

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)320

(Question Serial No. 4740)

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:

Under the heading "A Liveable City" in the Budget Speech delivered in 2019, the Financial Secretary mentioned that a total expenditure of \$600 million will be allocated for refurbishing 240 public toilets by phases. In this connection, (1) what is the work plan, including the number of phases and the expected commencement date of the first phase with its objectives, number of public toilets to be refurbished, duration and estimated expenditure? (2) What are the assessment criteria for the quality of public toilets, the requirement for refurbishment and the cleanliness, including odour and dryness? (3) Does the Department have any statistics on the average lifespan and times of use of a public toilet?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 344)

Reply:

(1)-(2) It was announced in the 2019-20 Budget that the Government would make an additional allocation of over \$600 million to implement the Enhanced Public Toilet Refurbishment Programme, under which the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will roll out the refurbishment or facelifting works for about 240 public toilets under its management by phases in 5 years starting from 2019-20, so as to improve their facilities and hygiene level. The Department has been working closely with the Architectural Services Department to roll out the refurbishment or facelifting projects for 42 public toilets in the first year, with a project estimate of about \$151 million. The facelifting works for 7 public toilets have been completed and the remaining works are underway as planned. Refurbishment or facelifting projects for 49 public toilets are being planned to commence in 2020-21.

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. 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 Department will adjust the

scope of the refurbishment of individual toilets having regard to the actual circumstances.

The Department has stepped up inspection and monitoring of contractors' performances of the public toilets with relatively high utilisation rates or located at tourist spots with focus on the following 4 performance indicators:

- (a) dry floor;
- (b) floor, wall and facilities free from stains and dirt;
- (c) no foul smell; and
- (d) proper performance of toilet facilities.

(3) The Department does not keep the information sought.

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