

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)134

(Question Serial No.3310)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (MOK Wing-cheong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The Drainage Services Department is responsible for the maintenance and clearance of stormwater drainage systems, natural watercourses and man-made nullahs to ensure smooth drainage and reduce the risk of flooding. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. please provide in tabular form the manpower deployed in each of the 18 districts for weed clearance along river channels in the current financial year, together with the public expenditure incurred;
2. please provide in tabular form the average numbers of monthly operations and inspections in each of the 18 districts; and
3. please provide in tabular form the numbers of complaints received through the 1823 system in each of the 18 districts in the past year concerning the hygiene and weed growth of river channels, together with the average time taken for successful follow-up?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

Our reply to the Member's question is as follows:

The Drainage Services Department (DSD) manages the stormwater drainage system spanning approximately 2 800 kilometres across the territory, including about 400 kilometres of engineered channels. The DSD is responsible for managing and arranging contractors to carry out day-to-day operation and maintenance of the stormwater drainage system. Routine tasks include river inspections, weed clearance in and along river channels, and removal of rubbish and debris from river channels to ensure a smooth flow.

1. Weed clearance along river channels forms part of the DSD's overall management of the stormwater drainage system, and the DSD does not maintain separate manpower figures specifically for such work.

In 2025-26 (as at February 2026), the expenditure on weed clearance for river channels across the territory was approximately \$13 million. The expenditure incurred by each district is tabulated as follows:

District	Expenditure on weed clearance (\$'000)
Central and Western ^{Note 1}	–
Wan Chai ^{Note 1}	–
Eastern ^{Note 1}	–
Southern	50
Yau Tsim Mong ^{Note 1}	–
Sham Shui Po ^{Note 1}	–
Kowloon City	250
Wong Tai Sin	180
Kwun Tong	80
Tsuen Wan	20
Tuen Mun	150
Yuen Long ^{Note 2}	2,940
North ^{Note 2}	6,230
Tai Po ^{Note 2}	1,600
Sai Kung	600
Sha Tin	490
Kwai Tsing	70
Islands	380

Note 1 : There are no engineered channels under the purview of the DSD in the district.

Note 2 : Rivers in Yuen Long, North District and Tai Po are relatively long and wide, hence the expenditures on weed clearance are higher.

2. With regard to the management of engineered channels, the DSD arranges for contractors to inspect the major river channels across various districts at least once a month. In addition, the DSD will step up inspections of river sections with a higher risk of flooding whenever a rainstorm is forecasted. If any blockages are found, clearance will be carried out immediately. We do not maintain separate figures on the numbers of monthly operations and inspections in each district.
3. To maintain the flood discharge capacity of engineered channels, the DSD generally arranges clearance of silt, weeds, wilted branches and rubbish from river channels during the dry season to make preparations for the next rainy season. In the event of emergency cases, such as blockages in river channels, drainage channels or inlets after typhoons, we will immediately follow up and clear the blockages.

In 2025-26 (as at February 2026), the DSD received through 1823 a total of 352 cases concerning the hygiene and weed growth of river channels. The time taken for clearance generally depends on several factors, including the scope and location of clearance required, as well as the weather conditions at that time. The average time

taken for completion of clearance work is about 2 weeks. The relevant figures of each district is tabulated as follows:

District	Cases received via 1823 on the hygiene and weed growth of river channels
Central and Western ^{Note 3}	—
Wan Chai ^{Note 3}	—
Eastern ^{Note 3}	—
Southern	9
Yau Tsim Mong ^{Note 3}	—
Sham Shui Po ^{Note 3}	—
Kowloon City	18
Wong Tai Sin	1
Kwun Tong	3
Tsuen Wan	3
Tuen Mun	17
Yuen Long ^{Note 4}	101
North ^{Note 4}	114
Tai Po ^{Note 4}	68
Sai Kung	9
Sha Tin	3
Kwai Tsing	—
Islands	6

Note 3 : There are no engineered channels under the purview of the DSD in the district.

Note 4 : Rivers in Yuen Long, North District and Tai Po are relatively long and wide, hence their respective numbers of cases are higher.

- End -