Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB122**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3093)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the processing of loan applications on fire safety improvement works under the Building Safety Loan Scheme,

1. for the past 3 years, how many loan applications on fire safety improvement works were there, how many of these applications were approved by the Government and what was the amount involved? How many of these applications pertained to old single-block buildings?

2. for the past 3 years, how many loan applications on fire safety improvement works were rejected, and what were the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. & 2. Administered and vetted by the Buildings Department (BD), the Building Safety Loan Scheme covers repair, maintenance and upgrading works on building and sanitary services, fire services and electrical installations, replacement of lifts, underground drainage pipes, removal of unauthorised building works, etc. The BD refers loan applications involving fire service installations or equipment to the Fire Services Department for professional advice.

The information regarding the processing of loan applications pertaining to fire safety improvement works from 2022 to 2024 is tabulated below:

	2022	**2023**	**2024**
Number of applications	18	28	39
Number of approved applications	18	28	39
Amount involved ($m)	1.6	0.8	2.7
Applications involving old single-block buildings	12	19	33

In the past 3 years, no loan applications pertaining to fire safety improvement works were rejected.

Apart from the abovementioned loan scheme, the Government, in partnership with the Urban Renewal Authority (URA), implemented a $2-billion Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme (FSWS) in 2018, providing subsidies for carrying out fire safety improvement works. Subsequently, the Government increased the total funding for the FSWS to $5.5 billion. In 2018, 2020 and 2023, the URA rolled out 3 rounds of applications to assist more owners in need in upgrading the fire safety standard of their buildings. The relevant information is as follows:

	2018 (First round of application)	**2020 (Second round of application)**	**2023 (Third round of application)**
Applications meeting basic application requirements	2 046	596	1 293
Letters of "Approval-in-principle" issued	2 046	596	520[1]

In terms of subsidy, as of end February 2025, the URA had disbursed about $92 million to the owners of 199 buildings. The URA does not keep a separate breakdown on whether old single-block buildings are involved in the applications.

- End -

[1] As for the remaining 773 applications that meet the basic application requirements, to avoid an upsurge in demand for works which could drive up the cost of the fire safety improvement works required by the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572), the URA will issue letters of "Approval-in-principle" to applicants of approved applications in a gradual and timely manner.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB123**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1535)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding "to pursue legislative work for the introduction of the Registered Fire Engineer Scheme" and the work on reducing fire hazards in Hong Kong, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide the following information regarding the various fire safety certification services provided by the Fire Services Department (FSD) under the Fire Services Department (Reports and Certificates) Regulations (Cap. 95C), the Fire Service (Installation Contractors) Regulations (Cap. 95A), the Timber Stores Regulation (Cap. 464A), and the Dangerous Goods (Control) Regulation (Cap. 295G) in each of the past 3 financial years, with a breakdown by types of licensed premises: (i) the number of applications received; (ii) the average cost (i.e. manpower and administrative expenditures) and time required for processing each application; and (iii) the revenue gained from the various statutory charges stipulated in these pieces of legislations.

2. Has assessment been made to determine the annual savings in the FSD's manpower and administrative expenditures to be achieved after engaging the market in fire safety certification services, and will the relevant resources be allocated to other areas of work of the Department?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1. Over the past 3 financial years, the number of applications received, the Fire Services Department's (FSD) processing cost and pledged processing time of the applications, and the revenue gained from the various stipulated statutory charges under the Fire Services Department (Reports and Certificates) Regulations (Cap. 95C), the Fire Service (Installation Contractors) Regulations (Cap. 95A), the Timber Stores Regulation (Cap. 464A), and the Dangerous Goods (Control) Regulation (Cap. 295G) are tabulated below:

	Fire Services Department (Reports and Certificates) Regulations (Cap. 95C)^	Fire Service (Installation Contractors) Regulations (Cap. 95A)%	Timber Stores Regulation (Cap. 464A)&	Dangerous Goods (Control) Regulation (Cap. 295G)$
The FSD's pledged processing time for related applications (working days)	31-34	51	41	41-44
The FSD's average cost for processing related applications ($)#	7,903	2,185	1,995	13,620
2022-23				
Number of applications	4 814	813	43	1 824
Revenue ($)	5,874,190	836,480	39,000	11,874,659
2023-24				
Number of applications	4 506	836	37	1 305
Revenue ($)	5,863,710	823,650	36,110	14,739,651
2024-25 (as of 28 February 2025)				
Number of applications	3 847	690	34	1 199
Revenue ($)	5,273,330	708,780	36,110	12,096,298

The average cost of different types of licences under the relevant regulations calculated based on the price level in the 2024-25 financial year.

^ The services of the FSD mentioned in the Fire Services Department (Reports and Certificates) Regulations (Cap. 95C) refer to the Department's certification services for the following licensed premises: general restaurants, light refreshment restaurants, factory canteens, bakeries, food factories, composite food shops, schools, premises for conducting registered courses or exempted courses, places of public entertainment and child care centres.

% The applications stated in the Fire Service (Installation Contractors) Regulations (Cap. 95A) refer to the following applications made by any person to the FSD: registration as Class 1 and/or Class 2 contractor, registration as Class 3 contractor (written examination), registration as Class 3 contractor (interview), registration

as Class 3 contractor (workshop inspection/re-inspection), change of registered name or registered address, change of qualified person, and new workshop inspection/re-inspection.

& The applications mentioned in the Timber Stores Regulation (Cap. 464A) refer to the applications for timber store licences made by licence applicants.

$ The applications mentioned in the Dangerous Goods (Control) Regulation (Cap. 295G) include applications for licences made by licence applicants for the special packing of pressure receptacle, and the store and use of dangerous goods.

2. To facilitate business operation and make good use of professional and qualified human resources in the market, the FSD has proposed to introduce the Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme. Under the Scheme, RFEs will be allowed to provide fire safety risk assessment and certification services for licence applicants of certain premises. Upon implementation of the Scheme, the FSD will maintain its existing risk assessment and certification services for applicants to choose from. The implementation of the Scheme will offer the market an additional option of completing the fire safety risk assessment and certification procedures, providing facilitation for both the public and businesses. When implementing the Scheme, to ensure that consistent fire safety standards will be applied, the FSD will require that fire safety requirements formulated by an RFE must be endorsed by the FSD before they are issued to the licence applicants. In addition, to ensure the quality of certification work of RFEs, at the initial stage of implementation of the Scheme, the FSD will select premises on a random basis for audit inspections of at least 70% of the certification completed by an RFE after he/she issues fire safety certificates to the applicants. Taking these duties into account, the possible manpower and resource savings at the initial stage of the Scheme is limited. In the long run, subject to further evaluation of the effectiveness of the Scheme, the FSD will conduct a comprehensive and holistic review across multiple aspects, such as manpower resources, deployment and departmental development, etc., with a view to enhancing efficiency and aligning with the long-term development of the Department.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB124**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3250)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Fire Service, (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding marine fire prevention strategies, please advise on the following:

(a) How long does it generally take for fireboats and fire speedboats to arrive at various typhoon shelters or bays from their respective berths? (Set out the time in Annex 1 and put a slash "/" for areas beyond the respective service areas of the vessels.)

Typhoon shelter	Fireboat								Fire speedboat
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Aberdeen West Typhoon Shelter									
Aberdeen South Typhoon Shelter									
Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter									
Cheung Chau Typhoon Shelter									
Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter									
New Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter									
Sam Ka Tsuen Typhoon Shelter									
Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter									
To Kwa Wan Typhoon Shelter									
Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter									
Yim Tin Tsai Typhoon Shelter									
Tai O									
River Trade Terminal (Tuen Mun)									
Chai Wan Public Cargo Working Area									
Cafeteria Beach, Tuen Mun									

(b) What were the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved in the fire prevention work for typhoon shelters in each of the past 3 years (from 2022-23 to 2024-25)?

(c) What will be the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved in the fire prevention work for typhoon shelters in 2025-26?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

(a) The estimated journey times (in minutes) generally required for fire vessels, including fireboats and fire speedboats, to arrive at various typhoon shelters or bays within their main service areas from their respective stand-by berths are set out in the table below#:

Typhoon shelter/Bay	Fireboat										Fire speedboat
	1	2*	3	4	5	6@	7^	8	11**	12**	
Aberdeen West Typhoon Shelter	／	／	／	1.5	／	／	／	／	／	／	19
Aberdeen South Typhoon Shelter	／	／	／	6	／	／	／	／	／	／	25
Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter	／	／	／	／	／	／	7	8	／	／	12
Cheung Chau Typhoon Shelter	／	／	3	／	／	／	／	／	／	／	29
Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter	／	／	／	／	／	／	7	7	／	／	17
New Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter	20	／	／	／	／	／	／	／	／	／	3.5
Sam Ka Tsuen Typhoon Shelter	／	／	／	／	／	／	7	7	／	／	16
Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter	／	／	／	／	／	／	7	8	／	／	16
To Kwa Wan Typhoon Shelter	／	／	／	／	／	／	7	8	／	／	12
Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter	／	／	／	／	10	／	／	／	／	／	1
Yim Tin Tsai Typhoon Shelter	／	／	／	／	／	／	／	／	15	20	10
Tai O	／	／	／	／	46	／	／	／	／	／	5
River Trade Terminal (Tuen Mun)	／	／	／	／	10	／	／	／	／	／	8
Chai Wan Public Cargo Working Area	／	／	／	／	／	／	11	12	／	／	19
Cafeteria Beach, Tuen Mun	／	／	／	／	10	／	／	／	／	／	3

Note:

The actual time taken for a fire vessel to arrive at the scene of a marine fire is affected by various factors, for example, whether the vessel is engaged in other operations (including participation in regular navigation training, exercise and inspection, or handling other emergency incident, etc.) when the fire call is received, and the marine traffic, waves, currents, wind direction, visibility and so forth at the time of the incident. Generally speaking, when the Fire Services Department (FSD) receives a call of marine fire incident, it will deploy at least 2 fire vessels nearest to the incident scene for operation. In addition, on-shore fire stations in the vicinity will promptly deploy fire appliances to nearby piers, where on-shore fire personnel carrying portable fire pumps and other

firefighting equipment will board police launches or Marine Department vessels and head for the incident scene to provide support.

* Fireboat No. 2 is a reserve fireboat, which mainly serves as a substitute for fireboats under maintenance and repair. It therefore does not have a specific service area.

@ Fireboat No. 6 is deployed at Tsing Yi Fireboat Station and is responsible for waters near Tsing Yi and Ma Wan, including the oil terminals, oil tanker berths and dockyards, etc. in Tsing Yi District. The typhoon shelters and bays listed above are not within its service area.

^ Fireboat No. 7 was put into service in mid-October 2020. After resource redeployment, it has been berthed at North Point Fireboat Base for stand-by duty since October 2024 to provide fire and rescue services to the Victoria Harbour and the areas of Hong Kong eastern waters.

** Fireboats No. 11 and No.12 were put into service in July 2023 and November 2024 respectively. They are currently berthed at Sai Kung Fireboat Base to mainly provide fire and rescue services to the areas of Hong Kong eastern waters.

In addition, the FSD has 2 command boats and 8 speedboats stationed at the East and West Sea Rescue Berths of the airport. They are dedicated to handling incidents in the waters near the airport.

(b) & (c) The firefighting, rescue and fire prevention education work in respect of typhoon shelters is mainly taken up by the personnel responsible for marine matters under the Marine and Diving Division of the FSD, with support from personnel of fire stations near the typhoon shelters. The FSD does not maintain separate statistics on the expenditure for fire prevention work for typhoon shelters. The establishment of the disciplined grade staff responsible for marine matters under the Marine and Diving Division of the FSD from 2022-23 to 2024-25 and in 2025-26 (estimate) is tabulated as follows:

Rank	Establishment			
Year (as at 31 March)	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (Estimate)
Senior Divisional Officer	1	1	1	1
Divisional Officer	2	2	2	2
Assistant Divisional Officer~	4	3	4	4
Senior Station Officer / Station Officer~	15	15	18	18
Principal Fireman	61	76	76	76
Senior Fireman	84	92	92	92
Fireman~	141	179	175	175

Note:

~ To cope with community development and further enhance its operational efficiency in the waters of Hong Kong, the FSD redeployed its manpower

resources in 2024-25. As a result, the establishment of the Marine and Diving Division has changed with the addition of 1 Assistant Divisional Officer and 3 Senior Station Officers/Station Officers and the reduction of 4 Firemen.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB125**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1274)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned in the documents provided by the Government that plans will be pursued to replace 3 fire vessels as well as the breathing apparatus and portable radio transceivers for firemen in 2025-26. In this connection, would the Government advise on the following:

(1) Please provide the required expenditure for the proposed replacement of Diving Support Vessel, Fireboat No. 3 and Fireboat No. 5, as well as their serviceable life respectively; and

(2) Please provide the respective existing number of breathing apparatus and portable radio transceivers, as well as the respective expenditure for replacing the above 2 types of fire equipment; and

(3) Please provide the respective number of times where firefighting drones and firefighting robots of the Fire Services Department were involved in rescue work in the past year; and

(4) Please provide the respective number of rescue calls arising from shut-in-lift and gas leakage incidents in 2024; and

(5) Will the proposed "Reinforcing Fiscal Consolidation Programme" affect the efficiency of frontline firemen in handling emergency incidents and manpower deployment?

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

(1) The Fire Services Department (FSD) will pursue the replacement of 3 fire vessels in 2025-26 and the relevant information is tabulated below:

Vessel to be replaced	Approved commitment ($m)	Expected serviceable life (years)
Diving Support Vessel	220	15
Fireboat No. 3	199	20
Fireboat No. 5	199	20

(2) The FSD currently has 1 750 sets of breathing apparatus and 3 284 portable radio transceivers. The estimated expenditures for the replacement of breathing apparatus and portable radio transceivers are $234 million and $102 million respectively.

(3) The number of times that FSD's drones and firefighting robots were involved in firefighting and rescue operations in the past year are tabulated below:

	Number of times participating in firefighting and rescue operations in 2024
Drones	224
Firefighting robots	16

(4) The number of shut-in-lift and gas leakage incidents calls received in 2024 are tabulated below:

	Number of calls received in 2024
Shut-in-lift	17 453
Gas leakage	1 088

(5) The FSD will fully align with the Government's strategy by reviewing resource allocation, examining workflows, continuously optimising service efficiency, controlling recurrent expenditures, and continuing to meet society's demand for fire and ambulance services.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB126**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1275)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

(1) Please provide the respective number in 2024 for fire safety directions (Directions) that have not been complied with upon expiry and prosecutions instituted for Directions that have not been complied with upon expiry; and

(2) Please provide the respective number of direct prosecutions instituted in 2024 for ventilating systems in buildings and in licensed premises that fail to meet the requirements set out in the Annual Inspection Certificate; and

(3) Please provide the number of public lectures held to promote the use of automated external defibrillators in 2024.

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

(1) The Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) came into operation in 2007 to require the upgrading of fire safety standards of pre-1987 composite and domestic buildings to meet modern fire protection requirements. Apart from old composite and domestic buildings, the Fire Services Department (FSD) and the Buildings Department (BD) have been striving to enhance fire safety of other different types of old buildings. The Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance (Cap. 502) and the Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 636) came into operation in 1997 and 2020 respectively. Same as Cap. 572, the FSD and the BD are the enforcement authorities (EAs) for Cap. 502 and Cap. 636.

The Government's policy intent is to encourage and drive owners' compliance with fire safety directions (Directions) on their own initiative, and has been providing assistance to owners in the form of financial, technical and coordination support. Nevertheless, the Government recognises that owners may still encounter practical difficulties when complying with the Directions. Therefore, when the EAs review the owners' justifications and are satisfied that there is positive progress in a case, they will grant an extension of time for allowing owners to have sufficient time for complying with the

Directions. However, for those recalcitrant cases with no progress, the EAs will take resolute enforcement action to enhance deterrent effect so as to drive owners to comply with the requirements of the Directions on their own initiative.

As of the end of February 2025, the number of Directions that have not been complied with and the relevant prosecution figures of the FSD and the BD are tabulated below:

Premises/Buildings	Fire safety directions that have not been complied with	Number of prosecution cases for fire safety directions that have not been complied with
Composite buildings and domestic buildings*	249 862	6 044
Specified commercial buildings and prescribed commercial premises^	9 051	515
Industrial buildings#	16 360	55

* Refers to the composite buildings and domestic buildings to which the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) applies.

^ Refers to the specified commercial buildings and prescribed commercial premises to which the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance (Cap. 502) applies.

\# Refers to the industrial buildings to which the Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 636) applies.

(2) Currently, the Ventilating Systems Group of the FSD conducts random audit checks on the ventilating systems with Annual Inspection Certificates received. No irregularities were found by the FSD during such annual certificate random checks in 2024, and therefore, no prosecutions were instituted.

(3) The FSD held 392 public lectures to promote the use of automated external defibrillators in 2024.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 Reply Serial No.

SB127

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2459)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) has been proactively adopting new technologies in recent years and has introduced new equipment such as drones and robotic dog, while proposing wider application of technology to enhance the efficiency of firefighting, rescue operations and ambulance services. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of:

1) the FSD's staff establishment and expenditure currently involved in exploring the introduction of new fire-related technologies and equipment;

2) the major factors taken into consideration when introducing new equipment and technologies;

3) the estimated and specific expenditures on exploring or introducing new equipment in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LEE Hoey Simon (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

1) The Fire Services Department (FSD) has established various specialist units and operational teams to meet different rescue needs, such as the Information and Communications Technology Division, the High Angle Rescue Team, the Compartment Fire Behaviour Specialist Team, the Hazardous Materials Team and the Disaster Response and Rescue Team. Apart from discharging their day-to-day/operational duties, specialist unit and operational team personnel are also responsible for exploring the introduction of innovative technologies and advanced equipment and techniques with a view to enhancing operational efficiency and operational safety of fire personnel, so as to protect the lives and properties of the public in a more effective manner. The FSD does not maintain a separate breakdown of the staff establishment and expenditure involved in exploring the introduction of new fire-related technologies and equipment as it is part of the Department's work.

2) The FSD will take into account a number of factors in introducing new equipment and technologies, including operational efficiency, the safety of fire personnel, cost effectiveness and the application of technology, with a view to protecting the lives and properties of the public in a more effective manner.

Taking the application of drone technology in mountain search and rescue operations as an example, the FSD uses drones to search dangerous terrain and take a large number of photos. With the use of artificial intelligence technology, the photos are quickly examined to identify human-like objects, effectively quadrupling the speed of photo examination and significantly enhancing the efficiency of searching for missing persons.

Moreover, the FSD's firefighting robots have been put into service in recent years to assist in firefighting and rescue operations. Equipped with high-definition cameras and heat detectors, the robots can carry out prolonged firefighting and detection tasks in complex and high risk fire scenes, enhancing operational efficiency and reducing the risk posed to frontline fire personnel.

3) The expenditures on introducing new equipment and relevant technology applications in the past 3 years are about $27.5 million.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB128**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2114)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the community education programme on the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs), will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The number of relevant training places provided and participants, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in the past 3 years.

2. In view of the recent cases involving controversies related to AEDs (for instance, whether MTR should lend the relevant equipment when areas beyond the confines of its premises are involved), has the Department taken the initiative to follow up with the organisations concerned after the incidents and provide suggestions for improvement? What was the total number of cases involving similar circumstances in the past 3 years up to the present?

3. Has the Government kept statistics on the use of AEDs in the past 3 years up to the present, and will staff be deployed to conduct investigations on the maintenance condition of relevant equipment and whether the staff of relevant organisations are familiar with the usage guidelines of the equipment? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 113)

Reply:

1. The Public Safety and Communication Division (PSC) under the Fire Services Department (FSD) is responsible for formulating strategies on public safety promotion and education, establishing close ties with media organisations, co-ordinating the dissemination of information on FSD's social media platforms and at incident scenes, and co-ordinating the implementation of various community emergency preparedness programmes. In the past 3 years, PSC staff co-ordinated the implementation of programmes such as the "Press to shock - Save a life" CPR & AED Course, the "Secondary School Student Digital AED and CPR Experiential

Programme" and the "Three Basic Skills on Emergency Preparedness". The total number of participants are tabulated below:

Year	Number of participants
2022	3 182
2023	7 863
2024	10 358

The FSD does not keep separate statistics on the manpower and expenditure involved in providing the relevant training.

2. & 3. The FSD has been committed to enhancing the community's emergency preparedness capability and launched the "AED Anywhere for Anyone" Programme as well as the "Centralized AED Registry for Emergency" (CARE) online platform in June 2021. The Programme aims at increasing the number of publicly accessible AEDs across the territory, and enhancing the public's awareness and capabilities in using AEDs during emergencies. Under the Programme, the FSD has installed AEDs outside over 100 fire stations and ambulance depots for public use during emergencies, equipped over 700 FSD vehicles and vessels with AEDs, and regularly deployed staff to inspect all AEDs installed at FSD premises or vehicles/vessels.

Furthermore, the FSD has been encouraging all organisations that have AEDs installed to upload the information of their AEDs to the CARE website for public enquiry and use. As of March 2025, more than 370 organisations have installed and registered over 3 300 AEDs on the FSD's CARE website. These organisations can formulate their own guidelines and prepare related information on the use of their AEDs on the website. The FSD will continue to provide advice on the procurement, maintenance and management of AEDs to the relevant organisations.

From 2022 to 2024, there were over 24 000 cases of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests, of which 2 200 cases had members of the public using AEDs to provide first aid.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB129**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0999)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 that loan applications on fire safety improvement works under the Building Safety Loan Scheme will be processed. Please inform this Committee of the following:

(1) The respective number of applications received and approved under the Building Safety Loan Scheme in the past year. What was the expenditure involved?

(2) The details of the manpower deployment and estimated expenditure for the One-stop Coordination Office for New Fire Protection Facilities Acceptance to be established by the Government.

(3) The details of the manpower deployment in respect of the 460 400 inspections conducted by the Department last year. In addition, what were the irregularities involved and compliance status with respect to the 17 775 Fire Hazard Abatement Notices issued in total by the Department?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

(1) Administered and vetted by the Buildings Department (BD), the Building Safety Loan Scheme covers repair, maintenance and improvement works on building and sanitary services, fire service and electrical installations, replacement of lifts, underground drainage, removal of unauthorised building works, etc. The BD refers loan applications involving fire service installations or equipment to the Fire Services Department (FSD) for professional advice.

According to the information provided by the BD, a total of 577 applications were received under the Building Safety Loan Scheme in the past year, of which 453 have been approved, involving a total expenditure of around $51.9 million.

(2) The to be established One-stop Coordination Office for New Fire Protection Facilities Acceptance ("One-stop Coordination Office") [Note] comprises 21 uniformed officers and 41 professional and technical grade personnel. Since all personnel are deployed from FSD's internal resources, no additional manpower or expenditure is involved.

Note: The One-stop Coordination Office will shorten the time required for the entire acceptance inspection process by a series of measures, such as enhancing communication with various stakeholders, advance scheduling of acceptance inspections, arranging pre-inspection meetings, and expediting the process with the use of technology.

(3) A total of 460 400 inspections were conducted by various units of the FSD last year, including the Fire Protection Facilities Supervision Division, the Building Improvement Divisions, the Dangerous Goods Control Division, the Dangerous Goods Enforcement Division, the Licensing Group and the Ventilating Systems Group, and a total of 17 775 Fire Hazard Abatement Notices (FHANs) were issued, with the FSD instituting prosecution in 625 cases where the FHANs were not complied with upon expiry. The remaining 17 150 FHANs have been complied with/followed up on. The irregularities involved are tabulated below:

Irregularities	Number of FHANs issued
Floating obstructions to means of escape (MOE) and locked exits	8 050
Matters pertaining to the repair and maintenance of fire service installations or equipment	5 782
Matters such as unauthorised removal of smoke lobbies and smoke stop doors	3 617
Matters pertaining to the repair and maintenance of ventilating systems	131
Installation of metal gates or erection of other unauthorised structures that obstruct MOE	7
Others (e.g. installation of gates/doors at the exit of fireman's lifts, installation of combustible wall linings / carpets / wall linings and carpets in protected corridors/staircases, etc.)	188
Total	17 775

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB130**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1984)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Among the indicators, both the number of fire safety improvement directions issued and the number of fire safety improvement directions complied with/discharged in respect of specified commercial buildings declined considerably in 2024. Meanwhile, the number of fire safety directions issued in respect of industrial buildings also declined significantly and the estimates thereof for 2025 will record an even greater decline. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

a) the statistics on inspection of related matters conducted by the Department in the past 5 years;

b) the reasons for the continuous decline anticipated by the Department in respect of the aforementioned items.

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

a) The numbers of inspections conducted by the Fire Services Department (FSD) in the past 5 years on specified commercial buildings and industrial buildings in implementing the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance (Cap. 502) (FS(CP)O) and the Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 636) (FS(IB)O) respectively are tabulated below:

Year	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**
Number of inspections on specified commercial buildings	3 810	5 811	4 594	9 032	8 309
Number of inspections on industrial buildings	3	4 503	5 417	10 322	9 001

b) When formulating indicators for the fire safety improvement directions and fire safety directions issued and complied with/discharged under the FS(CP)O and the FS(IB)O, FSD will take into account factors such as the scale, the gross floor area and number of owners involved, etc, of the specified commercial buildings and industrial buildings under the inspection plan of the year.

In fact, during the inspections of the specified commercial buildings in 2024, FSD found that the scale of certain specified commercial buildings, the gross floor area and number of owners involved were smaller. Therefore, the numbers of fire safety improvement directions issued and fire safety improvement directions complied with/discharged in 2024 were correspondingly lower than those in 2023. According to FSD's estimation, the scale, the gross floor area and number of owners involved of the specified commercial buildings planned for inspection in 2025 are smaller than those in 2024. Therefore, FSD has correspondingly lowered the estimate for the numbers of fire safety improvement directions to be issued and complied with/discharged in 2025.

As regards the implementation of FS(IB)O, during the inspections of industrial buildings in 2024, FSD found that the scale, the gross floor area and number of owners involved of the industrial buildings inspected in the year were smaller. Therefore, the number of fire safety directions issued in 2024 was correspondingly lower than that in 2023. According to FSD's estimation, the scale, gross floor area and number of owners involved of industrial buildings planned for inspection in 2025 are larger. Therefore, FSD has correspondingly raised the estimate for the number of fire safety directions to be issued.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB131**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1716)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. Please provide the types, quantities, major uses and purchase price of/budget for the drones used or already procured by the Fire Services Department in 2024. Does the Government have plans to expand its drone fleet for rescue and firefighting purposes in 2025-26? If yes, please provide the relevant estimate.

2. It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 that plans will be pursued to replace 1 Diving Support Vessel, Fireboat No. 3 and Fireboat No. 5, while the progress of the replacement and procurement of other fire appliances and vessels will continue to be monitored. Please list in the table below the fireboats budgeted for replacement starting from 2024 and their respective information.

Fireboat	Basic features (total length/ crew capacity/ speed)	Target time of replacement	Builder (if any)	Approved commitment

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

1. At present, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has 47 drones, which are mainly used for the search of persons awaiting rescue in mountain rescue incidents, detection and illumination in fires and detection of the presence of gas at the scene of chemical leakage incidents, etc. The total expenditure on drones and relevant detection equipment (e.g. Mobile Phone Locator) procured in 2024 was about $3.32 million.

   To enhance operational efficiency, the FSD plans to introduce drones with higher load-bearing capacity and apply the use of automated drone dock coupled with artificial intelligence to assist in the early detection of vegetation fires and vessel fires in typhoon

shelters, as well as to support different types of firefighting and rescue operations, etc. The total estimated amount involved is about $2.1 million.

2. The information on the fireboats budgeted for replacement starting from 2024 is tabulated below:

Fireboat to be replaced	Basic features (total length/ crew capacity/ speed)	Targeted time of replacement	Builder (if any)	Approved commitment ($m)
Diving Support Vessel	26-29 metres/ 7 persons/ 25 knots	Expected for delivering to Hong Kong in the first quarter of 2030	Not applicable	220
Fireboat No. 3	30-32 metres/ 9 persons/ 25 knots	Expected for delivering to Hong Kong in the second quarter of 2029	Not applicable	199
Fireboat No. 5	30-32 metres/ 9 persons/ 25 knots	Expected for delivering to Hong Kong in the second quarter of 2029	Not applicable	199

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB132**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2188)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2025-26, the expenditure on specialist supplies and equipment will increase substantially from the revised estimate of $95.81 million for 2024-25 to $248 million for 2025-26, representing an increase of 159%. The provision for allowances will be reduced substantially from $196 million for 2024-25 to around $50.45 million, representing a decrease of about 74%. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

(a) Please provide details of the specific types of equipment to be procured with the additional provision as well as their quantities and purposes. How will the procurement of the new equipment contribute to enhancing the Fire Services Department's capability in handling various types of disasters? Has the Government fully considered the needs for long-term maintenance and upgrades of the equipment when making the procurement?

(b) Please elaborate on the allowance items to be reduced and whether this will have a direct or indirect impact on the remuneration package for fire personnel.

Asked by: Hon TANG Ka-piu (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

(a) The additional provision will mainly be used for replacing the Fire Services Department (FSD)'s existing portable radio transceivers and breathing apparatus, with details as follows:

Type of equipment	Replacement quantity	Main purpose
Portable radio transceiver	3 400 units	To provide frontline personnel with reliable communication devices and network during operations, and support their rescue operations in different environments
Breathing apparatus	1 850 sets	To provide oxygen supply for fire personnel entering fire and rescue scenes

At present, the portable radio transceivers provided for frontline operational personnel by the FSD have been in use for over 10 years and the production of the associated radio parts and components has been gradually discontinued. The FSD will procure a new model of portable radio transceivers and associated ancillary equipment in a bid to enhance the quality of communication and operational efficiency in frontline operations.

Moreover, the breathing apparatus provided for frontline operational personnel by the FSD have been in use for over 15 years and the production of which has already ceased. The FSD will procure a new model of breathing apparatus and associated ancillary equipment in a bid to provide frontline fire personnel with the best equipment and enhance their operational efficiency. The new model of breathing apparatus and associated ancillary equipment incorporate various technologies, such as aids for strengthening communication among fire personnel under adverse conditions, couplings that allow quick connection/disconnection, and air supply sharing systems for use in emergencies.

By replacing the equipment, the FSD aims to enhance operational efficiency and operational safety of fire personnel with a view to better protecting the lives and properties of the public. When procuring the equipment, the FSD has prudently assessed the overall performance of relevant products in the market in terms of long-term repair and maintenance as well as upgrades to ensure that the equipment procured can meet the Department's long-term operational needs.

(b) The adjustment in the provision for allowances is primarily due to changes in Disciplined Services Overtime Allowance. The remuneration package for service members will not be affected by the adjustment.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB133**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2691)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. How many people in total have been appointed by the Fire Services Department as Fire Services Department Community Emergency Responder (FSDCER) since the establishment of the FSDCER Scheme? What are the specific plans and expenditure in the promotion of the FSDCER Scheme in 2025-26?

2. How many secondary schools and secondary school students in total have participated in the Secondary School Student Digital AED and CPR Experiential Programme since its establishment?

3. How many "Press to shock - Save a life" CPR & AED Courses did the FSD organise in each of the past 3 years? What were the number of participants and staffing involved?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

1. To keep pace with the ever-changing Hong Kong society, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has in recent years proactively implemented a "community-based" public safety strategy. The "Fire Services Department Community Emergency Responder (FSDCER) Scheme" was launched on 14 December 2024 to consolidate and optimise the existing "Fire Safety Ambassador" and "Building Fire Safety Envoy" schemes, which have been implemented for years, with an aim to further enhance the fire safety awareness and emergency response capability of the general public. As of February 2025, the FSD has appointed a total of 555 FSDCERs.

   In 2025-26, the FSD will actively recruit interested individuals from all 18 districts across the territory to participate in the Scheme, while encouraging regular public-facing organisations and institutions to join. In parallel, the FSD will provide training to volunteers for the 15th National Games, with an expected 1 600 volunteer leaders to be appointed as FSDCERs. The FSD aims to train 5 000 FSDCERs in 2025.

The Public Safety and Communication Division (PSC) under the FSD is responsible for formulating strategies on public safety promotion and education, establishing close ties with media organisations, co-ordinating the dissemination of information on the FSD's social media platforms and at incident scenes, and co-ordinating the implementation of various community emergency preparedness programmes. The FSDCER Scheme is one of the programmes being co-ordinated and implemented by PSC staff. The FSD has deployed existing manpower to implement the Scheme, and the estimated expenditure on the Scheme's activities and its promotion in 2025-26 is about $210,000.

2. As of February 2025, a total of 26 schools and around 4 400 students have participated in the Secondary School Student Digital Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) Experiential Programme.

3. The "Press to shock - Save a life" CPR & AED Course is one of the courses implemented by the PSC, and the FSD has deployed existing manpower to organise the relevant courses. The numbers of sessions and participants of the "Press to shock - Save a life" CPR & AED Course organised by the FSD over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

"Press to shock - Save a life" CPR & AED Course		
Year	Number of sessions	Number of participants
2022	215	3 182
2023	301	7 544
2024	277	6 305

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB134**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2692)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. What was the wastage rate of ambulanceman at each rank in the Fire Services Department (FSD) in 2024-25? What was the number of unfilled vacancies under the approved establishment of ambulanceman at each rank? What was the expenditure on overtime allowance for ambulanceman at each rank as a result of manpower shortage?

2. What was the replacement progress of town ambulances to be phased out by FSD in 2024-25? What was the overall fault rate of the FSD's ambulances, and what was its impact on the day-to-day dispatch of ambulances?

3. How many new ambulances were procured in the past 3 years? What was the expenditure incurred? How many of them have been put into service?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

1. The wastage of personnel at each rank of the Ambulanceman grade in the Fire Services Department (FSD) in 2024-25 is tabulated below:

Rank	Principal Ambulanceman	Senior Ambulanceman	Ambulanceman
Establishment*	309	811	2 015
Wastage*	27	23	88

* As at 28 February 2025

The number of vacancies not yet filled under the establishment of ambulanceman at each rank in the FSD is tabulated below:

Rank	Principal Ambulanceman	Senior Ambulanceman	Ambulanceman
Vacancy*	10	23	41

* As at 28 February 2025

With the resumption of normalcy of the society and cases of respiratory tract diseases (such as COVID-19 and influenza) have been increasing from time to time due to seasonal factors, the demand for ambulance service has continued to rise. Hence, the FSD has arranged for its personnel to work overtime to meet the demand of emergency ambulance calls. The amount of Disciplined Services Overtime Allowance for personnel at each rank of the Ambulanceman grade in the FSD in 2024-25 is tabulated below:

Rank	Principal Ambulanceman	Senior Ambulanceman	Ambulanceman
Amount of Disciplined Services Overtime Allowance ($million)*	2.9	23.7	38.0

* As at 28 February 2025

2. To maintain the age of ambulances at a healthy level and to ensure the overall reliability of the fleet, the FSD has formulated an ambulance replacement plan (Plan). Under the Plan, the FSD has to replace 62 town ambulances in 2024-25. As at 1 March 2025, the FSD has completed the replacement of 45 town ambulances and it is expected that the remaining 17 town ambulances will be put into service in the first to second quarter of 2025.

Apart from replacing ambulances under the Plan, the FSD also works with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) to consistently monitor the efficiency of ambulance maintenance. Besides, the EMSD replaces parts for the ambulances on a regular basis to ensure the reliability of the fleet. Additionally, whenever there is a breakdown of an ambulance, the FSD will immediately refer the case to the EMSD for inspection and follow-up repairs. The FSD will also dispatch reserve ambulances to the units concerned for operational use to avoid affecting the dispatch and operation of ambulances.

In 2024-25 (as at 1 March 2025), the number of cases where the FSD ambulances required factory repairs (including corrective maintenance, accident repairs, and preventive maintenance carried out about 3 times a year for each ambulance) was 1 605.

3. Approval was given for the FSD to procure 47 town ambulances in the past 3 years. The relevant information is tabulated below:

Year	Number of Town Ambulances Approved	Approved Provision ($million)	Current Status*
2022-23	-	-	-
2023-24	39	111.28	29 town ambulances have been delivered and will be put into service in the first to second quarter of 2025; the other 10 are expected to be put into service gradually starting from the third quarter of 2025.
2024-25	8	23.27	Tendering procedure has commenced.

* As at 1 March 2025

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB135**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2693)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Fire Service; (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

For the past 3 years, regarding the Fire Services Department,

1. how many complaint cases were received in each year?
2. how many such cases required investigation and how many cases were substantiated?
3. how many staff members were disciplined? What was the average investigation time for each case? What was the staffing and expenditure involved in handling the complaint cases?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

1. to 3. The Fire Services Department (FSD) records and handles each complaint case. In general, the FSD will provide a substantive reply to the complainant within 30 calendar days upon receipt of a complaint. For complicated cases requiring longer processing time, the FSD will inform the complainant of the progress of the case and the reasons why a longer time is needed for a response. Owing to difference in the level of complexity, type and nature for each complaint case, the time required for investigation varies from case to case. Moreover, as officers of different units and ranks in the FSD are assigned to handle complaint cases in addition to their main duties, the staff establishment and expenditure involved in handling complaints cannot be itemized separately. The number of complaint cases, substantiated cases and staff members subjected to disciplinary action in the FSD over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	2022	2023	2024
Number of complaint cases	484	511	669
Number of substantiated cases	64	71	76
Number of staff members subjected to disciplinary action	14	28	39

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB212**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3386)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the wider use of technology by the Fire Services Department to enhance the efficiency of firefighting, rescue operations and ambulance services (page 232), please provide the following information:

1. For various incident and disaster scenarios (e.g., fire in built-up areas, mountain rescue and the handling of chemical spillage) in the past 3 financial years, the use of technology such as artificial intelligence and big data in analysing the department's emergency response capabilities, including site control and situation handling, and reduction of casualties and scale of property loss so as to make adjustments to the fire safety measures in different areas, as well as the training programmes and exercises for personnel.

2. For the average time taken in respect of turnout after receiving a call and arriving at scene in response to various types of emergency calls in the past 3 financial years, taking into account the relevant incident and disaster scenarios (such as fire in built-up areas, mountain rescue, and the handling of chemical spillage), the use of technology for in-depth analysis for the setting of more precise target response times in various emergencies and disaster scenarios so as to enhance the efficiency in deploying firefighting and rescue personnel and ambulance resources.

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

Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) has all along moved with the times, leveraging innovative technologies to enhance operational efficiency, safeguard public safety, and mitigate risks faced by frontline personnel during firefighting and rescue operations.

   In 2024, the FSD announced its Strategic Plan 2024-2026 which, clearly defines 3 strategic objectives in the realm of innovation and technology, that is, "harnessing innovation to enhance the delivery of quality service", "maximising the use of big data analytics to promote strategic decisions and future planning", and "leveraging new and advanced technologies to promote the efficiency of operations and fire protection work".

The FSD has been proactively using big data analytics to support management and policy making processes. To further promote the application of information technology in fire and ambulance services, the FSD uses the FSD Geographic Information System Portal and the FSD Intelligence Dashboard Platform to collate and analyse vast amounts of operational data so as to consolidate the correlations or trends across different operational datasets. For instance, by analysing vegetation fire data from past years, including factors such as time of occurrence, location and weather, the Department can better identify areas with high risk of vegetation fire, conduct on-site risk assessments, and formulate more precise operational deployment plans.

Furthermore, the FSD also utilises the operational data to review and optimise the training and exercises for its personnel. For example, through data analysis, the Department continuously reviews the rescue equipment used by frontline personnel in coping with inclement weather and provides corresponding specialised training for them. Besides, the Department also tailors rescue resource allocation and formulates contingency plans based on regional risk profiles, while collaborating with relevant departments to conduct various types of joint exercises to enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness.

2. Apart from providing emergency rescue and ambulance services to the public, the FSD is responsible for firefighting and rescue on land and sea, as well as handling various types of special service calls, such as traffic and industrial accidents, gas leakages, landslides, flooding, building collapses, attempts to jump from height and malfunctioning lifts. Upon receiving various types of emergency calls, the FSD will uphold its mission of "saving those in distress and protecting the community" and attend the scene immediately.

With respect to setting the response time, the existing performance pledges of the FSD on the graded response time for building fire calls are: (i) fire personnel will arrive at the fire scenes within 6 minutes for 92.5% of such calls in built-up areas; and (ii) fire personnel will arrive at the fire scenes within 9 to 23 minutes for 94.5% of such calls in areas of more dispersed risk/isolated developments. As for emergency ambulance calls, the performance pledge adopted by the FSD is to arrive at scene within the target response time of 12 minutes for 92.5% of the calls. The FSD will continue to maintain the above targets in the coming year.

As regards the use of technology, the FSD will continue to use big data to conduct comprehensive analysis on information and data of fire incidents, building design and relevant inspections so as to keep track of the risks faced by specific areas for better planning and resources deployment, with a view to enhancing the efficiency in deploying firefighting and rescue personnel as well as ambulance resources.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB213**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3387)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the Fire Services Department (FSD)'s efforts to strengthen collaboration with district organisations on fire safety issues (page 231), please provide information on the following:

1. The implementation of suggestions that FSD received from and its efforts made in response to District Councils, District Fire Safety Committees (DFSCs) and other district organisations' suggestions on improving fire services facilities, such as installation of additional fire hydrants and improvements to fire services facilities in old buildings and fire escape routes in public areas.

2. The actual situation with respect to strengthening connection and collaboration with DFSCs and other district organisations to formulate and promote community public safety strategy, for instance, whether inspections have been conducted and improvements made on home fire safety of elderly singletons and elderly doubletons, and what are the results of the trainings for volunteers or fire safety ambassadors.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)

Reply:

1. & 2. To comprehensively enhance the community's fire safety standards and knowledge of emergency preparedness, the Fire Services Department (FSD) established the FSD Community Collaboration Network (FSDCCN) in September 2022 to forge a closer and more direct communication mechanism with the District Fire Safety Committees (DFSCs) across the 18 districts, allowing more members of the local communities to participate in the formulation and implementation of the FSD's community public safety strategy, as well as to promote fire safety and emergency preparedness education in the community.

Since the establishment of the FSDCCN, the two parties have forged increasingly close collaboration. To further deepen and enhance fire safety in the districts, the FSD proactively implements a "community-based" public safety strategy whereby

the past approach of one-way fire safety education has evolved into a holistic community public safety strategy that emphasises on community engagement and collaboration. In this connection, the FSD has rolled out a thematic website for the FSDCCN, providing information on disaster and emergency preparedness education for the 18 districts, and highlighting the important roles of DFSCs in their respective districts. In addition, the FSD has formulated 4 key performance indicators for public safety strategy, which were implemented in September 2024, as tabulated below:

Measure	Indicator (each district)
1. DFSCs need to conduct joint publicity activities/inspections with the FSD for buildings with potential risks and fire hazards in the district	Twice per year
2. Help residents in need to install stand-alone fire detectors	50 households per year
3. Distribute the "Three Treasures for Fire Protection"	100 sets per year
4. Recruit district residents to become Fire Services Department Community Emergency Responders (FSDCER)	40 persons per year

As of February 2025, significant progress has been made by various districts in meeting the relevant key performance indicators. Major publicity activities and inspections were conducted in 24 buildings, stand-alone fire detectors were installed for 491 households, 1 117 sets of "Three Treasures for Fire Protection" were distributed, and 555 residents were recruited to become FSDCERs.

Furthermore, Divisional Commanders of the FSD, on top of participating in regular DFSC meetings, provide professional advice to the 18 DFSCs under the FSDCCN framework with a view to formulating and implementing district-specific fire safety policies and relevant key performance indicators. They also co-operate with Care Teams and other district organisations to disseminate messages of disaster and emergency preparedness to all sectors of the community.

The 18 DFSCs have formulated a total of 74 key performance indicators related to district-specific fire safety policies. In addition to enhancing the disaster and emergency preparedness in various high-risk areas, the DFSCs also provided emergency preparedness education for different communities in the district (such as the elderly, young people and ethnic minorities), including conducting fire drills and major disaster and emergency preparedness publicity activities for the district's old buildings and high-risk areas, organising emergency preparedness carnivals and fire station and ambulance depot open days, as well as arranging home fire safety visits for the elderly in the district.

As of February 2025, the FSD, in collaboration with the 18 DFSCs and other organisations, has organised 54 major activities (including fire drills, lectures and

various publicity activities), 7 emergency preparedness carnivals and open days, and visited 126 elderly households.

District Councils, DFSCs and other district organisations have long served as communication bridges between the Government and the public. The FSD has always placed great importance on suggestions for improving fire services facilities, and has taken detailed examinations and appropriate follow-up actions to enhance the community's fire safety standards.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB214**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3388)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the "Fire Hazard Abatement Notices (FHANs) issued" (page 235) in the past 3 financial years, please provide the following information:

1. the number of FHANs issued following inspections conducted in response to complaints and the number of FHANs issued following random inspections initiated by the Department, with a breakdown by types of premises; and

2. the number of FHANs issued that have not been complied with by the specified dates and the average time of delay in such compliance, with a breakdown by types of premises.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

1. As mentioned on page 235 of the Controlling Officer's Report Head 45 – Fire Services Department, the numbers of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices (FHANs) (other than floating obstructions to means of escape (MOE) and locked exits) issued by the Fire Services Department (FSD) in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

	Year	Industrial	Composite	Domestic	Commercial	Government, institution or community facilities	Total
Number of FHANs issued following inspections in response to complaints	2022	206	794	50	483	7	1 540
	2023	209	1 165	1 659	532	5	3 570
	2024	204	3 406	206	645	14	4 475

	Year	Industrial	Composite	Domestic	Commercial	Government, institution or community facilities	Total
Number of FHANs issued following FSD-initiated inspections	2022	1 348	182	1 665	165	0	3 360
	2023	193	201	1 245	192	1	1 832
	2024	155	2 849	2 041	205	0	5 250

2. In accordance with the existing mechanism, the FSD will conduct on-site inspections after expiry of the periods specified in the FHANs to ensure the FHANs have been complied with. If the fire hazards have not been abated, FSD personnel will follow up and take appropriate enforcement actions, including instituting prosecutions against relevant or responsible persons.

As mentioned on page 235 of the Controlling Officer's Report Head 45 – Fire Services Department, the numbers of prosecutions instituted by the FSD in the past 3 years against relevant persons for FHANs (other than floating obstructions to MOE and locked exits) that have not been complied with upon expiry of the specified periods are tabulated below:

Year	Industrial	Composite	Domestic	Commercial	Government, institution or community facilities	Total
2022	66	10	1	0	0	77
2023	53	19	15	1	0	88
2024	22	226	45	3	0	296

The compliance status of FHANs upon expiry of their specified periods is tabulated below:

Year	Number of FHANs issued	Number of FHANs that have been complied with within specified periods	Number of FHANs that have not been complied with by specified dates	Average number of days taken for compliance after expiry of specified periods
2022	4 900	4 823	77	289
2023	5 402	5 314	88	137
2024	9 725	9 429	296	142

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB215**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3389)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Has technology such as big data been utilised to analyse the number of turnouts of various types of emergency vehicles (ambulances, ambulance motorcycles and Rapid Response Vehicles) in each year, including but not limited to the trends of growth, problems arising from the allocation and mobilisation of resources, and the ways for optimisation? If yes, what are the results; if no, what are the reasons?

Has technology such as big data been utilised to analyse the distribution of the number of turnouts of various types of emergency vehicles at different times and on different days (such as working days, festivals, holidays, nighttime, etc.), as well as to grasp the pattern of changes in the demand for emergency service, and the deployment of emergency vehicles, personnel and equipment?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 53)

Reply:

At present, the Fire Services Department (FSD) makes use of big data with the aid of technology to perform continuous analysis and monitoring of the operational data of various types of ambulance vehicles (including the trends of growth, the allocation and mobilisation of resources, as well as the distribution of the number of turnouts in different time periods, etc.) so as to assess the actual circumstances surrounding ambulance service delivery and the impact of different situations on the demand for ambulance service. The FSD will make appropriate assessments through continuous analysis of the changes of ambulance service-related data, and adjust its manpower and ambulance resources accordingly to meet the demand. In addition, the FSD commissioned a consultancy firm in 2021-22 to conduct a comprehensive review and study on the future development of ambulance service, forecasting the demand of calls over the next 10 years starting from 2022 and providing other relevant suggestions, so as to ensure that the Department can meet its performance pledge in each year. Meanwhile, the FSD has also collaborated earlier with a local university to devise an ambulance dispatch simulator to estimate the demand for emergency ambulance service with a view to optimising the deployment and dispatch of ambulances.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB216**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4011)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the following information regarding the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for the past 3 years:

1. The number of accident and emergency (A&E) attendances conveyed by ambulances (%) in each year;

2. The number of A&E attendances conveyed by ambulances from various districts (with breakdown by District Council district) in each year.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. For the past 3 years, the number of accident and emergency (A&E) attendances at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital conveyed by ambulances (%) in each year is set out below:

2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (As at 31 December 2024)
48.8%	42.8%	40.7%

2. For the past 3 years, the number of A&E attendances at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital conveyed by ambulances from various districts (with breakdown by District Council district) in each year is set out below:

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (As at 31 December 2024)
Central and Western	1	1	0
Eastern	0	0	0
Southern	2	1	0
Wan Chai	4	4	2

Kowloon City	33 428	38 542	27 226
Yau Tsim Mong	9 924	10 686	5 142
Sham Shui Po	54	46	27
Wong Tai Sin	29 178	32 841	24 004
Kwun Tong	182	205	135
Tai Po	0	1	1
Yuen Long	0	1	1
Tuen Mun	8	1	4
North	3	0	1
Sai Kung	47	63	43
Sha Tin	62	47	57
Tsuen Wan	9	6	9
Kwai Tsing	1	1	0
Islands	0	0	2
Total	72 903	82 446	56 654

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. SB217

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3436)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Fire Service, (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the handling of fire hazard complaints, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. As it is mentioned under Programme 1 that the number of complaints of imminent fire hazards received, the number of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices issued and the number of prosecutions instituted increased substantially last year, what were the underlying reasons for this, and what were the conviction rates, as well as the highest, lowest and average penalties for the prosecutions concerned?

2. As it is mentioned under Programme 2 that the number of prosecutions instituted for fire hazards increased from 948 to 4 031 last year, what were the underlying reasons for this, and what were the conviction rates, as well as the highest, lowest and average penalties for the prosecutions concerned?

3. In view of the significant increase in the number of prosecutions under both Programmes, will the Government redeploy manpower to handle the increased workload? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 112)

Reply:

1. For Programme 1, the Fire Services Department (FSD) in 2024 saw a substantial increase in the number of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices (FHANs) issued and prosecutions instituted for fire hazards in 2024. This was not only due to the substantial increase in the number of fire hazard complaints received during the year, but also the enhanced law enforcement actions taken in the aftermath of the No. 3 alarm fire at New Lucky House in Jordan in April 2024, where the FSD proactively inspected about 1 000 old composite buildings with relatively high fire risk and took law enforcement actions against the fire hazards identified. Out of the 668 prosecution cases mentioned under Programme 1, the prosecution procedures for 561 cases have been completed, while 107 cases are still being processed. Out of the 561 completed

prosecution cases, 555 resulted in convictions, while the remaining 6 were withdrawn due to reasons such as the defendant's death or the legal advice from the Department of Justice (DoJ). The overall conviction rate was 99%. The penalties in respect of these prosecutions are tabulated below:

Highest fine ($)	30,000
Lowest fine ($)	200
Average fine ($)	3,383

2. Since the No. 3 alarm fire that broke out at New Lucky House in Jordan in April 2024, the FSD has proactively inspected about 1 000 old composite buildings with relatively high fire risk across the territory according to a risk-based principle and took law enforcement actions against the fire hazards identified. Also in 2024, the FSD further stepped up law enforcement efforts against violations of the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations (Cap. 95B) and instituted prosecutions for violations of the regulations pertaining to fire service installations and equipment. At the same time, the FSD stepped up prosecutions against non-compliance with fire safety directions under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572). Out of the 4 031 prosecution cases mentioned under Programme 2, the prosecution procedures for 2 446 cases have been completed, while 1 585 cases are still being processed. Out of the 2 446 completed prosecution cases, 2 306 resulted in convictions, while the remaining 140 were withdrawn due to reasons such as the defendant's death or the legal advice from the DoJ. The overall conviction rate was 94%. The penalties in respect of these prosecutions are tabulated below:

Highest fine ($)	41,440
Lowest fine ($)	97.7
Average fine ($)	3,045

3. In response to the significant increase in the number of prosecutions, the FSD has strengthened manpower for prosecution through internal redeployment to ensure that all prosecution work can be handled in a timely manner.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 Reply Serial No.

SB218

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3477)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned that equipment such as Diving Support Vessel, fireboats and breathing apparatus will be replaced. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1) The specific details of the total estimated cost, the estimated allocation involved and the expected time of completion (including the expected installation completion date and operation commencement date) for the replacement of the aforementioned equipment;

2) The expected serviceable lives of various equipment and the amount of resources to be allocated by the Fire Services Department for their system upgrade and maintenance during such periods to ensure their continuous and highly efficient operation;

3) Whether relevant training will be provided to ensure that the operating personnel is conversant with the use and maintenance of the new equipment; if yes, please specify the details of the training programmes (including theoretical training and practical operation), the manpower and training expenses involved; and

4) How to assess the enhancement in efficiency of rescue efforts to be brought forward by the newly replaced equipment?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 71)

Reply:

1) Information about various replacement items is tabulated below:

Item	Total estimated cost	Estimated allocation	Expected time of completion	
			Expected installation completion date	Operation commencement date
Diving Support Vessel	$220 million	Procurement of new vessel, related equipment and training	First quarter of 2030	Second quarter of 2030
Fireboat No. 3	$199 million	Procurement of new vessel, related equipment and training	Second quarter of 2029	Third quarter of 2029
Fireboat No. 5	$199 million	Procurement of new vessel, related equipment and training	Second quarter of 2029	Third quarter of 2029
Breathing apparatus	$234 million	Procurement of 1 850 sets of new breathing apparatus, related equipment, spare parts and maintenance parts	Expected to commence full operation in the fourth quarter of 2025	
Portable radio transceivers	$102 million	Procurement of 3 400 new portable radio transceivers and related ancillary equipment	Expected to commence full operation in the fourth quarter of 2025	

2) The expected serviceable lives and maintenance measures for the items are as follows:

Item	Expected serviceable life	Maintenance measures
Diving Support Vessel	15 years	The Fire Services Department (FSD) will collaborate with the Government Dockyard to carry out maintenance for the fire vessels and will continuously review the resources required to ensure efficiency in marine firefighting and rescue operations.
Fireboat No. 3	20 years	
Fireboat No. 5	20 years	
Breathing apparatus	15 years	The new breathing apparatus come with a 31-month warranty period. Thereafter the FSD will provide in-house maintenance.
Portable radio transceivers	10 years	The new portable radio transceivers come with a 12-month warranty period. Thereafter, the FSD will entrust the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to be responsible for the relevant technical support and maintenance to ensure their proper operation.

3) The FSD will provide adequate training to ensure the personnel is conversant with and able to operate the newly replaced fire vessels and equipment. Details of the training are as follows:

Fire Vessels

In the course of the fire vessel replacement, the FSD will work with the Marine Department to draft the contents of the tender and review the specifications, including training for vessel operation and engine maintenance of the newly procured vessels. The FSD will determine the number and contents of training programmes taking into account factors such as functions of the newly procured vessels, standby water areas, and qualifications required for relevant personnel. The training will be provided by the vessel contractors and no additional manpower resources will be involved.

Breathing Apparatus

To ensure the operating personnel will be conversant with the use and daily maintenance of the new breathing apparatus, the FSD's Breathing Apparatus Unit will provide relevant training and no additional manpower resources will be involved. The relevant qualifications for the breathing apparatus fall under 2 categories, i.e. wearers and technicians. Training for the "wearers" category mainly relates to firefighting and rescue work, while training for the "technicians" category mainly concerns maintenance of breathing apparatus.

Portable Radio Transceivers

The basic operation of the new portable radio transceivers is primarily similar to that of the existing models. The FSD's contractor, pursuant to the contract, will provide relevant training and no additional manpower resources will be involved. The training covers equipment component structure, overview of functions, basic operation and maintenance procedures, so as to enhance the frontline and maintenance personnel's capability in daily operation and maintenance of the new equipment.

4) To further enhance marine firefighting and rescue capabilities, the newly procured vessels will be equipped with modernised and advanced fire and rescue equipment, with the speed increased up to 25 knots to enhance operational efficiency.

The new breathing apparatus (compliant with technical specifications in EN137, with chemical, biological and nuclear radiation protection functions) incorporates various technologies, such as aids for strengthening communication among fire personnel under adverse conditions, couplings that allow quick connection/disconnection, and air supply sharing systems for use in emergencies, to help enhance operational efficiency of the fire personnel.

The new portable radio transceivers have been upgraded in terms of water and dust resistance, battery life and signal sensitivity, providing frontline personnel with more reliable communication devices and network to support their rescue work in different environments.

To ensure the above vessels and equipment maintain optimal performance, the FSD will continuously monitor their performance and operational efficiency after the items concerned are put into operation.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB219**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3478)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

To enhance fire safety awareness and the emergency preparedness of the public, the Fire Services Department launched the Fire Services Department Community Emergency Responder Scheme (the Scheme). Participants will receive training on fire prevention and emergency preparedness, as well as cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator to help safeguard community safety. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1) What are the annual estimated expenditure and staff establishment involved in the Scheme?

2) As of February 2025, how many people in each District Council district of Hong Kong have participated in the Scheme and completed the training to become a Community Emergency Responder? What is the expected number of new members to be recruited in each of the next 3 years? Please provide the statistical data by district, with a further breakdown by age groups (e.g. aged 18-30, 31-50 and above 51).

3) What is the average cost for each Community Emergency Responder? What indicator(s) does the Bureau use to evaluate the effectiveness of the Scheme?

4) Is there a validity period for the Scheme membership? How are the emergency response skills of the Scheme members maintained?

5) Does the Scheme cover ethnic minorities or persons with disabilities? If yes, in what languages or barrier-free forms are the teaching resources available? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 72)

Reply:

1) To keep pace with the ever-changing Hong Kong society, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has in recent years proactively implemented a "community-based" public safety

strategy. The "Fire Services Department Community Emergency Responder (FSDCER) Scheme" was launched on 14 December 2024 to consolidate and optimise the existing "Fire Safety Ambassador" and "Building Fire Safety Envoy" schemes, which have been implemented for years, with an aim to further enhance the fire safety awareness and emergency response capability of the general public.

The Public Safety and Communication Division (PSC) under the FSD is responsible for formulating strategies on public safety promotion and education, establishing close ties with media organisations, co-ordinating the dissemination of information on the FSD's social media platforms and at incident scenes, and co-ordinating the implementation of various community emergency preparedness programmes. The FSDCER Scheme is one of the programmes being implemented by PSC staff. The FSD has deployed existing manpower to implement the Scheme, and the estimated expenditure on the Scheme's activities and its promotion in 2025-26 is about $210,000.

2) As of February 2025, a total of 555 individuals from all 18 districts across the territory have completed the relevant training. The breakdown by age groups is set out below:

District Council district	Number of members aged 6-11 (young members accompanied by parents)	Number of members aged 12 or above
Central and Western		11
Eastern	-	9
Southern	7	84
Islands	-	47
Wan Chai	-	11
Sham Shui Po	-	22
Wong Tai Sin	-	30
Kwun Tong	-	23
Sai Kung	-	13
Kowloon City	1	46
Yau Tsim Mong	-	49
Sha Tin	-	15
Yuen Long	-	47
Tuen Mun	1	35
Tai Po	-	34
North	-	33
Kwai Tsing	-	22
Tsuen Wan	-	15
Total	9	546

In 2025-26, the FSD will actively recruit interested individuals from all 18 districts across the territory to participate in the Scheme, while encouraging regular public-facing organisations and institutions to join. In parallel, the FSD will provide training to volunteers for the 15th National Games with an expected 1 600 volunteer leaders to be appointed as FSDCERs. The FSD aims to train 5 000 FSDCERs in 2025.

3) The FSD has allocated existing resources to implement the Scheme and has trained about 180 fire personnel as instructors of the Scheme. Moreover, the FSD has already set a performance indicator for the Scheme, that is, to train 5 000 FSDCERs in 2025.

4) Participants who complete both e-learning and practical training and pass the assessment may be appointed as an FSDCER by the FSD, with their qualifications remaining valid permanently. The FSD will maintain the emergency response skills of Scheme members by inviting them to participate in activities such as district promotional activities on emergency preparedness, large-scale emergency response drills, provision of assistance to members of the community and post-disaster recovery.

5) The Scheme welcomes participation from Hong Kong residents aged 12 or above, while children aged 6 to 11 may join as young members accompanied by their parents. The FSD will continue to promote the Scheme to people of different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds. Currently, the training videos and handouts are mainly available in Chinese, with some English translation. The FSD does not maintain separate statistics on participants who are ethnic minorities or persons with disabilities.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB220**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3483)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding ambulance service, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. For 2025, it is estimated that the number of emergency calls will further increase but the calls per ambulance will decrease, will the Government explain the underlying reasons?

2. Please provide a breakdown of the number of vehicles held, the number of serviceable vehicles, the average ages and the average kilometres travelled by each type of ambulance;

3. Of the estimated additional 186 posts shown in the size of the establishment for this year, how many of them are under the ambulance stream? Of the estimated 95 posts to be reduced in 2026, how many of them concern ambulance staff?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 114)

Reply:

1. The Fire Services Department (FSD) will increase the number of ambulances in 2025 to enhance its capability in meeting any sudden increase in demand for ambulance services (for instance, an epidemic outbreak). As set out in the table below, the increase in the size of ambulance fleet is greater than the increase in the total number of calls, hence resulting in a decrease in the average number of calls handled per ambulance.

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
Number of emergency calls	784 243	792 900
Number of hospital transfer calls	38 567	38 600
Total number of calls	822 810	831 500
Fleet size of ambulances	473	514
Calls per ambulance	1 740	1 618

2. The information on ambulance vehicles in the FSD as at 28 February 2025 is tabulated below:

Ambulance vehicle	Number of vehicles	Number of serviceable vehicles @	Average age of vehicles (years)	Average distance travelled^ (km)
Frontline ambulances*	460	397	3.48	79 309
Hospital Transfer Ambulances	16	14	1.38	18 618
Other supporting vehicles#	63	55	3.27	34 172

@ Number of serviceable ambulance vehicles, excluding the number of vehicles undergoing factory repairs (including corrective maintenance, accident repairs and preventive maintenance) on 28 February 2025 (provisional figure).

^ Average kilometres travelled as at 31 December 2024 (provisional figure).

* Frontline ambulances include town ambulances, light ambulances, cross country ambulances and mini ambulances.

\# Other supporting vehicles include Emergency Medical Assistant Motorcycle, Rapid Response Motorcycle, Rapid Response Vehicle, Mobile Casualty Treatment Centre, Paramedic Equipment Tender and Infection Control and Critical Care Transfer Ambulance.

3. Regarding the ambulance stream establishment, the FSD expects a net increase of 44 posts in 2024-25, as well as a reduction of 1 post and deletion of 4 time-limited posts upon their expiry in 2025-26.

- End -

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26 | Reply Serial No. **SB221**

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3816)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Fire Services Department mentioned that it will continue to enhance the efficiency of firefighting, rescue operations and ambulance services through the wider use of technology. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1) Please provide a breakdown of the technology projects (such as AI mobilising system, fire service drones and thermal imager) planned to be introduced this and next year and specify their respective procurement and development costs (such as software licences, hardware procurement and maintenance contracts), expected quantifiable performance indicators, and implementation timetable;

2) Whether priority will be given to locally researched and developed technologies, such as solutions provided by start-ups in the Hong Kong Science and Technology Park? If yes, what proportion of the estimates does that account for?

3) Whether training courses have been arranged to allow frontline personnel to adapt to a technology-oriented work mode so that the service quality remains unaffected by skill disparity? If yes, please provide the number of course hours, the mode of teaching (such as virtual reality and on-site drills), the source of instructors (such as in-house experts and external consultants) and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 73)

Reply:

1) The Fire Services Department (FSD) has all along moved with the times, leveraging innovative technologies to enhance operational efficiency, safeguard public safety, and mitigate risks faced by frontline personnel during firefighting and rescue operations. The technology projects planned for introduction by the FSD in 2025 and 2026 include:

Technology project	Cost	Expected benefits	Tentative implementation schedule
New artificial intelligence-assisted image analysis system for mountain search and rescue	About $4.7 million	Image examination speed is 10 times faster to enhance the efficiency of search and rescue operations	To be put into service in the first half of 2025
Introduction of drones with higher payload and the application of artificial intelligence-assisted automated drone dock	About $2.1 million	Maximum payload increased from 2 kilograms to 30 kilograms to transport more supplies for supporting operational needs Automated drones can assist in the early detection of vegetation fires and vessel fires in typhoon shelters	To be put into service in the second half of 2025
Compact-sized indoor firefighting robot	About $1.62 million	Can be operated in tighter spaces to reduce the risks faced by frontline personnel in firefighting operations	To be put into service in the first half of 2026

2) The innovative technologies used by the FSD have mainly been developed in collaboration with local innovation and technology enterprises. For instance, the "Mountain Rescue Mobile App" launched at the end of last year and the aforementioned "new artificial intelligence-assisted image analysis system for mountain search and rescue" are both solutions developed in collaboration with start-ups in the Hong Kong Science and Technology Park. In the past 3 years, the number of contracts awarded to local start-ups through tendering procedures for new equipment and relevant technology projects accounted for about 40% of the total contract value of relevant projects.

3) The FSD will train members through different means on the use of the latest technologies that have been newly developed or introduced, to ensure that frontline personnel are fully proficient in their use before they are launched. The FSD also arranges for members to attend innovation and technology training programmes organised by the Civil Service College every year to enhance their understanding of intelligentisation and informatisation. As for the use of big data analytics, the FSD has developed over 100 dashboards, covering various aspects of work such as operation, fire protection and staff management, allowing different levels of the management to perform data analysis and monitor the performance indicators. When setting up the dashboards, FSD's Systems Managers and Analysts/Programmers will provide detailed explanation and training on the use of dashboards to different levels of the department's management.

   The FSD does not maintain separate statistics on the training hours and expenditure for frontline personnel adapting to a technology-oriented work mode.

- End -