

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSTB333

(Question Serial No. 0744)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Recreation and Sports

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

One of the duties of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is to develop and manage recreation and sports facilities, including swimming pools and gazetted beaches. In this connection, would the Government provide information on:

1. the number of days of temporary closure of various swimming pools and beaches under the LCSD due to inadequate lifeguards in each of the past 5 years; and
2. whether sufficient funding has been earmarked in the estimates for employing adequate lifeguards to take up shifts at swimming pools and beaches so as to ensure that such facilities will not be closed as a result of inadequate lifeguards; if so, the details; if not, the reasons for that.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

1. The numbers of days of temporary closure of public swimming pools and gazetted beaches under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) (i.e. swimming pools with facilities fully closed and lifesaving services suspended at beaches) due to inadequate lifeguards in the past 5 years are set out in **Annex I** and **Annex II** respectively.
2. The LCSD has all along earmarked in the estimates sufficient funding for the expenditure on employing adequate lifeguards to take up shifts at public swimming pools and gazetted beaches. For the peak period during the swimming season in 2024-25, the LCSD has already earmarked funding for the expenditure on the employment of some 2 000 lifeguards to take up shifts at public swimming pools and gazetted beaches.

Annex I to Reply Serial No. CSTB333

**Numbers of days of full closure of public swimming pool facilities
due to inadequate lifeguards in the past 5 years**

Public Swimming Pool⁽¹⁾		2019	2020⁽²⁾	2021⁽²⁾	2022⁽²⁾	2023
Central and Western District						
1	Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Swimming Pool	2	-	-	-	-
Wan Chai						
2	Morrison Hill Swimming Pool	2	-	-	-	-
Islands						
3	Mui Wo Swimming Pool	-	-	29	-	-
Kwai Tsing						
4	North Kwai Chung Jockey Club Swimming Pool	1	-	-	-	-
Tsuen Wan						
5	Tsuen King Circuit Wu Chung Swimming Pool	-	-	1	-	-

Notes

- (1) Public swimming pools where facilities were not fully closed due to inadequate lifeguards in the past 5 years were not listed in the above table.
- (2) In view of the situation of COVID-19, all public swimming pools were closed during the following periods:
 - (i) from 29 January to 20 May, from 15 July to 17 September and from 2 to 31 December 2020;
 - (ii) from 1 January to 1 April 2021; and
 - (iii) from 7 January to 11 or 15 May 2022.

Annex II to Reply Serial No. CSTB333**Numbers of days of suspension of lifesaving services at gazetted beaches due to inadequate lifeguards in the past 5 years**

Beach⁽¹⁾		2019	2020⁽²⁾	2021⁽²⁾	2022⁽²⁾	2023
Southern District						
1	Big Wave Bay Beach	-	21	-	123	-
2	Middle Bay Beach	-	53	213	180	184
3	Shek O Beach	1	-	-	-	-
4	Stanley Main Beach	-	-	-	48	-
5	South Bay Beach	1	41	152	123	30
6	Repulse Bay Beach	1	-	-	-	-
7	St. Stephen's Beach	-	53	213	180	180
8	Chung Hom Kok Beach	-	53	213	180	160
9	Turtle Cove Beach	-	53	213	180	214
Tuen Mun						
10	Cafeteria Old Beach	-	53	213	180	214
11	Castle Peak Beach	1	21	182	180	214
12	Golden Beach	-	-	-	1	-
13	Cafeteria New Beach	1	21	152	124	153
14	Butterfly Beach	1	-	-	-	-
15	Kadoorie Beach	-	53	213	56	30
Sai Kung						
16	Silverstrand Beach	1	21	-	-	-
17	Clear Water Bay First Beach	1	41	213	123	153
18	Clear Water Bay Second Beach	6	-	-	-	1
19	Trio Beach	-	21	152	48	153
20	Kiu Tsui Beach	-	53	213	180	214
Tsuen Wan						
21	Ting Kau Beach	-	21	152	56	30
22	Anglers' Beach ⁽³⁾	-	53	213	-	-
23	Approach Beach	-	41	213	180	214
24	Hoi Mei Wan Beach	-	53	213	180	214
Islands						
25	Kwun Yam Beach	1	53	213	180	214
26	Upper Cheung Sha Beach	-	53	213	180	214
27	Lower Cheung Sha Beach	-	41	161	93	214
28	Pui O Beach	1	-	106	-	-

Beach⁽¹⁾		2019	2020⁽²⁾	2021⁽²⁾	2022⁽²⁾	2023
29	Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach	1	-	14	28	-
30	Tong Fuk Beach	-	53	213	180	214
31	Lo So Shing Beach	2	53	213	180	214
32	Hung Shing Yeh Beach	1	-	-	-	-

Notes

- (1) Gazetted beaches where lifesaving services were not suspended due to inadequate lifeguards in the past 5 years were not listed in the above table.
- (2) In view of the situation of COVID-19, all beaches were closed during the following periods:
- (i) from 29 January to 22 May, from 15 July to 2 November and from 10 to 31 December 2020;
 - (ii) from 1 January to 1 April 2021; and
 - (iii) from 7 January to 4 May 2022.
- (3) Anglers' Beach was temporarily closed for conversion works of the Main Building from 29 November 2021 to 30 April 2023.

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