

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB023

Question Serial No.

3468

Head: 39 - Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please advise on the number of complaints received in respect of odour from the Stonecutters Island sewage treatment works by the Department last year. What is/are the source(s) of odour according to the investigation conducted by the Administration? Please advise on the measures that are being taken to monitor the air quality or odour in the vicinity of that area at present as well as the measures to be taken to improve the situation by the Department. Please provide details on the specific work and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

In 2011, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) had received one odour complaint in respect of the Stonecutters Island sewage treatment works (SCISTW). 15 odour complaints were also lodged with the Environmental Protection Department. After site investigation, it was found that none of the cases was related to the odour emission from SCISTW. It was also found that the deodourization equipment at SCISTW was operating satisfactorily.

A regular odour monitoring system has been implemented at SCISTW involving daily odour patrols within the sewage treatment works and biweekly odour measurements at strategic locations of the sewage treatment works.

SCISTW has adopted the following measures in reducing odour nuisance from the sewage treatment works:

- (a) dosing of chemicals to control the generation of odour from sewage and sludge;
- (b) enhancing the air tightness of the existing enclosed sludge containers to prevent release of odour during transportation;
- (c) covering up of the locations at channels, chambers and tanks which are likely to emit odour; and
- (d) installing deodourization units like activated carbon system, chemical scrubbers and biofilters at appropriate locations to clean up the collected odourous air from odour sources.

To further enhance odour control at SCISTW, DSD awarded a works contract valued \$189 million in October 2009 to install covers for all the existing sedimentation tanks at SCISTW. The contract also includes the provision of air extraction system and deodourization units to extract and treat the odourous air from the covered areas before discharging. Up to end of February 2012, covers for

36 out of 46 numbers of sedimentation tanks have been installed and the cover installation works for the remaining tanks are scheduled for completion in the third quarter of 2012.

In 2011, the annual recurrent expenditure involved in controlling odour at SCISTW was about \$9 million.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title: _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date: _____ 24 February 2012