

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB059****(Question Serial No. 0871)**

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum Wah, Daniel)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Question (Member Question No. 14):

(1) In 2013-14, how many burst incidents of sewers occurred due to ageing of the network? For how many years have each of these sewers been used before the incident occurred?

(2) What measures will be taken this year to tackle the problem of bursts and leaks? What are the expenditure and manpower involved?

(3) Please list out the total lengths, current age, overall average age and the maintenance cost of sewers in the territory.

Reply:

- (1) In 2013-14, there were 588 cases of bursting or leakage of public sewers that required rehabilitation works. The burst or leaking pipes had been in operation from 10 years to more than 40 years.
- (2) The Drainage Services Department inspects all existing sewers under a systematic maintenance programme. Rehabilitation works to the sewers will be carried out when defects or damages are identified in the inspections. In 2013-14, the estimated expenditure was about \$77 million and 102 staff were involved.
- (3) The Drainage Services Department is managing about 1 700 kilometres of sewers.

The age distribution of the sewers of this department is estimated as follows –

Age of sewers	Proportion against total length
Less than 5 years	6%
5 to < 10 years	6%
10 to < 15 years	11%
15 to < 20years	10%
20 to < 25years	14%
25 to < 30years	12%
30 to < 35years	10%
35 to < 40years	8%
40 to < 45years	6%
45 to < 50years	6%
50 years or above	11%

The overall average age of the sewers is about 28 years.

In 2013-14, the total estimated expenditure on repair and maintenance of sewers is about \$193 million,

which includes the estimates at part 2 above, as well as the estimated expenditure on regular cleansing, clearing and replacement of sewers. This department does not keep the statistics of maintenance expenses broken down by the age of sewers.