

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)151

(Question Serial No. 4784)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding outsourced contractors of the Drainage Services Department, please provide the following information:

	2016-17	Increase over the preceding year
Number of outsourced service contracts		
Number of outsourced workers employed by outsourced service providers		
Types of services provided by outsourced service providers (including but not limited to engineering and construction, property and facility management, machinery and equipment repairs, information management and information system, environmental hygiene, security, etc.)		
Average monthly salary of outsourced workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30,001 or above • \$15,001 - \$30,000 • \$10,001 - \$15,000 • \$8,001 - \$10,000 • \$6,760 - \$8,000 • less than \$6,760 		
Average length of service of outsourced workers		
Percentage of outsourced workers against the total number of staff in the department		

	2016-17	Increase over the preceding year
Number of outsourced workers working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 days per week • 6 days per week 		
Weekly hours of work of outsourced workers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest weekly hours of work • Average weekly hours of work 		
Number of workers with severance payment, long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF, and the amount involved		

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 313)

Reply:

The Drainage Services Department uses a wide range of outsourced services, such as environmental hygiene, security, information management and information system, etc. The information for 2016-17 (as at 31.12.2016), together with the percentage change over 2015-16 (as at 31.12.2015), is provided below.

(a) Number of outsourced service contracts

2016-17	Percentage change against the preceding year
22	+22.2%

(b) Number of outsourced workers employed by outsourced service providers ^(Note 1)

2016-17	Percentage change against the preceding year
415	+15.0%

Note 1: Only those contracts with specified number of staff to be provided are counted.

(c) Types of services provided by outsourced service providers

Nature of service provided	Number of outsourced contracts in 2016-17	Percentage change against the preceding year

Nature of service provided	Number of outsourced contracts in 2016-17	Percentage change against the preceding year
Engineering and construction	3	0%
Property and facility management	0	-
Machinery and equipment repairs	3	0%
Information management and information system	1	0%
Environmental hygiene	5	+25%
Security	1	0%
General administration support	1	-
Technical service	6	+50%
Others	2	0%
Total:	22	+22.2%

A dash denotes that the relevant figure for 2015-16 is zero.

(d) Average monthly salary of outsourced workers

After the implementation of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) on 1 May 2011, for service contracts on security and cleansing, the contractors have been required to pay their workers wages not lower than the prevailing SMW.

For other service contracts, we specify and require only the service to be provided. We do not have information about the average monthly salary of the workers employed by the contractors.

(e) Average length of service of outsourced workers

The mode of using outsourced workers is that the government department and the contractor enter into a service contract under which the contractor will supply manpower as and when required. As long as the requirements of the government department (in terms of the number of outsourced workers and the qualifications and/or experience required from outsourced workers) are satisfied, the contractor may arrange any of their employees to work in the department or arrange replacement outsourced workers during the contract period for different reasons. Therefore, we do not have information on the average length of service of outsourced workers who are employees of the contractors and are at the disposal of the latter.

- (f) Percentage of outsourced workers against the total number of staff in the department

2016-17	Percentage for (and change against) the preceding year
20.8%	17.7% (+3.1%)

- (g) Weekly working days ^(Note 2)

Weekly working days	Number of outsourced workers in 2016-17	Percentage change against the preceding year
5	344	+13.5%
6	48	-2.0%
Total:	392	+11.4%

Note 2: Not including 23 workers whose working week patterns are not specified in their contracts

- (h) Weekly working hours

Weekly working hours	Number of hours in 2016-17	Percentage change against the preceding year
Highest	54	0%
Average	36.7	0%

- (i) Severance payments / long service payments / contract gratuities paid to outsourced workers

The department entered into contracts with the outsourced contractors for provision of services as required by the department during the contract period. The contractual relationship of the outsourced workers is with the outsourced contractors which have to fulfil the obligations of employers under the relevant laws including the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57) and Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance (Cap. 485). We do not have information on the payment arrangement of severance payments / long service payments / contract gratuities by the contractors to their workers.

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