

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSTB328

(Question Serial No. 3771)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

It was mentioned in Programme (2) that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department would “expand the existing Green Volunteer Scheme to enhance community involvement and public participation in tree surveillance”. Please advise of:

1. the existing number of Green Volunteers and the number of new recruits over the past 3 years;
2. the number of problematic or damaged trees reported by the Green Volunteers over the past 3 years;
3. the target number of recruits in the context of expanding the existing Green Volunteer Scheme, and whether there is a plan to promote greater participation from students in the Scheme to enhance young people’s understanding of local ecology.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 53)

Reply:

1. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) proactively recruits those members of the public interested in horticulture as Green Volunteers. As at end of December 2023, the number of Green Volunteers was over 6 900. The numbers of new recruits in 2021, 2022 and 2023 were 70, 140 and 140 respectively.
2. The LCSD sets up the Green Volunteer Scheme (the Scheme) to encourage the Green Volunteers to assist in tree surveillance work and report problematic trees. Given that they will report any problematic trees to the 1823 hotline for referral to various government departments for follow-up, the LCSD has no records on such reports.
3. The number of participants has been on the increase since implementation of the Scheme in the 18 districts across Hong Kong in 2003. Whilst there is no specific target number for the coming year, the LCSD will continue to work with local communities to promote the Scheme and recruit more Green Volunteers, and promote greater participation from

students through schools to increase understanding and awareness of the greening work among young people.

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