

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1263)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 17):

Please provide information on the following:

- (1) the number of public toilets in each district in the territory (set out in tabular form), with a breakdown by male toilet, female toilet, toilet for the disabled and unisex toilet, as well as the operational expenses for public toilets in each district over the past three years; and
- (2) given that transgender persons express their discomfort in using gender-specified public toilets, whether the Department has any plans to construct unisex public toilets intended for use by both sexes or to convert existing toilets for the disabled into unisex toilets in the coming year (i.e. in 2014-15); and the estimated manpower and expenditure to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

- (1) Of the 769 public toilets managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), 340 are provided with accessible unisex toilets for use by people with needs, including people with babies and small children, people with a disability and the elderly.

The expenditure involved in providing street cleansing service (including public toilets) is given below
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2012-13 (actual expenditure)	2013-14 (revised estimated expenditure)	2014-15 (estimated expenditure)
\$1,561.1 million	\$1,653.7 million	\$1,772.8 million

Separate breakdown for public toilets is not available.

Information on the number of public toilets in each district is given below -

District	(a) Number of public toilets	(b) Number of the public toilets in (a) that are provided with accessible unisex toilet
Central & Western	40 (3)	12
Eastern	15	14
Southern	23 (2)	12
Wan Chai	16	14
Islands	62	18
Kowloon City	16	16
Kwun Tong	10	10
Wong Tai Sin	6	6
Sham Shui Po	10	10
Mong Kok	9	9
Yau Tsim	12 (1)	11
Sai Kung	61	23
Sha Tin	29	16
Tai Po	67	16
North	132	43
Kwai Tsing	19	15
Tsuen Wan	31	11
Tuen Mun	40	18
Yuen Long	171	66
Total	769 (6)	340

Note

The public toilets are normally provided with both male and female toilet compartments. The figure in bracket denotes public toilets in (a) that are provided with male toilet compartment only.

- (2) In recent years, the Department has made continuous efforts to improve the public toilet facilities under its management. In planning for new public toilets, and reprovisioning or refurbishing existing toilets, whenever circumstances permit, accessible unisex toilets will be provided in compliance with the requirements of the prevailing “Design Manual – Barrier Free Access 2008” issued by the Buildings Department. At present, the Department has no plan to provide unisex toilets other than accessible unisex toilets.