

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)226

(Question Serial No. 1937)

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

Question:

1. Regarding the plan to refurbish public toilets with \$600 million, please set out the locations of the public toilets to be refurbished in 2019-2020.
2. Will the refurbishment works include the provision of baby-care facilities as well as handrails, coat hooks and racks inside toilet compartments? If yes, what are the details? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?
3. What is the estimated time normally required for refurbishing a public toilet?
4. What criteria will be adopted to continuously assess whether these public toilets meet hygiene standards after refurbishment?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

1. The list of public toilets for refurbishment or facelifting is being worked out with regard to their conditions and level of utilisation. We are planning to commence the refurbishment or facelifting works for about 40 public toilets in 2019-20. Further details such as the location and geographical distribution, as well as the estimated cost of the works of these toilets will be available at a later stage. The improvement programme will gather momentum when all the dedicated staff are in post.
2. New design and layouts will generally be adopted for the refurbishment of public toilets, with beautified facades and modern facilities, with a view to making them hygienic, clean and safe. In addition to standard fittings of hand-grip rail, coat hook, small rack in each toilet compartment and baby changing table, the improvement works may cover exterior design, installations and equipment, materials, ventilation, odour

control, lighting, infra-red sensor-activated taps and flushing facilities, etc. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will adjust the scope of the refurbishment of individual toilets having regard to the actual circumstances.

3. The time needed to refurbish a public toilet is contingent upon its size as well as the scope and extent of works required. Depending on the scale of works, normally it will take about 5 to 8 months to complete the refurbishment works for a public toilet.
4. Dedicated deep cleansing teams are being deployed to enhance the cleansing services of public toilets with a high utilisation rate or located at tourist spots starting from March 2019. This has brought about improvement to the hygiene condition of the public toilets. In addition, staff of the Department have strengthened supervision of cleansing work by stepping up surprise inspections to monitor the contractors' performance to ensure that they meet the service standard as stipulated in the contract provisions.

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