

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB036

(Question Serial No. 1154)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

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

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (1) In 2015-16, how many burst incidents of sewers occurred due to network ageing? For how many years had each of these sewers been used before the incident occurred?
- (2) What measures were taken in 2015-16 to tackle the problem of bursts and leaks? What were 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 Alan LEONG Kah-kit (Member Question No. 9)

Reply:

- (1) In 2015-16, there were 734 cases of bursting or leakage of public sewers that required rehabilitation works. Most burst pipes had been operated for 10 to over 50 years.
- (2) The Drainage Services Department (DSD) will inspect the existing sewers under a systematic maintenance programme. Rehabilitation works to the sewers will be carried out when damage is identified in the inspections. For 2015-16, the estimated expenditure and manpower involved are \$94 million and 111 staff respectively.
- (3) DSD is managing a total of about 1 750 kilometres of sewers with their age distribution as follows:

Lifespan of sewers	Percentage against total length
Less than 5 years	6%
5 to < 10 years	5%
10 to < 15 years	6%
15 to < 20 years	14%
20 to < 25 years	11%
25 to < 30 years	14%
30 to < 35 years	11%
35 to < 40 years	9%
40 to < 45 years	6%
45 to < 50 years	4%
50 years or above	14%

The overall average and median ages of the sewers are about 29 and 25 years respectively.

For 2015-16, the total estimated expenditure on repair and maintenance of sewers is about \$219 million, which includes the estimate at part 2 above, as well as the estimated expenditure on, inter alia, regular cleansing, clearing and replacement of sewers. DSD does not keep the statistics of maintenance expenses broken down by the age of sewers.

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