in other countries or regions also comprise of both government land and private land?
- (g) Over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19), what were the amounts of subventions granted to the management agreement projects under the Environment and Conservation Fund? What were the numbers of participating fish farmers as well as the figures and percentages of the fish ponds taken up to the total area of the Ramsar Site?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

- (a) to (d) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) actively works to protect wild animals by different means, including conservation management of habitats in the Ramsar Site and other areas, territory-wide law enforcement, public education, as well as animal rescue, studies and research, etc., while bird conservation is also included in all these aspects of work. According to the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) (the Ordinance), no person shall, except in accordance with a special permit, wilfully disturb or hunt any protected wild animal, including all wild birds. Over the past 3 years (up to 28 January 2019), AFCD has prosecuted about 210 cases for contravening the Ordinance and a total of 201 cases were convicted, including 1 case involving the use of illegal bird prevention measures in farmland, subjected to a fine of \$1,000. During the same period, AFCD received 13 complaints about suspected use of illegal bird prevention measures by farmers or fish pond operators. It usually takes 3 to 6 months to process these cases.

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

(SFDF) may also provide financial support to fish pond operators for purchasing necessary materials under its Equipment Improvement Project.

AFCD has published 2 pamphlets on the methods of preventing bird predation in farmland and fish ponds for the reference of farmers and fish pond operators respectively. According to AFCD's observations, many farmers and fish pond operators have adopted AFCD's recommendations to reduce the risk of bird predation in farmland and fish ponds. Nonetheless, AFCD does not have the information about the cost of bird prevention measures used by farmers and fish pond operators. On the other hand, the loss due to bird predation is subject to many factors, including crops farmed/species of fish, location of the farmland/fish pond, and the bird prevention measures implemented on the site, and hence cannot be deduced conclusively. AFCD will continue to carry out the above work to facilitate farmers and fish pond operators to reduce their loss due to bird predation in farmland and fish ponds.

In addition, AFCD has been supporting and promoting the overall development of the agriculture and fisheries industries through various measures, including providing technical support to the industries, promoting local agricultural and fishery produces, implementing SFDF and SADF with a view to promoting the sustainable development of industries, as well as implementing various supportive measures under the New Agriculture Policy. Breakdown of the expenditure on promoting aquaculture fisheries and agricultural development on the wetland is not available.

- (e) According to the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021, AFCD has commissioned a specialist consultant to collect updated information on the issue of cormorant predation in commercial fish ponds, review the effectiveness of the existing preventive measures, and explore measures to prevent cormorant predation in fish ponds in late 2016. Prior to the commencement of the study, AFCD had communicated with representatives of the aquaculture industry and they welcomed the study. A field trial on the use of the recommended measure was also completed in early 2018. As shown in the findings, pond wiring with the density set at 40 to 70 wires/ha is effective in preventing cormorant predation. AFCD also assists farmers and fishermen with respect to bird predation issues.
- (f) According to the Ramsar Site Management Plan implemented by AFCD, it is recommended that fishponds within the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site (the Ramsar Site) be maintained and operated in an ecologically sustainable manner. One of the measures implemented to achieve this management objective is the Management Agreement projects funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF), under which participating fishpond operators conduct eco-friendly practices such as draining down their fish ponds after harvesting to facilitate bird feeding. Currently, the majority of fishponds at and around the Ramsar Site are engaged in the Management Agreement projects. According to the information from the Ramsar Convention ([www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org)), many Ramsar Sites around the world comprise both government land and private land.

- (g) 2 Management Agreement projects with funding from ECF were conducted from March 2015 to February 2017 and from March 2017 to February 2019 in the Ramsar Site and Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site respectively. Details are tabulated below:

<b>Project period</b>	<b>March 2015 to February 2017</b>		<b>March 2017 to February 2019</b>	
<b>Reporting period</b>	March 2015 to February 2016	March 2016 to February 2017	March 2017 to February 2018	March to December 2018
<b>Ramsar Site</b>				
<b>Approved budget (for 2 years) (\$)</b>	6,614,888		7,034,532	
<b>Number of fishpond operators engaged</b>	66	65	65	67
<b>Area of fishponds engaged (hectare)</b>	323	286	283	286
<b>Total area of eligible fishponds (hectare)*</b>	328	290	290	290
<b>Percentage of area of fishponds engaged in total area of eligible fishponds (%)</b>	98	98	98	98
<b>Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site</b>				
<b>Approved budget (for 2 years) (\$)</b>	6,606,968		7,659,992	
<b>Number of fishpond operators engaged</b>	90	91	87	88
<b>Area of fishponds engaged (ha)</b>	367	334	326	327

<b>Project period</b>	<b>March 2015 to February 2017</b>		<b>March 2017 to February 2019</b>	
	<b>Reporting period</b>	March 2015 to February 2016	March 2016 to February 2017	March 2017 to February 2018
<b>Total area of eligible fishponds (hectare)*</b>	405	371	370	370
<b>Percentage of area of fishponds engaged in total area of eligible fishponds (%)</b>	91	90	88	88

\* Eligible fishponds are those registered under AFCD's voluntary registration scheme.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB007**

**(Question Serial No. 1172)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding wild pigs, please advise on the following:

- (a) Has the Government estimated the current population of wild pigs in Hong Kong?
- (b) What were the numbers of help-seeking cases in relation to the appearance of wild pigs received over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (c) What were the numbers of operations conducted under the pilot programme on the contraception and relocation of wild pigs, the numbers of wild pigs captured, in which the numbers of female wild pigs injected with contraceptive vaccines and were surgically sterilised as well as the numbers of wild pigs relocated to the countryside far away from residential areas over the past 2 years (2017-18 to 2018-19)?
- (d) What were the expenditures and manpower dedicated to the work in relation to the aforesaid pilot programme over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (e) What were the numbers of arrests made and prosecutions instituted in relation to the illegal feeding of wild pigs over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)? What were the average, maximum and minimum penalties imposed respectively?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

- (a) Wild pigs are generally solitary or live in small groups, secretive, widely distributed, and have extensive home range. Currently, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not have the statistics on the population of wild pigs in Hong Kong, but it is devising methods to make an estimate.

- (b) The number of complaints about wild pigs received by AFCD over the past 3 years is as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Number of cases</b>
2016-17	643
2017-18	787
2018-19 (as of January 2019)	819

- (c) During October 2017 to February 2019, AFCD arranged 42 wild pig contraception/relocation operations, captured 155 wild pigs, administered 55 wild pigs with contraceptive vaccines, surgically sterilised 15 wild pigs and relocated 111 wild pigs to locations in the countryside away from human settlements.
- (d) Since 2017-18, there has been a dedicated team for the management of wild pigs with 6 members. In addition, AFCD has temporarily deployed 8 staff from other teams to render assistance since March 2019. Furthermore, AFCD will deploy additional staff for each wild pig contraception/relocation operation.

AFCD has tried implementing the pilot Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP) to handle the nuisance caused by wild pigs in urban areas since late 2017. The expenditures on the implementation of the Pilot Programme over the past 2 years are tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure on the implementation of the pilot CCRP for wild pigs (\$ million)</b>	<b>Total expenditure on wild pig management (\$ million)</b>
2017-18	3.8	6.8
2018-19 (revised estimate)	6.4	10.3

- (e) Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks, part of Tai Mo Shan Country Park, Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve, a section of Tai Po Road along Caldecott Road and Piper's Hill section of Tai Po Road are specified places under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) at which the feeding of any wild animals are prohibited (feeding ban area). Persons feeding wild animals in the feeding ban area are liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000. AFCD arranges regular patrol at the feeding ban area and will take prosecution actions against anyone who has violated the law and fed wild animals, subject to sufficient evidence. AFCD will, from time to time, review the patrolling arrangements at the feeding ban area as appropriate, including the deployment of additional manpower to conduct enforcement operations at nights and on public holidays. The information on the prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals (including wild pigs) over the past 3 years is as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19 (as of February 2019)</b>
Number of patrols	485	564	492
Number of prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals (including wild pigs)	74	40	20
Number of successful prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals (including wild pigs) ^	52	58	15
Average fine (\$)	800	1,000	1,000

^ Some of the prosecutions instituted in the latter part of the financial year might have to be processed in the next financial year.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB008**

**(Question Serial No. 1174)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the marine sanctuary, please advise on the following:

- (a) What are the details of the marine sanctuary?
- (b) What are the details of the revised estimated expenditure and the work involved?

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

Reply:

- (a) The “marine sanctuary” under Sub-head 700 refers to the proposal of setting up a sanctuary in the waters surrounding Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau for conserving dolphins in the 1990s. The Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park (SCLKCMP) was subsequently designated by the Government in 1996. The approved commitment of “Item 536 Setting up a marine sanctuary in the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau area” under Sub-head 700 was created in 1996-97 to cater for the capital expenditure required for the establishment and management of SCLKCMP, such as the installation of marker buoys, purchase of patrol vessels, monitoring of fish resources and water quality within SCLKCMP.
- (b) The 2018-19 revised estimate for the Item is \$50,000 for conducting regular water quality monitoring in SCLKCMP.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB009**

**(Question Serial No. 1101)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

There has been a surge in the nuisance caused by wild pigs and wild monkeys in recent years, with the number of cases hitting a record high of 738 in 2017. The primary cause is that they are fed by kind-hearted members of the public. The existing Wild Animals Protection Ordinance clearly stipulates that it is an offence to feed wild animals in the Lion Rock Country Park, the Kam Shan Country Park, the Shing Mun Country Park, the Tai Mo Shan Country Park (Part of) and the Tai Po Kau Special Area. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) What were the manpower and expenditures involved in the public education and publicity for the prohibition of feeding wild animals over the past 3 years?
- (b) What were the manpower and expenditures involved in handling the aforesaid work over the past 3 years?
- (c) What were the numbers of (i) patrols conducted and (ii) prosecutions instituted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department to enforce the prohibition of feeding wild monkeys each year over the past 3 years? What were the numbers of persons convicted each year and their penalties in general?
- (d) The current legislation regulates the act of feeding wild animals, albeit with low effectiveness. Will the Government re-examine the current legislation or step up public education in order to control the population of wild monkeys and wild pigs in Hong Kong? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

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

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2016-17	0.6
2017-18	2.2
2018-19 (revised estimate)	2.2

As the relevant work forms part of AFCD's work on handling the nuisance caused by wild animals (including monkeys, wild pigs, etc.) (see paragraph (b) below), there is no separate breakdown on the manpower involved in the aforesaid work.

- (b) The expenditure and manpower involved in AFCD's handling of the nuisance caused by monkeys and wild pigs over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>		<b>Manpower</b>	
	<b>Monkey nuisance</b>	<b>Wild pig nuisance</b>	<b>Monkey nuisance</b>	<b>Wild pig nuisance</b>
2016-17	4.2	2.4	12*	
2017-18	5.2	6.8	12	6
2018-19 (revised estimate)	5.6	10.3	12	14

\*The nuisance caused by monkeys and wild pigs was handled by the same group of staff before 2017.

- (c) Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks, part of Tai Mo Shan Country Park, Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve, a section of Tai Po Road along Caldecott Road and Piper's Hill section of Tai Po Road are specified places under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) at which the feeding of any wild animals are prohibited (feeding ban area). Persons feeding wild animals in the feeding ban area are liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000. AFCD arranges regular patrol at the feeding ban area and will take prosecution actions against anyone who has violated the law and fed wild animals, subject to sufficient evidence. AFCD will, from time to time, review the patrolling arrangements at the feeding ban area as appropriate, including the deployment of additional manpower to conduct enforcement operations at nights and on public holidays. The information on the prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals (including monkeys) over the past 3 years is as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19 (as of February 2019)</b>
Number of patrols	485	564	492
Number of prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals (including monkeys)	74	40	20
Number of successful prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals (including monkeys) <sup>^</sup>	52	58	15
Average fine (\$)	800	1,000	1,000

<sup>^</sup> Some of the prosecutions instituted in the latter part of the financial year might have to be processed in the next financial year.

- (d) In order to alleviate the nuisance caused by wild pigs in residential areas more effectively, AFCD has conducted a comprehensive review on the strategy for the management of wild pigs and taken measures in a multi-pronged approach. Such measures include managing wild pig nuisance, reducing food attraction for wild pigs, educating the public to stop feeding wild animals as well as enhancing public awareness towards wild pigs. AFCD will also establish an advisory group comprising experts from various fields to advise on the management of wild pigs. Details are set out in the Legislative Council Paper No. CB(1)487/18-19(05). In addition, AFCD will review the work on the handling of monkey nuisance with a view to developing a more comprehensive management plan.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB010**

**(Question Serial No. 1102)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Legislative Council enacted the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (the Amendment Ordinance) last year to phase out local ivory trade in 3 phrases before 31 December 2021 and increase the penalties for smuggling and illegal trade of endangered species. In this regard, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The Department's expenditure and manpower for carrying out the above work over the past 5 years.
- (b) After the enactment of the Amendment Ordinance, has the Department undertaken any other new initiatives to combat smuggling and illegal trade of ivory in Hong Kong?
- (c) The details of the detected cases of ivory smuggling, including the numbers of cases, the quantities of ivory, the value of items, the numbers of persons arrested, the numbers of persons convicted, the maximum and minimum penalties, and the total amount of fines imposed over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure and manpower involved in carrying out licensing control of international trade in endangered species, including elephant ivory, and curbing of illegal trade in endangered species over the past 5 years by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) are tabulated below:



<b>Financial year</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19 (revised estimate)</b>
Expenditure (\$ million)	29.7	33.2	36.2	42.5	47.5
Manpower (number of staff)	51	50	51	55	57

There is no separate breakdown of expenditure for the control of ivory trade.

- (b) The Legislative Council enacted the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (the Amendment Ordinance) on 31 January 2018. The Amendment Ordinance took effect on 1 May 2018. Starting from 1 August 2018, all import and export of ivory (save for antique ivory) for commercial purposes have been banned. A licence to possess is required for keeping pre-Convention ivory<sup>1</sup> for commercial purposes. AFCD will scrutinise the applications and inspect the commercial stocks of pre-Convention ivory by recording weight, taking photographs and putting on tamper-proof hologram stickers. In addition, AFCD has also implemented a series of measures that aimed at curbing smuggling and strengthening the control of local trade in ivory. The measures included enhancing inter-departmental collaboration and stepping up joint operations and intelligence exchange with the Customs and Excise Department and overseas law enforcement agencies such as Interpol; deploying sniffer dogs to detect ivory at import and export control points to assist detecting and preventing smuggling of ivory; using hi-tech radiocarbon dating analysis to determine the age and hence the legality of ivory.

On the other hand, AFCD has carried out a series of publicity and education activities to publicise the phase-out plan of the local ivory trade and the new penalty regime among the general public, travellers and traders. These include issuing circular letters, press releases and Facebook posts; distributing handbills and displaying posters at various import and export control points; broadcasting TV and radio announcements of public interest on cross-boundary coaches and YouTube Channel; as well as conducting education visits to licensed ivory shops and other art and craft shops. Internationally, AFCD has notified the World Trade Organization and all Parties to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

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

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Number of cases	41	64	55
Quantity of ivory seized (kg)	530	7 300	372
Market value (\$ million)	5	80	4
Number of persons arrested	30	60	51
Number of persons convicted	25	47	42

<sup>1</sup> Ivory that was acquired before the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) started to apply to elephants.

Maximum penalty (imprisonment/months)	8	3	4
Minimum penalty (fine/\$)	2,000	2,000	5,000
Total fine (\$ million)	1.2	0.2	0.1

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB011**

**(Question Serial No. 2764)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the conservation of green turtles and the Sham Wan Restricted Area on Lamma Island, please advise on the following:

- (a) (1) The details of the management of the Sham Wan Restricted Area on Lamma Island and the conservation of green turtles, including the details of work in planning to expand the Sham Wan Restricted Area in the forthcoming year; (2) the expenditures and manpower involved over the past 3 years; and (3) the expenditure and manpower involved in the forthcoming year.
- (b) What is the number of turtles which have been affixed with metal tags? For what purpose(s) will the Government utilise the data obtained from the tags?
- (c) Please advise on the details and expenditures involved in the relevant scientific/academic research project(s) conducted on Sham Wan/green turtles by the Department or other institutions over the past 5 years and the expenditure earmarked by the Department for researches on Sham Wan/green turtles in the forthcoming year.
- (d) Please advise on the numbers of cleaning operations conducted on the beach between June and October each year, the responsible department, the amount of refuse collected each month as well as the expenditures and manpower involved over the past 3 years.
- (e) Regarding the unauthorised entry to the Restricted Area and vessels exceeding the speed limit at the waters off the area, what were the numbers of complaints received, warnings issued and prosecutions initiated over the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

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

During the restricted period, patrols will be conducted to control unauthorised entry or activities and to monitor any nesting activities of green turtles. Before the onset of the nesting season each year, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will carry out conservation management on the nesting site (including removal of climbing plants and refuse) and deploy a remote surveillance camera system to monitor the Restricted Area and the surrounding coastal conditions as well as the nesting activities of green turtles. AFCD will also arrange contractors to survey and remove abandoned fishing nets in Sham Wan when necessary. To strengthen the protection of endangered green turtles, the Government has started preparation work for the expansion of the Sham Wan Restricted Area from the beach to the green turtles' breeding ground in the adjacent waters, and will seek the views of stakeholders and prepare for the legislative amendment this coming year.

As the above work forms part of the nature conservation work of AFCD, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

- (b) Since 2000, AFCD has attached metal tags engraved with a unique serial number to 73 sea turtles. The metal tags will help identify individual sea turtles when they are encountered in the future.
- (c) Over the past 5 years, AFCD has conducted satellite tracking of sea turtles to study their migratory routes and to better conserve sea turtles and their habitats. AFCD also conducts population genetic analysis on sea turtles to better understand their genetic diversity. The expenditure involved in the above studies and the estimated expenditure in 2019-20 are tabulated below.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$)</b>
2014-15	103,000
2015-16	13,000
2016-17	153,000
2017-18	158,000
2018-19 (revised estimate)	29,000
2019-20 (estimate)	50,000

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

- (d) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is responsible for regular cleaning of the Sham Wan beach. According to FEHD, regular cleaning at Sham Wan is conducted 1 to 2 times per week under normal conditions during the restricted period. Over the past 3 years, the volume of marine refuse collected each month during such period is tabulated below:

	<b>Volume of marine refuse (kg)</b>		
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
June	#	410	184
July	3 780	196	127
August	4 420	510	136
September	380	270	51
October	175	220	358

# no record of such information

Apart from commissioning outsourced cleansing contractors, the routine cleaning work carried out by FEHD includes collecting and clearing the marine refuse. There is no breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved. Under special circumstances, AFCD will arrange contractors and its staff to support FEHD's cleaning operations.

- (e) Over the past 3 years, AFCD did not receive any complaints, issue any warnings or initiate any prosecutions regarding unauthorised access to the Restricted Area at the sandy beach in Sham Wan. In addition, Sham Wan is one of the speed restricted zones for vessels set by the Marine Department (MD) to ensure safe navigation in the Hong Kong waters. MD is responsible for the law enforcement work at the speed restricted zones. AFCD does not have any record on the number of complaints received, warnings issued and prosecutions initiated regarding vessels exceeding the speed limit.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB012****(Question Serial No. 2765)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding smuggling activities of ivory, please advise on the following:

- (a) The details of the detected cases of ivory smuggling, including the numbers of cases, the quantities of ivory, the value of items, the numbers of persons arrested, the numbers of persons convicted, the maximum and minimum penalties and the total amounts of fines imposed over the past 3 years.
- (b) The weight of ivory destroyed, the estimated value and expenditure involved in each of the past 3 years.
- (c) The Government has mentioned that it will strengthen the control of trade in endangered species, in particular ivory, in the coming year. What are the details of the relevant work?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)Reply:

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

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Number of cases	41	64	55
Quantity of ivory seized (kg)	530	7 300	372
Market value (\$ million)	5	80	4
Number of persons arrested	30	60	51
Number of persons convicted	25	47	42
Maximum penalty (imprisonment/months)	8	3	4
Minimum penalty (fine/\$)	2,000	2,000	5,000

Calendar year	2016	2017	2018
Total fine (\$ million)	1.2	0.2	0.1

- (b) The quantity and estimated value of confiscated ivory disposed of by incineration in 2016 were 6 tonnes and \$60 million respectively. The expenditure involved in the disposal of the ivory was \$27,000. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) did not dispose of any ivory in 2017 and 2018.
- (c) The Legislative Council enacted the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (the Amendment Ordinance) on 31 January 2018. The Amendment Ordinance took effect on 1 May 2018. Starting from 1 August 2018, all import and export of ivory (save for antique ivory) for commercial purposes have been banned. A licence to possess is required for keeping pre-Convention ivory<sup>2</sup> for commercial purposes. AFCD will scrutinise the applications and inspect the commercial stocks of pre-Convention ivory by recording weight, taking photos and putting on tamper-proof hologram stickers. In addition, AFCD has also implemented a series of measures that aimed at curbing smuggling of ivory and strengthening the control of local trade in ivory. The measures include enhancing inter-departmental collaboration and stepping up joint operations and intelligence exchange with the Customs and Excise Department and overseas law enforcement agencies, such as Interpol; deploying sniffer dogs to detect ivory at import and export control points to assist detecting and preventing smuggling of ivory; using hi-tech radiocarbon dating analysis to determine the age and hence the legality of ivory.

On the other hand, AFCD has carried out a series of publicity and education activities to publicise the phase-out plan of the local ivory trade and the new penalty regime among the general public, travellers and traders. These include issuing circulars, press releases and Facebook posts, distributing handbills and displaying posters at various import and export control points; broadcasting TV and radio announcements of public interest at cross-boundary coaches and YouTube Channel; as well as conducting education visits to licensed ivory shops and other art and craft shops. Internationally, AFCD has notified the World Trade Organization and all Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

In 2019-20, AFCD will continue to implement the above measures to curb smuggling and illegal trading of ivory.

- End -

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<sup>2</sup> Ivory that was acquired before the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) started to apply to elephants.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB013**

**(Question Serial No. 2766)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

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

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

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

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



the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) (the Ordinance) over the past 5 years are tabulated below:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of applications received</b>	<b>Number of permits/certificates issued*</b>
2014	25 700	25 894
2015	23 089	23 475
2016	20 042	19 935
2017	18 938	19 043
2018	19 092	18 942

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

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

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

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018*</b>
Number of cases	461	395	309	433	745
Quantity of products	137 260 kg and 6 696 pieces	1 074 800 kg and 25 218 pieces	148 820 kg and 2 594 pieces	63 130 kg and 4 272 pieces	273 160 kg and 18 975 pieces
Number of persons arrested	355	251	181	257	528
Number of convictions	222	153	126	170	178*
Maximum penalty (imprisonment/months)	10	6	8	3	8
Minimum penalty (fine/\$)	100	100	100	400	400
Total fine (\$ million)	2.9	2.0	1.8	0.3	0.6

\*Some cases have been initiated with prosecution and legal procedures are in progress.

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

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19 (revised estimate)</b>
Expenditure (\$ million)	20.6	26.0	28.3	31.1	35.3

The expenditure was increased to strengthen inspection and enforcement against illegal trade in endangered species and cope with the workload arising from the growing number of species under control.

- (d) The Government is committed to the protection of endangered species and strictly regulates the trade in endangered species through enforcing the Ordinance which gives effect to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Hong Kong. The legal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong is authorised and closely monitored through a permit/certificate system in accordance with the provisions of CITES. AFCD conducts inspections of consignments, registered stock and retail outlets to ensure relevant requirements are complied with and to deter illegal trade. On combating illegal import and re-export of endangered species, AFCD has been working closely with the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) at import and export control points. An Inter-departmental Task Force on Wildlife Crime, comprising representatives of AFCD, the Environment Bureau, C&ED and the Hong Kong Police Force, has also been established to develop strategies on intelligence exchange and co-ordinate joint enforcement operations. AFCD and C&ED also cooperate with mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies through international joint operations and intelligence exchange to combat endangered species smuggling. Joint and targeted operations, both local and international, are undertaken to strengthen the frontline enforcement against endangered species smuggling. In addition, we will also explore new techniques to assist and enhance enforcement, such as the use of rapid DNA test methods (or real-time polymerase chain reaction method) to assist in identifying shark fins and European eel. The expenditure and manpower earmarked for the above tasks in 2019-20 are \$35.3 million and 44 staff respectively.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB014**

**(Question Serial No. 0269)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead(No. & title): (610) Minor recreational facilities and roadworks in country parks  
(block vote)

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Currently, what types of facilities (such as fitness facilities, barbecue pits, shelters, public toilets, etc) are provided in the country parks? Please set out the facilities by types.

Is there any information available on the locations of various facilities? Will the information be open to the public to facilitate the indication on maps?

The provision under Subhead 610 is only \$21.77 million but it is "up to a limit of \$10 million for each project" as mentioned in point 6 on page 47. Will the Government provide the information on the projects and the expenditures incurred over the past year?

When installing country park facilities, what criteria has the Government adopted? Has the public been consulted?

How many cases relating to damage of facilities within country parks have been received over the past 2 years? For damaged facilities, have the repair works been directly carried out by the department or by tender?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.:57)

Reply:

Facilities provided in country parks mainly include campsites, picnic sites, barbecue sites, morning walker gardens, shelters, refreshment kiosks, visitor centres, toilets, hiking trails, water dispensers, etc. The locations of popular country park facilities (e.g. hiking trails, barbecue sites, etc.) are available at GeoInfo Map (<https://www.map.gov.hk/gm/>), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)'s website (<https://www.afcd.gov.hk>), the thematic website Enjoy Hiking (<https://www.hiking.gov.hk>)

and the Countryside Series maps published by the Lands Department of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Besides, such information is also displayed on the information boards in various country parks.

AFCD will take into account visitors' needs, compatibility with the surrounding environment, and site specific considerations when considering the provision of required facilities in country parks. AFCD collects views from country parks users on the facilities through regular visitor satisfaction surveys, as well as meetings and discussions with different stakeholders. AFCD will also consult the Country and Marine Parks Board or its Country Parks Committee where appropriate. In addition, AFCD is conducting a public consultation on enhancing existing facilities of country parks with a view to enhancing the recreation and education potential of country parks.

In 2017 and 2018, AFCD received 56 and 99 cases respectively from the public reporting damaged facilities in country parks. Such facilities are normally maintained and repaired by AFCD's own staff.

The minor projects carried out and expenditures incurred in 2018-19 under the block vote for minor recreational facilities and roadworks in country parks (Subhead 610) are tabulated below:

<b>Projects</b>	<b>Expenditure (revised estimate) (\$ million)</b>
Upgrading of hiking trails and related facilities (e.g. fencing, waymarks, etc.)	3.8
Reconstruction of rain shelters	2.4
Reconstruction of forest tracks	2.2
Reconstruction of water main to public toilets	2.2
Improvement of visitor centres and interpretation panels	1.8
Provision of a star gazing site near Sai Wan	1.5
Construction of mountain bike trails	1.3
Provision of water dispensers	1.0
Minor slope works	1.0
Others (e.g. minor structures, outdoor furniture, etc.)	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.3</b>

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB015**

**(Question Serial No. 1403)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government has mentioned in the brief description of Programme 2 that it will “provide nature conservation advice on development proposals, planning studies and environmental impact assessment”. Would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) What are the details of the advice provided by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on the relevant work over the past 3 years?
- (b) Has AFCD identified in the environmental impact assessments any land on the periphery of country parks with decreased conservation quality?
- (c) Will the Government conduct timely reviews on the coverage of country parks, so that areas that have been included in country parks can be released to make available more land resources if their conservation value or quality has dropped? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is responsible for conserving local flora, fauna and natural habitats through offering conservation advice on development proposals, planning strategies, and environmental impact assessments. These include:
  - reviewing environmental impact assessment (EIA) studies;
  - enforcing Environmental Permit (issued under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499)) conditions related to nature conservation;
  - carrying out compliance monitoring, impact monitoring and effectiveness monitoring related to ecological assessment;

- commenting on planning applications, development plans (e.g. layout plans, outline zoning plans), site formation plans, lands matters and development proposals in respect of nature conservation;
- commenting on strategic planning and transport studies; and
- vetting tree felling applications related to developments.

Over the past 3 years, AFCD's advice in connection with the above work was mainly on the potential impacts of development proposals on important habitats and species (particularly sites and species of recognised conservation importance), the requirement for ecological assessments or tree surveys for development proposals, and ecological mitigation or tree protection measures to be adopted.

- (b) We have not identified any decline in the conservation quality of any land at the periphery of country parks from the findings of the EIA studies previously examined.
- (c) Country parks are designated under the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) (the Ordinance) for conservation, education and recreational purposes. As stipulated under the Ordinance, AFCD's duties are to develop and manage country parks and special areas; to encourage their use and development for the purposes of recreation and tourism; to protect the vegetation and wild life inside country parks and special areas; and to provide facilities and services for the public enjoyment of country parks and special areas. AFCD's scope of duties does not include conducting the review as mentioned in part (c) of the question.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB016**

**(Question Serial No. 1419)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Preventing the introduction and spread of animal and plant diseases is one of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's work areas. With regard to the appearance of wild pigs in Hong Kong in recent years, particularly their frequent appearance in urban areas, what plans does the Department have to reduce the nuisance caused by wild pigs to the public? Will additional resources be allocated to address the spread of wild pigs? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffery (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

In order to alleviate the nuisance caused by wild pigs in residential areas more effectively, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has conducted a comprehensive review on the strategy for the management of wild pigs and taken measures in a multi-pronged approach. Such measures include managing wild pig nuisance, reducing food attraction for wild pigs, educating the public to stop feeding wild animals as well as enhancing public awareness towards wild pigs. AFCD will also establish an advisory group comprising experts from various fields to advise on the management of wild pigs. Details are set out in the Legislative Council Paper No. CB(1)487/18-19(05).

In 2018-19, the revised estimate of AFCD for the management of wild pigs was \$10.3 million. Currently, there is a dedicated team for the management of wild pigs with 6 members. Besides, AFCD temporarily deployed 8 staff from other teams to render assistance. AFCD has earmarked \$14 million and 26 staff (including those 6 of the dedicated team) to take up the wild pig management duties in 2019-20. In addition, AFCD will deploy additional staff for each wild pig contraception/relocation operation.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB017**

**(Question Serial No. 0799)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment

Question:

- (a) The establishment of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department as at 31 March 2019 will be 2 261 posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of 36 posts in 2019-20. What are the reasons?
- (b) Please set out details of the 36 newly-created posts according to the programmes, ranks, job nature and salaries.
- (c) What are the existing staffing arrangement and their ranks for following up on the wild pig issue? Among the 36 new posts, is there any dedicated staff to follow up the wild pig issue? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) In 2019-20, there will be a net increase of 36 posts in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). They are responsible for the policy areas of work under the Environment Bureau (ENB), the Development Bureau (DevB) as well as the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) respectively. The relevant information is tabulated below:



Area of Work	Rank	Number of posts	Provision for salaries in 2019-20 (\$ million)
<b>Posts involving the policy areas of ENB</b>			
To strengthen support for taking forward biodiversity initiatives including wildlife management	Veterinary Officer	1*	4.1
	Forestry Officer	1*	
	Field Officer I	1*	
	Field Officer II	2*	
	Fisheries Officer	1	
	Field Assistant	2*	
To support marine environmental management	Fisheries Supervisor II	1	0.3
To enhance management and operation of existing and proposed marine parks and marine reserve in Hong Kong	Fisheries Supervisor II	2	2.2
	Field Assistant	3	
	Artisan	4	
To enhance law enforcement and patrolling in country parks and geosites of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark	Field Assistant	3	0.8
To support the Lantau Conservation Fund	Fisheries Officer	1	1.2
	Fisheries Technical Officer II	2	
<b>Posts involving the policy areas of DevB</b>			
To arrange ex-gratia allowance for fishermen affected by the Three-Runway System Project and other marine works	Fisheries Supervisor II	2	0.5
<b>Posts involving the policy areas of FHB</b>			
To support equine diseases testing, surveillance and risk assessment	Veterinary Officer	1	3.7
	Veterinary Technologist	2	
	Veterinary Laboratory Technician I	2	
To handle animal poisoning and cruelty cases	Veterinary Officer	2	3.2
	Field Officer I	2	
To strengthen support for the Veterinary Surgeons Board	Executive Officer I	2	2.1
	Executive Officer II	1	
To strengthen support for the Supplies Section	Supplies Supervisor II	1	0.7
	Supplies Assistant	1	
	Supplies Attendant	1	
To strengthen support for the Personnel Section	Executive Officer I	1	0.8
To enhance promotion of animal welfare	Field Officer II	1	0.5
	Field Assistant	1	

<b>Area of Work</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of posts</b>	<b>Provision for salaries in 2019-20 (\$ million)</b>
To take forward the Agricultural Park (Phase 1) in Kwu Tung South	Senior Agricultural Officer	1	1.4
To be offset by the lapse of nine time-limited posts	Senior Agricultural Officer	-1	-6.5
	Veterinary Officer	-1	
	Veterinary Technologist	-2	
	Veterinary Laboratory Technician I	-2	
	Fisheries Supervisor II	-2	
	Executive Officer I	-1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>15.0</b>

\* For wild pigs management

- (c) In 2018-19, there are 6 staff in the dedicated team for the management of wild pigs. In addition, AFCD temporarily deploys 8 staff from other teams to render assistance. In 2019-20, AFCD will deploy 26 staff (including 7 posts to be created in 2019-20 as denoted in \* in parts (a) to (b) above) to take up the wild pig management work.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB018**

**(Question Serial No. 1870)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (Amendment Ordinance) has come into effect on 1 May 2018 to implement the three-step plan to phase out local ivory trade. In this connection, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the numbers of cases of smuggled ivory seized by the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) in each year over the past 5 years, including: (i) the total value of the products involved; (ii) the types of ivory products; (iii) the weight seized; (iv) the mode of trade (i.e. import, export or re-export); (v) countries which the trade involved (i.e. places of origin of the seized ivory products or destinations of the ivory products); (vi) means of transport; (vii) penalties; and (viii) the stakeholders being prosecuted in each case. If such information is not available, what are the reasons?
- (b) What were the numbers of random checks conducted by C&ED on ivory products imported, exported and re-exported in each year over the past 5 years?
- (c) Regarding the three-step plan to phase out local ivory trade, what are the details of work, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in 2019-20?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 202)

Reply:

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

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Number of cases</b>	106	105	41	64	55
<b>Estimated Seizure value (\$ million)</b>	21	15	5	80	4
<b>Seizure quantity (kg)</b>	2 200 and 35 pieces	1 600	530	7 300	372
<b>Number of import cases</b>	93	102	39	61	47
<b>Major loading countries (number of cases)</b>	Nigeria (27) South Africa (22) Côte d'Ivoire (i.e. formerly Ivory Coast) (14)	Nigeria (33) Zimbabwe (23) South Africa (12)	Nigeria (11) Zimbabwe (9) South Africa (6)	Zimbabwe (15) Nigeria (10) Portugal (5) South Africa (5)	Nigeria (14) South Africa (5) Mozambique (4) Senegal (4)
<b>Mode of transport (number of cases)</b>	Air (88) Land (4) Sea (1)	Air (102)	Air (36) Land (1) Sea (2)	Air (59) Land (1) Sea (1)	Air (46) Land (1)
<b>Number of export cases</b>	2	1	1	3	4
<b>Destination country (number of cases)</b>	Mainland China (2)	Mainland China (1)	Mainland China (1)	Mainland China (3)	Mainland China (4)
<b>Mode of transport (number of cases)</b>	Land (2)	Land (1)	Land (1)	Land (1) Sea (2)	Land (3) Sea (1)
<b>Transit/transhipment</b>	11	2	-	-	2
<b>Major loading country (number of cases)</b>	South Africa (3) Angola (2)	Greece (1) Namibia (1)	-	-	Peru (1) United States of America (1)
<b>Major destination country (number of cases)</b>	Mainland China (3) Vietnam (3)	Mainland China (1) Malaysia (1)	-	-	-
<b>Mode of transport (number of cases)</b>	Air (11)	Air (2)	-	-	Air (2)

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Others (e.g. abandoned cases)</b>	-	-	1	-	2
<b>Number of persons convicted</b>	65	30	25	47	42
<b>Maximum penalty (imprisonment/ months)</b>	8	6	8	3	4
<b>Minimum penalty (fine/ \$)</b>	10,000	30,000	2,000	2,000	5,000

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

- (b) By employing the risk management and intelligence-led approach, the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) conducts checks on passengers, cargoes, postal parcels and conveyances at various control points to effectively fight against the smuggling offences including wildlife crimes. Throughout the years, C&ED and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) have been working closely through mounting joint operations against smuggling of the endangered species (including ivory) scheduled under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at import and export control points.
- (c) The Legislative Council enacted the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (the Amendment Ordinance) on 31 January 2018. The Amendment Ordinance took effect on 1 May 2018. Starting from 1 August 2018, all import and export of ivory (save for antique ivory) for commercial purposes have been banned. A licence to possess is required for keeping pre-Convention ivory for commercial purposes. AFCD will scrutinise the applications and inspect the commercial stocks of pre-Convention ivory by recording weight, taking photos and putting on tamper-proof hologram stickers. In addition, AFCD has also implemented a series of measures that aim at curbing smuggling of ivory and strengthening the control of local trade in ivory. The measures include enhancing inter-departmental collaboration and stepping up joint operations and intelligence exchange with C&ED and overseas law enforcement agencies, such as Interpol; deploying sniffer dogs to detect ivory at import and export control points to assist detecting and preventing smuggling of ivory; and using hi-tech radiocarbon dating analysis to determine the age and hence the legality of ivory.

On the other hand, AFCD has carried out a series of publicity and education activities to publicise the phase-out plan of the local ivory trade and the new penalty regime among the general public, travellers and traders. These include issuing circulars, press releases and Facebook posts; distributing handbills and displaying posters at various import and export control points; broadcasting TV and radio announcements of public

interest at cross-boundary coaches and YouTube Channel, as well as conducting education visits to licensed ivory shops and other art and craft shops. Internationally, AFCD has also notified the World Trade Organization and all Parties to the CITES.

In 2019-20, AFCD will continue to implement the above measures to curb smuggling and illegal trading of ivory. Since the implementation of these measures forms part of the CITES implementation work, there is no breakdown of the resources and manpower involved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB019**

**(Question Serial No. 0676)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the policy on wild pigs in Hong Kong, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Will the Government conduct a comprehensive review of the policy on wild pigs in Hong Kong? If yes, please advise on the progress and the date of releasing the results.
- (b) What were the expenditure and manpower involved in handling wild pigs in 2018-19? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower in 2019-20?
- (c) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department launched a two-year pilot scheme for the contraception of wild pigs with a view to evaluating the suitability of an immuno-contraceptive vaccine for controlling the population of wild pigs habituated to feeding and causing nuisance to the public in 2017. What is the provision earmarked for this scheme in 2019-20? In addition, will the Department consider increasing the number of wild pigs to be handled by contraception and the number of operations conducted under the pilot scheme?
- (d) Will the Government consider completely prohibiting the feeding of wild animals with a view to controlling the feeding of wild pigs? If yes, please advise on the details.

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

- (a) In order to alleviate the nuisance caused by wild pigs in residential areas more effectively, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has conducted a comprehensive review on the strategy for the management of wild pigs and taken measures in a multi-pronged approach. Such measures include managing

wild pig nuisance, reducing food attraction for wild pigs, educating the public to stop feeding wild animals as well as enhancing public awareness towards wild pigs. AFCD will also establish an advisory group comprising experts from various fields to advise on the management of wild pigs. Details are set out in the Legislative Council Paper No. CB(1)487/18-19(05).

- (b) In 2018-19, the revised estimate for the management of wild pigs by AFCD was around \$10.3 million. Currently, there is a dedicated team for the management of wild pigs with 6 members. In addition, AFCD has temporarily deployed 8 staff from other teams to render assistance.

In 2019-20, AFCD has earmarked \$14 million and deployed 26 staff (including the dedicated team of 6 members) for the management of wild pigs. In addition, AFCD will deploy additional staff for each wild pig contraception/relocation operation.

- (c) In 2019-20, the estimated expenditure on the implementation of the pilot contraception/relocation programme for wild pigs is \$7.5 million. AFCD will monitor the pig herds covered by the pilot programme and evaluate its effectiveness by end 2019. AFCD will decide the way forward taking into account the effectiveness of the pilot programme.
- (d) We have to take into account the complicated technical issues involved in law enforcement and the manpower required when considering the introduction of a total ban on feeding of wild animals through legislation to control the nuisance caused by wild pigs. The Government does not have any plan to completely ban the feeding of wild animals by legislative measures at the moment.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB020**

**(Question Serial No. 2360)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) Please provide, by year, the Department's total expenditures involved in dealing with the wild pig issue, as well as the expenditures under the grand total (including the pilot Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP), the handling of complaints related to wild pigs, education and publicity, etc.) over the past 5 years and in the financial year 2019-20.
- (b) Please set out, by year, all of the Department's expenditures on CCRP, including the consultancy study, purchase of medicines, capture and contraception control/relocation operations, total staff cost and administrative expenses, etc. over the past 2 years and in the financial year 2019-20.
- (c) What are the latest numbers, estimated by the Department, of wild pigs in each district?
- (d) Please set out, by year, the numbers of complaints/reports related to wild pigs, and injury cases caused by wild pig attack received by the Department over the past 5 years.
- (e) Please set out, with an exhaustive breakdown, the latest figures related to CCRP (including the number of operations, number of wild pigs captured and the districts where they were captured, number of wild pigs that have received contraceptive vaccines, number of sterilised wild pigs, number of wild pigs relocated to remote countryside, and number of wild pigs which had side effects or other negative reactions after receiving contraceptive vaccines or undergoing sterilisation).
- (f) The Department mentioned early this year that wild pigs have been frequently appearing in urban areas or vicinity of residential areas instead of countryside in recent years. 44% of the reasons is that there are people feeding wild pigs and 34% of the reasons is the outdoor garbage. It also mentioned that it would focus on education

and control of food sources at this stage. What are the details of the said work and the estimated expenditures involved?

- (g) The Department mentioned in a document submitted to the Legislative Council in January this year that, “Since the implementation of pilot CCRP, an average of 3 wild pigs have been captured per operation, indicating a higher capture efficiency than that of hunting where an average of less than 1 wild pig was hunted per operation...other methods, as described in the ensuing paragraphs, (including CCRP, reduction of food attraction and public education, etc.) have proven to be safer and more effective in tackling wild pig nuisance and in removing wild pigs that would pose immediate or potential danger to the public especially in urban or residential areas.” The Department also emphasised that, “Having considered all relevant factors in particular the public safety concerns, AFCD has no plan to resume hunting by the civilian hunting teams.” Would the Department commit to continuing to give primary consideration to the capture efficiency of wild pigs and public safety principles, and treating animals in a civilised way instead of killing them? Would the Department dissolve permanently the wild pig hunting team with low capture efficiency and harming public safety when carrying out hunting operations in public areas?
- (h) Since the Department announced in 2017 that the wild pig hunting teams would stop conducting hunting operations, how has the Department dealt with the special permits for wild pig hunting and the valid arms licences?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on managing wild pigs over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2014-15	<b>1.5</b>
2015-16	<b>1.8</b>
2016-17	<b>2.4</b>
2017-18	<b>6.8</b>
2018-19 (Revised estimate)	<b>10.3</b>
2019-20 (Estimate)	<b>13.9</b>

- (b) The breakdown on AFCD’s expenditure on the implementation of the pilot Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP) for wild pigs over the past 2 years and the estimated expenditure on this respect in 2019-20 are tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of staff)</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2017-18	6	<b>3.8</b>

2018-19 (Revised estimate)	14	<b>6.4</b>
2019-20 (Estimate)	26	<b>7.5</b>

- (c) Wild pigs are generally solitary or live in small groups, secretive, widely distributed, and have very extensive home range. Currently, AFCD does not have the statistics on the population of wild pigs in Hong Kong, but it is devising methods to make an estimate.
- (d) The number of complaints and reports on injury related to wild pigs received by AFCD over the past 5 years is as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Number of reports on the sighting of or nuisance caused by wild pigs (number of injury reports)</b>
2014-15	396 (0)
2015-16	510 (0)
2016-17	643 (2)
2017-18	787 (4)
2018-19 (as of January 2019)	819 (8)

- (e) AFCD has tried implementing the pilot CCRP to handle the nuisance caused by wild pigs in urban areas since the end of 2017. The number of wild pigs captured, administered with contraceptive vaccines, surgically sterilised and/or relocated to remote countryside under the pilot CCRP by district as of February 2019, are tabulated below:

<b>District</b>	<b>Number of wild pigs (head)</b>			
	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Administered with contraceptive vaccines</b>	<b>Surgically sterilised</b>	<b>Relocated to remote countryside</b>
Central and Western	8	5	0	8
Wan Chai	10	7	1	7
Eastern	9	2	0	7
Southern	92	27	4	69
Tuen Mun	9	6	0	9
North	1	1	0	1
Tai Po	3	2	0	3
Sha Tin	19	3	10	3
Sai Kung	4	2	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>111</b>

The wild pigs administered with contraceptive vaccines or sterilised did not show obvious side effects or other adverse reactions.

- (f) The most effective way to reduce the appearance of wild pigs in residential areas is to stop feeding them. Feeding activities will wrongly impress the wild animals that there is stable food supply and will attract them to appear regularly near urban or residential areas. To this end, AFCD is conducting a series of publicity and education programmes. In addition to promotion on TV and radio, AFCD has also organised 15 outdoor educational exhibitions, 2 country park wildlife guided tours, a 2-day colouring competition (kindergarten and primary school) cum carnival, and 3 roving exhibitions. Besides, AFCD has been working closely with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) on the improvement of refuse collection facilities (e.g. the litter containers and refuse collection points that wildlife usually visit). Improvement works carried out recently include the installation of metal swing doors at village-type refuse collection and recycling points and erecting bollards or parapets at bin sites to prevent the knocking down of refuse and recycling bins by wildlife (including wild pigs). In collaboration with FEHD and the Environmental Protection Department, AFCD is also conducting a consultancy study to improve the design of refuse bins, with a view to reducing nuisance caused by wild animals scavenging from outdoor refuse. The consultant provided 3 improved designs, which will be deployed for field trials in the first half of 2019 in areas of wildlife nuisance black spots, and further improvements will be made based on the trial results this year. Please refer to part (a) above for AFCD's expenditure on publicity, education and consultancy study for improving refuse collection facilities.
- (g) and (h) Although hunting is the most widely adopted and effective measure for managing wild pigs all over the world, in view of increasing concern of individuals/organisations towards animal welfare in Hong Kong, and also the safety concern of arranging hunting operations in public places or residential areas, all hunting operations have been suspended in Hong Kong since 2017. Having considered all relevant factors in particular the public safety concerns, AFCD has no plan to resume hunting by the civilian hunting teams at this stage. Currently, members of the civilian hunting teams are still holding the permits issued by AFCD in accordance with the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance and the arms licences issued by the Hong Kong Police Force. After the permits and licences concerned have expired, AFCD will stop renewing the permits.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB021**

**(Question Serial No. 2364)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) Regarding the Department's work and the total expenditures involved in the conservation of the Chinese White Dolphins (CWDs), as well as the expenditures under the grand total (including all expenditures on Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park, The Brothers Marine Park, the proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park, the Soko Islands Marine Park and the designation of a new marine park for Integrated Waste Management Facilities at Shek Kwu Chau, etc.), what were the details over the past 5 years and that expected in the financial year 2019-20? What were the Department's total estimated expenditure and the expenditures under the grand total involved in the abovementioned initiatives in the financial year 2017-18?
- (b) Please set out the abundance of CWDs within the territory by their major habitats (including the North Lantau waters near Castle Peak, the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park, and waters around Chek Lap Kok and Tai O) over the past 5 years.
- (c) Please set out the numbers of CWDs, Indo-Pacific finless porpoises and other cetaceans stranded within the territory by their major habitats (including the North Lantau waters near Castle Peak, the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park, and waters around Chek Lap Kok and Tai O) over the past 5 years.
- (d) What is the Department's evaluation on the 21 water quality parameters of the respective marine parks and marine reserve? Please set out the name(s) of the parameter(s) and the figure(s) recorded which did not meet the standard(s) set by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in each of the past 5 years, as well as the standard figure(s) of the respective parameter(s) as set by EPD.
- (e) How does the Department evaluate the effectiveness of marine parks on the conservation of CWDs? Does the Department have any other measure(s) to enhance the habitats of local cetaceans apart from establishing additional marine parks? If yes, what are the details and the estimated expenditure of the measures?

- (f) Does the Department have any estimate on the future abundance of cetaceans in Hong Kong? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

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

Among the established marine parks, 2 of them, i.e. Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park (SCLKCMP) and The Brothers Marine Park (BMP), incur recurrent expenditures related to the conservation of CWDs. The recurrent expenditures involved in the CWD conservation measures over the past 5 years and that earmarked for 2019-20 are as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2014-15	6.7
2015-16	6.3
2016-17	6.2
2017-18	9.1
2018-19 (revised estimate)	12.3 <sup>#</sup>
2019-20 (estimate)	11.8

<sup>#</sup>The increase in recurrent expenditure in 2018-19 was due to the strengthened management, law enforcement and dolphin monitoring in marine parks.

- (b) As Southwest Lantau, West Lantau, Northwest Lantau and Northeast Lantau are the 4 major habitats of CWDs in Hong Kong, AFCD's monitoring of the abundance of CWDs mainly focuses on these 4 areas. The abundance in the 4 survey areas is as follows:

Calendar year	Abundance				
	Southwest Lantau	West Lantau	Northwest Lantau	Northeast Lantau	Total
2014	26	36	24	1	87
2015	24	31	10	0	65
2016	9	27	11	0	47
2017	10	16	21	0	47
2018	(Data being analysed)				

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

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

Calendar year	Number of CWDs stranded				
	North Lantau waters near Castle Peak	SCLKCMP	Waters around Chek Lap Kok	Tai O	Other areas
2014	2	0	1	2	7
2015	2	2	1	2	8
2016	1	0	0	0	3
2017	0	1	1	0	3
2018	0	0	1	1	6

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

Calendar year	Number of finless porpoises stranded				
	North Lantau waters near Castle Peak	SCLKCMP	Waters around Chek Lap Kok	Tai O	Other areas
2014	0	0	0	1	32
2015	0	0	0	0	21
2016	0	0	0	0	17
2017	0	0	0	0	18
2018	0	0	0	0	32

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

Calendar year	Number of other cetaceans stranded				
	North Lantau waters near Castle Peak	SCLKCMP	Waters around Chek Lap Kok	Tai O	Other areas
2014	0	0	0	0	5
2015	0	0	0	0	1
2016	0	0	0	0	2
2017	0	0	0	0	3
2018	0	0	0	0	5

- (d) AFCD conducts regular water quality monitoring at various marine parks and marine reserve and measures and analyses 21 parameters. These parameters are air temperature, water temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, Secchi disc depth, 5-day biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solid, turbidity, Ammoniacal Nitrogen, unionised Ammonia, Nitrite Nitrogen, Nitrate Nitrogen, total inorganic Nitrogen, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, total Nitrogen, Orthophosphate Phosphorus, total Phosphorus, Chlorophyll-*a*, *Escherichia coli* and faecal coliforms. The water quality of the marine parks and marine reserve was good and complied with the corresponding Water Quality Objectives (WQO) set by the Environmental Protection Department, except for total inorganic nitrogen (TIN) which is an indicator of nutrient enrichment.

Subject to the influence of water current, the discharge from the river on the periphery of SCLKCMP is rich in nutrients, resulting in TIN concentrations at the aforementioned location being in excess of the WQO over the past 5 years, and that in BMP also exceeded the WQO in 2017 and 2018. TIN in Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve (CDMR) showed fluctuations. Measured TIN concentrations (in mg/L) in the aforementioned marine parks and in CDMR are tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	SCLKCMP (0.3mg/L)	BMP (0.3mg/L)	CDMR (0.1mg/L)
2014	0.84	/	0.30
2015	1.23	/	0.20
2016	0.95	/	0.12
2017	1.09	0.73	0.10
2018	0.97	0.82	0.11

Note:

- The WQO for annual depth-averaged TIN in the respective water control zones are shown in brackets.
  - Water quality monitoring in BMP commenced in 2017 after its designation.
- (e) Based on the findings of the long-term dolphin monitoring through vessel surveys and the results of the Passive Acoustic Monitoring initiated in 2017 by AFCD, the designation of SCLKCMP and BMP had positive effects on the conservation of CWDs. Please refer to item (a) above regarding CWD conservation measures and the recurrent expenditures involved.
- (f) AFCD will continue to monitor the occurrence of cetaceans in Hong Kong waters. AFCD does not have any estimate on the future abundance of cetaceans.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB022**

**(Question Serial No. 2366)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) What were the details and expenditures on combating the illegal trade of endangered species by the Government over the past 5 years and in the financial year of 2019-20?
- (b) What are the details and frequencies of the inspections and quarantine operations conducted by the Department at various boundary control points and the Hong Kong International Airport?
- (c) What were the details and expenditures on the control of animal skin and fur products by the Government over the past 5 years and in the financial year of 2019-20?
- (d) Although the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (the Ordinance) has been amended in recent years and penalties have been increased significantly, there have still been a number of large-scale smuggling cases of endangered species in Hong Kong in the past year, which shows that Hong Kong has become a “smuggling paradise” and trade hub of endangered species. Such incidents show the incompetent enforcement of AFCD and the Customs and Excise Department and that the penalties and sentences of the current legislation are too lenient and the deterrent effect is not strong enough, making the relevant crimes become more rampant. What measures does the Government currently put in place to combat the illegal trade of endangered species?
- (e) Please set out the information, including the total numbers of cases, the numbers of cases detected as well as the details of the items involved, including the names/types, origins, composition that does not comply with the Ordinance, quantities imported, the final export destinations, the numbers of persons arrested, the numbers of persons convicted, the maximum and minimum penalties imposed, etc., of the cases of importing reptile skin products in contravention of the Ordinance over the past 5 years.

- (f) Please set out the information, including the total numbers of cases, the numbers of cases detected as well as the details of the items involved, including the names/types, origins, composition that does not comply with the Ordinance, quantities imported, the final export destinations, the numbers of persons arrested, the numbers of persons convicted, the maximum and minimum penalties imposed, etc., of the cases of importing pangolin scales/carcasses in contravention of the Ordinance over the past 5 years.
- (g) Please set out the information, including the total numbers of cases, the numbers of cases detected as well as the details of the items involved, including the names/types, origins, composition that does not comply with the Ordinance, quantities imported, the final export destinations, the numbers of persons arrested, the numbers of persons convicted, the maximum and minimum penalties imposed, etc., of the cases of importing ivory in contravention of the Ordinance over the past 5 years.
- (h) Please set out the information, including the total numbers of cases, the numbers of cases detected, the numbers of persons arrested, the numbers of persons convicted, the maximum and minimum penalties imposed, as well as the types of the items involved, quantities of the imported products, composition or species of animals involved and their final export destinations, etc., of the cases of importing animal skin and fur products in contravention of the Rabies Regulation (the Regulation), the Ordinance or other ordinances over the past 5 years.
- (i) Although the Ordinance currently restricts the import of animal skin and fur products into Hong Kong, there is no legislation restricting the trade of such products, showing that there are still loopholes in the legislation. Would the Government enact legislation to prohibit the trade of animal skin and fur to fully eliminate such trade? If yes, what are the details and timeframe for the legislation? If not, what are the reasons? What measures have been taken to step up the monitoring on trading in respect of animal skin and fur products? Would the Government consider introducing a certification scheme for identifying places of origin of skin and fur products, requiring that all skin and fur products imported and for trading in the market bear labels indicating whether the skin and fur used are genuine (and which types of animals they are obtained from) or counterfeit?
- (j) Please set out the information, including the total numbers of cases, the numbers of cases detected as well as the details of the items involved, including the names/types, origins, composition that does not comply with the Ordinance, quantities imported, the final export destinations, the numbers of persons arrested, the numbers of persons convicted, the maximum and minimum penalties imposed, etc., of the cases of importing bear gall bladders in contravention of the Ordinance over the past 5 years.
- (k) Would the Department conduct random inspections on products claimed to contain ingredients from bear gall bladders in order to deter illegal import of animal products regulated under the Ordinance into Hong Kong? If not, what are the reasons?
- (l) Although the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Ordinance do not impose regulation on the methods of collecting specimens of endangered species, would the Government prohibit the sale or import in

Hong Kong of products claiming to contain ingredients from bear gall bladders on humanitarian grounds?

- (m) What are the details and estimated expenditure involved in the conservation of Agarwood over the past 5 years and in the financial year of 2019-20?
- (n) What were the details of the Department's work on combating the illegal felling as well as the conservation of Agarwood in the past year? How would the Department evaluate the effectiveness of the relevant work?
- (o) Please set out the details of illegal felling of Agarwood over the past 5 years, including the total number of cases, numbers of cases detected, numbers of persons arrested, numbers of persons convicted, the maximum and minimum penalties, the total number of trees involved, etc.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

- (a) The Government is committed to the protection of endangered species and strictly regulates the trade in endangered species through enforcing the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) (the Ordinance) which gives effect to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Hong Kong. The import, export/re-export and domestic sale of endangered species in Hong Kong is regulated and closely monitored through a permit/certification system in accordance with the provisions of CITES. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducts inspections of consignments, registered stock and retail outlets to ensure relevant requirements are complied with and to detect and deter illicit local trade in endangered species. On combating illegal import and re-export of endangered species, AFCD has been working closely with the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) in mounting joint operations at import and export control points. AFCD and C&ED also co-operate with overseas and Mainland law enforcement agencies through international joint operations and intelligence exchange to combat smuggling of endangered species. An inter-departmental Task Force on Wildlife Crime, comprising representatives of AFCD, the Environment Bureau, C&ED and the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), has also been established to develop strategies on intelligence exchange and co-ordinate joint enforcement operations. Joint and targeted operations, both local and international, would be undertaken to strengthen the frontline enforcement against smuggling and illegal trade in endangered species.

In addition, the Legislative Council enacted the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (the Amendment Ordinance) on 31 January 2018, in order to phase out the local ivory trade by the end of 2021, and also to increase the penalties related to the smuggling and illegal trade of endangered species. The Amendment

Ordinance took effect on 1 May 2018. Starting from 1 August 2018, all import and export of ivory (save for antique ivory) for commercial purposes have been banned. At the same time, a licence to possess is required for keeping pre-Convention ivory for commercial purposes. AFCD will scrutinise the applications and inspect commercial stocks of pre-Convention ivory by recording weight, taking photo and putting on tamper-proof hologram sticker. Besides, AFCD has implemented a series of measures that aim at curbing smuggling of ivory and strengthening the control of local trade in ivory. The measures include enhancing inter-departmental collaboration and stepping up joint operations and intelligence exchange with C&ED and overseas law enforcement agencies such as Interpol; deploying sniffer dogs to detect ivory at import and export control points to assist detecting and preventing smuggling of ivory; conducting inspections targeting at licensed ivory shops and non-licensed art and craft shops to check the licence compliance as well as to detect and deter illegal ivory trade; as well as using hi-tech radiocarbon dating analysis to determine the age and hence the legality of ivory.

AFCD has carried out a series of publicity and education activities to publicise the phase-out plan of the local ivory trade and the new penalty regime among the general public, travellers and traders. These include distributing handbills and displaying posters at various import and export control points; broadcasting TV and radio announcements of public interest at cross-boundary coaches and YouTube Channel, as well as conducting education visits to licensed ivory shops and other art and craft shops.

In 2019-20, the Government will continue to implement the above measures to curb smuggling and illegal trade in endangered species.

AFCD's expenditure on combating illegal trade in endangered species over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure earmarked for this area of work in 2019-20 are tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19 (revised estimate)</b>	<b>2019-20 (estimate)</b>
Expenditure (\$ million)	20.6	26.0	28.3	31.1	35.3	35.3

- (b) and (c) Import of live animals and animal products, including animal skin and fur products, are mainly regulated for the prevention and control of rabies and protection of endangered species through enforcing the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A) (the Regulation) and the Ordinance respectively. AFCD officers carry out inspections and quarantine operations, including the deployment of Quarantine Detector Dogs (QDDs) to perform screening duties, at various boundary control points and the Hong Kong International Airport to deter illegal import of live animals and animal products controlled under the Regulation and the Ordinance with a view to preventing the introduction of

exotic animal or zoonotic diseases into Hong Kong, safeguarding public health and protecting endangered species.

Information on the number of inspections and quarantine operations at various boundary control points and the Hong Kong International Airport over the past 5 years is as follows:

Calendar year	Number of inspections and quarantine operations	
	Boundary control points	Hong Kong International Airport
2014	5 000	109 400
2015	5 000	93 300
2016	4 600	86 800
2017	5 600	91 600
2018	4 700	80 700

The expenditure involved in the control of import of live animals and animal products, including animal skin and fur products, over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure earmarked for this area of work in 2019-20 are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2014-15	16.3
2015-16	17.9
2016-17	19.0
2017-18	19.7
2018-19 (revised estimate)	27.3
2019-20 (estimate)	27.3

- (d) Since the Amendment Ordinance took effect on 1 May 2018, the maximum penalties for offences related to illegal trade in endangered species have been increased to a fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years for Appendix I species and a fine of \$1 million and imprisonment for 7 years for Appendix II or III species. More serious cases of smuggling of endangered species were tried at District Courts instead of Magistrate Courts and the sentences handed down have been increased significantly. For instance, the penalty imposed in a case of illegal import of 3.1 kg rhino horn was an imprisonment of 8 months and that in another case of illegal export of 2.6 kg wood chips of Incense Tree was an imprisonment of 24 months. The penalties imposed in similar cases before the increase in the maximum penalties were about 2 to 4 weeks imprisonment and 2 months imprisonment respectively. We believe that the much heavier penalties imposed by the court would send a clear message to the public about the seriousness of such offences and provide a stronger deterrent against the illegal trade in endangered species.

- (e) The information on reptile skin products seized under the Ordinance over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Number of cases	53	51	61	51	52
Quantity of reptile skins seized (pieces)	304	294	424	253	241
Number of persons arrested	1	0	2	4	4
Number of persons convicted	1	0	2	4	4
Maximum penalty (fine; imprisonment)	\$60,000 <sup>#</sup>	N/A <sup>^</sup>	\$12,000	2 weeks	6 weeks
Minimum penalty (fine; imprisonment)	\$60,000 <sup>#</sup>	N/A <sup>^</sup>	\$6,000	2 weeks, suspended for 2 years	1 month, suspended for 18 months

<sup>#</sup> There was only 1 convicted case in 2014.

<sup>^</sup> There was no convicted case in 2015.

Most of the seized reptile skins were leather products of crocodile, python and water monitor and their last loading places were mainly European countries such as Switzerland, France and Spain.

- (f) The information on pangolin seized under the Ordinance over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Number of cases	22	19	23	20	54
Quantity of pangolin products seized (kg)	5 700	6 400	15 400	7 900	17 600
Number of persons arrested	12	15	14	18	37
Number of persons convicted	2	0	6	8	8
Maximum penalty (fine; imprisonment)	\$15,000	N/A <sup>^</sup>	2 months	2 weeks	4 weeks
Minimum	\$500	N/A <sup>^</sup>	\$1,000	2 weeks,	2 weeks,

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
penalty (fine; imprisonment)				suspended for 18 months	suspended for 18 months

<sup>^</sup> There was no convicted case in 2015.

The seized items were all pangolin scales and their last loading places were mainly African countries such as Nigeria, Cameroon and Mozambique.

- (g) The information on ivory seized under the Ordinance over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Number of cases	106	105	41	64	55
Quantity of ivory seized (kg)	2 200 and 35 pieces	1 600	530	7 300	372
Number of persons arrested	107	57	30	60	51
Number of persons convicted	65	30	25	47	42
Maximum penalty (imprisonment/months)	8	6	8	3	4
Minimum penalty (fine)	\$10,000	\$30,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$5,000

The last loading places of the illegally imported ivory were mainly African countries such as Nigeria, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Ivory seized from inbound passengers or postal parcels was mostly worked ivory or semi-processed ivory while ivory seized from sea containers was mostly raw tusks and large cut pieces.

- (h) The information on animal skin and fur products seized under the Ordinance over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Number of cases	53	51	63	51	54
Quantity of animal skin and fur products seized (pieces)	304	294	424	253	244 and 153 m <sup>2</sup>
Number of persons arrested	1	0	3	4	4
Number of persons convicted	1	0	3	4	4
Maximum penalty (fine; imprisonment)	\$60,000 <sup>#</sup>	N/A <sup>^</sup>	\$50,000; 6 weeks	2 weeks	6 weeks

Minimum penalty (fine; imprisonment)	\$60,000 <sup>#</sup>	N/A <sup>^</sup>	\$6,000	2 weeks, suspended for 2 years	1 month, suspended for 18 months
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<sup>#</sup> There was only 1 convicted case in 2014.

<sup>^</sup> There was no convicted case in 2015.

Most of the seized animal skins were leather products of crocodile, python and water monitor and their last loading places were mainly European countries such as Switzerland, France and Spain.

There was no illegal import case involving animal skin and fur products under the Regulation over the past 5 years.

- (i) The objective of CITES is to strengthen trade control through adoption of effective measures among governments of the contracting parties, so as to effectively protect the endangered species of wild fauna and flora and ensure that the sustainable use of wild fauna and flora will not be affected by international trade. Hong Kong abides by CITES in the protection of endangered species and implements it through enforcing the Ordinance. AFCD works closely with C&ED to combat smuggling of endangered species. By employing the risk management and intelligence-led approach, C&ED conducts checks on passengers, cargoes, postal parcels and conveyances at various boundary control points and sea ports to effectively fight against illegal import of endangered species specimens, including animal skin and fur products of endangered species. AFCD also conducts regular inspection at local shops to detect and deter illegal trade in endangered species. Besides, the maximum penalties under the Ordinance have recently been increased by a significant margin to enhance deterrent effect against illegal trade in endangered species. We have no plan to introduce a trade certification/labelling scheme for animal skin and fur products.

- (j) The information on bear bile products seized under the Ordinance over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

Calendar year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of cases	0	0	0	1	2
Quantity of bear bile products seized (g)	0	0	0	10	91
Number of persons arrested	0	0	0	0	2
Number of persons convicted	0	0	0	0	2
Maximum penalty (fine; imprisonment)	N/A <sup>^</sup>	N/A <sup>^</sup>	N/A <sup>^</sup>	N/A <sup>^</sup>	\$20,000; 4 months, suspended for 24 months
Minimum penalty (fine)	N/A <sup>^</sup>	N/A <sup>^</sup>	N/A <sup>^</sup>	N/A <sup>^</sup>	\$5,000

<sup>^</sup> There was no convicted case.



The seized bear gall bladder products were all bear bile powder. The last loading places were the Mainland and Myanmar.

- (k) and (l) As stated in part (i) above, AFCD works closely with C&ED to combat illegal import of endangered species, including bear gall bladders. Currently, we have no plan to prohibit the sale of legally imported products containing ingredients from bear gall bladders.
- (m) and (n) AFCD has implemented a series of measures to protect Incense Trees against illegal felling. They include:
- (i) establishment of a special task force to conduct targeted patrol of sites at which important populations of Incense Tree are present, in addition to regular patrols in country parks and special areas;
  - (ii) working closely with HKPF in gathering and exchange of intelligence, conducting joint law enforcement operations at black spots and investigation of illegal tree felling cases, and enhancing the awareness and vigilance of the public about such offences through social media as well as various education and publicity programmes;
  - (iii) enhancing liaison and cooperation with concern groups and the villagers living near Incense Trees for intelligence gathering and reporting of any illegal felling activities;
  - (iv) conducting a pilot scheme using Infrared Sensor Camera Traps to monitor illegal felling of Incense Trees at several strategic locations;
  - (v) installing tree guards to prevent felling or vandalism of important individuals of Incense Tree;
  - (vi) dressing the wounds of damaged trees with anti-fungal paint to suppress the formation of agarwood in order to discourage illegal harvesting;
  - (vii) organising training to help frontline staff of HKPF and C&ED identify Incense Trees/agarwood and detect illegal activities;
  - (viii) launching a pilot scheme to deploy QDDs to facilitate detection of agarwood smuggling at land boundary control points;
  - (ix) stepping up the extensive planting of Incense Trees in country parks. Since 2009, about 10 000 seedlings of Incense Trees have been produced and planted every year to assist in the re-stocking of this species in Hong Kong; and
  - (x) supporting various research studies and activities to conserve this native species and enhance public awareness in this aspect.

In addition, long-term monitoring of important populations of Incense Trees is in place to monitor its conservation status and check on the effectiveness of the protection measures. The resources involved in implementing the above measures were absorbed in the allocation for nature conservation and management of country parks, hence no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved is available. However, AFCD has made additional provisions of \$8.3 million and \$6.3 million in 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively to enhance the support for the above measures.

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

Calendar year	Number of			Penalty (imprisonment / months)		Estimated number of trees involved
	Cases	Persons arrested	Prosecutions	Maximum	Minimum	
2014	134	65	26	55	3	240
2015	120	16	5	35	30	249
2016	54	22	8	30	2	172
2017	53	9	1	30 <sup>#</sup>	30 <sup>#</sup>	102
2018	41	1	0	N/A <sup>^</sup>	N/A <sup>^</sup>	78

<sup>#</sup> There was only 1 convicted case in 2017.

<sup>^</sup> There was no prosecution case in 2018.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB023**

**(Question Serial No. 1674)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Under Programme (2), the Government's aim is to conserve flora, fauna and natural habitats; to designate and manage country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) Over the past 3 years, what were the numbers of (i) complaints relating to the appearances and nuisances of wild pigs and (ii) reports of damages to property or injury to people caused by wild pigs received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department? Please set out the numbers with a breakdown by District Council districts.
- (b) Will the Government consider conducting a territory-wide assessment on the number of wild pigs and their breeding trend? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) Given that the Government has indicated that it would carry out public education to remind the public not to feed wild pigs, please tabulate the numbers of public education programmes conducted and the participants, as well as the manpower and expenditures involved over the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 67)

Reply:

- (a) Over the past 3 years, the number of complaints and reports on injury related to wild pigs received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), by district, are tabulated below:

District	Number of reports on the sighting of or nuisance caused by wild pigs (number of injury reports)		
	Financial year		
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (as of January 2019)
Central and Western	34 (0)	74 (0)	76 (1)
Wan Chai	35 (0)	59 (0)	80 (0)
Eastern	40 (2)	36 (0)	52 (0)
Southern	139 (0)	205 (1)	195 (3)
Yau Tsim Mong	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)
Sham Shui Po	18 (0)	5 (0)	3 (0)
Kowloon City	1 (0)	3 (0)	12 (0)
Wong Tai Sin	31 (0)	12 (0)	14 (1)
Kwun Tong	6 (0)	5 (0)	5 (0)
Kwai Tsing	11 (0)	12 (0)	14 (0)
Tsuen Wan	18 (0)	57 (0)	20 (0)
Tuen Mun	26 (0)	38 (0)	46 (0)
Yuen Long	16 (0)	24 (0)	16 (0)
North	37 (0)	26 (0)	28 (0)
Tai Po	67 (0)	54 (1)	66 (3)
Sha Tin	78 (0)	53 (1)	73 (0)
Sai Kung	79 (0)	111 (1)	112 (0)
Islands	7 (0)	12 (0)	7 (0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>643 (2)</b>	<b>787 (4)</b>	<b>819 (8)</b>

- (b) Wild pigs are generally solitary or live in small groups, secretive, widely distributed, and have extensive home range. Currently, AFCD does not have the statistics on the population of wild pigs in Hong Kong, but it is devising methods to make an estimate.
- (c) The most effective way to reduce the appearance of wild pigs in residential areas is to stop feeding them. Feeding activities will wrongly impress the wild animals that there is stable food supply and attract them to appear regularly near urban or residential areas. To this end, AFCD is conducting a series of publicity and education programmes. In addition to promotion on TV and radio, AFCD has also organised 15 outdoor educational exhibitions, 2 country park wildlife guided tours, a 2-day colouring competition (kindergarten and primary school) cum carnival, and 3 roving exhibitions. Besides, AFCD has been working closely with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) on the improvement of refuse collection facilities (e.g. the litter containers and refuse collection points that wildlife usually visit). Improvement works carried out recently include the installation of metal swing doors at village-type refuse collection and recycling points and erecting bollards or parapets at bin sites to prevent the knocking down of refuse and recycling bins by wildlife (including wild pigs). AFCD is also conducting a consultancy study to improve the design of refuse and recycling bins and refuse collection points, with a

view to preventing wild animals (including wild pigs) from obtaining food from humans.

As handling wild pig nuisance forms part of AFCD's work in handling nuisances caused by wild animals, there is no breakdown on the publicity / education and manpower which involved only wild pigs. Over the past 3 years, the expenditure incurred by AFCD on public education and publicity on the prohibition of feeding wild animals is as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$million)</b>
2016-17	0.6
2017-18	2.2
2018-19 (revised estimate)	2.2

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB024****(Question Serial No. 2212)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding the management and protection of country parks, special areas, marine parks and the marine reserve, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

Please set out the numbers of inspections conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in tabular form as follows.

Areas managed/Year	2017-18 (Actual)	2018-19 (Actual)	2019-20 (Estimate)
Country parks			
Special areas			
Marine parks			
Marine reserve			

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 49)Reply:

The numbers of patrols conducted in country parks, special areas, marine parks and the marine reserve by the staff of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Areas managed / Financial year	Number of patrols		
	2017-18 (Actual)	2018-19 (As of February) (Actual)	2019-20 (Estimate)
Country parks and special areas *	14 755	14 415	14 800
Marine parks	2 789	2 497	2 650
Marine reserve	388	443	420

\* As some of the patrols cover both country parks and special areas, AFCD does not have a breakdown on the number of patrols in these managed areas.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB025**

**(Question Serial No. 2226)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019-20 that the Government will strengthen the control of trade in endangered species, in particular ivory, and combat their illegal trade and smuggling. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the specific initiatives concerned? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?
- (b) How much ivory has been forfeited over each of the past 3 years?
- (c) What is the total amount of forfeited ivory in stockpile? Of which how much has been destroyed? What is the timeframe for destroying the stockpiled ivory and what are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 155)

Reply:

- (a) The Legislative Council enacted the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (the Amendment Ordinance) on 31 January 2018. The Amendment Ordinance took effect on 1 May 2018. Starting from 1 August 2018, all import and export of ivory (save for antique ivory) for commercial purposes have been banned. A licence to possess is required for keeping pre-Convention ivory<sup>3</sup> for commercial purposes. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will scrutinise the applications and inspect the

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<sup>3</sup> Ivory that was acquired before the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) started to apply to elephants.



commercial stocks of pre-Convention ivory by recording weight, taking photos and putting on tamper-proof hologram stickers. In addition, AFCD has also implemented a series of measures that aim at curbing smuggling of ivory and strengthening the control of local trade in ivory. The measures include enhancing inter-departmental collaboration and stepping up joint operations and intelligence exchange with the Customs and Excise Department and overseas law enforcement agencies, such as Interpol; deploying sniffer dogs to detect ivory at import and export control points to assist detecting and preventing smuggling of ivory; using hi-tech radiocarbon dating analysis to determine the age and hence the legality of ivory.

On the other hand, AFCD has carried out a series of publicity and education activities to publicise the phase-out plan of the local ivory trade and the new penalty regime among the general public, travellers and traders. These include issuing circulars, press releases and Facebook posts; distributing handbills and displaying posters at various import and export control points; broadcasting TV and radio announcements of public interest at cross-boundary coaches and YouTube Channel; as well as conducting education visits to licensed ivory shops and other art and craft shops. Internationally, AFCD has notified the World Trade Organization and all Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

In 2019-20, AFCD will continue to implement the above measures to curb smuggling and illegal trading of ivory. Since the implementation of these measures forms part of CITES implementation work, there is no breakdown of the resources and manpower involved.

- (b) The quantities of ivory seized in 2016, 2017 and 2018 were 530kg, 7 300kg and 372kg respectively.
- (c) Since 2014, a total of 28 tonnes of confiscated ivory have been disposed of by incineration. The existing ivory stockpile under government custody is about 10 tonnes. Apart from saving some for scientific, education, enforcement or identification purposes, the incineration of the confiscated ivory will be arranged in 2019 after completion of the necessary legal procedures. The estimated expenditure for the disposal of the remaining ivory by incineration is \$70,000 and the manpower required will be absorbed by the existing staff of AFCD.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB026****(Question Serial No. 0123)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding Programme (2): Nature Conservation and Country Parks, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Are there any statistics on the numbers of country park visitors in recent years? If yes, what are the numbers over the past 3 years? If not, what are the reasons?
- (b) Is there any publicity on those ordinances relating to the country parks in Hong Kong targeted at visitors? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) Does the Government know that some country park facilities are improperly occupied by visitors? If yes, what measures will be taken to address the problem? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)Reply:

- (a) The number of visitors to country parks over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of visitors (million)</b>
2016	13.0
2017	13.0
2018	12.3

- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) promotes the protection and proper use of country parks through displaying the relevant regulations and visitor codes in country parks, and uses leaflets, posters, thematic websites, mobile applications and social media to remind visitors of the good practices. Besides, AFCD also promotes the relevant codes through publicity and education activities, such as nature appreciation events, roving exhibitions at shopping malls and guided tours at visitor centres. AFCD will continue to strengthen its publicity and education

efforts, and maintain communication with the Tourism Commission to promote the good practices and codes of green tourism to overseas visitors through various channels.

- (c) AFCD conducts regular patrol at country parks and monitors the usage of country park facilities, including campsites. Currently, there are 41 designated campsites in country parks for visitors to carry out camping activities on a first come, first served basis. The visitors' demand for camping facilities in country parks has increased in recent years. During long holidays when more visitors are expected, AFCD will step up patrol at campsites to monitor the situation and strengthen publicity at campsites to educate campers on the proper use of camping facilities and care for the countryside, so as to practise environmentally friendly camping activities. AFCD will take appropriate enforcement action if any illegal activity is detected. AFCD has also commissioned a consultancy study on enhancing the recreation and education potential of country parks in order to provide higher quality and more diversified facilities and services to visitors, including exploring the feasibility of introducing an advance booking system for popular campsites. In the ongoing public consultation, we are collecting the public's view on enhancing existing facilities of country parks, including enhanced management at popular campsites in country parks.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB027**

**(Question Serial No. 0130)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The 5-year Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong (BSAP) was announced in 2016, with \$150 million reserved for the first 3 year implementation (2016-19). Would the Government inform this Committee:

- (a) of the funding earmarked for implementing BSAP in 2019-20 and 2020-21;
- (b) of the current progress on the 67 specific actions to be taken by the Government that are set out in BSAP; and
- (c) of the staff arrangement, working plan and target in 2019-20.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

- (a) The Government started implementing the first Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) for Hong Kong in 2016. In addition to the \$150 million allocated for the implementation of BSAP for the first 3 years (i.e. from 2016-17 to 2018-19), an additional \$100 million has been earmarked for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to continue to take forward the initiatives under BSAP for the next 2 years (i.e. 2019-20 to 2020-21).
- (b) Since the launch of BSAP, progress has been made under the 4 areas of action, and the progress up to end 2018 was generally in line with the timeframes set out. Highlights of major achievements include: designation of The Brothers Marine Park as the fifth marine park in Hong Kong; establishment of the Countryside Conservation Office to co-ordinate conservation of countryside areas and promote sustainable development of remote countryside; enactment of the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 to step up enforcement action against

wildlife crime; implementation of a species action plan for conserving local populations of Incense Trees; updating of biodiversity parameters in the Sustainability Assessment System to better support the formulation process of major policies and plans of the Government; provision of funding support to research studies and public education programmes on biodiversity; organisation of the annual Hong Kong Biodiversity Festival and publicity campaigns to enhance public awareness towards and participation in biodiversity.

- (c) In 2019-20, 33 AFCD staff will continue to take forward the initiatives under BSAP in accordance with the planned timetable. Major initiatives include enhancing the management of country parks and Ramsar Site; designating new country and marine parks; formulating and implementing species action plans; monitoring and studying priority species and habitats; compiling the List of Threatened Species for Hong Kong; developing a biodiversity information hub for sharing relevant data and knowledge; as well as promoting biodiversity awareness among the public and stakeholders through further publicity and education activities.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB028**

**(Question Serial No. 1515)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please set out the details of the toilets managed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, including the numbers of various types of toilets (water closets, dry closets, temporary toilets, etc.), the refurbishment work undertaken over the past 5 years, the refurbishment plan in the next 3 years as well as the number of toilets to be refurbished. What specific measures will there be to enhance the hygiene standard of the toilets?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is responsible for providing and managing public toilets in country parks and special areas, within which there are 64 flushing toilets, 42 dry toilets and 121 portable toilets. AFCD conducts regular cleansing and closely monitors the hygiene conditions of these public toilets. Where necessary, AFCD would step up cleansing frequency and/or carry out maintenance and enhancement work such as replacement of water faucets and ventilation fans, enhanced lighting and repainting of the interior in order to upkeep the conditions of the facilities.

Over the past 5 years, major projects conducted for improvement of the toilet facilities of country parks and special areas include the construction of a new toilet at the East Dam of the Sai Kung East Country Park; the installation of a new bio-treatment system for sewage treatment at the public toilets of the Lions Nature Education Centre of the Tsiu Hang Special Area, and the enhancement of the facilities of the portable toilets at To Tei Wan of the Shek O Country Park, etc.

In the coming 3 years, relevant improvement projects under planning include the refurbishment for 2 flushing toilets at Sai Wan of the Sai Kung East Country Park; the reconstruction of the bio-treatment system for the toilets at the Wan Tsai campsites of the

Sai Kung West Country Park (Wan Tsai Extension) and the provision of potable water supply for the public toilet at the Hok Tau campsite of the Pat Sin Leng Country Park.

Furthermore, AFCD has commissioned a consultancy study in August 2018 to review and explore practical options for improving selected sub-standard toilets in remote areas within country parks and special areas, including some dry toilets in very remote areas with substantial site constraints. The consultancy study aims at assessing the technical feasibility in the provision of essential infrastructures, including electricity, water supplies and sewage treatment to these toilets. The study is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2019, following which AFCD would take forward the recommendations as appropriate.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB029**

**(Question Serial No. 1523)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Hiking accidents take place from time to time. Would the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department increase the expenditure for improving the safety facilities and strengthening its efforts in public education and publicity in order to enhance the public safety awareness? If yes, please advise on the details.

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has all along been encouraging hikers to use hiking trails that are managed and maintained by them. Hikers can obtain information of these hiking trails including Long Distance Trails, Country Trails, Family Walks and Nature Trails, etc. from the "Enjoy Hiking" website ([www.hiking.gov.hk](http://www.hiking.gov.hk)) and the mobile application ("Enjoy Hiking") for planning a safe hike. In addition, AFCD has compiled and uploaded a list of high risk locations that are more dangerous and with previous record of serious and fatal accidents in country parks to the said website to remind hikers to avoid planning to go to these locations. AFCD has also set up information boards and directional signs at suitable locations in country parks to provide trail information to hikers. If necessary, AFCD will also erect warning signs near locations of potential danger to alert hikers not to proceed further to avoid accidents. AFCD will review these measures from time to time, modify the existing signs and install additional ones as and when necessary.

AFCD regularly organises publicity activities such as exhibitions and game booths, and disseminates safety messages through Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs), websites, posters and pamphlets in order to enhance public awareness of hiking safety. In 2018-19, AFCD collaborated with relevant departments to produce new television and radio APIs and release a series of videos on the social media in order to step up the publicity and promotion of hiking safety to the public. AFCD also deploys staff to country parks to



convey the message of hiking safety to countryside visitors and will continue their efforts in raising public awareness of hiking safety. Since the above measures form part of the country park management and publicity work, there is no separate breakdown of the expenditure in this regard.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB030**

**(Question Serial No. 1543)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) Please advise on the practice of employing cleansing workers of the toilets within the purview of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (including but not limited to: civil servants, government contract staff, outsourced staff, etc.)
- (b) Please advise on the highest, lowest and average hourly wages of the cleansing workers employed by adopting the aforesaid practice.
- (c) What plans are there to enhance the hygiene standard of public toilets through improving the remuneration of the cleansing staff?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

- (a) The cleansing of public toilets in country parks is carried out by civil servants at the ranks of Workman I and Workman II as well as cleansing workers employed by outsourced contractors.
- (b) As at March 2019, the monthly salaries of officers at the ranks of Workman I and Workman II range from \$13,885 to \$16,975 and from \$13,040 to \$15,365 respectively. For cleansing workers employed by outsourced contractors, the terms of employment, wage levels and contractual terms are to be agreed upon between the cleansing workers and their employers when they enter into employment contracts. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not keep detailed information on the cleansing workers' salaries. AFCD will specify in the relevant service contracts that the outsourced contractors must offer appropriate wages and remuneration to their non-skilled workers in accordance with labour legislation (including a wage not lower than the Statutory Minimum Wage). AFCD also reviews

the payroll records of the contractors from time to time to ensure that the remuneration of the cleansing workers complies with the requirements of the Government.

- (c) AFCD closely monitors the hygiene conditions of the toilets under its purview. Where necessary, AFCD will step up cleansing frequency and/or carry out maintenance and enhancement work to ensure that the conditions are up to standard. The Government has also committed to enhancing the protection of the interests of the non-skilled workers engaged by Government service contractors. AFCD adheres to the relevant guidelines promulgated by the Government with a view to ensuring that the employment terms, including the remuneration, offered by our service contractors to their non-skilled workers meet the requirements, as well as enhancing the protection for non-skilled workers, such as specifying in the assessment criteria for the service contracts that the technical marks assigned to wages should be set at no less than 25% out of the total technical marks.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB191**

**(Question Serial No. 4714)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Would the Government advise on the respective numbers of plastic refuse bags used by the Government and contractors in managing country parks and the related expenditure in 2018-19, as well as the respective estimated number of refuse bags to be used and the related expenditure in 2019-20? What were the quantities of leaf and tree litter collected within country parks and disposed of at landfills over the past year?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 226)

Reply:

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

In managing country parks, the number of plastic refuse bags used in 2018-19 by AFCD is about 121 000, while the number of plastic refuse bags used by AFCD's contractors is about 306 000. It is estimated that the number of plastic refuse bags used by AFCD and that by AFCD's contractors for such purposes in 2019-20 will be similar to that of last year. The estimated expenditures of AFCD on plastic refuse bags in 2018-19 and 2019-20 are \$140,000 and \$130,000 respectively. Since the contractors are responsible for the provision of plastic refuse bags for their litter collection and related duties in country parks, AFCD does not have any information on their cost of refuse bags.

Most of the yard wastes (e.g. tree branches, leaves, etc.) generated from vegetation maintenance in country parks are stockpiled in nearby natural habitats to provide niches for wildlife. When they decompose, nutrients will be released back to the nature. Some tree logs are recycled to make furniture or decorative materials for the recreational facilities in country parks such as animated features, waymarks and benches, etc. In 2018, no yard

wastes arising from vegetation maintenance in country parks were disposed of at landfill sites.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB192****(Question Serial No. 4715)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

What was the overall abundance of Chinese white dolphins (CWDs) in the 4 waters where they were mainly sighted, namely Southwest Lantau, West Lantau, Northwest Lantau and Northeast Lantau over the past 2 years? Has the Government assessed whether the reclamation project carried out for the construction of the Airport's third runway has affected and led to a decrease in the abundance of CWDs? What is the effectiveness of setting up the Brothers Marine Park? Besides, what is the present progress of designation of the proposed marine parks at Southwest Lantau and Soko Islands respectively?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 227)Reply:

The estimated abundance of Chinese white dolphins (CWDs) in Southwest Lantau, West Lantau, Northwest Lantau and Northeast Lantau over the past 2 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Abundance				
	Southwest Lantau	West Lantau	Northwest Lantau	Northeast Lantau	Total
2017	10	16	21	0	47
2018	(The data is being analysed and is not available yet)				

Under the proposed Expansion of the Hong Kong International Airport into a Three-Runway System project, the project proponent is required to carry out a comprehensive environmental monitoring and audit (EM&A) programme which includes systematic surveys on CWDs in Southwest Lantau, West Lantau, Northwest Lantau and Northeast Lantau waters. Action and limit levels and an event action plan for CWDs have also been devised to audit the environmental performance of the project. The monitoring results of the EM&A programme so far did not exceed the action or limit levels, nor did it

trigger the event action plan for CWDs. There was thus no indication that the project has caused a decline in dolphin abundance.

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

Regarding the proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park (SWLMP), the Government announced by notice in the Gazette on 15 March 2019 that the Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority) has deposited copies of the approved map, certified as true copies of the original by the Authority, of SWLMP in the Land Registry, the Marine Department headquarters and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department headquarters. The Government's target is to designate SWLMP within 2019. In addition, the Government proposes to combine the proposed Soko Islands Marine Park and the proposed marine park for the Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 1 into a single marine park of approximately 2 000 hectares, namely the South Lantau Marine Park (SLMP), to allow more effective management and operation of the marine park in the future. We aim to designate the proposed SLMP by 2020.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB193**

**(Question Serial No. 3460)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the issue of local wild pigs over the past 3 years, would the Government inform this Committee on the following:

- (a) What were the numbers of complaints received on the appearance of or nuisance caused by wild pigs each year?
- (b) Was there any report received on wild pigs damaging public property and injuring people?
- (c) What were the numbers and expenditures involved in the neutering treatment under the contraception and relocation pilot programme?
- (d) What were the numbers of prosecutions instituted against members of the public feeding wild pigs?
- (e) What measures are currently put in place to control wild pigs?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 50)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) The number of complaints and injury reports related to wild pigs received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years is tabulated below:



<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Number of reports on the appearance of or nuisance caused by wild pigs (Number of injury reports)</b>
2016-17	643 (2)
2017-18	787 (4)
2018-19 (as of January 2019)	819 (8)

AFCD does not have the breakdown of cases of vandalism caused by wild pigs.

- (c) AFCD tried to implement the pilot Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP) to handle the nuisance caused by wild pigs in urban areas since late 2017. The number of wild pigs captured, administered with contraceptive vaccine, surgically sterilised and/or relocated to remote countryside under the CCRP over the past 2 years (as of February 2019) is tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Number of wild pigs</b>			
	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Administered with contraceptive vaccine</b>	<b>Surgically sterilised</b>	<b>Relocated to remote countryside</b>
2017-18	51	14	0	40
2018-19 (as of February 2019)	104	41	15	71

AFCD's expenditure on the implementation of CCRP for wild pigs over the past 2 years is tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2017-18	3.8
2018-19 (revised estimate)	6.4

- (d) Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks, part of Tai Mo Shan Country Park, Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve, a section of Tai Po Road along Caldecott Road and Piper's Hill section of Tai Po Road are specified places under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) at which the feeding of any wild animals are prohibited (feeding ban area). The number of prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals (including wild pigs) by members of the public over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19 (as of February 2019)</b>
Number of prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals (including wild pigs)	74	40	20

- (e) In order to alleviate the nuisance caused by wild pigs in residential areas more effectively, AFCD has conducted a comprehensive review on the strategy for the management of wild pigs and taken measures in a multi-pronged approach. Such measures include managing wild pig nuisance, reducing food attraction for wild pigs, educating the public to stop feeding wild animals as well as enhancing public awareness towards wild pigs. AFCD will also establish an advisory group comprising experts from various fields to advise on the management of wild pigs. Details are set out in Legislative Council Paper No. CB(1)487/18-19(05).

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB194**

**(Question Serial No. 5079)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) What were the expenditures on the promotion of organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production incurred by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 5 years, as well as the estimated expenditure on the same aspects in 2019-20?
- (b) Please advise on the details of the provision for the Biodiversity Education Centre in Hong Kong in 2019-20.
- (c) Please advise on the expenditure on organic fertilisers among the total expenditure on fertilisers involved in seedling production in the 2019-20 Estimates.
- (d) Please advise on AFCD's expenditures involved in the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation over the past 5 years, as well as the estimated expenditure on the same aspects in 2019-20.
- (e) What were AFCD's expenditures involved in the management, maintenance and improvement of facilities in country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves over the past 5 years, as well as the estimated expenditure on the same aspects in 2019-20?
- (f) Over the past 5 years, what were the expenditures incurred by AFCD on collecting refuse in country parks? What was the total volume of refuse collected by AFCD? What were the numbers of prosecutions related to littering in country parks initiated by AFCD? What is AFCD's estimated expenditure on education and publicity on protection of country parks in 2019-20 and its details?
- (g) What were AFCD's specific expenditures involved in the study of country park extension in Hong Kong over the past 5 years?

- (h) What is AFCD's specific expenditure involved in the study of country park extension in Hong Kong in 2019-20?
- (i) Please advise on the AFCD's expenditures involved in the management of stray animals and the promotion of animal welfare over the past 5 years, as well as the estimated expenditure on the same aspects in 2019-20.
- (j) Please set out in detail the complaints on wild pigs received and the numbers of wild pigs caught by the Government each year over the past 5 years.
- (k) Please set out in detail the numbers of cattle being relocated to new sites from their original habitat by the Government each year over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 114)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on the promotion of organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure in this respect in 2019-20 is tabulated below.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Organic cultivation (\$ million)</b>	<b>Intensive greenhouse production (\$ million)</b>
2014-15	5.6	4.9
2015-16	5.8	4.9
2016-17	6.4	7.1
2017-18	7.0	7.4
2018-19 (revised estimate)	9.1	7.9
2019-20 (estimate)	9.1	7.9

- (b) In 2019-20, AFCD has earmarked \$4.4 million for the management and operation of the Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre. This includes expenditure on educational programmes, cleansing, security, building maintenance and staff cost.
- (c) The provision earmarked for the purchase of fertilisers for seedling production in 2019-20 is \$50,600, of which \$30,000 will be used on organic fertilisers.
- (d) AFCD's expenditure on the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure in this respect in 2019-20 is tabulated below.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2014-15	43
2015-16	41

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2016-17	50
2017-18	68
2018-19 (revised estimate)	72
2019-20 (estimate)	71

- (e) AFCD's expenditure on the management, maintenance and improvement of facilities in country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure in this respect in 2019-20 is tabulated below.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2014-15	174
2015-16	178
2016-17	194
2017-18	185
2018-19 (revised estimate)	219
2019-20 (estimate)	226

- (f) AFCD's expenditure on keeping country parks clean and the volume of refuse collected in country parks by AFCD over the 5 years are tabulated below.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Volume of refuse collected in country parks (tonnes)</b>
2014-15	46	3 800
2015-16	54	3 600
2016-17	48	3 500
2017-18	48	3 200
2018-19 (revised estimate)	50	3 000

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

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of prosecutions</b>
2014	126
2015	135
2016	61
2017	62
2018	165

In 2019-20, AFCD will conduct a series of education and publicity programmes on protection and promotion of country parks for students and the general public. These public engagement programmes include school visits, eco-tours,

guided tours at visitor centres and education centres, thematic exhibitions, educational workshops, trail maintenance workshops, tree planting days, volunteer scheme, etc. A provision of \$24 million has been earmarked in 2019-20 for work in this area.

- (g) and (h) The assessment on the suitability of sites for country park extension forms part of AFCD's work in the planning and management of country parks. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.
- (i) AFCD's expenditure on the management of stray animals and the promotion of animal welfare over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure in this respect in 2019-20 is tabulated below.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2014-15	52.1
2015-16	50.5
2016-17	53.7
2017-18	60.3
2018-19 (revised estimate)	68.8
2019-20 (estimate)	66.6

- (j) The number of complaints on wild pigs received and the number of wild pigs caught by the Government over the past 5 years are tabulated below.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Number of reported cases of wild pig appearance/nuisance</b>	<b>Number of wild pigs caught (head)</b>
2014-15	396	13
2015-16	510	37
2016-17	643	62
2017-18	787	142
2018-19 (as of January 2019)	819	165

- (k) The number of cattle captured and relocated/returned over the past 5 years is tabulated below.

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of cattle captured<sup>^</sup> (head)</b>	<b>Number of cattle relocated / returned<sup>^</sup> (head)</b>
2014	94	60
2015	88	70
2016	114	69
2017	105	72
2018	128	80

<sup>^</sup>The figures include repeated capture and relocation/return of the same cattle.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB195**

**(Question Serial No. 6286)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding strengthening the control of trade in endangered species:

- (a) With the passage of the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Bill 2017 by the Legislative Council last year, the implementation of the Ordinance is now at the second stage, under which the import and re-export of pre-Convention (i.e. the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) ivory (except antique ivory) have been banned and the possession of pre-Convention ivory (except antique ivory) for commercial purposes in the local market is subject to licensing control. In this connection, what were the details of the implementation of Steps 1 and 2 of the Ordinance in the past year? Please provide relevant law enforcement data, including the imported and exported pre-Convention and post-Convention worked ivory seized and the number of licences issued for the commercial possession of pre-Convention ivory, since the implementation of the Ordinance.
- (b) Regarding the licensing control of international trade in endangered species and curbing of illegal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong, please give details of the expenditures and manpower involved over the past 3 years and the forthcoming year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 335)

Reply:

- (a) The Legislative Council enacted the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (the Amendment Ordinance) on 31 January 2018. The Amendment Ordinance took effect on 1 May 2018. Starting from 1 August 2018, all import and export of ivory (save for antique ivory) for commercial

purposes have been banned. A licence to possess is required for keeping pre-Convention ivory<sup>10</sup> for commercial purposes. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will scrutinise the applications and inspect the commercial stocks of pre-Convention ivory by recording weight, taking photographs and putting on tamper-proof hologram stickers. In addition, AFCD has also implemented a series of measures that aimed at curbing smuggling and strengthening the control of local trade in ivory. The measures included enhancing inter-departmental collaboration and stepping up joint operations and intelligence exchange with the Customs and Excise Department and overseas law enforcement agencies such as Interpol; deploying sniffer dogs to detect ivory at import and export control points to assist detecting and preventing smuggling of ivory; and using hi-tech radiocarbon dating analysis to determine the age and hence the legality of ivory.

On the other hand, AFCD has carried out a series of publicity and education activities to publicise the phase-out plan of the local ivory trade and the new penalty regime among the general public, travellers and traders. These include issuing circular letters, press releases and Facebook posts; distributing handbills and displaying posters at various import and export control points; broadcasting TV and radio announcements of public interest on cross-boundary coaches and YouTube Channel; as well as conducting education visits to licensed ivory shops and other art and craft shops. Internationally, AFCD has also notified the World Trade Organization and all Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Between May and December 2018, a total of 336 kg of ivory was seized from illegal import/export, amongst which about 6.5 kg was pre-Convention ivory. 12 licences have been issued for the possession of about 2.6 tonnes of pre-Convention ivory for commercial use as at the end of 2018.

- (b) The expenditure and manpower involved in carrying out licensing control of international trade in endangered species, including elephant ivory and curbing of illegal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong over the past 3 years and the coming year are tabulated below.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19 (revised estimate)</b>	<b>2019-20 (estimate)</b>
Expenditure (\$ million)	36.2	42.5	47.5	47.5
Manpower (number of staff)	51	55	57	57

- End -

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<sup>10</sup> Ivory that was acquired before the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) started to apply to elephants.



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB196**

**(Question Serial No. 6287)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the management of country parks, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the expenditures of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on the management, maintenance and improvement of facilities in country parks, special areas, marine parks and the marine reserve over the past 5 years, as well as AFCD's estimated expenditure in the same aspects in 2019-20?
- (b) Over the past 5 years, what were the expenditures incurred by AFCD on collecting refuse in country parks? What was the total volume of refuse collected by AFCD? What were the numbers of prosecutions initiated by AFCD for littering in country parks? What is the estimated expenditure to be incurred by AFCD in 2019-20 for education and publicity on protection of country parks and its details? Please advise on AFCD's expenditures involved in the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation over the past 5 years, as well as AFCD's estimated expenditure in the same aspects in 2019-20.
- (c) Please advise on AFCD's expenditures involved in the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation over the past 5 years, as well as AFCD's estimated expenditure in the same aspects in 2019-20.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 336)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on the management, maintenance and improvement of facilities in country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure in 2019-20 is tabulated below.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2014-15	174
2015-16	178
2016-17	194
2017-18	185
2018-19 (revised estimate)	219
2019-20 (estimate)	226

(b) and (c) AFCD's expenditure on keeping country parks clean and the volume of refuse collected in country parks over the 5 years are tabulated below.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Volume of refuse collected in country parks (tonnes)</b>
2014-15	46	3 800
2015-16	54	3 600
2016-17	48	3 500
2017-18	48	3 200
2018-19 (revised estimate)	50	3 000

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

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of prosecutions</b>
2014	126
2015	135
2016	61
2017	62
2018	165

In 2019-20, AFCD will conduct a series of education and publicity programmes on protection and promotion of country parks for students and the general public. These public engagement programmes include school visits, eco-tours, guided tours at visitor centres and education centres, thematic exhibitions, educational workshops, trail maintenance workshops, tree planting days, volunteer scheme, etc. A provision of \$24 million has been earmarked in 2019-20 for work in this area.

The expenditure on education and publicity on nature conservation over the past 5 years and the provision earmarked for 2019-20 is tabulated below.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2014-15	43
2015-16	41
2016-17	50
2017-18	68
2018-19 (revised estimate)	72
2019-20 (estimate)	71

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB197****(Question Serial No. 6296)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding the illegal felling or plucking of endangered trees and plants in the Hong Kong countryside, what were the numbers of cases detected by the Government over the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 345)Reply:

The number of cases involving illegal felling or plucking of endangered trees and plants in the countryside over the past 3 years is tabulated below.

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of cases</b>
2016	54
2017	53
2018	41

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB198****(Question Serial No. 4821)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

It is stated in Programme 2 Nature Conservation and Country Parks that “the feasibility of the incorporation of selected country park enclaves into country parks will be explored”. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the following:

Please tabulate the details of the enclaves being explored by the Government currently, including (i) the locations of the enclaves, (ii) the respective country parks that the enclaves to be incorporated into, (iii) the sizes of the enclaves (hectare), (iv) the work progress, (v) the schedule of the work.

(i) Location of enclave	(ii) Respective country park that the enclave to be incorporated into	(iii) Size of the enclave (hectare)	(iv) Work progress	(v) Schedule of the work

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1066)Reply:

Currently, there are 19 enclaves that have not been incorporated into country park areas or not covered by any statutory plans. Information of these enclaves is tabulated below:

Item	Site Name	Adjoining Country Parks	Area (Ha)
1	Site near Chuen Lung	Tai Mo Shan Country Park	10
2	Site near Tso Kung Tam		9
3	Tsing Fai Tong	Tai Lam Country Park	26
4	Sheung Tong		10

Item	Site Name	Adjoining Country Parks	Area (Ha)
5	Sheung Fa Shan		26
6	Ping Shan Chai	Pat Sin Leng Country Park	15
7	Hung Shek Mun Tsuen	Plover Cove Country Park	10
8	Lai Tau Shek		10
9	Tei Tong Tsai	Lantau South Country Park	15
10	Tsin Yue Wan		4
11	Yi Tung Shan		7
12	Man Cheung Po		2
13	Site near Peaked Hill		5
14	Tung Sam Kei	Sai Kung East and Sai Kung West Country Parks	4
15	Nam Shan Tung		5
16	Lai Chi Chong		16
17	Tai Hom		5
18	Wong Chuk Long		4
19	Site near Wong Mau Kok		3

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue to assess whether these enclaves are suitable for incorporation into country parks in accordance with the established principles and criteria, and put forward incorporation proposals for the suitable enclaves in accordance with the statutory procedures stipulated in the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208).

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB199**

**(Question Serial No. 4845)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

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

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1521)

Reply:

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

To strengthen the protection of Incense Trees against illegal felling, AFCD has implemented a species-specific action plan for Incense Trees which covers a series of measures. Such measures include:

- (i) establishment of a special task force to conduct targeted patrol of sites at which important populations of Incense Trees are present, in addition to regular patrols in country parks and special areas;
- (ii) working closely with the Hong Kong Police Force in gathering and exchanging intelligence, conducting joint law enforcement operations at black spots and investigation of illegal tree felling cases, and enhancing the awareness and vigilance

of the public about such offences through social media channels as well as various education and publicity programmes;

- (iii) enhancing liaison and cooperation with concern groups and villagers living near Incense Trees for intelligence gathering and reporting of any illegal felling activities;
- (iv) conducting a pilot scheme using Infrared Sensor Camera Traps to monitor illegal felling of Incense Trees at several strategic locations;
- (v) installing tree guards to prevent felling or vandalism of important individuals of Incense Trees;
- (vi) dressing the wounds of damaged trees with anti-fungal paint to suppress the formation of agarwood in order to discourage illegal harvesting;
- (vii) organising training sessions to help frontline staff of the Police and the Customs and Excise Department to identify Incense Trees/agarwood and detect illegal activities;
- (viii) launching a pilot scheme to deploy quarantine detector dogs to facilitate detection of agarwood smuggling at land boundary control points;
- (ix) stepping up the extensive planting of Incense Trees in country parks. Since 2009, about 10 000 seedlings of Incense Trees have been produced and planted every year to assist in the re-stocking of this species in Hong Kong; and
- (x) supporting various research studies and activities to conserve this native species and enhance public awareness in this aspect.

In addition, long-term monitoring of important populations of Incense Trees is in place to monitor its conservation status and check on the effectiveness of the protection measures. The resources involved in implementing the above measures were absorbed in the allocation for nature conservation and management of country parks, hence no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved is available. However, AFCD has made an additional provision of \$6.3 million in 2019-20 to enhance the support for the above measures.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB200**

**(Question Serial No. 4849)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

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

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

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1525)

Reply:

- (a) Barrier-free facilities in the country parks and their respective locations are listed at the **Annex**.
- (b) Barrier-free facilities are not yet available in the Lam Tsuen Country Park, Plover Cove (Extension) Country Park, Lantau North Country Park, Lantau North (Extension) Country Park, Kiu Tsui Country Park and Shek O Country Park.
- (c) In order to enhance the accessibility of county park facilities and services for persons with disabilities, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has implemented various measures including upgrading or providing barrier-free facilities in existing or new premises, as well as undertaking retrofitting programmes (such as the construction of ramps and installation of handrails along the footpaths to accessible

toilets, etc.). Officers in charge of the country park venues and facilities are also appointed as Access Officers by AFCD to facilitate the implementation of accessibility measures and provision of services for persons with disabilities. In addition, AFCD has commissioned a consultancy study on enhancing the recreation and education potential of country parks for public enjoyment. In the ongoing public consultation, we are seeking the public's views on various proposals (including the suggestion of enhancing the physically handicapped and able-bodied sites and facilities) to increase the accessibility of country parks for persons with disabilities.

- End -

Barrier free facilities/Facilities with barrier free design	Country parks/Other areas	Site/Venue/Location
Barbecue sites	Sai Kung West Country Park	Pak Tam Chung Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied (P.H.A.B.) Site Tai Mong Tsai No. 4 Barbecue Site
	Sai Kung East Country Park	Wong Shek No. 1 Barbecue Site
	Clear Water Bay Country Park	Tai Hang Tun Barbecue Site
	Ma On Shan Country Park	Ma On Shan Barbecue Site
		Nai Chung Barbecue Site
	Shing Mun Country Park	Shing Mun No. 4 Barbecue Site
		Shing Mun No. 5 Barbecue Site
	Tai Mo Shan Country Park	Rotary Barbecue Site
	Tai Lam Country Park	Shek Kong No. 2 Barbecue Site
		Shek Kong No. 3 Barbecue Site
		Shek Kong No. 6 Barbecue Site
		Shek Kong No. 10 Barbecue Site
		Shek Kong No. 11 Barbecue Site
		Chuen Lung No. 2 Barbecue Site
		Tai Tong No. 1 Barbecue Site
Pat Sin Leng Country Park	Hok Tau No. 6 Barbecue Site	
Aberdeen Country Park	Aberdeen Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied (P.H.A.B.) Site	
Tai Tam Country Park	Tai Tam No. 2 Barbecue Site	
	Tai Tam Tuk No. 4 Barbecue Site	
Picnic sites	Tsiu Hang Special Area	Lions Nature Education Centre
	Shing Mun Country Park	Shing Mun No. 6 Picnic Site
		Shing Mun No. 10 Picnic Site
Visitor centres	Sai Kung West Country Park	Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre
	Clear Water Bay Country Park	Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre
	Tai Mo Shan Country Park	Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre
	Aberdeen Country Park	Aberdeen Tree Centre
	Tsiu Hang Special Area	Lions Nature Education Centre
	Hong Kong Wetland Park	Hong Kong Wetland Park Visitor Centre
	Other Areas Outside Country Park	Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre
Ngong Ping Nature Centre		
Hong Kong Global Geopark Volcano Discovery Centre		
Toilets	A total of 52 at various locations within Country Parks and Special Areas	Hong Kong Wetland Park Other locations of the toilets could be downloaded from AFCD's website: <a href="http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_rec/cou_vis_dis.html">http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_rec/cou_vis_dis.html</a>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB201**

**(Question Serial No. 4850)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

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

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1526)

Reply:

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

According to the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A), it is required to apply for a permit in advance for bringing a vehicle into a country park or special area. The relevant application procedures and guidelines are published on AFCD's website ([www.afcd.gov.hk](http://www.afcd.gov.hk)). Applications will be assessed against the established guidelines and considered on their individual merits.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB202****(Question Serial No. 4852)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Please provide the number of toilets in various country parks over the territory and the total number as well as the number and proportion of barrier-free toilets installed.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1528)Reply:

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

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

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

Besides flushing toilets, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has provided 121 hired portable toilets (of which 7 are barrier-free portable toilets) and 42 dry toilet pits at remote locations lacking supplies of water and electricity to meet the needs of country park visitors.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB203**

**(Question Serial No. 7282)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Given the recent intrusion of wild pigs into urban areas, attacking passers-by, foraging for food and causing traffic disruption in various districts on Hong Kong Island, will AFCD allocate additional resources or introduce new measures to resolve this issue, such as strengthening the control and contraception of wild pigs?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

In order to control the nuisance caused by wild pigs in residential areas more effectively, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has conducted a comprehensive review on the strategy for the management of wild pigs and taken measures in a multi-pronged approach. Such measures include managing wild pig nuisance, reducing food attraction for wild pigs, educating the public to stop feeding wild animals as well as enhancing public awareness towards wild pigs. AFCD will also establish an advisory group comprising experts from various fields to advise on the management of wild pigs. Details are set out in Legislative Council Paper No. CB(1)487/18-19(05). AFCD has earmarked an additional provision of \$4 million and 20 staff for this area of work in 2019-20.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB204**

**(Question Serial No. 3573)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

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

- (a) What were the manpower and expenditures involved in public education and promotion of the feeding ban over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (b) What were the numbers of complaints received by the Department about nuisances of or attacks by wild monkeys over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (c) What were the manpower and expenditures involved in the investigation and study on the control of wild monkeys, as well as the administration of contraceptive and neutering treatment to wild monkeys over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (d) What are the manpower and estimated expenditure involved in the above work in 2019-20?
- (e) What are the present progress and details of the management plan for monkeys?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure incurred by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in public education and publicity for the prohibition of feeding wild animals such as monkeys and wild pigs over the past 3 year is as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2016-17	0.6
2017-18	2.2
2018-19 (revised estimate)	2.2



As the relevant work forms part of AFCD's work on handling the nuisance caused by wild animals (including monkeys, wild pigs, etc.), there is no separate breakdown on the manpower involved in the aforesaid work.

- (b) The information on monkey nuisance/attack received by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated below.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
Number of complaints about monkey nuisance/attack	527	399	355 (as of January 2019)

- (c) AFCD's expenditure and manpower involved in handling monkey nuisance over the past 3 years are tabulated below.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$million)</b>	<b>Manpower</b>
2016-17	4.2	12
2017-18	5.2	12
2018-19 (revised estimate)	5.6	12

In addition, AFCD's contractor (the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation) arranged regular neutering operations for monkeys in Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks, involving about 10 contractor's staff in each operation.

- (d) AFCD estimates that the manpower and expenditure involved in handling monkey nuisance and carrying out neutering operations for monkeys in 2019-20 will be comparable to those in 2018-19.
- (e) AFCD is highly concerned about the nuisance caused by monkeys in residential areas. Upon receiving relevant reports, AFCD will deploy staff to the scene as soon as possible to chase away or capture the monkeys, and offer advice and education leaflets to the concerned public or management offices after investigating the situation and causes of monkey occurrence. Moreover, AFCD will set up traps to capture the lingering monkeys in residential areas to reduce the persistent nuisance caused by them. AFCD would also contact other government departments to follow up the problems arising from monkey nuisance, such as environmental hygiene problems. If necessary, AFCD will arrange talks for the concerned residents or management offices on the handling of monkey nuisance and drawbacks of feeding monkeys and not handling refuse properly. Furthermore, AFCD has been carrying out contraceptive/neutering operations for monkeys in Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks since 2007. Regular surveys are also conducted to monitor changes in the monkey populations.

AFCD will start reviewing the work on the handling of monkey nuisance in 2019-20, and then consider, as appropriate, updating the management plan for handling nuisance caused by monkeys.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB205**

**(Question Serial No. 4371)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding Incense Trees, the relevant questions are as follows:

- (a) Please set out in tabular form the numbers of cases related to the felling of Incense Trees and the smuggling of *Aquilaria* species (agarwood), the numbers of persons arrested and prosecutions, the ordinance(s) contravened, the maximum and minimum penalties, the total amount of fine, and the weights and numbers of Incense Trees or trees of the *Aquilaria* species (agarwood) involved, over the past 5 years.
- (b) The Government mentioned last year that the trial of using infrared sensor camera traps to monitor illegal felling of Incense Trees was still in progress and that it was extending the trial to cover more strategic locations. Please advise on the expenditure involved as well as the effectiveness of the trial.
- (c) Please advise on the details of the other initiatives on the conservation of Incense Trees as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 65)

Reply:

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

Calendar year	Number of			Penalty (imprisonment / months)		Estimated number of trees involved
	Cases	Persons arrested	Prosecutions	Maximum	Minimum	
2014	134	65	26	55	3	240
2015	120	16	5	35	30	249
2016	54	22	8	30	2	172
2017	53	9	1	30	30 <sup>#</sup>	102
2018	41	1	0	Not applicable <sup>^</sup>	Not applicable <sup>^</sup>	78

<sup>#</sup> There was only 1 convicted case in 2017.

<sup>^</sup> No prosecution was instituted in 2018.

Moreover, all species of *Aquilaria* including Incense Trees are listed in Appendix II to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586), all imports and exports of agarwood specimens must be accompanied with a valid CITES licence. Any person who plans to import and export agarwood specimens must hold the relevant licence. The numbers of illegal imports and exports of agarwood over the past 5 years are tabulated below.

Calendar year	Number of		Penalty		Quantity of seizure (kg)
	Cases	Prosecutions	Maximum	Minimum	
2014	29	2	Imprisonment of 10 months	Imprisonment of 10 months <sup>^</sup>	1 035
2015	13	1	A fine of \$40,000	A fine of \$40,000 <sup>#</sup>	184
2016	11	2	A fine of \$21,000	A fine of \$5,000	134
2017	12	4	Imprisonment of 6 weeks	Imprisonment of 3 weeks	414
2018	41	8	Imprisonment of 24 months	Imprisonment of 6 weeks <sup>*</sup>	244

<sup>^</sup> The penalties for the 2 cases of successful conviction were the same.

<sup>#</sup> There was only 1 case of successful conviction.

<sup>\*</sup> The case also involved the smuggling of 0.01 kg worked ivory.

- (b) The trial of using Infrared Sensor Camera Traps (ISCTs) to monitor illegal felling of Incense Trees is still in progress. In March 2018, after receiving signals from the ISCTs, the Police arranged a timely follow-up and caught a suspect red-handed for harvesting agarwood. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has extended the trial to cover more strategic locations and will review the effectiveness upon completion of the trial. An estimated expenditure of \$1.2 million was involved in the extended ISCT trial in 2018-19.

- (c) To strengthen the protection of Incense Trees against illegal felling, AFCD has implemented a species-specific action plan for Incense Trees which covers a series of measures (including the ISCT trial scheme as mentioned above). Such measures include:
- (i) establishment of a special task force to conduct targeted patrol of sites at which important populations of Incense Trees are present, in addition to regular patrols in country parks and special areas;
  - (ii) working closely with the Police in gathering and exchanging intelligence, conducting joint law-enforcement operations at black spots and investigation of illegal tree felling cases, and enhancing the awareness and vigilance of the public about such offences through social media as well as various education and publicity programmes;
  - (iii) enhancing liaison and cooperation with concern groups and villagers living near Incense Trees for intelligence gathering and reporting of any illegal felling activities;
  - (iv) installing tree guards to prevent felling or vandalism of important individuals of Incense Trees;
  - (v) dressing the wounds of damaged trees with anti-fungal paint to suppress the formation of agarwood in order to discourage illegal harvesting;
  - (vi) organising training sessions to help frontline staff of the Police and the Customs and Excise Department to identify Incense Trees/agarwood and detect illegal activities;
  - (vii) launching a pilot scheme to deploy quarantine detector dogs to facilitate detection of agarwood smuggling at land boundary control points;
  - (viii) stepping up the extensive planting of Incense Trees in country parks. Since 2009, about 10 000 seedlings of Incense Trees have been produced and planted every year to assist in the re-stocking of this species in Hong Kong; and
  - (ix) supporting various research studies and activities to conserve this native species and enhance public awareness in this aspect.

In addition, long-term monitoring of important populations of Incense Trees is in place to monitor its conservation status and check on the effectiveness of the protection measures. The resources involved in implementing the above measures were absorbed in the allocation for nature conservation and management of country parks, hence no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved is available. However, AFCD has made an additional provision of \$6.3 million in 2019-20 to enhance the support for the above measures.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB206**

**(Question Serial No. 6126)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding venues under the management of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), please provide the following information:

- (a) Please set out by the 18 districts and in tabular form the numbers of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) available in each district.
- (b) Please set out by the 18 districts and in tabular form the venues managed by AFCD without installation of AEDs and the reasons for that.
- (c) Please set out by the 18 districts and in tabular form the venues managed by AFCD with installation of AEDs and the numbers of staff working at such venues who have received training on the use of AEDs.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 97)

Reply:

- (a) to (c) At present, 4 country park visitor centres and the Hong Kong Wetland Park are equipped with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). The number of staff who have received training on the use of AEDs and work in venues with AEDs is tabulated below.

District	Venues with AEDs	Number of	
		AEDs equipped	Staff with relevant training
Sai Kung	Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre, Lions Nature Education Centre, and Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre	3	15
Tsuen Wan	Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	1	9
Yuen Long	Hong Kong Wetland Park	2	4

Country park visitor centres which are not equipped with AEDs are tabulated below:

District	Venues not equipped with AEDs
Tsuen Wan	Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre
Eastern	Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre
Southern	Aberdeen Tree Centre
Islands	Ngong Ping Nature Centre

As most of the recreation sites in country parks are located in the countryside with no office and shelter, there is practical difficulty in providing AEDs at these venues. The Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) deploys personnel for first aid coverage and ambulance services at some popular locations in country parks on all Sundays and public holidays. The first aid stations and ambulance services provided by AMS are equipped with AEDs and will provide assistance to visitors when necessary. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will closely monitor the usage of the recreation sites in country parks and review the need to enhance the facilities to meet visitors' needs from time to time.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB207**

**(Question Serial No. 6320)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Would the Department set out the following information over the past 10 years:

- (a) The address, construction cost, size and number of cubicles of the public toilet with the lowest construction cost.
- (b) The address, construction cost, size and number of cubicles of the public toilet with the highest construction cost.
- (c) The average cost of constructing a public toilet.
- (d) The average cost of constructing a toilet cubicle.
- (e) The average cost of constructing each square metre of a public toilet.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 53)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) Over the past 10 years, 2 new public toilets were constructed in country parks and the details are tabulated below:

<b>Year of opening</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Construction cost (\$ million)</b>	<b>Number of cubicles</b>	<b>Area (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>
2011	Pak Tam Chung (within Sai Kung West Country Park)	4.75	13	135
2017	East Dam of High Island Reservoir (within Sai Kung East Country Park)*	1.32	5	34
<b>Total</b>		6.07	18	169

\* Due to the site constraints, this toilet is an assembled toilet modular without connection to public sewer or installation with a sewage treatment system. The sewage is temporarily stored in a holding tank and disposed of through desludging service.

- (c) The average cost of constructing a public toilet was \$3.04 million.
- (d) The average cost of constructing a toilet cubicle was \$0.34 million.
- (e) The average cost of constructing each square metre of a public toilet was \$40,000.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB208**

**(Question Serial No. 6322)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Would the Department set out in tabular form the following information regarding the public toilets managed by the Department by the 18 districts:

- (a) the names and addresses of the public toilets;
- (b) the years of construction;
- (c) the years in which the last refurbishment works were conducted;
- (d) the construction costs;
- (e) the utilisation rates;
- (f) the cleaning frequencies (per day and per week);
- (g) the numbers of cleaning staff; and
- (h) the numbers of replenishment of toilet paper and liquid soap per week.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 55)

Reply:

- (a) to (f) The requested information is tabulated below:

(a) Location <sup>1</sup>	(b) Year of construction	(c) Year of last refurbishment <sup>2</sup>	(d) Construction cost <sup>3</sup> (\$ million)	(e) Utilisation rate <sup>4</sup>	(f) Cleaning frequency (time per day/week)
<b>North District</b>					
Hok Tau Campsite (PSL/C/301) Flushing Toilet (PB942)	1986	2009	Information not available (N/A)	Moderate	4/28
Hok Tau Barbecue Site (PSL/B/308) Flushing Toilet (PB992)	1988	2009	N/A	Moderate	4/28
Lau Shui Heung (PSL/R/302) Flushing Toilet (PB997)	1989	2009	N/A	Moderate	4/28
Nam Chung (PSL/R/50B) Flushing Toilet (PB1084)	1997	N/A	1.2	Low	4/28
Bride's Pool Road Barbecue Site (PC/B/601) Flushing Toilet (PB938)	1986	2017	N/A	High	4/28
Bride's Pool Road Barbecue Site (PC/B/002) Flushing Toilet (PB998)	1989	2016	N/A	High	4/28
<b>Tai Po District</b>					
Tai Mei Tuk Barbecue Site (PC/B/001) Flushing Toilet (PB711)	1979	2014	N/A	High	4/28
Chung Pui Barbecue Site (PSL/B/012) Flushing Toilet (PB870)	1982	2016	N/A	High	4/28
Tai Mei Tuk Ranger Office Flushing Toilet (PB653)	1976	N/A	N/A	Low	4/28
Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve Flushing Toilet (PB940)	1986	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Nai Chung Barbecue Site (MOS/B105) Flushing Toilet (PB1076)	1996	N/A	1.0	Moderate	4/28
Sai Sha Road Barbecue Site (SKW/B/010) Flushing Toilet (PB979)	1987	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Wan Tsai South Campsite (SKW/C/309) Flushing Toilet (PB1114)	1999	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Wan Tsai West Campsite (SKW/C/308) Flushing Toilet (PB1110)	1999	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Hau Tong Kai Campsite (SKW/C/307) Flushing Toilet (PB1034)	1982	N/A	N/A	Moderate	2/14
Tai Tan Barbecue Site (SKW/B/304) Flushing Toilet (PB1020)	1992	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Wong Shek Barbecue Site (SKW/B/301) Flushing Toilet (PB980)	1987	N/A	N/A	High	4/28

(a) Location <sup>1</sup>	(b) Year of construction	(c) Year of last refurbishment <sup>2</sup>	(d) Construction cost <sup>3</sup> (\$ million)	(e) Utilisation rate <sup>4</sup>	(f) Cleaning frequency (time per day/week)
Pak Tam Au Flushing Toilet (PB1334)	2004	N/A	2.0	High	4/28
Shing Mun Lead Mine Pass Picnic Site (SM/P/010) Flushing Toilet (PB993)	1988	N/A	N/A	Moderate	4/28
<b>Yuen Long District</b>					
Tai Tong Barbecue Site (TL/B/101) Flushing Toilet (PB999)	1989	N/A	N/A	Low to High (Seasonal)	4/28
Tai Tong Barbecue Site (TL/B/106) Flushing Toilet (PB1118)	1998	N/A	2.0	Low to High (Seasonal)	4/28
Tai Tong Barbecue Site (TL/B/103) Flushing Toilet (PB1276)	2005	N/A	2.5	Low to High (Seasonal)	4/28
Kap Lung Catch Water Road Barbecue Site (TL/B/406) Flushing Toilet (PB725)	1979	N/A	N/A	Low to High (Seasonal)	4/28
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre Flushing Toilet (PB1011)	1991	N/A	N/A	Moderate	4/28
Wetland Park Flushing Toilet (8 Units)	2006	N/A	No separate breakdown as it was included in the total construction cost of the Wetland Park.	High	4/28
<b>Tsuen Wan District</b>					
Sham Tseng BBQ site (ST/B/002), Tsing Lung Tau Flushing Toilet (PB1335)	2003	N/A	2.0	Moderate to high	4/28
Shing Mun Country Park Kiosk Flushing Toilet (PB680)	1978	2017	N/A	High	4/28
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Kiosk Flushing Toilet (PB856)	1982	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
<b>Kwai Tsing District</b>					
Shing Mun Picnic Site (SM/P/006) Flushing Toilet (PB871)	1982	2017	N/A	Moderate	4/28
Shing Mun Barbecue Site (SM/B/008) Flushing Toilet (PB977)	1987	N/A	N/A	Moderate	4/28

(a) Location <sup>1</sup>	(b) Year of construction	(c) Year of last refurbishment <sup>2</sup>	(d) Construction cost <sup>3</sup> (\$ million)	(e) Utilisation rate <sup>4</sup>	(f) Cleaning frequency (time per day/week)
<b>Sha Tin District</b>					
Cheung Yuen Road Flushing Toilet (PB978)	1987	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Hung Mui Kuk Barbecue Site (LR/B/102) Flushing Toilet (PB1003)	1990	2017	N/A	High	4/28
Ma On Shan Barbecue Site (MOS/B/103) Flushing Toilet (PB1000)	1989	2010	N/A	Moderate	4/28
<b>Wong Tai Sin District</b>					
Jat's Incline Morning Walkers Garden Flushing Toilet (PB1260)	2006	N/A	3.0	High	4/28
<b>Sai Kung District</b>					
Pak Tam Chung Car Park Flushing Toilet (PB849)	1982	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Pak Tam Chung Picnic Garden Flushing Toilet (PB923)	1984	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Pak Tam Chung Picnic Garden Flushing Toilet (PB1316)	2011	N/A	4.8	Moderate	4/28
Pak Tam Chung Barbecue Site (SKW/B/206) Flushing Toilet (PB1130)	2002	N/A	1.5	High	4/28
Sai Wan Village Flushing Toilet	N/A	N/A	N/A	Low	1/7
Sai Wan Beach Flushing Toilet	N/A	N/A	N/A	High	1/7
High Island East Dam Assembled Modular Toilet	2017	N/A	1.3	Moderate	1/7
Tai Mong Tsai Barbecue Site (SKW/B/003) Flushing Toilet (PB944)	1986	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Lions Nature Education Centre, Visitor Centre Flushing Toilet (PB1070)	1991	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Lions Nature Education Centre, Carpark, Flushing Toilet (PB1039)	1993	N/A	1.0	High	4/28
Lions Nature Education Centre, Deaf Cafeteria, Flushing Toilet (PB1074)	1991	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Clear Water Bay Barbecue Site (CWB/B/001) Flushing Toilet (PB726)	1980	N/A	N/A	Moderate	4/28

(a) Location <sup>1</sup>	(b) Year of construction	(c) Year of last refurbishment <sup>2</sup>	(d) Construction cost <sup>3</sup> (\$ million)	(e) Utilisation rate <sup>4</sup>	(f) Cleaning frequency (time per day/week)
Clear Water Bay Barbecue Site (CWB/B/001) Flushing Toilet (PB1090)	1998	N/A	1.5	Moderate	4/28
<b>Central &amp; Western District</b>					
Lung Fu Shan Picnic Site (LFS/P/001) (Picnic site of Pinewood Battery) Flushing Toilet (PB1092)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Moderate	4/28
<b>Southern District</b>					
Aberdeen Barbecue Site (ABD/B/008) Flushing Toilet (PB668 & PB894)	1977	2002	N/A	Moderate	4/28
Pok Fu Lam Country Park Entrance Flushing Toilet (PB1014)	1991	2008	N/A	Moderate	4/28
Tai Tam Tuk Flushing Toilet (PB1089)	1998	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
<b>Eastern District</b>					
Tai Tam Reservoir Road Tai Tam Barbecue Site (TT/B/007) Flushing Toilet (PB1017)	1992	2012	1.0	Moderate	4/28
Mount Parker Road Barbecue Site (QB/B/102) Flushing Toilet (PB893)	1981	2003	N/A	High	4/28
Tai Fung Au Flushing Toilet (PB1009)	1990	2003	N/A	High	4/28
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre Flushing Toilet	2012	N/A	No separate breakdown as it was included in the total construction cost of the Centre.	Moderate	4/28
<b>Island District</b>					
Nam Shan Barbecue Site (LN/B/001) Flushing Toilet (PB763)	1982	N/A	N/A	Moderate	4/28
Nam Shan Campsite (LS/C/001) Flushing Toilet (PB764)	1982	N/A	N/A	Moderate	4/28

<sup>1</sup> There is no public toilet managed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City, Yau Tsim Mong, Tuen Mun, Wan Chai and Kwun Tong Districts.

<sup>2</sup> Only major renovation and refurbishment works are shown in the table above. Other maintenance works (e.g. repairing of water taps and electrical appliance, replacement of water pipeline, painting of wall, etc.) are carried out from time to time as and when

necessary. Information for works conducted more than 20 years ago is incomplete and thus not available.

<sup>3</sup> Construction costs for most of the toilets constructed more than 20 years ago are incomplete and thus not available.

<sup>4</sup> There are no objective and precise statistics on the utilisation rate of the toilets concerned. The utilisation rates tabulated above are divided into 3 categories (i.e. High, Moderate, Low) based on observation of the frontline staff.

(g) Cleansing of public toilets is conducted by staff (either cleaning workers of outsourced contractors or AFCD staff) who are also required to carry out other duties such as cleansing and litter collection in country parks or special areas. There is no separate breakdown on the number of staff only responsible for cleaning toilets.

(h) AFCD does not have the figures on the number of replenishments of toilet paper and liquid soap per week. The outsourced contractors and AFCD staff are required to check that there is toilet paper and sufficient liquid soap in the toilets and carry out replenishment as and when necessary.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB209**

**(Question Serial No. 4504)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government has suspended the wild pig hunting operations arranged by the civilian hunting teams since 2017 and replaced it with a pilot scheme for the contraception and/or relocation of the wild pigs caught.

- (a) Please set out in detail the respective numbers of cases about appearance of wild pigs or their causing nuisance, and reports on wild pigs injuring people, as well as the reasons for that over the past 5 years, with a breakdown by Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories. Do the above figures indicate whether the spots are within the urban, rural or country park areas? If yes, please specify. Is it noted that there is a large number of repeated informants or locations where wild pigs appear?
- (b) As at December last year, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) rendered contraceptive/sterilisation treatments to 54 wild pigs and the evaluation will be completed by the end of this year. What is the effectiveness as expected by AFCD? Are the manpower and expenditure sufficient? What will be the percentage of sterilised wild pigs against the total number of wild pigs across the territory by then?
- (c) The efficacy of the contraceptive drug lasts for about 4 to 6 years while a wild pig's life span ranges from 15 to 20 years. Will the scheme achieve the expected effectiveness in reducing the reproduction of wild pigs?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 212)

Reply:

- (a) Over the past 5 years, the number of reports on the sighting of or nuisance caused by wild pigs and the number of injury cases received by the

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) by district are tabulated below.

Financial year	Number of reports on the sighting of or nuisance caused by wild pigs (number of injury reports)			
	Hong Kong Island	Kowloon	New Territories	Total
2014-15	154 (0)	25 (0)	217 (0)	396 (0)
2015-16	211 (0)	35 (0)	264 (0)	510 (0)
2016-17	248 (2)	56 (0)	339 (0)	643 (2)
2017-18	374 (1)	26 (0)	387 (3)	787 (4)
2018-19 (as of January 2019)	403 (4)	34 (1)	382 (3)	819 (8)

According to the statistics, most of the injury cases occurred due to wild pigs being scared off by people. Some cases occurred because people were so frightened on seeing wild pigs that they fell down onto the ground.

In recent years, most of the reports on the appearance of or nuisance caused by wild pigs come from human settlements adjoining country parks or urban areas on Hong Kong Island or in the New Territories. These reports showed that the conflicts between people and wild animals are on the increase. This condition is related to the wild pig population density, the change of their foraging behaviour and higher tolerance towards wild pigs by people in the countryside.

- (b) and (c) The dedicated team for the management of wild pigs currently comprises 6 members. Besides, AFCD temporarily deployed 8 staff from other teams to render assistance. AFCD will deploy 26 staff (including the 6 of the dedicated team) to take up the wild pig management duties in 2019-20. In addition, AFCD will deploy additional staff when it conducts wild pig contraception/relocation operations.

Unlike wild pigs kept in captivity which may live longer, those in the field generally live less than 10 years. According to overseas studies, the efficacy of contraceptive vaccine lasts for a minimum of 4 to 6 years. Therefore, an injection of contraceptive vaccine for a wild pig in general should be effective throughout most of its life span. Currently, AFCD, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture of the United States as well as the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom, is conducting a field trial on the effectiveness of contraceptive vaccine in controlling the breeding of wild pigs. As wild pigs have to be observed for a minimum of 2 years after the injection of contraceptive vaccine for a preliminary assessment of the effectiveness of the vaccine, we therefore cannot make any presumption of its effectiveness at this stage. AFCD will monitor the wild pig population covered by the field trial to evaluate the effectiveness of the contraceptive vaccine at the end of 2019.



AFCD will make reference to the effectiveness of contraceptive vaccine in the field in order to decide the next step forward.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB210****(Question Serial No. 5143)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Please inform, in tabular form, this Committee of the respective numbers of visitors of country parks and marine parks over the past 5 years:

Name of country park and marine park	Year				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Country park					
Shing Mun Country Park					
Kam Shan Country Park					
Lion Rock Country Park					
Aberdeen Country Park					
Tai Tam (Extension) Country Park					
Sai Kung East Country Park					
Sai Kung West Country Park (Wan Tsai Extension)					
Plover Cove (Extension) Country Park					
Lantau South Country Park					
North Lantau (Extension) Country Park					

Pat Sin Leng Country Park					
Tai Lam Country Park					
Tai Mo Shan Country Park					
Lam Tsuen Country Park					
Ma On Shan Country Park					
Kiu Tsui Country Park					
Shek O Country Park					
Pok Fu Lam Country Park					
Clear Water Bay Country Park					
Lung Fu Shan Country Park					
Marine park					
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park					
Yan Chau Tong Marine Park					
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park					
Tung Ping Chau Marine Park					

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 428)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) regularly conducts visitor surveys at various locations including major entry points and recreational sites of country parks and marine parks to estimate the number of visitors. Since many country parks are geographically connected and visitors often visit or use more than one country parks in their trips, AFCD does not have the breakdown of visitor statistics for individual country parks. The number of visitors of country parks in 6 broad regions over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

Country parks by region/ Calendar year	Number of visitors (million)				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Hong Kong Island	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8
Lantau Island	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2
West New Territories	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7
North New Territories	1.9	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.5
Central New Territories	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.7
East New Territories	3.3	4.3	4.0	3.8	3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>12.3</b>

The number of visitors of marine parks over the past 5 years is tabulated below:

Marine parks/ Calendar year	Number of visitors (thousand)				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Hoi Ha Wan	53	45	38	36	34
Yan Chau Tong	20	18	23	25	22
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau	4	4	2	2	3
Tung Ping Chau	43	38	32	34	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>90</b>

\* The Brothers Marine Park was established in December 2016. The respective number of visitors of the marine park in 2017 and 2018 is about 2 000.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB211**

**(Question Serial No. 4688)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the management of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve mentioned in this programme, would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

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

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 138)

Reply:

- (a) In 2018, there were 2 cases of blockage of footpath on private land within country parks resulting in continuous temporary closure of hiking trails. The affected footpaths were Lantau Trail Section 7 near Yi O Village and the Ping Chau Country Trail on Tung Ping Chau.

- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has liaised with the land owners with a view to resolving the blockage of footpaths. In the aforementioned 2 cases, alternative footpaths bypassing the affected sections have been provided for country park visitors. Relevant information on alternative routes has been posted on-site as well as on AFCD's website ([https://www.hiking.gov.hk/pathinfo/announcement\\_eng.php](https://www.hiking.gov.hk/pathinfo/announcement_eng.php)).
- (c) We will maintain communication with the relevant government departments and stakeholders having regard to the specific circumstances of each case in a bid to provide clarification and settle disputes as soon as practicable.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB212****(Question Serial No. 4689)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

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

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 139)Reply:

The number of vehicle permits issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Home Affairs Department for ordinary vehicles and coaches to enter Sai Kung East and Sai Kung West Country Parks through the Pak Tam Chung barrier gate in 2018 is tabulated as follows:

Month	Number of vehicular permits issued	
	Ordinary vehicles	Coaches
January	2 344	238
February	2 010	133
March	2 959	305
April	2 862	257
May	2 934	209
June	2 563	190
July	2 857	314
August	2 803	222
September	2 633	109
October	3 236	307
November	2 803	391
December	2 978	304
Subtotal	32 982	2 979
<b>Total</b>	<b>35 961</b>	

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB213**

**(Question Serial No. 4690)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

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

- (a) What were the number of complaints related to the unlawful occupation of land within country parks received and the Government's follow-up actions over the past 2 years?
- (b) Section 16 of the Country Parks Ordinance provides that, in any case where the Authority is of the opinion that any use or proposed use of leased land within a country park substantially reduces the enjoyment and amenities of the country park as such, he may request the Land Authority to, by notice in writing, require discontinuance, modification of or prohibit the use. What was the number of notices issued under the Section, and how were they complied with, over the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 140)

Reply:

- (a) Over the past 2 years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has received 10 complaint cases related to unlawful occupation of government land within country parks. In general, upon receipt of such complaints, AFCD will conduct follow-up investigations and initiate prosecutions under the legislation administered by it if there is sufficient evidence, and/or refer the cases to relevant departments for their actions. Depending on individual circumstances, AFCD may also erect warning notices, remove unauthorised items and reinstate the site as appropriate.
- (b) There has been no request made by the Country and Marine Parks Authority to the Land Authority under section 16 of the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) over the past 3 years.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB214**

**(Question Serial No. 4101)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the “the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation”, please advise this Committee on the operational expenses of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department Official YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSeqNcpZEw0Rk40wNYV2OKA>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/afcdgovhk>) (including video production, advertisements, daily operation, etc.) over the past year.

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (LegCo internal reference no.: 82)

Reply:

In 2018-19, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) maintained a number of Facebook pages and YouTube Channels to promote the work of AFCD (including, but not limited to, nature conservation). These include the departmental Facebook page and YouTube Channel mentioned in the question, as well as those of the Hong Kong Wetland Park, Mr. B Classroom and country parks education programmes. The above-mentioned social media pages are integral parts of AFCD's overall public education and publicity work. We are not able to provide the breakdown on the resources involved in “the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation”.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)020**

**(Question Serial No. 1372)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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

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

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

- (a) In 2018-19, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) deployed 30 staff to regulate animal trading and dog breeding, with an estimated expenditure of \$17.7 million.
- (b) The number of applications for Animal Trader Licence (ATL), Dog Breeder Licence (DBL) and one-off permit received and approved since the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) (the Regulations) came into effect on 20 March 2017 and up to end February 2019 is tabulated as follows:

Licence / Permit	Number of applications			
	Received	Approved	Under processing	Withdrawn or rejected
ATL	706	632	24	50
DBL (category A)	38	24	4	10
DBL (category B)	59	38	12	9
One-off permit	7	4	0	3

- (c) The number of complaints related to animal trading and dog breeding activities received by AFCD between March 2017 and end of February 2019 was 712. The number of inspections (including routine ones and surprise checks) conducted in the same period was 9 466.
- (d) Between March 2017 and end February 2019, 47 cases of selling animals (45 cases involving dogs and 2 involving other animals) without a licence or permit have been successfully prosecuted. Offenders were fined between \$1,500 and \$20,000.
- (e) The Regulations came into effect on 20 March 2017 with a 1-year transitional period for the stakeholders concerned to enhance their facilities and adapt to the new requirements. We plan to start reviewing the effectiveness of the Regulations in 2019-20. Pending the outcome of the review, it is premature to say whether there would be any changes to the scope of the Regulations and, if so, the timing of implementation. The resources that may be involved for amending the regime, if necessary, cannot be estimated at this stage.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)021**

**(Question Serial No. 1373)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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

- (a) What were the expenditures involved and the projects concerned? What were the percentages in the overall expenditures of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department?
- (b) How many reported cases of suspected animal cruelty were received by the Department?
- (c) What were the numbers of successful prosecutions instituted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance? What were the minimum and maximum penalties imposed?
- (d) How many applications for review of cases under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance were lodged by the Department of Justice on the grounds that the penalties imposed were too lenient? What were the results of these appeals?
- (e) The Government has proposed reviewing the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance. What is the timeframe concerned?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

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

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2016-17	2.9
2017-18	3.0
2018-19 (revised estimate)	3.2

The above represent around 0.2% of total recurrent expenditure incurred by AFCD in the respective years.

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

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of suspected animal cruelty reports</b>
2016	262
2017	275
2018	368

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

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

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of convicted defendants</b>	<b>Penalties imposed</b>	
		<b>Fine (\$) *</b>	<b>Range of imprisonment</b>
2016	11	5,000	28 days to 6 months
2017	24	4,000	7 days to 1 year
2018 (up to September)	12	6,000	14 days to 1 year

\* Only one case in all 3 calendar years involved a penalty of fine only.

- (d) Over the past 3 years, the Department of Justice (DoJ) has lodged two applications on the same case for review of sentence in respect of the charge of “Cruelty to animals” under the Ordinance. In one application, the sentence was increased from 3 to 4 months’ imprisonment. DoJ further applied to review this sentence, and the judgment of this appeal is yet to be released.
- (e) We aim to launch a 3-month public consultation exercise in mid-2019 on proposals to enhance animal welfare. Our proposals would include raising the penalties for acts of cruelty to animals and introducing animal keepers’ responsibility of positive duty of care of animals.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)022**

**(Question Serial No. 1374)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the subvention for animal welfare organisations (AWOs), would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the details with regard to the substantial increase in the Government's estimate from \$500,000 last year to \$1,500,000?
- (b) What are the criteria for approving applications for subvention? Has there been any change in respect of the increase in the estimate?
- (c) Please provide in tabular form the numbers and projects of successful applications for subventions, the amounts of subvention sought by AWOs and the amounts of subvention that they have been granted over the past 3 years.
- (d) How many animals were handed to AWOs by the Government each year?
- (e) Over each of the past 3 years, what were the numbers as well as the details of collaboration with AWOs?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been collaborating with animal welfare organisations (AWOs) to enhance animal welfare and promote better animal management. Recognising that most AWOs are non-profit making with limited resources, the Government has since 2011 been providing subvention to these AWOs in supporting their work as long as resources can accommodate. As the subvention has been able to strengthen AWOs' capacity in animal welfare work, after reviewing the needs of AWOs and the resources

implications, we have increased the subvention amount with a view to enhancing our support to AWOs' work. The increased subvention amount will apply to projects approved in 2018-19, with disbursements to be made in 2019-20.

- (b) The eligibility criteria for application for subvention remain unchanged and are set out in **Annex 1**. Only applicants that fulfil the criteria and with applications that are project-based and directly related to the promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management will be considered by AFCD. When vetting applications, AFCD will assess –
  - (i) the objective(s) and expected result(s) of the proposed project;
  - (ii) cost-effectiveness of the project; and
  - (iii) the reasonableness of the proposed expenditure.
- (c) From 2015-16 to 2017-18, a total of 28 applications from 13 AWOs were approved. The details of projects under application as well as the amounts of subvention applied for and given to different AWOs over the past 3 years are in **Annex 2**.
- (d) About 750 animals were handed to AWOs for rehoming each year over the past 3 years.
- (e) Over the past 3 years, AFCD held a total of 25 (8 in 2016, 8 in 2017 and 9 in 2018) events, including adoption days and carnivals jointly with AWOs to promote animal welfare.

- End -

**Eligibility criteria for application for subvention**

- (1) The organisation must be:
  - (i) a society as defined by section 2(1) of the Societies Ordinance (Cap. 151) and registered under section 5A(1) of that Ordinance;
  - (ii) a company registered under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622) (or Cap. 32 as in force at the time of the registration); or
  - (iii) a body of persons, or charity, as defined by section 2(1) of the Registered Trustees Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 306) which has been granted a certificate of incorporation under section 4(1) of that Ordinance.
- (2) The organisation must also be a charitable institution or trust of a public character that is exempt from tax under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) (rehoming partners of AFCD who did not have charitable status when joining the scheme prior to March 2017 are exempted from this requirement).
- (3) The core services and activities of the organisation must be related to promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management and it must be actively engaged in such services/activities over the past 3 years or more (re-homing partners of AFCD are exempted from the 3-year requirement).
- (4) The organisation must be well-managed and properly constituted with good record keeping and accounting systems.
- (5) Organisations charging an adoption or re-homing fee must possess an exemption from holding an animal trader licence under section 5A of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B). For re-homing partners without charitable status, at least one individual acting on behalf of the organisation must possess the individual exemption.



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

	<b>AWO</b>	<b>Project under application</b>	<b>Amount sought (\$)</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To conduct adoption promotion programmes, produce educational materials and further improve the Foundation's website	180,000	73,934
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To operate an adult dog rehome scheme	204,000	125,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming animals	1,571,000	100,000
4	Society for Abandoned Animals	To conduct various education programmes	388,155	38,591
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick or injured rabbits	129,000	41,620
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	235,000	45,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	To conduct adoption promotion programmes, produce educational materials and further improve the organisation's website	54,000	16,365
9	Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong)	To conduct an Animal Caring Ambassador Programme	200,000	44,854
<b>Total</b>			<b>3,041,155</b>	<b>513,364</b>

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

	<b>AWOs</b>	<b>Projects under application</b>	<b>Amount sought (\$)</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programmes	120,000	84,602
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide vaccination and food for rehoming animals	218,400	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To provide preventive medical treatment for rehoming animals	1,962,000	100,000
4	Society for Abandoned Animals	To produce educational materials for promoting animal welfare and responsible pet ownership	53,040	42,000
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	62,000	45,120
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide preventive medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	320,000	46,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	To promote adoption, produce educational materials and further improve the organisation website	40,500	18,300
<b>Total</b>			<b>6,175,940</b>	<b>494,022</b>

(iii) Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2017-18 and released in 2018-19)

	<b>AWOs</b>	<b>Projects under application</b>	<b>Amount sought (\$)</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programme	140,000	83,329
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide preventive care and food for rehoming animals	324,000	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To enhance rehoming facilities	1,629,579	82,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	60,000	47,960
5	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide preventive medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	400,150	48,000
6	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	28,000
7	Hong Kong Cats	To produce educational materials for promotion of animal welfare and adoption	24,700	16,522
8	Hong Kong Paws Guardian	To conduct education and publicity for responsible pet ownership	92,000	0*
9	Kirsten's Zoo	To provide preventive care and food for rescued and rehomed animals	270,000	45,000
10	Animal Friends	To provide medical treatment for rehoming animals	250,000	45,000
11	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	To enhance public awareness on animal welfare and adoption	62,390	45,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>3,332,819</b>	<b>570,811</b>

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

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)023**

**(Question Serial No. 1375)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the expenditure involved? What is the respective expenditure involved in commissioning an independent consultant for monitoring the progress of the programme and assessing its effectiveness?
- (b) The time set for achieving the performance indicators is rather short, which cannot reflect the actual effectiveness of the programme. Would the Government carry out another assessment?
- (c) Has the Government received any proposal from organisations to launch the programme in some districts? If yes, what are the details?
- (d) Has the Government earmarked any resource for carrying out the Trap-Neuter-Return programme again? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (e) Would the Government introduce the programme to the 18 District Councils in order to seek support for carrying out phase 2 of the programme? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

- (a) The 3-year Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs conducted at the 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long by 2 animal welfare organisations (AWOs) since early 2015 was completed in January 2018. The total expenditure involved from 2012-13 to 2017-18 was \$7

million. The expenditure for commissioning a consultant by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to conduct a baseline survey on the number of dogs at trial sites, monitor the implementation of the trial programme, and assess its effectiveness in reducing the stray dog population and related nuisance in the trial sites was about \$1.5 million.

- (b) Although the 3-year trial programme has been completed, the 2 concerned AWOs have agreed to continue to monitor the number of dogs recorded for the trial programme, and provide us with the information on changes of the population and the average lifespan of these dogs in the coming years. We would make use of the data provided by the 2 AWOs for further assessment of the effectiveness of the programme.
- (c) to (e) While the trial programme did not achieve the predetermined performance targets, AFCD keeps an open mind towards rendering assistance to AWOs in conducting similar programmes in other specific locations. To this end, AFCD issued letters to AWOs inviting their views on sites that may be suitable for conducting the TNR programme in November 2018. The letter is also available on our thematic website ([www.pets.gov.hk](http://www.pets.gov.hk)). We will consider a range of factors, including population density, community facilities in the vicinity, and traffic condition, in order to determine if a specific location is suitable for conducting such a programme. If a location is found suitable, AFCD will facilitate the liaison between the coordinating AWOs and the District Councils concerned as well as the local stakeholders in order to introduce the programme, with a view to enlisting their support, and seeking approval from the Legislative Council for the relevant legislative exemption.

So far, we have not received any proposal from AWOs, and no resources have been earmarked specifically for this purpose. Subject to the availability of suitable location(s), we will review the resources requirement.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)024**

**(Question Serial No. 1376)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the issue of the cattle in the New Territories, would the Government inform this Committee of the following information over the past 3 years:

- (a) The work details of the "Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation" programme. What were the numbers of cattle relocated?
- (b) What were the expenditures and manpower earmarked by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for the said work in each year?
- (c) What were the numbers of complaints related to the cattle in the New Territories received in each year?
- (d) What were the numbers of injuries and deaths of cattle in each year?
- (e) Is there any timeframe for the installation of cattle grids? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) adopts a multi-pronged approach for managing stray cattle. One of the key measures is the "Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation" (CSR programme) launched in late 2011, under which AFCD captures, sterilises and relocates stray cattle to remote locations, away from human settlements. AFCD will monitor the health of the feral cattle herds by conducting inspections regularly at locations where the cattle reside.

The number of cattle handled under the CSR programme over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Captured<sup>^</sup> (heads)</b>	<b>Sterilised (heads)</b>	<b>Relocated / Returned<sup>^</sup> (heads)</b>
2016	114	64	69
2017	105	43	72
2018	128	105	80

<sup>^</sup> Figures include repeated capture and relocation/ return of the same cattle.

- (b) The expenditure and manpower involved in conducting the CSR programme over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of staff)</b>
2016-17	2.4	6
2017-18	2.7	7
2018-19 (revised estimate)	3.7	7

- (c) The number of cattle nuisance complaints received over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of cattle related complaints received</b>
2016	124
2017	63
2018	82

- (d) AFCD does not have information on the number of injured / dead cattle. The number of cases involving injured or sick cattle over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of cases involving injured / sick cattle<sup>#</sup></b>
2016	118
2017	151
2018	250

<sup>#</sup> A case may involve more than one cattle. The same animal may be involved in more than one case.

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

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

continue to look into other solutions to reduce the possibility of the cattle returning to the urban area.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)025**

**(Question Serial No. 1377)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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

- (a) the numbers of animals caught each year and their respective types;
- (b) the numbers of animals received by each animal management centre each year and their sources;
- (c) the numbers of animals desexed;
- (d) the numbers of animals rehomed;
- (e) the numbers of animals euthanised;
- (f) the manpower and turnover rates;
- (g) the numbers of inspections;
- (h) the numbers of enforcement actions taken;
- (i) the numbers of prosecutions; and
- (j) the operating expenses.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) currently operates 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs) in the New Territories North (NTN), New Territories

South (NTS), Kowloon (K) and Hong Kong Island (HK) respectively. The requested information is provided below.

(a) Number of stray animals caught over the past 3 years

Calendar year	Stray animals caught			
	Dogs	Cats	Other Animals <sup>1</sup>	Total
2016	1 919	876	1 494	4 289
2017	1 566	674	1 640	3 880
2018	1 235	547	1 369	3 151

<sup>1</sup> Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), cattle, reptiles and poultry/birds, etc.

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

AMC	2016			2017			2018		
	Dogs	Cats	Others <sup>2</sup>	Dogs	Cats	Others <sup>2</sup>	Dogs	Cats	Other <sup>2</sup>
AMC / HK	412	201	109	451	147	26	342	101	11
AMC / K	688	322	85	584	266	72	409	219	44
AMC / NTS	614	187	25	500	131	128	364	111	100
AMC / NTN	1 551	343	1 891	1 391	279	1 552	1 139	258	6 033 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 265</b>	<b>1 053</b>	<b>2 110</b>	<b>2 926</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>1 778</b>	<b>2 254</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>6 188</b>

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

<sup>3</sup> The increased number was mainly due to more animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and birds seized and culled upon detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

Most animals received and kept were stray animals caught by AFCD, animals surrendered by owners and seized animals. A separate breakdown of animals received by each AMC by source is not available.

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

Calendar year	Number of rehomed animals desexed		
	Dogs	Cats	Rabbits
2016	279	39	2
2017	264	21	1
2018 (up to November)	136	23	3

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

Calendar year	Number of animals rehomed		
	Dogs	Cats	Others <sup>4</sup>
2016	513	136	92
2017	588	67	94

Calendar year	Number of animals rehomed		
	Dogs	Cats	Others <sup>4</sup>
2018	577	89	87

<sup>4</sup> Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), cattle, reptiles and birds, etc.

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

Calendar year	Number of animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others <sup>5</sup>
2016	1 814	449	748
2017	1 478	381	801
2018	1 026	333	5 007 <sup>6</sup>

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

<sup>6</sup> The increased number was mainly due to more animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and birds seized and culled upon detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

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

Financial year	Total number of posts in the 4 AMCs <sup>7</sup>		Turnover rate	
	Veterinary Officer	Technical / Frontline staff	Veterinary Officer	Technical / Frontline staff
2016-17	4	183	0%	4.9%
2017-18	4	183	0%	7.7%
2018-19	4	184	0%	9.8%

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

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

Calendar year	Number of inspections	Number of successful prosecutions	Highest penalty imposed	Lowest penalty imposed
2016	6 203	2	\$500	\$500
2017	5 885	0	N/A	N/A
2018	5 596	0	N/A	N/A

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

Financial year	Operational expenditure (\$ million)			
	AMC / NTN	AMC / NTS	AMC / K	AMC / HK

2016-17	22.6	16.1	20.1	14.5
2017-18	23.8	16.9	21.2	15.3
2018-19 (revised estimate)	24.8	19.0	22.9	17.1

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)026**

**(Question Serial No. 1378)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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

- (a) What were the numbers of complaints received each year, and what follow-up actions were taken?
- (b) Has the Government investigated into and tested the pet food available in the local market?
- (c) Will the Government consider regulating the pet food in the market? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) received 3, 7 and 5 complaints in 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively. Upon receipt of a complaint, AFCD will contact the complainant, the manufacturer / importer / distributor of the pet food concerned to gather more information of the case, and may, depending on the nature of the case, advise the complainant on possible follow-up action.
- (b) AFCD commissioned a study in October 2017 to sample and test different pet food products commonly available in the Hong Kong market on whether they contain harmful substances.
- (c) Upon completion of the study in 2020, AFCD will analyse the findings to assess the situation of pet food safety in Hong Kong, with a view to mapping out the way forward.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)027**

**(Question Serial No. 3208)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the trawl ban and the strengthened regulation of fishing activities in Hong Kong waters, as well as the ongoing implementation of recommendations of the Committee on Sustainable Fisheries, please advise on:

- (a) the numbers of illegal trawling in Hong Kong over the past 3 years;
- (b) the resources and manpower involved in dealing with illegal trawling in Hong Kong this year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

- (a) The number of illegal trawling cases successfully prosecuted in 2016, 2017 and 2018 is 3, 1 and 5 respectively.
- (b) In 2018-19, the expenditure and manpower involved in combating illegal fishing (including trawling) by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department were \$13.0 million (revised estimate) and 18 staff respectively. There is no separate breakdown on work relating to illegal trawling.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)028**

**(Question Serial No. 2109)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) indicated that the number of stray animals caught in 2018 was 3 151. Please provide the number by type of animals.
- (b) How were the stray animals handled after being caught? Please provide the number by the way of handling.
- (c) Among the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019-20, the work on “strengthening measures for stray animals management” is included. What are the specific measures?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) Stray animals caught will be put in Animal Management Centres (AMCs) for observation. For those with a microchip implanted, AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in AMCs for about 10 to 20 days. AMCs will keep the non-microchipped ones for at least 4 days, allowing time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the animals being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary officer as having a gentle temperament and suitable for adoption, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will arrange their transfer to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) for adoption by members of the public as far as possible. Only animals that are not suitable for adoption or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanised.

The number and species of animals handled by AFCD in 2018 are tabulated at the **Annex**.

- (c) In 2019-20, AFCD will take various measures to strengthen the management of stray animals. These include:
- (i) actively promoting the serious responsibility and commitment that go with pet keeping, through public education and publicity programmes to disseminate messages on proper care of animals and responsible pet ownership;
  - (ii) enhancing enforcement against pet owners in contravention of relevant legislation;
  - (iii) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to, AWOs in re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management; and
  - (iv) implementing the long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities.

- End -



## Annex

Calendar year	Stray animals caught			Animals given up by owners			Animals received through other channels			Animals reclaimed by owners			Animals re-homed			Animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2018	1 235	547	1 369	715	80	43	304	62	4 904	512	206	9	577	89	87	1 026	333	5 007

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

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)029**

**(Question Serial No. 0717)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations on regulating animal trading and dog breeding activities, would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) The number of applications for Animal Trader Licences, Category A and Category B Licences as well as one-off permits received, approved, under processing and rejected by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) respectively since the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations came into effect in March 2017.
- (b) The number of complaints received by AFCD in relation to dogs offered for sale on the internet without a licence or one-off permit, and the number and details of complaints which were substantiated and with relevant persons penalised since the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations came into force in March 2017.
- (c) The number of routine inspections and surprise checks conducted, and the number of cases of non-compliance with licensing requirements and the additional conditions of the licences by animal traders found in the aforementioned inspections and surprise checks as well as the details of the punishments in each of the past 3 years.
- (d) What are the manpower and expenditure involved in the supervision of relevant work by the Department in the forthcoming year?

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

- (a) The number of applications for Animal Trader Licences (ATLs), Dog Breeder Licences (DBLs) and one-off permits received, approved, under processing and withdrawn / rejected since the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) came into force on 20 March 2017 and up to end February 2019 is tabulated as follows:

Licence/ Permit	Number of applications			
	Received	Approved	Under processing	Withdrawn / Rejected
ATL	706	632	24	50
DBL (category A)	38	24	4	10
DBL (category B)	59	38	12	9
One-off permit	7	4	0	3

- (b) From 20 March 2017 up to end February 2019, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) received 270 complaints in relation to dogs offered for sale on the internet without a licence or permit. AFCD followed up all these cases and conducted further investigation (including decoy operations) into 67 cases with suspected illegal dog trading activities. Amongst these cases, 45 cases of dog selling without a permit have been successfully prosecuted, 19 cases are still under investigation and warning letters were issued to the persons involved in the remaining 3 cases.
- (c) Information on the number of inspections (including routine ones and surprise checks) conducted on animal trading and dog breeding activities, successful prosecutions initiated against breaches of licensing conditions and trading animals without a valid licence or permit, as well as the relevant penalties is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of routine inspections and surprise checks	Successful prosecutions against breach of licensing conditions		Successful prosecutions against trading animals without a valid licence or permit	
		Number of cases	Range of fine (\$)	Number of cases	Range of fine (\$)
2016	5 265	2	500	3	1,000 to 2,000
2017	4 995	0	N/A	11	400 to 5,000
2018	4 625	0	N/A	34	2,000 to 10,000

- (d) In 2019-20, AFCD will continue to deploy 30 staff to regulate animal trading and dog breeding. A provision of \$17.7 million has been earmarked for this area of work.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)030**

**(Question Serial No. 0718)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has commissioned a 2-year study to test 360 samples of pet food sold in the local market. Regarding the safety of pet food products, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The complaint cases related to pet food received by the Government in each of the past 3 years and the details concerned.
- (b) The testing method and types of pet food adopted in the said study, and the progress of the study (including the types, number and pass rate of the samples tested, as well as the details of the samples exceeding the permitted level).
- (c) Whether the effect of the nutrition content of pet food on pets' health will be analysed.
- (d) Whether publicity and education will be strengthened to educate pet owners about the dos and don'ts of feeding their pets, with a view to reducing the chance of feeding pets inappropriate food or too many snacks.

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) received 3, 7 and 5 complaints related to pet food in 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively. Most of the complaints were related to the quality of pet food and business practices of the sellers.
- (b) AFCD commissioned a study in October 2017 to sample and test pet food products commonly available in the Hong Kong market. A total of 360 samples of different pet food products in different forms, including dry food, wet food and freeze-dried ones, are being collected and tested against certain harmful substances,

micro-organisms, such as Salmonella, aflatoxin and melamine, as well as heavy metals. Up to mid-March 2019, testing of 180 samples, including dry/wet food for dogs and cats, has been completed. So far the results are within the limits permitted by major pet food producing countries / places.

- (c) The scope of the study does not cover the effect of the nutrition content of pet food on pets' health.
- (d) AFCD provides information on the nutritional needs of different types of common pets through its thematic website ([www.pets.gov.hk](http://www.pets.gov.hk)). AFCD has also produced a booklet on proper caring of dogs, which includes advice on dog food and harmful substances. As the nutritional needs of animals vary greatly depending on the species, breeds and life stage, AFCD recommends pet owners consult their veterinary surgeons on the type and amount of food for their pets. AFCD will continue its publicity work on this front.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)031**

**(Question Serial No. 0723)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It was mentioned in the 2018 Policy Address that “the Government attaches great importance to promoting and safeguarding animal welfare. For amending the legislation related to animal welfare, we are mapping out the major direction and drawing up preliminary proposals for public consultation early next year, which include exploring raising the penalties for acts of cruelty to animals and introducing animal keepers’ responsibility of positive duty of care of animals”. Would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the details of implementing the amendment to the legislation related to animal welfare, including information such as the preliminary direction of the amendment to the legislation, the contents of the amendment, the timeframe for consultation and legislation, etc.?
- (b) What were the numbers of reported cases of suspected animal cruelty received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past 3 years? What were the follow-up actions?
- (c) What were the numbers of successful prosecutions instituted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance over the past 3 years? What were the minimum and maximum penalties imposed?
- (d) Cases of animal poisoning and torturing animals to death are frequent in recent years. Some consider that it is rare for the persons who torture animals to death to receive severe punishment primarily due to the restrictions of the legislation, making it difficult to adduce evidence in such cases. Taking the case of dog poisoning as an example, even if CCTV footage could prove that the person(s) involved had placed poisoned bait, it was hard to institute prosecution as it was difficult for the Police to prove the offender’s motive. Has the Government addressed the aforesaid issue in a

targeted approach when preparing the amendment of the legislation related to animal welfare?

- (e) Will the Government, making reference to overseas experiences in enacting animal welfare laws, consider introducing dedicated chapters into the laws to protect animals from being poisoned, specify clearly the prohibition of animal poisoning acts (including the prohibition of placing poisoned bait in public places without permission and the requirement of prominent display of notices in private areas or farmland where poisoned bait is placed) and examine proactively the investigations and prosecution procedures targeted at relevant crimes to ensure that the offenders are brought to justice? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

- (a) Having reviewed overseas legislation on animal welfare, and considered views of members of the Legislative Council, animal welfare organisations and other stakeholders, we aim to launch a 3-month public consultation exercise in mid-2019 on proposals to enhance animal welfare. Our key proposals will include raising the penalties for acts of cruelty to animals and introducing keepers' responsibility of positive duty of care of animals. Details about the proposals will be available in the document for the consultation. We will draw up legislative proposals after taking into account views gathered in the public consultation.
- (b) and (c) Upon receiving reports of suspected animal cruelty cases, the Police and / or the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will conduct investigations. Prosecution will be instituted if there is sufficient evidence. The number of suspected animal cruelty reports received and details of successful prosecutions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) (the Ordinance) initiated by the Police and AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of suspected animal cruelty reports received	Number of persons convicted	Penalties imposed	
			Fine (\$) #	Range of imprisonment
2016	262	11	5,000	28 days to 6 months
2017	275	24	4,000	7 days to 1 year
2018 (up to September)	368	12	6,000	14 days to 1 year

# Only one case in all the 3 calendar years involved a penalty of fine only.

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

(d) and (e) Poisoning of animals, which causes unnecessary suffering to animals, is regarded as an offence under the Ordinance. The presumption of innocence is the fundamental principle of the common law system and the prosecution has the burden of proof beyond reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty of the offence charged. Over the years, AFCD and the Police have been working closely with animal welfare organisations to combat animal cruelty cases through intelligence gathering and investigation. The Police has set up dedicated investigation teams, comprising police officers with criminal investigation experience and skills in handling other serious crimes, in 22 police districts across the territory since April 2018. To enhance publicity and education, a dedicated team was set up by AFCD in 2011 to disseminate messages of caring for animals and responsible pet ownership, including providing information through its thematic website on the proper caring of their dogs (e.g. including advice on dog food and harmful substances).

In addition, as mentioned above under part (a), we will launch a public consultation exercise on proposals to enhance animal welfare, which include raising the penalties for acts of cruelty to increase the deterrent effect and introducing keepers' responsibility of positive duty of care of animals. We will draw up legislative proposals after taking into account views gathered in the public consultation.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)032**

**(Question Serial No. 0724)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In recent years, the numbers of pet dogs and cats kept by members of the public have been increasing and there is growing concern over animal welfare in the society. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The changes in the respective numbers of pet dogs and cats, the change in the number of registered veterinary surgeons, and the change in the ratio of the number of pets to the number of veterinary surgeons over the past 3 years.
- (b) The change in the number of stray animals caught over the past 3 years (please tabulate by dogs and cats).
- (c) The change in the number of pets sent to the Animal Management Centres (AMCs) by pet owners over the past 3 years (please tabulate by dogs and cats).
- (d) The change in the respective numbers of pets euthanised and re-homed over the past 3 years (please tabulate by dogs and cats).

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not keep statistics of population of pet dogs and cats. The consultancy study on the development of the veterinary profession in Hong Kong, commissioned by the Veterinary Surgeons Board in 2016, estimated that about 297 500 dogs and 213 100 cats were kept in Hong Kong between mid-2015 and mid-2016. According to the study, the veterinary surgeon-to-pet ratio was 1:620.

The number of registered veterinary surgeons in Hong Kong over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of registered veterinary surgeons</b>
2016	861
2017	920
2018	988

(b) to (d) The number of dogs and cats handled by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated at the **Annex**.

- End -

**Annex**

Calendar year	Stray animals caught		Animals given up by owner		Animals received through other channels		Animals reclaimed		Animals re-homed		Animals euthanised	
	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats
2016	1 919	876	1 003	107	343	70	637	400	513	136	1 814	449
2017	1 566	674	1 024	84	336	65	560	269	588	67	1 478	381
2018	1 235	547	715	80	304	62	512	206	577	89	1 026	333

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)033****(Question Serial No. 3077)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please set out the departmental expenditures and the manpower involved in the issue of marine fish culture licences and the numbers of licences renewed over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 1050)Reply:

The requested information is tabulated below.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (number of staff)</b>	<b>Number of marine fish culture licences renewed</b>
2014-15	2.0	4	912
2015-16	2.3	4	954
2016-17	2.3	4	909
2017-18	2.3	4	921
2018-19 (revised estimate)	2.6	4	867 (as at end February 2019)

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)034****(Question Serial No. 3080)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding "strengthening measures for stray animals management", would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) What are the specific policy initiatives and estimated expenditure?
- (b) What were the numbers of stray animals captured, capturing methods as well as the manpower and expenditures involved over the past 5 years? (Please set out in tabular form as follows.)

Year	Cats	Dogs	Wild pigs
2014	Number : Method : Manpower : Expenditure :	Number : Method : Manpower : Expenditure :	Number : Method : Manpower : Expenditure :
2015	Number : Method : Manpower : Expenditure :	Number : Method : Manpower : Expenditure :	Number : Method : Manpower : Expenditure :
2016	Number : Method : Manpower : Expenditure :	Number : Method : Manpower : Expenditure :	Number : Method : Manpower : Expenditure :
2017	Number : Method : Manpower : Expenditure :	Number : Method : Manpower : Expenditure :	Number : Method : Manpower : Expenditure :
2018	Number : Method : Manpower : Expenditure :	Number : Method : Manpower : Expenditure :	Number : Method : Manpower : Expenditure :

- (c) Through what channels did the animals reach the management centres over the past 5 years? (Please set out in tabular form as follows.)

Year	Under complaint	Abandoned by owners	Captured by the Department	Others
2014				
2015				
2016				
2017				
2018				

- (d) What are the procedures of handling the animals after they have reached the management centres? (Please illustrate by cats, dogs and other animals.)
- (e) What are the criteria and procedures to decide which animals to be euthanised or rehomed? (Please illustrate by cats, dogs and other animals.)
- (f) What are the procedures for owners to reclaim their animals? (Please illustrate by cats, dogs and other animals.)
- (g) What are the procedures for animals to be rehomed to animal welfare organisations? (Please illustrate by cats, dogs and other animals.)

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 1054)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) implements various measures to strengthen the management of stray animals. These include:
- (i) actively promoting the serious responsibility and commitment that go with pet keeping, through public education and publicity programmes to disseminate messages on proper care of animals and responsible pet ownership;
  - (ii) enhancing enforcement against pet owners in contravention of relevant legislation;
  - (iii) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to, animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management; and
  - (iv) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities.

The expenditure involved for this area of work in 2018-19 is \$40.5 million.

(b) and (c) In general, upon receipt of complaints or reports from members of the public regarding nuisances caused by stray or wild animals<sup>Note</sup>, staff of the Animal Management Centres (AMCs) or the Wetland and Fauna Conservation Division of AFCD will conduct follow-up inspections respectively and arrange catching operations as necessary. The methods employed to catch stray or wild animals mainly depend on the types of animals involved and the circumstances surrounding the catching operations. In most cases, catching poles, snares or cages that are specially designed are used for catching dogs while cages are used for catching cats. Cage traps, tranquiliser dart gun or nets would be used for capturing wild pigs.

The number of wild pigs caught by AFCD over the past 5 years is 12, 28, 59, 106 and 197 in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively. The number of stray animals (including dogs, cats and other animals) caught by AFCD and animals received over the past 5 years is tabulated at the **Annex**. AFCD does not have the statistics on the number of stray animals caught in response to complaints received.

Note: The management of wild animals falls under the policy purview of the Environment Bureau.

The expenditure on catching stray animals and dealing with wild pig issues over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Catching stray animals (\$ million)</b>	<b>Dealing with wild pig issues (\$ million)</b>
2014-15	28.9	1.5
2015-16	29.0	1.8
2016-17	28.5	2.4
2017-18	28.7	6.8
2018-19 (revised estimate)	32.1	10.3

(d) and (e) Stray animals caught (including dogs, cats or other animals) will be put in AMCs for observation. For those with a microchip implanted, AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in AMCs for about 10 to 20 days. AMCs will keep the non-microchipped ones for at least 4 days, to allow time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the animals being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary officer as having a gentle temperament and suitable for adoption, AFCD will arrange their transfer to AWOs for adoption by members of the public as far as possible.

On the other hand, some animals received by AMCs may not be suitable for rehoming due to various reasons, including the risk of carrying zoonotic diseases, health or temperamental reasons. Even for healthy animals, keeping in captivity without rehoming for prolonged period is not in their best interest

from the perspective of animal welfare. As such, euthanasia remains a necessary measure for managing stray animals. A number of international animal organisations, including the World Organisation for Animal Health, agree that in situations where the number of stray dogs caught remain high or the dogs are not fit for adoption despite the deployment of various stray dog management measures, euthanasia would be an appropriate and humane solution. Many overseas countries, such as the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, Japan and Singapore, all adopt euthanasia in handling stray animals.

Nevertheless, AFCD will continue to strengthen its efforts on management of stray animals, such as the promotion of responsible pet ownership and animals rehoming as well as taking enforcement action against abandonment of animals by irresponsible owners, with a view to reducing the number of stray animals that need to be euthanised.

- (f) Owners or keepers of animals (including dogs, cats and other animals), or persons authorised by them, must come to AMCs in person to reclaim the animals. The owners' identity will be verified before the animals could be reclaimed. Dogs reclaimed by owners must be microchipped and vaccinated against rabies before release. Microchipping for cats and other animals are not required.
- (g) Rehoming partners of AFCD will be informed when there are animals (including dogs, cats and other animals) which have been assessed to be suitable for rehoming by AFCD. They will then visit AMCs to further assess the animals in question as necessary. If the animals are considered suitable for rehoming, they will make a request to AFCD and collect the animals.

- End -



Calendar year	Stray animals caught			Animals given up by owners			Animals received through other channels		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2014	3 676	1 836	1 374	1 464	132	28	809	78	656
2015	2 412	1 359	1 418	1 284	129	109	378	73	3 590
2016	1 919	876	1 494	1 003	107	56	343	70	674
2017	1 566	674	1 640	1 024	84	39	336	65	204
2018	1 235	547	1 369	715	80	43	304	62	4 904 <sup>#</sup>

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

<sup>#</sup> The increased number was mainly due to more animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and birds seized and culled upon detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)035****(Question Serial No. 3088)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

There will be a net increase in 11 posts and expenditure of \$23.2 million for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for filling the vacancies created in 2018-19 and promoting animal welfare in 2019-20. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Please tabulate the details of the 11 new posts, including the posts, the scopes of duties and all responsibilities, as well as the annual salary expenses.
- (b) What is the existing establishment of the Inspection and Quarantine Branch under AFCD? Please tabulate all the posts, the scopes of duties and all responsibilities, as well as the annual salary expenses.

## Veterinary Officer Grade

Post	Scope of duty	Responsibility	Annual salary expense
E.g. Senior Veterinary Officer			

## Animal Health Division

Post	Scope of duty	Responsibility	Annual salary expense

## Animal Management (Development) Division

Post	Scope of duty	Responsibility	Annual salary expense

Animal Management (Operations) Division

Post	Scope of duty	Responsibility	Annual salary expense

Veterinary Laboratory Division

Post	Scope of duty	Responsibility	Annual salary expense

- (c) Please provide the respective organisation charts showing the existing establishment of the Inspection and Quarantine Branch and its establishment after its manpower has been increased.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 1062)

Reply:

- (a) Information regarding the net increase of 11 posts in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department under Programme 3 (Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services) in 2019-20 is tabulated below.

Area of Work	Rank	Number of posts	Provision for salaries in 2019-20 (\$ million)
To handle claims in relation to marine works	Fisheries Supervisor II	2*	0.5
To handle animal poisoning and cruelty cases	Veterinary Officer Field Officer I	1 1	1.6
To strengthen administrative support for the Veterinary Surgeons Board	Executive Officer I Executive Officer II	2 1	2.0
To strengthen manpower support for the Supplies Section	Supplies Supervisor II Supplies Assistant Supplies Attendant	1 1 1	0.7
To enhance promotion of animal welfare	Field Officer II Field Assistant	1 1	0.5
To provide support for Personnel Section	Executive Officer I	-1**	-0.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>4.6</b>

\* These two posts are created under Programme 3 for extending the two time-limited posts for the same area of work lapsing in 2019-20 which were created under Programme 1.

\*\* This time-limited post is offset by the creation of the same post for the same area of work under Programme 1 in 2019-20. The creation under Programme 1 is not reflected above.

- (b) Details of the posts under the 8 divisions in the Inspection and Quarantine Branch and related information required are tabulated below.

**Animal Health Division**

<b>Area of Work</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of posts</b>	<b>Provision for salaries in 2019-20 (\$ million)</b>
To monitor and control livestock diseases and develop antimicrobial resistance surveillance programme on food animals	Senior Veterinary Officer	1	18.9
	Veterinary Officer	4	
	Senior Field Officer	3	
	Field Officer I	10	
	Field Officer II	16	
	Field Assistant	1	
	Artisan	1	
	Workman I	1	
Workman II	1		
<b>Total</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>18.9</b>

**Animal Management (Development) Division**

<b>Area of Work</b>	<b>Ranks</b>	<b>Number of posts</b>	<b>Provision for salaries in 2019-20 (\$ million)</b>
To promote animal welfare and review relevant procedures and legislation	Senior Veterinary Officer	1	10.1
	Veterinary Officer	1	
	Senior Field Officer	3	
	Field Officer I	4	
	Field Officer II	10	
	Field Assistant	1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>10.1</b>

**Animal Management (Operations) Division**

<b>Area of Work</b>	<b>Ranks</b>	<b>Number of posts</b>	<b>Provision for salaries in 2019-20 (\$ million)</b>
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<b>Area of Work</b>	<b>Ranks</b>	<b>Number of posts</b>	<b>Provision for salaries in 2019-20 (\$ million)</b>
To control stray animals and issue dog licences	Senior Veterinary Officer	1	59.7
	Veterinary Officer	5	
	Senior Field Officer	6	
	Senior Field Assistant	4	
	Field Officer I	11	
	Field Officer II	45	
	Field Assistant	37	
	Assistant Clerical Officer	1	
	Clerical Assistant	1	
	Artisan	10	
	Motor Driver	20	
	Workman I	63	
<b>Total</b>		<b>204</b>	<b>59.7</b>

#### Veterinary Laboratory Division

<b>Area of Work</b>	<b>Ranks</b>	<b>Number of posts</b>	<b>Provision for salaries in 2019-20 (\$ million)</b>
To conduct diagnostic and surveillance testing for animals	Senior Veterinary Officer	1	26.8
	Veterinary Officer	5	
	Veterinary Technologist	5	
	Veterinary Laboratory Technician I	13	
	Veterinary Laboratory Technician II	25	
	Laboratory Assistant	7	
	Field Assistant	1	
	Workman I	1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>26.8</b>

#### Equine Disease Division

<b>Area of Work</b>	<b>Ranks</b>	<b>Number of posts</b>	<b>Provision for salaries in 2019-20 (\$ million)</b>
To conduct laboratory testing for equine diseases	Senior Veterinary Officer	1	3.7
	Veterinary Technologist	3	
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>3.7</b>

Technical Services Division

<b>Area of Work</b>	<b>Ranks</b>	<b>Number of posts</b>	<b>Provision for salaries in 2019-20 (\$ million)</b>
To review animal policy and veterinary legislation	Senior Veterinary Officer	1	7.1
	Veterinary Officer	1	
	Senior Executive Officer	2	
	Executive Officer II	1	
	Field Officer I	2	
	Assistant Clerical Officer	2	
	Clerical Assistant	1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>7.1</b>

Import and Export Division

<b>Area of Work</b>	<b>Ranks</b>	<b>Number of posts</b>	<b>Provision for salaries in 2019-20 (\$ million)</b>
To enforce regulations and policies in import and export of live animals and animal products	Senior Veterinary Officer	1	43.5
	Veterinary Officer	2	
	Senior Field Officer	3	
	Field Officer I	34	
	Field Officer II	47	
	Assistant Clerical Officer	1	
	Clerical Assistant	1	
	Field Assistant	12	
	Artisan	2	
	Workman I	6	
<b>Total</b>		<b>109</b>	<b>43.5</b>

Plant and Pesticides Regulatory Division

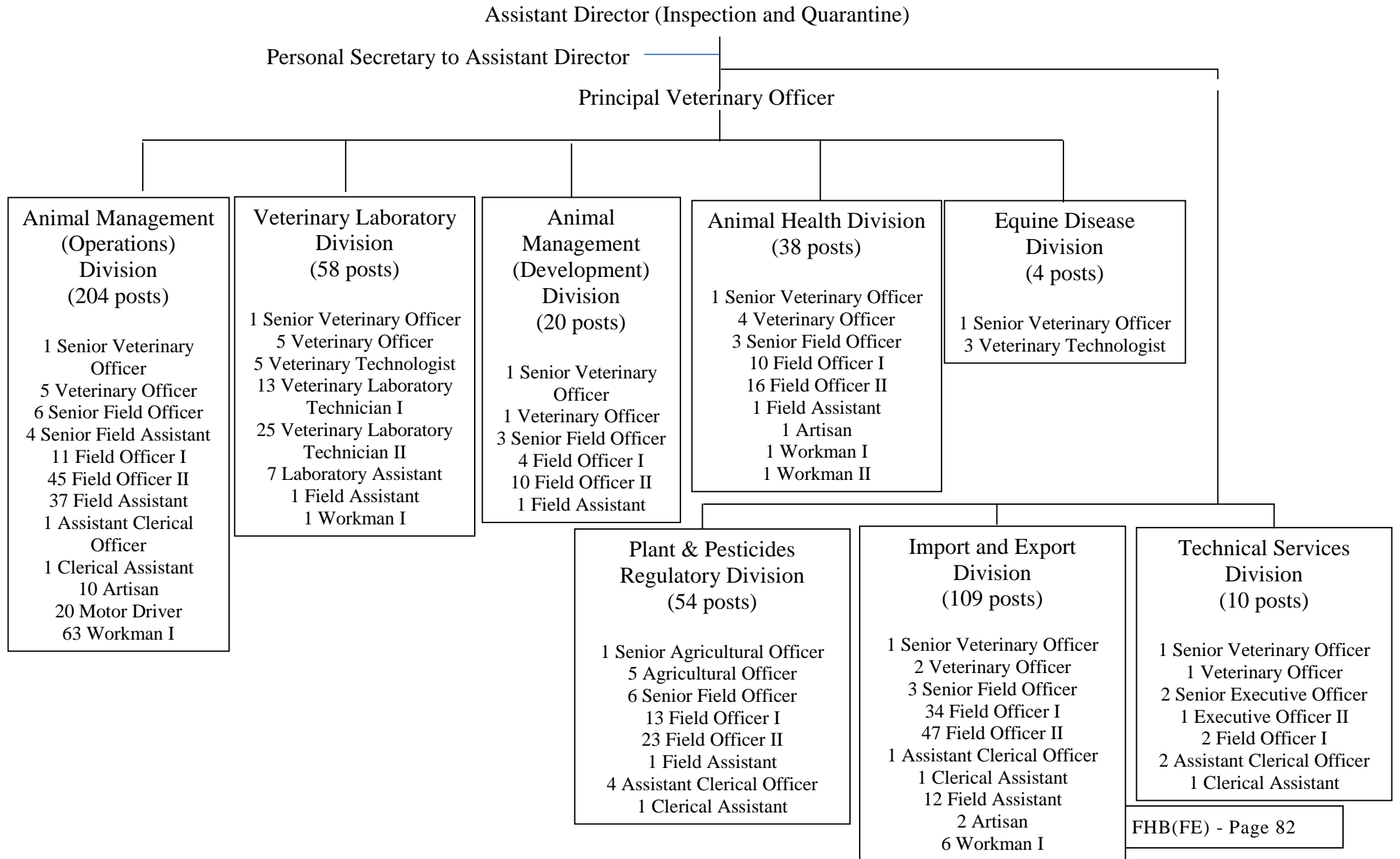
<b>Area of Work</b>	<b>Ranks</b>	<b>Number of posts</b>	<b>Provision for salaries in 2019-20 (\$ million)</b>
To impose control on plants and pesticides	Senior Agricultural Officer	1	24.9
	Agricultural Officer	5	
	Senior Field Officer	6	
	Field Officer I	13	
	Field Officer II	23	
	Field Assistant	1	
	Assistant Clerical Officer	4	
	Clerical Assistant	1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>54</b>	<b>24.9</b>

Apart from the 7 Senior Veterinary Officers and 18 Veterinary Officers working under the 8 divisions as mentioned above, there is also a Principal Veterinary Officer (PVO) in the Inspection and Quarantine Branch who is responsible for supervising the work of 5 of the divisions. The provision for salaries for the PVO post in 2019-20 is \$1.8 million.

- (c) The organisation charts showing the existing establishment and the establishment in 2019-20 of the Inspection and Quarantine Branch are at **Annex I** and **Annex II** respectively.

- End -

**Existing Organisation Chart of the Inspection and Quarantine Branch**



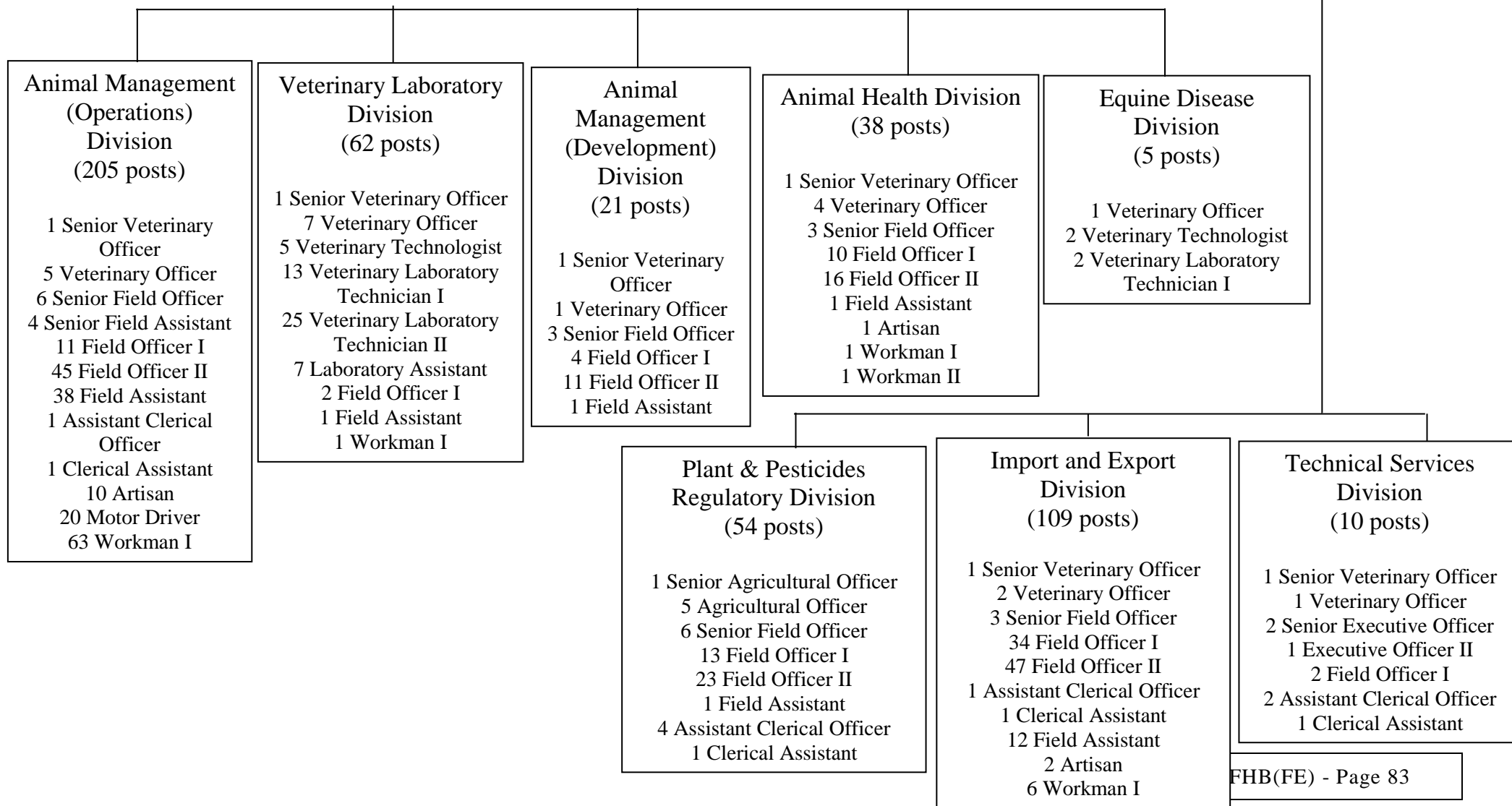


**Organisation Chart of the Inspection and Quarantine Branch in 2019-20**

Assistant Director (Inspection and Quarantine)

Personal Secretary to Assistant Director

Principal Veterinary Officer



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)036****(Question Serial No. 3102)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding animal management, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The number of animal health certificates issued over the past 5 years. (Please set out by types in the table, cats/dogs/other animals.)

Calendar year	Cats	Dogs	Other animals
2014			
2015			
2016			
2017			
2018			

- (b) The number of licences/permits issued over the past 5 years. (Please set out by types in the table, cats/dogs/other animals.)

Calendar year	Cats	Dogs	Other animals
2014			
2015			
2016			
2017			
2018			

- (c) The number of microchips registered for cats in Hong Kong and the contents therein.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 1091)

Reply:

- (a) The number of health certificates for exporting animals issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of animal health certificates issued</b>
2014	4 229
2015	4 454
2016	4 555
2017	4 543
2018	5 394

Since an animal health certificate may cover one or multiple animals of different species, a separate breakdown on the number of such certificates issued by species is not available.

- (b) The import of live animals and birds is regulated under 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. The number of permits issued over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of permits issued</b>
2014	6 697
2015	7 734
2016	8 191
2017	7 796
2018	7 896

Since one permit may cover one or multiple animals of different species, a breakdown on the number of permits by species is not available.

Under the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A), a dog aged over 5 months is required to be licensed and vaccinated against this disease every 3 years. The number of dog licences issued over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of dog licences issued</b>
2014	62 195
2015	65 537
2016	61 418
2017	61 368
2018	59 034

- (c) Cat owners are not legally required to have their cats licensed, vaccinated against rabies and microchipped. This notwithstanding, they may take their cats to veterinary clinics for vaccination against rabies and microchipping for identification purpose. As such, AFCD does not have information on the number of cats microchipped in Hong Kong.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)037**

**(Question Serial No. 3103)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is responsible for safeguarding animal welfare. The Government have proposed to abolish the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance and enact the Animal Welfare Ordinance. Please advise on the consultation schedule, manpower and estimated expenditures involved.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 1092)

Reply:

Having reviewed overseas legislation on animal welfare, and considered views of members of the Legislative Council, animal welfare organisations and other stakeholders, we aim to launch a 3-month public consultation exercise in mid 2019 on proposals to enhance animal welfare. As the above work forms part of the on-going work of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in strengthening promotion of animal welfare, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower involved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)038**

**(Question Serial No. 3104)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The subventions for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPAC) and animal welfare organisations (AWOs) have an increase of \$500 000 and \$1 million respectively this year. Would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the reasons for the increased estimate to SPCA? What are the details of the projects with the increased estimate?
- (b) What are the reasons for the increased estimate to AWOs? What are the details of the projects with the increased estimate?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 1093)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been collaborating with animal welfare organisations (AWOs) to enhance animal welfare and promote better animal management. Recognising that most AWOs are non-profit making with limited resources, the Government has been providing subventions to these AWOs in supporting their work as long as resources permit. As the number of applications for subvention and the total amount applied continue to increase, and the subvention has been able to strengthen AWOs' capacity in animal welfare work, after reviewing the needs of AWOs and the resources implications, we have increased the subvention with effect from 2019-20 with a view to enhancing our support to AWOs. The increased subvention amount will apply to projects approved in 2018-19, with disbursements to be made in 2019-20. The list of projects under application as well as the amount of subvention approved for release to AWOs in the coming year are tabulated in the **Annex**.

Apart from the subvention to various AWOs mentioned above, AFCD has also been providing subvention to the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) (SPCA). The annual provision for the subvention to SPCA has been set at \$1 million for the past few years. The subvention granted to SPCA is to support programmes related to stray animal management, combat animal cruelty, organise public education on animal welfare as well as relevant training and seminars for public officers and interested groups. As the scope and the costs of the various subvented programmes and activities have increased over the past years, we have also increased the subvention with effect from 2019-20 with a view to enhancing our support to SPCA for carrying out programmes and activities that are conducive to enhancing animal welfare and promoting better animal management.

- End -

**Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for and approved in 2018-19)\***

	<b>AWO</b>	<b>Projects under application</b>	<b>Amount approved (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programmes	120,000
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide preventive care and food for rehoming animals	250,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection	To run a “Buddy Programme” to educate children on responsible pet ownership and adoption	120,000
4	SAA	To renovate the animal centre	120,000
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	120,000
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	150,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	53,500
8	Hong Kong Cats	To produce educational materials for promotion of animal welfare and adoption	10,000
9	Kirsten’s Zoo	To provide preventive care and food for rescued and rehomed animals	120,000
10	Animal Friends	To provide medical treatment for rehoming animals	150,000
11	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	To enhance public awareness on animal welfare and adoption	50,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,263,500</b>

\*The amount of subvention will be released in 2019-20.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)039**

**(Question Serial No. 1145)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the development of organic farming, please provide the following information:

- (a) What is the Government's plan in terms of technical support, standard certification and sales promotion for organic farming in 2019-20? What are the manpower and estimated expenditure involved?
- (b) The Department did provide technical advice on organic cultivation to farmers to assist them in capturing high-value market niches in the past. What were the relevant measures and their effectiveness?
- (c) Since the introduction of the Organic Farming Conversion Scheme in late 2000 up to now, what are the numbers, distribution, farming areas, production quantities and value of local organic farms? What is the percentage in the total number of farms?
- (d) In view of the great variety of organic food labels found in the market, consumers can hardly verify the authenticity of food products claimed to be organic. Has the Government examined the introduction of specific legislation to regulate the production, certification and labelling of organic food so as to safeguard the interest of consumers?
- (e) Given the large quantity of products claimed to be organic in the market in recent years, consumers can hardly distinguish between organic and non-organic products. What are the details of inspections conducted by the Government on organic products?
- (f) Currently, organic farmers are facing inadequate marketing channels or high cost of sales, how would the Government provide assistance to them?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)



Reply:

- (a) In 2019-20, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to promote organic farming and the marketing of local organic produce through technical assistance to local farmers under the Organic Farming Support Service (OFSS) Scheme, joint efforts with the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) and the Federation of Vegetable Marketing Cooperative Societies in promoting the production and marketing of local organic produce, as well as giving support to the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre (HKORC) for the promotion of organic education and certification. The manpower and estimated expenditure for this area of work in 2019-20 are 22 staff and \$9.1 million respectively.

Furthermore, there are 3 approved projects under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund with a total funding commitment of \$44 million which aim to enhance the technical support and certification of local organic farms and promotion of their produce. These projects will start in April 2019 and will last for 36 to 48 months.

- (b) and (f) Local organic vegetables are generally sold at premium prices. In addition to the aforesaid efforts, AFCD provides support services to assist local farmers in capturing high-value market niches, developing new farming techniques to raise productivity, introducing new and improved crop varieties for local cultivation, and setting up farmers' markets to reach out to customers. AFCD cooperates with VMO, the local organic farming sector and other voluntary organisations to organise the annual event Farmfest to promote local organic produce to the general public. AFCD has jointly developed with VMO a mobile application "Local Fresh" to facilitate consumers to purchase local organic produce more conveniently through mobile platforms. .
- (c) As at February 2019, 308 farms in Hong Kong had joined the OFSS Scheme, accounting for about 16% of all local vegetable farms. Occupying a total land area of 106 hectares, these organic farms produce on average about 6 tonnes of organic vegetables per day, accounting for about 0.3% of the total fresh vegetables supply in Hong Kong. AFCD does not have statistics on the value of the local organic production. Local organic farms are mostly found in the following 7 major areas in the New Territories: Ng Ka Tsuen, Tai Kong Po, Ping Che, Fanling, Pat Heung, Sheung Shui and Tai Po.
- (d) and (e) The Government commissioned a consultancy study in 2011 to assess the need for regulating the production and sale of organic food (including organic agricultural products) in Hong Kong. In view of the small scale of the local organic food sector and the primary focus of the Government on safeguarding food safety and supply stability, the consultancy report concluded that there was no pressing need to introduce legislation to specifically regulate organic food products in Hong Kong.

The consultant recommended the Government enhance consumer education and promote certification of organic food products by administrative measures to

enrich consumers' knowledge of organic food. AFCD has been implementing the recommendations with the support of HKORC which, apart from providing organic certification service, also enhances public awareness about organic food and organic certification labels through various channels and activities.

Moreover, HKORC conducts regular and surprise inspections of all the certified operations. It also carries out regular surveys and inspections of retail outlets and wet markets, and refers suspected cases of sale of produce falsely described as organic produce to the Customs and Excise Department for enforcement actions under the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (Cap. 362).

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)040****(Question Serial No. 1154)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding fishing vessels and industry-related vessels, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the respective numbers of pair trawlers, stern trawlers, shrimp trawlers, hang trawlers, purse seiners with light, purse seiners, liners and gillnetters, fish carriers, other fishing vessels and industry-related vessels over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (b) What were the numbers of fishing vessels registered in Hong Kong over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (c) Among the registered fishing vessels mentioned in part (b), what are the respective numbers of vessels conducting fishing activities with the methods mentioned in part (a)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)Reply:

- (a) The requested information is tabulated as follows:

Type of vessel	Number of local fishing vessels* / Calendar year		
	2016	2017	2018
Fish carrier	31	30	26
Fishing sampan "C7"	1 982	1 942	1 961
Fishing vessel	1 997	1 949	1 899
Outboard open sampan "P4"	2 621	2 581	2 619
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 631</b>	<b>6 502</b>	<b>6 505</b>

\* Based on the Marine Department's (MD) information on the number of fishing vessels (Class III vessel) licensed under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certification and Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 548D)

No further breakdown on the number of fishing vessels is available.

- (b) Vessels navigating in Hong Kong are required to possess a valid operating licence issued by MD which certifies the safety and seaworthiness of the vessel concerned. 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 Ordinance). The number of fishing vessels registered under the Ordinance in 2016, 2017 and 2018 is 4 121, 4 120 and 4 145 respectively.
- (c) The requested information is tabulated below.

Fishing method	Number of local fishing vessels / Calendar year		
	2016	2017	2018
Purse seining / purse seining with light	30	27	32
Long lining / hand lining	38	37	35
Gill netting	530	520	514
Cage trapping	41	39	46
Mixed fishing methods	3 482	3 497	3 518
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 121</b>	<b>4 120</b>	<b>4 145</b>

Since trawling is prohibited in Hong Kong waters, no trawler could be registered under the Ordinance.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)041****(Question Serial No. 1157)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding illegal fishing activities, please advise on the following:

- (a) the numbers of (i) patrols and (ii) joint operations conducted in the marine parks/marine reserve set out below each year over 2016-17 to 2018-19

Year		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park	Patrol			
	Joint operation			
Yan Chau Tong Marine Park	Patrol			
	Joint operation			
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park	Patrol			
	Joint operation			
Tung Ping Chau Marine Park	Patrol			
	Joint operation			
Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve	Patrol			
	Joint operation			
The Brothers Marine Park	Patrol			
	Joint operation			

- (b) the numbers of cases relating to illegal fishing activities in the marine parks/marine reserve mentioned in item (a) respectively each year over 2016-17 to 2018-19 regarding: (i) the number of complaint cases received; (ii) the number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations but could not successfully make arrests; (iii) the number of persons arrested and cases; (iv) the number of persons convicted and cases; (v) the maximum and minimum penalties imposed on the persons convicted; and (vi) the number of repeated offenders arrested and cases (please set them out in the table below)

	Year		
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Number of complaint cases received			
Number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations (cases which could not successfully make arrests)			
Number of successful arrests (number of persons arrested)			
Number of successful prosecutions (number of persons successfully prosecuted)			
Maximum and minimum penalties			
Number of repeated offences (number of repeated offenders)			

- (c) the numbers of (i) patrols and (ii) joint operations conducted in the Hong Kong waters (except in various marine parks/marine reserve) set out below each year over 2016-17 to 2018-19

		Year		
		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Waters over the Hong Kong territory	(i)			
	(ii)			
Waters around Cheung Chau	(i)			
	(ii)			
Waters around Shek Kwu Chau	(i)			
	(ii)			
Waters around Soko Islands	(i)			
	(ii)			
Waters off the Brothers	(i)			
	(ii)			
Waters off Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau	(i)			
	(ii)			

- (d) the numbers of cases relating to illegal fishing activities in the waters mentioned in item (c) respectively each year over 2016-17 to 2018-19 regarding: (i) the number of complaint cases received; (ii) the number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations but could not successfully make arrests; (iii) the number of persons arrested and cases; (iv) the number of persons convicted and cases; (v) the maximum and minimum penalties imposed on the persons convicted; and (vi) the number of repeated offenders arrested and cases (please set them out in the table below)

	Year		
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Number of complaint cases received			
Number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations (cases which could not successfully make arrests)			
Number of successful arrests (number of persons arrested)			
Number of successful prosecutions (number of persons successfully prosecuted)			
Maximum and minimum penalties			
Number of repeated offences (number of repeated offenders)			

- (e) Would the Government consider strengthening the measures in combating illegal fishing activities, including: (i) purchasing additional patrol launches; (ii) increasing the number of patrols; (iii) increasing the number of joint operations; (iv) purchasing additional equipment; (v) imposing heavier penalty and (vi) other measures. If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (f) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in enforcement operations against illegal fishing activities over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (g) What were the numbers of patrol launches, patrol areas and numbers of patrols conducted against illegal fishing activities over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (h) Regarding illegal fishing activities, what fishing practices were detected during patrols or joint operations over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19), their numbers and percentages involved?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

- (a) The numbers of (i) patrols conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD); and (ii) its joint operations<sup>^</sup> mounted with the Marine Police and the Marine Department at marine parks and marine reserve over the past 3 years are tabulated below.

Financial year / Location		2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-19 (as at end February 2019)
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park	(i)	788	830	770
	(ii)	14	12	9
Yan Chau Tong Marine Park	(i)	394	599	487
	(ii)	13	12	10

<b>Financial year / Location</b>		<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2018-19 (as at end February 2019)</b>
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park	(i)	398	378	371
	(ii)	1	0	0
Tung Ping Chau Marine Park	(i)	788	556	465
	(ii)	11	12	8
Cape D' Aguilar Marine Reserve	(i)	343	388	443
	(ii)	1	0	0
The Brothers Marine Park	(i)	114	426	404
	(ii)	0	0	0

<sup>^</sup> Concurrently with operations of relevant Mainland authorities in nearby Mainland waters in some cases.

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Financial year</b>		
	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19 (as at end February 2019)</b>
Number of complaints received	1	3	3
Number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations (cases which could not successfully make arrests)	8 (0)	14 (2)	12 (1)
Number of successful arrests (number of persons arrested)	8 (8)	12 (12)	11* (11)
Number of successful prosecutions (number of persons successfully prosecuted)	5 (5)	6 (6)	3 (3)
Maximum and minimum penalties imposed	A fine of \$1,500 to \$2,000	A fine of \$800 to \$1,500	A fine of \$800 to \$1,500
Number of repeated offences (number of repeated offenders)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

\* 5 prosecution cases are still in progress.

- (c) The numbers of (i) patrols conducted by AFCD; and (ii) its joint operations<sup>^</sup> mounted with the Marine Police and the Marine Department in the waters outside marine parks and marine reserve over the past 3 years are tabulated below.



<b>Financial year / Waters</b>		<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19 (as at end January 2019)</b>
Waters over the Hong Kong territory	(i)	1 562	1 592	1 388
	(ii)	63	65	66
Waters around Cheung Chau, Shek Kwu Chau and Soko Islands	(i)	520	533	420
	(ii)	63	47	36
Waters off the Brothers	(i)	72	62	47
	(ii)	0	0	0
Waters off Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau	(i)	77	67	57
	(ii)	0	0	0

<sup>A</sup> Concurrently with operations of relevant Mainland authorities in nearby Mainland waters in some cases

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Financial year</b>		
	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19 (as at end January 2019)</b>
Number of complaints received	115	129	88
Number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations (number of cases which could not successfully make arrests)	75 (53)	30 (18)	31 (24)
Number of successful arrests (number of persons arrested)	22 (35)	12 (30)	7 (16)
Number of successful prosecutions (number of persons successfully prosecuted)	14 (25)	8 (26)	5 (13)
Maximum and minimum penalties imposed	A fine of \$700 to \$100,000; imprisonment for 2 weeks to 2 months	A fine of \$1,200 to \$5,000; imprisonment for 2 months	A fine of \$2,000; imprisonment for 2 weeks to 1 month
Number of repeated offences (number of repeated offenders)	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)

- (e) AFCD enforces the relevant legislation through a risk-based approach, deploying resources flexibly to conduct random and targeted patrols in local waters (including marine parks and marine reserve) having regard to the circumstances to combat illegal fishing activities. AFCD also maintains close liaison with the Marine Police with a

view to mounting joint operations (including using the “vessel arrest system” to intercept trawlers who refuse to stop for inspection) as and when appropriate.

Under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) (the Ordinance), any person who conducts illegal fishing activities is liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and an imprisonment for 6 months upon conviction. In addition, under the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476), any person who carries out illegal fishing activities in marine parks and marine reserve is liable to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and an imprisonment for one year upon conviction. We consider that the existing statutory provisions are already effective in combating the illegal fishing activities, and that the penalties imposed by the court, including fines and imprisonment, have deterrent effect. AFCD will continue to enhance enforcement, exchange information and intelligence with the relevant government departments and Mainland authorities, adjust its enforcement strategy from time to time in the light of circumstances and intelligence gathered, and collaborate with the relevant parties to combat illegal fishing activities. To enhance the effectiveness of the enforcement action, AFCD will explore the application of technology in its enforcement work, such as using real time satellite information to help identify fishing vessels.

- (f) The expenditure and manpower involved in combating illegal fishing by AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated below.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of staff)</b>
2016-17	13.2	18
2017-18	13.3	18
2018-19 (revised estimate)	13.0	18

- (g) From 2016 to 2018, AFCD deployed 3 vessels for regular and targeted patrols against illegal fishing activities at random hours (including at nights and early mornings) under the Ordinance. AFCD’s staff, when discharging duties on other vessels, will also stay vigilant to any illegal fishing activities, and inform AFCD’s enforcement unit and Marine Police for follow up.

The patrols focused on blackspots of illegal fishing activities such as Soko Islands and waters south of Cheung Chau. The number of patrols conducted by AFCD in 2016, 2017 and 2018 are about 1 540, 1 630 and 1 610 respectively.

- (h) Information on illegal fishing practices detected during patrols over the past 3 years is tabulated below.

<b>Illegal fishing practices</b>	<b>2016-17</b>		<b>2017-18</b>		<b>2018-19 (as at January 2019)</b>	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Shrimp trawling	13	17.3	17	56.7	8	25.8
Hang trawling	5	6.7	0	0	0	0
Stern trawling	0	0	1	3.3	1	3.2

Illegal fishing practices	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19 (as at January 2019)	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Pair trawling	0	0	0	0	2	6.5
Purse seining	0	0	1	3.3	0	0
Gill netting	43	57.4	8	26.7	14	45.2
Cage trapping	9	12.0	3	10.0	6	19.3
Long lining	1	1.3	0	0	0	0
Hookah fishing	4	5.3	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100.0</b>

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)042**

**(Question Serial No. 1160)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme and the Special Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme of the Vegetable Marketing Organization, please provide the following information over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19):

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

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

Reply:

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

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Number of staff</b>	1	1	1
<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	0.9	0.9	0.9
<b>Number of landowners participating in ALRS</b>	28	41	24
<b>Number of new applications / land area involved (hectare)</b>	65 / 8.3	58 / 8.7	77 / 8.1
<b>Number of successful cases</b>	29	9	10
<b>- Total land area involved (hectare)</b>	4.0	2.1	1.4
<b>- Range of annual rental (per dau chung<sup>^</sup>)</b>	\$1,400 to \$32,100	\$160 to \$12,000	\$25 to \$60,000
<b>- Average waiting time (year)</b>	4	5.5	3.2
<b>Number of applications on the waiting list as at year-end / land area involved (hectare)</b>	300 / 67.6	347 / 74.7	413 / 81.0

<sup>^</sup>1 dau chung is equivalent to 7 260 square feet.

The Special Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (SALRS) is a separate scheme proposed by the Government in relation to New Development Area projects. Under SALRS, the Government proactively identifies suitable government land and private land the owners of which are willing to lease or sell their land suitable for agricultural re-site / rehabilitation. AFCD will then carry out matching. Some government land in the North District has already been identified for application by farmers affected by the Kwu Tung North and Fanling North New Development Area project. The Government is now engaging the farmers concerned on the details of SALRS.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)043**

**(Question Serial No. 1163)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding aquaculture incidents, please advise on the following:

- (a) The expenditures and manpower of the Government for monitoring water quality and red tides respectively over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19).
- (b) Please set out in tabular form the numbers of red tides occurred in Hong Kong and the species of phytoplankton that caused red tides respectively over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19), with a breakdown by district.
- (c) Did the Government have any statistics on the cases relating to massive fish deaths due to water quality or pollution incidents over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)? Please set out by district.
- (d) Did the Government have any statistics on the cases relating to massive fish deaths due to inclement weather (including typhoons, cold snaps) over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)? Please set out by district.
- (e) Please set out the respective numbers of applications for the Emergency Relief Fund due to items (b), (c) and (d), cases approved and the amount involved.
- (f) Currently, what assistance would the Government provide to mariculturists after red tides?

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

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure and manpower involved in monitoring water quality and red tides are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2016-17	9.5	10
2017-18	12.0	12
2018-19 (revised estimate)	11.8	11

(b) The requested information is tabulated as follows:

District / Financial year	Number of red tides observed and the causative species involved		
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
North	4 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	1 <i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i>	Nil
Tai Po	4 <i>Gonyaulax verior</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> , <i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i>	5 <i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i> , <i>Chaetoceros salsugineum</i>	7 <i>Takayama tuberculata</i> , <i>Scrippsiella trochoidea</i> , <i>Prorocentrum balticum</i> , <i>Mesodinium rubrum</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> , <i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i>
Sha Tin	Nil	1 <i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i>	1 <i>Cyclotella choctawhatcheeana</i>
Sai Kung	6 <i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> , <i>Tripos furca</i> , <i>Phaeocystis globosa</i> , <i>Mesodinium rubrum</i>	5 <i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i> , <i>Cochlodinium convolutum</i> , <i>Pseudo-nitzschia pungens</i> , <i>Mesodinium rubrum</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	4 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> , <i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i>
Southern	4 <i>Phaeocystis globosa</i> , <i>Mesodinium rubrum</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	5 <i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i> , <i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i> , <i>Cerataulina pelagica</i> , <i>Thalassiosira pseudonana</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	2 <i>Mesodinium rubrum</i> , <i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i>

District / Financial year	Number of red tides observed and the causative species involved		
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Islands	2 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> , <i>Phaeocystis globosa</i>	2 <i>Cerataulina pelagica</i> , <i>Thalassiosira pseudonana</i>	4 <i>Takayama tuberculata</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> , <i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i>
Tuen Mun	1 <i>Phaeocystis globosa</i>	2 <i>Thalassiosira tealata</i>	1 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
Kwun Tong	1 <i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i>	2 <i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i> , <i>Chaetoceros salsugineum</i>	Nil
Tsuen Wan	Nil	Nil	1 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>

- (c) to (d) There were no confirmed reports of massive fish deaths in fish culture zones and fish ponds due to water quality, pollution or inclement weather over the past 3 years.
- (e) to (f) When there is a red tide incident which may pose significant threat to marine fish culture, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will provide immediate support to the concerned mariculturists, including helping relocate fish rafts away from the red tide area and disposing fish carcasses.

AFCD may open application for the Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) having regard to the impacts and the scale caused by natural disasters. Over the past 3 years, there were no incidents due to red tides or massive fish deaths that had necessitated ERF applications. On the other hand, ERF was opened to mariculturists and pond fish farmers with respect to fish losses due to Super Typhoon Hato in 2017-18 and heavy rainstorms and Super Typhoon Mangkhut in 2018-19. Details are as follows:

Category	2017-18		2018-19	
	Number of applications received (approved)	Amount issued (\$ million)	Number of applications received (approved)	Amount issued (\$ million)
Marine fish farmers	239 (200)	1.6	478 (434)	6.5
Pond fish farmers	45 (39)	0.5	56 (32)	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>284</b> <b>(239)</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>534</b> <b>(466)</b>	<b>6.9</b>

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)044**

**(Question Serial No. 1165)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Please set out the numbers, sizes and distribution of the vegetable farms, flower farms, organic farms, leisure farms, vegetable marketing co-operative societies, vegetable depots, farms in industrial buildings, fish rafts and licences for marine fish culture, fish ponds and oyster breeding rafts currently in operation.
- (b) What are the numbers, sizes and distribution of local pig farms and chicken farms, and the licensed rearing capacity of each farm over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)? Please set out the information with a breakdown by the 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

- (a) As at 31 December 2018, there were about 2 400 crop farms (including vegetables, flowers and orchards) with a total cultivated area of about 740 hectares. These farms are mainly located in the North District and Yuen Long. Amongst these crop farms, there are 306 organic vegetable farms which have joined the Organic Farming Support Service Scheme of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department with a total area of about 105 hectares. It is estimated that there are 129 leisure farms with a total area of about 130 hectares. There are also 8 farms located in industrial buildings in Kwun Tong, Kwai Tsing, Tsuen Wan, Shatin, Tai Po and Yau Tong Districts with a total area of 1.5 hectares.

Information on the number and distribution of vegetable marketing co-operative societies (VMCSs) and vegetable depots as at 31 December 2018 by district is tabulated below.

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

Information of marine fish culture farms, pond fish farms and oyster rafts as at 31 December 2018 is as follows:

- (i) There were about 930 licensed marine fish culture farms with about 1 950 fish rafts in 25 designated Fish Culture Zones\*. The size of farms ranged from 13 to about 6 800 m<sup>2</sup>.
- (ii) There were about 330 pond fish farms with about 1 400 fish ponds, mainly in the north-west New Territories. The size of pond fish farms ranged from 80 to 424 810 m<sup>2</sup>.
- (iii) There were about 8 400 oyster rafts in Deep Bay, the size of which ranged from 96 to 300 m<sup>2</sup>.

\* There are 26 designated Fish Culture Zones located at Sha Tau Kok, Ap Chau, Kat O, O Pui Tong, Sai Lau Kong, Wong Wan, Tap Mun, Kau Lau Wan, Sham Wan, Lo Fu Wat, Yung Shue Au, Leung Shuen Wan, Tiu Cham Wan, Tai Tau Chau, Kai Lung Wan, Kau Sai, Ma Nam Wat, Po Toi O, Po Toi, Sok Ku Wan, Lo Tik Wan, Ma Wan, Yim Tin Tsai, Cheung Sha Wan, Yim Tin Tsai (East) and Tung Lung Chau respectively. There were no licensed marine fish culture farms in Tiu Cham Wan Fish Culture Zone.

- (b) Over the past 3 years, the number of local pig farms and chicken farms remained the same as 43 and 29 respectively. The licensed areas, licensed rearing capacities- and distribution of these farms as at 31 December 2018 are tabulated below.

#### **Pig farms (by calendar year)**

	2016			2017			2018		
	Licensed area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed capacity (number)	District
1	691.19	500	North	691.19	500	North	691.19	500	North
2	1 611.16	950	North	1 611.16	950	North	1 611.16	950	North
3	2 407.85	2 000	North	2 407.85	2 000	North	2 407.85	2 000	North
4	4 953.09	4 000	North	4 953.09	4 000	North	4 953.09	4 000	North

	2016			2017			2018		
	Licensed area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed capacity (number)	District
5	557.91	800	North	557.91	800	North	557.91	800	North
6	1 280.91	600	North	1 280.91	600	North	1 280.91	600	North
7	4 248.04	3 000	Yuen Long	4 248.04	3 000	Yuen Long	4 248.04	3 000	Yuen Long
8	388.79	350	Sai Kung	388.79	350	Sai Kung	388.79	350	Sai Kung
9	706.90	1 000	Yuen Long	706.90	1 000	Yuen Long	706.90	1 000	Yuen Long
10	1 142.90	600	Yuen Long	1 142.90	600	Yuen Long	1 142.90	600	Yuen Long
11	5 085.70	1 500	Yuen Long	5 085.70	1 500	Yuen Long	5 085.70	1 500	Yuen Long
12	3 130.14	1 500	Yuen Long	3 130.14	1 500	Yuen Long	3 130.14	1 500	Yuen Long
13	938.49	850	Yuen Long	938.49	850	Yuen Long	938.49	850	Yuen Long
14	1 864.27	600	Yuen Long	1 864.27	600	Yuen Long	1 864.27	600	Yuen Long
15	3 015.53	2 000	Yuen Long	3 015.53	2 000	Yuen Long	3 015.53	2 000	Yuen Long
16	3 914.32	3 000	Yuen Long	3 914.32	3 000	Yuen Long	3 914.32	3 000	Yuen Long
17	2 640.33	2 600	Yuen Long	2 640.33	2 600	Yuen Long	2 765.33	2 600	Yuen Long
18	3 965.31	2 000	Yuen Long	3 965.31	2 000	Yuen Long	3 965.31	2 000	Yuen Long
19	2 146.27	1 600	Yuen Long	2 146.27	1 600	Yuen Long	2 146.27	1 600	Yuen Long
20	384.65	300	Yuen Long	384.65	300	Yuen Long	384.65	300	Yuen Long
21	2 220.09	1 000	Yuen Long	2 220.09	1 000	Yuen Long	2 220.09	1 000	Yuen Long
22	1 725.58	1 900	Yuen Long	1 725.58	1 900	Yuen Long	1 725.58	1 900	Yuen Long
23	838.59	1 500	Yuen Long	838.59	1 500	Yuen Long	838.59	1 500	Yuen Long
24	1 709.24	1 500	Yuen Long	1 709.24	1 500	Yuen Long	1 709.24	1 500	Yuen Long
25	1 612.44	1 000	Yuen Long	1 612.44	1 000	Yuen Long	902.78	1 000	Yuen Long
26	2 960.03	3 500	Yuen Long	2 960.03	3 500	Yuen Long	2 960.03	3 500	Yuen Long
27	1 327.53	1 000	Yuen Long	1 327.53	1 000	Yuen Long	1 327.53	1 000	Yuen Long
28	2 614.85	2 000	Yuen Long	2 614.85	2 000	Yuen Long	2 614.85	2 000	Yuen Long

	2016			2017			2018		
	Licensed area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed capacity (number)	District
29	3 699.22	1 800	Yuen Long	3 699.22	1 800	Yuen Long	3 699.22	1 800	Yuen Long
30	6 345.66	6 000	Yuen Long	6 345.66	6 000	Yuen Long	6 345.66	6 000	Yuen Long
31	4 524.78	2 600	Yuen Long	4 524.78	2 600	Yuen Long	4 524.78	2 600	Yuen Long
32	3 955.47	2 500	Yuen Long	3 955.47	2 500	Yuen Long	3 955.47	2 500	Yuen Long
33	1 374.87	1 200	Yuen Long	1 374.87	1 200	Yuen Long	1 374.87	1 200	Yuen Long
34	1 239.02	1 500	North	1 239.02	1 500	North	1 239.02	1 500	North
35	2 860.03	1 500	Yuen Long	2 860.03	1 500	Yuen Long	2 860.03	1 500	Yuen Long
36	556.96	250	North	556.96	250	North	556.96	250	North
37	1 392.30	1 990	Yuen Long	1 392.30	1 990	Yuen Long	1 392.30	1 990	Yuen Long
38	626.82	450	Yuen Long	626.82	450	Yuen Long	626.82	450	Yuen Long
39	1 923.26	1 500	Yuen Long	1 923.26	1 500	Yuen Long	1 923.26	1 500	Yuen Long
40	7 108.62	4 000	Yuen Long	7 108.62	4 000	Yuen Long	7 108.62	4 000	Yuen Long
41	4 106.13	3 000	Yuen Long	4 106.13	3 000	Yuen Long	4 106.13	3 000	Yuen Long
42	3 205.77	2 000	Yuen Long	3 205.77	2 000	Yuen Long	3 205.77	2 000	Yuen Long
43	1 180.97	1 200	Yuen Long	1 180.97	1 200	Yuen Long	1 180.97	1 200	Yuen Long
<b>Total</b>	<b>104 181.98</b>	<b>74 640</b>		<b>104 181.98</b>	<b>74 640</b>		<b>103 597.32</b>	<b>74 640</b>	

**Chicken farms (by calendar year)**

	2016			2017			2018		
	Licensed area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed capacity (number)	District
1	433.41	10 000	Tuen Mun	433.41	10 000	Tuen Mun	433.41	10 000	Tuen Mun
2	708.10	18 000	North	708.10	18 000	North	708.10	18 000	North
3	2 597.37	50 000	Yuen Long	2 597.37	50 000	Yuen Long	2 597.37	50 000	Yuen Long
4	387.23	10 000	Yuen Long	387.23	10 000	Yuen Long	387.23	10 000	Yuen Long

	2016			2017			2018		
	Licensed area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed capacity (number)	District
5	648.36	20 000	Yuen Long	648.36	20 000	Yuen Long	648.36	20 000	Yuen Long
6	723.86	19 900	Yuen Long	723.86	19 900	Yuen Long	723.86	19 900	Yuen Long
7	569.30	25 000	Yuen Long	569.30	25 000	Yuen Long	569.30	25 000	Yuen Long
8	682.16	19 000	Yuen Long	682.16	19 000	Yuen Long	682.16	19 000	Yuen Long
9	3 372.57	35 000	Yuen Long	3 372.57	35 000	Yuen Long	3 372.57	35 000	Yuen Long
10	775.26	20 000	Yuen Long	775.26	20 000	Yuen Long	775.26	20 000	Yuen Long
11	1 336.34	39 000	Yuen Long	1 336.34	39 000	Yuen Long	1 336.34	39 000	Yuen Long
12	2 004.75	41 000	Yuen Long	2 004.75	41 000	Yuen Long	2 004.75	41 000	Yuen Long
13	4 518.98	48 000	North	4 518.98	48 000	North	4 518.98	48 000	North
14	4 604.03	102 000	Yuen Long	4 604.03	102 000	Yuen Long	4 604.03	102 000	Yuen Long
15	3 226.20	108 000	Yuen Long	3 226.20	108 000	Yuen Long	3 226.20	108 000	Yuen Long
16	948.17	18 000	Yuen Long	948.17	18 000	Yuen Long	948.17	18 000	Yuen Long
17	3 163.24	70 000	Yuen Long	3 163.24	70 000	Yuen Long	3 163.24	70 000	Yuen Long
18	2 944.67	62 800	Yuen Long	2 944.67	62 800	Yuen Long	2 944.67	62 800	Yuen Long
19	1 757.95	38 500	North	1 757.95	38 500	North	1 757.95	38 500	North
20	2 477.98	46 000	Yuen Long	2 477.98	46 000	Yuen Long	2 477.98	46 000	Yuen Long
21	10 454.52	162 300	Yuen Long	10 454.52	162 300	Yuen Long	10 454.52	162 300	Yuen Long
22	4 831.83	80 000	Yuen Long	4 831.83	80 000	Yuen Long	4 831.83	80 000	Yuen Long
23	1 563.39	48 000	Yuen Long	1 563.39	48 000	Yuen Long	1 563.39	48 000	Yuen Long
24	1 137.70	48 000	Yuen Long	1 137.70	48 000	Yuen Long	1 137.70	48 000	Yuen Long
25	873.34	27 000	North	873.34	27 000	North	873.34	27 000	North
26	1 610.01	26 000	Yuen Long	1 610.01	26 000	Yuen Long	1 610.01	26 000	Yuen Long
27	1 655.73	36 000	Yuen Long	1 655.73	36 000	Yuen Long	1 655.73	36 000	Yuen Long
28	1 250.84	42 000	Yuen Long	1 250.84	42 000	Yuen Long	1 250.84	42 000	Yuen Long

	2016			2017			2018		
	Licensed area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed capacity (number)	District
29	1 067.54	31 000	Yuen Long	1 067.54	31 000	Yuen Long	1 067.54	31 000	Yuen Long
<b>Total</b>	<b>62 324.83</b>	<b>1 300 500</b>		<b>62 324.83</b>	<b>300 500</b>		<b>62 324.83</b>	<b>1 300 500</b>	

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)045**

**(Question Serial No. 1166)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the issue of capture fishermen, please advise on the following:

- (a) The numbers of Hong Kong fishermen (those who could only operate in Hong Kong), the numbers of their fishing vessels, and their production values over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19).
- (b) The numbers of Hong Kong fishermen (those who could only operate in Mainland China), the numbers of their fishing vessels, and their production values over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19).
- (c) The numbers of Hong Kong fishermen (those who could operate both in Mainland China and Hong Kong), the numbers of their fishing vessels, and their production values over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19).
- (d) The total numbers of Hong Kong fishermen, the numbers of their fishing vessels, and their production values over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19).

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

Reply:

- (a) to (d) Vessels navigating in Hong Kong are required to possess a valid operating licence issued by the Marine Department (MD) which certifies the vessels' safety and seaworthiness. 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 registered with MD, local fishing vessels registered with AFCD, local capture fishermen and their production values in the past 3 years is tabulated below.

In order to conduct fishing operations in Mainland waters, the vessels have to meet the requirements of the relevant Mainland authorities. Since we do not have the information of Hong Kong vessels that are permitted to operate in Mainland waters, information on fishermen and fishing vessels that could operate only in Mainland waters or in both Mainland and Hong Kong waters is not available.

Calendar year (as at the end of the period)	Number of local fishing vessels registered with MD <sup>#</sup>	Number of registered local fishing vessels registered with AFCD	Number of local capture fishermen <sup>^</sup>	Production value (\$ million) <sup>^</sup>	
				From Hong Kong waters	From waters outside Hong Kong
2016	6 631	4 121	10 790	860	1,700
2017	6 502	4 120	10 600	860	1,740
2018	6 505	4 145	10 240	966	1,789

<sup>#</sup> 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).

<sup>^</sup> Based on the fisheries survey on capture fishermen conducted by AFCD.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)046**

**(Question Serial No. 1167)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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

- (a) What were the total expenditures and manpower involved in the establishment of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund, the Agricultural Park and the Agricultural Priority Areas over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (b) What is the current estimated total expenditure involved in the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund, the Agricultural Park and the Agricultural Priority Areas?
- (c) Since the introduction of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and the Farm Improvement Scheme, how many project applications received, approved, rejected and are being examined? What are these projects by type (e.g. planting, culture, industrial buildings or others)?
- (d) Further to the above question, what were the total numbers of persons, and, among all, the numbers of existing farmers benefited since the launch of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and the Farm Improvement Scheme thereunder over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (e) What is the progress of the work on the Agricultural Park and the Agricultural Priority Areas? What are the estimated work schedules for the two projects?
- (f) What were the details, expenditures and manpower involved in promoting the sustainable development of agriculture (e.g. the development of eco-tourism, leisure agricultural industries, agricultural industries employing innovative technology and other sustainable agriculture, etc.) over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?

(g) What are the details, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in planning and promoting the sustainable development of agriculture in 2019-20?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

(a) to (b) We have been implementing the New Agriculture Policy (NAP) since 2016 to promote the modernisation and sustainable development of the local agricultural sector. The expenditure and manpower of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in administering the \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF), preparing for the establishment of the Agriculture Park (the Agri-Park) and commissioning a consultancy study on Agricultural Priority Areas (APAs) under the NAP over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of staff)</b>
2016-17	5.1	13
2017-18	7.5	16
2018-19 (revised estimate)	8.3	17

In 2019-20, \$14.8 million has been earmarked for implementing the above work.

(c) to (d) As at 1 March 2019, a total of 249 applications seeking financial assistance for individual farms to acquire farming equipment and/or materials from the Farm Improvement Scheme (FIS) under SADF have been received. 238 applications have been approved, involving a total funding commitment of about \$7 million. 3 applications have been rejected and 4 applications withdrawn. The rest are being processed.

In addition, a total of 34 applications seeking funding support for projects that will benefit the local agricultural industry as a whole have been received. Among them, 7 applications have been approved and 7 rejected on the advice of SADF Advisory Committee, 3 withdrawn by the applicants, 1 returned to the applicant (for further supplement / re-submission if necessary) and 3 found to be ineligible to apply for the fund. The other applications are being processed. 4 approved projects have been implemented since the first quarter of 2019. The project proposals are summarised as follows:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of applications</b>	
	<b>received</b>	<b>approved</b>
Promoting farm mechanisation and modernisation	6	1
Research and development of new products and new farming practices, and transfer of knowledge	19	3

Category	Number of applications	
	received	approved
Facilitating rehabilitation of fallow agricultural land	2	0
Promoting brand-building and marketing of local agricultural produce	7	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>7</b>

Upon completion of these projects, the actual number of farmers benefitting from them will be assessed.

- (e) We will establish an Agri-Park in Kwu Tung South to help nurture agro-technology and knowledge on modern farm management. The Agri-Park will be developed in 2 phases. Phase 1 will be developed in a relatively small scale (about 11 hectares) with a view to enabling its partial commissioning for use by farmers as early as possible. We plan to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee in the first half of 2019, with a view to commencing the construction works in the fourth quarter of 2019.

To ensure that sufficient land will be available to meet the needs of the agricultural sector, a consultancy study is being conducted to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land as APAs, and explore suitable policies and measures to encourage owners to put currently fallow land into long-term agricultural use by crop and livestock farmers. The consultant is currently reviewing the existing farmland in Hong Kong and studying overseas experience, before making recommendations. Given that a considerable amount of agricultural land is involved in the study, it is estimated that the study may take several years to complete.

- (f) to (g) AFCD promotes the sustainable development of local agriculture through measures such as (i) developing new farming techniques to raise productivity; (ii) introducing new and improved crop varieties for local cultivation; (iii) promoting leisure farming and organic farming; (iv) assisting in setting up farmers' markets to help farmers reach out to customers and organising the annual FarmFest to showcase local agricultural and fishery production; (v) administering 3 funds to provide loans to farmers as development and/or working capital; and (vi) implementing the various measures under NAP. The expenditure and manpower involved in the above area of work are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2016-17	42.1	91
2017-18	48.3	99
2018-19 (revised estimate)	59.7	114

In 2019-20, 122 staff and \$67.6 million have been earmarked for this area of work.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)047**

**(Question Serial No. 1168)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets  
Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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

- (a) Currently, what loans does the Government provide to the agriculture and fisheries industries respectively?
- (b) Over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19), what were the numbers of applications for the above loans, the numbers of loans approved, the total amount of the fund(s) and the total loans granted in respective year?
- (c) Over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19), what were the expenditures and manpower involved in handling the above loans?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

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

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

Calendar year	Capital (as at 31 December) (\$ million)	Number of loans		Amount of loans issued <sup>#</sup> (\$ million)
		Applications	Issued <sup>*</sup>	
2016	1,295.4	276	287	217.9
2017	1,296.1	466	459	240.1
2018	1,296.9	669	670	250.5

<sup>\*</sup> Referring to the number of loans with their first instalment issued in the respective calendar year.

<sup>#</sup> Referring to the total amount of loans issued in the respective calendar year, including all stages of instalments.

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

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)048**

**(Question Serial No. 1170)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the waters in Hong Kong, in which the entry of fishing vessels and fishing are permitted, please advise on the following:

- (a) Please indicate on a map the areas in which the entry of fishing vessel and different types of fishing operation are permitted.
- (b) Other than airside, principal fairways, waters subject to the traffic separation scheme (except the dividing strips), various typhoon shelters, the areas stipulated in Section 14 of Cap. 548F of the Laws of Hong Kong, the Core Areas in marine parks, the marine reserve, fish culture zones, public bathing beaches, waters undergoing reclamation and the Kwai Chung Control Station, are there any other waters in Hong Kong, where fishing and entry of fishing vessels are not permitted? What are the respective sizes of the waters where entry of fishing vessels and fishing are not permitted, and that of the waters where these activities are permitted in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

Hong Kong waters are generally available for fishing with the use of fishing vessels, except in certain areas such as the core areas of marine parks, marine reserve, fish culture zones, typhoon shelters, principal fairways, restricted areas of the airport, public bathing beaches and works areas of reclamation projects. These areas are under the purview of a number of different departments such as the Marine Department for principal fairways, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for public bathing beaches, various works departments for reclamation projects, and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for marine parks, marine reserve and fish culture zones. AFCD does not have comprehensive and precise technical information on areas under the administration of different departments.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)049**

**(Question Serial No. 1171)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the threats posed by natural and different types of disasters on the agriculture and fisheries industries, what resources and measures would the Government put in place in 2019-20 to enhance the wind resisting capability of fish ponds and farms?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

In order to enhance the capability of the agriculture and fisheries in coping with inclement weather including typhoons and heavy rainstorms, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducts adaptive studies on fish and crop farming, such as indoor farming using recirculating aquaculture systems, controlled environment greenhouse technology and indoor hydroponic cultivation technology that can ensure continued production under adverse weather conditions. AFCD makes known the technology and skills to farmers through farm visits, seminars and training courses. Technical advice is also provided to assist farmers in erecting structures for protecting crops from heavy rains and strong winds. In addition, both the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund could be used by the trade to fund projects to study how to enhance the wind resisting capability of farms, or to fund the acquisition of protective structures and materials.

AFCD provides early warnings to crop and fish pond farmers to prepare for imminent typhoons and rainstorms, including early harvest, clearance of blocked drains, etc. Depending on the impact of the inclement weather, the Emergency Relief Fund may be opened for application to provide emergency financial relief to affected farmers.

As the above work forms part of the ongoing work of AFCD in supporting the agricultural and fisheries sectors, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower involved.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)050**

**(Question Serial No. 1173)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (661) Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)

Programme: (-) Not specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the 3 items under Subhead 661, please advise on the following:

- (a) What are the contents involved under Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote), Works, as well as Plant, vehicles and equipment?
- (b) Why is there no estimate for the Works starting from 2018-19?
- (c) Why is there no estimate for the Plant, vehicles and equipment starting from 2019-20?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

- (a) The financial provision under Subhead 661 for 2019-20 is mainly for replacement / procurement of various systems and equipment, with breakdown as follows:

<b>Systems and equipment to be replaced / procured</b>	<b>Financial provision for 2019-20 (\$ million)</b>
(i) Patrol vessels and a hovercraft for patrol and law enforcement duties under various Ordinances as well as for red tide and water quality monitoring	33.851
(ii) Power supply and lighting system for wholesale food markets and the Hong Kong Wetland Park	5.685

<b>Systems and equipment to be replaced / procured</b>	<b>Financial provision for 2019-20 (\$ million)</b>
(iii) Veterinary laboratory equipment and system for animal disease testing	4.165
(iv) Global Navigation Satellite System survey receiver for country park management	0.333
<b>Total</b>	<b>44.034</b>

(b) and (c) Starting from 2018-19, the estimates for capital non-works items each costing less than \$10 million have been subsumed under subheads 609, 610 and 661. The financial provisions related to works are set out in subheads 609 and 610 whereas those related to plant, vehicles and equipment are set out in subhead 661.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)051**

**(Question Serial No. 1175)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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

- (a) Regarding page 39 of the Controlling Officer's Report, how does the Government calculate the fisheries "production" currently? How is the production of the fisheries products not marketed via the Fish Marketing Organization calculated?
- (b) Regarding page 39 of the Controlling Officer's Report, how does the Government calculate the agricultural "production" currently? How is the production of the agricultural products not marketed via the Vegetable Marketing Organization calculated?
- (c) Regarding page 39 of the Controlling Officer's Report, what is granted under "new grants" and "new loans" for the agriculture and fisheries industries?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) The agriculture and fisheries productions, and the quantities of the agricultural and fisheries products not marketed through the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) and the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO) are estimated based on information collected in regular surveys conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department as well as information compiled by VMO, FMO and local slaughterhouses.
- (c) "New loans" refer to the agricultural and fisheries loans, made under the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund, the J.E. Joseph Trust Fund, the Vegetable Marketing Organisation Loan Fund, the Fisheries Development Loan

Fund, the Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund (including normal loans and special fishing moratorium loans), the World Refugee Year Loan Fund and the Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere Loan Fund, with their first instalment issued in the year. “New grants” refer to the projects funded by the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund with their first instalment of grants disbursed in the year.

- End

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)052**

**(Question Serial No. 1177)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding water quality, please advise on the following:

- (a) What are the mechanism and standard currently adopted by the Government to assess whether the water quality is suitable for fish culture? Has there been any occasion in which the water quality in the 26 fish culture zones was unsuitable for fish culture over the past 3 years? What are the details?
- (b) What are the mechanism and standard currently adopted by the Government to assess the impacts of the water quality around marine works to fisheries resources? Has there been any occasion in which the water quality in local fishing grounds was unsuitable for fish culture over the past 3 years? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

- (a) Marine water quality is measured by a set of quality objectives (WQOs) established under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 358) (WPCO). The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department monitors the quality of fish culture zones (FCZs) having regard to 4 WQOs, viz dissolved oxygen, pH, unionised ammonia and *E. coli*. Over the past 3 years, the water quality in all 26 FCZs was in general suitable for mariculture as it complied with the aforesaid 4 WQOs levels, and there was no incident during the period that had caused massive fish kills or impact on FCZs of a permanent nature.
- (b) The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Ordinance (Cap. 499) requires proponents of designated projects to assess the potential environmental impacts. Fisheries impact assessment is conducted as part of an EIA study for a proposed development project that may affect fishing and aquaculture activities, fisheries

resources and production, as well as fisheries habitats, fishing grounds, nursery and spawning grounds and aquaculture sites. In addition, project proponents are also required to implement Environmental Monitoring and Audit (EM&A) programmes to monitor the water quality as required by the Director of Environmental Protection. Over the past 3 years, no unacceptable impacts arising from marine works on fisheries had been identified in EIAs, or reported under the monitoring of EM&A programmes.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)053****(Question Serial No. 1181)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

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

- (a) What were the annual total and daily average wholesale quantities, as well as the highest and lowest figures thereof for different kinds of marine fish (including Golden thread, Horse-heads, Yellow croakers, Big-eyes, Scads, Breams, Hair-tails, Mackerels, Croakers, Filefish, etc.) and freshwater fish (including Grass carp, Big head, Mud carp, etc.) over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (b) What were the monthly average, the highest and lowest prices for different kinds of marine fish (including Golden thread, Horse-heads, Yellow croakers, Big-eyes, Scads, Breams, Hair-tails, Mackerels, Croakers, Filefish, etc.) and freshwater fish (including Grass carp, Big head, Mud carp, etc.) over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 64)Reply:

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

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Total quantity (tonnes)</b>	<b>Daily average quantity (tonnes)</b>	<b>Highest daily quantity (tonnes)</b>	<b>Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)</b>
<b>2016</b>	47 362	129	221	33
<b>2017</b>	41 196	113	160	24
<b>2018</b>	43 468	119	205	16

Information on the wholesale quantity of marine fish traded over the past 3 years (2016 to 2018) is shown in **Annex A**.

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

Calendar year	Monthly average wholesale value (\$/tonne)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2016	26,740	27,070	26,651	26,615 <sup>^</sup>	26,768	26,835	27,389	27,133	27,364	27,601 <sup>*</sup>	27,238	27,146
2017	27,090	26,866	26,532	26,365 <sup>^</sup>	26,671	26,764	27,155	27,522	27,639	27,671	27,716 <sup>*</sup>	27,271
2018	27,590 <sup>^</sup>	28,512	28,328	28,898	29,588 <sup>*</sup>	29,003	28,753	28,677	28,886	28,799	28,602	28,345

<sup>\*</sup> Highest monthly average value in the respective calendar year

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

Information on the monthly average wholesale price of marine fish over the past 3 years (2016 to 2018) is shown in **Annex B**.

- End -



## Wholesale quantity of marine fish over the past 3 years (2016 to 2018)

Calendar year	Fish	Total quantity (tonnes)	Daily average quantity (tonnes)	Highest daily quantity (tonnes)	Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)
2016	Golden thread (紅衫)	3 127.3	8.5	10.8	6.2
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	2 874.0	7.9	10.3	4.8
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	1 708.4	4.7	5.5	3.9
	Big-eyes (木棉)	2 680.8	7.3	9.0	4.6
	Scads (池魚)	1 578.1	4.3	5.7	2.4
	Breams (立魚)	1 855.9	5.1	5.7	3.4
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	1 567.0	4.3	5.1	2.4
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	1 566.5	4.3	4.7	2.5
	Croakers (或魚)	820.6	2.2	3.1	1.4
2017	Golden thread (紅衫)	2 901.2	7.9	9.2	6.5
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	2 806.6	7.7	10.2	6.3
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	1 997.9	5.5	7.1	4.0
	Big-eyes (木棉)	2 173.9	6.0	8.1	3.9
	Scads (池魚)	1 283.9	3.5	5.2	1.6
	Breams (立魚)	1 965.4	5.4	6.7	4.4
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	1 374.9	3.8	5.3	2.7
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	1 438.5	3.9	4.9	3.4
	Croakers (或魚)	858.3	2.4	3.2	1.5
2018	Golden thread (紅衫)	2 862.3	7.8	9.4	4.6
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	3 097.2	8.5	9.9	5.0
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	2 252.1	6.2	7.3	3.8
	Big-eyes (木棉)	2 119.9	5.8	7.9	4.2
	Scads (池魚)	1 152.6	3.2	4.1	1.9

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Fish</b>	<b>Total quantity (tonnes)</b>	<b>Daily average quantity (tonnes)</b>	<b>Highest daily quantity (tonnes)</b>	<b>Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)</b>
	Breams (立魚)	1 870.4	5.1	5.9	3.9
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	1 215.7	3.3	3.9	2.0
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	1 459.5	4.0	4.8	2.2
	Croakers (或魚)	668.8	1.8	2.5	1.0

Data on Filefish (沙魴) are not readily available.

## Monthly average wholesale price of marine fish over the past 3 years (2016 to 2018)

Calendar year	Fish	Monthly average wholesale price (\$/kg)											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2016	Golden thread (紅衫)	67.67	67.73	66.43	64.59	72.24	81.22*	79.09	72.71	57.45	54.83 <sup>^</sup>	63.29	63.21
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	54.23	52.97	54.14	54.49*	52.57	52.78	50.60	48.50	41.78 <sup>^</sup>	46.85	45.15	44.64
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	84.95	74.44 <sup>^</sup>	104.37*	89.73	86.64	81.07	79.93	81.73	85.83	81.32	89.08	98.36
	Big-eyes (木棉)	69.72 <sup>^</sup>	70.55	71.59	74.23	78.19	85.83	85.96*	80.88	73.92	74.05	75.21	79.87
	Scads (池魚)	20.07	20.52	19.89	19.04	20.77	23.54	25.05*	20.28	18.27 <sup>^</sup>	19.06	18.48	20.12
	Breams (立魚)	76.80	78.85	79.87	78.89	82.31	91.64	93.54*	80.42	66.77 <sup>^</sup>	69.96	74.59	81.35
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	41.64 <sup>^</sup>	43.47	42.77	42.76	44.97	50.92	53.45*	48.78	45.94	47.02	43.94	45.17
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	65.21 <sup>^</sup>	67.56	67.34	68.56	72.55	75.84	76.08*	73.26	73.66	66.10	70.86	69.48
	Croakers (或魚)	23.84	24.57	23.60	22.53 <sup>^</sup>	24.58	29.09	29.10	29.73*	25.69	23.12	23.13	24.02
2017	Golden thread (紅衫)	62.64 <sup>^</sup>	77.61	69.14	66.10	77.60	83.36	84.56*	82.98	64.97	67.03	74.43	82.20
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	51.14	53.70	55.07	47.27 <sup>^</sup>	52.53	55.85	54.73	53.58	47.51	47.56	56.06*	54.21
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	115.13	106.17	134.73*	131.81	91.29	78.36	81.95	79.66	76.72 <sup>^</sup>	92.37	100.72	98.64
	Big-eyes (木棉)	81.15	89.61	85.81	85.08	87.85	94.90	95.33	93.18	80.35 <sup>^</sup>	86.34	94.42	97.17*
	Scads (池魚)	21.75	22.01	20.21	20.78	25.14	29.59*	29.34	25.27	17.65 <sup>^</sup>	20.24	22.01	22.39
	Breams (立魚)	85.78	90.93*	88.49	85.35	87.89	90.38	88.76	87.57	78.54 <sup>^</sup>	83.71	86.51	89.64
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	45.28	49.89	44.39	46.37	50.26	57.05*	55.89	53.89	43.77 <sup>^</sup>	44.47	45.61	47.05

Calendar year	Fish	Monthly average wholesale price (\$/kg)											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Mackerels ( 鮫魚)	76.24	78.14	75.71	78.99	80.34	84.87*	82.55	79.03	63.81^	69.22	70.19	75.10
	Croakers (或魚)	23.78	24.20	23.26^	27.00	28.54	33.79	34.58*	34.33	27.44	24.97	26.41	28.42
2018	Golden thread (紅衫)	81.80	76.16	75.80	71.06^	72.43	79.20	81.04	84.41*	72.77	77.74	74.77	74.47
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	55.60	54.78	58.33	54.45	55.60	60.53	64.76*	63.45	54.37^	56.03	57.27	59.58
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	104.90	112.17*	103.21	103.18	85.38	82.69	79.68^	79.93	93.02	104.01	107.93	104.99
	Big-eyes (木棉)	106.65	99.79^	102.13	108.65	103.33	116.79	118.45*	118.34	101.25	115.35	107.78	112.78
	Scads (池魚)	23.29^	24.01	25.34	25.99	29.08	27.02	30.23	32.20*	26.30	25.95	24.44	28.79
	Breams (立魚)	91.88	98.91	97.96	95.95	95.14	101.36*	100.78	101.20	86.35^	86.98	94.32	98.35
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	48.05	49.32	48.60	51.57	52.37	52.18	53.29	55.02*	47.17^	47.42	48.36	51.56
	Mackerels ( 鮫魚)	76.85	76.90	75.53	74.60	75.80	76.91	74.62	75.59	68.68^	71.93	70.75	76.94*
	Croakers (或魚)	32.63	31.95	30.67	29.57	31.43	35.07*	34.14	30.27	26.19	26.12^	28.40	31.31

Data on Filefish (沙鯧) are not readily available.

\* Highest monthly average wholesale price in the respective calendar year.

^ Lowest monthly average wholesale price in the respective calendar year.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)054****(Question Serial No. 1182)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

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

- (a) What were the annual total and daily average wholesale quantity, as well as the highest and lowest figures thereof for different kinds of vegetables (including flowering cabbage, water cress, white cabbage, broccoli, Chinese lettuce, green cabbage, chrysanthemum garland, tomato, Chinese kale, pea shoot, European celery, potato and spinach, etc.) over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (b) What were the monthly average, the highest and lowest value for different kinds of vegetables (including flowering cabbage, water cress, white cabbage, broccoli, Chinese lettuce, green cabbage, chrysanthemum garland, tomato, Chinese kale, pea shoot, European celery, potato and spinach, etc.) over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 65)Reply:

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

Calendar year	Quantity (tonne)			
	Total	Daily average	Highest daily	Lowest daily
2016	238 163	651	808	103
2017	240 617	659	842	60
2018	252 022	690	894	49

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

Calendar year	Monthly average wholesale value (\$ / tonne)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2016	7,560 <sup>^</sup>	10,985 <sup>*</sup>	9,967	10,057	8,791	8,259	8,209	8,555	8,713	7,985	8,840	8,025
2017	9,792	9,799	9,225	9,116	8,948 <sup>^</sup>	9,501	10,390	10,386	10,885 <sup>*</sup>	10,750	10,452	10,445
2018	10,345	11,507	10,925	10,295 <sup>^</sup>	10,451	11,113	11,742 <sup>*</sup>	11,175	11,686	11,699	10,888	10,826

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

<sup>^</sup> Lowest monthly value

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)055**

**(Question Serial No. 1183)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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

- (a) What were the annual total and daily average wholesale quantities, as well as the highest and lowest figures thereof for different kinds of eggs (including Brown-shelled egg (medium) from the Mainland, Grade II brown-shelled eggs from Germany (360/box), brown-shelled eggs (medium) from the USA, etc.) over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (b) What were the monthly average, the highest and lowest prices for different kinds of eggs (including brown-shelled eggs (medium) from the Mainland, Grade II brown-shelled eggs from Germany (360/box), brown-shelled eggs (medium) from the USA, etc.) over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 66)

Reply:

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

Calendar year	Quantities (tonnes)			
	Total	Daily average	Highest daily	Lowest daily
2016	65 842	180	392	6
2017	66 102	181	392	4
2018	62 964	173	337	1

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

Calendar year	Monthly average wholesale price (\$ / tonne) for brown-shelled medium eggs (the Mainland)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2016	14,097	15,738 <sup>*</sup>	15,052	15,320	14,658	13,520	12,794	12,316 <sup>^</sup>	14,267	13,252	13,707	13,877
2017	13,865	13,657	13,465	12,747	11,574	11,333 <sup>^</sup>	12,703	14,258	15,000	14,665	14,580	15,103 <sup>*</sup>
2018	15,458	15,314	15,110 <sup>^</sup>	15,633	15,245	15,267	15,561	15,523	15,820	15,910 <sup>*</sup>	15,693	15,774

Calendar year	Monthly average wholesale price (\$ / tonne) for brown-shelled medium eggs (USA)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2016	16,742	17,400	17,419 <sup>*</sup>	17,047	15,561	14,433	13,400	13,077	13,960	12,755 <sup>^</sup>	13,053	13,439
2017	13,510	13,736	13,748	13,587	13,523	12,880	12,103 <sup>^</sup>	14,181	14,993 <sup>*</sup>	13,452	14,093	14,329
2018	14,432	14,207 <sup>^</sup>	14,471	15,260	16,484 <sup>*</sup>	15,187	15,084	15,290	15,347	15,387	15,433	15,219

<sup>\*</sup> Highest monthly average wholesale price

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

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)056**

**(Question Serial No. 3202)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the wholesale of live chickens, please advise on:

- (a) the monthly total quantities and daily average quantities of imported and local live chickens, as well as the largest and the smallest daily wholesale quantities over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19);
- (b) the monthly average prices, as well as the highest and the lowest monthly prices of imported and local live chickens over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19);
- (c) the monthly total quantities and daily average quantities of imported minor poultry, as well as the largest and the smallest daily wholesale quantities over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19);
- (d) the monthly average prices, as well as the highest and the lowest monthly prices of imported minor poultry over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19);
- (e) the monthly total quantities and daily average quantities of imported day-old chicks, as well as the largest and the smallest daily wholesale quantities over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19);
- (f) the percentage of live chickens, minor poultry and day-old chicks imported from various places over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19);
- (g) the total expenditure on handling matters on import of live chickens, day-old chicks and minor poultry (e.g. quarantine management, wholesale markets, etc.), the average expenditure on each chicken, as well as the manpower involved in 2018-19 and the estimated expenditure in 2019-20;

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 71)

Reply:

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

Calendar year	Live chicken	Quantity (number)			
		Total	Daily average	Highest daily	Lowest daily
2016	Imported <sup>#</sup>	32 000	87	2 000	2 000
	Local	4 041 960	11 043	48 475	300
2017	Local <sup>#</sup>	4 199 354	11 505	43 200	6 555
2018	Local <sup>#</sup>	4 255 909	11 761	38 775	630

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

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

Calendar year	Live chicken	Monthly quantity											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2016	Imported <sup>#</sup>	20 000*	12 000 <sup>^</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Local	344 191	406 393*	348 978	342 916	369 978	311 710	312 465	311 558	327 883	284 585 <sup>^</sup>	311 900	369 403
2017	Local <sup>#</sup>	417 938*	301 859 <sup>^</sup>	333 008	352 741	382 650	317 583	330 195	327 848	325 968	365 823	339 811	403 930
2018	Local <sup>#</sup>	345 889	383 084	342 672	321 507 <sup>^</sup>	341 159	357 033	353 087	338 127	377 841	357 908	337 165	400 437*

\* Highest monthly quantity

<sup>^</sup> Lowest monthly quantity

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

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

Calendar year	Live chicken	Monthly average wholesale price (\$/kg)											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2016	Imported <sup>#</sup>	68.97 <sup>^</sup>	82.67*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Local	68.33	77.23*	69.93	55.10	44.71	42.87 <sup>^</sup>	44.38	57.17	71.65	74.38	67.81	57.41
2017	Local <sup>#</sup>	47.74	52.49*	38.83	33.96 <sup>^</sup>	43.21	49.62	49.08	48.46	45.17	49.64	46.31	48.80
2018	Local <sup>#</sup>	51.52	70.91*	66.62	66.27	58.24	35.66	33.81	32.70 <sup>^</sup>	38.18	42.63	42.59	50.17

\* Highest monthly average price in the respective calendar year

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

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

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

Calendar year	Quantity (number)			
	Total	Daily average	Highest daily	Lowest daily
2016	590 598	1 614	5 600	750
2017	76 720 <sup>&amp;</sup>	210	7 350	900
2018 <sup>#</sup>	0	0	0	0

<sup>&</sup> There was no import of live minor poultry from the Mainland since 16 February 2017.

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

Calendar year	Monthly quantity											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2016	51 150	36 979	45 130	48 910	58 172	8 790 <sup>^</sup>	42 160	53 230	53 630	61 942	73 765 <sup>*</sup>	56 740
2017 <sup>&amp;</sup>	48 650 <sup>*</sup>	28 070 <sup>^</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018 <sup>&amp;</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

<sup>^</sup> Lowest monthly quantity

<sup>&</sup> There was no import of live minor poultry from the Mainland since 16 February 2017.

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

Calendar year	Monthly average wholesale price (\$/kg)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2016	71.5	70.9 <sup>^</sup>	72.6	72.3	76.4	77.9	77.8	74.5	76.0	77.6	79.2 <sup>*</sup>	76.1
2017 <sup>&amp;</sup>	76.6 <sup>^</sup>	77.7 <sup>*</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2018 <sup>&amp;</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<sup>\*</sup> Highest monthly average price in the respective calendar year

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

<sup>&</sup> There was no import of live minor poultry from the Mainland since 16 February 2017.

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

Calendar year	Quantity (number)			
	Total	Daily average	Highest daily	Lowest daily
2016	1 763 710	4 819	39 600	1 250
2017	2 011 700	5 512	34 480	2 800
2018	2 385 291	6 535	37 500	2 500

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

Calendar year	Monthly quantity											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2016	178 430	185 720	225 460*	184 460	182 520	30 700^	0	44 540	155 760	217 560	172 400	186 160
2017	134 800^	176 800	154 600	136 080	159 340	180 340	163 240	173 000	191 040*	177 020	190 320	175 120
2018	180 300	182 220	209 760	192 980	196 441	219 360	173 710^	184 740	214 920	229 980*	209 500	191 380

\* Highest monthly quantity

^ Lowest monthly quantity

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

Calendar year	Percentage of chickens imported from			Percentage of minor poultry imported from		Percentage of day-old chicks imported from	
	Guangdong	Shenzhen	Hainan	Guangdong	Zhuhai	Guangdong	Zhuhai
2016	0	0	100	42	58	70	30
2017	-	-	-	47	53	88	12
2018	-	-	-	-	-	94	6

- (g) The revised estimate for the expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) incurred on CSWTWPM in this area of work in 2018-19 is \$18.1 million and the manpower involved is 18 staff. The resources earmarked for 2019-20 are at a similar level as for 2018-19.

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

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is responsible for inspection of imported food poultry and carries out routine AI surveillance at CSWTWPM. Seven staff in FEHD are involved in AI surveillance at CSWTWPM in 2018-19. FEHD's revised expenditure in 2018-19 and the estimate for 2019-20 for AI surveillance are \$1.7 million and \$2.0 million respectively.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)057**

**(Question Serial No. 0961)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What are the details of strengthening measures for stray animals management? What are the additional expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department implements various measures to strengthen the management of stray animals. These include:

- (a) actively promoting the serious responsibility and commitment that go with pet keeping, through public education and publicity programmes to disseminate messages on proper care of animals and responsible pet ownership;
- (b) enhancing enforcement against pet owners in contravention of relevant legislation;
- (c) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to, animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in the re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management; and
- (d) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities.

In 2019-20, we have earmarked \$38.3 million and 195 staff for this area of work.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)058****(Question Serial No. 0962)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the grant of subvention to animal welfare organisations, please set out respectively the name of each animal welfare organisation with subvention granted and the amounts of subvention that they have been granted in each year from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

The requested information is tabulated below:

(a) Subvention to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) (applied for in 2016-17 and released in 2017-18)

	<b>AWO</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	84,602
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	100,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	45,120
5	Hong Kong Cats	18,300
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	46,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	28,000
8	Society for Abandoned Animals	42,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>494,022</b>

(b) Subvention to AWOs (applied for in 2017-18 and released in 2018-19)

	<b>AWO</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	83,329
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	82,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	47,960
5	Sai Kung Stray Friends	48,000
6	Cheung Chau Animal Care	28,000
7	Hong Kong Cats	16,522
8	Hong Kong Paws Guardian	0*
9	Kirsten's Zoo	45,000
10	Animal Friends	45,000
11	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	45,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>570,811</b>

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

(c) Subvention to AWOs (applied for and approved in 2018-19)<sup>#</sup>

	<b>AWO</b>	<b>Amount approved (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	120,000
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	250,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	120,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	120,000
5	Sai Kung Stray Friends	150,000
6	Cheung Chau Animal Care	53,500
7	Hong Kong Cats	10,000
8	Society for Abandoned Animals	120,000
9	Kirsten's Zoo	120,000
10	Animal Friends	150,000
11	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	50,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,263,500</b>

<sup>#</sup> The amount of subvention will be released in 2019-20.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)059****(Question Serial No. 0307)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding animal euthanasia, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the actual expenditures and breakdown (e.g. the expenditures on the procurement of medical equipment, administration fees, etc.) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 financial years?
- (b) What were the numbers of animal cases handled by AFCD over the past 3 years?

Year	Stray animals caught			Animals abandoned by owners			Animals received through other channels			Animals reclaimed by owners			Animals re-homed			Animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others
2016																		
2017																		
2018																		

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on catching stray animals and euthanasia of animals over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:



<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure on catching operations (\$ million)</b>	<b>Expenditure on euthanasia of animals (\$ million)</b>
2016-17	28.5	0.9
2017-18	28.7	1.0
2018-19 (revised estimate)	32.1	1.3

AFCD does not have further breakdown of the above expenditure items.

- (b) The number and species of animals handled by AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated at the **Annex**.

- End -

## Annex

Calendar year	Stray animals caught			Animals given up by owners			Animals received through other channels			Animals reclaimed by owners			Animals re-homed			Animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2016	1 919	876	1 494	1 003	107	56	343	70	674	637	400	1	513	136	92	1 814	449	748
2017	1 566	674	1 640	1 024	84	39	336	65	204	560	269	10	588	67	94	1 478	381	801
2018	1 235	547	1 369	715	80	43	304	62	4 904 <sup>#</sup>	512	206	9	577	89	87	1 026	333	5 007 <sup>#</sup>

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

<sup>#</sup> The increased numbers were mainly due to more animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and birds seized and culled due to detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)060**

**(Question Serial No. 1431)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In 2018-19, what initiatives did the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department undertake to strengthen the management of stray animals and promote animal welfare? What was the actual expenditure involved in the said work?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 50)

Reply:

In 2018-19, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) took various measures to safeguard and promote animal welfare. These include:

- (a) conducting a review on the existing legislation and overseas experience related to animal welfare, with a view to drawing up proposals for public consultation;
- (b) enhancing public education and publicity programme to promote responsible pet ownership and proper care of animals, advise against the abandonment and needless surrendering of pets, and champion the need for dog licensing and rabies vaccination as well as the benefits of neutering;
- (c) implementing the licensing regime under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) (the Regulations) to regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale;
- (d) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals;
- (e) enhancing enforcement against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant legislation;

- (f) improving the handling of reports or complaints on cruelty to animals through the inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong);
- (g) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management; and
- (h) implementing the long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with the relevant AWOs and local communities.

In 2018-19, the revised estimate for the management of stray animals and promotion of animal welfare is \$68.8 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)061**

**(Question Serial No. 0798)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses  
Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets  
Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the implementation of the New Agriculture Policy to proactively support the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture, including preparing for the establishment of the Agricultural Park and overseeing the consultancy study on designating agricultural priority areas,

- (a) Please advise on the work target in 2019-2020 and the timeframe for implementing such work.
- (b) Please set out the progress, manpower involved and estimated expenditure on preparing for the establishment of the Agricultural Park.
- (c) Please set out the manpower and estimated expenditure involved in overseeing the consultancy study on designating agricultural priority areas and provide the details of the work.
- (d) What is the number of farmers benefited under the New Agriculture Policy?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 47)

Reply:

- (a) to (c) We have been implementing the New Agriculture Policy (NAP) since 2016 to promote the modernisation and sustainable development of the local agricultural sector. We will establish an Agricultural Park (Agri-Park) in Kwu Tung South to help nurture agro-technology and knowledge on modern farm management. The Agri-Park will be developed in 2 phases. Phase 1 will be developed in a relatively small scale (about 11 hectares) with a view to enabling its partial commissioning for use by farmers as early as possible. We plan to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee (FC) in the first half of 2019, with a view to commencing the construction works in the fourth quarter of 2019.

To ensure that sufficient land will be available to meet the needs of the agricultural sector, a consultancy study is being conducted to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land as Agricultural Priority Areas, and explore suitable policies and measures to encourage owners to put currently fallow land into long-term agricultural use by crop and livestock farmers. The consultant is currently reviewing the existing farmland in Hong Kong and studying overseas experience, before making recommendations. Given that a considerable amount of agricultural land is involved in the study, it is estimated that the study may take several years to complete.

Subject to approval of FC and the progress of subsequent project works, the construction works of the Agri-Park Phase 1 is expected to be completed in 2021. We are in parallel planning for the Agri-Park Phase 2. In 2019-20, 12 staff (in addition to their other on-going duties) and \$10.1 million have been earmarked for the above tasks in 2019-20.

- (d) About 4 300 crop and livestock farmers would benefit under NAP.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)062**

**(Question Serial No. 1832)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding stray cattle management measures, would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) What are the manpower and expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (the Department) for handling stray cattle in 2019-20?
- (b) What are the respective current numbers of stray cattle in each district?
- (c) I enquired about the statistics of new-born calves last year but received a reply that such statistics were not available. In this regard, how does the Department determine the success rate of feeding cattle contraceptives under the pharmacological sterilisation programme, and what are the details?
- (d) What were the numbers of stray cattle died/ethanised due to accidents or diseases over the past 3 years?
- (e) It is learnt that the land used by the Department for accommodating the cattle in need has been resumed and allocated for other purposes. Would the Government allocate other land to avoid further trimming the already-insufficient initiatives for stray cattle management?
- (f) Would the Government launch any new plan or undertake any new initiative for stray cattle?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

- (a) In 2019-20, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has earmarked \$3.6 million and 7 staff for the management of stray cattle.
- (b) According to a territory-wide population survey on stray cattle conducted in 2018, there were around 1 140 stray cattle in the rural areas of Hong Kong. The estimated number of stray cattle and their distribution are tabulated as follows:

	Estimated number of stray cattle (heads)				
	Lantau Island	Sai Kung / Ma On Shan	North East New Territories	Central New Territories	Total
Buffalo	120	0	0	40	160
Brown cattle	170	400	260	150	980
<b>Total</b>	290	400	260	190	1 140

- (c) AFCD has been studying the feasibility of sterilising cattle chemically with the use of a contraceptive drug called Gonacon. Effectiveness of the drug would be evaluated by checking antibody titers of treated animals and whether they are pregnant. The first phase, involving the testing of drug in captive brown cattle, was completed in 2014. The results indicated that the drug yielded a success rate of approximately 70% in rendering infertility in brown cattle without any adverse effect. Phases 2, 3 and 4 of the study involved free-roaming brown cattle and buffalo. A total of 172 brown cattle and buffalo have been involved in the study so far. Similar result as in Phase 1 was yielded for brown cattle in Phases 2 and 3. However, efficacy of Gonacon on buffaloes seems to be insignificant. The longevity and the efficacy of Gonacon on stray cattle will continue to be monitored in Phase 4.
- (d) The number of cases involving sick/injured cattle and the number of cattle euthanised due to sickness or injury over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of cases involving Injured / sick cattle <sup>#</sup>	Number of cattle euthanised
2016	118	51
2017	151	26
2018	250	39

<sup>#</sup> A case may involve more than one cattle. The same animal may be involved in more than one case.

AFCD does not have the number of cattle which died due to accidents.

- (e) No cattle management premises of AFCD have recently been resumed and allocated for other purposes.
- (f) AFCD will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach for managing stray cattle including the “Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation” programme.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)063****(Question Serial No. 1851)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the promotion of animal welfare, would the Government advise on the following:

- (a) Please list the numbers of cats, dogs and other animals received by the Animal Management Centre (AMC) by sources of animals over the past 3 years in the table below:

Year	Caught	Handed to AMC by the owner	Seized during inspection/enforcement action	Other sources

- (b) Further to the above question, what were the respective numbers of the received animals being rehomed, euthanised and handled by other methods?
- (c) What were the numbers of prosecutions regarding abandoned animals over the past 3 years?
- (d) What were the numbers of cases received and the numbers of prosecutions regarding animal cruelty over the past 3 years?
- (e) Will the Department have any plan and action against the low prosecution rate and lenient penalties regarding animal cruelty?
- (f) The Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme for stray dogs in Yuen Long and Cheung Chau has come to an end. Will the Department launch similar trial programme or regularise the aforementioned programme? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

- (a) Information on the number of animals received by the Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (AFCD) by source over the past 3 years is tabulated below.

Cats

Calendar year	Stray cats caught	Cats given up by owners	Cats seized during inspection / enforcement action	Cats received through other channels
2016	876	107	3	67
2017	674	84	3	62
2018	547	80	3	59

Dogs

Calendar year	Stray dogs caught	Dogs given up by owners	Dogs seized during inspection / enforcement action	Dogs received through other channels
2016	1 919	1 003	17	326
2017	1 566	1 024	61	275
2018	1 235	715	57	247

Other animals\*

Calendar year	Stray animals caught	Animals given up by owners	Animals seized during inspection / enforcement action
2016	1 494	56	674
2017	1 640	39	204
2018	1 369	43	4 904 <sup>#</sup>

\* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs / cattle, poultry / birds, etc. No such animal is received through other channels.

<sup>#</sup> The increased numbers were mainly due to more animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and birds seized and culled upon detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

- (b) Information on the number of animals received by AMCs which have been reclaimed, euthanised and rehomed over the past 3 years is tabulated below.

Cats

Calendar year	Reclaimed	Rehomed	Euthanised
2016	400	136	449
2017	269	67	381
2018	206	89	333

Dogs

Calendar year	Reclaimed	Rehomed	Euthanised
2016	637	513	1 814
2017	560	588	1 478
2018	512	577	1 026

Other animals<sup>\*</sup>

Calendar year	Reclaimed	Rehomed	Euthanised
2016	1	92	748
2017	10	94	801
2018	9	87	5 007 <sup>#</sup>

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

<sup>#</sup> The increased numbers were mainly due to more animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and birds seized and culled upon detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

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

Information on the number of convictions under Section 23 of the Ordinance over the past 3 years and the relevant penalties is tabulated below.

Calendar year	Prosecution against improper control of dogs	
	Number of convicted cases	Heaviest penalty imposed
2016	174	A fine of \$4,000
2017	192	A fine of \$2,000
2018	140	A fine of \$1,500

- (d) The number of successful prosecutions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) and the relevant penalties over the past 3 years are tabulated below.

Calendar year	Number of convicted defendants	Penalties imposed	
		Fine (\$) <sup>*</sup>	Range of imprisonment
2016	11	5,000	28 days to 6 months
2017	24	4,000	7 days to 1 year
2018 (up to September)	12	6,000	14 days to 1 year

<sup>\*</sup> Only 1 case in all the 3 calendar years involved a penalty of fine only.

- (e) Upon receiving reports of suspected animal cruelty cases, the Police and / or AFCD will conduct investigations. Prosecutions will be instituted if there is sufficient evidence. The presumption of innocence is the fundamental principle of the common law system and the prosecution has the burden of proof beyond reasonable doubt that

the defendant is guilty of the offence charged. Over the years, AFCD and the Police have been working closely with animal welfare organisations to combat animal cruelty cases through intelligence gathering and investigation. The Police has set up dedicated investigation teams, comprising police officers with criminal investigation experience and skills in handling other serious crimes, in 22 police districts across the territory since April 2018. Furthermore, the Government will keep in view the level of penalty handed down by the court for the purpose of considering whether we should seek a review of the sentence in respect of the charge of “cruelty to animals”.

In addition, having reviewed overseas legislation on animal welfare, and considered views of members of the Legislative Council, animal welfare organisations and other stakeholders, we aim to launch a 3-month public consultation exercise in mid-2019 on proposals to enhance animal welfare. Our key proposals will include raising the penalties for acts of cruelty to animals to increase the deterrent effect and introducing keepers’ responsibility of positive duty of care of animals. We will draw up legislative proposals after taking into account views gathered in the public consultation.

- (f) Although the 3-year trial programme has been completed, the 2 concerned animal welfare organisations (AWOs) have agreed to continue to monitor the situation, and provide us with the information on changes of the population and the average lifespan of these dogs in the coming years.

While the trial programme did not achieve the predetermined performance targets, AFCD keeps an open mind towards rendering assistance to AWOs in conducting similar programmes in other specific locations. To this end, AFCD issued letters to AWOs inviting their views on sites that may be suitable for conducting the Trap-Neuter-Return programme in November 2018. The letter is also available on our thematic website ([www.pets.gov.hk](http://www.pets.gov.hk)). We will consider a range of factors, including population density, community facilities in the vicinity, and traffic condition, in order to determine if a specific location is suitable for conducting such a programme. If a location is found suitable, AFCD will facilitate the liaison between the coordinating AWOs and the District Councils concerned as well as the local stakeholders in order to introduce the programme, with a view to enlisting their support, and seeking approval from the Legislative Council for the relevant legislative exemption.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)064**

**(Question Serial No. 2357)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Regarding the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance, what were the details of work and the expenditures involved over the past 5 years and that expected in the financial year 2019-20?
- (b) Regarding the protection of animal rights, what were the details of work and the expenditures involved over the past 5 years and that expected in the financial year 2019-20?
- (c) Regarding the enactment of the Animal Welfare Act, when will the Government consult the public and submit the Bill to the Legislative Council?
- (d) Will the Government consider extending the coverage of the Animal Welfare Act to community animals?
- (e) Please set out by year the numbers of suspected animal cruelty complaints, the total number of animal cruelty cases, the numbers of cases detected, the types and numbers of animals involved in the cases, the numbers of persons arrested, the numbers of persons convicted and their respective penalties (amounts of fine and terms of imprisonment) over the past 5 years.
- (f) Apart from the enactment of the Animal Welfare Act, for the promotion of harmony between humans and animals and transformation of Hong Kong into an animal-friendly and civilised city, will the Government take a step further, from the conservation perspective instead of the perspectives of food safety and environmental hygiene in treating community animals, by transferring the animal rights and welfare issues which is under the policy area of the Food and Health Bureau to the Environment Bureau (ENB) to enable ENB to devise policies on the protection of biodiversity, conservation and sustainable development? If yes, what are the details and the timeframe involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

- (a) Upon receiving reports of suspected animal cruelty cases, the Police and / or the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will conduct investigation. Prosecution will be initiated if there is sufficient evidence.

The expenditure of AFCD involved in the above work over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure in 2019-20 are tabulated as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$million)</b>
2014-15	2.0
2015-16	2.6
2016-17	2.9
2017-18	3.0
2018-19 (revised estimate)	3.2
2019-20 (estimate)	3.2

- (b) AFCD implements the following measures to safeguard and promote animal welfare:
- (i) conducting a review on the existing legislation and overseas experience related to animal welfare, with a view to drawing up proposals for public consultation;
  - (ii) enhancing public education and publicity programme to promote responsible pet ownership and proper care of animals, advise against the abandonment and needless surrendering of pets, and champion the need for dog licensing and rabies vaccination as well as the benefits of neutering;
  - (iii) implementing the licensing regime under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) (the Regulations) to regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale;
  - (iv) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals;
  - (v) enhancing enforcement against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant legislation;
  - (vi) improving the handling of reports or complaints on cruelty to animals through the inter-departmental special working group comprising

representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong);

- (vii) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management; and
- (viii) implementing the long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with the relevant AWOs and local communities.

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

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of staff)</b>
2014-15	52.1	189
2015-16	50.5	194
2016-17	53.7	207
2017-18	60.3	216
2018-19 (revised estimate)	68.8	217

In 2019-20, \$66.6 million and 217 staff have been earmarked for the above work.

- (c) to (d) Having reviewed overseas legislation on animal welfare, and considered views of members of the Legislative Council, AWOs and other stakeholders, we aim to launch a 3-month public consultation exercise in mid-2019 on proposals to enhance animal welfare. Our key proposals will include raising the penalties for acts of cruelty to animals and introducing keepers' responsibility of positive duty of care of animals. Details about the proposals will be available in the document for the consultation. We will draw up legislative proposals after taking into account views gathered in the public consultation.
- (e) The number of suspected animal cruelty reports received by the Police and AFCD over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of suspected animal cruelty reports</b>
2014	237
2015	236
2016	262
2017	275
2018	368

Upon investigation, most of the cases were found to be related to nuisance with no elements of cruelty. The Government does not have the information on the types and numbers of animals involved in the cases.

The number of successful prosecutions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) (the Ordinance) and the relevant penalties over the past 5 years are as follows:

Calendar year	Number of convicted defendants	Penalties imposed	
		Fine (\$)	Range of imprisonment
2014	24	2,000 to 20,000	6 days to 16 months
2015	10	2,000*	14 days to 2 months
2016	11	5,000*	28 days to 6 months
2017	24	4,000*	7 days to 1 year
2018 (up to September)	12	6,000*	14 days to 1 year

\* Only 1 case in all the 4 calendar years involved a penalty of fine only.

- (f) In Hong Kong, matters related to animal welfare, conservation and biodiversity, etc. are governed by different ordinances. The Ordinance is the primary legislation for safeguarding animal welfare, which mainly relates to prohibiting and punishing acts of cruelty to animals, and imposing a duty of animal owners or keepers. On the other hand, the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) gives effect to the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in Hong Kong, which aims to ensure that, by means of effective inter-governmental efforts among the contracting parties, international trade would not affect the sustainable use of wild fauna and flora or render them becoming endangered or extinct. Animal welfare and the maintenance of biodiversity and conservation entail different considerations, and are under the purviews of the Food and Health Bureau and the Environment Bureau respectively. Currently, there is no plan to change the above policy division.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)065**

**(Question Serial No. 2358)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Please set out, by year, the Department's total expenditures involved in catching community animals, as well as a breakdown of all the expenditures under the grand total over the past 5 years and in the financial year 2019-20.
- (b) Please set out, by year, the Department's total expenditures involved in handling community animals, as well as a breakdown of all the expenditures under the grand total over the past 5 years and in the financial year 2019-20.
- (c) Please set out the current establishment of various ranks (including civil servants and outsourced staff) and the overall expenditures on salaries as well as the total expenditures and breakdown of all the expenditures under the grand total involved in (i) catching, (ii) rehoming and (iii) euthanising animals over the past 5 years and in the financial year 2019-20.
- (d) If the figures of all or part of the expenditures on the abovementioned items (i) to (iii) are not available, will the Department keep such figures starting from this year to enable the public to have a better understanding of the proper use of the public money involved?
- (e) What are the staff establishment and overall expenditures on salaries of the 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of the Department respectively?
- (f) What are the respective types and numbers of the animals given up by owners, caught by the Department or received through other channels over the past 5 years? What are the respective types and numbers of animals reclaimed, rehomed or euthanised over the past 5 years?
- (g) Will the Department replace killing with civilised practices by abolishing euthanasia?

- (h) Will the Department reallocate all the expenditure for carrying out euthanasia to opening the 4 AMCs for animal rehoming and/or the implementation of the Trap-Neuter-Return programme? If yes, what are the details of the scheme and the timeframe? If not, please provide specific justifications for such issue.
- (i) Will the Government request for additional provision in order to set up animal rehoming centres for promotion of rehoming instead of euthanasia?
- (j) Will the Government consider implementing the Trap-Neuter-Return programme in various districts of Hong Kong, in particular rural areas, redevelopment areas and development areas, with a view to controlling the population of community animals? If yes, what are the details of the scheme and the timeframe? If not, what are the reasons?
- (k) Will the Government consider setting up an inter-departmental dedicated team to devise long-term policy to protect all the rights of affected animals within the existing development areas (districts such as the North Eastern New Territories and Wang Chau) and the future development areas (districts such as the New Territories North, Yuen Long South and Kam Tin South), including assessing the impacts of development on community animals within the district and its surroundings, conducting a comprehensive survey of the animals within the district and devising animal rehoming plan etc. when formulating development plan?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

- (a) to (e) The expenditure and manpower of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in catching stray animals and handling stray animals caught over the past 5 years and earmarked for 2019-20 are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)			Manpower (number of staff)
	Catching stray animals	Handling stray animals caught Total (Breakdown for euthanasia of animals)	Total	
2014-15	28.9	3.6 (1.4)	<b>32.5</b>	175
2015-16	29.0	3.6 (1.4)	<b>32.6</b>	179
2016-17	28.5	3.4 (0.9)	<b>31.9</b>	187
2017-18	28.7	3.6 (1.0)	<b>32.3</b>	187
2018-19 (revised estimate)	32.1	4.0 (1.3)	<b>36.1</b>	188
2019-20 (estimate)	32.1	4.0 (1.3)	<b>36.1</b>	188

Since rehoming of animals is an integral part of AFCD's work on stray animal management, there is no separate breakdown of the expenditure involved.

The Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of AFCD are responsible for, among other duties, handling stray animals, including catching, rehoming and euthanising animals as necessary. The staff establishment of the 4 AMCs is tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Manpower in the 4 AMCs*		
	Veterinary Officer	Technical / Frontline staff	Outsourced staff
2018-19	4	184	25

\*The 4 AMCs are overseen by 1 Senior Veterinary Officer.

The 2018-19 revised estimate on the staff cost for the 4 AMCs is \$69.3 million.

- (f) The requested information is tabulated at the **Annex**.
- (g) to (i) Stray animals caught will be put in AMCs for observation. For those with a microchip implanted, AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in AMCs for about 10 to 20 days. AMCs will keep the non-microchipped ones for at least 4 days to allow time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the animals being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary officer as having a gentle temperament and suitable for adoption, AFCD will arrange their transfer to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) for adoption by members of the public as far as possible.

On the other hand, some animals received by AMCs may be unsuitable for rehoming due to various reasons, including the risk of carrying zoonotic diseases, health or temperamental reasons. Even for healthy animals, keeping in captivity without rehoming for prolonged period is not in their best interest from the perspective of animal welfare. As such, euthanasia remains a necessary measure for managing stray animals. A number of international animal organisations, including the World Organisation for Animal Health, agree that in situations where the number of stray dogs caught remain high or the dogs are not fit for adoption despite the deployment of various stray dog management measures, euthanasia would be an appropriate solution. Many overseas countries, such as the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, Japan and Singapore, all adopt euthanasia in handling stray animals.

Nevertheless, AFCD will continue to strengthen its efforts on management of stray animals, such as the promotion of responsible pet ownership and animals rehoming as well as taking enforcement action against abandonment of animals by irresponsible owners, with a view to reducing the number of stray animals that need to be euthanised. Please also see (k) below regarding animal rehoming centres.

- (j) The 3-year Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme for stray dogs conducted at the 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long by 2 AWOs since early 2015 was completed in January 2018. While the trial programme did not achieve the predetermined performance targets, AFCD keeps an open mind towards rendering assistance to AWOs in conducting similar programmes in other specific locations. To this end, AFCD issued letters to AWOs inviting their views on sites that may be suitable for conducting the TNR programme in November 2018. The letter is also available on our thematic website ([www.pets.gov.hk](http://www.pets.gov.hk)). We will consider a range of factors, including population density, community facilities in the vicinity, and traffic condition, in order to determine if a specific location is suitable for conducting such a programme. If a location is found suitable, AFCD will facilitate the liaison between the coordinating AWOs and the District Councils concerned as well as the local stakeholders in order to introduce the programme, with a view to enlisting their support, and seeking approval from the Legislative Council for the relevant legislative exemption.
- (k) AFCD has been working closely with the relevant government departments to promote and appeal to residents affected by government development projects to make appropriate arrangements for their pets as early as practicable (such as transferring their pets to relatives or friends). Animal owners are also advised to approach AFCD for assistance in a timely manner so as to enable the department and AWOs to make early preparation for receiving their animals. AFCD will also proactively liaise with AWOs to try and arrange them to accommodate animals affected by the development projects and strengthen the work in animal neutering and adoption in the affected areas. Starting from 2019-20, AFCD's resources for subventing AWOs' work, including that of rehoming, will be increased. AFCD will provide assistance to AWOs which are interested in operating animal re-homing centres for animals affected by development projects. AWOs in need of premises running re-homing centres may consider the suitability of vacant government sites under the management of the Lands Department that are available for leasing by non-governmental organisations for community purposes on short-term basis. Non-profit making AWOs may also apply from a funding scheme run by the Development Bureau for subsidies to carry out one-off, basic and necessary restoration works so as to put the vacant government sites fit-for-use as re-homing centres. At the moment, the Government does not see the need for setting up an inter-departmental dedicated team to take forward the above tasks.

- End -

**Annex**

Calendar year	Stray animals caught			Animals given up by owners			Animals received through other channels			Animals reclaimed by owners			Animals re-homed			Animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2014	3 676	1 836	1 374	1 464	132	28	809	78	656	1 235	576	253	679	212	75	3 868	1 039	1 594
2015	2 412	1 359	1 418	1 284	129	109	378	73	3 590	774	626	11	651	168	83	2 421	696	3 469
2016	1 919	876	1 494	1 003	107	56	343	70	674	637	400	1	513	136	92	1 814	449	748
2017	1 566	674	1 640	1 024	84	39	336	65	204	560	269	10	588	67	94	1 478	381	801
2018	1 235	547	1 369	715	80	43	304	62	4 904 <sup>#</sup>	512	206	9	577	89	87	1 026	333	5 007 <sup>#</sup>

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

<sup>#</sup> The increased numbers were mainly due to more animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and birds seized and culled upon detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)066**

**(Question Serial No. 2359)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) What are the types and numbers of the existing animal traps kept by the Department? What is the total expenditure of procuring such animal traps?
- (b) It was mentioned in a reply letter from the Department to me that “the Department will carry out follow-up investigations as soon as complaints about nuisance caused by stray animals are received from the public”. There are many community animals in various districts in Hong Kong. It is a waste of public funds if the Department deploys staff to capture those animals once it receives complaints from the public without clarifying the situations. Would the Government advise on the following:
- (i) How is the “nuisance caused by stray animals” defined?
  - (ii) What are the specific procedures of the “follow-up investigations”? Will the genuineness and sources of the complaints be verified?
  - (iii) What are the conditions and criteria for the complaints to be substantiated and staff to be deployed to capture the animals?
  - (iv) How are the animals captured confirmed to be the community animals which have been complained to be causing “nuisance”?
  - (v) Has the Department provided guidelines, codes of practice or any other documents regarding capturing of community animals to the officers responsible for the capture operations for their reference? If yes, please provide the full text(s) of the relevant document(s). If not, would the Department consider compiling such a code of practice?
  - (vi) Have the staff capturing the animals received relevant training to prevent the animals from being injured during the capture operations?

- (c) It has been mentioned in the replies regarding the safety issues of animal traps from the Department over the years that all traps used by the Department have been specially designed or carefully selected and do not harm the animals. However, facts have proven otherwise. Taking the incident of the Department’s staff capturing a dog on the Lion Rock on 16 February this year, which has aroused grave concern from the public, as an example, the left front limb of the dog was apparently injured after being captured by the staff with an animal trap, as seen in a video clip on the internet. It was limping and was unable to stand firm. Making reference to overseas experiences, dog rescuers often use only long ropes instead of animal traps to capture dogs in order to avoid injuring them. Would the Department consider ceasing the use of animal traps to avoid causing unnecessary harm to animals?
- (d) What were the respective types and numbers of animals captured due to “nuisance caused by stray animals” out of the community animals captured by the Department over the past 5 years? What are the ratios of such numbers to the total numbers of community animals captured by the Department in the respective years?
- (e) Apart from “nuisance caused by stray animals”, has the Department deployed staff to capture community animals for other reasons? If yes, please set out the types and numbers of animals captured for such reasons over each of the past 5 years as well as the ratios of such numbers to the total numbers of community animals captured by the Department in the respective years.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on purchasing and maintaining animal traps over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2014-15	0.32
2015-16	0.08
2016-17	0.07
2017-18	0.02
2018-19 (revised estimate)	0.03

At present, AFCD has a total of 188 cage traps for catching dogs and cats, 56 snares for catching dogs, 40 cage traps for catching feral pigeons, 12 snares and 54 cage traps for catching monkeys, and 4 cage traps for catching wild pigs<sup>Note</sup>.

Note: The management of wild animals fall under the policy purview of the Environment Bureau.

- (b) Animal owners should take proper care of their animals and should not allow the animals to roam around public places at large without control. Nuisance caused by stray animals may include environmental hygiene problems, noise as well as threats to public safety and public health such as biting and attacking humans, which may in turn lead to spreading of rabies and other zoonotic diseases. Therefore, it is necessary to handle complaints about nuisance caused by stray animals promptly and effectively.

In general, upon receipt of complaints or reports from members of the public regarding nuisance caused by stray animals (mostly dogs and cats), AFCD will conduct inspections to the areas concerned to investigate if there are any stray animals causing nuisance and take follow-up actions including catching operations.

AFCD staff responsible for catching stray animals are all trained for using different types of animal catching tools and handling the animals caught. The operational guidelines that the staff should follow are summarised at the **Annex**.

- (c) All the animal traps including snares and cage traps used by AFCD are specially designed or carefully selected to ensure that they are safe to use on animals. They are widely recognised and used in other countries for catching stray animals. In addition, all the catching operations using animal traps are carried out by trained staff who will take necessary precautionary measures to prevent animals from injury during the process. For instance, when snares are used for catching stray animals, notices at conspicuous places will be put up and the affected area will be fenced off with warning tapes. AFCD staff will ensure that no passers-by or other animals will come close. Once a stray animal is caught, it will be transferred to a cage with the snare immediately loosened, and delivered to an Animal Management Centre (AMC) for observation and follow-up actions.

During the catching operation conducted by AFCD on the Lion Rock on 16 February 2019, it was necessary to use snares to lure and catch stray dogs as the site involved a vast area and the landform did not allow the use of catching poles. A stray dog was caught by a snare deployed. Upon examination of the dog after delivery to AMC, no injury to the dog due to its capture by the snare was found.

AFCD has no plan to stop using snares for catching stray animals.

- (d) and (e) Most of the stray animals are caught in relation to nuisance complaints. The types and number of stray animals caught over the past 5 years are tabulated below.

Calendar year	Stray animals caught			
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Total
2014	3 676	1 836	1 374	6 886



Calendar year	Stray animals caught			
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Total
2015	2 412	1 359	1 418	5 189
2016	1 919	876	1 494	4 289
2017	1 566	674	1 640	3 880
2018	1 235	547	1 369	3 151

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

- End -

**Guidelines on Handling and Catching Stray Animals (Summary)**

Staff safety always comes first. Pay attention to the surrounding environment, for example: the appearance along the road, any highway or hill slope nearby, etc. Do not catch the animal if it is wandering in a place which is inaccessible or may pose danger to staff safety. Remind staff to wear reflective vest where necessary.

Choose appropriate catching tools and protective gears

- (a) bamboo pole with rattan loop (dog catching pole)
- (b) net (for puppies / cats)
- (c) snare

Before setting off, the team leader must ensure that adequate manpower be made available to provide assistance and support. The equipment must be checked for defects or malfunctions.

Catch the animal with the necessary equipment in a humane manner. Once caught, the animal shall be put into the cage and transported back to the Animal Management Centre. Veterinary officer must be informed of any ill or injured animal situation.

Under exceptional circumstances, for example, if the cage is inaccessible to the place where the animal was caught, staff may use the dog catching pole to lead the animal to the cage. However, dragging of the animal shall be avoided.

If interference were encountered during the operation, immediate advice to relevant persons should be given. Police assistance should be sought if necessary.

Any missing equipment must be recorded, and promptly investigated and reported to supervisors.

Inform the Duty Officer or supervisors if there was any issue requiring special concern or follow up which happened during the catching operation.

Each operation must be carried out under a team leader who must ensure compliance. The team leader should seek supervisor's advice when in doubt.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)067**

**(Question Serial No. 2361)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Please set out, by year, the Department's total expenditures involved in dealing with community cattle, as well as a breakdown of all the expenditures under the grand total over the past 5 years and in the financial year 2019-20.
- (b) Please set out the current establishment of various ranks in the Cattle Management Team, and provide, by year, an exhaustive breakdown of all of the Department's expenditures involved in the "Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation" programme (the programme), including expenditures involved in handling public complaints, the purchase of medicines, capturing stray cattle, conception control/sterilisation for stray cattle, relocation operation, total staff cost, and administrative expenses, etc. over the past 5 years and in the financial year 2019-20.
- (c) Please set out, by year and with an exhaustive account, the breakdown statistics related to the programme, including the numbers of complaints/reports related to cattle, numbers of operations, numbers of cattle caught and the districts where they were caught, numbers of cattle that have received contraceptive vaccines, numbers of sterilised cattle, numbers of relocated cattle, numbers of injured/sick cattle, and numbers of euthanised cattle over the past 5 years.
- (d) What are the latest estimated numbers of community cattle and buffaloes in each district?
- (e) How would the Department evaluate on the effectiveness of the programme?
- (f) Please set out, by year and district, the frequencies for the Department to deploy staff to the relocated site for site visit and monitoring the health condition of cattle over the past 5 years.

- (g) The Department indicated that they would collaborate with the animal welfare organisations and local communities to implement the long-term strategy of community cattle management. What are the details of the strategy and estimated expenditures involved?
- (h) It is mentioned under the “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019-20” that strengthening the measures for stray animals management would be one of the major initiatives that the Department would focus on in the coming year. What are the details of the measures and the estimated expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) The expenditure and manpower involved in stray cattle management (including the “Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation” (CSR programme)) over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure and manpower for such work in 2019-20 are tabulated below.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of staff)</b>
2014-15	6.7	8
2015-16	3.0	6
2016-17	3.2	6
2017-18	3.5	7
2018-19 (revised estimate)	6.2	7
2019-20 (estimate)	3.6	7

Currently, the Cattle Management Team (CMT) under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has an establishment of 7 posts comprising 1 Veterinary Officer, 2 Field Officer II, 3 Field Assistant, and 1 Motor Driver posts.

The expenditure on the CSR programme over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure in 2019-20 are tabulated as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2014-15	4.7
2015-16	2.3
2016-17	2.4
2017-18	2.7
2018-19 (revised estimate)	3.7
2019-20 (estimate)	2.2

AFCD does not have further breakdown of the above expenditure items.

- (c) The number of cattle nuisance complaints received by district over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

District/ Calendar year	Number				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Lantau Island	76	71	91	39	30
Sai Kung	12	13	11	10	9
Northeast and Central New Territories	25	19	22	14	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>82</b>

AFCD has been studying the feasibility of sterilising cattle chemically with the use of a contraceptive drug called Gonacon in parallel with the CSR programme. A total of 172 cattle have been involved in the study so far.

The number of cattle handled under the CSR programme over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Captured <sup>^</sup> (heads)	Sterilised (heads)	Relocated / Returned <sup>^</sup> (heads)
2014	94	54	60
2015	88	16	70
2016	114	64	69
2017	105	43	72
2018	128	105	80

<sup>^</sup> Figures include repeated capture and relocation / return of the same cattle.

The number of cattle caught by district is tabulated as follows:

District/Calendar year	Number of cattle caught				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Lantau Island	43	21	33	24	27
Sai Kung	42	50	51	49	42
Northeast and Central New Territories	9	17	30	32	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>128</b>

The number of cases involving sick / injured cattle and the number of cattle euthanised due to sickness or injury over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of cases involving injured/sick cattle <sup>#</sup>	Number of cattle euthanised
2014	170	49
2015	112	18
2016	118	51
2017	151	26
2018	250	39

# A case may involve more than one cattle. The same animal may be involved in more than one case. AFCD does not have figures on the number of injured/sick cattle.

- (d) According to a territory-wide population survey on stray cattle conducted in 2018, there were around 1 140 stray cattle in the rural areas of Hong Kong. The estimated number of stray cattle and their distribution are tabulated as follows:

Species	Estimated number of stray cattle (heads)				
	Lantau Island	Sai Kung/ Ma On Shan	North East New Territories	Central New Territories	Total
Buffalo	120	0	0	40	160
Brown cattle	170	400	260	150	980
<b>Total</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>1 140</b>

- (e) AFCD would assess the effectiveness of the CSR programme based a number of factors, including the number of complaints against nuisance caused by stray cattle received, the number of cattle sterilised, and the number of cattle staying in the relocated sites.
- (f) Inspections of relocated stray cattle are conducted by AFCD around 3 times a week, amounting to at least 200 inspections annually for Sai Kung and Lantau Island where CSR is implemented.
- (g) and (h) AFCD will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach for managing stray cattle including the CSR programme. AFCD will continue to identify suitable sites for the relocation of cattle and engage stakeholders (including rural committees concerned and cattle concern groups) with a view to exploring how the stray cattle management measures could be strengthened in various districts. As mentioned in part (a) and (b) above, in 2019-20, AFCD has earmarked \$3.6 million for the management of stray cattle.

In 2019-20, AFCD will continue to take various measures to strengthen the management of stray animals. These include:

- (i) actively promoting the serious responsibility and commitment that go with pet keeping, through public education and publicity programmes to disseminate messages on proper care of animals and responsible pet ownership;
- (ii) enhancing enforcement against pet owners in contravention of relevant legislation;
- (iii) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to, animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management; and

- (iv) implementing the long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities.

In 2019-20, AFCD has earmarked \$38.3 million for the above area of work.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)068**

**(Question Serial No. 2365)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) The Government will increase the block vote estimate of subventions for animal welfare organisations (AWOs) under the Operating Account from \$600,000 to \$1.5 million in the financial year 2019-20. What are the reasons for increasing the said subventions? How would the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (the Department) utilise and allocate the additional block vote estimate?
- (b) The Government has been granting subventions to AWOs since 2013. Please set out by year and with an exhaustive breakdown the names of the organisations that have submitted applications to the Department, the projects and amounts of subventions applied for, the application results and the amounts of subventions granted, etc. since the inception of the scheme.
- (c) Among the AWOs having been granted subventions, is there any organisation that has been granted more than once? If yes, please set out the name(s) of the organisation(s), year(s) of application, the project(s) and amount(s) of subvention(s) applied for and the amount(s) of subvention(s) granted.
- (d) In the financial year 2019-20, the Government will allocate \$1 million for supporting the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden to carry out a rehabilitation programme for wild animals in Hong Kong. What are the details of the programme and expenditures involved? Would the Government regularise such funding support?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been collaborating with animal welfare organisations (AWOs) to enhance animal



welfare and promote better animal management. Recognising that most AWOs are non-profit making with limited resources, the Government has since 2011 been providing subvention to these AWOs in supporting their work as long as resources permit. As the number of applications for subvention and the total amount applied continue to increase, and the subvention has been able to strengthen AWOs' capacity in animal welfare work, after reviewing the needs of AWOs and the resources implications, we have increased the subvention with effect from 2019-20 with a view to enhancing our support to AWOs. The increased subvention amount will apply to projects approved in 2018-19, with disbursements to be made in 2019-20.

The eligibility criteria for application for subvention remain unchanged and are set out in **Annex 1**. Only applicants that fulfil the criteria and with applications that are project-based and directly related to the promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management will be considered by AFCD. When vetting applications, AFCD will assess –

- (i) the objective(s) and expected result(s) of the proposed project;
- (ii) cost-effectiveness of the project; and
- (iii) the reasonableness of the proposed expenditure.

(b) & (c) Details of projects under application as well as the amounts of subvention applied for and given to different AWOs over the past 5 years are set out in **Annex 2**. Information on the organisations receiving subvention more than once over the past 5 years is in **Annex 3**.

(d) The Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG) has been assisting the Government in rescuing and rehabilitating wild animals in Hong Kong. As these activities are conducive to the conservation of wild animals, starting from 2019-20, the Government will earmark \$1 million each year for KFBG to apply for funding to support part of the operating expenses of its wild animal rehabilitation programmes. AFCD will invite KGBG to submit an application and liaise with them with a view to formulating funding terms and performance indicators for the wild animal rehabilitation programmes to ensure the proper use of public funds.

- End -

**Eligibility criteria for application for subvention**

- (1) The organisation must be:
  - (i) a society as defined by section 2(1) of the Societies Ordinance (Cap. 151) and registered under section 5A(1) of that Ordinance;
  - (ii) a company registered under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622) (or Cap. 32 as in force at the time of the registration); or
  - (iii) a body of persons, or charity, as defined by section 2(1) of the Registered Trustees Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 306) which has been granted a certificate of incorporation under section 4(1) of that Ordinance.
- (2) The organisation must also be a charitable institution or trust of a public character that is exempt from tax under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) (re-homing partners of AFCD who did not have charitable status when joining the scheme prior to March 2017 are exempted from this requirement).
- (3) The core services and activities of the organisation must be related to promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management and it must be actively engaged in such services/activities over the past 3 years or more (re-homing partners of AFCD are exempted from the 3-year requirement).
- (4) The organisation must be well-managed and properly constituted with good record keeping and accounting systems.
- (5) Organisations charging an adoption or re-homing fee must possess an exemption from holding an animal trader licence under section 5A of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B). For re-homing partners without charitable status, at least one individual acting on behalf of the organisation must possess the individual exemption.

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

	<b>AWOs</b>	<b>Projects under application</b>	<b>Amount sought (\$)</b>	<b>Amount approved (\$)</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To operate an adoption centre and conduct animal welfare projects	160,000	90,000	76,679
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To conduct an adult dog rehome scheme	224,000	150,000	150,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To purchase medications and feeds for rehoming animals and conduct publicity and education programmes	1,808,000	120,000	120,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To conduct education programmes and provide medical treatment for rabbits	135,000	49,000	48,181
5	Hong Kong Rescue Puppies	To produce a publicity booklet entitled "Responsible Pet Ownership" and conduct a rehome scheme	185,232	40,000	0*
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To conduct various animal management programmes	227,000	45,000	45,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To conduct education, publicity, rescue and adoption programmes	80,000	30,000	30,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>2,819,232</b>	<b>524,000</b>	<b>469,860</b>

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

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

	<b>AWOs</b>	<b>Projects under application</b>	<b>Amount sought (\$)</b>	<b>Amount approved (\$)</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To conduct adoption promotion programmes, produce educational materials and further improve the Foundation's website	180,000	80,000	73,934
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To operate an adult dog rehome scheme	204,000	125,000	125,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming animals	1,571,000	100,000	100,000
4	Society for Abandoned Animals (SAA)	To conduct various education programmes	388,155	40,000	38,591
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick or injured rabbits	129,000	45,000	41,620
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	235,000	45,000	45,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	28,000	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	To conduct adoption promotion programmes, produce educational materials and further improve the organisation's website	54,000	24,000	16,365
9	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) (SPCA)	To conduct an Animal Caring Ambassador Programme	200,000	45,000	44,854
<b>Total</b>			<b>3,041,155</b>	<b>532,000</b>	<b>513,364</b>

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

	<b>AWOs</b>	<b>Projects under application</b>	<b>Amount sought (\$)</b>	<b>Amount approved (\$)</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programmes	120,000	85,000	84,602
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide vaccination and food for rehoming animals	218,400	130,000	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To provide preventive medical treatment for rehoming animals	1,962,000	100,000	100,000
4	SAA	To produce educational materials for promoting animal welfare and responsible pet ownership	53,040	42,000	42,000
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	62,000	48,000	45,120
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide preventive medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	320,000	46,000	46,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	28,000	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	To promote adoption, produce educational materials and further improve the organisation website	40,500	21,000	18,300
9	Hong Kong Paws Guardian	To catch stray dogs for neutering, vaccination and treatment	120,000	0	-
10	Conservation of Earth and Animal Association	To purchase mobile surgical equipment for veterinary treatment and provide human counselling service	3,200,000	0	-
<b>Total</b>			<b>6,175,940</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>494,022</b>

**Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for and approved in 2017-18)**

	<b>AWOs</b>	<b>Projects under application</b>	<b>Amount sought (\$)</b>	<b>Amount approved (\$)</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programmes	140,000	85,000	83,329
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide preventive care and food for rehoming animals	324,000	130,000	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To enhance rehoming facilities	1,629,579	82,000	82,000
4	SPCA	To promotion animal welfare on public transport	210,000	0	-
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	60,000	48,000	47,960
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide preventive medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	400,150	48,000	48,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	28,000	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	To produce educational materials for promotion of animal welfare and adoption	24,700	20,500	16,522
9	Hong Kong Paws Guardian	To conduct education and publicity for responsible pet ownership	92,000	24,000	0*
10	Conservation of Earth and Animal Association	To conduct Animal ophthalmology project/ dental health plan/ purchase mobile medical vehicle	5,140,000	0	-
11	Kirsten's Zoo	To provide preventive care and food for rescued and rehomed animals	270,000	45,000	45,000
12	Animal Friends	To provide medical treatment for rehoming animals	250,000	45,000	45,000
13	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	To enhance public awareness on animal welfare and adoption	62,390	45,000	45,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>8,682,819</b>	<b>600,500</b>	<b>570,811</b>

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

**Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2017-18 and released in 2018-19)**

	<b>AWOs</b>	<b>Projects under application</b>	<b>Amount sought (\$)</b>	<b>Amount approved (\$)</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programmes	140,000	85,000	83,329
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide preventive care and food for rehoming animals	324,000	130,000	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To enhance rehoming facilities	1,629,579	82,000	82,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	60,000	48,000	47,960
5	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide preventive medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	400,150	48,000	48,000
6	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	28,000	28,000
7	Hong Kong Cats	To produce educational materials for promotion of animal welfare and adoption	24,700	20,500	16,522
8	Hong Kong Paws Guardian	To conduct education and publicity for responsible pet ownership	92,000	24,000	0*
9	Kirsten's Zoo	To provide preventive care and food for rescued and rehomed animals	270,000	45,000	45,000
10	Animal Friends	To provide medical treatment for rehoming animals	250,000	45,000	45,000
11	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	To enhance public awareness on animal welfare and adoption	62,390	45,000	45,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>3,332,819</b>	<b>600,500</b>	<b>570,811</b>

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

**List of AWOs receiving AFCD subvention funding more than once**

AWOs		Amount released in (\$)				
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	84,339	76,679	73,934	84,602	83,329
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	150,000	150,000	125,000	130,000	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	120,000	120,000	100,000	100,000	82,000
4	SAA	-	-	38,591	42,000	--
5	SPCA	13,200	-	44,854	-	--
6	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	44,835	48,181	41,620	45,120	47,960
7	Sai Kung Stray Friends	35,000	45,000	45,000	46,000	48,000
8	Cheung Chau Animal Care	-	30,000	28,000	28,000	28,000
9	Hong Kong Cats	-	-	16,365	18,300	16,522
10	Kirsten's Zoo	-	-	-	45,000	45,000
11	Animal Friends	-	-	-	45,000	45,000
12	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	-	-	-	45,000	45,000



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)069**

**(Question Serial No. 2225)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is mentioned under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019-20 that the Government would strengthen the promotion of animal welfare. What are the specific initiatives concerned? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 156)

Reply:

In 2019-20, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will take the following measures and initiatives to safeguard and promote animal welfare:

- (a) conducting a public consultation exercise on proposals to enhance animal welfare;
- (b) enhancing public education and publicity programme to promote responsible pet ownership and proper care of animals, advise against the abandonment and needless surrendering of pets, and champion the need for dog licensing and rabies vaccination as well as the benefits of neutering;
- (c) implementing the licensing regime under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B) to regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale;
- (d) devising more codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals;
- (e) enhancing enforcement against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant legislation;

- (f) improving the handling of reports or complaints on cruelty to animals through the inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong);
- (g) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to, animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management; and
- (h) continuing to implement the long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities.

In 2019-20, \$66.6 million and 217 staff have been earmarked for the above work.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)070**

**(Question Serial No. 2227)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the implementation of the Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme for stray dogs by the Government in the past, would the Government advise on the following:

- (a) What was the expenditure involved and its effectiveness?
- (b) What were details of the subvented programmes run by non-profit making animal welfare organisations? What was the number of subvented programmes and the expenditure involved? What is the expected number of subvented programmes in future and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 180)

Reply:

- (a) The 3-year Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs conducted at the 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long by 2 animal welfare organisations (AWOs) since early 2015 was completed in January 2018. The total expenditure involved from 2012-13 to 2017-18 was \$7 million. Although the 3-year trial programme has been completed, the 2 concerned AWOs have agreed to continue to monitor the number of dogs recorded for the trial programme, and provide us with the information on changes of the population and the average lifespan of these dogs in the coming years. We would make use of the data provided by the 2 AWOs for further assessment of the effectiveness of the programme.
- (b) The list of projects under application as well as the amount of subvention released / approved for release from 2015-16 / 2016-17 to 2018-19 / 2019-20 are in the **Annex**.

- End -

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

	<b>AWO</b>	<b>Projects under application</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To conduct adoption promotion programmes, produce educational materials and further improve the Foundation's website	73,934
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To operate an adult dog rehome scheme	125,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming animals	100,000
4	Society for Abandoned Animals (SAA)	To conduct various education programmes	38,591
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick or injured rabbits	41,620
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	45,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	To conduct adoption promotion programmes, produce educational materials and further improve the organisation's website	16,365
9	Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong)	To conduct an Animal Caring Ambassador Programme	44,854
<b>Total</b>			<b>513,364</b>

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

	<b>AWO</b>	<b>Projects under application</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programmes	84,602
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide vaccination and food for rehoming animals	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To provide preventive medical treatment for rehoming animals	100,000
4	SAA	To produce educational materials for promoting animal welfare and responsible pet ownership	42,000
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	45,120
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide preventive medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	46,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	To promote adoption, produce educational materials and further improve the organisation website	18,300
<b>Total</b>			<b>494,022</b>

**Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2017-18 and released in 2018-19)**

	<b>AWO</b>	<b>Projects under application</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programmes	83,329
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide preventive care and food for rehoming animals	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To enhance rehoming facilities	82,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	47,960
5	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide preventive medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	48,000
6	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	28,000
7	Hong Kong Cats	To produce educational materials for promotion of animal welfare and adoption	16,522
8	Hong Kong Paws Guardian	To conduct education and publicity for responsible pet ownership	0*
9	Kirsten's Zoo	To provide preventive care and food for rescued and rehomed animals	45,000
10	Animal Friends	To provide medical treatment for rehoming animals	45,000
11	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	To enhance public awareness on animal welfare and adoption	45,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>570,811</b>

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

**Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for and approved in 2018-19)\***

	<b>AWO</b>	<b>Projects under application</b>	<b>Amount approved (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programmes	120,000
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide preventive care and food for rehoming animals	250,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection	To run a “Buddy Programme” to educate children on responsible pet ownership and adoption	120,000
4	SAA	To renovate the animal centre	120,000
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	120,000
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	150,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	53,500
8	Hong Kong Cats	To produce educational materials for promotion of animal welfare and adoption	10,000
9	Kirsten’s Zoo	To provide preventive care and food for rescued and rehomed animals	120,000
10	Animal Friends	To provide medical treatment for rehoming animals	150,000
11	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	To enhance public awareness on animal welfare and adoption	50,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,263,500</b>

\*The amount of subvention will be released in 2019-20.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)071**

**(Question Serial No. 2237)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (609) Minor irrigation works in the New Territories (block vote)

Programme: (-) Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the subhead 609 "Minor irrigation works in the New Territories", would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the respective numbers of minor irrigation works in the New Territories that have been commenced or already been completed in 2018-19? Please tabulate the statistics by administrative districts.
- (b) What minor irrigation works are expected to be commenced in 2019-20? Please tabulate the information by administrative districts.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 170)

Reply:

- (a) The minor irrigation works projects in the New Territories (NT) under the purview of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) commenced or completed in 2018-19 are tabulated below.

<b>District</b>	<b>Project</b>
Various locations in NT and Lantau Island	Provision of water pumping services for irrigation, and minor repairs and maintenance of the existing irrigation facilities.
North	(a) Repairs of the aged irrigation pipeline at Hok Tau Wai, Fanling (Part 1); (b) Re-construction / repairs / clearing of concrete channel and pavement works at Tam Shui Hang,



District	Project
	Sheung Shui; and (c) Repairs of the aged irrigation pipeline at Lau Shui Heung, Fanling.
Sha Tin and Tai Po	(a) Re-construction / repairs / clearing of concrete channel and pavement works at Fa Sam Hang, Sha Tin; and (b) Clearing the pump house chambers in pumping stations at Lam Tsuen River Pumping Station No.2 and No.4.
Yuen Long	(a) Repairs of the aged irrigation pipeline at Cheung Po Tsuen, Pat Heung; (b) Repairs of the aged irrigation pipeline at Ho Pui Tsuen, Kam Tin (Part 2); (c) Repairs and maintenance of the pump house chamber in a pumping station at Shek Wu Tong (Part 2); (d) Repairs and maintenance of the pump house chamber in a pumping station at Ngau Tam Mei (Part 2); and (e) Re-construction of concrete pavement works at Tai Tong Shan Road Pump House, Yuen Long.
Tuen Mun	(a) Replacement of an old damaged irrigation pipeline at Lo Fu Hang Tsuen, Tuen Mun (Part 1).
Lantau Island	(a) Repairs of the aged irrigation pipeline at Tai O; and (b) Repairs of the aged irrigation pipeline at Sham Wat.

- (b) The minor irrigation works projects in NT under the purview of AFCD planned to be commenced in 2019-20 are tabulated below.

District	Project
Various locations in NT and Lantau Island	Provision of water pumping services for irrigation, and minor repairs and maintenance of the existing irrigation facilities.

<b>District</b>	<b>Project</b>
North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Repairs of the aged irrigation pipeline at Tam Shui Hang, Sheung Shui;</li> <li>(b) Repairs of the aged irrigation pipeline at Hok Tau Wai, Fanling (Part 2) ; and</li> <li>(c) Repairs of the aged Rubber Dam at Beas River, Fanling.</li> </ul>
Sha Tin and Tai Po	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Clearing the pump house chambers in pumping stations at Lam Tsuen River Pumping Station No.1 and No.3; and</li> <li>(b) Repairs of the aged irrigation pipeline at Fung Yuen, Tai Po.</li> </ul>
Yuen Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Re-construction / repairs / clearing of concrete channel and pavement works at Yuen Kong Tsuen, Kam Tin;</li> <li>(b) Repairs of the Concrete Weir at Wong Nai Tun Tsuen;</li> <li>(c) Repairs of damaged Rubber Dam at Kat Hing Wai, Kam Tin;</li> <li>(d) Repairs and maintenance of the pump house chamber in pumping station at Shek Wu Tong (Part 3); and</li> <li>(e) Repairs and maintenance of the pump house chamber in pumping station at Ngau Tam Mei (Part 3).</li> </ul>
Tuen Mun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Replacement of an old damaged irrigation pipeline at Lo Fu Hang Tsuen, Tuen Mun (Part 2); and</li> <li>(b) Repairs of the aged irrigation pipeline at Ha Pak Nai.</li> </ul>
Lantau Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Repairs of the aged irrigation pipeline at Shap Long, Chi Ma Wan Road; and</li> <li>(b) Addition of an irrigation pipeline to connect a weir to the existing irrigation system at Tai Long Wan Tsuen.</li> </ul>

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)072**

**(Question Serial No. 0121)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the "control of destructive fishing practices", would the Government please advise on the following:

Has any enforcement action been taken over the past 3 years? If yes, what were the numbers of operations conducted, manpower involved and results achieved respectively each year? If not, what are the reasons?

Has any joint operation been conducted with the relevant authorities of neighbouring regions? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Has any person been arrested? If yes, which regions do these persons come from? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Marine Police conduct regular and targeted patrols and joint enforcement operations against illegal fishing activities (including destructive fishing practices) in Hong Kong waters.

AFCD also engages in joint enforcement operations and exchanges intelligence with the Guangdong Provincial Marine and Fisheries Inspection Bureau to combat illegal fishing activities along the boundary waters. If Mainland fishing vessels are found illegally fishing in Hong Kong waters but cannot be successfully intercepted within these waters, AFCD will, having regard to the circumstances, refer the cases to Mainland law enforcement agencies for follow-up.

Information on enforcement over the past 3 years concerning destructive fishing practices is tabulated below.

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Number of enforcement operations for combating illegal fishing*</b>	1 540	1 629	1 612
<b>Manpower of AFCD involved in combating illegal fishing* (number of staff)</b>	18	18	18
<b>Number of successful prosecutions against destructive fishing practices</b>	3	1	5
<b>Number of persons prosecuted for engaging in destructive fishing practices<sup>^</sup></b>	9 (5 local and 4 Mainland)	5 (Mainland)	20 (Mainland)
<b>Range of penalties</b>	A fine up to \$100,000; imprisonment for 2 months	Imprisonment for 2 months	A fine of \$4,000; Imprisonment for 2 weeks to 2 months

\* Enforcement operations are meant to combat illegal fishing activities, including but not limited to those against destructive fishing practices.

<sup>^</sup> All prosecuted persons were convicted.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)073**

**(Question Serial No. 0131)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the public consultation on the review of the existing legislation related to animal welfare to be conducted, please set out the main scope and timetable for its completion.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

Having reviewed overseas legislation on animal welfare, and considered views of members of the Legislative Council, animal welfare organisations and other stakeholders, we aim to launch a 3-month public consultation exercise in mid-2019 on proposals to enhance animal welfare. Our key proposals will include raising the penalties for acts of cruelty to animals and introducing keepers' responsibility of positive duty of care of animals. Details about the proposals will be available in the document for the consultation. We will draw up legislative proposals after taking into account views gathered in the public consultation.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)074**

**(Question Serial No. 2813)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In view of the increasingly rampant illegal fishing activities of non-local fishing vessels in Hong Kong waters, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department manages the fishing activities within the Fisheries Protection Areas in Hong Kong according to the Fisheries Protection Ordinance. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) It is noted that a dedicated law enforcement unit within the AFCD is responsible for combating illegal fishing. Please set out the staffing structure and the expenditure involved, as well as the number of vessels owned. Are outsourced vessels deployed to conduct patrols? What are the details?
- (b) Does the Department provide sufficient professional training on maritime law enforcement and lifesaving for the abovementioned law enforcement unit? Which party is responsible for the training?
- (c) Over the past 3 years, what were the numbers of regular patrols conducted by the abovementioned law enforcement unit and the main patrol areas involved? What were the numbers of joint operations conducted with the marine police? What were the numbers of arrested persons who resisted by force?
- (d) Over the past 3 years, what were the numbers of suspected cases of illegal fishing of Mainland fishing vessels in Hong Kong handled by various law enforcement departments, the numbers of cases involving Mainland fishermen prosecuted and convicted due to illegal fishing respectively each year? What was the modus operandi of illegal fishing activities?
- (e) Given the vast Hong Kong waters, will the Department consider increasing the manpower, enhancing the professional training and imposing heavier penalties with a

view to curbing the illegal fishing activities of Mainland fishermen and protecting the ecology of Hong Kong waters?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

- (a) In 2018-19, the expenditure and manpower involved in the enforcement against illegal fishing activities were \$13.0 million (revised estimate) and 18 staff respectively. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) currently deploys 3 vessels including 2 outsourced vessels for regular and targeted patrols against illegal fishing activities at random hours (including at nights and early mornings). AFCD's staff, when discharging duties on other vessels, will also stay vigilant to any illegal fishing activities, and inform AFCD's enforcement unit and Marine Police for follow up.
- (b) AFCD has been collaborating with the Hong Kong Police Force to provide professional training on enforcement for frontline staff regularly. Staff are also trained on occupational safety at sea through the Maritime Services Training Institute and the Hong Kong Seamen's Union.
- (c) Information on AFCD's patrols and joint operations with Marine Police over the past 3 years is tabulated below.

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of patrols conducted by AFCD</b>	<b>Number of joint operations with Marine Police</b>
2016	1 540	60
2017	1 630	58
2018	1 610	74

The patrols focused on blackspots of illegal fishing activities such as Soko Islands and waters south of Cheung Chau. There was no arrest case involving resistance by force.

- (d) Information on illegal fishing involving Mainland vessels and fishermen over the past 3 years is tabulated below.

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of cases of illegal fishing involving Mainland vessels*</b>	<b>Respective number of Mainland fishermen prosecuted and convicted<sup>#</sup></b>
2016	3	5
2017	1	5
2018	7	27

\* Cases involving Mainland vessels intercepted by AFCD and Marine Police.

<sup>#</sup> All prosecuted persons were convicted.

The illegal fishing activities by Mainland vessels included trawling, cage trapping and hookah fishing. If Mainland fishing vessels are found illegally fishing in Hong Kong waters but cannot be successfully intercepted within these waters, AFCD will, having regard to the circumstances, refer the cases to Mainland law enforcement agencies for follow-up.

- (e) Under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171), any person who conducts illegal fishing activities is liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for 6 months upon conviction. We consider that the existing statutory provisions are already effective in combating the illegal entry of Mainland fishing vessels into Hong Kong waters for fishing activities, and that the penalties imposed by the court, including fines and imprisonment, have deterrent effect. AFCD will continue to enhance enforcement, exchange information and intelligence with the relevant government departments and Mainland authorities, adjust its enforcement strategy from time to time in the light of circumstances and intelligence gathered, and collaborate with the relevant parties to combat illegal fishing activities. To enhance the effectiveness of the enforcement action, AFCD will explore the application of technology in its enforcement work, such as using real time satellite information to help identify fishing vessels.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)075**

**(Question Serial No. 2818)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B) has come into force since 2017. Could the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) The number of staff of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (the Department) responsible for issuing licences and implementing regulation on private breeders. What are the specific details of the work and respective salaries of the staff in this regard?
- (b) The latest numbers of applicants and various licences issued under Cap. 139B.
- (c) The numbers of complaints received monthly in relation to illegal breeding establishments and those breeding establishments that failed to meet the requirements.
- (d) The numbers of inspections conducted by the Department at various breeding establishments with different licences.
- (e) The numbers of decoy operations conducted by the Department on the internet and on-site at the breeding establishments, as well as the number of prosecutions instituted.
- (f) The numbers of breeding establishments that were successfully prosecuted and convicted, as well as their respective penalties.
- (g) Please set out the respective numbers of new applications for dog licences over the past 2 years by the following categories:
  - (i) dogs bred by licenced dog breeding establishments;
  - (ii) legally imported dogs;
  - (iii) dogs naturally bred and rehomed;
  - (iv) other sources.

- (h) According to the past statistics, the total number of applications for dog licences far outnumbered that of (i) the number of dogs bred by licenced dog breeding establishments and (ii) the number of legally imported dogs. How would the Department interpret these statistics?
- (i) Has the Department worked closely with the Customs and Excise Department to investigate into cases of illegal smuggling of animals? What were the numbers of arrests and seizures over the past 3 years? What were the Department's manpower and establishment for investigating into the animal smuggling cases?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 47)

Reply:

- (a) In 2018-19, 30 staff of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) were responsible for administering the licensing regime under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B) (the Regulations). Major areas of work include:
- (i) processing applications for licences which involve verification of information provided by applicants, inspecting the proposed premises concerned to ensure the facilities therein are in compliance with the required standards, and collecting relevant information for assessing the suitability of the applicants to hold the licence;
  - (ii) inspecting licensed animal trading and dog breeding premises to ensure compliance with the licensing requirements;
  - (iii) collecting samples from breeding dogs and offspring for DNA testing to verify the parentage and the source of dogs; and
  - (iv) carrying out investigations upon complaints or irregularities detected.

The rank and salary on the Government's Master Pay Scale (MPS) of officers carrying out the above duties are as follows: Veterinary Officer (MPS 31-44), Senior Field Officer (MPS 29-33), Field Officer I (MPS 22-28), and Field Officer II (MPS 8-21).

- (b) The number of applications for Animal Trader Licences (ATLs), Dog Breeder Licences (DBLs) and one-off permits received and approved since the Regulations came into effect on 20 March 2017 and up to end February 2019 is as follows:

Licence/Permit	Number of applications			
	Received	Approved	Under processing	Withdrawn / Rejected
ATL	706	632	24	50

Licence/Permit	Number of applications			
	Received	Approved	Under processing	Withdrawn / Rejected
DBL (category A)	38	24	4	10
DBL (category B)	59	38	12	9
One-off permit	7	4	0	3

(c) to (f) The information requested between March 2017 and end February 2019 is tabulated below:

<b>Number of complaints received</b>	66
<b>Number of inspections (including routine ones and surprise checks) conducted</b>	749
<b>Number of decoy operations conducted on the internet</b>	25
<b>Number of physical decoy and enforcement operations</b>	11
<b>Number of convicted cases*</b>	10

\*The cases involved selling of dogs without a permit. There was no convicted cases related to breeding establishments.

(g) and (h) The number of new dog licences issued in 2017 and 2018 by their sources is tabulated below:

Source of the dogs	Number of new dog licences issued	
	2017	2018
Dog breeding establishments and dog trading premises	2 947	2 062
Legally imported	3 663	2 564
Handled by government departments such as dogs rehomed under AFCD's rehome scheme through AFCD's partner animal welfare organisations (AWOs), service dogs of government departments, etc.	971	811
Other sources	9 465	8 955
<b>Total</b>	<b>17 046</b>	<b>14 392</b>

“Other sources” mainly include puppies born of privately owned pet dogs and some stray dogs handled by AWOs and individuals. It is estimated that there are over 30 000 privately owned female dogs which are not desexed.

(i) AFCD works closely with the Customs and Exercise Department to deter illegal import of live animals and birds through sharing of intelligence and conducting joint operations and investigation. Investigation of suspected illegal import of live animals and birds is part of the duties of AFCD's Airport and Boundary Control Team which comprises a total of 92 posts headed by a Veterinary Officer. There is no separate breakdown of manpower involved in investigation of illegal import of live animals and birds.

The number of illegally imported live animals and birds seized by AFCD over the past 3 years is as follows:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Dogs and cats</b>	<b>Other mammals</b>	<b>Birds</b>	<b>Pet reptiles</b>	<b>Food poultry</b>	<b>Food reptiles (kg)*</b>
2016	22	1	5	1 696	22	27
2017	27	417	3	3 205	1	3
2018	7	3	533	4 258	0	0

\*Weight instead of number of the animals was recorded.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)076**

**(Question Serial No. 1929)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The estimated amount of throughput at Vegetable Marketing Organization in 2019 is lower than the actual amount of throughput in 2017 and 2018. What are the reasons? Has the Government formulate any initiative to boost the throughput?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

The estimated amount of throughput of vegetables marketed through the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) in 2019 is expected to decrease mainly due to keen competition from direct marketing of vegetables without going through the wholesale market.

In response to the highly competitive market, VMO is striving to improve its services to retain business. It has been working with wholesalers and other stakeholders to develop branding for products traded through its market, reengineer its services to meet the needs of wholesalers and customers, optimise its various trading facilities, and expand its product range.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)077**

**(Question Serial No. 1930)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) What are the specific measures to assist farmers in capturing high-value market niches?
- (b) Regarding the offering of free training on sustainable fisheries operations, what are the respective numbers of fishermen who have received and will receive the training between 2018 and 2020? What are the expenditures involved?
- (c) Regarding the assistance provided to fishermen in switching to sustainable fisheries operations, what are the respective numbers of fishermen who have switched or will switch to work in this industry between 2018 and 2020?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides support services to assist local farmers in capturing high-value market niches, through developing new farming techniques to raise productivity, introducing new and improved crop varieties for local cultivation, and assisting in the setting up of farmers' markets for farmers to reach out to customers. AFCD cooperates with the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO), the local farming sector and other voluntary organisations to organise the annual Farmfest to promote local produce to the general public. AFCD has also jointly developed with VMO a mobile application "Local Fresh" to facilitate consumers to purchase local produce more conveniently through mobile platforms.

Furthermore, the \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund supports projects that may benefit the local agricultural community as a whole, including projects that would help farmers move up the value chain.

- (b) AFCD provides free training to help fishermen acquire technical skills and knowledge on sustainable operations, e.g. on aquaculture hatchery, recreational fishing, etc. The number of fishermen and the expenditure involved are tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Number of fishermen</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$million)</b>
<b>2017-18</b>	340	2.6
<b>2018-19 (revised estimate)</b>	340	3.5
<b>2019-20 (estimate)</b>	350	3.7

- (c) AFCD has been assisting fishermen in switching to sustainable fisheries operations through the provision of training, and technical and financial support. It is up to individual fishermen to decide whether they would switch to other modes of operation. AFCD does not maintain statistics on the number of the fishermen who have switched to sustainable fisheries operations.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)078**

**(Question Serial No. 1931)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the enhancement of surveillance on antimicrobial resistance and diseases in food animals in local farms, please advise on the details. What are the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) makes continued efforts to prevent and control the outbreak of animal and zoonotic diseases in local chicken and pig farms through (i) conducting regular inspections of local farms to ensure that the farmers comply with the biosecurity, farm hygiene and other related requirements, including proper vaccination of poultry against avian influenza, and taking enforcement action against non-compliant cases; (ii) providing technical advice and assistance to farmers on proper farm management, prevention and control of animal diseases; and (iii) organising education seminars on farm management and disease prevention for local farmers and their workers. AFCD also promotes good aquaculture practices to enhance fish farm management and implements a fish health management programme.

On antimicrobial resistance (AMR), AFCD has commissioned a consultancy study since October 2017 to devise a surveillance programme to monitor antimicrobial usage as well as the prevalence of bacteria with AMR in local food animal farms including livestock and fish farms. The consultancy study will be completed by mid-2019 and the recommended surveillance programme will be launched later this year.

Furthermore, 3 projects have been approved under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund for providing veterinary services to local pig farms, local chicken farms and local fish farms. These projects involve formulation of tailor-made farm-specific disease management plans for the



purposes of disease prevention and promoting responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials, and assisting farmers in sourcing vaccines and other veterinary medications.

The resources earmarked for the above area of work in 2019-20 are \$78.4 million and 74 staff, of which \$24.4 million and 11 staff are for the work on AMR.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)079**

**(Question Serial No. 1948)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) The Government has mentioned that it would follow up the legislative amendment exercise to facilitate the relocation of chicken farms and improvement of their biosecurity measures. Please advise on the number of chicken farms to be relocated in 2019-20, the relocation sites and the details in the regard.
- (b) What are the details of the measures for improving the farms' biosecurity?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

- (a) We are preparing the legislative amendments enabling the relocation of local chicken farms which we aim to put to the Legislative Council for negative vetting later this year. We do not have information on the number of these farms which may seek to be relocated in 2019-20.
- (b) Biosecurity improvement measures which may be implemented in local chicken farms to enhance farm hygiene and to prevent and control the outbreak of animal and zoonotic diseases include the installation of disinfection wheel baths, modernised and well ventilated chicken sheds, bird proofing facilities, modernised manure discharge systems, and implementation of "all in, all out"\* mode of production, etc.

\* Use of "all in, all out" system in poultry farm has been advocated by a variety of international organisations as a major component of an effective biosecurity plan. One of the major advantages is that emptying chickens from a shed (all out) at regular intervals could allow facilities to be cleaned thoroughly before the next batch of chickens is admitted (all in), thereby reducing the level of pathogen contamination.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)080**

**(Question Serial No. 2057)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's management of stray animals:

- (a) How many complaints in relation to stray animals, by District Council constituency areas, have been received by the Department in 2018-19? What were the types of animals involved and the numbers of animals caught? In addition, what were respective types and numbers of animals caught by the Department in its routine operations? How are the relevant numbers expected to vary in 2019-20?
- (b) How does the Department handle the animals caught in general? What are the types and numbers of animals temporarily kept by the Department respectively? What are the manpower and expenditures involved as well as the average and longest keeping periods of such animals?
- (c) What new measures does the Department plan to implement in 2019-20 to strengthen the management of stray animals? What are the details, manpower and expenditures involved in the various measures respectively?
- (d) Has the Department assessed the types and numbers of stray animals in the North East New Territories New Development Areas (NDAs)? If yes, what are the findings? If not, what are the reasons? Will assessments be conducted in the future?
- (e) With regard to the handling of stray animals in the North East New Territories NDAs, will the Department earmark resources for examining the issue concerned? If yes, what are the specific details? If not, what are the reasons? Does the Department have a preliminary approach to tackle the handling of stray animals in the North East New Territories NDAs?

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

Reply:

- (a) The number of stray animal nuisance complaints received and the number of stray animals caught (including those caught in response to complaints and during routine operations) by the 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in 2018 is tabulated as follows:

AMC location	Number of stray animals caught			Number of stray animal nuisance complaints received		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
Hong Kong Island	213	64	7	379	200	13
Kowloon	210	175	35	1 752	482	30
New Territories South	204	102	94	447	138	43
New Territories North	608	206	1 105	1 173	321	45

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

AFCD does not have the breakdown of complaints by District Council constituency areas.

The estimated number of stray animals to be caught in 2019 is expected to be similar to that in 2018.

- (b) Stray animals caught will be put in AMCs for observation. For those with a microchip implanted, AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in AMCs for about 10 to 20 days. AMCs will keep the non-microchipped ones for at least 4 days to allow time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the animals being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary surgeon as having a gentle temperament and suitable for adoption, AFCD will arrange their transfer to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) for adoption by members of the public as far as possible. Only animals that are not suitable for adoption or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanised.

The number of animals received and the average period that they were kept by the 4 AMCs in 2018-19 are tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of animals received			Average period kept (days)		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2018	2 254	689	3 354 <sup>#</sup>	20.1	17.6	29.8

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

<sup>#</sup> Excluding the birds seized and culled upon detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

AFCD does not have information on the longest keeping periods of animals in the 4 AMCs.

The expenditure and manpower involved in catching stray animals and handling stray animals caught in 2018-19 are as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)			Manpower (number of Staff)
	Catching stray animals	Handling stray animals caught	Total	
2018-19 (revised estimate)	32.1	4.0	36.1	188

- (c) In 2019-20, AFCD will continue to take various measures to strengthen the management of stray animals. These include:
- (i) actively promoting the serious responsibility and commitment that go with pet keeping, through public education and publicity programmes to disseminate messages on proper care of animals and responsible pet ownership;
  - (ii) enhancing enforcement against pet owners in contravention of relevant legislation;
  - (iii) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to, AWOs in the re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management; and
  - (iv) implementing a long-term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities.

In 2019-20, AFCD has earmarked \$38.3 million and 195 staff respectively for above area work.

- (d) and (e) Under the prevailing policy, except for the baseline studies (including those for wild plants and animals) conducted for specific development projects on ecological grounds, relevant departments in general do not compile statistics on other animals affected by development projects. AFCD has no plans to assess the types and number of stray animals in any new development areas.

Nevertheless, AFCD has been working closely with relevant government departments to promote and appeal to residents affected by these projects to make appropriate arrangements for their pets as early as practicable (such as transferring their pets to relatives or friends). Animal owners are also advised to approach AFCD for assistance in a timely manner so as to enable AFCD and AWOs to make early preparation for receiving these animals. AFCD will proactively liaise with AWOs to try and arrange them to accommodate animals affected by the development projects and strengthen the work in animal neutering and adoption in the affected areas. Starting from 2019-20, AFCD's resources for subventing AWOs' work, including that of rehoming, will be

increased. AFCD will provide assistance to AWOs which are interested in operating adoption centres. AWOs in need of premises running the re-homing centres may consider the suitability of vacant government sites (including vacant school premises) under the management of the Lands Department that are available for leasing by non-governmental organisations for community purposes on short-term basis. Non-profit making AWOs may also apply from a funding scheme run by the Development Bureau for subsidies to carry out one-off, basic and necessary restoration works so as to put the vacant government sites fit-for-use as re-homing centres.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)257**

**(Question Serial No. 3742)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019-20 under Programme (3), one of them is to build up the capacity for testing of a number of equine diseases to facilitate the movement of competition horses between Hong Kong and the Conghua Equine-Disease Free Zone. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) Over the past 3 years, what were the numbers of competition horses transporting between Hong Kong and the Conghua Equine-Disease Free Zone that have undergone testing, as well as the numbers of posts, salaries and other related expenditures involved in the above work? What is the estimate for all the above items this year? In addition, is the expenditure on testing of competition horses fully borne by the Government?
- (b) Given that there is an increase in Hong Kong horse trainers using the Conghua racecourse as the main training base and the Conghua racecourse has started trying out horse racing, it is expected that there will be more competition horses moving between Hong Kong and Conghua in future. In this case, does the Government have any plan to increase the manpower and expenditure on the capacity for testing of a number of equine diseases in the light of the above trend in future? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 65)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC)'s Conghua Racecourse, located within the Conghua Equine Disease Free Zone, was officially opened in August 2018. Up to mid-March 2019, a total of 1 574 horses were transported between Hong Kong and Conghua Racecourse. Upon the full commissioning of Conghua Racecourse, it is estimated that around 700 to 1 200 horses will be transported per month. To safeguard the health of horses, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has devised a surveillance

programme for the movement of horses between Hong Kong and Conghua Racecourse. It established the Equine Disease Division in June 2017 for the provision of equine disease testing services. The expenditure and manpower involved in 2017-18 and 2018-19 are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)			Manpower (number of staff)
	Staff	Operation	Total	
2017-18	4.4	3.3	7.7	4
2018-19 (revised estimate)	6.7	5.6	12.3	4

The Government charges HKJC for conducting the equine disease testing services on a full cost recovery basis.

In 2019-20, AFCD will develop testing protocols for more equine diseases and conduct more testing having regard to the anticipated increase in horse movements between Hong Kong and Conghua Racecourse. The estimated expenditure and manpower earmarked for this work in 2019-20 are \$15.9 million and 4 staff respectively. AFCD will keep in view the development and review the resources requirement as necessary.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)258**

**(Question Serial No. 5582)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In 2018, the number of stray animals caught by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) was 3 151. What were the types of animals, manpower and expenditure involved? How did the Department handle them? What was the proportion of animals eventually euthanised, neutered and returned, released back to their habitats and rehomed? What was the expenditure involved in the above ways of handling?

In 2019, AFCD estimates that the number of stray animals to be caught is 3 200. How does the Department come up with such a figure? What types of animals does AFCD expect to catch? What are the manpower and expenditure involved? Is the number of stray animals caught a factor of the performance indicator for AFCD?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 413)

Reply:

Stray animals caught will be put in the Animal Management Centres (AMCs) for observation. For those with a microchip implanted, AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in AMCs for about 10 to 20 days. AMCs will keep the non-microchipped ones for at least 4 days to allow time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the animals being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary surgeon as having a gentle temperament and suitable for adoption, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will arrange their transfer to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) for adoption by members of the public. Only animals that are not suitable for adoption or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanised.

The number and species of stray animals caught, animals given up by owners and received through other channels by AFCD, and the number and species of animals reclaimed by owners, re-homed and euthanised in 2018 are tabulated at the **Annex**.

Besides, AFCD has launched the “Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation” (CSR) programme for stray cattle in 2011, under which AFCD captures, sterilises and relocates stray cattle to remote locations, away from human settlements. In 2018, a total of 128, 105 and 80 stray cattle were captured, sterilised and relocated / returned respectively under the CSR programme. Moreover, AFCD assisted 2 AWOs in implementing the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs at the 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long, which was completed in early 2018. A total of 102 dogs were neutered and returned to the 2 trial sites.

The expenditure and manpower involved in the management of stray animals, including catching operations and handling of stray animals caught as well as the CSR programme for stray cattle and the TNR programme for stray dogs, in 2018-19 are \$40.5 million and 195 staff respectively.

The estimated number and species of stray animals caught in 2019 are expected to be similar to that in 2018. With AFCD’s continuous implementation of measures on managing stray animals, the number of stray animals caught has decreased by 54% from 2014 to 2018. In 2019-20, we have earmarked \$38.3 million and 195 staff for this area of work.

- End -

**Annex**

Calendar year	Stray animals caught			Animals given up by owners			Animals received through other channels			Animals reclaimed by owners			Animals re-homed			Animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2018	1 235	547	1 369	715	80	43	304	62	4 904	512	206	9	577	89	87	1 026	333	5 007

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

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)259**

**(Question Serial No. 5585)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses  
Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets  
Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019-20 under this programme, the Government stated that it would implement the new agriculture policy to proactively support the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture, including preparing for the establishment of the Agricultural Park and overseeing the consultancy study on the designation of agricultural priority areas. Would the Government advise this Committee on the manpower and estimated annual salary expense involved in implementing the new agriculture policy in 2019-20?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 418)

Reply:

A total of 49 staff involving a provision of \$26.8 million for staff cost have been earmarked for the implementation of the New Agriculture Policy in 2019-20.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)260**

**(Question Serial No. 3461)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the enforcement of the Rabies Ordinance over the past 3 years, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the expenditures and manpower involved?
- (b) What was the number of dog licences granted?
- (c) What were the respective expenditures involved in rabies vaccination in each year?
- (d) What were the number of prosecutions related to and the penalties for animal keepers abandoning their animals without reasonable excuse?
- (e) What were the number of prosecutions related to and the penalties for failing to keep dogs under proper control?
- (f) What were the respective numbers of dog bite cases received in each year?
- (g) Further to the above question, what were the respective numbers of dogs, cats and other animals put under observation for rabies at Animal Management Centres under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, veterinary clinics and keepers' homes?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure and manpower involved in the enforcement of the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421) (the Ordinance) over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (number of staff)</b>
2016-17	30.4	187
2017-18	34.0	187
2018-19 (revised estimate)	36.9	188

- (b) Under the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A), a dog aged over 5 months is required to be licensed and vaccinated against this disease every 3 years. The number of dog licences issued over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of dog licences issued</b>
2016	61 418
2017	61 368
2018	59 034

- (c) The expenditure on the procurement of anti-rabies vaccine over the past 3 years by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is tabulated as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2016-17	0.4
2017-18	0.5
2018-19 (revised estimate)	0.9

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

Information on the number of convictions under Section 23 of the Ordinance over the past 3 years and the relevant penalties are tabulated below.

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Prosecution against improper control of dogs</b>	
	<b>Number of convicted cases</b>	<b>Heaviest penalty imposed</b>
2016	174	A fine of \$4,000

2017	192	A fine of \$2,000
2018	140	A fine of \$1,500

- (f) The number of dog biting cases received over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of dog biting cases received
2016	1 408
2017	1 482
2018	1 354

- (g) The number of dogs and cats required to undergo rabies observation in AFCD's Animal Management Centres (AMCs), veterinary clinics and the keepers' homes over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	AMCs <sup>#</sup>		Veterinary clinics <sup>#</sup>		Keepers' homes <sup>#</sup>	
	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats
2016	204	15	0	0	391	2
2017	185	7	0	2	422	5
2018	169	12	0	0	383	2

<sup>#</sup> There is no case involving other animals that requires rabies observation.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)261****(Question Serial No. 3789)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (661) Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)

Programme: (-) Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

**Question:**

The funding under Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote), amounting to \$44,034,000, has increased by 99.8% when comparing with the estimate of the previous year. In this regard, please advise on the following:

- (a) The major types of plant that will be purchased by using the additional estimate.
- (b) The depreciation situation of the existing plant and equipment.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

**Reply:**

- (a) The financial provision under Subhead 661 for 2019-20 is mainly for replacement / procurement of various systems and equipment, with breakdown as follows:

<b>Systems and equipment to be replaced / procured</b>	<b>Financial provision for 2019-20 (\$ million)</b>
(i) Patrol vessels and a hovercraft for patrol and law enforcement duties under various Ordinances as well as for red tide and water quality monitoring	33.851
(ii) Power supply and lighting system for wholesale food markets and the Hong Kong Wetland Park	5.685
(iii) Veterinary laboratory equipment and system for animal disease testing	4.165



<b>Systems and equipment to be replaced / procured</b>	<b>Financial provision for 2019-20 (\$ million)</b>
(iv) Global Navigation Satellite System survey receiver for country park management	0.333
<b>Total</b>	<b>44.034</b>

- (b) According to the Government's accounting policies, depreciation is provided on a straight line basis to amortise the costs or valuations of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives. Capital items purchased under Subhead 661 cover a wide spectrum of categories at different stages of their useful lives. Depreciation situation of these items varies greatly. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department does not have the breakdown of the depreciation of each and every capital item purchased under Subhead 661.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)262****(Question Serial No. 5763)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the "Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme" and the "Special Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme" of the Vegetable Marketing Organization, please provide the following information over the past 5 years (2014-2018):

(a) What were the expenditure breakdown and manpower involved in the said schemes?

	Expenditure breakdown (Hong Kong dollars)					Percentage of such expenditures to the overall expenditures of the schemes (%)				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Executives (Number of officers)										
Technical guidance (Number of officers)										
Improvement in irrigation, draining and other basic infrastructure										
Procurement of tractors for ploughing as well as other agricultural machines										
Other expenditures, please specify:										
Total										

(b) What were the respective numbers of applications and the area of land involved (hectare)? Which district(s) had the highest numbers of successful and pending cases?

- (c) What were the respective numbers of successful and unsuccessful cases?
- (d) What was the area of agricultural land successfully rented (hectare)?
- (e) How long did the processing of an application take on average (from receipt of an application to notification of the result)?
- (f) What were the numbers of landowners participating in the said schemes?
- (g) How much was the annual rental for the successful cases?
- (h) What were the accumulative numbers of applicants and the area of land involved (hectare) on the waiting list?

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of new applications					
Area of land involved (hectare)					
Number of successful applications					
Total area of land involved (hectare)					
Range of annual rental (per dau chung)					
Average waiting time (year)					
Number of applications on the waiting list as at year-end					
Area of land involved (hectare)					

- (i) The number of applications rose from 287 to 347 between 2015 and 2017. What countermeasures does the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) have in response to the growing demand for renting agricultural land every year? The number of successful applications dropped from 41 to 9 in the aforesaid period. What are the respective countermeasures?
- (j) It takes time for agricultural land to be rehabilitated, and the current tenure of the successful cases range from 3 to 5 years. Would AFCD consider advocating longer tenure?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 129)

Reply:

- (a) to (j) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) operates the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (ALRS) through bringing owners of farmland and interested farmers together to work out leasing agreements for the farmland. The manpower and expenditure involved in operating ALRS and the relevant statistics on the cases handled over the past 5 calendar years are tabulated below.

Calendar year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of staff	1	1	1	1	1
Expenditure (\$ million)	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Number of landowners participating in ALRS	13	23	28	41	24
Number of new applications / land area involved (hectare)	44 / 8.9	45 / 8.0	65 / 8.3	58 / 8.7	77 / 8.1
Number of successful cases	12	41	29	9	10
- Total land area involved (hectare)	2.6	5.4	4.0	2.1	1.4
- Range of annual rental (per dau chung <sup>^</sup> )	\$300 to \$7,000	\$800 to \$10,400	\$1,400 to \$32,100	\$160 to \$12,000	\$25 to \$60,000
- Average waiting time (year)	5	5	4	5.5	3.2
Number of applications on the waiting list as at year-end / land area involved (hectare)	278 / 72.6	287 / 70.6	300 / 67.6	347 / 74.7	413 / 81.0

<sup>^</sup> 1 dau chung is equivalent to 7 260 square feet.

The work mentioned in part (a) of the question is not related to ALRS, and is instead provided by AFCD as part of its support to the agriculture sector. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower involved.

Over the past 5 years, the North District had the highest number of successful cases, while Yuen Long had the highest number of pending cases.

Agricultural land in Hong Kong is mainly in private hands. It is up to landowners to decide whether to lease out their land for farming and to negotiate the terms of the lease agreement with the farmers, including the tenure. AFCD will continue to facilitate the leasing out of fallow farmland through ALRS, and provide farmers with technical advice and services to return fallow land to active farming. In addition, the Government has commissioned a consultancy study in late 2018 to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land as Agricultural Priority Areas, and explore suitable policies

and measures to encourage owners to put fallow agricultural land into long-term agricultural use.

The Special Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (SALRS) is a separate scheme proposed by the Government in relation to New Development Area projects. Under SALRS, the Government proactively identifies suitable government land and private land the owners of which are willing to lease or sell their land suitable for agricultural re-site / rehabilitation. AFCD will then carry out matching. Some government land in the North District has already been identified for application by farmers affected by the Kwu Tung North and Fanling North New Development Area project. The Government is now engaging the farmers concerned on the details of SALRS.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)263****(Question Serial No. 5765)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

- (a) What were the numbers of commercial rooftop farms across the territory over the past 5 years?

District	Number of commercial rooftop farms				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Central & Western					
Eastern					
Southern					
Wan Chai					
Kowloon City					
Kwun Tong					
Sham Shui Po					
Wong Tai Sin					
Yau Tsim Mong					
Islands					
Kwai Tsing					
North					
Sai Kung					
Sha Tin					
Tai Po					
Tsuen Wan					
Tuen Mun					
Yuen Long					

- (b) Regarding the various types of rooftop venues for growing food for sale, leasing out for individual farming, farm scheme commissioned by companies, what are their respective numbers? What sizes do they occupy respectively? If there is any type not included, please add to the following table.

	Types of farm					
	Commercial production (growing food for sale)		Leased farm (leasing out for individual farming)		Farm scheme of companies (for the purpose of staff welfare)	
District	Number	Area occupied (hectare)	Number	Area occupied (hectare)	Number	Area occupied (hectare)
Central & Western						
Eastern						
Southern						
Wan Chai						
Kowloon City						
Kwun Tong						
Sham Shui Po						
Wong Tai Sin						
Yau Tsim Mong						
Islands						
Kwai Tsing						
North						
Sai Kung						
Sha Tin						
Tai Po						
Tsuen Wan						
Tuen Mun						
Yuen Long						

- (c) Currently, does the Government provide any assistance to rooftop farms? If yes, in what way is the assistance rendered?
- (d) Studies reveal that urban farming can lower the temperature in cities and improve the air quality. Currently, is there any relevant monitoring system and data available?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 131)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) Commercial production of agricultural produce is rarely carried out in rooftop farms in Hong Kong. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not have the information requested.

- (c) In supporting the local agriculture industry, AFCD provides technical assistance and advice, credit facilities and vocational training to local farmers; conducts adaptive and technical studies and introduces modern technology and practices to facilitate efficient production and improve the quality of agricultural products; and plans and implements effective management activities and services for promoting sustainable development of the agriculture industry. Like other farmers, rooftop farm operators may use the above services. More information on the work of AFCD in promoting and supporting the local agriculture industry can be found at [www.afcd.gov.hk](http://www.afcd.gov.hk).
- (d) Monitoring the effect of urban farming on city temperatures is not part of AFCD's work in supporting the sustainable development of agriculture.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)264****(Question Serial No. 5777)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Would the Government set out the amounts of revenue from commissions received by the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) and the amounts of vegetables marketed through the wholesale market under VMO over the past 5 financial years? Please also provide the reasons for the increase or decrease in the said figures.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 143)Reply:

The commission income received by the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) from the sales of vegetables over the past 5 financial years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Commission income (\$ million)</b>
2014-15	61
2015-16	65
2016-17	51
2017-18	48
2018-19 (revised estimate)	46

The decrease in commission income is due to a reduction in volume of vegetables traded at the VMO wholesale market.

The volume of vegetables marketed through VMO in the past 5 calendar years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Volume (tonnes)</b>
2014	129 164
2015	122 476
2016	106 591
2017	98 998
2018	88 609

The decrease in volume is due to keen competition from direct marketing of vegetables without going through the wholesale market.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)265****(Question Serial No. 5791)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding its work in relation to the Code on Access to Information, will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) concerning the requests for information under the Code on Access to Information received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for which only some of the required information was provided, please state in table form: (i) the content of the requests for which only some of the required information was provided; (ii) the reasons for providing some of the information only; and (iii) how the requests were eventually handled.

Year

(i) Content of the requests for which only some of the required information was provided	(ii) Reasons for providing some of the information only	(iii) How the requests were eventually handled

- (b) concerning the requests for information under the Code on Access to Information received by AFCD for which the required information was not provided, please state in table form: (i) the content of the requests refused; (ii) the reasons for refusal; and (iii) how the requests were eventually handled.

Year

(i) Content of the requests refused	(ii) Reasons for refusal	(iii) How the requests were eventually handled

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 176)Reply:

- (a) Among the requests under the Code on Access to Information (the Code) received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) from January to September 2018, there were 2 requests for which partial information was provided. The information sought is provided as follows:

<b>(i) Content of the requests for which only some of the required information was provided</b>	<b>(ii) Reasons for providing some of the information only</b>	<b>(iii) How the requests were eventually handled</b>
(1) Information on Dog Breeder Licences (Category A) and Dog Breeder Licences (Category B)	Having regard to paragraphs 2.15 and 2.16 of the Code, the withheld information was related to “privacy of the individual” and “business affairs”.	Other information sought was provided according to the time frame stipulated in the Code.
(2) Information on the case number and all relevant documents in connection with an enforcement action taken by AFCD in 2016	Having regard to paragraph 2.6(c) of the Code, the withheld information was “information which relates to proceedings which have been completed, terminated or stayed, or relates to investigations which resulted in or may have resulted in proceedings, whether any such proceedings are criminal or civil”.	AFCD received a request for review from the requestor. Having completed the internal review and sought legal advice, AFCD provided the requestor with some of the information which had not been disclosed previously. Other information sought was provided according to the time frame stipulated in the Code.

- (b) From January to September 2018, no request for information under the Code received by the Department was refused.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)266****(Question Serial No. 5795)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

- (a) Please provide the numbers of locally-operated hydroponic farms, their locations, distribution among districts, areas, total production areas, and respective zonings on the Outline Zoning Plan (such as Agriculture Zones, Green Belt, etc.) over the past year.

Location	District	Number	Area (hectare)	Total production area (hectare)	Zoning on the Outline Zoning Map
Agricultural Land					
Industrial Building					
Green Belt					
Others (please specify)					

- (b) Please provide the annual total weights and daily average weights of harvested and saleable hydroponic vegetables, as well as the annual total weights and daily average weights of the unsold hydroponic vegetables of the "Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre" (C.E.H. R&D Centre) over the past 5 years.
- (c) Please provide the expenditures and revenue by types, as well as the annual total retail volumes and annual total wholesale volumes of hydroponic vegetables of C.E.H. R&D Centre over the past 5 years.

- (d) Please provide the percentages of hydroponic vegetables in the total amounts of vegetable consumption in Hong Kong over the past 5 years.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Annual total weight of harvested and saleable hydroponic vegetables (kg)					
Daily average weight (kg)					
Annual total weight of unsold hydroponic vegetables due to promotion, dull sale and return (kg)					
Daily average weight (kg)					
Number of retail outlets					
Total expenditure (HK\$)					
Expenditure on electricity					
Expenditure on water					
Rental of premises					
Cost of materials (e.g. purchase of liquid fertiliser, etc.)					
Expenditure on manpower involved in administrative work and promotion (number of staff)					
Expenditure on manpower involved in management of production (number of staff)					
Others (please specify)					
Annual total retail volume of hydroponic vegetables (kg)					
Annual total wholesale volume of hydroponic vegetables (kg)					
Total revenue (HK\$)					
Total revenue from retail					
Total revenue from wholesale					
Percentage of hydroponic vegetables in the total amount of vegetable consumption in Hong Kong					

- (e) Please provide the amounts and major types of waste produced by the production of hydroponic vegetables by C.E.H. R&D Centre over the past 5 years.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Amount of waste produced by the production of hydroponic vegetables (kg)					

- (f) According to the information relating to the period from 2013-14 to 2017-18, the total expenditure of C.E.H. R&D Centre slightly decreased from \$1.9 million to \$1.4 million while the total revenue significantly decreased from \$900,000 to \$400,000. What mechanism would the Government adopt to assess the effectiveness of C.E.H. R&D Centre? What measures would the Government put in place to deal with the annual loss?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 180)

Reply:

- (a) Information on local hydroponic farms as at 31 December 2018 gathered by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is tabulated at **Annex 1**.
- (b) to (d) In 2013, AFCD and the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) jointly set up the Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre (the Centre) for demonstrating hydroponic technology and facilities, with a view to facilitating technology transfer to the trade. The Centre was initially funded by VMO. As extra resources are essential to carry out additional research and development work, the operational expenditure of the Centre has been funded by the Government since April 2018. Currently, half of its floor area is used for production and the rest for research and development. The percentage of local production of hydroponic vegetable ranges from 0.07% to 0.10% of the total local consumption during 2014-2018. Other requested information provided by VMO is tabulated at **Annex 2**.
- (e) The major waste produced in the production of hydroponic vegetables by the Centre over the past 5 years is plant debris and used sponge materials. The Centre does not keep record of the amount of waste produced.
- (f) The Centre is not a profit-making commercial project but is meant to facilitate technology transfer through demonstration. During the past few years, the Centre has introduced 8 new vegetable varieties and collaborated with research institutes on testing innovative or improved technologies for introducing to the trade.

In recent years, hydroponic technology is getting well-developed. The number of hydroponic farms has been increasing since the establishment of the Centre. Currently, there are 40 local hydroponic farms producing annually over 650 tonnes of vegetables with an estimated value of \$122 million. The continuous growth and development of the hydroponic sector

has proven the effectiveness of establishing the Centre. AFCD and the Centre will continue to provide technical assistance to the hydroponic sector and keep in view its development.

- End -



**Distribution of local hydroponic farms  
(as at 31 December 2018)**

Location	District	Number of farms	Area occupied (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total production area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Zoning on Outline Zoning Plan	
Agricultural Land	Yuen Long	11	53 070	16 320	Agriculture	
		1	11 000	6 000	Industrial	
		1	6 000	3 350	Village Type Development	
		1	3 500	2 500	Green Belt	
		1	2 500	2 000	Coastal Protection Area	
		2	200	300	Open Space	
		1	300	180	Open Storage	
		1	140	300	Government, Institution or Community	
	North	8	31 350	7 565	Agriculture	
		1	2 000	500	Green Belt	
	Sai Kung	1	18 500	1 850	Agriculture	
	Tuen Mun	1	6 000	2 000	Village Type Development	
	Industrial Building	Kwun Tong	2	195	120	Other Specified Use
		Yau Tong	1	45	85	Other Specified Use
Kwai Tsing		1	200	180	Other Specified Use	
		1	30	30	Industrial	
Tsuen Wan		1	330	450	Industrial	
Shatin		1	50	50	Industrial	
Tai Po		1	3 000	13 800	Other Specified Use	
Others	Sham Shui Po*	1	250	250	Residential	
	Causeway Bay <sup>#</sup>	1	20	10	Other Specified Use	

\*The “Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre” is established and operated by the Vegetable Marketing Organization on a piece of land under a short-term tenancy which allows operation of a small vegetable factory.

<sup>#</sup> Commercial building

**Information on the Controlled Environment Hydroponic  
Research and Development Centre**

Hydroponic vegetables produced

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19 (estimate)</b>
<b>Saleable Volume</b>					
Total weight (kg)	8 379	6 061	3 329	2 881	2 717
Daily average weight	23	17	9	8	7
<b>Unsold Volume (Including those used for promotional activities)</b>					
Total weight (kg)	4 477	3 038	1 268	1 276	911
Daily average weight	12	8	3	3	2
Number of retail outlets	75	44	11	11	11

Income and expenditure

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19 (estimate)</b>
Total expenditure* (\$ million)	2.1	1.7	1.5	1.4	3.1 <sup>@</sup>
Total revenue <sup>^</sup> (\$ million)	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.2
Total volume of marketed hydroponic vegetables <sup>#</sup>	3 902	3 023	2 061	1 605	1 806
Total / Daily average production volume of hydroponic vegetables	Refer to saleable volume in the above table				

\* No separate breakdown on the expenditure and revenue by types

<sup>^</sup> Arising from marketed hydroponic vegetables

<sup>#</sup> No separate breakdown on the volume / revenue of wholesale and retail

<sup>@</sup> The increase in expenditure in 2018-19 is due to more government allocation in the manpower and recurrent expenditure to carry out research and development work.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)267**

**(Question Serial No. 6455)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What measures will the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department put in place to ensure that the fishing devices and practices used by local fishermen are complied with the regulation?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 354)

Reply:

To protect the marine environment and fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters, destructive fishing practices<sup>#</sup> are prohibited under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) (the Ordinance). Furthermore, fishing vessels have to be registered under the Ordinance in order to conduct fishing operations in Hong Kong waters, and fishing methods and gear of these vessels are regulated through conditions imposed under the Ordinance. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Marine Police conduct regular and targeted patrols and joint enforcement operations against illegal fishing activities (including destructive fishing practices) in Hong Kong waters. AFCD also publicises to local fishermen the need and importance of the protection of marine environment and compliance with the Ordinance by means of education materials such as leaflets and posters, and through regular liaison meetings with them.

<sup>#</sup> Destructive fishing practices include fishing with explosives, toxic substances, electricity-emitting appliances, suction devices, dredging devices, and trawling devices.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)268**

**(Question Serial No. 6457)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the wild cattle herds in the New Territories, does the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department monitor or record their condition?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 356)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) adopts a multi-pronged approach for managing stray cattle. AFCD conducts regular inspections to locations where cattle herds forage to monitor stray cattle's health condition. In addition, under the "Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation" (CSR programme) launched in late 2011, AFCD captures, sterilises and relocates stray cattle to remote locations, away from human settlements. Regular site visits and inspections are also carried out by AFCD to closely monitor the health condition of the relocated cattle. Veterinary care will be provided to the sick or injured ones as appropriate.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)269**

**(Question Serial No. 6458)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please set out the following information related to the Advisory Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries (ACAF):

- (a) The number of meetings of ACAF and the attendance rate of its members last year.
- (b) The respective numbers of visits, local and overseas meetings, seminars and consultation forums that ACAF members participated or organised in the capacity of representatives of ACAF last year.
- (c) The number and content of proposals made by ACAF to the Government last year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 357)

Reply:

- (a) The Advisory Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries (ACAF) and its sub-committees (namely Crop Farming Sub-committee, Fisheries Sub-committee and Livestock Sub-committee) held a total of 17 meetings in 2018. The average attendance rate of members was 65%.
- (b) ACAF's Crop Farming Sub-committee members visited the proposed site for the establishment of the Agricultural Park (Agri-Park) in Kwu Tung South in July 2018.
- (c) In 2018, ACAF members advised the Government on a wide range of issues related to the sustainable development of agriculture and fisheries in Hong Kong, including the Agri-Park, branding of local agricultural and fisheries products, livestock industry, and the adoption of technology in open-sea mariculture.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)270****(Question Serial No. 6459)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please set out the following information related to animal euthanasia:

- (a) The expenditure involved in animal euthanasia conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) last year and the estimated expenditure in this respect in 2019-20.
- (b) Please briefly illustrate the rationale behind AFCD's decisions on animal euthanasia.
- (c) Further to the above question, please set out the numbers of animal euthanasia conducted, types of animals euthanised and the reasons for animal euthanasia last year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 358)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on euthanasia of animals in 2018-19 and the estimated expenditure in 2019-20 are tabulated as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure on euthanasia of animals (\$ million)</b>
2018-19 (revised estimate)	1.3
2019-20 (estimate)	1.3

- (b) to (c) Stray animals caught will be put in the Animal Management Centres (AMCs) for observation. For those with a microchip implanted, AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general,

these animals will stay in AMCs for about 10 to 20 days. AMCs will keep the non-microchipped ones for at least 4 days to allow time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the animals being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary officer as having a gentle temperament and suitable for adoption, AFCD will arrange their transfer to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) for adoption by members of the public as far as possible. Only animals that are not suitable for adoption or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanized.

The number of animals euthanised in 2018 is tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Animals euthanised</b>			
	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Cats</b>	<b>Others*</b>	<b>Total</b>
2018	1 026	333	5 007	6 366

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

AFCD promotes the concept of responsible pet ownership and encourages adoption through partnering with AWOs to provide rehoming services. In the past 5 years, the number of dogs and cats euthanised by AFCD has dropped by around 70%.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)271**

**(Question Serial No. 3954)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets  
Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Under which department(s) are the hydroponic vegetable farms located in industrial buildings or indoors currently administered? Under which legislation are they regulated?
- (b) Does the Government currently conduct any chemical or microbial testing on hydroponic vegetables? If yes, what kind(s) of testing is/are conducted? What are the numbers of samples and the findings of the testing? If not, what are the reasons? Would the Government explore the possibility of including more testing items?
- (c) How does the Government assist the public in verifying that the organic and hydroponic vegetables sold on the market are not ordinary vegetables?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1058)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides technical advice and support to investors who are interested in setting up hydroponic systems as an alternative option for agricultural production. Upon completion of a review on facilitating technology-based agricultural production in industrial buildings in 2017, the Town Planning Board (TPB) revised the definition of terms used in statutory plans and generally regards such use as "Non-polluting Industrial Use". Such use is always permitted in industrial buildings without the need for a separate application to TPB and in general does not contravene the "Industrial Purposes" as stipulated in the land lease.
- (b) As part of the technical support provided to local hydroponic farms, AFCD takes samples of produce from these farms for periodic testing on pesticides residues and certain pathogenic bacteria such as *Escherichia coli* O157, *Listeria monocytogenes*



*and Salmonella spp.* In 2018, AFCD tested 32 samples, among which 4 were found to have pesticide residues exceeding the relevant food safety standards. The concerned crops were not harvested for sale. The results for other samples were satisfactory. AFCD will continue to monitor the operation of local hydroponic farms and adjust the testing scope and frequency as necessary.

Like any other food for sale in Hong Kong, hydroponic produce must be fit for human consumption. The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department takes vegetable samples at the import, wholesale and retail levels for pesticide residues, chemical analysis and microbiological testing under a risk-based approach. CFS does not have breakdown on the number and relevant testing results of local hydroponic produce among the vegetable samples it takes for food surveillance.

- (c) AFCD has put in efforts to enhance public awareness about the differences between organic and conventional vegetables. AFCD will continue to promote organic and hydroponic farming and the marketing of such produce through technical assistance to local farmers, joint efforts with the Vegetable Marketing Organization and the trade, as well as providing funding support through the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund to projects that promote organic education and certification.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)272**

**(Question Serial No. 4844)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

At present, how many hectares of agricultural land are available for rehabilitation? Is there any restriction on the size of land for which a person can apply for agricultural rehabilitation? What is the maximum size of land available for agricultural rehabilitation? How many people are on the waiting list? What is the average waiting time?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1520)

Reply:

Through the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department brings owners of farmland and interested farmers together to work out leasing agreements for the farmland. At present, about 9 hectares of agricultural land is available for leasing. There is no restriction on the size of farmland that may be rented. In 2018, the average waiting time for successful cases was 3.2 years. 413 applicants were on the waiting list as at end 2018.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)273**

**(Question Serial No. 4846)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Over the past 5 years, what were the respective numbers of applicants for the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund? What were the respective numbers of applications successfully approved? What is the amount of surplus in the Fund?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1522)

Reply:

The \$500 million Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund has received a total of 40 applications since its inception in July 2014. So far, 14 applications have been approved, involving a total commitment of about \$77.3 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)274****(Question Serial No. 4847)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Over the past 5 years, how many applications were received and approved respectively regarding the lease of agricultural land under the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (the Scheme) by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department? What is the area of land leased out under the Scheme? What is the average waiting time for applicants? What is the number of waiting cases for leasing agricultural land at present?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1523)

Reply:

The requested information is tabulated below.

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Number of new applications	44	45	65	58	77
Number of successful cases	12	41	29	9	10
- Land area involved (hectare)	2.6	5.4	4.0	2.1	1.4
- Average waiting time (year)	5.0	5.0	4.0	5.5	3.2
Number of applications on the waiting list as at year-end	278	287	300	347	413

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)275****(Question Serial No. 4848)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please provide the number of existing locally-operated hydroponic farms, their locations, distribution among districts, areas, total production areas, and respective zonings on the Outline Zoning Plan (such as Agriculture, Green Belt, etc.).

Location	District	Number	Area	Total production area	Zoning on the Outline Zoning Plan
Agricultural Land					
Industrial Building					

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1524)Reply:

Information on local hydroponic farms gathered by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department as at 31 December 2018 is tabulated as follows:

Location	District	Number of farms	Area occupied (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total production area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Zoning on the Outline Zoning Plan
Agricultural Land	Yuen Long	11	53 070	16 320	Agriculture
		1	11 000	6 000	Industrial
		1	6 000	3 350	Village Type Development
		1	3 500	2 500	Green Belt
		1	2 500	2 000	Coastal Protection Area
		2	200	310	Open Space

Location	District	Number of farms	Area occupied (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total production area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Zoning on the Outline Zoning Plan
		1	300	180	Open Storage
		1	140	300	Government, Institution or Community
	North	8	31 350	7 565	Agriculture
		1	2 000	500	Green Belt
	Sai Kung	1	18 500	1 850	Agriculture
	Tuen Mun	1	6 000	2 000	Village Type Development
Industrial Building	Kwun Tong	2	195	120	Other Specified Use
	Yau Tong	1	45	85	Other Specified Use
	Kwai Tsing	1	200	180	Other Specified Use
		1	30	30	Industrial
	Tsuen Wan	1	330	450	Industrial
	Shatin	1	50	50	Industrial
	Tai Po	1	3 000	13 800	Other Specified Use
Others	Sham Shui Po <sup>*</sup>	1	250	250	Residential
	Causeway Bay <sup>#</sup>	1	20	10	Other Specified Use

\* The “Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre” is established and operated by the Vegetable Marketing Organization on land under a short-term tenancy which allows operation of a small vegetable factory.

# In commercial premises

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)276**

**(Question Serial No. 4851)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme implemented by the Government, please advise on:

- (a) The details of expenditure on implementing the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme, including the departmental manpower and expenditure involved; the numbers of applications for agricultural land rehabilitation, participating land owners, cases of successful matching, as well as the size of land involved in each case.
- (b) The number of new applicants for agricultural land rehabilitation, the cumulative number of applicants on the waiting list and the size of land involved.
- (c) The number of cases of successful matching, the details of size of land and rentals involved in each case, as well as the average and the longest waiting time.
- (d) Has the Government put in place any measure to increase the chance of successful matching and reduce the waiting time for agricultural land rehabilitation?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1527)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) operates the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (ALRS) through bringing owners of farmland and interested farmers together to work out leasing agreements for the farmland. The requested information on ALRS and the relevant statistics on the cases handled in 2018 are tabulated below.

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2018</b>
Number of staff	1
Expenditure (\$ million)	0.9
Number of landowners participating in ALRS	24
Number of new applications/land area involved (hectare)	77 / 8.1
Number of successful cases	10
- Total land area involved (hectare)	1.4
- Range of farm sizes of individual case (dau chung <sup>*</sup> )	0.5 to 4.4
- Range of annual rental (per dau chung <sup>*</sup> )	\$25 to \$60,000
- Average/longest waiting time (year)	3.2 / 4.5
Number of applications on the waiting list as at year-end / land area involved (hectare)	413 / 81.0

<sup>\*</sup> 1 dau chung is equivalent to 7 260 square feet.

Agricultural land in Hong Kong is mainly in private hands. It is up to landowners to decide whether to lease out their land for farming. AFCD will continue to facilitate the leasing out of fallow farmland through ALRS, and provide farmers with technical advice and services to return fallow land to active farming. In addition, the Government commissioned a consultancy study in late 2018 to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land as Agricultural Priority Areas, and explore suitable policies and measures to encourage owners to put fallow agricultural land into long-term agricultural use.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)277****(Question Serial No. 6837)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Please provide the numbers of animals which were caught, rehomed and euthanised by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) as well as their average periods of stay at the facilities of AFCD before being euthanised and rehomed, with a breakdown by type, over the past 5 years.
- (b) Please provide the numbers of animals which were caught with animal traps by AFCD with a breakdown by types of animal traps used and animals caught over the past 5 years.
- (c) Please provide the numbers of animals which died due to the use of animal traps with a breakdown by types of animal traps used and animals dead over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1529)

Reply:

- (a) The number and species of animals handled by the Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 5 years are tabulated at the **Annex**.

The average period that the received animals were kept by the 4 AMCs over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Average period kept in AMCs (days)		
	Dogs	Cats	Others <sup>^</sup>
2014	8.8	9.4	31.2
2015	9.5	9.7	15.5

Calendar year	Average period kept in AMCs (days)		
	Dogs	Cats	Others <sup>^</sup>
2016	10.9	13.0	53.8
2017	13.1	13.0	65.8
2018	20.1	17.6	29.8

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

(b) The requested information is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of animals caught with animal traps				
	Dogs (by cage / snare)	Cats (by cage)	Pigeons (by cage)	Monkeys (by cage / snare)	Wild pigs (by cage, net or dart gun)
<b>2014</b>	101/404	1 406	238	533/25	12
<b>2015</b>	159/142	1 009	473	454/14	28
<b>2016</b>	76/118	564	218	521/31	59
<b>2017</b>	118/103	475	273	291/28	106
<b>2018</b>	40/102	299	0	195/29	197

Note: The management of wild animals fall under the policy purview of the Environment Bureau.

(c) Over the past 5 years, no animal died due to the use of animal traps during the catching operations conducted by AFCD.

- End -

**Annex**

Calendar year	Stray animals caught			Animals given up by owners			Animals received through other channels			Animals reclaimed by owners			Animals re-homed			Animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2014	3 676	1 836	1 374	1 464	132	28	809	78	656	1 235	576	253	679	212	75	3 868	1 039	1 594
2015	2 412	1 359	1 418	1 284	129	109	378	73	3 590	774	626	11	651	168	83	2 421	696	3 469
2016	1 919	876	1 494	1 003	107	56	343	70	674	637	400	1	513	136	92	1 814	449	748
2017	1 566	674	1 640	1 024	84	39	336	65	204	560	269	10	588	67	94	1 478	381	801
2018	1 235	547	1 369	715	80	43	304	62	4 904 <sup>#</sup>	512	206	9	577	89	87	1 026	333	5 007 <sup>#</sup>

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

<sup>#</sup> The increased numbers were mainly due to more animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and birds seized and culled upon detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)278****(Question Serial No. 6996)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

The Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) is designed to support practical, application-oriented projects, schemes or research work that would help farmers enhance their productivity and output, as well as contribute to fostering the sustainable development and enhancing the overall competitiveness of the agricultural industry. As at end-February 2019:

- (a) How many applications has the Government received? Among which how many have been approved? What is the average time required for approving each application?
- (b) Regarding the approved projects, please set out the following information: the amounts granted, the applicant organisations, whether commercial element is involved and the benefits brought to Hong Kong's agriculture industry (such as enhancing farmers' productivity/output/reducing the impacts of the agriculture industry on the environment/increasing the self-sufficiency rate of local foodstuff, etc.).

Name of project	Applicant organisation	Nature of the organisation (body corporates, local academic and research institutions, individual farmers)	Amount granted	Whether commercial element is involved	Benefit(s) brought to Hong Kong's agriculture industry

- (c) The number of cases pending assistance under the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme stands at 300, which shows that there is quite an amount of people aspiring to a farming career. If one of SADF's objectives is to enhance farmers' output, would the Government inject funding to provide more agricultural land or assist those people who aspire to become farmers in setting up their farms? If yes, what are the plans? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 7806)

Reply:

- (a) As at 1 March 2019, a total of 249 applications seeking financial assistance for individual farms to acquire farming equipment and/or materials from the Farm Improvement Scheme (FIS) under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) have been received. 238 applications have been approved, involving a total funding commitment of about \$7 million. 3 applications have been rejected and 4 applications withdrawn. The rest are being processed. Generally, the processing of FIS applications would be completed within 8 weeks, subject to timely provision of the necessary documents and availability of the farmers in arranging farm inspections.

In addition, a total of 34 applications seeking funding support for projects that will benefit the local agricultural industry as a whole have been received. Among them, 7 applications have been approved and 7 rejected on the advice of the SADF Advisory Committee, 3 withdrawn by the applicants, 1 returned to the applicant (for further supplement / re-submission if necessary) and 3 found to be ineligible to apply for the fund. The other applications are being processed. The average time required for approving an application is about 13 months, including the time taken for the applicant to provide supplementary information in response to enquiries of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and members of the SADF Advisory Committee.

- (b) Details of the approved SADF projects are at the **Annex**.
- (c) Agricultural land in Hong Kong is mainly in private hands. It is up to landowners to decide whether to lease out their land for farming. AFCD will continue to facilitate the leasing out of fallow farmland through the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme, and provide farmers with technical advice and services to return fallow land to active farming. In addition, the Government commissioned a consultancy study in late 2018 to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land as Agricultural Priority Areas, and explore suitable policies and measures to encourage owners to put fallow agricultural land into long-term agricultural use. Furthermore, SADF may provide funding to projects facilitating landowners to release their farmland and promoting rehabilitation of fallow agricultural land through improvement of agricultural infrastructures.

- End -

## Approved projects under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund as at 1 March 2019

Item	Project*	Applicant organisation	Nature of the organisation	Grant approved (\$ million)	Benefit(s) brought to Hong Kong's agriculture industry (based on the project proposals)
1	Development of sustainable organic fertilisers for output maximisation of outdoor and indoor plant factories	City University of Hong Kong	Local academic and research institution	2.8	The project aims to develop organic fertilisers for use by crop farmers enhancing their productivity, which will benefit about 4 300 local crop farmers.
2	Management and operation of the Organic Certification System and its support initiatives	Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre Certification Limited	Body corporate	15.0	The project aims to implement and maintain the operation of a simplified organic certification system in Hong Kong on organic farming and increase the number of farmers to take part in organic certification, benefitting about 300 local crop farmers.
3	Promotion of local organic agriculture and image-building of professional organic certification	Hong Kong Baptist University (Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre)	Local academic and research institution	14.9	The project aims to deepen the public's understanding in local organic agriculture and organic certification service as well as assist organic farmers in establishing local organic agriculture brands to capture market niches, benefitting about 4 300 local crop farmers and the public at large.

Item	Project*	Applicant organisation	Nature of the organisation	Grant approved (\$ million)	Benefit(s) brought to Hong Kong's agriculture industry (based on the project proposals)
4	Comprehensive support and promotion scheme for agriculture	The Federation of Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Societies, Limited	Agricultural co-operative society	14.1	The project aims to provide farmers with agricultural resources, support for agricultural operations and organic certification support services as well as quality organic seedlings and seeds, which enhance the farmers' efficiency in their daily operations and to assist them in achieving economy in their operating expenditure, benefitting about 300 local crop farmers. The operation of a farmers' market in Tai Po will also benefit the public at large.
5	Improving pig health and production in Hong Kong	City University of Hong Kong (School of Veterinary Medicine)	Local academic and research institution	15.0	The project aims to identify the major constraints on pig health and production in Hong Kong and to develop interventions that will result in improved productivity, pig welfare, food safety and monitoring for early warning of new and emerging zoonotic diseases etc. Based on the needs of individual pig farms, a tailored pig health and production management service programme will be delivered to the farms, benefitting 43 local pig farms.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Project*</b>	<b>Applicant organisation</b>	<b>Nature of the organisation</b>	<b>Grant approved (\$ million)</b>	<b>Benefit(s) brought to Hong Kong's agriculture industry (based on the project proposals)</b>
6	Improving poultry health and production in Hong Kong	City University of Hong Kong (School of Veterinary Medicine)	Local academic and research institution	15.0	The project aims to identify the major constraints on poultry health and production in Hong Kong and to develop interventions that will result in improved productivity, poultry welfare, food safety and monitoring for early warning of new and emerging zoonotic diseases etc. Based on the needs of individual poultry farms, a tailored poultry health and production management service programme will be delivered to the farms, benefitting 29 local poultry farms.
7	Technology demonstration project on application of advanced sewage treatment technologies for local pig farms	Hong Kong Productivity Council	Body corporate	5.0	The project aims to devise and construct an advanced and automated sewage treatment demonstration system in order to enhance sewage treatment technologies, benefitting 43 local pig farms.
<b>Total</b>				<b>81.8</b>	

\*None of the 7 projects above involves commercial element.



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)279****(Question Serial No. 4227)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

What were the respective numbers of stray cats and dogs caught by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in each year, and the respective numbers of stray cats and dogs euthanised over the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 53)Reply:

The requested information is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Stray dogs and cats caught		Stray dogs and cats euthanised	
	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats
2014	3 676	1 836	2 406	939
2015	2 412	1 359	1 424	605
2016	1 919	876	1 039	380
2017	1 566	674	762	325
2018	1 235	547	512	271

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)280****(Question Serial No. 4192)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please set out the quantities, the value and wholesale price of fresh marine fish and live fish traded through the wholesale fish markets under the Fish Marketing Organization, as well as the quantities of fresh marine fish and live fish returned and the reasons over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 1085)Reply:

Information on the quantities, value and wholesale price of fresh marine fish and live marine fish traded through the wholesale fish markets under the Fish Marketing Organization over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Fresh marine fish			Live marine fish		
	Weight (tonne)	Value (\$ million)	Average wholesale price (\$/kg)	Weight (tonne)	Value (\$ million)	Average wholesale price (\$/kg)
2014	35 380	1,896	54	10 050	1,039	103
2015	36 015	2,117	59	10 415	1,097	105
2016	35 320	2,236	63	10 670	1,156	108
2017	34 419	2,410	70	10 601	1,280	121
2018	33 487	2,498	75	10 338	1,164	113

There was no fish returned over the past 5 years.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)281**

**(Question Serial No. 4193)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Please set out the expenditures and numbers of staff of the department responsible for the supervision of credit unions and co-operative societies, the numbers of applications approved and the average successful rates each year over the past 5 years.
- (b) Please provide details in tabular form the name list of the current credit unions and co-operative societies.

Date of establishment	Name of credit unions and co-operative societies	Number of members	Name list of members

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 1086)

Reply:

- (a) The Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation is the Registrar of co-operative societies and credit unions. Currently there are 173 and 44 registered co-operative societies and credit unions respectively. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has a dedicated team to maintain the registries for the co-operative societies and credit unions, including inviting and processing new applications for establishing such entities, examining annual filings submitted by registered co-operative societies and credit unions, conducting regular site inspections and auditing their books, and providing advice on the regulations under the law. The requested information is tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)	Number of applications approved	Average successful rates
2014-15	12.3	25	0	Not applicable
2015-16	12.6	25	0	Not applicable
2016-17	14.1	26	0	Not applicable
2017-18	13.3	26	2	100%
2018-19	12.5	26	0	Not applicable

(b) The information requested\* is set out as follows:

(i) Credit Unions

Item	Date of establishment	Name of credit unions	Number of members
1	27/5/2009	Amwal Credit Union	21
2	22/9/2008	Asian Migrants Credit Union	234
3	23/6/1986	Chinese University of Hong Kong Employees' Credit Union	2 077
4	1/9/1970	Choi Hung Estate Holy Family Credit Union	49
5	12/6/1991	Correctional Services Department Credit Union	6 114
6	15/8/1970	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Credit Union	4 155
7	14/3/2001	Elite Credit Union	276
8	5/7/2004	Fanling Wah Ming Estate Credit Union	58
9	1/10/1970	Government Supplies Staff Credit Union	582
10	18/2/1994	HIT Credit Union	1 134
11	9/11/1982	Hong Kong Caritas Staff Credit Union	131
12	1/9/1970	Hong Kong Cathedral Credit Union	137
13	22/11/2016	Hong Kong Enterprise Credit Union	23
14	18/12/2013	Hong Kong Money Service Operators Credit Union	17
15	1/10/1970	Hong Kong Observatory Credit Union	166
16	7/7/1992	Hong Kong Playground Association Staff Credit Union	109
17	2/11/1981	Hong Kong Police Credit Union	43 615
18	30/11/1978	Independent Commission Against Corruption Credit Union	788
19	23/6/1976	Junk Bay Credit Union	18
20	1/8/1970	Labour Department Staff Credit Union	934
21	7/7/1978	Marine Department Staff Credit Union	231
22	14/5/1980	Metro Credit Union	14 639
23	1/9/1970	Mother of Good Counsel Credit Union	124
24	30/6/1972	Mutual Trust Credit Union	96
25	27/10/1982	New Territories Treatment Works Staff	232

Item	Date of establishment	Name of credit unions	Number of members
		Credit Union	
26	13/4/1971	Oi Tack Credit Union	72
27	18/2/1976	PCCW Credit Union	11 558
28	1/9/1970	People's Effort Credit Union	117
29	12/11/2009	Rainbow Credit Union	235
30	30/6/1977	Sheung Shui Credit Union	249
31	4/11/1971	Social Welfare Department Credit Union	487
32	1/9/1970	St. Anthony's Credit Union	29
33	30/3/1984	St. Bonaventure's Church Credit Union	488
34	1/8/1970	St. Camillus Credit Union	35
35	1/9/1970	St. Francis Credit Union	160
36	1/9/1970	St. John's Credit Union	133
37	1/9/1970	St. Lawrence Credit Union	32
38	1/10/1970	St. Vincent Credit Union	448
39	23/4/1998	Star of the Sea Church Credit Union	279
40	3/2/2015	Sun Credit Union	83
41	8/9/1972	The Hong Kong League Central Credit Union	208
42	25/7/2008	University Credit Union	114
43	1/3/1971	Wah Fu Estate Credit Union	36
44	23/5/1973	Water Supplies Department Staff Credit Union	2 051

(ii) Co-operative Societies

Item	Date of establishment	Name of co-operative societies	Number of members
<b>(a) Fisheries</b>			
1	6/8/1964	Ma Wan Fishermen's Better Living Co-operative Society, Limited	18
2	27/3/1958	Shau Kei Wan Deep Sea Capture Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	10
3	14/7/1959	Shau Kei Wan Pair Trawler Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	10
4	10/4/1969	St. Andrews' Fishermen's Better Living Co-operative Society, Ltd.	207
5	30/9/1970	Tai Po Sam Mun Tsai Fishermen's Better Living Co-operative Society, Limited	36
6	11/12/1953	The Aberdeen Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	12

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of establishment</b>	<b>Name of co-operative societies</b>	<b>Number of members</b>
7	26/3/1957	The Aberdeen Mechanized Conger Pike Small Long Liner Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	12
8	18/3/1958	The Aberdeen Mechanized Gill Net Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	12
9	7/4/1960	The Ap Chau Fishermen's Better Living Co-operative Society, Limited	48
10	28/7/1964	The Ap Lei Chau Small Long Liner Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	14
11	20/9/1955	The Castle Peak Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	11
12	15/7/1965	The Castle Peak Mechanized Trawler Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	14
13	27/11/1963	The Cheung Chau Mechanized Gill Net Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	13
14	26/5/1954	The Cheung Chau Purse Seiner Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	8
15	28/10/1957	The Cheung Chau Sai Wan Mechanized Purse Seiner Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	10
16	2/5/1960	The Federation of Fishermen's Co-operative Societies of Sai Kung District, Limited	5
17	21/3/1960	The Federation of Fishermen's Co-operative Societies of Shau Kei Wan District, Limited	5
18	21/3/1960	The Federation of Fishermen's Co-operative Societies of Southern District, Limited	10
19	26/3/1959	The Federation of Fishermen's Co-operative Societies of Tai Po District, New Territories Limited	10
20	28/5/1969	The Hang Hau Fishermen's Better Living Co-operative Society, Limited	65
21	30/3/1954	The Kau Sai Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	14
22	12/4/1960	The Kau Sai Mechanized Small Long Liner Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	10
23	17/3/1959	The Leung Shuen Wan Fisherman's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	13
24	21/10/1954	The Mui Wo and Cheung Chau Purse Seiner Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	14
25	10/11/1954	The Po Toi Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	9

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of establishment</b>	<b>Name of co-operative societies</b>	<b>Number of members</b>
26	8/5/1962	The Sai Kung District Fishermen's Better Living Co-operative Society, Limited	20
27	21/3/1953	The Sai Kung Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	12
28	24/11/1958	The Sai Kung Small Long Liner and Gill Net Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	13
29	4/6/1986	The Sai Kung St. Peter's Ming Shun Village Fishermen's Better Living Co-operative Society, Limited	126
30	1/3/1989	The Sai Kung Tai Ping Village Better Living Co-operative Society, Limited	124
31	26/8/1959	The Sha Tau Kok Small Long Liner and Gill Net Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	11
32	28/7/1953	The Shau Kei Wan (Cheung Chau) Trawler Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	12
33	16/5/1960	The Shau Kei Wan (Shek Miu) Mechanized Small Long Liner Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	10
34	3/5/1961	The Shau Kei Wan Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	10
35	22/4/1998	The Shau Kei Wan Stern Trawler Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	14
36	9/6/1953	The Shau Kei Wan Trawler Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	28
37	29/3/1954	The Stanley Purse Seiner Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	10
38	11/1/1961	The Tai O Sha Chai Min Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	17
39	18/5/1965	The Tai Po Fishermen's Better Living Co-operative Society, Limited	111
40	15/9/1952	The Tai Po Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	10
41	30/4/1959	The Tai Po Hand Liner Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	13
42	20/7/1953	The Tai Po Hoklo Fishermen's Credit and Housing Co-operative Society, Unlimited	12
43	29/8/1960	The Tai Po Purse Seiner and Small Long Liner Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	13
44	20/3/1957	The Tai Po Sham Wan Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	11

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of establishment</b>	<b>Name of co-operative societies</b>	<b>Number of members</b>
45	11/2/1958	The Tai Po Shrimp Trawler Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	12
46	6/6/1963	The Tai Po Trawler Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	10
47	2/6/1965	The Tap Mun Fishermen's Better Living Co-operative Society, Limited	78
48	16/10/1959	The Tap Mun Purse Seiner Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	10
49	23/8/1994	The Tsing Yi St. Paul Village Better Living Co-operative Society, Limited	45
50	2/4/1962	The Tsuen Wan Fishermen's Better Living Co-operative Society, Limited	53
51	20/10/1954	The Tsuen Wan Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	14
52	4/5/1961	The Tuen Mun Mechanized Fishing Boat Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	38
53	5/8/1953	The Yeung Kong Fishermen's Credit Co-operative Society, Unlimited	11
54	5/12/1967	The Yuen Long Shan Pui Chung Hau Village Better Living Co-operative Society, Ltd.	103
55	16/11/1981	The Yung Shu Wan Fishermen's Better Living Co-operative Society, Limited	24

**(b) Agriculture**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of establishment</b>	<b>Name of co-operative societies</b>	<b>Number of members</b>
56	13/10/2017	New Territories Local Farmers Organic Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society Limited	10
57	1/12/1954	The Castle Peak District Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	79
58	11/12/1959	The Cheung Chau Pig Raising Co-operative Society, Limited	42
59	25/6/1968	The Cheung Chau Round Table Third Village Better Living Co-operative Society Limited	48
60	17/5/1963	The Cheung Chau Shun Yee Second Village Better Living Co-operative Society Limited	36
61	20/4/1967	The Cheung Chau Shun Yee Village Better Living Co-operative Society Limited	52
62	23/3/1955	The Fanling Kwun Ti Village Farmers' Irrigation Co-operative Society, Limited	23
63	31/7/1951	The Fanling Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	45



<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of establishment</b>	<b>Name of co-operative societies</b>	<b>Number of members</b>
64	1/5/1973	The Federation of Pig Raising Co-operative Societies of Hong Kong, Kowloon and New Territories, Limited	9
65	7/3/1953	The Federation of Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Societies, Limited	26
66	15/7/1959	The Fung Kat Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	168
67	7/1/1962	The Ha Tsuen Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	390
68	1/3/1961	The Hong Kong Round Table Association Cheung Chau Residents' Better Living Co-operative Society Limited	102
69	3/8/1955	The Hung Shui Kiu Pig Raising Co-operative Society, Limited	61
70	28/5/1954	The Hung Shui Kiu Tin Sai Pig Raising Co-operative Society, Limited	44
71	20/11/1953	The Hung Shui Kiu Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	277
72	3/2/1960	The Kam Tin Heung, Sha Po, Ng Villagers' Better Living Co-operative Society Limited	62
73	6/4/1955	The Kam Tin Ng Ka Tsuen Pig Raising Co-operative Society, Limited	46
74	2/9/1957	The Koon Lam Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	223
75	31/3/1952	The Ku Tung Vegetable Marketing and Credit Co-operative Society, Limited	217
76	20/12/1952	The Kwan Ti Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	52
77	19/11/1960	The Lam Ti Agricultural Credit Co-operative Society, Limited	34
78	16/6/1980	The Lau Fou Shan Pig Raising Co-operative Society, Limited	59
79	16/4/1966	The Lung Chau Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	33
80	9/7/1962	The Ma On Shan Lutheran New Village Better Living Co-operative Society Limited	23
81	27/11/1962	The Ma Tso Lung Lutheran New Village Better Living Co-operative Society Limited	64
82	26/7/1965	The Mai Po Lung Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	39
83	28/12/1953	The Mui Wo Agricultural Products Marketing and Credit Co-operative Society, Limited	56
84	15/12/1964	The Mui Wo Pig Raising Co-operative Society, Limited	36

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of establishment</b>	<b>Name of co-operative societies</b>	<b>Number of members</b>
85	27/10/1964	The Ng Ka Tsuen Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	51
86	12/5/1961	The Pat Heung Vegetable Marketing and Credit Co-operative Society, Limited	289
87	30/12/1961	The Ping Che Vegetable Marketing and Credit Co-operative Society, Limited	165
88	18/3/1955	The Ping Shan District Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	88
89	2/5/1963	The Sai Kung Pak Shek Wo New Village Better Living Co-operative Society Limited	20
90	9/12/1959	The Sai Kung Sun On Better Living Co-operative Society Limited	459
91	30/7/1965	The Shan Tong Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	216
92	23/1/1959	The Shek Kong Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	134
93	27/12/1951	The Sheung Shui Vegetable Marketing and Credit Co-operative Society, Limited	177
94	30/12/1953	The Sun Tin Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	365
95	18/11/1953	The Sun Yau Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	317
96	23/7/1960	The Sung Ching Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	26
97	20/3/1953	The Ta Ku Ling Vegetable Marketing and Credit Co-operative Society, Limited	50
98	6/8/1955	The Tai Po Kau Pig Feed and Fertilizer Purchasing Co-operative Society, Limited	26
99	4/6/1959	The Tai Po Kau Village Better Living Co-operative Society Limited	32
100	29/9/1951	The Tai Po Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Ltd	38
101	22/5/1956	The Tsiu Keng Vegetable Marketing and Credit Co-operative Society, Limited	161
102	6/7/1965	The Tsuen Wan Sum Tsang Pai Min Kok Village Better Living Co-operative Society Limited	23
103	19/9/1953	The Tsun Wan Vegetable Marketing and Credit Co-operative Society, Limited	46
104	29/7/1968	The Tuen Mun Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	48
105	24/10/1955	The Tung Chung Agricultural Products Marketing & Credit Co-operative Society, Limited	78

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of establishment</b>	<b>Name of co-operative societies</b>	<b>Number of members</b>
106	24/3/1954	The Un Long Sung Ching San Tsuen Pig Raising Co-operative Society, Ltd	72
107	17/9/1963	The Yuen Long Small Traders New Village Better Living Co-operative Society Limited	134
108	29/4/1957	The Yuen Long Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	79
109	23/2/1966	The Yuen Long Wah Shing Village Better Living Co-operative Society Limited	48
<b>(c) Others</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of establishment</b>	<b>Name of co-operative societies</b>	<b>Number of members</b>
110	6/11/1956	Anhui Street Co-operative Building Society, Limited	10
111	8/6/1998	Chai Wan Police Married Quarters Consumers' Co-operative Society, Limited	387
112	14/11/1956	Concurrent Co-operative Building Society, Limited	12
113	21/4/2006	Coop DecorLine Workers Co-operative Society, Limited	10
114	20/4/1999	Fire Services Married Quarters Tseung Kwan O Consumers' Co-operative Society, Limited	256
115	10/12/2001	Fung Shing Discipline Service Married Quarters Consumers' Co-operative Society, Limited	254
116	30/11/1957	Good Luck Mansion Co-operative Building Society, Limited	30
117	27/11/1956	Happy Co-operative Building Society, Limited	10
118	6/7/2004	Hoi Wang House Consumers' Co-operative Society, Limited	9
119	24/9/1957	Hong Yee Co-operative Building Society, Limited	20
120	2/6/2004	Joined-hand Women Worker Co-operative Society, Limited	10
121	1/11/2005	Kwan Fong Escorting Service Workers Co-operative Society, Limited	12
122	21/5/2007	Lai King Disciplined Services Quarters Consumers' Co-operative Society, Limited	176
123	29/10/1956	Maidstone Co-operative Building Society, Limited	30
124	23/5/1958	Mansion Co-operative Building Society, Ltd.	20
125	14/12/1956	Mataukok Co-operative Building Society, Limited	12
126	12/2/1957	Okay Co-operative Building Society, Limited	10

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of establishment</b>	<b>Name of co-operative societies</b>	<b>Number of members</b>
127	24/12/1956	Pak Kung Street Co-operative Building Society, Limited	10
128	2/12/1968	Pokfield Garden Co-operative Building Society, Limited	72
129	22/10/1957	Salim Co-operative Building Society, Limited	20
130	3/4/1996	Sheung Shui Police Married Quarters Consumers' Co-operative Society, Limited	337
131	25/2/1957	Sincerity Co-operative Building Society, Limited	34
132	10/2/1958	Success Co-operative Building Society, Ltd	12
133	2/2/1957	Tai Chung Co-operative Building Society Limited	20
134	9/6/2017	Taste.Soil Workers Co-operative Society, Limited	10
135	3/3/1969	The Aberdeen Co-operative Building Society, Limited	15
136	28/6/1960	The Acme Co-operative Building Society, Limited	10
137	30/9/1953	The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department Staff Thrift and Loan Co-operative Society, Limited	231
138	8/12/1956	The Amity Co-operative Building Society, Ltd.	20
139	14/9/1971	The Arch Court Co-operative Building Society, Limited	36
140	28/12/1961	The Ascot Co-operative Building Society, Limited	24
141	11/12/1961	The Bonnie Co-operative Building Society, Limited	12
142	7/11/1956	The Comfort Co-operative Building Society, Ltd	20
143	9/2/1961	The Felix Co-operative Building Society, Limited	12
144	11/12/1959	The Fish and Vegetable Marketing Organizations Staff Consumers' Co-operative Society, Limited	223
145	26/8/1960	The Fraternity Co-operative Building Society, Limited	20
146	19/4/1960	The Friends Co-operative Building Society, Limited	10
147	12/6/1961	The Good Hope Co-operative Building Society, Limited	18
148	12/6/1961	The Kinney Co-operative Building Society, Limited	20
149	16/2/1962	The Lily Garden Co-operative Building Society, Limited	18

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of establishment</b>	<b>Name of co-operative societies</b>	<b>Number of members</b>
150	25/8/1960	The Lung Wa Co-operative Building Society, Limited	10
151	2/10/1961	The Magnolia Garden Co-operative Building Society, Limited	15
152	30/10/1959	The Maine Co-operative Building Society, Limited	10
153	25/8/1960	The Mayfair Co-operative Building Society, Limited	12
154	28/5/1958	The Peace Co-operative Building Society, Ltd.	12
155	15/8/1960	The Peerless Co-operative Building Society Limited	20
156	10/12/1956	The Popular Co-operative Building Society, Ltd.	40
157	4/5/1957	The Shaukiwan Co-operative Building Society, Ltd	18
158	15/12/1960	The Sinclair Co-operative Building Society, Limited	20
159	4/3/1960	The Siu Yuen Co-operative Building Society, Limited	12
160	31/10/1957	The Snughome Co-operative Building Society, Ltd	10
161	14/2/1961	The Splendid Co-operative Building Society, Limited	20
162	9/1/1959	The Sweethome Co-operative Building Society Limited	10
163	8/10/1958	The Sycamore Co-operative Building Society, Limited	20
164	2/6/1961	The Tai Wah Co-operative Building Society, Limited	10
165	15/9/1958	The Universal Co-operative Building Society, Ltd.	10
166	19/6/1959	The Valley Co-operative Building Society, Ltd.	15
167	2/11/1960	The Yick Kwan Co-operative Building Society, Limited	10
168	10/1/1996	Tsing Yi Junior Police Officers Married Quarters Consumers' Co-operative Society, Limited	214
169	16/10/1956	Union Co-operative Building Society, Limited	15
170	6/8/2004	United Women Workers Co-operative Society, Limited	10
171	10/5/2007	Women's Healthy Living Workers Co-operative Society, Limited	21
172	7/6/1999	Wong Tai Sin Disciplined Services Quarters Consumers' Co-operative Society, Limited	395
173	4/3/1958	Y Hing Co-operative Building Society, Ltd.	12

\* Due to privacy reason, the names of individual members of credit unions and co-operative societies are not disclosed.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)282**

**(Question Serial No. 4999)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Regarding the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area (NDA) and the North East New Territories NDAs, in view of the vast amount of stray animals bound to appear due to the demolition works to be conducted there in the next few years, please advise on whether the Government would allocate more manpower and financial resources to the animal management initiatives carried out in those areas and other areas with development projects, or even the rural area as a whole (so as to save as many animals as possible and administer less euthanasia during the development)? If yes, please set out the way(s) in which such resources would be utilised. If not, please illustrate the reasons.
- (b) What were the respective numbers of prosecutions instituted against the public under the Dogs and Cats Ordinance, the Rabies Ordinance and the Pounds Ordinance over the past 5 years? (Please set out the respective offence(s) and numbers of prosecutions.) Please also illustrate the specific difference(s) in the application of these 3 Ordinances.
- (c) What were the respective numbers of animals sold by private treaties or public auctions as published in the Gazette under section 4 of the Pounds Ordinance over the past 5 years?
- (d) Does the Government have the latest data on the number of animals since the Thematic Household Survey Report No. 48 compiled in 2010? Does the Government plan to conduct the relevant survey again in the next year or in the foreseeable future? If the latest data is available, please provide the most updated numbers of cats and dogs kept by households by districts (by District Council constituency areas). In any case, please provide the numbers of cats and dogs kept by households in 2010 by districts (by District Council constituency areas) on the basis of the said Report.

- (e) What were the total numbers of dogs neutered and registered as well as the total numbers of cats neutered over the past 5 years?
- (f) What were the respective ratios of different animals (cats, dogs and others) eventually rehomed by the public at the 4 animal management centres of the Government over the past 3 years? (12 figures per year, 36 figures in total)

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 2030)

Reply:

- (a) With regard to animals affected by the New Development Areas, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will provide assistance to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) which are interested in operating adoption centres. AWOs in need of premises running the re-homing centres may consider the suitability of vacant government sites (including vacant school premises) under the management of the Lands Department that are available for leasing by non-governmental organisations for community purposes on short-term basis. Non-profit making AWOs may also apply from a funding scheme run by the Development Bureau for subsidies to carry out one-off, basic and necessary restoration works so as to put the vacant government sites fit-for-use as re-homing centres.
- (b) The Dogs and Cats Ordinance (Cap. 167) is to provide for the keeping, regulation and control of dogs and cats, for the prohibition of the slaughter of dogs and cats, and for related matters. The Pounds Ordinance (Cap. 168) is to make provision for impounding stray animals and for the disposal thereof. The Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421) is to provide for the prevention and control of rabies and for related matters.

Information regarding the prosecutions made under Cap. 167 and Cap. 421 over the past 5 years is tabulated below.

**Prosecutions under Cap. 167**

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Allowing a large dog in a public place without leash	19	23	31	49	15
Being the keeper of a fighting dog which has not been neutered	1	1	2	1	1
Failing to control the dog while it is in a public place by measures specified in the direction	2	1	3	0	1
Failing to comply with a condition in the Dangerous Dogs Regulation (Exemption) Notice made under Cap. 167 Section 17(1)	0	0	1	1	0



### Prosecutions under Cap. 421

Calendar year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Keeping a dog over 5 months of age without a valid licence	562	484	319	349	326
Failing to keep a dog under control in a public place	338	256	182	197	144
Failing to keep a dog under control in a public place and the dog bites a person	92	71	75	56	37
Failing to comply with the directions given by the authorised officer (e.g. to put the dog under confinement or quarantine)	0	0	1	0	0
Failing to import animals, carcasses or animal products under and in accordance with a valid permit	11	9	7	16	8
Being the owner of the conveyance on which imported animals, carcasses or animal products fail to be under and in accordance with a valid permit	0	2	3	4	1
Removing animals, carcasses, animal products without a valid permit from the aircraft	2	0	0	0	0

No prosecution was instituted under Cap. 168 over the past 5 years.

- (c) No animal was sold under auction after being gazetted in accordance with section 4 of Cap. 168 over the past 5 years.
- (d) AFCD commissioned the Census and Statistics Department to conduct a thematic household survey on the keeping of pets in 2018. The findings of the survey will be available in mid-2019. According to the thematic household survey conducted in 2010, there were some 248 000 dogs and 168 000 cats kept in the households in Hong Kong. Their distribution by district is not available.
- (e) The cumulative number of licensed and sterilised dogs is not available. Nevertheless, as at 31 December 2018, there were 175 677 dogs licensed in Hong Kong, amongst which 102 458 of them were sterilised. There is no specific statutory requirement for cats to be licensed and AFCD does not have the number of cats sterilised.
- (f) The requested information is tabulated at the **Annex**.

- End -

Calendar year	Ratio of animals rehomed by 4 AMCs											
	AMC / HK			AMC / K			AMC / NTS			AMC / NTN		
	Dogs	Cats	Others <sup>*</sup>	Dogs	Cats	Others <sup>*</sup>	Dogs	Cats	Others <sup>*</sup>	Dogs	Cats	Others <sup>*^</sup>
2016	56.1%	6.5%	34.9%	7.6%	12.7%	17.60%	7.8%	11.8%	32%	11.7%	17.5%	1.60%
2017	51.4%	2.7%	15.4%	17.5%	9.4%	34.70%	19.6%	12.2%	50%	11.2%	7.9%	0.06%
2018	59.9%	13.9%	145.0% <sup>#</sup>	20.5%	16.9%	0.93% <sup>@</sup>	21.4%	13.5%	41%	18.4%	8.9%	0.09%

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

# Some animals received in 2017 were rehomed in 2018.

@ The low percentage was due to large number of birds seized and culled upon detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

^ The low percentage was due to large number of wild animals, poultry and wild birds as well as animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) that were not suitable for rehoming.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)283**

**(Question Serial No. 4559)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is stated under this programme that there will be a net increase in 11 posts in 2019-20, and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will review the existing legislation related to animal welfare (including the introduction of regulations imposing positive duty of care on animal keepers) and carry out public consultation. In this regard, please advise on the following:

- (a) The respective post titles, ranks and salary expenditures involved in 2019-20 of the additional posts. How many of the posts are related to the review of legislation in respect of animal welfare?
- (b) The implementation schedule and details of expenditures involved in the public consultation work related to legislation in respect of animal welfare.

Asked by: Hon FAN Kwok-wai, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 104)

Reply:

- (a) Information regarding the net increase of 11 posts in Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) under Programme 3 (Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services) in 2019-20 is tabulated below.

Area of Work	Rank	Number of posts	Provision for salaries in 2019-20 (\$ million)

<b>Area of Work</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of posts</b>	<b>Provision for salaries in 2019-20 (\$ million)</b>
To handle claims in relation to marine works	Fisheries Supervisor II	2*	0.5
To handle animal poisoning and cruelty cases	Veterinary Officer Field Officer I	1 1	1.6
To strengthen administrative support for the Veterinary Surgeons Board	Executive Officer I Executive Officer II	2 1	2.0
To strengthen manpower support for the Supplies Section	Supplies Supervisor II Supplies Assistant Supplies Attendant	1 1 1	0.7
To enhance promotion of animal welfare	Field Officer II Field Assistant	1 1	0.5
To provide support for the Personnel Section	Executive Officer I	-1**	-0.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>4.6</b>

\* These two posts are created under Programme 3 for extending the two time-limited posts for the same area of work lapsing in 2019-20 which were created under Programme 1.

\*\* This time-limited post is offset by the creation of the same post for the same area of work under Programme 1 in 2019-20. The creation under Programme 1 is not reflected above.

None of the new posts created is related to the review to enhance animal welfare.

- (b) Having reviewed overseas legislation on animal welfare, and considered views of members of the Legislative Council, animal welfare organisations and other stakeholders, we aim to launch a 3-month public consultation exercise in mid 2019 on proposals to enhance animal welfare. We will draw up legislative proposals after taking into account views gathered in the public consultation. The review forms part of AFCD's on-going work in promotion of animal welfare. As such, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)284**

**(Question Serial No. 3559)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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

- (a) the details, respective expenditures and manpower involved in the Government's regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19);
- (b) the details, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the Government's regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry in 2019-20;
- (c) the total amount and quantities of local and imported flowers over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19);
- (d) the measures that the Government currently takes to promote the local flower cultivation industry.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 78)

Reply:

- (a), (b) and (d) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides support services to all crop farmers including florists. The services provided include technical support in respect of cultivation techniques, control of plant pests and diseases and soil analysis, as well as the lending of farm machinery and provision of loans. The resources deployed for these services over the past 3 years are tabulated below.

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (number of staff)</b>
<b>2016-17</b>	7.7	17
<b>2017-18</b>	8.2	18
<b>2018-19 (revised estimate)</b>	8.6	18

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

In 2019-20, AFCD will continue to provide the above-mentioned services to crop farmers including florists with a similar level of resources as in 2018-19.

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

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Local production (\$ million)</b>	<b>Net import (\$ million)</b>
<b>2016</b>	154	244
<b>2017</b>	158	406
<b>2018</b>	149	501

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)285**

**(Question Serial No. 3560)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding epidemic prevention for the livestock keeping industry, please advise on the following:

- (a) The latest progress of the epidemic prevention work, and the work plan, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in 2019-20.
- (b) The types of pig and bird vaccines introduced into the local industry and the expenditure involved respectively over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19).
- (c) The total expenditures involved respectively in vaccinating pigs and birds over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19). What were the respective average costs? What were the respective numbers of pigs and birds vaccinated?
- (d) Regarding the outbreaks of epidemic diseases in livestock at different levels of the local supply chain, what were the numbers, locations (e.g. markets, wholesale markets or farms), and virus(es) concerned respectively over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (e) Will the Government implement any new measures to strengthen the work on prevention of influenza related to poultry and livestock?
- (f) Will the Government implement any new measures to strengthen the work on prevention of the African Swine Fever?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 79)

Reply:

(a) and (e) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) prevents and controls the outbreak of animal and zoonotic diseases in local chicken and pig farms through (i) conducting regular inspections of local farms to ensure that the farmers comply with the biosecurity, farm hygiene and other related requirements, including proper vaccination of poultry against Avian Influenza (AI), and taking enforcement action against non-compliant cases; (ii) providing technical advice and assistance to farmers on proper farm management, prevention and control of animal diseases; and (iii) organising education seminars on farm management and disease prevention for local farmers and their workers. The estimated expenditure and manpower earmarked for this area of work in 2019-20 are \$59.6 million and 61 staff respectively.

(b) AFCD requires all local farms to apply bivalent vaccine that could guard against both H5 and H7N9 AI viruses and AFCD provides technical assistance in the process. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

(c) Apart from the mandatory AI vaccination programme for chickens in local farms, pig or chicken farmers may decide whether any other vaccines should be used for better protection of their farm animals against any particular disease. Commonly used vaccines include those against porcine circovirus, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome, etc. in pigs, and those against New Castle Disease, Infectious Tracheitis and Gumboro Disease, etc. in poultry. All the vaccines used in local farms are purchased by farmers at their own cost. AFCD does not have information on the total expenditure and the average costs involved in vaccinating pigs and poultries.

(d) Over the past 3 years (2016 to 2018), there was 1 case of detection of H7N9 AI virus from an environmental sample collected from a live poultry market stall in June 2016.

During the same period, there were 5 FMD cases in local pig farms in February (1 case), March (3 cases) and June (1 case), all in 2018 respectively.

(f) Since the first African Swine Fever (ASF) case was reported on the Mainland in early August 2018, AFCD has been closely monitoring the situation and implementing corresponding measures in a timely manner. Major measures being implemented include:

(i) maintaining close contact with pig farmers, and stepping up inspection to all local pig farms;

(ii) advising farmers to implement proper biosecurity measures and providing assistance and loans to facilitate farmers to acquire appropriate facilities to enhance biosecurity;

(iii) requesting all local pig farms to step up the cleansing and disinfection of vehicles and personnel entering and leaving pig farms;

(iv) suspending the import of breeders from the Mainland;



- (v) banning the storage or use of swill of pork origin as pig feed from 12 January 2019 through introducing new conditions to the relevant livestock keeping licences;
- (vi) devising a contingency and surveillance plan for detecting ASF and conducting ASF testing when there is suspected infection of pigs;
- (vii) conducting drills on culling of pigs to prepare for ASF outbreaks in local pig farms; and
- (viii) liaising with relevant government departments regarding tightening up on collection of pig waste and carcasses.

AFCD will remain vigilant and closely monitor the situation with a view to taking further measures as and when necessary.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)286**

**(Question Serial No. 3561)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding antibiotic use in livestock, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the numbers of cases of using prohibited antibiotic and restricted antibiotic exceeding maximum residue level in local pig farms and chicken farms, as well as chickens and pigs imported from the Mainland over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (b) Further to the above question, what were the respective numbers of prosecutions instituted and successful prosecutions?
- (c) What were the expenditures and manpower on matters concerning inspections of meat safety, technical support rendered to farmers and publicity on antibiotics over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (d) It is stated in the Hong Kong Strategy and Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance that the Government would explore how to seek proper support and veterinary services for the industry in order to prevent and treat diseases. What is the progress of the work?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 80)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) Over the past 3 calendar years (i.e. 2016-2018), there was 1 case each of suspected usage of prohibited antimicrobial and restricted antimicrobial exceeding maximum residue level in local pig farms. Prosecution was not initiated for either case due to insufficient evidence.
- (c) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is responsible

for the testing of veterinary drug residues in samples collected from food animals to be slaughtered, and regular inspections of local livestock farms to monitor the health of pigs and chickens. AFCD also advises farmers on the responsible and prudent use of veterinary drugs, including antimicrobials. The work above forms part of AFCD's overall farm management and disease prevention programme for local livestock farms. There is no separate breakdown for the expenditure and manpower involved.

- (d) Following the announcement of the Hong Kong Strategy and Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in July 2017, AFCD has been engaging local veterinary associations, tertiary institutions and the livestock sector with a view to facilitating and supporting projects for the provision of veterinary services to food animal production farms by the non-government veterinary sector. Three projects have been approved under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund for providing veterinary services to local pig farms, local chicken farms and local fish farms. These projects involve formulation of tailor-made farm-specific disease management plans for the purposes of disease prevention and promoting responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials, and assisting farmers in sourcing vaccines and other veterinary medications. In addition, AFCD commissioned a consultancy study in October 2017 to devise a surveillance programme to monitor antimicrobial usage as well as the prevalence of bacteria with AMR in local food animal farms including livestock and fish farms. The consultancy study will be completed by mid-2019 and the recommended surveillance programme will be launched later this year.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)287**

**(Question Serial No. 3562)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the details, expenditures and manpower involved in promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry (e.g. the development of eco-tourism, leisure fishing, fisheries operations employing innovative technology and other sustainable fisheries operations) over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (b) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (c) Since the introduction of the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund and its Equipment Improvement Project, how many project applications have been received, approved, rejected and are being examined in total? What are these projects by type (e.g. capture, culture, leisure fishing or others)?
- (d) Further to the above question, what are the number of beneficiaries, and among them, the number of in-service fishermen benefited since the introduction of the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund and its Equipment Improvement Project?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 81)

Reply:

- (a) The Government has been promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry through (i) implementing a suite of fisheries management measures to help conserve and restore depleted marine resources such as the ban on trawling since December 2012 and the introduction of a registration system for local fishing vessels; (ii) assisting fishermen in switching to sustainable fisheries operations and helping fish

farmers develop sustainable aquaculture through technical support services, credit facilities and training courses; (iii) promoting good aquaculture practices and enhancing the monitoring of aquaculture environment; and (iv) administering the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) to help fishermen adopt a sustainable and high value-added operation mode and fund projects and research that help enhance the overall competitiveness of the industry.

The expenditure and manpower involved in promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of staff)</b>
<b>2016-17</b>	83.0	104
<b>2017-18</b>	108.8	106
<b>2018-19 (revised estimate)</b>	182.0	107

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

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of staff)</b>
<b>2016-17</b>	2.1	7
<b>2017-18</b>	2.5	7
<b>2018-19 (revised estimate)</b>	2.8	7

- (c) Since its inception, 40 applications have been received under SFDF and its Equipment Improvement Project (EIP). Details of these applications are tabulated as follows:

<b>Number / Type of applications</b>	<b>Aquaculture</b>	<b>Recreational fisheries</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>EIP</b>	<b>Total</b>
Received	<b>22</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>40</b>
Approved	9	2	-	3	14
Rejected	7	2	4	-	13
Withdrawn by the applicant	4	1	1	-	6
Under processing	2	-	1	4	7

- (d) So far, 2 SFDF projects were completed, benefiting around 110 in-service fishermen. Upon completion of other projects that are in progress, the actual number of fishermen benefited would further increase.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)288**

**(Question Serial No. 3563)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding co-operative societies, please advise on:

- (a) the numbers of co-operative societies related to the fisheries and agriculture industries, as well as other co-operative societies respectively over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19);
- (b) the expenditures and manpower involved in co-operative societies related to the fisheries and agriculture industries, as well as other co-operative societies respectively over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 82)

Reply:

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

- End -

Annex

Financial year / Industry	2016-17			2017-18			2018-19 (revise estimate)		
	Number of Co-operative Societies *	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)	Number of Co-operative Societies *	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)	Number of Co-operative Societies #	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
Agriculture	53	1.7	3	54	1.6	3	54	1.4	3
Fisheries	58	1.8	4	56	1.9	4	55	2.0	4
Others	64	5.0	9	64	4.7	9	64	4.3	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>16</b>

\* As at the end of the period

# As at end February 2019

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)289**

**(Question Serial No. 3564)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding hydroponic farming, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in the "Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre" (C.E.H.R&D Centre) established at the Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Vegetable Market over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (b) What are the production area, crop varieties, production quantity, production value, and the number of sales outlets of the C.E.H.R&D Centre?
- (c) What are the Government's current policies for facilitating the development of the local hydroponic farming industry? What are the expenditure and manpower involved in facilitating the development of the hydroponic farming industry?
- (d) What are the production value, production quantity, the numbers of hydroponic farms and the distribution of the local hydroponic farming industry (by the 18 districts) respectively?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 83)

Reply:

- (a) In 2013, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) jointly set up the Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre (the Centre) for demonstrating hydroponic technology and facilities, with a view to facilitating technology transfer to the trade. The Centre was initially funded by VMO. As extra resources are essential to carry out additional research and development work, the operational



expenditure of the Centre has been funded by the Government since April 2018. The expenditure and manpower involved over the past 3 years are tabulated below.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (number of staff)</b>
2016-17	1.5	5
2017-18	1.4	5
2018-19 (revised estimate)	3.1	8

- (b) The Centre has a total area of about 500 square metres, half of which is used for production and the rest for research and development. At present, 7 varieties of baby salad green are produced, i.e. Mizuna, Oak Leaf Lettuce, Red Asian Mustard, Chinese Flat Cabbage, Rocket, Red Komatsuna and Broccoli. About 7 kilogramme of vegetables are produced daily at a wholesale value of about \$200 per kilogramme and sold through 15 retail outlets.
- (c) The Government encourages the adoption of modern farming practices as well as the development of new agricultural technology and related knowledge transfer. Hydroponics is one such example. The Centre will continue to undertake research and development work including selection and testing of new varieties, introduction of improved hydroponic technology and collaboration with research institutes on testing innovative technology in hydroponics application. In 2018-19, AFCD allocated 8 staff and \$3.1 million to support the work of the Centre. In addition, AFCD will also continue to provide technical advice and support to investors who are interested in setting up hydroponic systems as an alternative option for agricultural production. This area of work is an integral part of AFCD's overall programme to support local agriculture and there is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.
- (d) Currently, there are 40 local hydroponic farms producing annually over 650 tonnes of vegetables with an estimated value of \$122 million. Distribution of the hydroponic farms is tabulated below.

<b>District</b>	<b>Number</b>
Yuen Long	19
North	9
Tai Po	1
Kwun Tong	2
Yau Tong	1
Kwai Tsing	2
Sai Kung	1
Sham Shui Po	1
Shatin	1
Tsuen Wan	1
Tuen Mun	1
Causeway Bay	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)290****(Question Serial No. 3566)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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

- (a) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in processing the applications under the Scheme over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (b) What were the numbers of applications for and deckhands involved in different types of fishing vessels (including pair trawlers, stern trawlers, shrimp trawlers, hang trawlers, purse seiners with light, purse seiners, liners and gillnetters, fish carriers, and other fishing vessels) over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (c) What were the numbers of cases of contravening the relevant legislation and codes of the Scheme, and the heaviest penalties imposed, over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 85)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure and manpower involved in processing the applications under the Mainland Fishermen Deckhands Scheme (the Scheme) over the past 3 years are tabulated below.

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of staff)</b>
2016-17	1.2	3
2017-18	1.3	3
2018-19 (revised estimate)	1.2	3

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

Financial year/ Vessel type	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19*	
	Number of					
	Applications	Deckhands involved	Applications	Deckhands involved	Applications	Deckhands involved
Pair trawler	59	310	53	292	25	129
Stern trawler	47	188	46	191	39	167
Shrimp trawler	55	246	55	251	50	236
Hang trawler	19	107	25	138	18	100
Purse seiner with light and Purse seiner	60	429	49	355	56	409
Liner and Gill netter	81	478	74	483	88	550
Fish carrier	267	1 733	271	1 790	263	1 821
Other fishing vessel	37	214	49	285	38	227
<b>Total</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>3 705</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>3 785</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>3 639</b>

\*As at end February 2019

- (c) The number of cases contravening the Scheme in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 (as at end February 2019) is 17, 9 and 8 respectively. The heaviest penalties imposed under the Scheme include cancellation of quota approved for all deckhands for the subject vessel, and prohibition of the concerned applicant from applying under the Scheme for 2 years.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)291**

**(Question Serial No. 3567)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets  
(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the reprovisioning of livestock farms, please advise on the following:

- (a) The distribution of those sites currently designated as (i) livestock waste prohibition areas, (ii) livestock waste control areas and (iii) livestock waste restriction areas (mark the locations and boundaries of such sites in different colours on a map); the respective numbers of (i) pig farms and (ii) chicken farms operating in those 3 types of areas in each of the past 5 years (2014-15 to 2018-19); the differences in respect of the restrictions (including the requirements and procedure regarding application for operating a livestock farm) imposed by the Government on the operation of livestock farms in those 3 types of areas.
- (b) The sites which are in compliance with the relevant provisions of the 2 aforesaid pieces of legislation and other relevant legislation and are available to farmers for building new livestock farms or reprovisioning existing farms, as well as the sizes of such sites (mark the locations of such sites on a map).
- (c) As farmers may, through the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme, identify sites for relocating their livestock farms, has any farmer who had been affected by planned developments succeeded in identifying suitable sites for relocating their farms through the Scheme over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)? If yes, what are the details? If not, has the Government put in place new measures to help such farmers in reprovisioning their livestock farms and suitably expanding their farms to improve their livestock keeping technology?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 86)

Reply:

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

(a) Under sections 15, 15A and 15AA of the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354) (the Ordinance), Hong Kong is classified into 3 areas, namely livestock waste prohibition, control and restriction areas as shown at the **Annex**. Their control on the operation of livestock farms is generally as follows:

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

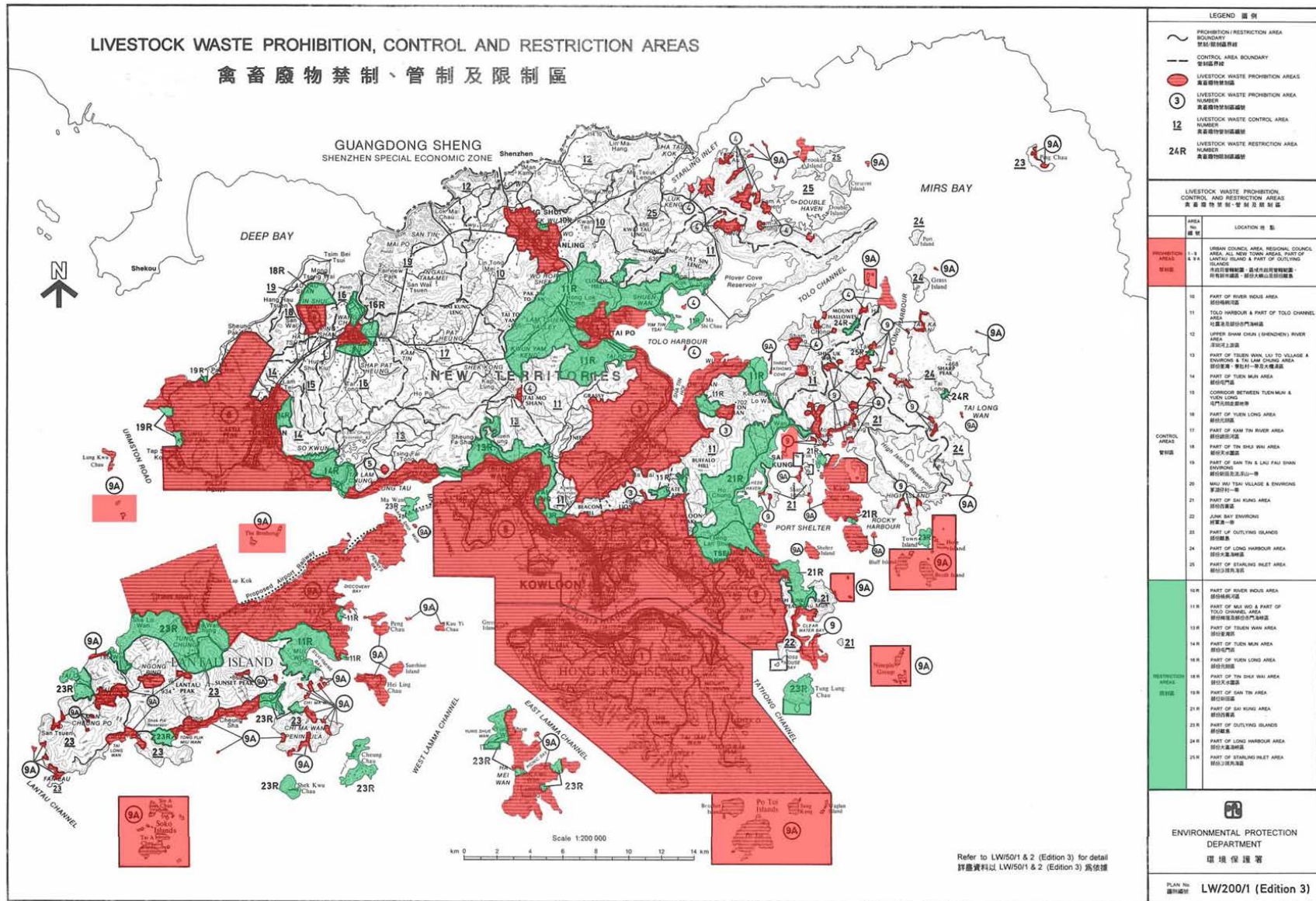
Over the past 5 years, the number of licensed livestock farms in the 3 areas is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Livestock waste prohibition areas		Livestock waste control areas		Livestock waste restriction areas	
	Pig farms	Chicken farms	Pig farms	Chicken farms	Pig farms	Chicken farms
2014	0	0	42	26	1	3
2015	0	0	42	26	1	3
2016	0	0	42	26	1	3
2017	0	0	42	26	1	3
2018	0	0	42	26	1	3

(b) and (c) Since 2016, there has not been any relocation of livestock farm arising from Government development projects. In the event that a licensed livestock farm is affected by Government development projects, the licensee may consider relocation. The relocation site must fulfill the requirements under the Ordinance and the Regulations governing the handling of livestock waste; the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Licensing of Livestock Keeping) Regulation (Cap. 139L) with regard to livestock keeping control, biosecurity, environmental protection, etc.; and the relevant legislation and regulations relating to planning and land controls. Whether an individual site is suitable

for relocation is subject to its actual circumstances, and thus we do not have the information of sites and land area available for relocation of livestock farms. Nonetheless, to ensure that sufficient land will be available to meet the needs of the agricultural sector, a consultancy study is being conducted to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land as Agricultural Priority Areas, and potential areas for livestock farming and for possible relocation and/or consolidation of existing livestock farms. The consultant is currently reviewing the existing farmland in Hong Kong and studying overseas experience, before making recommendations. In addition, we are preparing the legislative amendments enabling the relocation of local chicken farms which we aim to put to the Legislative Council for negative vetting later this year.

- End -



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

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)292**

**(Question Serial No. 3568)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services  
Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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

- (a) Over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19), what were the numbers of birds imported? Please set out by bird species (in particular those endangered species which require possession licences) and place of import.
- (b) Over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19), what were the numbers of shops with animal trader licences?
- (c) Currently, how many birds in Hong Kong are accompanied with possession licences issued by the Government? Over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19), what were the numbers of possession licences issued by the Government?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 87)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's measures on the control of the import of live birds under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Regulations (Cap. 139A) and the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) (the Ordinance) are overseen by the Food and Health Bureau and the Environment Bureau respectively. Our reply to the various parts of the question is as follows:

- (a) The requested information is tabulated at the **Annex**.
- (b) The number of holders of animal trader licence for selling birds is 80, 57 and 48 in 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively.



- (c) According to the Ordinance, possession of live endangered birds which are listed in Appendix I, and of live endangered birds which are listed in Appendix II and are of wild origin, requires a licence to possess (PL) for each keeping premises if they are kept for commercial purposes. A PL can cover more than 1 species / individual. Currently, there are 30 valid PLs in respect of live endangered birds, covering 4 405 individuals of 41 species.

The number of PLs issued (including licences renewed) covering live endangered birds is 2, 17 and 6 in 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively.

- End -

**Birds Imported into Hong Kong from 2016 to 2018**

Calendar year	Species	Quantity (head)	Country/place of export
2016	<i>Amazona aestiva</i> *	216	Mali, Czech Republic
	<i>Amazona aestiva xanthopteryx</i> *	5	Denmark
	<i>Amazona amazonica</i> *	397	Singapore, Suriname
	<i>Amazona dufresniana</i> *	20	Singapore, Suriname
	<i>Amazona farinosa</i> *	172	Singapore, Suriname
	<i>Amazona festiva</i> *	41	Singapore
	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i> *	212	Mali, Czech Republic, Denmark, Singapore, Philippines, Suriname
	<i>Amazona oratrix</i> *	6	Belgium, Netherland
	<i>Ara ararauna</i> *	321	Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Mali, Philippines, Singapore, Suriname
	<i>Ara ararauna x Ara chloroptera</i> *	6	Czech Republic, Denmark, Philippines
	<i>Ara chloropterus</i> *	228	Mali, Czech Republic, Belgium, Denmark, Singapore, Suriname
	<i>Ara macao</i> *	3	Belgium
	<i>Ara militaris</i> *	2	Netherland
	<i>Aratinga guarouba</i> = <i>Guarouba guarouba</i> *	1	Philippines
	<i>Aratinga solstitialis</i> *	51	Mali
	<i>Aratinga wagleri</i> *	500	Peru
	<i>Cacatua alba</i> *	3	Czech Republic, Denmark
	<i>Cacatua ducorpsii</i> *	3	Czech Republic
	<i>Cacatua galerita</i> *	5	Czech Republic, Philippines
	<i>Chalcopsitta atra</i> *	10	Syrian Arab Republic
	<i>Deropterus accipitrinus</i> *	1	Czech Republic
	<i>Diopsittaca nobilis</i> *	123	Czech Republic, Mali, Singapore, Suriname
	<i>Eclectus roratus</i> *	57	Czech Republic, Mali
	<i>Eolophus roseicapilla</i> *	105	Czech Republic, Mali, Belgium
	<i>Eos bornea</i> *	37	Syrian Arab Republic
	<i>Lorius garrulus</i> *	125	Syrian Arab Republic
	<i>Orthopsittaca manilata</i> *	20	Singapore
	<i>Pionites leucogaster</i> *	6	Czech Republic, Philippines
	<i>Pionites melanocephalus</i> *	341	Czech Republic, Mali, Singapore, Suriname
	<i>Pionus chalcopterus</i> *	5	Czech Republic
	<i>Pionus menstruus</i> *	51	Czech Republic, Singapore
	<i>Poicephalus gularis</i> *	300	Mali
<i>Poicephalus robustus</i> *	1	Czech Republic	
<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i> *	1 370	Mali, Senegal	

Calendar year	Species	Quantity (head)	Country/place of export
	<i>Propyrrhura auricollis</i> = <i>Primolius auricollis</i> *	13	Czech Republic
	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i> *	622	Mali, Philippines, Singapore
	<i>Psittacus erithacus timneh</i> *	150	Mali
	<i>Pyrrhura molinae</i> *	1	Philippines
	<i>Ramphastos tucanus</i> *	8	Singapore, Suriname
	<i>Ramphastos vitellinus</i> *	13	Singapore, Suriname
	<i>Chloropsis cyanopogon</i>	50	Malaysia
	<i>Chloropsis sonnerati</i>	50	Malaysia
	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	2 063	Malaysia, Mali
	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>	250	Mozambique
	<i>Crithagra citrinipectus</i>	150	Mozambique
	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>	1 150	Mozambique
	<i>Crithagra mozambicus</i>	3 050	Mozambique
	<i>Geokichla citrina</i>	20	Malaysia
	<i>Irena puella</i>	20	Malaysia
	<i>Megalaima pulcherrima</i>	10	Malaysia
	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	146	Denmark, Mali
	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	70	Malaysia
	<i>Psilopogon pyrolophus</i>	30	Malaysia
	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	100	Mali
	<i>Pteroglossus azara</i>	4	The Netherlands
	<i>Serinus alario</i>	150	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>	100	Mali
	<i>Serinus citrinipectus</i>	810	Mali, Mozambique
	<i>Serinus flaviventris</i>	500	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus leucopygius</i>	12 460	Mali, Senegal
	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>	10 180	Mali, Mozambique, Senegal
	<i>Serinus sulphuratus</i>	560	Mali, Mozambique
	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>	300	Peru
	<i>Sitta azurea</i>	20	Malaysia
	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>	150	Mozambique
	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>	650	Mali, Mozambique
	<i>Zoothera interpres</i>	20	Malaysia
	<i>Zoothera peronii</i>	10	Malaysia
2017	<i>Amazona aestiva</i> *	30	Czech Republic
	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i> *	32	Czech Republic
	<i>Ara ararauna</i> *	7	Czech Republic
	<i>Ara ararauna x Ara chloroptera</i> *	2	Czech Republic
	<i>Ara chloropterus</i> *	5	Czech Republic
	<i>Cacatua alba</i> *	2	Czech Republic
	<i>Cacatua galerita</i> *	2	Czech Republic
	<i>Amandava subflava</i>	290	Guinea, Mali

Calendar year	Species	Quantity (head)	Country/place of export
	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>	50	Guinea
	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	935	Malaysia
	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>	100	Mozambique
	<i>Crithagra mozambicus</i>	3 250	Mozambique
	<i>Dryonastes courtoisi</i>	2	U.K.
	<i>Lamprotornis iris</i>	20	Guinea
	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>	50	Guinea
	<i>Mandingda nitidula</i>	70	Mali
	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	100	Malaysia
	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	31	Australia, Malaysia
	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	1	Singapore
	<i>Serinus alario</i>	100	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>	500	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus citrinipectus</i>	1 000	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus flaviventris</i>	550	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus leucopygius</i>	7 580	Guinea, Mali
	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>	6 080	Guinea, Mali, Mozambique
	<i>Serinus sulphuratus</i>	400	Mozambique
	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	220	Guinea
2018	<i>Amazona aestiva</i> *	97	Belgium, Czech Republic, Mali
	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i> *	66	Czech Republic, Mali
	<i>Anthobaphes violacea</i>	10	Guinea
	<i>Ara ararauna</i> *	54	Czech Republic, Mali
	<i>Ara chloropterus</i> *	18	Czech Republic, Mali
	<i>Cacatua alba</i> *	4	Czech Republic, Mali
	<i>Cacatua leadbeateri</i> *	2	Mali
	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	1 130	Malaysia
	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>	20	Guinea
	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>	550	Mozambique
	<i>Crithagra mozambicus</i>	5 000	Mozambique
	<i>Deropterus accipitrinus</i> *	1	Czech Republic
	<i>Diopsittaca nobilis</i> *	4	Mali
	<i>Eclectus roratus</i> *	20	Czech Republic, Mali
	<i>Eolophus roseicapilla</i> *	28	Belgium, Mali
	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>	300	Guinea
	<i>Euplectes orix</i>	300	Guinea
	<i>Forpus coelestis</i> *	6	Taiwan
	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>	50	Mali
	<i>Lamprotornis iris</i>	20	Mali
	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>	20	Guinea
	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>	1 000	Malaysia
<i>Lonchura maja</i>	1 000	Malaysia	
<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	1 000	Malaysia	

Calendar year	Species	Quantity (head)	Country/place of export
	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i> *	4	Belgium
	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	90	Czech Republic, Malaysia
	<i>Pionites leucogaster</i> *	45	Belgium, Czech Republic, Mali, Singapore
	<i>Pionites melanocephalus</i> *	26	Belgium, Czech Republic, Mali
	<i>Pionus chalcopterus</i> *	3	Czech Republic
	<i>Pionus fuscus</i> *	7	Czech Republic
	<i>Poicephalus gulielmi</i> *	300	Democratic republic of the Congo
	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i> *	3	Mali
	<i>Poicephalus robustus</i> *	20	Mali
	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i> *	500	Mali
	<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>	1 150	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus canaria</i>	538	Czech Republic, Mali
	<i>Serinus flaviventris</i>	1 250	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus leucopygius</i>	12 400	Mali
	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>	6 900	Guinea, Mali, Mozambique
	<i>Serinus sulphuratus</i>	600	Mozambique
	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	80	Mali
	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>	400	Mali
	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>	50	Mali

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

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)293**

**(Question Serial No. 3569)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the artificial reefs project, please advise on the following:

- (a) The situation of deployment of artificial reefs, the numbers of artificial reefs deployed and the areas concerned over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19).
- (b) Has the Government ever assessed the effectiveness of the artificial reefs project?
- (c) What were the details of the revised estimated expenditure and the work involved in 2018-19?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 88)

Reply:

- (a) No artificial reefs (ARs) were deployed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years.
- (b) and (c) AFCD conducted underwater surveys on the fisheries resources in areas with ARs to assess their effectiveness. Results from past surveys indicate that areas with ARs deployed support higher diversity and abundance of fish species as compared with the natural habitat. Over 220 species of fish, including high-valued species like groupers, breams, snappers and sweetlips, have been found using ARs for feeding, shelter, as well as spawning and nursing.

In 2018-19, an expenditure of \$0.95 million was incurred for conducting the underwater survey.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)294**

**(Question Serial No. 3571)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding issues relating to marine environmental incidents, please advise on the following:

- (a) How would the Department alert mariculturists in the nearby fish culture zones that may be affected upon receiving reports of marine incidents?
- (b) What method will the Department adopt to assess the potential impacts of the marine incidents on the cultured fish?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

- (a) Upon receiving reports of marine incidents that might potentially affect fish culture zones, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will immediately inform all the mariculturists in the fish culture zones concerned by short message service and alert the respective mariculturist representatives by phone. AFCD will deploy field staff to inspect the fish culture zones concerned as soon as practical and communicate with the mariculturists on site.
- (b) The Government established the Inter-departmental Working Group on Marine Environmental Management (the Working Group) in January 2018 to tackle all marine environmental incidents under the coordination of the Environment Bureau. The Task Force on Emergency Response to Marine Environmental Incidents (the Task Force) is set up under the Working Group, with members from concerned government departments, including AFCD, the Marine Department, the Environmental Protection Department and the Government Laboratory. The Task Force assumes a coordination role, conducts investigations and assesses the impact on the environment including fish culture zones and ecosystem according to the nature of the incident and initiates appropriate mitigation and preventive measures.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)295**

**(Question Serial No. 3572)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding “the expansion of the existing fish culture zones to improve the fish culture environment and promote the development of marine fish culture”, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the sizes and average densities of rafts in fish culture zones over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)? (Please set out by the 26 fish culture zones.)
- (b) What were the total sizes of fish culture zones over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (c) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in processing matters related to fish culture zones over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (d) The Government launched a pilot scheme in 2014 to issue new marine fish culture licences on a limited basis, with the aim of collecting data for assessing the environmental impact of issuing the new licences. What is the present progress, and what is the number of new licences issued since 2014?
- (e) Further to the above question, the Department would assess the environmental impacts arising from the newly issued licences according to the data collected. What are the results of the assessment?
- (f) The Department is planning to expand the area of the Yim Tin Tsai fish culture zone to improve the raft density, and conducting a consultancy study to identify sites for designating new fish culture zones. What are the expenditures and manpower involved in the above matters, and what are the work progress and effectiveness?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:



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

Fish culture zone	Financial year					
	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19 (up to end-February 2019)	
	Total raft area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Raft density* (%)	Total raft area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Raft density (%)	Total raft area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Raft density (%)
Ap Chau	300	7.1	255	6.1	255	6.1
Cheung Sha Wan	10 308	4.8	10 248	4.8	10 108	4.7
Kai Lung Wan	5 562	20.6	5 263	19.5	5 454	20.2
Kat O	3 281	10.1	3 386	10.5	3 129	9.7
Kau Lau Wan	1 205	10.8	1 241	11.1	1 288	11.5
Kau Sai	12 794	27.7	12 548	27.2	12 507	27.1
Leung Shuen Wan	6 346	36.7	6 037	34.9	5 860	33.9
Lo Fu Wat	1 469	27.2	1 469	27.2	1 476	27.3
Lo Tik Wan	22 038	20.2	22 026	20.2	21 752	19.9
Ma Nam Wat	5 141	12.8	5 129	12.8	5 403	13.5
Ma Wan	13 914	30.1	13 879	30.0	13 871	30.0
O Pui Tong	298	0.3	277	0.3	277	0.3
Po Toi	274	9.1	276	9.2	265	8.8
Po Toi O	3 482	9.1	3 411	8.9	3 422	9.0
Sai Lau Kong	142	2.0	142	2.0	142	2.0
Sha Tau Kok	12 697	7.1	12 582	7.0	11 924	6.6
Sham Wan	12 760	7.1	12 018	6.7	12 334	6.8
Sok Kwu Wan	27 392	19.4	27 020	19.1	26 848	19.0
Tai Tau Chau	11 715	18.7	11 926	19.0	12 168	19.4
Tap Mun	7 686	10.6	7 520	10.4	7 708	10.6
Tiu Cham Wan	1 350	7.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tung Lung Chau	12 700	15.9	12 703	15.9	11 878	14.8
Wong Wan	2 063	9.2	2 063	9.2	2 063	9.2
Yim Tin Tsai	21 996	16.1	21 120	15.5	21 038	15.4
Yim Tin Tsai (East)	19 926	13.3	19 991	13.4	21 150	14.1
Yung Shue Au	34 343	10.0	35 852	10.5	35 549	10.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>251 182</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>248 382</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>247 868</b>	<b>11.8</b>

\* Raft density refers to the ratio of the total raft area of an FCZ to the total FCZ area.

- (b) There is no change in the total area of FCZs over the past 3 years, which is about 209 hectares.
- (c) The expenditure and manpower involved in the licensing of marine fish culture and conducting patrol and inspection in FCZs over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (number of staff)</b>
2016-17	9.3	21
2017-18	8.4	21
2018-19 (revised estimate)	9.6	21

- (d) and (e) Under a pilot scheme since 2014, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has issued 10 marine fish culture licences (MFCLs) to applicants under the Marine Fish Culture Ordinance (Cap. 353) for 3 FCZs (at Wong Wan, O Pui Tong and Sham Wan) with surplus carrying capacity. Among them, 5 of the licensees set up mariculture operations in the said FCZs. As at end February 2019, 4 MFCLs issued under the pilot scheme remain valid.

The water and sediment quality data collected by AFCD in these FCZs from 2015 to 2018 show that the increased mariculture activities arising from issuing new MFCLs had minimal impact on the marine environment, affirming the feasibility of issuing new MFCLs in existing FCZs with surplus carrying capacity.

- (f) The consultancy studies on the expansion of the Yim Tin Tsai FCZ and identification of new FCZs in Hong Kong were completed. The total consultancy fee was around \$3.7 million. Manpower on overseeing the consultancy studies was absorbed from within existing resources of AFCD. As recommended in the consultancy study on identification of new FCZs, 4 sites namely Wong Chuk Kok Hoi, outer Tap Mun, Po Toi (Southeast) and Mirs Bay were identified with higher priority for designation of new FCZs. The Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene was consulted and welcomed the proposal of lifting the moratorium on designation of new FCZs and issuance of new MFCLs. We will conduct environmental impact assessments on designating these sites as FCZs in stages. The proposed designation of new FCZs will provide opportunities for the progressive mariculturists to develop their business as well as interested ones to enter into mariculture, and thus significantly increase the capacity of local marine fish production. As the proposed designation of new FCZs could provide sufficient room for the development of mariculture, at this stage AFCD will not pursue the expansion of Yim Tin Tsai FCZ.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)296****(Question Serial No. 3581)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the fish rafts in Hong Kong, please advise on:

- (a) the respective numbers of fish rafts in the 26 fish culture zones of Hong Kong over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19) in tabular form; and
- (b) the manpower and the expenditures involved in conducting inspections at each fish culture zone over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19) and the timeframe for the inspections.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 50)

Reply:

- (a) The requested information is tabulated below.

<b>Fish culture zone / Financial year</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19 (up to end February)</b>
Ap Chau	4	4	4
Cheung Sha Wan	62	60	60
Kai Lung Wan	41	39	39
Kat O	34	32	28
Kau Lau Wan	20	20	20
Kau Sai	66	64	64
Leung Shuen Wan	70	65	64
Lo Fu Wat	33	33	33
Lo Tik Wan	70	68	68
Ma Nam Wat	41	42	43
Ma Wan	96	95	94

<b>Fish culture zone / Financial year</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19 (up to end February)</b>
O Pui Tong	9	3	3
Po Toi	6	6	6
Po Toi O	38	38	38
Sai Lau Kong	2	2	2
Sha Tau Kok	108	109	110
Sham Wan	173	173	162
Sok Kwu Wan	145	145	141
Tai Tau Chau	105	101	101
Tap Mun	81	70	71
Tiu Cham Wan	5	0	0
Tung Lung Chau	58	58	58
Wong Wan	15	15	15
Yim Tin Tsai	257	254	254
Yim Tin Tsai (East)	194	201	195
Yung Shue Au	277	281	280
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 010</b>	<b>1 978</b>	<b>1 953</b>

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

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (number of staff)</b>
2016-17	8.2	18
2017-18	7.3	18
2018-19 (revised estimate)	8.4	18

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)297****(Question Serial No. 3583)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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

- (a) The numbers of the permits concerned that were issued by the Department over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19). Please set out the numbers with a breakdown by the fish rafts in various fish culture zones.
- (b) What measures does the Department put in place to provide assistance to the affected fish farmers before the approval of their permit applications in case of contingencies and emergencies?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

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

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2018-19 (up to end February 2019)</b>
Number of permits issued for temporary relocation of fish rafts and FCZs involved	1 (Kau Sai FCZ)	1 (Sok Kwu Wan FCZ)	0

- (b) In case of contingencies and emergencies, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), with the consent of the Marine Department (MD), allows fish

farmers to temporarily relocate their fish rafts to designated areas before the permit applications are approved. AFCD and MD provide assistance to affected fish farmers for the relocation such as advising on the routing having regard to marine traffic in the area.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)298**

**(Question Serial No. 3585)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the surveys on fisheries resources, please advise on:

- (a) the manpower and the expenditures involved over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19) and the timeframe for the surveys;
- (b) the manpower and the expenditures involved in employing external local trawlers to conduct the surveys over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19) and the timeframe of the work;
- (c) the area of the waters involved in, the numbers of and the mechanism put in place for the surveys (please show with a map);
- (d) the ways that the Department used to inform the fishing vessels operating in relevant waters;
- (e) during investigation, how the Department's staff monitor the performance of the contractors after boarding the subject vessels so as to ensure that they comply with the contract terms;
- (f) further to the above question, the Department has mentioned that hired pilot boats are used to assist in conducting trawling surveys, what are the effectiveness and expenditure involved? Has the Department received any complaint since the rolling out of the measure?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducted surveys

to monitor the status of fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters after the implementation of the trawl ban (end of 2012). The expenditure and manpower involved over the past 3 years are tabulated below.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (number of staff)</b>
2016-17	6.6	3
2017-18	3.7	3
2018-19 (revised estimate)	3.2	3

- (b) Part of the surveys mentioned in (a) above was conducted with chartered trawlers, and completed in 2017. The expenditure and manpower involved in respect of these surveys in 2016-17 were \$1.8 million and 1 staff respectively. No further resources were incurred afterwards.
- (c) The surveys mentioned in Part (a) above include:
- (i) the territory-wide trawling surveys which collected samples at 16 stations in the waters of Hong Kong by local trawlers chartered by AFCD on a monthly basis to monitor fisheries resources at the sea bottom;
  - (ii) the purse-seine surveys which collected samples at 9 stations every 3 months to monitor fisheries resources at the middle to upper level of the water column in eastern waters;
  - (iii) the surveys by other fishing methods such as cage-trapping, long-lining and gill-netting which were conducted at various locations every 2 months to collect information on the diversity of fisheries resources at specific fisheries habitats; and
  - (iv) the surveys on fish fry and eggs which were conducted in wet, dry and peak seasons with sampling stations located at the spawning and nursery grounds in the Tolo Channel, Long Harbour and Port Shelter.

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

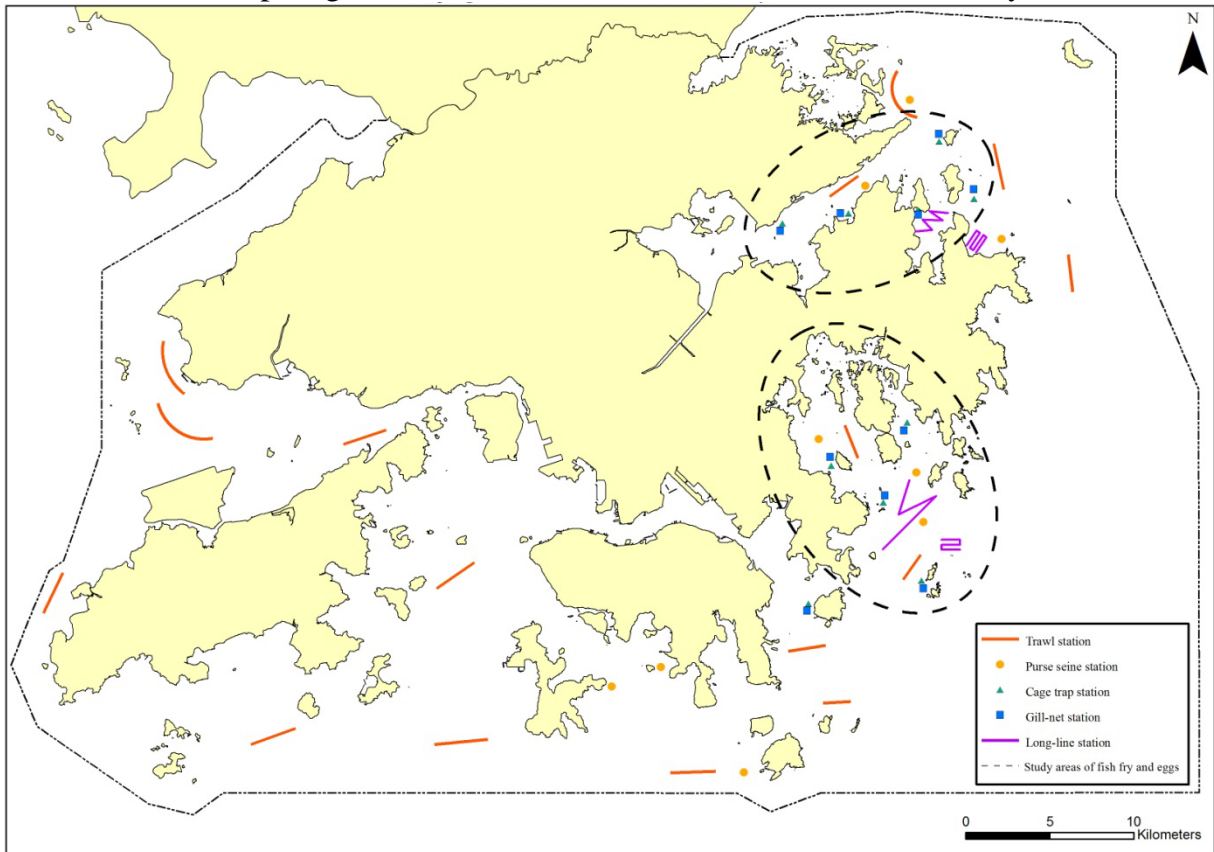
- (d) AFCD informed relevant fishermen associations of the sampling locations and frequency of the trawling surveys by letters each year. Furthermore, AFCD informed the fishermen associations in the respective districts of a planned survey by telephone about 2 to 3 days before the survey.
- (e) Apart from the work of collecting scientific information on the fisheries samples, staff of AFCD monitored the performance of the contractor by going on board during surveys to ensure that the terms of contract were complied with.
- (f) The pilot boat hired by AFCD helped navigate the trawler along the survey path to avoid any fishing gear already deployed in the waters by fishermen. The expenditure



for hiring the pilot boat for the trawling surveys (which were completed in early 2017) was about \$400,000 in 2016-17. AFCD did not receive any complaint about the surveys. Taking into account the results of the above surveys, AFCD would plan for future surveys for monitoring the fisheries resources and habitats in Hong Kong waters.

- End -

### Sampling Locations of Fisheries Resources Surveys



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)299**

**(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  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the development of the local agricultural industry, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the locations of the agricultural land, active agricultural land, and arable land, in Hong Kong over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19) (please show with a map)? What were the sizes of the said land?
- (b) What were the manpower and expenditures involved in the investigations conducted by the Department over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19)?
- (c) The Government is now planning to establish an Agricultural Park in Kwu Tung South. What are the progress, manpower and expenditure involved?
- (d) What are the details, effectiveness, manpower and expenditure involved in the work related to the New Agriculture Policy?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 55)

Reply:

- (a) According to the survey on agricultural land use conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the total area of agricultural land in Hong Kong is around 4 300 hectares. The estimated area of agricultural land in active farming use over the past 3 years is tabulated by district below. The survey did not provide information on the boundaries of the relevant land for compiling a location map.

District / Calendar year	Estimated area in active farming use (hectare)*		
	2016	2017	2018
North	280	280	290
Yuen Long	240	250	230
Tai Po	60	60	90
Tuen Mun	50	40	50
Islands	30	30	30
Sai Kung	20	20	20
Tsuen Wan	10	10	10
Others	10	10	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>700*</b>	<b>710*</b>	<b>740*</b>

\* Rounded to the nearest 10 hectares

- (b) As the survey on agricultural land use forms part of the ongoing work of AFCD, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower involved.
- (c) and (d) We have been implementing the New Agriculture Policy (NAP) since 2016 to promote the modernisation and sustainable development of the local agricultural sector. Details of the key measures are set out below.
- (i) We will establish an Agricultural Park (Agri-Park) in Kwu Tung South to help nurture agro-technology and knowledge on modern farm management. The Agri-Park will be developed in 2 phases. Phase 1 will be developed in a relatively small scale (about 11 hectares) with a view to enabling its partial commissioning for use by farmers as early as possible. We plan to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee (FC) in the first half of 2019, with a view to commencing the construction works in the fourth quarter of 2019. We are in parallel planning for the Agri-Park Phase 2. In 2019-20, 12 staff (in addition to their other on-going duties) and \$10.1 million have been earmarked for work associated with the establishment of Agri-Park.
- (ii) To ensure that sufficient land will be available to meet the needs of the agricultural sector, a consultancy study is being conducted to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land as Agricultural Priority Areas, and explore suitable policies and measures to encourage owners to put currently fallow land into long-term agricultural use by crop and livestock farmers. The consultant is currently reviewing the existing farmland in Hong Kong and studying overseas experience, before making recommendations. Given that a considerable amount of agricultural land is involved in the study, it is estimated that the study may take several years to complete.
- (iii) We set up a \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) to provide financial support for the modernisation and sustainable

development of local agriculture which is open for applications since December 2016. As at 1 March 2019, a total of 249 applications seeking financial assistance for individual farms to acquire farming equipment and/or materials from the Farm Improvement Scheme under SADF have been received. 238 applications have been approved, involving a total funding commitment of about \$7 million. 3 applications have been rejected and 4 applications withdrawn. The rest are being processed.

In addition, a total of 34 applications seeking funding support for projects that will benefit the local agricultural sector as a whole have been received. Among them, 7 applications have been approved and 7 rejected on the advice of SADF Advisory Committee, 3 withdrawn by the applicants, 1 returned to the applicant (for further supplement / re-submission if necessary) and 3 found to be ineligible to apply for the fund. The other applications are being processed. 4 approved projects have been implemented since the first quarter of 2019.

- (iv) Upon the completion of a review on facilitating technology-based agricultural production in industrial buildings in 2017, the Town Planning Board (TPB) revised the definition of terms used in statutory plans and generally regards such use as “Non-polluting Industrial Use”. Such use is always permitted in industrial buildings without the need for separate application to TPB and in general does not contravene the “Industrial Purposes” stipulated in land lease.

In 2019-20, apart from the existing resources in AFCD for supporting local agriculture, 49 staff and \$26.8 million have been earmarked for the above area of work and other on-going work like promotion of new agro-technology, farm mechanisation, leisure farms as well as monitoring on-farm crop safety under NAP.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)300**

**(Question Serial No. 3588)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the issue of cattle being indiscriminately fed with various kinds of food by visitors in rural areas, please advise on the following:

- (a) The number of inspections carried out by the Department in the light of the indiscriminate feeding of cattle over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19).
- (b) The respective total numbers of prosecutions instituted and persons arrested by the Department for feeding cattle indiscriminately over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19). What were the offences involved in the prosecutions and arrests? What were the penalties imposed upon conviction?
- (c) What measures does the Department plan to adopt in 2019-20 to address the issue?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 57)

Reply:

- (a) to (c) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not encourage members of the public to feed stray cattle, even though it is not against the law. Stray cattle by nature forage in the wild. Providing food for cattle may affect their natural behaviour and survival instinct, causing them to become reliant on human for food. In 2019-20, AFCD will put up publicity banners and posters to enhance public awareness of stray cattle and remind the public not to disturb or feed stray cattle when encountering them.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)301**

**(Question Serial No. 7212)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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

The total values of locally produced fresh food and agricultural and fisheries products for supply to the local market over the past 3 years (2016-17 to 2018-19).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 74)

Reply:

The total values of locally produced fresh agricultural and fisheries products\* supplied to the local market in 2016, 2017 and 2018 were about \$2,540 million, \$2,480 million and \$2,650 million respectively.

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

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)302****(Question Serial No. 3799)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

The Government has been implementing the New Agriculture Policy (NAP) since 2016. In this connection, would the Government provide the details of the projects implemented so far, dates of implementation, expenditures and staff establishment involved.

Project implemented under NAP	Date of implementation	Expenditure involved	Staff establishment involved	Number of farmers benefited

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 397)Reply:

We have been implementing the New Agriculture Policy (NAP) since 2016 to promote the modernisation and sustainable development of the local agricultural sector. Details of the key measures are set out below.

- (i) We will establish an Agricultural Park (Agri-Park) in Kwu Tung South to help nurture agro-technology and knowledge on modern farm management. The Agri-Park will be developed in 2 phases. Phase 1 will be developed in a relatively small scale (about 11 hectares) with a view to enabling its partial commissioning for use by farmers as early as possible. We plan to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee in the first half of 2019, with a view to commencing the construction works in the fourth quarter of 2019. We are in parallel planning for the Agri-Park Phase 2.
- (ii) To ensure that sufficient land will be available to meet the needs of the agricultural sector, a consultancy study is being conducted to identify relatively large areas of



quality agricultural land as Agricultural Priority Areas, and explore suitable policies and measures to encourage owners to put currently fallow land into long-term agricultural use by crop and livestock farmers. The consultant is currently reviewing the existing farmland in Hong Kong and studying overseas experience, before making recommendations. Given that a considerable amount of agricultural land is involved in the study, it is estimated that the study may take several years to complete.

- (iii) We set up a \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) to provide financial support for the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture which is open for applications since December 2016. As at 1 March 2019, a total of 249 applications seeking financial assistance for individual farms to acquire farming equipment and/or materials from the Farm Improvement Scheme under SADF have been received. 238 applications have been approved, involving a total funding commitment of about \$7 million, benefitting 238 farms directly. 3 applications have been rejected and 4 applications withdrawn. The rest are being processed.

In addition, a total of 34 applications seeking funding support for projects that will benefit the local agricultural sector as a whole have been received. Among them, 7 applications have been approved and 7 rejected on the advice of SADF Advisory Committee, 3 withdrawn by the applicants, 1 returned to the applicant (for further supplement / re-submission if necessary) and 3 found to be ineligible to apply for the fund. The other applications are being processed. 4 approved projects have been implemented since the first quarter of 2019. Upon completion of these projects, the actual number of farmers benefitting from them will be assessed. Details are tabulated as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Date of implementation</b>	<b>Grant approved (\$ million)</b>	<b>Anticipated number of farms benefited</b>
1	Development of sustainable organic fertilisers for output maximisation of outdoor and indoor plant factories	1 January 2019	2.8	2 400 crop farms
2	Technology demonstration project on application of advanced sewage treatment technologies for local pig farms	1 January 2019	5.0	43 local pig farms
3	Improving pig health and production in Hong Kong	1 March 2019	15.0	43 local pig farms
4	Improving poultry health and production in Hong Kong	1 March 2019	15.0	29 local poultry farms
<b>Total</b>			<b>37.8</b>	

In 2018-19, apart from the existing resources in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for supporting local agriculture, 41 staff and \$19.0 million (revised estimate) were involved in the above area of work and other on-going work like promotion of new agro-technology, farm mechanisation, leisure farms as well as monitoring on-farm crop safety under NAP.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)303**

**(Question Serial No. 3806)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

During 2019-20, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will focus its work on implementing the new agriculture policy to proactively support the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) What were the throughputs of local agricultural and fishery products and their percentages to the total throughputs of the Marketing Organizations over the past 5 years, according to the statistics from the Vegetable Marketing Organization and the Fish Marketing Organization?
- (b) What were the expenditure and manpower involved in the Department's projects and policies in relation to the sales promotion of local agricultural products?
- (c) Regarding the \$500 million "Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund" established in 2016, please provide the details of the projects implemented, dates of implementation, expenditures involved, staff establishment and ranks involved in processing the applications, as well as the numbers of farmers benefited.

Project implemented under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund	Date of implementation	Expenditure involved	Staff establishment and rank(s) involved in processing the applications	Number of farmers benefited

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 405)

Reply:

- (a) The volume and percentage of local vegetables marketed through the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) over the past 5 years are tabulated below.

Calendar year	Vegetables marketed through VMO		
	Total throughput (tonnes)	Local Production	
		Volume (tonnes)	Percentage (%)
2014	129 164	2 144	1.7
2015	122 476	2 050	1.7
2016	106 591	1 362	1.3
2017	98 998	1 365	1.4
2018	88 609	1 277	1.4

The Fish Marketing Organization (FMO) does not have statistics on the volume of local fishery products marketed through its markets and hence its percentage to the total throughput of FMO.

- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) helps set up farmers' markets and organise the annual event FarmFest, to promote local agricultural products to the general public. AFCD has jointly developed with FMO and VMO a mobile application "Local Fresh" to facilitate consumers to purchase local produce more conveniently through mobile platforms. AFCD will also enhance support for farmers, in particular the marketing of local produce through disseminating product information collectively on social media. The manpower and expenditure involved in marketing local agricultural products are an integral part of AFCD's overall programme to support local agriculture and there is no separate breakdown.
- (c) We set up a \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) to provide financial support for the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture which is open for applications since December 2016. As at 1 March 2019, a total of 249 applications seeking financial assistance for individual farms to acquire farming equipment and/or materials from the Farm Improvement Scheme under SADF have been received. 238 applications have been approved, involving a total funding commitment of about \$7 million, benefitting 238 farms directly. 3 applications have been rejected and 4 applications withdrawn. The rest are being processed.

In addition, a total of 34 applications seeking funding support for projects that will benefit the local agricultural industry as a whole have been received. Among them, 7 applications have been approved and 7 rejected on the advice of SADF Advisory Committee, 3 withdrawn by the applicants, 1 returned to the applicant (for further supplement / re-submission if necessary) and 3 found to be ineligible to apply for the fund. The other applications are being processed. 4 approved projects have been implemented since the first quarter of 2019. Upon completion of these projects, the

actual number of farmers benefitting from them will be assessed. Details are tabulated as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Date of implementation</b>	<b>Grant approved (\$ million)</b>	<b>Anticipated number of farms benefited</b>
1	Development of sustainable organic fertilisers for output maximisation of outdoor and indoor plant factories	1 January 2019	2.8	2 400 crop farming households
2	Technology demonstration project on application of advanced sewage treatment technologies for local pig farms	1 January 2019	5.0	43 local pig farms
3	Improving pig health and production in Hong Kong	1 March 2019	15.0	43 local pig farms
4	Improving poultry health and production in Hong Kong	1 March 2019	15.0	29 local poultry farms
<b>Total</b>			<b>37.8</b>	

A dedicated team of 8 staff (at the rank / equivalent rank of Executive Officer II, Agricultural Officer, Field Officer I and Field Officer II) is involved in processing the applications. In addition, AFCD's accounting staff also provide accounting support to the team apart from their other duties. The 2018-19 revised estimate for the administration of SADF is \$4.66 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)304****(Question Serial No. 5607)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Would the Department set out in tabular form the following information regarding (i) wild pigs, (ii) cattle, (iii) goat and sheep, (iv) stray cats and (v) stray dogs over the past 5 years:

- (a) the numbers of reports of animals from the public received by the Department;
- (b) the numbers of cases that required follow-ups;
- (c) the numbers of successful captures made by the Department;
- (d) the numbers of animals that were injured or died during the operations; and
- (e) the numbers of animals that had to be euthanised after the operations.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 205)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) The number of nuisance complaints and reports for assistance related to animals received over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Wild pigs	Cattle	Goats	Stray cats	Stray dogs
2014	336	283	2	3 624	6 597
2015	518	215	4	3 140	6 060
2016	583	242	5	2 383	5 171
2017	738	214	5	1 842	4 268
2018	929	332	4	1 141	3 751

In general, upon receipt of such complaints / reports from members of the public, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) would conduct inspections and take follow up actions as appropriate.

- (c) The number of animals caught by AFCD over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of animals caught				
	Wild pigs	Cattle	Goats	Stray cats	Stray dogs
2014	12	94	1	1 836	3 676
2015	28	88	3	1 359	2 412
2016	59	114	4	876	1 919
2017	106	105	3	674	1 566
2018	197	128	2	547	1 235

- (d) AFCD does not have record of animals injured or died during the catching operations.
- (e) The number of animals that were euthanised after being caught by AFCD over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of animals euthanised				
	Wild pigs	Cattle	Goats	Stray cats	Stray dogs
2014	2	49	1	939	2 406
2015	2	18	1	605	1 424
2016	4	51	0	380	1 039
2017	1	26	0	325	762
2018	1	39	0	271	512

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)305****(Question Serial No. 5906)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please provide the respective total areas of active farmland and abandoned farmland owned by the Government or private individuals over the past 5 years.

Active farmland (hectare)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Government land					
Private land					
Total area					

Abandoned farmland (hectare)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Government land					
Private land					
Total area					

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 123)Reply:

The requested information, based on the rolling survey conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, is tabulated as follows:



	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018*</b>	
Active farmland (hectare)	710	690	700	710	740	
					Private Land 550	Government Land 190
Abandoned farmland (hectare)	3 780	3 810	3 740	3 690	3 590	
					Private Land 2 850	Government Land 740
Total area (hectare)	4 490	4 500	4 440	4 400	4 330	

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 hectares.

\* Breakdown in land ownership for 2018 based on Development Bureau's information

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)306****(Question Serial No. 6474)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Did the Government deploy staff to carry out sea patrol regularly so as to implement the trawl ban over the past 3 years? What were the details of the manpower involved? In addition, has the Government received any request for assistance and complaint in this respect? What were the respective numbers and details of requests for assistance and prosecutions in this respect?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 453)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Marine Police conduct regular and targeted patrols and joint enforcement operations against illegal fishing activities (including trawling) in Hong Kong waters. AFCD also engages in joint enforcement operations and exchanges intelligence with the Guangdong Provincial Marine and Fisheries Inspection Bureau to combat illegal fishing activities along the boundary waters. Information on enforcement over the past 3 years concerning illegal trawling is tabulated below.

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Manpower involved <sup>#</sup> (number of staff)	18	18	18
Number of requests for assistance and complaints received	50	46	46
Number of successful prosecutions	3	1	5
Number of persons convicted <sup>^</sup>	9	5	20

<sup>#</sup> Enforcement operations are meant to combat illegal fishing activities, including but not limited to those against trawling.

<sup>^</sup> All prosecuted persons were convicted.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)307****(Question Serial No. 6486)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (-) Not specifiedControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please specify the numbers and details of any visits to various District Councils (DCs) made and any district activities attended by the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation in the past 2 years.

District	DC Meetings Attended	District Visits Made	Community Activities Attended	Government Activities Attended
Central and Western	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:
Eastern	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:
Southern	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:
Wan Chai	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:
Kowloon City	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:
Kwun Tong	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:
Sham Shui Po	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:

Yau Tsim Mong	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:
Wong Tai Sin	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:
Islands	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:
Kwai Tsing	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:
North	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:
Sai Kung	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:
Sha Tin	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:
Tai Po	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:
Tsuen Wan	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:
Tuen Mun	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:
Yuen Long	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:	Date: Time: Details:

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 466)

Reply:

Between January 2017 and December 2018, the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (DAFC) attended meetings of Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan and Sai Kung District Councils, as well as about 50 district events / visits organised / arranged by the Government and different organisations. During the same period, the District Councils of Kwun Tong, Kwai Tsing, Islands, Kowloon City, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Wong Tai Sin, Sham Shui Po, Wan Chai as well as Central and Western visited the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark at the invitation of DAFC, while Southern District Council visited the Aberdeen Wholesale Fish Market. DAFC received the District Council delegations on all the above-mentioned occasions.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)308**

**(Question Serial No. 4431)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Government mentioned that it would strengthen measures for the management of stray animals. What are these measures? What is the estimated expenditure involved in this area of work in 2019-20?

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 60)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) implements various measures to strengthen the management of stray animals. These include:

- (a) actively promoting the serious responsibility and commitment that go with pet keeping, through public education and publicity programmes to disseminate messages on proper care of animals and responsible pet ownership;
- (b) enhancing enforcement against pet owners in contravention of relevant legislation;
- (c) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to, animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management; and
- (d) implementing the long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities.

In 2019-20, AFCD has earmarked \$38.3 million for above work.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)309**

**(Question Serial No. 4432)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks  
(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the subventions granted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, please advise on the following:

- (a) Please set out the amounts of subventions granted to the animal welfare organisations (AWOs) and the background of AWOs supported by the Government by names of the various AWOs over the past 3 years, as well as the estimated amount of subventions to be granted in 2019-20. What are the criteria for successful applicants and the amounts of subventions granted to them? How does the Government assess the effectiveness of the subject projects?
- (b) Please tabulate the projects granted with subventions, their nature, the organisations running the subject projects, and the respective amounts of subventions granted under the item "Biodiversity Education" over the past 3 years and in 2019-20.

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 61)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been collaborating with animal welfare organisations (AWOs) to enhance animal welfare and promote better animal management. Recognising that most AWOs are non-profit making with limited resources, the Government has since 2011 been providing subvention to these AWOs in supporting their work as long as resources can accommodate. As the subvention has been able to strengthen the said organisations' capacity in animal welfare work, after reviewing the needs of these organisations and the resources implications, we have increased the subvention amount with a view to

enhancing our support to AWOs' work. The increased subvention amount will apply to projects approved in 2018-19, with disbursements to be made in 2019-20.

The eligibility criteria for application for subvention are set out in **Annex 1**. Only applicants that fulfil the criteria and with applications that are project-based and directly related to the promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management will be considered by AFCD. When vetting applications, AFCD will assess -

- (i) the objective(s) and expected result(s) of the proposed project;
- (ii) cost-effectiveness of the project; and
- (iii) reasonableness of the proposed expenditure.

From 2015-16 to 2017-18, a total of 28 applications from 13 AWOs were approved by AFCD. The amount of subvention received by AWOs over the past 3 years and that approved for release to AWOs in 2019-20 is tabulated in **Annex 2**.

AFCD has all along been monitoring the implementation of the subvention scheme. Document review and audit inspections are conducted to monitor the implementation and assess the outcome of subvented programmes, making reference to the activities and items proposed in the applications as approved by AFCD. Thus far, the results of all subvented programmes are found to be satisfactory.

- (b) AFCD has established the Subventions for Biodiversity Education since 2016 to encourage local non-profit making organisations to conduct education programmes that promote biodiversity to the public. 21, 14 and 17 applications were approved under the subvention scheme in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively. Details are in **Annex 3**. \$1.4 million has been earmarked for the subvention scheme in 2019-20.

- End -

**Eligibility criteria for application for subvention**

- (1) The organisation must be:
  - (i) a society as defined by section 2(1) of the Societies Ordinance (Cap. 151) and registered under section 5A(1) of that Ordinance;
  - (ii) a company registered under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622) (or Cap. 32 as in force at the time of the registration); or
  - (iii) a body of persons, or charity, as defined by section 2(1) of the Registered Trustees Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 306) which has been granted a certificate of incorporation under section 4(1) of that Ordinance.
- (2) The organisation must also be a charitable institution or trust of a public character that is exempt from tax under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) (rehoming partners of AFCD who did not have charitable status when joining the scheme prior to March 2017 are exempted from this requirement).
- (3) The core services and activities of the organisation must be related to promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management and it must be actively engaged in such services/activities over the past 3 years or more (re-homing partners of AFCD are exempted from the 3-year requirement).
- (4) The organisation must be well-managed and properly constituted with good record keeping and accounting systems.
- (5) Organisations charging an adoption or re-homing fee must possess an exemption from holding an animal trader licence under section 5A of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B). For re-homing partners without charitable status, at least one individual acting on behalf of the organisation must possess the individual exemption.



## Subvention to animal welfare organisations (AWOs)

## (i) Applied for in 2015-16 and released in 2016-17

	AWO	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	73,934
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	125,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	100,000
4	Society for Abandoned Animals (SAA)	38,591
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	41,620
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	45,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	16,365
9	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong)	44,854
<b>Total</b>		<b>513,364</b>

## (ii) Applied for in 2016-17 and released in 2017-18

	AWO	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	84,602
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	100,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	45,120
5	Hong Kong Cats	18,300
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	46,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	28,000
8	SAA	42,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>494,022</b>

## (iii) Applied for in 2017-18 and released in 2018-19

	AWO	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	83,329
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	82,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	47,960
5	Sai Kung Stray Friends	48,000
6	Cheung Chau Animal Care	28,000
7	Hong Kong Cats	16,522
8	Hong Kong Paws Guardian	0*
9	Kirsten's Zoo	45,000
10	Animal Friends	45,000
11	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	45,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>570,811</b>

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

(iv) Applied for and approved in 2018-19<sup>#</sup>

	<b>AWO</b>	<b>Amount approved (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	120,000
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	250,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection	120,000
4	SAA	120,000
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	120,000
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	150,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	53,500
8	Hong Kong Cats	10,000
9	Kirsten's Zoo	120,000
10	Animal Friends	150,000
11	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	50,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,263,500</b>

<sup>#</sup> The subvention will be released in 2019-20.

## Subvention for biodiversity education

## (i) 2016-17

	<b>Subvented organisation</b>	<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong	To promote awareness on the relationship between biodiversity and geodiversity.	43,138
2	Association for Tai O Environment and Development	To enhance the understanding of the conservation of incense tree through guided tours and public participation.	32,507
3	BLOOM Association Hong Kong Ltd.	To provide training for recreational divers to participate in the collection of baseline information for reef fish diversity and distribution.	76,470
4	Business Environment Council Limited	To produce a video to promote the biodiversity along Lantau Tung O Ancient Trail.	98,308
5	Department of Science and Environmental Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong	To enhance the understanding of local biodiversity through guided tours and hands-on educational activities.	22,164
6	ECO Association Limited	To enhance knowledge on Chinese White Dolphin and other marine lives through guided tours and workshops.	72,167
7	Ecobus	To promote public awareness on urban biodiversity through guided tours.	55,900
8	Environmental Association Limited	To raise the awareness of overwintering butterflies and geo-areas through workshops and guided tours.	46,852
9	Firefly Conservation Foundation Limited	To promote the knowledge on insect diversity in Hong Kong through guided tours and workshops.	45,760
10	Footprint	To promote local biodiversity and its importance in our daily lives through guided tours.	64,573

	<b>Subvented organisation</b>	<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
11	Grateful Green Group	To instil knowledge on biodiversity conservation and nature appreciation through green ambassadors training.	89,258
12	Green Power Limited	To enhance understanding of coastal and marine ecology through guided tours.	12,850
13	Hong Kong Maritime Museum Limited	To enhance understanding of coral diversity in local water through exhibitions and guided tours.	61,123
14	Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong	To raise environmental awareness on local biodiversity and marine debris issues.	26,192
15	Ocean Park Corporation	To enhance the public understanding of biodiversity and the threats faced by local wildlife.	31,720
16	Plastic Free Seas	To raise the awareness on marine plastic pollutions through guided tours and experiential activities.	8,339
17	Produce Green Foundation	To enhance public knowledge on the biodiversity in farmland and sustainability through volunteer training and guided tours.	85,576
18	Sustainable Ecological Ethical Development Foundation Limited	To enhance understanding of local biodiversity and farmland through guided tours.	0*
19	Tai Tam Tuk Foundation	To promote the diversity of bamboo species in Hong Kong through building a bamboo jungle gym.	36,298
20	The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society	To promote local biodiversity to people with hearing impairment through training and guided tours.	18,466
21	World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong	To promote nature appreciation through process drama and geo-caching.	99,440
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,027,101</b>

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

**(ii) 2017-18**

	<b>Subvented organisations</b>	<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong	To promote geodiversity and biodiversity through seminars, guided tours, workshops and exhibitions.	59,978
2	Association for Tai O Environment and Development	To introduce fung shui wood, incense tree and the culture of Hakka village through seminars and guided tours.	34,947
3	BLOOM Association Hong Kong Limited	To educate the public about the conservation of reef fish by establishing a Reef Fish Web-portal.	148,000
4	Caritas Chan Chun Ha Field Studies Centre	To develop teaching materials and organise field studies on arthropods for secondary school students.	142,200
5	Department of Science and Environmental Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong	To introduce local biodiversity to teachers and students of primary and secondary schools through guided tours and experiential activities.	72,813
6	Ecobus	To raise public awareness on biodiversity and environmental protection through guided tours and field studies.	47,149
7	Environmental Association Limited	To organise various educational programmes to promote butterflies in Hong Kong.	122,922
8	Environmental Life Science Society, SS, HKUSU	To organise training courses on local biodiversity for university students and secondary school teachers. Participants will also learn about skills in organising ecological surveys.	77,646
9	Footprint	To promote biodiversity knowledge through organising citizen science activities which allow members of the public to conduct ecological surveys.	71,556
10	Green Power Limited	To raise public awareness on coastal and marine ecology through guided tours and experiential activities.	9,899

	<b>Subvented organisations</b>	<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
11	Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong	To raise public awareness on biodiversity through eco-tours, night safari and mudflat clean-up.	19,435
12	Produce Green Foundation	To promote agricultural biodiversity through decent training and education programmes on organic farming.	71,021
13	Tai Tam Tuk Foundation Limited	To organise a citizen science event to encourage members of the public to participate in ecological surveys and learn about biodiversity.	126,489
14	Tung Chung Catholic School	To develop teaching materials and offer training on ecological surveys for primary school and kindergarten teachers.	0*
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,004,055</b>

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

**(iii) 2018-19**

	<b>Subvented organisations</b>	<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong	To promote geodiversity and biodiversity through talks, guided tours, workshops and exhibitions.	65,662
2	Association for the Ecological and Cultural Conservation of Aquilaria Sinensis	To raise public awareness on fung shui woods and incense trees through seminars, guided tours and workshops.	22,078
3	Business Environment Council Limited	To produce advertorials and videos to introduce biodiversity related sustainable products.	149,600
4	Caritas Chan Chun Ha Field Studies Centre	To develop environmental education courses and teaching materials for primary school students to enhance their knowledge on species and ecosystem diversity.	118,720

	<b>Subvented organisations</b>	<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
5	Caritas Institute of Community Education	To organize workshops for teachers and student teachers of kindergartens to learn about biodiversity and to develop teaching materials for kindergartens.	123,447
6	Dept. of Science and Environmental Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong	To educate primary and secondary school students and teachers on biodiversity through guided tours and educational activities.	77,359
7	Ecology and Biodiversity Society, SS, HKUSU	To promote forest ecology and local biodiversity among students and teachers through the use of board games in teachers' training and school activities.	50,533
8	Environmental Association Limited	To raise public awareness on plant and butterfly diversity through various educational activities.	146,563
9	Green Power Limited	To promote coastal biodiversity through common cordgrass removal activities and guided tours.	8,701
10	Hong Kong Dolphin Conservation Society Limited	To enhance public awareness on cetacean conservation through a series of activities relevant to different cetacean issues.	33,839
11	Hong Kong Maritime Museum Limited	To educate the public on marine issues through seminars and to develop educational materials to promote marine conservation.	99,437
12	Life Jungle Association Limited	To promote Lamma Island's biodiversity and raise public awareness on environmental conservation through eco-tours, exhibitions, workshops and clean-up activities.	96,690
13	Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong	To raise awareness on local biodiversity and global marine debris issue through eco-tours, mudflat clean-ups and seminars.	45,898
14	School of Life Sciences, The Chinese University of Hong Kong	To enhance high school students' awareness and knowledge of the coral communities in Hong Kong through seminars, coral displays and coral restoration activities.	71,976

	<b>Subvented organisations</b>	<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
15	Tai Tam Tuk Foundation Limited	To carry out a week-long interschool competition to promote secondary school students' and teachers' biodiversity knowledge and conservation awareness.	27,809
16	Tai Wai Children and Youth Integrated Services Centre, The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong	To encourage Tai Wai residents to explore the biodiversity in the area through various community activities such as exhibitions and guided tours.	36,318
17	The Conservancy Association	To promote biodiversity and conservation to young children through drama education.	49,381
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,224,011</b>



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)310**

**(Question Serial No. 4435)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding euthanasia of animals,

- (a) What were the actual expenditures and breakdown (such as the expenditures on the procurement of medical equipment, administration fees, etc) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in catching and euthanising animals over the past 3 financial years?
- (b) Please set out in tabular form and by type of major animals (cats, dogs and other) the numbers of community animals caught by AFCD, and animals given up by owners, received through other channels, reclaimed by owners, rehomed and euthanised over the past 3 financial years.
- (c) For animals taken to the animal management centres, usually how many days will they stay before being euthanised?
- (d) Does the Government have any plan to review the euthanasia policy?

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 64)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on catching stray animals and euthanasia of animals over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)	
	Catching operations	Euthanasia of animals
2016-17	28.5	0.9
2017-18	28.7	1.0
2018-19 (revised estimate)	32.1	1.3

AFCD does not have further breakdown of the above expenditure items.

- (b) The number and species of animals handled by AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated at the **Annex**.
- (c) and (d) Stray animals caught will be put in Animal Management Centres (AMCs) for observation. For those animals with a microchip implanted, AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in AMCs for about 10 to 20 days. AMCs will keep the non-microchipped ones for at least 4 days to allow time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the animals being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary officer as having a gentle temperament and suitable for adoption, AFCD will arrange their transfer to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) for adoption by members of the public as far as possible.

On the other hand, some animals received by AMCs may not be suitable for rehoming due to various reasons, including the risk of carrying zoonotic diseases, health or temperamental reasons. Even for healthy animals, keeping in captivity without rehoming for prolonged period is not in their best interest from the perspective of animal welfare. As such, euthanasia remains a necessary measure for managing stray animals. A number of international animal organisations, including the World Organisation for Animal Health, agree that in situations where the number of stray dogs caught remain high or the dogs are not fit for adoption despite the deployment of various stray dog management measures, euthanasia would be an appropriate and humane solution. Many overseas countries, such as the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, Japan and Singapore, all adopt euthanasia in handling stray animals.

Nevertheless, AFCD will continue to strengthen its efforts on management of stray animals, such as the promotion of responsible pet ownership and animals rehoming as well as taking enforcement action against abandonment of animals by irresponsible owners, with a view to reducing the number of stray animals that need to be euthanised.

- End -

## Annex

Calendar year	Stray animals caught			Animals given up by owners			Animals received through other channels			Animals reclaimed by owners			Animals re-homed			Animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others *	Dogs	Cats	Others *	Dogs	Cats	Others *	Dogs	Cats	Others *	Dogs	Cats	Others *	Dogs	Cats	Others *
2016	1 919	876	1 494	1 003	107	56	343	70	674	637	400	1	513	136	92	1 814	449	748
2017	1 566	674	1 640	1 024	84	39	336	65	204	560	269	10	588	67	94	1 478	381	801
2018	1 235	547	1 369	715	80	43	304	62	4 904 <sup>#</sup>	512	206	9	577	89	87	1 026	333	5 007 <sup>#</sup>

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

<sup>#</sup> The increased numbers were mainly due to more animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and birds seized and culled upon detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)311****(Question Serial No. 4436)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding pet grooming, please advise on the current number and locations of the companies holding Boarding Establishment Licences, the records of their non-compliances and the enforcement actions taken by the Government over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 65)

Reply:

Under section 4 of the Public Health (Animals) (Boarding Establishment) Regulations (Cap. 139I) (the Regulations), no person shall keep a boarding establishment for animals unless in accordance with a licence granted under the Regulations. If a pet grooming business does not involve animal boarding activities, no licence is required under the Regulations.

Applications for boarding establishment licences are processed by the 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). As at mid March 2019, the number of boarding establishment licences issued by the 4 AMCs is tabulated as follows:

	<b>New Territories North</b>	<b>New Territories South</b>	<b>Kowloon</b>	<b>Hong Kong Island</b>
<b>Number of valid boarding establishment licences issued</b>	25	12	32	11

Information on the number of convictions under section 4 of the Regulations over the past 3 years and the relevant penalties is tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Prosecution against illegal boarding for animals</b>	
	<b>Number of convicted cases</b>	<b>Range of penalty imposed</b>
2016	3	A fine of \$1,000
2017	5	A fine of \$1,000 to \$2,000
2018	6	A fine of \$600 to \$1,500

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)312**

**(Question Serial No. 4438)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding animal control, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the estimated and actual expenditures of the Animal Management Centres under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on purchasing animal traps, trapping devices or others over the past 3 financial years?
- (b) What were the numbers and places of origin of animal traps, trapping devices or others purchased by the Government over the past 3 financial years?
- (c) What were the types and numbers of animals caught by AFCD by using animal traps, trapping devices or others over the past 3 financial years? Please tabulate the information.
- (d) What were the respective reasons for using animal traps, trapping devices or others? Please illustrate the reasons by types and the respective numbers of different types of cases.
- (e) What were the respective expenditures of AFCD on training staff of the dog-catching teams in each year?

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 67)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) At present, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has a total of 286 cage traps and 68 snares for catching different types of animals. No such device was purchased by AFCD over the past 3 years.

- (c) The types and number of animals caught using animal traps are tabulated as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of animals caught with animal traps				
	Dogs (by cage / snare)	Cats (by cage)	Pigeons (by cage)	Monkeys (by cage / snare)	Wild pigs (by cage, net or dart gun)
2016	76/118	564	218	521/31	59
2017	118/103	475	273	291/28	106
2018	40/102	299	0	195/29	197

Note: The management of wild animals fall under the policy purview of the Environment Bureau.

- (d) The snares and cage traps used by AFCD are specially designed or carefully selected to ensure that they are safe to be used on animals. They are widely recognised and used in other countries for catching stray animals. In general, upon receipt of complaints or reports from members of the public regarding nuisances caused by stray or wild animals, staff of the Animal Management Centres or the Wetland and Fauna Conservation Division of AFCD will conduct follow-up inspections respectively and arrange catching operations as necessary. The methods employed to catch stray or wild animals mainly depend on the types of animals involved and the circumstances surrounding the catching operations.
- (e) AFCD staff responsible for catching operations are all trained for using different catching tools and handling animals, including taking all necessary precautionary measures to prevent animals from injury during operations. There is no separate breakdown of the expenditure on training of staff for conducting animal catching operations.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)313**

**(Question Serial No. 4446)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the issue of pet food products, the Government has mentioned that a study was commissioned in October 2017 to test the safety of the pet food products sold in the local market and the study is expected to be completed in 3 years. In this regard, please advise on the following:

- (a) Please set out the respective numbers of tests to be carried out, numbers of samples and the items to be tested in each of the coming 3 years, as well as the estimated expenditures on the subject study and the consultants engaged.
- (b) The reasons why the study is expected to be completed in 3 years. Does the Government have any plan on hand for monitoring pet food products?

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 75)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) commissioned a study in October 2017 to sample and test pet food products commonly available in the Hong Kong market. A total of 360 samples of different pet food products in different forms including dry food, wet food and freeze-dried ones, are being collected and tested against certain harmful substances, micro-organisms, such as Salmonella, aflatoxin and melamine, as well as heavy metals. Up to mid March 2019, testing of 180 samples, including dry / wet food for dogs and cats, has been completed. So far the results are within the limits permitted by major pet food producing countries / places.

Since pet food products for sale in Hong Kong are imported from different places, and available in different forms, such as dry food, wet food, freeze-dried and frozen food, before samples are collected, a list of products for testing has to be first drawn up based on a research on the types of pet food products available in Hong Kong. Products are then



sampled and tested by batches. In addition, different forms of pet food may be subject to different testing arrangements, and some tests may need to be conducted in overseas laboratories in case no suitable local facilities are available for the necessary testing. Longer time is needed to complete these tests. The study is expected to be completed in 2020. \$4 million has been earmarked for the study.

Upon completion of the study, AFCD will analyse the findings to assess the situation of pet food safety in Hong Kong with a view to mapping out the way forward.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)314**

**(Question Serial No. 4448)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Fisheries Development Loan Fund (FDLF) was set up in 1960. Why was the number of loans surged from 390 in 2017 to 610 in 2018, marking an increase of 56%? What were the reasons for the surge of number of loans? For what purpose(s) did the loan borrowers use the loans? What was the number of FDLF cases which involved loan borrowers used their own properties as collateral over the past 3 years and the reasons for applying for the loans?

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 79)

Reply:

The increase in the number of loans in 2018 was attributable to the increase in demand from fishermen for fishing moratorium loans under the Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund to tide over the moratorium implemented in the South China Sea and make preparations for the resumption of fishing operations after the moratorium.

Over the past 3 years, no fishermen used their own properties as collaterals under the Fisheries Development Loan Fund.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)315**

**(Question Serial No. 4458)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks  
(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the operation of the “animal management centres”, would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the respective expenditures involved in the operation of the “animal management centres”;
- (b) whether the Government would consider opening some of the “animal management centres” to the public for animal rehoming;
- (c) the name(s) and quantities of the drug(s) used in euthanasia as well as the expenditures involved in releasing animals, such as wild pigs and monkeys, to the countryside by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years;
- (d) the numbers of animals died in the animal management centres or during the release to the countryside over the past 3 years;
- (e) the total numbers of dogs received by AFCD each year, the channels through which the dogs were received and their respective numbers, the way(s) the Department handled such dogs and the numbers of dogs eventually euthanised, rehomed, neutered and returned, as well as directly released back to their habitats over the past 3 years;
- (f) the expenditures and manpower involved in handling the dogs received over the past 3 years as well as the estimated expenditure and manpower for handling the dogs received in 2019-20.

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 89)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) currently operates 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs) in the New Territories North (NTN), the New Territories South (NTS), Kowloon (K) and Hong Kong Island (HK) respectively. In 2018-19, the expenditure (revised estimate) involved in operating the 4 AMCs is tabulated as follows:

AMC	Expenditure (\$ million)
AMC/NTN	24.8
AMC/NTS	19.0
AMC/K	22.9
AMC/HK	17.1

- (b) At present, AFCD partners with 17 animal welfare organisations (AWOs) to provide rehoming services for animals caught or received by AFCD. These AWOs form a wide network across the territory to service adopters in different regions. To further promote animal adoption, AFCD will continue its efforts in inviting more AWOs to be rehoming partners. In addition, AFCD will continue to provide funding support to AWOs for their animal welfare projects including for rehoming. Furthermore, AFCD is planning to set up an animal rehoming facility in the proposed Animal Management and Animal Welfare Building Complex in Kowloon East with a view to complementing partner AWOs in providing rehoming services and enhancing promotional and education activities related to adoption.
- (c) Ketamine, Xylazine and Pentobarbital Sodium are used for euthanasia purpose. The dosage generally depends on the species, weight and age of the animals concerned.

There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure specifically earmarked for releasing wild animals, such as wild pigs and monkeys, to the countryside as it forms an integral part of AFCD's work on wild animal management, which is under the policy purview of the Environment Bureau.

- (d) The number of animals euthanised by AMCs over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	The number of animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2016	1 814	449	748
2017	1 478	381	801
2018	1 026	333	5 007 <sup>#</sup>

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

<sup>#</sup> The increased number was mainly due to more animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and birds seized and culled upon detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

No wild pig or monkey died during the release to the countryside over the past 3 years. Except for animals euthanised, AFCD does not maintain the number of animals died in AMCs due to other reasons.

- (e) The number of dogs received and handled by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Stray dogs caught</b>	<b>Dogs given up by owners</b>	<b>Dogs received through other channels</b>	<b>Dogs reclaimed by owners</b>	<b>Dogs rehomed</b>	<b>Dogs euthanised</b>
2016	1 919	1 003	343	637	513	1 814
2017	1 566	1 024	336	560	588	1 478
2018	1 235	715	304	512	577	1 026

Stray dogs caught will be put in AMCs for observation. For those with a microchip implanted, AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these dogs will stay in AMCs for about 10 to 20 days. AMCs will keep the non-microchipped ones for at least 4 days to allow time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the dogs being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary surgeon as having a gentle temperament and suitable for adoption, AFCD will arrange their transfer to AWOs for adoption by members of the public. Only dogs that remain unclaimed or not adopted at the end of the process will be euthanised.

The 3-year Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme for stray dogs at the 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long, ended in early 2018, was conducted by two AWOs. A total of 102 dogs were neutered and returned to the 2 trial sites. This figure is not included in the above table.

- (f) AFCD does not have a separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower for the management of stray dogs. The expenditure and manpower involved in handling animals caught over the past 3 years and the estimated expenditure and manpower earmarked for 2019-20 are tabulated as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Expenditure on handling stray animals caught (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (number of staff)</b>
2016-17	3.4	187
2017-18	3.6	187
2018-19 (revised estimate)	4.0	188
2019-20 (estimate)	4.0	188

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)316**

**(Question Serial No. 3489)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses  
Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets  
Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market has been operating at the existing location “temporarily” for 40 years. Most part of the site is in fact zoned as “Open Space”. Please advise on the resources involved in studying the permanent re-provisioning of the temporary market over the past 3 years and the forthcoming year. When will the consultancy study on the existing functions and use of its wholesale business in the sale of fresh food be completed?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 69)

Reply:

Over the past years, we have been looking for a suitable site for the relocation of the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market (CSWTWPM). In 2018, the Civil Engineering and Development Department commissioned a consultancy study on the technical feasibility of potential sites for relocation of a number of wholesale markets, including CSWTWPM, to northwest Tsing Yi. The study is expected to be completed in 2020. We will decide the way forward on the relocation of CSWTWPM, having regard to the outcome of the above study and other relevant considerations.

\$28.8 million has been earmarked for the above study. As the study covers a number of wholesale markets, a separate breakdown of the consultancy fee for the part on CSWTWPM is not available.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)317**

**(Question Serial No. 3490)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What were the subventions received by various animal welfare organisations (AWOs) over the past 3 years? In 2019-20, the estimated subventions to be granted to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and AWOs increase to \$1.5 million. Please advise on the reasons for the increase of the subventions and the amounts of subvention to be received by various AWOs.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 70)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been collaborating with animal welfare organisations (AWOs) to enhance animal welfare and promote better animal management. Recognising that most AWOs are non-profit making with limited resources, the Government has since 2011 been providing subvention to these AWOs in supporting their work as long as resources can accommodate. As the subvention has been able to strengthen AWOs' capacity in animal welfare work, after reviewing the needs of AWOs and the resources implications, we have increased the subvention amount with a view to enhancing our support to AWOs' work. The increased subvention amount will apply to projects approved in 2018-19, with disbursements to be made in 2019-20.

The amounts of subvention received by AWOs over the past 3 years are tabulated at the **Annex**.

Apart from the subvention to various AWOs mentioned above, AFCD has also been providing subvention to the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) (SPCA). The annual provision for the subvention to SPCA has been set at \$1 million for the past few years. The subvention granted to SPCA is to support programmes related to stray animal management, combat animal cruelty, organise public education on animal welfare as well as relevant training and seminars for public officers and interested groups.

As the scope and the costs of the various subvented programmes and activities have increased over the past years, we have also increased the subvention with effect from 2019-20 with a view to enhancing our support to SPCA for carrying out programmes and activities that are conducive to enhancing animal welfare and promoting better animal management.

- End -



## Subvention to animal welfare organisations (AWOs)

## (i) Applied for in 2015-16 and released in 2016-17

	<b>AWO</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	73,934
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	125,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	100,000
4	Society for Abandoned Animals (SAA)	38,591
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	41,620
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	45,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	16,365
9	SPCA	44,854
<b>Total</b>		<b>513,364</b>

## (ii) Applied for in 2016-17 and released in 2017-18)

	<b>AWO</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	84,602
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	100,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	45,120
5	Hong Kong Cats	18,300
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	46,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	28,000
8	SAA	42,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>494,022</b>

## (iii) Applied for in 2017-18 and released in 2018-19

	<b>AWO</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	83,329
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	82,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	47,960
5	Sai Kung Stray Friends	48,000
6	Cheung Chau Animal Care	28,000
7	Hong Kong Cats	16,522
8	Hong Kong Paws Guardian	0*
9	Kirsten's Zoo	45,000
10	Animal Friends	45,000
11	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	45,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>570,811</b>

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

(iv) Applied for and approved in 2018-19<sup>#</sup>

	<b>AWO</b>	<b>Amount approved (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	120,000
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	250,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection	120,000
4	SAA	120,000
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	120,000
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	150,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	53,500
8	Hong Kong Cats	10,000
9	Kirsten's Zoo	120,000
10	Animal Friends	150,000
11	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	50,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,263,500</b>

<sup>#</sup>The subvention will be released in 2019-20.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)318**

**(Question Serial No. 3491)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What are the details of “strengthening measures for stray animals management” as mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019-20? In view of the criticism from Committee members of different parties regarding the 3-year “Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme for stray dogs” being too short for effectiveness to be evaluated, would the Government consider reintroducing the programme?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 71)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) implements various measures to strengthen the management of stray animals. These include:

- (a) actively promoting the serious responsibility and commitment that go with pet keeping, through public education and publicity programmes to disseminate messages on proper care of animals and responsible pet ownership;
- (b) enhancing enforcement against pet owners in contravention of relevant legislation;
- (c) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in re-homing of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management; and
- (d) implementing the long-term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with the relevant AWOs and local communities.

The 3-year Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs conducted at the 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long by 2 AWOs since early 2015 was completed in January 2018. Although the 3-year trial programme has been completed, the 2 concerned

AWOs have agreed to continue to monitor the situation, and provide us with the information on changes of the population and the average lifespan of these dogs in the coming years. We would make use of the data provided by the 2 AWOs for further assessment of the effectiveness of the programme.

While the trial programme did not achieve the predetermined performance targets, AFCD keeps an open mind towards rendering assistance to AWOs in conducting similar programmes in other specific locations. To this end, AFCD issued letters to AWOs inviting their views on sites that may be suitable for conducting the TNR programme in November 2018. The letter is also available on our thematic website ([www.pets.gov.hk](http://www.pets.gov.hk)). We will consider a range of factors, including population density, community facilities in the vicinity, and traffic condition, in order to determine if a specific location is suitable for conducting such a programme. If a location is found suitable, AFCD will facilitate the liaison between the coordinating AWOs and the District Councils concerned as well as the local stakeholders in order to introduce the programme, with a view to enlisting their support, and seeking approval from the Legislative Council for the relevant legislative exemption.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)319**

**(Question Serial No. 3652)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Would the Bureau provide the dates, purposes and modes of establishment of the following funds, as well as their balances, amounts of Government injection, investments or other incomes, and total expenditures in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18? If there are other funds under the ambit of the Bureau but not included below, please also provide the above information.
- (i) Agricultural Products Scholarship Fund;
  - (ii) Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere Loan Fund;
  - (iii) Fisheries Development Loan Fund;
  - (iv) Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund (FMOLF) including the Fishing Moratorium Loan Scheme set up under FMOLF;
  - (v) J.E. Joseph Trust Fund;
  - (vi) Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund;
  - (vii) Marine Fish Scholarship Fund;
  - (viii) Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund;
  - (ix) Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund;
  - (x) Vegetable Marketing Organization Agricultural Development Fund;
  - (xi) Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund; and
  - (xii) World Refugee Year Loan Fund.
- (b) How does the Bureau assess and monitor the situation of funding support of the funds under its management currently, and is there any indicator for reviewing the effectiveness of the funding support? If yes, what is the latest situation? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) currently administers 12 funds related to the agriculture and fisheries sectors. The requested information about the funds is tabulated at **Annexes 1 and 2**.
- (b) On monitoring these 12 funds, AFCD compiles reports periodically on their applications, approvals, progress and the repayment situations. For the funds established by Statue / the Fish Marketing Organization / the Vegetable Marketing Organization, the audited financial statements in relation to the funds are tabled at the Legislative Council annually. Besides, the advisory committees of various funds also monitor the funds' management and provide advice on improving their effectiveness.

AFCD also conducts internal review on the administration of all the funds on a need basis taking into consideration the latest development of the agriculture and fisheries sectors and the utilisation of the funds. The funds generally serve the needs of these sectors and are in line with the policy direction of promoting their sustainable development.

- End -

## Year of Establishment, Start-up Capital and Purpose of Various Funds

Item	Fund	Year of establishment / Modes of Establishment	Start-up capital (\$ million)	Purpose
1	Agricultural Products Scholarship Fund (APSF)	1978 / Established under the Agricultural Products (Marketing) Ordinance (Cap. 277)	1.0	To provide scholarships, grants and loans for the education and training of persons (including their families and dependents), who are employed in agriculture or agricultural product marketing sectors in Hong Kong; and persons who wish to enter the agriculture or agricultural product marketing sectors in Hong Kong.
2	Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere Loan Fund (CARELF)	1957 / Established by the Government on a donation	< 0.1	To provide loans to fishermen for repair or replacement of fishing vessels, gear and equipment, or improvement of their fishing business.
3	Fisheries Development Loan Fund (FDLF)	1960 / Established by the Government on the approval of the Finance Committee (FC)	2.0	To provide loans to fishermen and fish farmers for switching to more sustainable fisheries operations, carrying out projects that will reduce fuel consumption, or development of aquaculture.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Year of establishment / Modes of Establishment</b>	<b>Start-up capital (\$ million)</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
4	Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund (FMOLF)	1946 / Established by the Fish Marketing Organization under the authority of the Marine Fish (Marketing) Ordinance (Cap. 291)	0.3	To provide loans to fishermen for repair or replacement of fishing vessels, gear and equipment, improvement of their fishing business, or assisting them to tide over the fishing moratorium and to prepare for resumption of fishing after the fishing moratorium.
5	J.E. Joseph Trust Fund (JEJTF)	1954 / Established under the J.E. Joseph Trust Fund Ordinance (Cap. 1067)	0.5	To provide loans to farmers for farm operation and/or development purposes.
6	Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund (KAALF)	1955 / Established under the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund Ordinance (Cap. 1080)	0.5	To provide loans to farmers and fish farmers for operation or development of their farming or aquaculture business.
7	Marine Fish Scholarship Fund (MFSF)	1978 / Established under the Marine Fish (Marketing) Ordinance (Cap. 291)	1.0	To provide scholarships and grants for the education and training of persons who are employed in fisheries and fish marketing sectors in Hong Kong and their families and dependants, and persons who wish to enter these sectors.
8	Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF)	2016 / Established by the Government on the approval of FC	500.0	To provide funding support for fostering the sustainable development and enhancing the overall competitiveness of the agricultural sector.



<b>Item</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Year of establishment / Modes of Establishment</b>	<b>Start-up capital (\$ million)</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
9	Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF)	2014 / Established by the Government on the approval of FC	500.0	To provide funding support to the fisheries sector to develop or switch to a sustainable or high value-added mode of operation as well as enhancing the overall competitiveness of the sector.
10	Vegetable Marketing Organization Agricultural Development Fund (VMOADF)	1988 / Established by the Vegetable Marketing Organization on the advice of the Marketing Advisory Board	5.0	To support various agricultural development projects and organisation of various promotional activities.
11	Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund (VMOLF)	1953 / Established by the Vegetable Marketing Organization on the advice of the Marketing Advisory Board	0.2	To provide loans to vegetable farmers for farm operation and/or development purposes.
12	World Refugee Year Loan Fund (WRYLF)	1962 / Established by the Government on a donation	0.5 <sup>^</sup>	To provide loans to fishermen for repair or replacement of fishing vessels, gear and equipment, or improvement of their fishing business.

<sup>^</sup>According to our earliest available record.

**Amount of Government injection, income, expenditure and fund balance of various funds related to the agricultural and fisheries sectors**

Item	Fund	Government injection (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2018)	Calendar year								
			2016			2017			2018		
			Income <sup>#</sup> (\$ million)	Expenditure <sup>^</sup> (\$ million)	Fund balance (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2016)	Income <sup>#</sup> (\$ million)	Expenditure <sup>^</sup> (\$ million)	Fund balance (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2017)	Income <sup>#</sup> (\$ million)	Expenditure <sup>^</sup> (\$ million)	Fund balance (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2018)
1	APSF	-	<0.1	0.3	6.5	0.1	0.2	6.2	< 0.1	0.5	5.8
2	CARELF	-	<0.1	0.1	0.2	< 0.1	0.0	0.2	-	-	0.2
3	FDLF	1,100.0*	6.2	173.0	456.9	9.2	176.8	311.4	7.6	138.3	208.8
4	FMOLF <sup>@</sup>	60.0*	0.6	38.3	108.7	0.7	53.6	92.9	0.7	106.1	40.6
5	JEJTF	0.8	0.1	1.0	18.6	0.2	1.0	19.1	0.2	1.3	18.8
6	KAALF	2.0	0.1	4.0	10.8	0.1	4.2	10.7	0.1	3.3	11.4
7	MFSF	-	<0.1	0.4	4.7	< 0.1	0.1	4.6	< 0.1	0.4	4.2
8	SADF	500.0*	-	-	500.0	-	1.9	498.1	-	7.5	490.6
9	SFDF	500.0*	-	10.5	489.5	-	11.5	478.0	-	7.9	470.1
10	VMOADF	-	0.4	41.2	52.9	0.4	32.1	32.8	0.3	31.8	26.6
11	VMOLF	-	0.1	1.6	12.7	0.1	2.3	12.7	0.1	2.1	12.9
12	WRYLF	-	<0.1	0.0	2.0	< 0.1	0.0	2.0	< 0.1	-	2.0

\* Government commitment

# Including interest income from loan borrowers, bank deposits and Government bonds

^ Including grants / loans issued

@ Including the Fishing Moratorium Loan Scheme set up under FMOLF

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)320**

**(Question Serial No. 4244)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Given that the provision of quarantine service forms part of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's work, would the Government advise on the following:

- (a) the details of the quarantine service;
- (b) the flora and fauna as well as their products that currently require the Department's quarantine service in order to be exported to the Mainland; and
- (c) the manpower and estimated expenditure of the Department involved in the relevant work (please set out the number of staff by their posts in tabular form).

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 63)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) To facilitate the export of live animals and animal products, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides quarantine services by issuing animal health certificates, endorsing animal health certificates issued by registered veterinarians in Hong Kong, as well as issuing sanitary certificates for animal products, subject to the requirements from the importing countries / places. The types of animals and animal products that require AFCD's quarantine services for export to the Mainland are tabulated below.

<b>Issue of Animal health certificates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Eel fry</li> <li>(ii) Horses</li> <li>(iii) Turtles</li> <li>(iv) Zoo animals (including fish, birds and mammals, etc.)</li> <li>(v) Laboratory mice</li> </ul>
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<b>Endorsement of animal health certificates</b>	(i) Cats (ii) Dogs
<b>Issue of sanitary certificates</b>	(i) Hog meal (ii) Leather (iii) Feather (iv) Sea cucumber (v) Fish maw (vi) Coral (vii) Shark fin (viii) Mammoth tusk

AFCD also provides phytosanitary certification services to facilitate the export of plants and plant products. Currently, every export consignment of seeds, cereal grains, pulses, dried plant products and timber to the Mainland requires a phytosanitary certificate issued by AFCD.

- (c) Quarantine services are an integral part of AFCD's overall work in controlling diseases in animals and plants; safeguarding public health; and providing technical services. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure on providing such services.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)321**

**(Question Serial No. 4503)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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

- (a) The total numbers of wild cattle in Hong Kong, and the respective numbers by districts (Lantau Island, Sai Kung/Ma On Shan, North East New Territories and Central New Territories).
- (b) The respective numbers of reports of road obstructions and nuisance caused by cattle in each of the above 4 districts, and the major affected areas.
- (c) The respective numbers of cattle that died of unnatural causes, such as car accidents and hunting, etc., in each of the above 4 districts.
- (d) The respective numbers of cattle that were born and died of natural causes in each of the above 4 districts.
- (e) The respective numbers of cattle that were captured, sterilised and relocated in each of the above 4 districts, as well as the sites for relocation.
- (f) Was the manpower of the Cattle Management Team sufficient for dealing with stray cattle in Hong Kong?
- (g) In addition, there was another wild cow who has died of intestinal congestion caused by its perpetual consumption of plastic bags. Does the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department have any plans to deter visitors from feeding cattle? If yes, what are the details, expected manpower and expenditure of the plan?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 211)

Reply:

- (a) According to a territory-wide population survey on stray cattle conducted in 2018, there were around 1 140 stray cattle in the rural areas of Hong Kong. The estimated number of stray cattle and their distribution are tabulated as follows:

	Estimated number of stray cattle (heads)				
	Lantau Island	Sai Kung / Ma On Shan	North East New Territories	Central New Territories	Total
<b>Buffalo</b>	120	0	0	40	<b>160</b>
<b>Brown cattle</b>	170	400	260	150	<b>980</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>1 140</b>

- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not keep figures of cattle related road blockage complaints, but cattle related complaints such as nuisance, crop damage and potential threat to public safety are recorded. The number of cattle nuisance complaints received by district over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

District	Number of cattle related complaints received and followed up				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Lantau Island	76	71	91	39	30
Sai Kung	12	13	11	10	9
Northeast and Central New Territories	25	19	22	14	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>82</b>

- (c) and (d) AFCD does not have the information requested.

- (e) AFCD adopts a multi-pronged approach for managing stray cattle. One of the key measures is the “Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation” (CSR programme) launched in late 2011, under which AFCD captures, sterilises and relocates stray cattle to remote locations, away from human settlements. The number of cattle handled under the CSR programme over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Captured <sup>^</sup> (heads)	Sterilised (heads)	Relocated / Returned <sup>^</sup> (heads)
2014	94	54	60
2015	88	16	70
2016	114	64	69
2017	105	43	72
2018	128	105	80

<sup>^</sup> Figures including repeated capture and relocation / return of the same cattle

The number of cattle caught by district is tabulated as follows:

District	Number of cattle caught (heads)				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Lantau Island	43	21	33	24	27
Sai Kung	42	50	51	49	42
Northeast and Central New Territories	9	17	30	32	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>128</b>

- (f) AFCD will review from time to time the manpower of the Cattle Management Team to ensure that the issues related to stray cattle are dealt with promptly and properly.
- (g) AFCD does not encourage members of the public to feed stray cattle, even though it is not against the law. Stray cattle by nature forage in the wild. Providing food for cattle may affect their natural behaviour and survival instinct, causing them to become reliant on human for food. AFCD has put up publicity banners and posters to enhance public awareness of stray cattle and remind the public not to disturb or feed stray cattle when encountering them. The manpower and expenditure required are absorbed within AFCD's existing resources for stray cattle management.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)322****(Question Serial No. 4505)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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

- (a) The manpower, numbers of veterinary officers, as well as their annual pay adjustments and turnover rates, of the 4 animal management centres under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD).
- (b) In addition, the numbers of inspections of construction sites conducted by AFCD, the numbers of dogs found on construction sites, the numbers of licensed dogs on construction sites, and the numbers of dogs sent to the animal management centres upon completion of construction work, in accordance with the Code of Practice for Keeping Dogs on Construction Sites.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 213)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) currently has 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs) located in the New Territories North, the New Territories South, Kowloon and Hong Kong Island.

The staff establishment and turnover rate of the 4 AMCs over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Establishment of the 4 AMCs* (Number of posts)		Turnover rate	
	Veterinary Officer	Technical / frontline staff	Veterinary Officer	Technical / frontline staff
2014-15	4	171	0%	2.9%
2015-16	4	175	0%	4.0%



Financial year	Establishment of the 4 AMCs* (Number of posts)		Turnover rate	
	Veterinary Officer	Technical / frontline staff	Veterinary Officer	Technical / frontline staff
2016-17	4	183	0%	4.9%
2017-18	4	183	0%	7.7%
2018-19	4	184	0%	9.8%

\* The 4 AMCs are overseen by 1 Senior Veterinary Officer.

Salary adjustment for AFCD staff, including those in AMCs, follows the Government's established annual payment adjustment mechanism.

- (b) To safeguard the welfare of dogs kept on construction sites, AFCD has devised the "Code of Practice for Keeping Dogs on Construction Sites" which sets out measures to be taken for keeping dogs on such sites. The Code is regularly distributed to large construction companies in Hong Kong, with the most recent round in February 2019. Besides, upon receipt of complaints about dog nuisance near construction sites, AFCD inspects the sites and takes follow-up actions as appropriate, including catching the dogs, instituting prosecution against owners if there is sufficient evidence, and educating the personnel responsible for the construction sites. Over the past 3 years, AFCD conducted over 200 inspections each year to handle complaints near construction sites. AFCD does not have a separate breakdown on the number of dogs found on or near construction sites or sent to AMCs from such sites.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)323**

**(Question Serial No. 4506)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The estimated amount of subventions granted by the Department to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in 2018-19 has been significantly increased by 2.5 times, amounting to \$1.5 million. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The list of AWOs funded by the Government and the amounts of subventions granted to them over the past 3 years, as well as the rationale behind the allocation of funding by the Department to the subject AWOs. Has the Department granted subventions to more AWOs?
- (b) How does the Department evaluate the effectiveness of AWOs?
- (c) In addition, the amount of subvention granted to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) has been increased from \$1 million to \$1.5 million. What are the reasons? Which aspect of animal welfare services is the additional amount of subvention used for?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 214)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been collaborating with animal welfare organisations (AWOs) to enhance animal welfare and promote better animal management. Recognising that most AWOs are non-profit making with limited resources, the Government has since 2011 been providing subvention to these AWOs in supporting their work as long as resources can accommodate. As the subvention has been able to strengthen AWOs' capacity in animal welfare work, after reviewing the needs of AWOs and the resources implications, we have increased the subvention amount with a view to enhancing our support to AWOs' work. The increased subvention amount will apply to projects approved in 2018-19, with disbursements to be made in 2019-20.

The eligibility criteria for application for subvention are set out at **Annex 1**. Only applicants that fulfil the criteria and with applications that are project-based and directly related to the promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management will be considered by AFCD. When vetting applications, AFCD will assess -

- (i) the objective(s) and expected result(s) of the proposed project;
- (ii) cost-effectiveness of the project; and
- (iii) reasonableness of the proposed expenditure.

Interested AWOs may submit their applications together with details of their animal welfare initiatives, estimated budget, and the associated performance indicators under the proposed programme to AFCD for consideration.

The amounts of subvention received by AWOs over the past 3 years are set out at **Annex 2**. AFCD has been monitoring the implementation of the subvention scheme. Document review and audit inspections are conducted to monitor the implementation and assess the outcome of individual subvented programmes. Thus far, the results of all subvented programmes are found to be satisfactory.

Apart from the subvention to various AWOs mentioned above, AFCD has also been providing subvention to the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) (SPCA). The annual provision for the subvention to SPCA has been set at \$1 million for the past few years. The subvention granted to SPCA is to support programmes related to stray animal management, combat animal cruelty, organise public education on animal welfare as well as relevant training and seminars for public officers and interested groups. As the scope and the costs of the various subvented programmes and activities have increased over the past years, we have also increased the subvention with effect from 2019-20 with a view to enhancing our support to SPCA for carrying out programmes and activities that are conducive to enhancing animal welfare and promoting better animal management.

- End -

**Eligibility criteria for application for subvention**

- (1) The organisation must be:
  - (i) a society as defined by section 2(1) of the Societies Ordinance (Cap. 151) and registered under section 5A(1) of that Ordinance;
  - (ii) a company registered under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622) (or Cap. 32 as in force at the time of the registration); or
  - (iii) a body of persons, or charity, as defined by section 2(1) of the Registered Trustees Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 306) which has been granted a certificate of incorporation under section 4(1) of that Ordinance.
- (2) The organisation must also be a charitable institution or trust of a public character that is exempt from tax under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) (rehoming partners of AFCD who did not have charitable status when joining the scheme prior to March 2017 are exempted from this requirement).
- (3) The core services and activities of the organisation must be related to promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management and it must be actively engaged in such services/activities over the past 3 years or more (re-homing partners of AFCD are exempted from the 3-year requirement).
- (4) The organisation must be well-managed and properly constituted with good record keeping and accounting systems.
- (5) Organisations charging an adoption or re-homing fee must possess an exemption from holding an animal trader licence under section 5A of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B). For re-homing partners without charitable status, at least one individual acting on behalf of the organisation must possess the individual exemption.

**Subvention to animal welfare organisations (AWOs)****(i) Applied for in 2015-16 and released in 2016-17**

	<b>AWO</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	73,934
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	125,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	100,000
4	Society for Abandoned Animals (SAA)	38,591
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	41,620
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	45,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	16,365
9	SPCA	44,854
<b>Total</b>		<b>513,364</b>

**(ii) Applied for in 2016-17 and released in 2017-18)**

	<b>AWO</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	84,602
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	100,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	45,120
5	Hong Kong Cats	18,300
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	46,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	28,000
8	SAA	42,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>494,022</b>

**(iii) Applied for in 2017-18 and released in 2018-19**

	<b>AWO</b>	<b>Amount released (\$)</b>
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	83,329
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	82,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	47,960
5	Sai Kung Stray Friends	48,000
6	Cheung Chau Animal Care	28,000
7	Hong Kong Cats	16,522
8	Hong Kong Paws Guardian	0*
9	Kirsten's Zoo	45,000
10	Animal Friends	45,000
11	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	45,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>570,811</b>

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

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)324**

**(Question Serial No. 4511)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It was estimated in the consultancy report on the development of the veterinary profession in Hong Kong published by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in 2017 that there were 681 600 pets in Hong Kong last year, among which about 510 000 were pet cats and dogs, marking an increase of nearly 80% within 10 years. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee on the following:

- (a) The numbers of veterinary surgeons registered under the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance in Hong Kong and among which the numbers of veterinary specialists over the past 5 years. (Please set out by specialisms.)
- (b) The numbers of general veterinary clinics, veterinary clinics in which surgeries can be conducted as well as those with veterinary specialists, broken down by the 18 districts of Hong Kong.
- (c) The numbers of complaints received by the Veterinary Surgeons Board by year, the major reasons for such complaints, the numbers of complaints accepted and then put under investigation, the number of substantiated cases of misconduct, the penalties imposed and whether there is any veterinary surgeon having his/her licences revoked due to the complaints.
- (d) The City University of Hong Kong began to offer the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine programme in the 2017/18 academic year, and the students of the programme are expected to take up their practical training in local veterinary clinics. Has the Department followed up such practical training?
- (e) Does the Department consider that the veterinary medicine programme can provide sufficient personnel to the industry to cope with the surging population of pets? If not, what measures does the Department put in place to appeal to foreign veterinary professionals to practise in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 219)

Reply:

- (a) The number of registered veterinary surgeons in Hong Kong at year-end of the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of registered veterinary surgeons</b>
2014	746
2015	823
2016	861
2017	920
2018	988

The number of registered veterinary surgeons in Hong Kong who are authorised to advertise as, or profess to be, specialists at year-end of the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of authorised specialists</b>
2014	9
2015	18
2016	24
2017	32
2018	39

Some veterinary surgeons have more than one specialty. Details of the specialities (showing position as at 31 December 2018) are tabulated as follows:

<b>Speciality</b>	<b>Number of veterinary surgeons</b>
Anesthesia and Analgesia	3
Avian Practice	2
Canine and Feline Practice	2
Companion Animals (Internal Medicine)	1
Dental Practice	1
Dermatology	2
Emergency and Critical Care	1
Equine Surgery	1
Exotic Companion Mammal Practice	2
Internal Medicine (Cardiology)	3
Internal Medicine (Oncology)	2
Neurology	1
Ophthalmology	4
Poultry Practice	1
Public Health and Food Hygiene	1
Public Health (Population Medicine)	1
Small Animal Internal Medicine	5
Small Animal Surgery	4

Speciality	Number of veterinary surgeons
Veterinary Pathology	5
Zoological Medicine	2

- (b) According to a consultancy study on the development of the veterinary profession in Hong Kong (the consultancy study) commissioned by the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong (VSB) in 2016, there were 146 private veterinary clinics in Hong Kong, of which 35 were located on Hong Kong Island, 5 in Kowloon East, 38 in Kowloon West, 29 in New Territories East, and 39 in New Territories West in mid-2016. Further breakdown on the locations is not available. The study also indicated that apart from general consultation (e.g. health examination, vaccination, microchipping), among the clinics, the vast majority (99.3%) provided routine/simple surgeries; about half (50.3%) provided advanced surgeries and about one-fifth (21.3%) provided specialty services.
- (c) All complaints against registered veterinary surgeons are handled by VSB in accordance with the Rules of the VSB (Disciplinary Proceedings) made under sections 6 and 18(3) of the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529). The majority of the complaints were against the findings or process of diagnosis and treatment or surgery by the registered veterinary surgeons concerned. The number of complaints received by VSB and substantiated upon completion of disciplinary inquiry hearings over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of complaints received	Number of complaints dismissed after preliminary investigation	Number of complaints referred to disciplinary inquiry*	Number of inquiry hearings completed <sup>^</sup>	Number of complaints found substantiated upon inquiry hearings
2014	53	45	6	13	9
2015	57	42	12 <sup>#</sup>	3	3
2016	54	38	12 <sup>#</sup>	12	12
2017	56	33	0	8	4
2018	51	11	0	8	7

\* All complaints received are handled by a Preliminary Investigation Committee for determining whether to make a recommendation to the Board for disciplinary inquiry or whether the case should be dismissed.

<sup>^</sup> Including complaint cases brought forward from previous years

<sup>#</sup> Figures are updated as per VSB's decision to refer complaints received in a particular year to disciplinary inquiry and such decisions may be not be made in the year when the complaints were received.

Information on the orders made for the above 35 complaints found substantiated over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Order	Number of cases involved
Removal of name from the register for a period from 3 to 12 months	7



<b>Order</b>	<b>Number of cases involved</b>
Reprimand and compulsory participation in continuing professional development programme / professional seminar	25
Reprimand	2
Compulsory participation in continuing professional development programme	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>

- (d) The City University of Hong Kong (CityU) is offering a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine degree course, the programme of which includes practical training. CityU has informed VSB that accreditation of the programme by the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council is being conducted with a view to seeking VSB's recognition of the programme for registration of its graduates for practising in Hong Kong. VSB will continue to keep track of CityU's accreditation progress.
- (e) According to the consultancy study, the estimated veterinarian-to-pet (dogs and cats) ratio will drop from 1:620 between mid-2015 and mid-2016 to 1:523 in 2019. The veterinarian-to-pet ratio is a common indicator to assess the overall situation of veterinary services. A smaller ratio means that there are relatively more veterinary surgeons. Hong Kong's ratio is much lower than those in Singapore (1:2 543), the United Kingdom (1:2 374) and the United States of America (1:3 072). With locally trained veterinary surgeons expected to be available in a few years' time, Hong Kong's ratio should remain relatively low. This notwithstanding, VSB will continue to welcome overseas veterinary surgeons to seek to practise in Hong Kong.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)325**

**(Question Serial No. 4686)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the provision of infrastructural support to local farmers mentioned in this programme, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) The number of requests for assistance in identifying agricultural land or building agricultural structures received by the Department, and the number of cases referred to the Lands Department in 2018-19.
- (b) The number of cases of assistance successfully rendered in identifying agricultural land for rehabilitation, and the size of agricultural land for rehabilitation involved in 2018-19.
- (c) Was any statistical work on the size of agricultural land in each of 18 districts performed in the past year? If yes, what was the size of land for agricultural uses according to the Department's records, broken down by 18 districts?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 136)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) Farmers who wish to build agricultural structures on leasehold agricultural land must apply to the Lands Department (LandsD) for a Letter of Approval for Agricultural Structures. To facilitate application by farmers, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides one-stop services and receives application forms on behalf of LandsD for preliminary processing. In 2018, 51 applications were received by AFCD and referred to LandsD for further processing.

Separately, AFCD operates the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (ALRS) through bringing owners of farmland and interested farmers together to

work out leasing agreements for the farmland. The relevant statistics of ALRS in 2018 are tabulated below.

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number of new applications</b>	<b>Number of successful cases</b>	<b>Area of farmland leased out (hectare)</b>
2018	77	10	1.4

(c) The estimated area of agricultural land in active farming use by district in 2018 is tabulated below.

<b>District</b>	<b>Estimated area in active farming use (hectare)*</b>
North	290
Yuen Long	230
Tai Po	90
Tuen Mun	50
Islands	30
Sai Kung	20
Tsuen Wan	10
Others	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>740*</b>

\* Rounded to the nearest 10 hectares

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)326**

**(Question Serial No. 4687)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the follow-up actions on the implementation of the legislation to ban trawling and better regulate fishing activities in Hong Kong waters among the Matters Requiring Special Attention under the programme, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Since the implementation of the legislation, what are the numbers of warnings issued, prosecutions instituted and conviction obtained against illegal trawling? What are the details on the penalties sentenced?
- (b) What is the law enforcement mechanism currently in place to combat illegal trawling (including the frequency of inspections conducted at sea, manpower deployed, reporting mechanism and the average time required to reach the subject fishing vessel)?
- (c) Is there any collaboration between the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and other law enforcement departments working at sea, such as the Marine Police and the Marine Department, to combat illegal trawling? If yes, please account for the details. If not, will consideration be made to enhance collaboration among various departments?
- (d) Since the implementation of the legislation till now, has there been any review conducted on the existing law enforcement mechanism, its effectiveness and the deterrent effect of the penalties? If yes, what are the findings of the review? If no review has been conducted, what are the reasons? Is there any plan as to when to conduct a review?
- (e) Over the past 12 months, what were the numbers of prosecutions instituted and warnings issued against Mainland fishermen trawling illegally within the waters of Hong Kong? Has the Government liaised with the relevant Mainland authorities and stepped up interception against such activities? If yes, please account for the details.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 137)

Reply:

- (a) The trawl ban in Hong Kong waters came into effect on 31 December 2012. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) takes prosecution action without warning if there is sufficient evidence of illegal fishing activities including trawling. As at end December 2018, there have been 36 successful prosecutions against trawling. The penalties handed down by the court range from a fine of \$2,000 to \$100,000 with individual offenders being sentenced to imprisonment ranging from 2 days to 2 months.
- (b) AFCD currently deploys 3 vessels for regular and targeted patrols against illegal fishing activities including trawling at random hours (including at nights and early mornings). In 2018, more than 1 600 patrols were conducted by AFCD. AFCD's staff, when discharging duties on other vessels, will also stay vigilant to any illegal fishing activities, and inform AFCD's enforcement unit and Marine Police for follow-up. Upon receipt of reports on illegal fishing activities including trawling, the law enforcement teams will proceed to the scene as soon as possible. Depending on the location of the subject vessel, the prevailing weather condition and the state of the law enforcement team, the time required for reaching the scene varies. We do not keep such statistics.
- (c) AFCD maintains close liaison with the Marine Police and the Marine Department to exchange information and intelligence on illegal fishing activities including trawling; and conducts joint law enforcement operations as appropriate. AFCD and the Marine Police will adjust the enforcement strategies from time to time in the light of circumstances and intelligence gathered in order to effectively combat illegal fishing activities.
- (d) Since the implementation of the trawl ban, the operations of AFCD and other law enforcement departments have proved to be effective. Prosecutions have been successfully instituted on a number of occasions. We consider that the existing statutory provisions under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) are already effective in combating the illegal fishing activities, and that the penalties imposed by the court, including fines and imprisonment, have deterrent effect. To enhance the effectiveness of the enforcement action, AFCD will explore the application of technology in its enforcement work, such as using real time satellite information to help identify fishing vessels.
- (e) AFCD will prosecute any fishermen (both local and non-local) involved in illegal fishing activities including trawling without warning if there is sufficient evidence. In 2018, 20 Mainland fishermen were arrested and prosecuted for trawling in Hong Kong waters. AFCD maintains close liaison and exchanges information with the relevant Mainland authorities (including Guangdong Provincial Marine and Fisheries Inspection Bureau) as well as conducts joint enforcement operation with them as part of our concerted efforts to combat illegal fishing activities at the boundary of Hong

Kong waters. If Mainland fishing vessels are found illegally fishing in Hong Kong waters but cannot be successfully intercepted within these waters, AFCD will, having regard to the circumstances, refer the cases to Mainland law enforcement agencies for follow-up.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CEDB(CIT)228**

**(Question Serial No. 1509)**

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  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget that the facilities in the Hong Kong Wetland Park will be enhanced. Please advise on the following:

- (a) Please tabulate respectively the total numbers of visitors and overseas visitors of the Hong Kong Wetland Park over the past 5 years.

Year	Total number of visitors	Number of overseas visitors

- (b) What is the Government's estimated expenditure for the enhancement of facilities in the Hong Kong Wetland Park? What is the timeframe for the implementation of the plan?
- (c) Apart from increasing the investment in enhancement of hardware, what other initiatives would the Government undertake to strengthen the publicity of the Hong Kong Wetland Park with a view to increasing the number of visitors, especially the number overseas visitors?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

The total numbers of visitors and overseas visitors of the Hong Kong Wetland Park (HKWP) over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Total number of visitors</b>	<b>Number of overseas visitors</b>
2014	460 918	63 219
2015	459 548	61 474
2016	488 319	51 555
2017	481 681	40 767
2018	458 995	38 792

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will commence the tendering process for a consultancy study to review the facilities of HKWP in mid-2019. The consultancy study will cover the exhibition and visitor facilities of HKWP and is expected to be completed in mid-2020 at an estimated cost of \$5 million. Subject to the findings of the study, AFCD will bid for the necessary funding to enhance the facilities of HKWP.

Promotion will be done through various advertising platforms (e.g. overseas travel websites, overseas nature and photography magazines, the Hong Kong International Airport and other ports, social media, etc.) to strengthen the publicity of HKWP. HKWP will also work closely with the Hong Kong Tourism Board and the travel trade with a view to raising its visibility, thereby attracting more visitors.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB001**

**(Question Serial No. S088)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Further to Reply Serial No. FHB(FE)068, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the procedures, content and criteria regarding the application for the funding of \$1 million earmarked for the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG) every year?
- (b) Why is the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) not required to apply for the funding while KFBG has to follow the procedures to apply for the funding?
- (c) Has the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) formulated funding terms and performance indicators for the wild animal rehabilitation programmes? If yes, what are the details? If not, what references will AFCD base on when formulating reasonable indicators?
- (d) Will this kind of funding scheme be extended to cover other organisations engaging in similar work? If yes, what are the potential organisations? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

- (a) and (c) Starting from 2019-20, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will earmark \$1 million each year to support the operating expenses of the wild animal rehabilitation programmes of the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG).

After the passing of the Appropriation Bill by the Legislative Council, AFCD will formulate funding terms and performance indicators, and also invite KFBG to submit an application proposal. When vetting applications, AFCD will consider an array of factors, including the evaluation of the objectives and effectiveness of the programmes concerned, the cost-effectiveness of the programmes concerned, whether the proposed expenditures are justified, the operation and execution capability of the subsidised organisation, etc. AFCD will also make reference to the Guide to Corporate Governance for Subvented Organisations drawn up by the Efficiency Unit to ensure proper and effective use of public funds.

When formulating terms and performance indicators of the wild animal rehabilitation programmes, AFCD will consider the objectives and expected effectiveness of the projects under application, so as to ensure that the injured wild animals can receive professional and proper rehabilitation care.

- (b) All projects subsidised by AFCD (including those run by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) have to go through the same application and vetting procedure.
- (d) KFBG has set up the current one and only civic Wild Animal Rescue Centre in Hong Kong, which is operated by a professional team of experts on wild animals and veterinary surgeons. They provide treatment and rehabilitation care for thousands of injured wild animals each year. At present, there is not another wild animal rescue centre of a similar scale as that of KFBG in Hong Kong.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****S-ENB002****(Question Serial No. S036)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding part (g) of Reply Serial No. ENB006 (Question Serial No. 1161), please further set out the amounts granted to fishpond operators participating in the Management Agreement projects in the approved budgets for the Ramsar Site and Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, StevenReply:

There are 2 Management Agreement projects being carried out in the Ramsar Site and Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site respectively. Participating fishpond operators who take eco-friendly management measures are granted management fees of the projects. The amounts earmarked for the fishpond operators as management fees for ecological conservation in the approved budgets of the 2 projects from March 2015 to February 2017 and from March 2017 to February 2019 are as follows:

<b>Project period</b>	<b>March 2015 to February 2017</b>	<b>March 2017 to February 2019</b>
<b>Ramsar Site</b>		
Total amount of approved budget (for 2 years) (\$)	6,614,888	7,034,532
Budget granted to fishpond operators as management fees for ecological conservation (for 2 years) (\$)	3,297,000	3,047,000
<b>Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site</b>		
Total amount of approved budget (for 2 years) (\$)	6,606,968	7,659,992
Budget granted to fishpond operators as management fees for ecological conservation (for 2 years) (\$)	4,011,000	3,872,000

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-FHB(FE)001**

**(Question Serial No. S083)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Further to Reply Serial No. FHB(FE)020, please elaborate on the reason(s) for the rejection or withdrawal of the applications for the Animal Trader Licence, Dog Breeder Licence and one-off permit over the past year.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

Among the applications for Animal Trader Licence, Dog Breeder Licence and one-off permit received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past year, only one application for Dog Breeder Licence (Category A) was rejected as the proposed premises did not conform to the required standards. We do not have information on the reasons for the withdrawal of applications by the applicants.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-FHB(FE)002**

**(Question Serial No. S084)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Further to Reply Serial No. FHB(FE)023, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) issued letters to animal welfare organisations inviting their views on sites that may be suitable for conducting the trial programme in November 2018. Which organisations have been consulted?
- (b) Concern groups on animals in new development areas have always been requesting the Government to implement the Trap-Neuter-Return programme in villages which will be developed in the future in order to reduce the number of affected animals. Will AFCD consider the request? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

- (a) In November 2018, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) issued letters to the following 13 animal welfare organisations (AWOs), which are dog rehoming partners of AFCD, to invite views on suitable sites for conducting the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programme for stray dogs:
- (i) Animal Friends;
  - (ii) Cheung Chau Animal Care;
  - (iii) Hong Kong Dog Rescue;
  - (iv) Hong Kong Paws Guardian;
  - (v) Hong Kong Rescue Puppies;
  - (vi) Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association;
  - (vii) Kirsten's Zoo;
  - (viii) Lamma Animal Welfare Centre;
  - (ix) Lifelong Animal Protection Charity;

- (x) Protection of Animals Lantau South (now known as “Team for Animals in Lantau South”);
- (xi) Sai Kung Stray Friends;
- (xii) Society for Abandoned Animals; and
- (xiii) Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong).

Besides, the letter was also uploaded onto AFCD’s thematic website ([www.pets.gov.hk](http://www.pets.gov.hk)).

- (b) AFCD will consider proposals from AWOs for conducting the TNR programme for stray dogs in any locations, including new development areas. Upon receipt of such a proposal, AFCD will assess if the proposed location is suitable for conducting such a programme, taking into consideration a range of factors, including population density, community facilities in the vicinity, and traffic condition. If a location is found suitable, AFCD will facilitate the liaison between the coordinating AWOs and the District Councils concerned as well as the local stakeholders in order to introduce the programme, with a view to enlisting their support, and seeking approval from the Legislative Council for the relevant legislative exemption.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-FHB(FE)003**

**(Question Serial No. S085)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Further to Reply Serial No. FHB(FE)021, what are the contents of the expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in preventing cruelty to animals, including the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) (the Ordinance)?
- (b) Does the Ordinance cover community animals?
- (c) Currently, animals other than dogs are not required to be implanted microchips and the Government does not maintain a database in this respect. How does the Government ensure that owners of lost animals can be found? Also, how does AFCD prevent and deter pet owners from abandoning their animals?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on the prevention of cruelty to animals, including the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) (the Ordinance) is mainly for conducting investigation of suspected animal cruelty cases, and instituting prosecution should there be sufficient evidence. In the event that acts of animal cruelty are noticed by AFCD during their inspections to other relevant licensed premises (e.g. licensed animal trading and breeding premises), AFCD would also take necessary follow-up actions. There is no separate breakdown of the expenditure involved in the above work.
- (b) The Ordinance applies to all animals, including stray animals.

- (c) A pet owner who has lost his / her animal, irrespective of whether the animal is microchipped, may seek assistance from AFCD by filing a report on the lost animal with detailed information and descriptions of the animal. Upon receipt of such a report, AFCD staff will match the information / descriptions provided with animals caught or received by AFCD's Animal Management Centres and would inform the relevant pet owner accordingly.

Under Section 22 of the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421), a keeper of any animal who abandons that animal without reasonable excuse is liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000 and to imprisonment for 6 months. When there is a suspected case of abandonment of animal, AFCD staff will conduct investigation, including checking if the animal is microchipped and / or gathering other available evidence such as witness testimony, CCTV recording, etc. with a view to identifying the owner of the abandoned animal, and take follow up actions as appropriate. In addition, AFCD continues the efforts in public education and publicity to actively promote responsible pet ownership and proper care of animals.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-FHB(FE)004**

**(Question Serial No. S086)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Further to Reply Serial No. FHB(FE)038, why is there a difference of about 50% between the amount applied for and that released? Does it imply that the funding required by the organisations is less than that applied for?
- (b) What are the scope of work and the criteria for granting the additional subvention to the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

- (a) In assessing the applications for subvention submitted by animal welfare organisations (AWOs), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will examine:
- (i) the objective(s) and expected result(s) of the proposed projects;
  - (ii) cost-effectiveness of the projects; and
  - (iii) the reasonableness of the proposed expenditure.

Depending on the merits of individual applications, the approved amount may not be the same as that applied for. Similarly, the amount of funds released is subject to review by AFCD having regard to the actual expenditure incurred and, as such, may not be the same as the approved amount.

- (b) The criteria for assessing the applications for subvention submitted by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) (SPCA) are the same as those listed in (a) above. The enhanced programmes and activities of SPCA to be supported by the increased subvention in 2019-20 include the management and control of stray animals (mainly through desexing and re-homing of animals), the provision of

assistance to Government departments in the investigation and handling of suspected animal cruelty cases, as well as organising public education on animal welfare.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****S-FHB(FE)005****(Question Serial No. S087)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Further to Reply Serial No. FHB(FE)025, please set out the respective accommodation capacities of the Animal Management Centres (AMCs).
- (b) What channels does the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department currently provide for members of the public to adopt the animals kept in AMCs?
- (c) Please set out the number of animals transferred to animal welfare organisations for adoption over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

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

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

\*The holding capacity of kennels depends on a number of factors, including if the animals are from the same litter or pack, the health status and behaviour of each animal. Despite the fact that the utilisation rate of the animal keeping facilities is

constantly at a high level, normally only one animal is housed in each kennel for the sake of better disease control and animal welfare.

- (b) AFCD encourages the public to adopt animals. At present, AFCD partners with 17 animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in arranging adoption services. Animals with a good temperament and health condition will be transferred to our partnering AWOs for neutering (mainly dogs and cats) and adoption. Any member of the public interested in adopting animals may approach the relevant AWOs directly.
- (c) The number of animals transferred to AWOs for re-homing over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Calendar year	Number of animals		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2016	513	136	92
2017	588	67	94
2018	577	89	87

\* Including small mammals (rabbit, hamster and chinchilla, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, birds, etc.

- End -