

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB031****(Question Serial No. 3202)**Head: (39) Drainage Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Sewage ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (CHUNG Kum-wah, Daniel)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

(1) In 2014-15, how many burst incidents of sewers occurred due to ageing of the network? For how many years had each of these sewers been used before the incident occurred?

(2) What measures will be taken in 2015-16 to tackle the problem of bursts and leaks? What are the expenditure and manpower involved?

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

Total length of sewers: _____

Lifespan of sewers	Percentage against total length	Maintenance cost (HK\$)
Less than 5 years		
5 to < 10 years		
10 to < 15 years		
15 to < 20 years		
20 to < 25 years		
25 to < 30 years		
30 to < 35 years		
35 to < 40 years		
40 to < 45 years		
45 to < 50 years		
50 years or above		

Overall average lifespan: _____

Median lifespan: _____

Asked by: Hon LEONG Kah-kit, Alan (Member Question No. 4)

Reply:

(1) In 2014-15, there were 830 cases of bursting or leakage of public sewers that required rehabilitation works. Most burst or leaking pipes had been in operation for more than 25 years.

(2) The Drainage Services Department will inspect all existing sewers under a systematic maintenance programme. Rehabilitation works to the sewers will be carried out when damages are identified in the inspections. For 2014-15, the estimated expenditure is about \$69 million and 86 staff are involved.

(3) The Drainage Services Department is managing about 1 700 kilometres of sewers with the average age and median age of about 28 and 25 years respectively. The overall age distribution is as follows –

Lifespan of sewers	Percentage against total length
Less than 5 years	6%
5 to <10 years	5%
10 to <15 years	9%
15 to <20 years	11%
20 to <25 years	13%
25 to <30 years	13%
30 to <35 years	11%
35 to <40 years	8%
40 to <45 years	6%
45 to <50 years	5%
50 years or above	13%

For 2014-15, the total estimated expenditure on repair and maintenance of sewers is about \$207 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.

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