

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)073

(Question Serial No. 1153)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (TONG Ka Hung, Edwin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

- (1) Over the past three years, how many burst incidents of stormwater drains occurred due to network ageing? For how many years had each of these drains been used before the incident occurred?
- (2) What measures will be taken in 2016-17 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 stormwater drains in the territory.

Total length of stormwater drains: _____

Lifespan of stormwater drains	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 Alan LEONG Kah-kit (Member Question No. 8)

Reply:

- (1) Bursting or leakage of public stormwater drains is commonly due to a confluence of various factors, including ageing of the drains, ground settlement, and external loading. The Drainage Services Department (DSD) has no separate statistics on bursting or leakage incidents of stormwater drains. There were 672 cases, 470 cases and 553 cases of bursting or leakage of public stormwater drains in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively. Most of these drains had been in operation from 10 years to more than 50 years before the incidents.
- (2) All public stormwater drains are regularly inspected by DSD under a systematic maintenance programme. Rehabilitation works to the drains will be carried out when damage/defects are identified. In 2015-16, the associated expenditure, including staff cost, for rehabilitation works is estimated to be \$56 million and about 61 staff are involved. For 2016-17, we anticipate that the expenditure and manpower involved will be comparable to those for 2015-16.
- (3) DSD is managing about 2 300 kilometres of public stormwater drains. The overall average and median ages of the drains are about 29 years and 25 years respectively, with their age distribution as follows:

Age of stormwater drains	Proportion against total length
Less than 5 years	2%
5 to < 10 years	6%
10 to < 15 years	7%
15 to < 20 years	19%
20 to < 25 years	9%
25 to < 30 years	14%
30 to < 35 years	12%
35 to < 40 years	9%
40 to < 45 years	5%
45 to < 50 years	4%
50 years or above	13%

In 2015-16, the total estimated expenditure on repair and maintenance of stormwater drains is approximately \$298 million, including the estimates in paragraph 2 above and expenditures on routine cleansing and clearing of blocked drains, and on replacement of the stormwater drains. DSD does not have a breakdown of maintenance expenditure by the age of drains.

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