

**Replies to supplementary questions
raised by Legislative Council Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26**

Home Affairs Department

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
<u>S-HYAB002</u>	S036	CHAN Man-ki, Maggie	63	(2) Community Building
<u>S-HYAB003</u>	S040	CHAN Yuet-ming	63	(3) Local Environmental Improvements
<u>SV-HYAB001</u>	SV014	CHAN Hoi-yan	63	(2) Community Building
<u>SV-HYAB002</u>	SV012	LAM Chun-sing	63	(2) Community Building
<u>SV-HYAB003</u>	SV015	YIU Pak-leung	63	(4) Licensing

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-HYAB002

(Question Serial No. S036)

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

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

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Ms Priscilla TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

As mentioned in the Reply, as at 31 January 2025, District Services and Community Care Teams (CTs) have visited about 390 000 elderly households and other households in need, and provided about 43 000 times of basic home or other support services such as home repairs and cleaning, health check-ups, free haircuts for the elderly, information technology support as well as care and support services for residents affected by incidents and emergencies, etc. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) whether the Government has compiled statistics on the number of occasions CTs provided care and support services for residents affected by incidents and emergencies, and the number of persons receiving such emergency support;
- (b) whether a mechanism is currently in place to support emergency services provided by CTs through an increased allowance for members of CTs and volunteers providing such services? If yes, what are the details; if no, will the Government consider establishing such a mechanism?
- (c) have the administrative costs of CTs been included in the 2025-26 estimate of \$319.1 million? If yes, what percentage would that represent? If no, in funding the next term of services of CTs, will the Government consider suitably adjusting the administrative arrangements and expanding the staffing establishment so as to alleviate CTs' administrative work?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie

Reply:

- (a) and (b) The average amount of funding for each District Services and Community Care Team (CT) in the first term of the two-year funding agreement is \$1 million. As announced in the 2024 Policy Address, the Government will regularise CTs, and will increase funding amount by 50% in the next term of service in support of their work, including responding to incidents and emergencies. CTs swiftly mobilise members and volunteers to attend to the needs of affected individuals and provide

them with appropriate assistance in the event of incidents and emergencies. The services that CTs provide in the event of incidents and emergencies will depend on actual needs. District Officers, as the commanders of CTs, will mobilise CTs in the district, taking into account the nature, scale and situation of the incident. As at 31 January 2025, CTs have been deployed about 930 times in the event of incidents and emergencies to assist the affected individuals according to their needs. We have not compiled statistics on the number of beneficiaries.

- (c) The 2025-26 estimate of \$319.1 million covers the funding provisions in the first and second terms of services. There will be an increase in funding amount by 50% in the second term of service as compared with the first term. CTs will be able to reserve no more than 15% of the Government's funding to cover administrative overheads. In addition, the Government is working on the development of the "Care Team Community Resources Management Platform" in order to assist CTs in handling their administration work, including the management and reporting of various services and activities. The trial run of the application is expected to commence in the first half of 2025 involving some CTs as users. The target is to roll out the application for the use of all CTs in the second term of the funding agreement.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-HYAB003

(Question Serial No. S040)

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

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

Programme: (3) Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Ms Priscilla TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding local environmental improvements, it is mentioned in the Budget that public services will be provided in a more cost-effective manner. Having regard to the fact that procurement for individual minor works can be co-ordinated and bulk purchasing can be adopted, what measures will the Government put in place in response to the Budget to improve the efficiency control of district and rural minor works projects?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuet-ming

Reply:

The Home Affairs Department (HAD) provides funding for carrying out minor works to improve the infrastructure, living environment and hygienic conditions of the 18 districts across the territory (including rural areas) through the Rural Public Works programme and the District Minor Works programme.

HAD has been committed to enhancing efficiency through measures aimed at optimising the implementation of minor works projects. In this connection, HAD co-ordinates the supervision of works and the payment of related administrative costs of minor works projects in the 18 districts, such as centralising payments for excavation permits and materials testing, and arranging contract vehicles for staff to carry out site visits, inspections, etc. These arrangements facilitate the integration of administrative procedures, thereby enhancing works efficiency and reducing administrative costs.

In addition, HAD engages term consultants for the delivery of projects of larger scale and greater complexity. Term consultants undertake the necessary ground investigations, work out detailed designs having regard to the site environment and conditions, oversee and control project costs, prepare professional and appropriate estimates, and closely monitor the works progress, among other responsibilities. Under the above arrangements, the administrative procedures of hiring works agents for each project individually can be streamlined and the related costs can be avoided. Furthermore, the duration for preliminary works prior to the commencement of projects can be reduced, and thus minor works projects can be implemented in a more effective manner.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-HYAB001

(Question Serial No. SV014)

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

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

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Ms Priscilla TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding the distinctive photo-taking landmarks proposed by the 18 District Youth Community Building Committees for their respective districts, please provide information on which of these landmarks will be maintained on a long-term or perpetual basis.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan

Reply:

Each of the District Youth Community Building Committees across 18 districts proposes for its district a distinctive photo-taking landmark with a particular theme and specific design elements to showcase district uniqueness as well as attract the public and tourists to take photos and “check in” there. The photo-taking landmarks in the 18 districts have been completed since early 2024. The landmarks for display on a long-term basis include the feature painting at the Hundred-Step Staircase in the Southern District, the art installation of the district mascot “Sammy” in the Sham Shui Po District, the traditional wooden dragon boat in the Tai Po District, the photo-taking stands and open space in the North District, and the feature signage and installations in the Tuen Mun District.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-HYAB002

(Question Serial No. SV012)

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

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

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Ms Priscilla TO)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Government provides members of District Services and Community Care Teams (CTs) with mental health support training to enable them to assist in early referrals of persons in need in the local communities for mental health support. How will the Government strengthen the role of CTs in this regard to help identify elderly persons in need and refer them to long-term services?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing

Reply:

The Government has been providing training for members of District Services and Community Care Teams (CTs) covering various aspects such as tips for communicating with elderly persons, getting to know the welfare services at the district level, training course on mental health support services, etc.

The mental health support training mentioned above was stated in the 2023 Policy Address. The training, covering an overview of common mental health issues, mental health first aid course, basic skills in providing mental health support, etc., is arranged for members of CTs by the Health Bureau (HHB), with a view to utilising CTs' networks to facilitate mental health promotion and early referral of persons in need (including the elderly) in the local communities for professional support. HHB will continue to collaborate with the Home Affairs Department to enable CTs to deliver the relevant support services effectively.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SV-HYAB003****(Question Serial No. SV015)**Head: (63) Home Affairs DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (4) LicensingControlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Ms Priscilla TO)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth AffairsQuestion:

According to the figures provided by the Government, the amounts of fines imposed for operating unlicensed hotels or guesthouses ranged from \$1,000 to \$30,000 from 2022 to 2024. Would the Government provide a breakdown of those cases involving fines?

Asked by: Hon YIU Pak-leungReply:

Operation of guesthouses in Hong Kong is regulated by the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance (Cap. 349) (HAGAO), which aims to ensure that premises intended to be used as guesthouses are suitable for such a purpose, including compliance with statutory standards in respect of building and fire safety. The Office of the Licensing Authority under the Home Affairs Department is responsible for administering the HAGAO, including issuing guesthouse licences and performing enforcement duties.

The amounts of fines imposed for contravention of the HAGAO (including operating unlicensed hotels or guesthouses and breaching licensing conditions) ranged from \$1,000 to \$30,000 from 2022 to 2024. The relevant figures are as follows:

Sentence		2022	2023 ^{Note}	2024
Fine	\$3,000 or below	5	13	21
	\$3,001 to \$5,000	8	47	98
	\$5,001 to \$10,000	11	28	23
	\$10,001 or above	1	2	1
	Total	25	90	143

Note: In 2023, there was 1 additional case in which the offender was sentenced to two months' imprisonment for contravening section 5(1) of the HAGAO (i.e. operating an unlicensed guesthouse), with **no** fine imposed.