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Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Session No. : 19

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1948)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Police announced in April 2018 that dedicated investigation teams had been set up in the 22 Police Districts with criminal investigation teams across the territory to handle cases of animal cruelty. Please provide the following numbers and the expenditure involved in respect of each dedicated investigation team:

1. the number of officers involved in handling cases of cruelty to animals in each Police District;
2. whether the Police will set up an animal police team; if affirmative, please provide the details and timetable;
3. the numbers of cases received, handled and prosecuted so far;
4. the training courses attended by the investigation teams and their contents;
5. the operation of the Animal Watch Scheme;
6. the expenditure and manpower of the Animal Watchers Programme?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

1. To best reflect the positioning of the dedicated criminal investigation teams for handling the animal cruelty cases in different Police Districts, these dedicated teams have been officially named "Animal Crime Police Teams" from 28 February 2021. The establishment of the Animal Crime Police Teams varies in different Police Districts. The Police Force will review the manpower deployment from time to time and make appropriate deployment to meet operational needs.

2. The “Animal Crime Police Teams” are comprised of officers with experience and skills in investigating and handling other serious crimes. A sharing platform is available among the Animal Crime Police Teams of different Police Districts for them to share their investigative experience. The Force also provides specialised trainings on handling of cases of animal cruelty to the investigating officers to ensure the officers can carry out comprehensive investigations into these cases. In addition, the Force, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) have established a co-operation mechanism whereby AFCD and SPCA officers provide professional advice and assist in investigation at the scene of an animal cruelty case where necessary.
3. From 2018 to 2020, the numbers of cases received by the Force for involvement in cruelty to animals were 105, 60 and 70 respectively. The numbers of persons prosecuted by the Force under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance are listed in the following table:

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 (as at September) |
|--------------------|------|------|---------------------------|
| Persons prosecuted | 27 | 27 | 11 |

4. On education and training, the Force invites officers from AFCD and SPCA to explain to the trainees of foundation training programme and Criminal Investigation Course the laws related to cruelty to animals, skills in handling animals, experience in case investigation, and the inter-departmental co-operation mechanism in handling relevant cases. The Force also organises seminars from time to time and invites relevant officers from AFCD, SPCA and the Animal Crime Police Teams to share their experience so that the officers of the Animal Crime Police Teams can have a better grasp of the latest situation and trend of cruelty to animals.
5. In collaboration with AFCD, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, SPCA, veterinarian associations and animal concern groups, the Force introduced the Animal Watch Scheme (the Scheme) in 2011 to combat cruelty to animals through a four-pronged approach of education training, publicity, intelligence gathering and investigation. The Scheme aims at consolidating co-operation among various stakeholders and enhancing the efficacy of the Force’s efforts in the investigation of such cases. In 2017, the College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences of City University of Hong Kong was also invited to join the Scheme.

The majority of the cases of cruelty to animals are now reported by members of the public, who provide information for investigation on their own initiative. This reflects that the Scheme has prominent results in strengthening police-community co-operation and raising public awareness of combating cruelty to animals.

6. To enlist public support and assistance in combating acts of cruelty to animals, the Force is implementing the Animal Watchers Programme, with a view to agglomerating the strengths of animal lovers at the community level in the 4 directions of education, publicity, investigation and intelligence-gathering; raising public awareness on prevention of cruelty to animals; and encouraging the public to report in a timely manner and provide information that could help investigations.

The Force has created 14 permanent posts for the Animal Watchers Programme, including 1 Inspector, 6 Sergeants and 7 Police Constables.

The expenditure involved falls under the Programme of “Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community”. No specific breakdown is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1976)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the crime arising from the social turmoil since June 2019, how many cases are still under investigation? How many of them are expected to have the investigation completed this year? Have the Police's Body Worn Video Cameras and live footage captured played a useful role in the submission of evidence?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 99)

Reply:

From 9 June 2019 to 28 February 2021, the Police Force arrested a total of 10 242 persons, aged between 11 and 84, in relation to the "anti-extradition amendment bill" related incident for offences including "taking part in a riot", "unlawful assembly", "wounding", "assault occasioning actual bodily harm", "common assault", "arson", "criminal damage", "assaulting police officer", "obstructing a police officer in the execution of the officer's duty" and "in possession of offensive weapons", etc.

As at 28 February 2021, among the 10 242 arrestees, 2 521 persons already entered into or were in the course of legal proceedings. 883 of them had to bear legal consequences (including 614 convicted, 261 bound over, 4 under a Care and Protection Order and 4 penalised in civil proceedings for contempt of court); 50 persons had the charges against them withdrawn; 186 were acquitted after trial; and the rest were still in the course of legal proceedings. The Force will make every effort to collect evidence and complete the investigations of the remaining cases as soon as possible.

Since June 2019, the Force has used Body Worn Video Cameras (BWVCs) in over 910 cases and taken more than 1 030 video clips. Among these video clips, 330 clips have been used for investigation or as evidence. In circumstances where confrontational scenarios or a breach of the peace are likely to occur, the use of BWVCs by the Force can yield a de-escalating and restraining effect, thereby preventing illegal acts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB034

(Question Serial No. 3060)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The number of stolen vehicles has increased significantly. Please provide information on the geographical distribution of such cases across various districts of the territory, parking locations before the vehicles went missing (such as private car parks, public car parks and parking meters) and number of vehicles recovered. It is learnt that the prices of precious metals, such as platinum, rhodium and palladium, have seen a persistent surge recently, and criminals overseas may have stolen cars for the internal catalytic converters made of precious metals instead of the automobiles. As far as the Hong Kong Police is aware, have similar developments been identified in the territory? Will the Police mount special operations targeting vehicle theft?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 100)

Reply:

The following tables set out the numbers of stolen vehicles and those recovered, and their parking locations before theft in different Police Districts in 2020:

| Police District | Number of stolen vehicles | Number of recovered vehicles |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Central | 5 | 3 |
| Wan Chai | 10 | 8 |
| Western | 11 | 9 |
| Eastern | 24 | 18 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 34 | 21 |
| Sau Mau Ping | 43 | 34 |
| Kwun Tong | 22 | 13 |
| Tseung Kwan O | 14 | 11 |
| Yau Tsim | 39 | 27 |
| Mong Kok | 51 | 34 |
| Sham Shui Po | 67 | 46 |
| Kowloon City | 51 | 29 |
| Border | 26 | 13 |
| Yuen Long | 242 | 113 |
| Tuen Mun | 44 | 21 |
| Tai Po | 53 | 26 |
| Tsuen Wan | 43 | 26 |
| Sha Tin | 28 | 21 |
| Kwai Tsing | 65 | 50 |
| Lantau | 23 | 12 |
| Total | 895 | 535 |

| Parking location before theft | Number of vehicles |
|---|---------------------------|
| On the streets (including parking meters) | 743 |
| Car parks | 71 |
| Others | 81 |

There is currently no evidence showing that criminals are stealing vehicles in Hong Kong for the internal catalytic converters made of precious metals.

The Police Force will continue to monitor crime trends closely and take intelligence-led law enforcement actions when appropriate in a determined effort to clamp down on vehicle theft. Moreover, the Force will promote anti-theft awareness among vehicle owners through publicity campaigns and work with the relevant sectors, including car park operators and organisations of the freight forwarding and logistic industry, to explore measures to combat vehicle theft effectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB035

(Question Serial No. 0016)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please list the estimated expenditure on the salaries and allowances for the Commissioner of Police in 2021-22.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The salary level of the Commissioner of Police is listed in the following table:

| Rank | Salary point of police officer | Monthly salary for the rank in HK\$ (from 1 April 2019) |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Commissioner of Police | PPS 59 | 295,150 – 303,950 |

The Police Force does not maintain the estimated expenditure on allowances requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB036

(Question Serial No. 0524)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

Please list the numbers of fixed penalty tickets for illegal parking issued for the past 3 years by Police Region.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 69)

Reply:

The figures on fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) for illegal parking issued by the Police Force under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) by Police Region for the past 3 years are listed in the following table:

| Police Region | Number of FPTs for illegal parking issued | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------|-----------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Hong Kong Island | 385 196 | 287 149 | 599 218 |
| Kowloon East | 351 968 | 251 430 | 489 901 |
| Kowloon West | 517 842 | 339 549 | 631 593 |
| New Territories South | 396 975 | 296 732 | 512 831 |
| New Territories North | 374 532 | 249 884 | 474 326 |
| Total | 2 026 513 | 1 424 744 | 2 707 869 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB037

(Question Serial No. 0762)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the recruitment targets, numbers of applicants and numbers of new recruits for the posts of inspectorate officers and junior police officers in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 58)

Reply:

The recruitment targets, numbers of applicants and numbers of new recruits of the Police Force in the past 3 financial years are set out below:

| Financial Year | Recruitment Target | | Number of Applicants | | Number of New Recruits | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| | Probationary Inspector | Police Constable | Probationary Inspector | Police Constable | Probationary Inspector | Police Constable |
| 2018-19 | 230 | 1 620 | 7 350 | 10 578 | 220 | 1 121 |
| 2019-20 | 195 | 1 620 | 5 223 | 6 751 | 169 | 705 |
| 2020-21 (As at 28 February 2021) | 225 | 1 620 | 4 611 | 6 074 | 132 | 460 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB038

(Question Serial No. 0771)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the respective numbers of regular police officers who were interdicted and arrested due to suspected involvement in criminal offences in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 68)

Reply:

The numbers of police officers who were interdicted due to suspected involvement in criminal offences were 37, 25 and 46 from 2018 to 2020 respectively.

Besides, the numbers of regular police officers arrested by the Police Force were 38, 16 and 39 from 2018 to 2020 respectively. Among them, 30, 13 and 33 officers respectively were suspected of having committed criminal offences, the nature of which was defined by the Force as more serious. In addition, the Force learned that 7, 8 and 6 regular police officers were arrested by other law enforcement departments (e.g. the Independent Commission Against Corruption, the Customs and Excise Department) from 2018 to 2020 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB039

(Question Serial No. 2775)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (4) Operations
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please inform this Committee of the following matters about police officers of various ranks in the past year:

1. Regarding training in human rights and the rights protected by the constitution (including but not limited to the rights under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights), what are the expenditure involved, the contents of the relevant training, the number of police officers trained (please provide a breakdown by grade, rank and nature of work) and the estimated expenditure allocated to the relevant training for the coming year.
2. Regarding training in the handling of people of different sexual orientation or gender identity and the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, what are the expenditure involved, the contents of the relevant training, the number of police officers trained and the hours of training (please provide a breakdown by grade, rank and nature of work) and the estimated expenditure allocated to the relevant training for the coming year; and

Regarding training in the handling of ethnic minorities and the Race Discrimination Ordinance, what are the expenditure involved, the contents of the relevant training, the number of police officers trained and the hours of training (please provide a breakdown by grade, rank and nature of work) and the estimated expenditure allocated to the relevant training for the coming year.

3. Please provide the number of complaints received by the Complaints Against Police Office about the involvement of police officers in discrimination on grounds of sex, sexual orientation, disability and race respectively in the past 3 years, and the number of such complaints that have been substantiated.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 137)

Reply:

1-2. Through the foundation training and continuous development training courses as well as a diversity of learning modes (such as workshops, seminars, sharing sessions, training days and training packages), the Police Force has been organising courses relating to human rights and civil rights, the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, the Race Discrimination Ordinance and equal opportunities for new recruits and serving police officers. The contents of the courses broadly include:

- (1) the relevant legislation (including the Basic Law, Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance (Cap. 383), Crimes (Torture) Ordinance (Cap. 427), Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487) and Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480));
- (2) Force Values (including integrity management, equal opportunities, service quality, professionalism), aiming to heighten the sensitivity of all frontline staff so that they will discharge duties and responsibilities based on the principles of fairness, justice, impartiality, dignity, respect for human rights, and the standard of conduct required of law enforcement agencies, irrespective of gender, disability, race, age or sexual orientation, etc.; and
- (3) the execution of policing work (including courses on the rules and directions for the questioning of suspects and the taking of statements; legal obligations and Force procedures including stop and search, arrest, detention, bail, care and custody of detained persons; the rights of detained persons; the Victim of Crime Charter; and handling of public order events).

Moreover, the Force regularly conducts Training Days on different topics for frontline police officers and produces relevant training materials.

Given the operational needs of the Force and the severity of COVID-19 over the past year, the attendance figures of departmental training were affected, with around 2 200 police officers receiving relevant training.

The training expenditure on relevant topics is part of the day-to-day training expenditure of the Police College. No specific breakdown is available.

3. The Complaints Against Police Office does not maintain the numbers requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB040

(Question Serial No. 2829)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

On 20 January 2021, a woman who was eight months pregnant was pinned to the ground by four police officers in To Kwa Wan, resulting in premature delivery. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

1. the objective of the Police operation on that day, the number and ranks of police officers involved, the duration of the whole operation, the number of police officers from each division, total hours of overtime (OT) work and total expenditure on OT work;
2. the number of complaints received by the Complaints Against Police Office in relation to the operation;
3. the number of police officers punished for the misconduct on the day of the operation; and
4. the details of improvement plans of the Police for similar operations in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

1. On 20 January 2021, the Police Force mounted an enforcement operation to crack down on illegal immigrants and overstayers in the district mentioned in the question. It is inappropriate to disclose the information requested as it involves the Force's operational details.
2. & 3. As at 28 February 2021, the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) had received 1 "reportable complaint" and 1 "notifiable complaint" about the Force's operation conducted on 20 January 2021. These complaints are still under investigation. In line with the established mechanism, the CAPO will launch a fair investigation into and actively follow up the complaints.

4. Having regard to practical needs, the Force will review its plans for enforcement actions from time to time, with a view to enhancing its operational effectiveness.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB041

(Question Serial No. 1417)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. The establishment of the Police as at end of March 2021 will be 38 406 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of 16 posts in 2021-22. Please list in detail the ranks and emoluments involved in the reduction of posts.
2. There was a significant increase in manpower of the Police in the past 2 years. Have the recruitment exercises for all the vacancies been completed? Have the Police conducted a review on whether the current establishment is sufficient for maintaining stability in Hong Kong?
3. Please provide information on natural wastage of the Police in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1. The Police Force will have a net decrease of 16 posts in 2021-22. The information related to the changes in the number of posts is as follows:

| Rank | Net increase/decrease in number of posts | Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)/ Model Scale I Pay Scale (MOD) | Monthly salary of the rank in HK\$ (From 1 April 2019) |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|
| Chief Inspector of Police | -4 | PPS 43 – 48 | 91,615 – 110,110 |
| Station Sergeant | -13 | PPS 22 – 31 | 43,870 – 62,340 |
| Sergeant | -21 | PPS 15 – 24 | 36,290 – 46,295 |
| Police Constable | 39 | PPS 3 – 16 | 25,380 – 36,290 |
| Senior Government Counsel | 2 | MPS 45 – 49 | 117,580 – 135,470 |
| Analyst/Programmer II | 1 | MPS 16 – 27 | 33,350 – 55,995 |
| Assistant Clerical Officer | 1 | MPS 3 – 15 | 15,560 – 31,750 |
| Workman II | -21 | MOD 0 – 8 | 13,730 – 16,175 |
| Total | -16 | | |

2. The recruitment targets of the Force and the numbers of officers recruited in the past 2 financial years are as follows:

| Financial Year | Recruitment target | | Number of officers recruited | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| | Probationary Inspector | Police Constable | Probationary Inspector | Police Constable |
| 2019-20 | 195 | 1 620 | 169 | 705 |
| 2020-21 (As at 28 February 2021) | 225 | 1 620 | 132 | 460 |

The Force has devised a thorough human resources plan and made strategic plans to step up efforts in recruitment, staff training and career development. Officers are also encouraged to make self-advancement and strengthen their own professional capacity so as to contribute to the Force and serve the community more effectively. Vacancies which arise will be filled through promotion, recruitment and a number of measures to extend the years of service.

3. The natural wastage figures (i.e. retirement figures) of the Force in the past 3 financial years are as follows:

| Financial Year | Natural wastage figures |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2018-19 | 860 |
| 2019-20 | 824 |
| 2020-21 (As at 28 February 2021) | 602 |

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB042****(Question Serial No. 1428)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

A provision of \$413 million under Subhead 695 Police specialised vehicles (block vote) is for procurement of new and replacement of police specialised vehicles. The increase of 179.4% over the revised estimates for 2020-21 is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for new and replacement of police specialised vehicles. Please list out the details of the scheduled procurement and replacement of specialised vehicles. Also, please provide the years of service of the specialised vehicles to be replaced.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

The Police Force's replacement and procurement of specialised vehicles fall under the Programme of "Operations". To meet the developmental and overall operational needs in the coming year, the provision under Subhead 695 "Police specialised vehicles (block vote)" will be used for replacing and acquiring 596 specialised vehicles in 2021-22. Details are as follows:

| <u>Type of Vehicle</u> | <u>Quantity</u> |
|--|-----------------|
| Replacement of Police Large Van | 55 |
| Replacement of Police Large Van ^(note) | 238 |
| Replacement of Police Large Motorcycle | 48 |
| Replacement of Police Large Estate Car | 32 |
| Replacement and procurement of Police Large Estate Car ^(note) | 20 |
| Replacement of Cross-country Vehicle | 1 |
| Replacement of VIP Protection Saloon | 2 |
| Replacement of Police Small Patrol Car | 3 |
| Replacement of PTU Bus | 68 |
| Replacement of Large Saloon (Special Duties) | 2 |
| Replacement of Armoured Tactical Intervention Vehicle ^(note) | 4 |
| Replacement and procurement of Police Small Motorcycle ^(note) | 12 |
| Procurement of Police Large Van | 7 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| Procurement of Police Large Motorcycle | 4 |
| Procurement of Cross-country Vehicle | 2 |
| Procurement of High-performance Medium Saloon | 2 |
| Procurement of Police Large Van ^(note) | 5 |
| Procurement of PTU Bus ^(note) | 24 |
| Procurement of Specialised Crowd Management Vehicle ^(note) | 3 |
| Procurement of Police Multi-passenger Carrier ^(note) | 64 |
| Total | <u>596</u> |

(Note: Replacement / acquisition work that have been allocated funding before 2021-22 and will continue in 2021-22)

The police vehicles are mainly used in patrols, traffic duties, VIP protection, emergency calls, transportation of officers and other special operations.

The average lifespan of the vehicles to be replaced by the Force in 2021-22 is around 7 to 8 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB043****(Question Serial No. 3232)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Road SafetyControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

1. The Police issued 2.69 million fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) for parking offences in 2020. Please list the figures by Police District.
2. There was a significant increase in the number of FPTs issued for parking offences by the Police in 2020. What are the reasons?
3. In districts where illegal parking is serious and traffic is affected, the Police will tow away the illegally parked vehicles concerned. What were the figures on such enforcement actions by the Police in the past 3 years?
4. The Police have made active use of technological solutions such as mobile video recording in law enforcement to address traffic offences in recent years. Have the Police reviewed the effectiveness of enforcement with technological solutions? Will more equipment be provided to help police officers take enforcement actions?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)Reply:

1. The figures on fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) for illegal parking issued by the Police Force under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) by Police Region in 2020 are listed in the following table:

| Police Region | Number of FPTs for illegal parking issued in 2020 |
|-----------------------|---|
| Hong Kong Island | 599 218 |
| Kowloon East | 489 901 |
| Kowloon West | 631 593 |
| New Territories South | 512 831 |
| New Territories North | 474 326 |
| Total | 2 707 869 |

2. The social incidents since mid-2019 lasted for months. The Force's priority then was to stop violence and curb disorder, so there was a decrease in the traffic enforcement figures in 2019. As social tensions eased in 2020, Police Districts have redeployed resources to strengthen traffic enforcement actions since then. That year therefore saw a marked rebound in the enforcement figures.

3. In 2018, 2019 and 2020, there were 1 189, 1 243 and 3 226 cases in which vehicles parked illegally were towed away by the Force respectively.

4. The Force is committed to adopting technological solutions for traffic enforcement. It will also continue to maintain liaison with law enforcement agencies around the world and make reference to their experience to explore the use of new technologies in enhancing the effectiveness of traffic enforcement against illegal parking and road traffic congestion. In March 2020, the Force began to implement a pilot scheme on Electronic Fixed Penalty Tickets (FPTs) in all Police Districts by phases. The frontline law enforcement officers have since been able to access data on vehicles parked illegally via their mobile smart devices and print out FPTs without delay, with enhanced accuracy and efficiency in enforcement.

Building on the success of the pilot scheme, the Force plans to develop a new Traffic e-Enforcement System to facilitate the processing of FPTs and applications for traffic summonses by electronic means in order to enhance enforcement accuracy and efficiency of the Force. This in turn would help ensure the proper use of limited road space more effectively, enhance road safety and alleviate traffic congestion. The Force plans to consult the Panel on Transport of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on the proposed system in April 2021. It expects to seek funding support from the Finance Committee of the LegCo in this legislative session, with a view to launching the first phase of the system in the first quarter of 2023. Full commissioning of the system is targeted in January 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB044

(Question Serial No. 1649)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Police Force mentions under Programme (2) that the quantities of No. 4 Heroin, Cannabis, Methamphetamine (ice), Ketamine as well as Ecstasy-type tablets seized by the Force in 2020 were significantly larger compared to those in 2019. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please list the number of persons arrested for drug offences (including serious and minor drug offences) last year.
2. Further to the above question, how many of the persons arrested were young persons aged between 10 and 20? How old was the youngest person arrested?
3. What measures will the Force take to combat smuggling, manufacturing, transport and trafficking of drugs, and prevent and reduce drug abuse among young people?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

1. In 2020, a total of 3 587 persons were arrested for drug offences (including serious and minor drug offences).
2. A total of 472 young persons aged between 10 and 20 were among the above arrestees, and the youngest one was only 12 years old.
3. "Combating dangerous drugs" remains one of the Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2021. The work mainly includes: (i) enhancing co-operation with other law enforcement agencies to interdict the flow of illicit drugs into Hong Kong; (ii) targeting drug traffickers, especially those exploiting students and youths; (iii) taking proactive measures to investigate and confiscate proceeds of drug trafficking; and (iv) promoting awareness and preventing the abuse of drugs by students and youths through a multi-agency and community-based approach.

The Police Force will continue to conduct anti-drug operations and carry out intelligence-led operations against drug trafficking, including enhancing intelligence-gathering targeting those who use the Internet and social media for drug trafficking, and exchanging intelligence with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies with a view to conducting timely joint operations.

On the exploitation of students and youths for drug trafficking, the Force will endeavour to track down drug syndicates exploiting youngsters and invoke section 56A of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134) to seek enhanced sentencing on the persons so exploiting, hence achieving a stronger deterrent effect.

In addition, the Force will actively conduct investigations and apply to the court for confiscating proceeds of drug trafficking under the Drug Trafficking (Recovery of Proceeds) Ordinance (Cap. 405) and the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 455).

On tackling the problem of youth drug abuse, the Force will continue to work with stakeholders including other Government departments, schools, Parent-Teacher Associations and non-governmental organisations, etc., for joint efforts to put in place measures targeting youth drug trafficking and drug abuse.

Through different channels such as the Force's online platforms, Junior Police Call, various crime prevention activities and seminars, etc., the Force will continue to remind members of the public, especially the youths, not to abuse drugs or deliver drugs or articles from unknown sources for other people. The Force will also continue to, through the Police School Liaison Officers, enhance students' awareness of drug harms as well as deepen teachers' and parents' understanding of the involvement of youths in drugs so as to enhance their ability to identify relevant situations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB045****(Question Serial No. 1650)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the CommunityControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

In Programme (1), the Hong Kong Police Force mentions that it would launch recruitment campaign through the Recruitment Days and Education and Careers Expo, advertisements and various publicity channels to attract people with potential to join the Force, as well as to foster the Force's positive image. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. In each of the past 3 years, how many police officers retired and resigned?
2. Please list by age and gender the numbers of applicants for police constables, probationary inspectors, civilian staff and auxiliary police officers in the past 3 years.
3. Please list by age and gender the numbers of applicants successfully recruited as police constables, probationary inspectors, civilian staff and auxiliary police officers in the past 3 years.
4. In the coming financial year, what are the numbers of police constables, probationary inspectors, civilian staff and auxiliary police officers that the Force expects to recruit?
5. In the coming financial year, what are the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved in the Force's recruitment exercises?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)Reply:

1. The wastage figures of officers of the Police Force in the past 3 years are set out below:

| Financial Year | Number of leavers (The figure in brackets denotes the number of retired officers)(Note 1) |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 2018-19 | 1 247 (860) |
| 2019-20 | 1 313 (824) |
| 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) | 919 (602) |

Note 1: "Leavers" include cases of retirement and unnatural wastage.

2. A breakdown of the number of applicants for police and auxiliary police posts in the past 3 years by age is set out in the following table:

| Age | 2018-19 | | | 2019-20 | | | 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) | | |
|-------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| | Probationary Inspector | Police Constable | Auxiliary Police Officer | Probationary Inspector | Police Constable | Auxiliary Police Officer | Probationary Inspector | Police Constable | Auxiliary Police Officer |
| 20 or below | 313 | 2 309 | 1 131 (Note 2) | 132 | 747 | 140 | 117 | 698 | 228 |
| 21-25 | 4 395 | 5 578 | | 2 363 | 3 022 | 359 | 1 865 | 2 192 | 363 |
| 26-30 | 1 875 | 2 110 | | 1 518 | 1 757 | 427 | 1 328 | 1 631 | 320 |
| Above 30 | 767 | 581 | | 1 210 | 1 225 | 1 307 | 1 301 | 1 553 | 1 247 |

Note 2: The Force does not maintain the breakdown by age as requested in the question.

A breakdown of the number of applicants for police and auxiliary police posts in the past 3 years by gender is set out in the following table:

| Financial Year | Probationary Inspector | | Police Constable | | Auxiliary Police Officer | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 2018-19 | 5 335 | 2 015 | 8 886 | 1 692 | 777 | 354 |
| 2019-20 | 3 921 | 1 302 | 5 544 | 1 207 | 1 652 | 581 |
| 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) | 3 326 | 1 285 | 4 928 | 1 146 | 1 533 | 625 |

The numbers of applicants for civilian posts in the Force in the past 3 years are set out in the following table:

| Financial Year | Number of applicants (Note 3) |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2018-19 | 13 210 |
| 2019-20 | 3 284 |
| 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) | 11 075 |

Note 3: The Force does not maintain the breakdown by age and gender as requested in the question.

3. A breakdown of the number of police officers and auxiliary police officers successfully recruited in the past 3 years by age is set out in the following table:

| Age | 2018-19 | | | 2019-20 | | | 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) | | |
|-------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| | Probationary Inspector | Police Constable | Auxiliary Police Officer | Probationary Inspector | Police Constable | Auxiliary Police Officer | Probationary Inspector | Police Constable | Auxiliary Police Officer |
| 20 or below | 0 | 120 | 52 | 0 | 90 | 50 | 0 | 50 | 25 |
| 21-25 | 115 | 666 | 71 | 83 | 371 | 78 | 52 | 190 | 51 |
| 26-30 | 67 | 275 | 38 | 27 | 191 | 31 | 33 | 132 | 39 |
| Above 30 | 38 | 60 | 38 | 59 | 53 | 64 | 47 | 88 | 116 |

A breakdown of the number of police officers and auxiliary police officers successfully recruited in the past 3 years by gender is set out in the following table:

| Financial Year | Probationary Inspector | | Police Constable | | Auxiliary Police Officer | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 2018-19 | 152 | 68 | 893 | 228 | 145 | 54 |
| 2019-20 | 127 | 42 | 561 | 144 | 151 | 72 |
| 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) | 93 | 39 | 346 | 114 | 153 | 78 |

The numbers of civilian officers in the Force successfully recruited in the past 3 years are set out in the following table:

| Financial Year | Number of civilian officers successfully recruited (Note 4) |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 2018-19 | 125 |
| 2019-20 | 146 |
| 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) | 113 |

Note 4: The Force does not maintain the breakdown by age and gender as requested in the question.

4. The recruitment targets for probationary inspectors, police constables, civilian officers and auxiliary police officers in 2021-22 are 165, 1 350, 244 and 400 respectively.
5. The Force has been adopting a proactive recruitment strategy to attract high calibre candidates who possess the required competencies to join the Force. The Force is currently reviewing and assessing the effectiveness of its use of resources. The actual staff establishment and estimated expenditures for the coming year are not available yet.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB046

(Question Serial No. 1096)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the financial provision for 2021-22 of the 4 Programmes of the Police Force, namely "Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community", "Prevention and Detection of Crime", "Road Safety" and "Operations", there are respective increases of \$630.2 million (5.5%), \$299.2 million (6.2%), \$152.9 million (6.5%) and \$720.2 million (15.3%) over the revised estimates for 2020-21. Please inform this Committee of the details of the work and items involved in the increased expenditures.

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

Regarding Programme (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community, the main duty is to maintain law and order through the deployment of uniformed officers throughout the land and waters of Hong Kong. The estimate for 2021-22 is higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to an increased provision for operating expenses and cash flow requirement for capital items, partly offset by the net decrease of 16 posts.

Programme (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime is a Force-wide priority with various crime units. The major duties involve investigations, developing the Police Force's various information and intelligence systems to strengthen its crime investigation capabilities, and mounting crime prevention publicity programmes. The estimate for 2021-22 is higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to an increased provision for operating expenses and cash flow requirement for capital items, partly offset by the net decrease of six posts.

Regarding Programme (3) Road Safety, the main duties include introducing and monitoring the effectiveness of road safety initiatives, enforcing road traffic legislation and carrying out traffic control duties, with a view to enhancing road safety by reducing traffic accidents and maintaining a smooth and safe traffic flow in Hong Kong. The estimate for 2021-22 is higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to the net increase of nine posts for strengthening operational capability, an increased provision for operating expenses and cash flow requirement for capital items.

Regarding Programme (4) Operations, the main duties include preventing and detecting illegal immigration and smuggling, conducting major security and crowd management operations and maintaining readiness to cope with major incidents, civil disturbances or terrorist incidents, with a view to ensuring public safety and order. The estimate for 2021-22 is higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to an increased provision for operating expenses and cash flow requirement for capital items, partly offset by the net decrease of three posts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB047

(Question Serial No. 0828)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the illegal trans-boundary operations by Mainland oyster farmers at Deep Bay, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) At present, what are the manpower deployed by the Government to patrol in the waters around Urmston Road, the numbers of patrols conducted and the division of work?
- (b) What were the numbers of enforcement actions against illegal activities by Mainland oyster farmers and their effectiveness over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)? What were the penalties and fines imposed?
- (c) In this regard, how does the inter-departmental working group set up by the Government operate? What are the present situation, progress and effectiveness of its work?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 55)

Reply:

- (a) The Deep Bay Sub-unit of Marine West Division of the Police Force is responsible for regular patrol and law enforcement in the waters in question. There are a total of 86 police officers in its establishment, comprising 2 Inspectors, 3 Station Sergeants, 15 Sergeants and 66 Police Constables, who are deployed to the Tsim Bei Tsui Marine Police Post, 2 Police barges and their respective patrol craft.

The numbers of anti-illegal immigration patrols carried out by the Deep Bay Sub-unit in 2019, 2020 and the first 2 months of 2021 are as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 2019 | 219 patrols |
| 2020 | 286 patrols |
| 2021 (as at 28 February 2021) | 53 patrols |

- (b) The numbers of arrests of Mainland illegal immigrants made by the Deep Bay Sub-unit

in 2019, 2020 and the first two months of 2021 are as follows:

| Year | Number of persons arrested | Supplementary notes |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 2019 | 7 | All illegal immigrants have been referred to the Immigration Department for action. In addition, 12 refusal notices (ID122) were issued to Mainland fishermen and oyster farmers who were suspected of breaching the requirements. |
| 2020 | 3 | All illegal immigrants have been referred to the Immigration Department for action. *No refusal notices (ID122) were issued to Mainland fishermen and oyster farmers who were suspected of breaching the requirements. |
| 2021 (as at 28 February 2021) | 1 | All illegal immigrants have been referred to the Immigration Department for action. *No refusal notices (ID122) were issued to Mainland fishermen and oyster farmers who were suspected of breaching the requirements. |

*Note:

The number of Mainland fishermen and oyster farmers entering the border of Hong Kong has decreased as Hong Kong and Guangdong have tightened border control in light of the COVID-19 outbreak since January 2020.

- (c) The Force, Marine Department, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Lands Department and Home Affairs Department have set up an inter-departmental working group (the working group). Regular meetings are conducted on issues such as illegal immigrants/illegal labour, sea safety, oyster cultivation support and unlawful occupation of government land to explore ways to regulate fishermen and oyster farmers effectively. Appropriate law enforcement actions have also been taken. Besides, the working group has been liaising with related fishermen and oyster farmer associations, advising the fishermen and oyster farmers to put up contact information on the oyster rafts for identification purpose and enhanced management of their respective rafts. The working group also conducts publicity and educational programmes for the members of the industry through various channels.

Since its establishment, the above working group has reviewed the existing mechanism in order to explore ways to effectively monitor the oyster-farming industry. It will continue to explore and implement various improvement measures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB048

(Question Serial No. 0889)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding efforts to combat absconding, please provide information on the following matters:
(a) the numbers of persons arrested, convicted and currently wanted for absconding since the National Security Law (NSL) took effect, with a breakdown by month; and
(b) the most severe sentence handed down to those convicted of absconding since the enactment of the NSL, and the maximum and minimum penalties applicable.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)

Reply:

(a)-(b) Every individual must and should take responsibilities, including legal liabilities, for his or her action. The Police Force strongly condemns attempts to evade legal liabilities by jumping bail and absconding. In light of the actual circumstances, the Force will do their utmost to track down the whereabouts of the fugitive offenders through various means in accordance with the law and pursue them. The culprits will be held legally accountable for jumping bail and the investigation of the original cases will be carried on.

Section 9L of the Criminal Procedure Ordinance (Cap. 221) stipulates that a person admitted to bail who, without reasonable cause, fails to surrender to custody as shall have been appointed by a court, commits an offence which renders the person liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$75,000 and to imprisonment for 6 months, and on conviction upon indictment to a fine of any amount and to imprisonment for 12 months.

The Force does not maintain the statistics requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB049

(Question Serial No. 1538)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

During the social unrest with “black-clad rioters”, some mentally immature children were incited to go to the front line as “child reporters”. As a result, two such “child reporters”, aged 12 and 16 respectively, were taken to the police station for investigation. The incitement of minors to engage in such activities was extremely irresponsible behaviour in disregard for children’s safety. To stop the impersonation of reporters as a way of obstructing police officers from performing their duties, the Police have amended the definition of “Media Representatives” under the Police General Orders, with the implication that the membership cards issued by the Hong Kong Journalists Association and the Hong Kong Press Photographers Association would no longer be accepted. This measure certainly helps frontline officers to effectively identify media representatives who operate in line with the law and relevant protocols. Bona fide press workers will also be able to cover frontline developments in a more successful, objective and efficient manner! In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Will the authorities consider implementing a “licensing regime for journalists” under which the Police will handle the registration procedure to further safeguard the freedom of reporting of legitimate and law-abiding media organisations and reporters in accordance with the law?
2. How will the Government prevent the false information and values disseminated by the media from producing negative effects on youngsters?
3. Will the authorities carry out a detailed study into measures for combating and preventing juvenile crimes this year? If yes, what will be the details of the study?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

1. Regarding the suggestion of establishing an official organisation responsible for issuing press identification, the Police Force understands that the Government has no plan to set up such an organisation for this purpose.
2. The Force has the responsibility to explain the facts and police work to the public. As such, the Force has been proactive in enhancing its work transparency, repeatedly clarifying various unfounded reports and information and handling fabricated news. Apart from sending letters to media organisations, the Force also disseminates information and dismisses unfounded claims through press conferences and press releases, as well as on social media platforms. The Force will continue to enhance public understanding of police work and earn the support and trust of the citizens, including young people, through various channels.

With the continuous development of technologies such as the internet and smart phones, the use of social media has become increasingly popular among young people. In recent years, the Force has also actively explored the use of online platforms and social media, including the Hong Kong Police Mobile Application, the Hong Kong Police YouTube Channel, the Hong Kong Police Facebook page, the Hong Kong Police Instagram page, the Hong Kong Police Force Weibo and Hong Kong Police Force Twitter, to provide the public with the Force's latest information. The Force will continue to explore the ways to extend the service coverage of its social media platforms so as to strengthen its communication with young people with a view to improving its service quality.

3. The Force attaches great importance to juvenile crimes. It combats juvenile crimes and enhances the law-abiding awareness of juveniles by adopting a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approach to achieve the dual purposes of deterring first offenders and reducing recidivism. On the enforcement front, the Force will continue to conduct anti-crime patrols in places frequented by juveniles to prevent them from being influenced by bad people. In response to the situations and trends of crimes in various districts, the Force takes intelligence-led action to tackle criminals who manipulate young people into committing crimes. In addition, through close collaboration with parents, social workers and schools, the Force will refer suitable arrested juveniles to relevant agencies for follow-up action and rehabilitation with the consent of their parents or guardians. The Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme is preferred as an alternative to prosecution where appropriate with the provision of after-care services for cautioned youths to minimise the chance of re-offending.

On the prevention front, the Force has been closely co-operating with stakeholders like other government departments and non-governmental organisations to jointly formulate policies and plans, so as to enhance the law-abiding awareness of the youth. The Force will continue to disseminate crime prevention messages and highlight the serious consequences of breaking the law through different channels. Besides, the Force has appointed School Liaison Officers to serve as a bridge between the Force and schools, and also the students. Through their efforts, community and educational projects are organised in collaboration with departments and organisations in various districts, with

a view to raising the civic awareness of young people and encouraging them to participate in healthy community activities, helping them to cultivate positive values.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB050

(Question Serial No. 1539)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Operations
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Our police officers have worked with dedication and diligence in stopping violence and curbing disorder in accordance with the law. They hold the line of defence maintaining the rule of law and stability in Hong Kong, thereby earning respect and praise from the majority of the citizens. Nonetheless, quite a number of people “hold anti-central authority sentiments and seek disorder in Hong Kong”. They have engaged in standoffs with frontline police officers, making radical comments, demonstrating recalcitrant behaviour and even using extremely offensive language. They blatantly insulted police officers and launched a full-blown attack on their character for the sole purpose of creating social rifts and inciting hatred. Those who have committed such immoral misconducts should not only come under severe public censure, but also be held accountable for their actions. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Given that law enforcement has been caught in the crosshairs of politics and hence frontline police officers have to bear the brunt, will the Government consider introducing legislation on the offence of insulting a police officer and the offence of insulting a public officer so that the interests and personal safety of police officers can be safeguarded? If so, is there any preliminary legislative timetable? If not, what are the reasons?
2. Please set out in a table all the processions and meetings arising from the “anti-extradition amendment bill” related incident and “violent riots”, both lawful and unlawful, handled by the Police since June 2019.
3. Please set out in a table the numbers of all persons arrested, prosecuted and convicted for illegal behaviour in activities arising from the “anti-extradition amendment bill” related incident and “violent riots” since June 2019.
4. Further to the above question, what are the respective numbers of tertiary students arrested and charged? (Please list the respective numbers by university.)

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

1. The Security Bureau is studying the proposal to legislate against insulting public officers. The Department of Justice is being consulted on this subject. The Chief Executive has indicated earlier that the work in this regard is yet to reach an advanced stage. The Government also has to deal with a number of pressing items. Therefore, this is not among the priority legislative proposals on the Government's agenda. In considering this issue, the Government needs to proceed with caution so as to strike a proper balance between freedom of speech and protection for frontline public officers.
2. Relevant information is tabulated below:

| Year | Number of public meetings/ public processions with Notice of No Objection issued | Number of public meetings/ public processions prohibited |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| 2019 (June to December) | 490 | 47 |
| 2020 | 87 | 42 |

The Police Force does not maintain the other information requested in the question.

- 3-4. From 9 June 2019 to 28 February 2021, the Force arrested a total of 10 242 persons in relation to the "anti-extradition amendment bill" related incident, for offences including "taking part in a riot", "unlawful assembly", "wounding", "assault occasioning actual bodily harm", "common assault", "arson", "criminal damage", "assaulting police officer", "obstructing a police officer in the execution of the officer's duty" and "in possession of offensive weapons", etc.

As at 28 February 2021, 2 521 persons already entered into or were in the course of legal proceedings. 883 of them had to bear legal consequences (including 614 convicted, 261 bound over, 4 under a Care or Protection Order and 4 penalised in civil proceedings for contempt of court); 50 persons had the charges against them withdrawn; 186 persons were acquitted after trial; and the rest were still in the course of legal proceedings. Another 22 persons were released under the Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme.

Among the 10 242 persons arrested, 3 998 claimed to be students, including 2 202 tertiary students. 573 of them already entered into or were in the course of legal proceedings.

The Force does not maintain other statistical breakdowns requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB051

(Question Serial No. 1540)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Since the black-clad mob unrest, quite a number of people with ulterior motives have made use of social platforms to incite the youth. They have employed despicable means such as spreading rumours and smearing in an attempt to undermine police-community relations, vilifying the law enforcers who are dedicated to curbing social unrest. Earlier on, the Police published a special supplement in the latest issue of Offbeat to fight against “fake news” by revealing the truth in a timely manner. Rumours and slander were squarely refuted so that the public would say “no” to false information instead of being misled again by those with ulterior motives. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. While recent years saw an improvement in public satisfaction with the Force when compared to the preceding year, those of a younger age tend to have a rather negative perception of police officers. Do the Police have any measures to improve its current situation?
2. The Police have issued more than a hundred letters to Apple Daily for clarification and refutation in order to stop the newspaper from smearing the Police through respective means. Will the Police consider instituting legal proceedings against the newspaper?
3. The Complaints Against Police Office, an independent department set up by the Police, and the Independent Police Complaints Council are both effective statutory channels for lodging complaints against the Police. How can the Police ensure the public is aware that each complaint against the Police is handled in a fair and just manner?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 46)

Reply:

1. Good police-community relations are vital to policing work. The Police Force maintains close co-operation with the community, seeking to gain trust and support from the public. The Force has always adopted a proactive and comprehensive public relations strategy to demonstrate the Force’s positive, professional and caring image.

With the continuous advancement of technologies such as the internet and smartphones, the use of social media has become increasingly popular among young people. In recent years, the Force has actively explored the use of online platforms and social media to provide the public with the Force's latest information and broaden the engagement with the public, including the Hong Kong Police Mobile Application, the Hong Kong Police YouTube Channel, the Hong Kong Police Facebook page, the Hong Kong Police Instagram page, the Hong Kong Police Force Weibo and Hong Kong Police Force Twitter. The Force will continue to explore the ways to extend the service coverage of the Force's social media platforms so as to strengthen its communication with the public with a view to improving its service quality.

2. The Force has the responsibility to explain the facts so as to avoid public misunderstanding of the police work. As such, the Force has been proactive in enhancing its work transparency, repeatedly clarifying various unfounded reports and information and handling fabricated news. The purpose of issuing letters to media organisations is to tell the truth and set the record straight, allowing the media organisations concerned to understand the work of the Force, and helping the public discern fact from fiction to avoid being misled. Apart from sending letters to media organisations, the Force also disseminates information and dismisses unfounded claims through press conferences and press releases, as well as on social media platforms. The Force will continue to enhance public understanding of police work and earn their support and trust through various channels.
3. The mechanism of complaint against the Police is a well-established two-tier statutory framework. The first tier is the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) of the Force which receives and investigates complaints; and the second tier is the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) which is a statutory body. The two-tier complaint mechanism operates effectively under the Independent Police Complaints Council Ordinance (Cap. 604), which provides a clear legal basis for the mechanism.

The CAPO deals with each complaint in line with established procedures and submits a detailed investigation report to the IPCC for examination once the investigation of a reportable complaint is completed. Should the IPCC have any queries on the investigation or findings of the CAPO, it may ask the CAPO for clarification or more information, and may interview the complainants, police officers and witnesses concerned. The IPCC may also ask the CAPO to re-investigate the complaint or change the classification of investigation results, as well as advise and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Police and the Chief Executive. Besides, the IPCC will arrange its members and observers to conduct surprise observations on the interviews and evidence-collection work for reportable complaints of the CAPO. It will also make recommendations to the Police in accordance with its statutory functions with a view to improving existing police procedures. As an independent statutory body, the IPCC will scrutinise the CAPO's investigation result and recommendation of each complaint to ensure that the complaint is handled fairly and impartially. If there is any case of breach of the law or discipline, the Force will follow up in a serious and impartial manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB052

(Question Serial No. 1541)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Policing is tough and dangerous, and involves long working hours. Besides, since the incidents related to black-clad rioters, some misunderstanding of the Police has been caused, leading to a drop in the number of applications for jobs in the Police. Mr TANG Ping-keung, the Commissioner of Police, stated earlier that the number of applicants had rebounded as the social order has gradually been restored. In face of the wave of retirement, however, the Police Force needs to expedite the recruitment process. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What was the number of frontline police officers that the Force successfully recruited in the past financial year, with a breakdown by age, gender and education level?
2. In a number of operations mounted to handle the "black-clad rioters", quite some police officers were seriously injured because of inadequate equipment or being separated from their colleagues. Will the Force explore or consider procuring equipment of the Mainland armed police or public security officers so as to reduce the chance of injury to the frontline officers?
3. In the recruitment exercises conducted during the last 6 months, the slogan "It's Never Too Late" was used to attract elder applicants. Please tabulate the number of police officers that the Force successfully recruited in the past financial year by age group (e.g. 30 to 35, 36 to 40, and above 40) and rank.

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 47)

Reply:

- 1.&3. A breakdown of the number of police officers the Police Force recruited in 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) by age and gender is set out in the following table:

| Age | Probationary Inspector | Police Constable |
|-------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 20 or below | 0 | 50 |
| 21-25 | 52 | 190 |
| 26-30 | 33 | 132 |
| 31-35 | 18 | 67 |
| 36-40 | 15 | 20 |
| 41 or above | 14 | 1 |

| Probationary Inspector | | Police Constable | |
|------------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 93 | 39 | 346 | 114 |
| (70%) | (30%) | (75%) | (25%) |

The educational qualifications of the police officers recruited in 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) were comparable to those of the police officers recruited last year. All of the newly recruited probationary inspectors possessed educational qualification at university level or above. Among the police constables recruited, about 23% possessed educational qualification at university level or above, 21% at post-secondary level, 12% at secondary level and 44% were holders of Yi Jin Diploma.

2. The Force has from time to time reviewed the equipment of frontline officers to ensure that their equipment can meet the actual operational needs. The Force always keeps watch on the equipment of various kinds available in the world and will procure suitable equipment in accordance with the operational needs and the established procurement procedures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB053****(Question Serial No. 2066)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the “adoption of a multi-agency approach to address the problems of juvenile delinquency”, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the respective numbers of juveniles involved in criminal and drug offences in the past 3 years?
- (b) What measures will be taken to tackle juvenile delinquency and youth involvement in drugs in the financial year 2021-22?
- (c) How many anti-crime activities are expected to be organised in the financial year 2021-22?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

Reply:

- (a) The number of youths arrested for criminal offences over the past three years are set out below:

| Year | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Offences against public order | 71 | 1 600 | 894 |
| Wounding and serious assault | 422 | 360 | 521 |
| Shop theft | 361 | 287 | 347 |
| Serious drug offences | 202 | 144 | 318 |
| Criminal damage | 185 | 348 | 302 |
| Miscellaneous theft | 367 | 243 | 256 |
| Fraud | 124 | 97 | 177 |
| Disorderly conduct/fight in a public place | 122 | 105 | 142 |
| Robbery | 55 | 44 | 94 |
| Indecent assault | 122 | 116 | 73 |
| Unlawful society offences | 110 | 50 | 57 |
| Others | 628 | 874 | 806 |
| Total number of youths arrested | 2 769 | 4 268 | 3 987 |

The number of youths arrested for drug-related offences (including serious and minor drug offences) over the past three years are set out below:

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|------|------------|------|
| Total number of youths arrested for drug-related offences | 293 | 212 (Note) | 472 |

Note: Since June 2019, as the Police Force needed to deploy substantial manpower to handle cases of large-scale public order events, the number of persons arrested for drug offences in 2019 may not have fully reflected the situation of drug crimes in the year.

- (b) The Force attaches great importance to juvenile crimes. It combats juvenile crimes and enhances the law-abiding awareness of juveniles by adopting a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approach to achieve the dual purposes of deterring first offenders and reducing recidivism. On the enforcement front, the Force will continue to conduct anti-crime patrols in places frequented by juveniles to prevent them from being influenced by bad people. In response to the situations and trends of crimes in various districts, the Force takes intelligence-led action to tackle criminals who manipulate young people into committing crimes. In addition, through close collaboration with parents, social workers and schools, the Force will refer suitable arrested juveniles to relevant agencies for follow-up action and rehabilitation with the consent of their parents or guardians. The Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme is preferred as an alternative to prosecution where appropriate with the provision of after-care services for cautioned youths to minimise the chance of re-offending.

On the prevention front, the Force has been closely co-operating with stakeholders like other government departments and non-governmental organisations to jointly formulate policies and plans, so as to enhance the law-abiding awareness of the youth. The Force will continue to disseminate crime prevention messages and highlight the serious consequences of breaking the law through different channels. Besides, the Force has appointed School Liaison Officers to serve as a bridge between the Force and schools, and also the students. Through their efforts, community and educational projects are organised in collaboration with departments and organisations in various districts, with a view to raising the civic awareness of young people and encouraging them to participate in healthy community activities, helping them to cultivate positive values.

- (c) The Force devises its anti-crime initiatives taking into account the crime trends and the actual situations. Resources will be distributed flexibly. Through the Junior Police Call (JPC) Scheme and the Police School Liaison Programme, the Force will continue to collaborate with schools, the Education Bureau and other stakeholders in strengthening the communication with young people and promoting active engagement of the youth, with a view to nurturing their law-abiding awareness and preventing them from being misled into committing crimes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB054

(Question Serial No. 2067)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

At present, the terrorist threat level of Hong Kong remains “moderate”, i.e. it might be attacked, but there is no specific intelligence indicating that Hong Kong may become the target of terrorist attacks. Regarding efforts to tackle the threat of terrorism, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the amount of expenditure spent on the work of counter-terrorism in each of the past three years;
- (b) the number of counter-terrorism exercises conducted and the number of participants involved in the past three years; and
- (c) what measures will be taken to enhance the public response and preparedness for terrorist attacks in 2021-22.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 49)

Reply:

(a) and (b)

In the past 3 years (2018-2020), the Police Force conducted 29 counter-terrorism (CT) exercises, which mostly are joint exercises with other government departments and public organisations. These exercises generally comprised intelligence gathering and analysis as well as simulated serial terrorist attacks to test the CT response capabilities and the contingency plans of various government departments and organisations; optimise the co-ordination and readiness of various units in light of experience gained; as well as to heighten the public’s CT awareness through education and publicity.

The above work falls under the Programme of “Operations”. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure.

- (c) In 2021-22, the Force will continue to conduct CT and major incident exercises with relevant government departments and public organisations to ensure the operational and

coordination capabilities in responding to terrorist attacks or emergencies. The exercises will reinforce training of frontline officers on “Immediate Tactical Intervention” such that those arriving earliest at the scene are capable of making swift responses to provide members of the public with immediate care for the sake of their safety. In addition, the Force will also engage the public in the exercises where appropriate to enhance public alertness and awareness about terrorist attacks and major incidents. Through publicity and education, members of the public are also reminded to take the three steps to “Run (away from danger), Hide (in a safe place) and Report (to the Police)” as appropriate in light of the actual situation, in order to protect their personal safety in the event of a terrorist attack.

The above work falls under the Programme of “Operations”. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the relevant manpower and expenditure.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB055

(Question Serial No. 1572)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the launch of the “Animal Watch Scheme” mentioned in “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22”, will the Police Force inform this Committee of the following:

(A) What were the numbers of requests or inquiries relating to suspected cruelty to animals received by the Force, as well as the type of cases and the latest situation and trend in handling them in the past 3 years? Please provide a breakdown by 18 districts.

(B) Apart from the requests received, please provide the number and way of inspections as well as number of prosecutions in the past 3 years.

(C) Is the 6 months' period enough for collecting evidence? Since animal victims cannot speak, it will be generally more difficult to collect evidence for the cases. Will the Force consider extending the period? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

(A) From 2018 to 2020, the numbers of cases received by the Police Force for involvement in cruelty to animals were 105, 60 and 70 respectively. The Force does not maintain other information as mentioned in the question.

(B) The numbers of persons prosecuted by the Force under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance are listed in the following table:

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 (as at September) |
|--------------------|------|------|------------------------|
| Persons prosecuted | 27 | 27 | 11 |

The Force does not maintain other information as mentioned in the question.

(C) Under the existing legislative framework, both the Force and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will investigate cases of cruelty to animals and institute prosecutions. The Force has always demonstrated professionalism, handling and investigating all cases of suspected cruelty to animals in a timely and comprehensive manner. It will institute prosecutions if there is sufficient evidence. To combat acts of cruelty to animals, the Force has since 2018 established dedicated crime investigation teams in 22 police districts to handle animal cruelty cases. In order to best reflect their positioning, these dedicated teams were officially named “Animal Crime Police Team” with effect from 28 February 2021. The “Animal Crime Police Teams”, comprising officers with experiences and skills in investigating and handling other serious crimes, take up the animal cruelty cases in their respective districts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB056

(Question Serial No. 1870)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

There have been numerous violent incidents including arson, road blockade and wounding since the anti-extradition bill disturbances broke out in June 2019. Will the Government inform this Committee of the number of persons arrested in the cases related to the disturbances, and among them the number of persons prosecuted with the respective offences, and also the number of persons convicted as well as the penalties concerned?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 61)

Reply:

From 9 June 2019 to 28 February 2021, the Police Force arrested a total of 10 242 persons, aged between 11 and 84, in relation to the “anti-extradition amendment bill” related incident for offences including “taking part in a riot”, “unlawful assembly”, “wounding”, “assault occasioning actual bodily harm”, “common assault”, “arson”, “criminal damage”, “assaulting police officer”, “obstructing a police officer in the execution of the officer’s duty” and “in possession of offensive weapons”, etc.

As at 28 February 2021, among the 10 242 arrestees, 2 521 persons already entered into or were in the course of legal proceedings. 883 of them had to bear legal consequences (including 614 convicted, 261 bound over, 4 under a Care and Protection Order and 4 penalised for contempt of court in civil proceedings) and the most serious sentence so far was 5.5 years’ imprisonment. Besides, 50 persons had the charges against them withdrawn, 186 were acquitted after trial and the rest were still in the course of legal proceedings.

The Force does not maintain other statistical breakdowns requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB057

(Question Serial No. 1871)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

There have been numerous violent incidents including arson, road blockade and wounding since the anti-extradition bill disturbances broke out in June last year. Will the Government inform this Committee of the number of persons arrested in the cases related to the disturbances, the number of the arrestees claiming to be students, the number of students prosecuted with the respective offences, and also the number of students convicted as well as the penalties concerned?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 62)

Reply:

From 9 June 2019 to 28 February 2021, the Police Force arrested a total of 10 242 persons (of which 3 998 persons claimed to be students) in relation to the “anti-extradition amendment bill” related incident for offences including “taking part in a riot”, “unlawful assembly”, “wounding”, “assault occasioning actual bodily harm”, “common assault”, “arson”, “criminal damage”, “assaulting police officer”, “obstructing a police officer in the execution of the officer’s duty” and “in possession of offensive weapons”, etc.

As at 28 February 2021, among the 3 998 arrestees who claimed to be students, 1 029 persons already entered into or were in the course of legal proceedings. 358 of them had to bear legal consequences (including 215 convicted, 139 bound over and 4 under a Care and Protection Order). Another 22 persons were released under the Police Superintendent’s Discretion Scheme.

The Force does not maintain other statistical breakdowns requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB058****(Question Serial No. 0365)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the numbers of child abuse cases and elder abuse cases investigated and successfully prosecuted for the past 3 years with a breakdown by type of crimes.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:Child abuse

The number of child abuse cases received by the Police Force in the past 3 years are set out below:

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| Sexual abuse against children (Note 1) | 456 | 422 | 386 |
| Physical abuse against children (Note 2) | 437 | 391 | 383 |
| Total | 893 | 813 | 769 |

Note 1: "Sexual abuse against children" refers to such sexual crimes as rape, indecent assault and unlawful sexual intercourse involving a victim who is under 17 years of age, irrespective of the nature of relationship between the victim and the offender, as well as crimes involving an offender who has blood relationship with the victim as specified under other legislation, such as incest.

Note 2: "Physical abuse against children" refers to such crimes as murder, manslaughter, wounding and serious assault involving a victim who is under 14 years of age, irrespective of the nature of relationship between the victim and the offender, as well as crimes involving an offender who has the care or charge of the victim as specified under other legislation, such as ill-treatment or neglect by those in charge of the child or young person (under 16 years of age).

The Force does not maintain the prosecution figures requested in the question.

Elder abuse

The number of elder abuse cases (Note 3) received by the Force in the past 3 years are set out below:

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Physical abuse (Note 4) | 186 | 138 | 182 |
| Embezzlement of property (Note 5) | 90 | 86 | 52 |
| Psychological abuse (Note 6) | 37 | 29 | 24 |
| Sexual abuse (Note 7) | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 314 | 254 | 259 |

Note 3: “Elder abuse” refers to the commission or omission of any act that endangers the welfare or safety of an elder with the abused elders and abusers being known to each other or involving abusers who are responsible for the care of the abused elders. “Elders” are defined as persons aged 60 or above.

Note 4: “Physical abuse” includes murder/attempt to murder, wounding, serious assault, administering poison so as to inflict bodily harm, etc.

Note 5: “Embezzlement of property” includes robbery, theft, deception, blackmail, using false instruments and uttering forged banknotes and coins, etc.

Note 6: “Psychological abuse” refers to criminal intimidation.

Note 7: “Sexual abuse” includes indecent assault, rape, etc.

The Force does not maintain the prosecution figures requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB059

(Question Serial No. 2448)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

A provision of \$413.512 million is allocated under Police specialised vehicles in 2021-22. How many such vehicles does the Force currently have? How many new specialised vehicles will be procured and how many existing ones will be replaced in the coming year? Please provide a breakdown by vehicle type. Has the procurement of such vehicles been affected by the so-called “sanctions” and “embargoes” imposed by countries such as the United States of America on Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The Police Force's replacement and procurement of specialised vehicles fall under the Programme of “Operations”. To meet the developmental and overall operational needs in the coming year, the provision under Subhead 695 “Police specialised vehicles (block vote)” will be used for replacing and acquiring 596 specialised vehicles in 2021-22. Details are as follows:

| <u>Type of Vehicle</u> | <u>Quantity</u> |
|--|-----------------|
| Replacement of Police Large Van | 55 |
| Replacement of Police Large Van ^(note) | 238 |
| Replacement of Police Large Motorcycle | 48 |
| Replacement of Police Large Estate Car | 32 |
| Replacement and procurement of Police Large Estate Car ^(note) | 20 |
| Replacement of Cross-country Vehicle | 1 |
| Replacement of VIP Protection Saloon | 2 |
| Replacement of Police Small Patrol Car | 3 |
| Replacement of PTU Bus | 68 |
| Replacement of Large Saloon (Special Duties) | 2 |
| Replacement of Armoured Tactical Intervention Vehicle ^(note) | 4 |
| Replacement and procurement of Police Small Motorcycle ^(note) | 12 |
| Procurement of Police Large Van | 7 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| Procurement of Police Large Motorcycle | 4 |
| Procurement of Cross-country Vehicle | 2 |
| Procurement of High-performance Medium Saloon | 2 |
| Procurement of Police Large Van ^(note) | 5 |
| Procurement of PTU Bus ^(note) | 24 |
| Procurement of Specialised Crowd Management Vehicle ^(note) | 3 |
| Procurement of Police Multi-passenger Carrier ^(note) | 64 |
| Total | <u>596</u> |

(Note: Replacement / acquisition work that has been allocated funding before 2021-22 and will continue in 2021-22)

The Force always keeps watch on the supply of equipment from all around the world and will procure suitable equipment in accordance with the operational needs and the established procurement procedures. The restrictions on the export of weapons imposed by individual nations or areas will not affect the day-to-day operations and the enforcement capabilities of the Force.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB060****(Question Serial No. 2482)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide the figures on public assemblies/processions organised with prior notice given to the Police, public assemblies/processions organised without giving prior notice to the Police as required and public assemblies/processions prohibited by the Police in the past three years.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 116)Reply:

The relevant details are set out in the following table:

| Year | Number of public assemblies with a notice given to the Police Force | Number of public processions with a notice given to the Force | Public assemblies/processions organised without giving prior notice to the Force as required | Number of public assemblies which were prohibited though with a notice given to the Force | Number of public processions which were objected to though with a notice given to the Force |
|------|---|---|--|---|---|
| 2018 | 723 | 784 | 36 | 0 | 0 |
| 2019 | 858 | 766 | 604 | 26 | 21 |
| 2020 | 121 | 89 | 180 | 26 | 16 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB061

(Question Serial No. 2488)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the strength and expenditure of the Complaints Against Police Office in the past 2 years and the coming year?
 Of the complaints received in the past 3 years, how many were related to the large-scale public order events which started in June 2019? (Please provide a breakdown by nature of complaint.)

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 138)

Reply:

The establishment and expenditure of the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) in the past 2 years and the coming year are as follows:

| <u>Rank</u> | <u>2019-20</u> | <u>2020-21</u> | <u>2021-22</u> (Estimate) |
|---|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| <u>CAPO</u> | | | |
| Senior Superintendent | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Superintendent | 4 | 6 | 6 |
| Chief Inspector | 17 | 17 | 17 |
| Inspector/Senior Inspector | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| Station Sergeant | 14 | 16 | 16 |
| Sergeant | 58 | 65 | 65 |
| Police Constable | 14 | 18 | 18 |
| Assistant Clerical Officer | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Clerical Assistant | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Personal Secretary II | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| <u>Complaints and Internal Investigation Branch</u> | | | |
| Executive, Statistical and Translation Officers | 31 | 32 | 32 |
| Total | 175 | 191 | 191 |

| | <u>2019-20</u> | <u>2020-21</u> | <u>2021-22</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | <u>Actual expenditure</u> | <u>Revised estimated expenditure</u> | <u>Estimated expenditure</u> |
| Expenditure | \$117.36 million | \$127.13 million | \$127.13 million |

In 2018, 2019 and 2020, CAPO received 1 501, 1 643 and 1 211 “reportable complaint cases” respectively. The main accusations included “neglect of duty”, “misconduct/improper manner/offensive language”, “assault”, etc.

As at 31 December 2020, CAPO received a total of 1 947 cases of complaints regarding public order events that are related to the anti-extradition movements. Among them, there were 623 “reportable complaint cases” and 1 324 “notifiable complaint cases”. The main accusations included “misconduct/improper manner/offensive language”, “neglect of duty”, “abuse of authority”, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB062

(Question Serial No. 2491)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. The establishment of the Police will be slightly reduced from 38 406 posts to 38 390 posts. Please provide a breakdown of the salary expenditures by rank.
2. The revised estimate on specialist supplies and equipment for 2020-21 is reduced to \$380,000,000 from the original estimate of \$612,000,000. The estimate for 2021-22 is reduced to \$290,000,000. What are the details and the breakdown of the supplies and equipment?
3. The estimate on general departmental expenses is increased to \$3,676,292,000 from the revised estimate for 2020-21 of \$2,766,469,000. What are the details and the breakdown by type of expenditure?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 146)

Reply:

1. The Police Force will have a net decrease of 16 posts in 2021-22. The information related to the changes in the number of posts are as follows:

| Rank | Number of net increase/decrease | Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)/ Model Scale I Pay Scale (MOD) | Monthly salary of the rank in HK\$ (From 1 April 2019) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Chief Inspector of Police | -4 | PPS 43 – 48 | 91,615 – 110,110 |
| Station Sergeant | -13 | PPS 22 – 31 | 43,870 – 62,340 |
| Sergeant | -21 | PPS 15 – 24 | 36,290 – 46,295 |
| Police Constable | 39 | PPS 3 – 16 | 25,380 – 36,290 |
| Senior Government Counsel | 2 | MPS 45 – 49 | 117,580 – 135,470 |
| Analyst/Programmer II | 1 | MPS 16 – 27 | 33,350 – 55,995 |
| Assistant Clerical Officer | 1 | MPS 3 – 15 | 15,560 – 31,750 |
| Workman II | -21 | MOD 0 – 8 | 13,730 – 16,175 |
| Total | -16 | | |

2. The provision for “Specialist supplies and equipment” under the Force’s Subhead 000 (Operational expenses) is mainly for the procurement of the following 3 types of equipment:

- (1) operational gear and supplies for supporting the front line, including firearms and ammunition, handcuffs, shields, communications equipment, mills barrier, food and supplies for police dogs, etc.;
- (2) protective gear, including life jackets, safety helmets, medicines and equipment for sea rescue emergency operations, etc.; and
- (3) equipment for law enforcement and gathering evidence, including traffic cones, forensic equipment, printing pads and ink for collecting fingerprints, etc.

The estimate for “Specialist supplies and equipment” in 2021-22 is lower than the original and revised estimates for 2020-21. This is mainly due to a decrease in estimated expenditures on gear as a result of fewer public order events.

3. The provision for “General departmental expenses” under the Force’s Subhead 000 (Operational expenses) is mainly for the day-to-day operating expenses of the department, including electricity charges, various fuel expenses (vehicles and vessels), various contractual payments (maintenance, cleaning, security, contract staff, and the maintenance contracts of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund), telecommunications service charges, payments in relation to uniform, office furniture and equipment, etc.

The estimate for “General departmental expenses” in 2021-22 is higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to delays in some procurement exercises as a result of the epidemic.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB063

(Question Serial No. 2492)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The social unrest since June 2019 has posed formidable challenges to the work of the Force and given rise to hostility towards police officers and their family members. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. How many police officers were injured in each month in 2019-20 and 2020-21 as a result of handling the anti-extradition amendment bill movement? Among these officers, how many sustained minor injuries? How many were seriously injured? What kinds of support has the Force offered these officers? What are the additional expenditures incurred?
2. What equipment did the Force procure in 2020-21 to enhance its law enforcement capability and ensure the safety of officers on duty, especially in relation to the capability to handle large-scale incidents? What equipment will be procured in the coming year? What are the additional expenditures incurred (please provide a breakdown by type of equipment)?
3. Police officers and their family members have been maliciously targeted. For example, officers have been doxxed and cyberbullied; some have been followed and ambushed after going off duty; disciplined services quarters have been vandalised; their children have been bullied at school. In response to these situations, how many requests for assistance did the Police receive over the past two years? What kinds of support were offered? What are the additional expenditures incurred (please provide a breakdown by type of equipment)?
4. The Security Bureau will propose legislation to prohibit acts of insulting public officers. Has the Police Force explored whether the enactment of such legislation can protect police officers from insults and provocations? Has the Force also looked into the technical difficulties that may arise in enforcing the legislation? If affirmative, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 147)

Reply:

1. The numbers of police officers injured in each month as a result of handling the anti-extradition amendment bill movement since June 2019 are set out in the following table:

| Month (2019) | Number of officers with minor injuries (no hospital stay needed) | Number of officers who needed a hospital stay | Total number of injured officers |
|--------------|--|---|----------------------------------|
| June | 30 | 4 | 34 |
| July | 78 | 8 | 86 |
| August | 97 | 7 | 104 |
| September | 60 | 2 | 62 |
| October | 85 | 14 | 99 |
| November | 109 | 12 | 121 |
| December | 40 | 7 | 47 |
| (2020) | | | |
| January | 23 | 4 | 27 |
| February | 11 | 3 | 14 |
| March | 4 | - | 4 |
| April | 4 | - | 4 |
| May | 12 | 3 | 15 |
| June | - | 2 | 2 |
| July | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| August | 1 | - | 1 |
| September | - | - | - |
| October* | 1 | - | 1 |
| Total | 560 | 69 | 629 |

* No new case of injury has been recorded since October 2020 in relation to the anti-extradition amendment bill movement.

The Police Force has a well-established system of welfare and support services through which it offers appropriate assistance to injured police officers and their family members. The expenditure on the above items is part of the day-to-day operating expenditure of the Force. No specific breakdown of the relevant expenditure is available.

2. The Force reviews its equipment for officers from time to time and will acquire new and replace existing equipment as required in light of operational needs. The expenditure and relevant information on various equipment procured by the Force are part of the Force's operational deployment details, which cannot be disclosed.
3. As at 28 February 2021, over 3 800 police officers and their relatives and friends had their personal data improperly disseminated on the internet or social media platforms. Therefore, since June 2019, the Force has set up a 24-hour hotline for reporting cyber-bullying against police officers. Upon the Force's applications, the High Court has granted injunction orders prohibiting encouragement of violence and publication of content that incites or threatens the use of violence online, as well as doxxing and harassment against police officers, Special Constables and their families. The Force

will also investigate further or take the appropriate enforcement actions in the light of the circumstances of each case.

Since mid-2019, the Welfare Services Group under the Personnel Wing of the Force has offered immediate counselling service and welfare support for police officers and their families who request assistance as a result of being maliciously targeted in ways such as doxxing, bullying of their family members and vandalism of police quarters.

As for police children allegedly bullied at school, the Force management and the Education Bureau have established a notification mechanism to address the issues and take follow-up actions, with a view to protecting the children of officers. The Force management has also made every effort to help arrange school transfers for the targeted children.

In view of the unprecedented pressure faced by frontline police officers in handling violent incidents in recent years, the Psychological Services Group (PSG) of the Force has provided a range of counselling services and supportive services to the affected police officers and their families or those in need to provide outlets for emotional relief. The scope of services includes the following:

- (i) To provide professional counselling service for individuals, including police officers and their family members;
- (ii) To organise workshops and seminars on parent-child emotional communication with the aim to teach parents how to help their children cope with the emotional challenges arising from social dissension;
- (iii) Regarding the attack on police quarters, the clinical psychologists and welfare officers of the Force visited various quarters and offered psychological supportive service to the families affected. The PSG also conducted a series of workshops on art therapy for the spouses and children of the police officers to help them cope with the emotional pressure brought by social unrest;
- (iv) To provide critical incident psychological support services to the affected police officers after major incidents had happened;
- (v) To make phone calls to follow up cases of cyber bullying or harassment;
- (vi) To visit injured police officers in hospitals; and
- (vii) The clinical psychologists have set up rest corners in police officers' stand-down rooms and organised various activities for frontline police officers so as to help them release their emotional pressure.

To help officers understand social conflicts through the lens of psychology and facilitate their swift return to routine policing duties of serving the public, the PSG has launched a series of workshops called "Tideriders: Know Yourself and Know the Others" for 5 600 frontline officers since May 2020. Preparations are underway for the production of the relevant training packages for Training Days.

Moreover, the Force has created 3 additional posts of clinical psychologist, on top of the current establishment of 2 senior clinical psychologists and 11 clinical psychologists, and recruited psychology assistants under outsourcing arrangements in 2020-21 to enhance the psychological support for police officers.

The expenditure on the above items is part of the day-to-day operating expenditure of the Force. No specific breakdown is available.

4. The Security Bureau is studying the proposal to legislate against insulting public officers. The Department of Justice is being consulted on this subject. The Chief Executive has indicated earlier that the work in this regard is yet to reach an advanced stage. The Government also has to deal with a number of pressing items. Therefore, this is not among the priority legislative proposals on the Government's agenda. In considering this issue, the Government needs to proceed with caution so as to strike a proper balance between freedom of speech and protection for frontline public officers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB064****(Question Serial No. 2506)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

What were the numbers of application and intake for Police Constables and Inspectors of Police in the past 3 years? How many non-ethnic Chinese citizens were among the applicants and those recruited? What were the numbers of unnatural wastage cases among the police officers at various ranks who have left the Force?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 177)Reply:

The numbers of applicants and numbers of new recruits at the Police Force in the past 3 financial years are as follows:

| Financial Year | Number of applicants | | Number of new recruits | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| | Probationary Inspector | Police Constable | Probationary Inspector | Police Constable |
| 2018-19 | 7 350 | 10 578 | 220 | 1 121 |
| 2019-20 | 5 223 | 6 751 | 169 | 705 |
| 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) | 4 611 | 6 074 | 132 | 460 |

The Force welcomes all eligible and devoted persons to join the Force. Any individuals meeting the entry requirements, regardless of gender and nationality, are welcome to join the Force. Ethnicity is not a relevant factor for consideration in the selection process. As an employer promoting and practising equal opportunities, the Force does not require any applicants or serving police officers to declare their ethnic origins. However, according to the names shown in the relevant information and the voluntary declarations, the numbers of applicants and numbers of new recruits concerning non-ethnic Chinese applicants in the past 3 financial years are as follows:

| Financial Year | Number of applicants | | Number of new recruits | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| | Probationary Inspector | Police Constable | Probationary Inspector | Police Constable |
| 2018-19 | 25 | 53 | 4 | 11 |
| 2019-20 | 35 | 36 | 2 | 6 |
| 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) | 35 | 36 | 1 | 7 |

The wastage of officers at various ranks in the Force in the past 3 financial years is as follows:

| Rank | Number of leavers each year (Note) | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) |
| | Number of leavers (The number in brackets denotes the unnatural wastage figure) | Number of leavers (The number in brackets denotes the unnatural wastage figure) | Number of leavers (The number in brackets denotes the unnatural wastage figure) |
| Commissioner | - | - | 1 |
| Deputy Commissioner | 2 | 1 | - |
| Senior Assistant Commissioner | - | - | 1 |
| Assistant Commissioner | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Chief Superintendent | 10 | 10 (1) | 4 |
| Senior Superintendent | 15 | 14 | 11 |
| Superintendent | 21 (2) | 26 | 25 (4) |
| Chief Inspector | 30 (3) | 36 (4) | 24 (2) |
| Inspector/ Senior Inspector | 55 (26) | 61 (31) | 66 (28) |
| Station Sergeant | 179 (6) | 170 (3) | 135 (2) |
| Sergeant | 240 (12) | 221 (12) | 198 (12) |
| Police Constable/ Senior Police Constable | 691 (338) | 770 (438) | 451 (269) |
| Total | 1 247 (387) | 1 313 (489) | 919 (317) |

Note: "Leavers" include cases of retirement and unnatural wastage.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB065****(Question Serial No. 2509)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the number of intelligence reports received through the “Anti-violence Hotline” each month by the Police since September 2019 and among them the number of cases with follow-up criminal investigations conducted by the Police, and also the numbers of people arrested, prosecuted and convicted in 2019-20 and 2020-21. Please advise the details and types of offences involved in cases of conviction.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 180)

Reply:

Since 8 October 2019, the Police Force has received more than 1.2 million messages from citizens through “Anti-violence Hotline”. The information is tabulated as follows:

| | Number of messages received |
|--|-----------------------------|
| October 2019 (Starting from 8 October) | 247 191 |
| November 2019 | 487 975 |
| December 2019 | 103 203 |
| January 2020 | 49 084 |
| February 2020 | 47 238 |
| March 2020 | 47 309 |
| April 2020 | 27 768 |
| May 2020 | 67 896 |
| June 2020 | 31 171 |

| | Number of messages received |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| July 2020 | 37 542 |
| August 2020 | 26 531 |
| September 2020 | 19 404 |
| October 2020 | 19 234 |
| November 2020 | 8 064 |
| December 2020 | 7 987 |
| January 2021 | 7 803 |
| February 2021 | 7 713 |
| Total | 1 243 113 |

The Force will analyse and follow up all the messages received. As the other information requested in the question involves the Force's operational details, it is inappropriate to disclose such information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB066

(Question Serial No. 2510)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What is the establishment of the Social Media Communication Division under the Police Public Relations Branch (PPRB) in the past 3 years and the coming year, with a breakdown of the expenditures on salaries by rank and the total expenditures involved?

What are the total number of downloads of the Hong Kong Police Mobile Application and the total number of “page likes”, “page followers”, “fans” and “channel subscription” of the Force’s social media platforms?

What are the additional expenditures incurred by the Force’s new theme song “Safeguard Hong Kong”, which was released in 2020, and the promotional video “Guarding Our City” premiered in 2021?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 181)

Reply:

The social media platforms of the Police Force are mainly managed by the Social Media Communication Division of the Police Public Relations Branch, which currently has 30 members including 28 police officers and 2 contract staff members:

| Rank | Number of officers |
|---|--------------------|
| Superintendent | 1 |
| Chief Inspector | 2 |
| Inspector/ Senior Inspector | 4 |
| Station Sergeant | 1 |
| Sergeant | 8 |
| Police Constable/ Senior Police Constable | 12 |
| Contract New Media Writer | 1 |
| Contract New Media Designer | 1 |
| Total | 30 |

The Force deploys existing resources for managing the social media platforms concerned. No specific breakdown of the relevant expenditures is available.

Since the launch of the Hong Kong Police Mobile Application in July 2012 (as at 25 February 2021), more than 187 000 users have downloaded the application.

Since the launch of the Hong Kong Police YouTube Channel in March 2013 (as at 25 February 2021), more than 155 000 subscribers have been attracted.

Since the launch of the Hong Kong Police Facebook page in October 2015, more than 320 000 “page likes” and 500 000 “page followers” have been attracted. The figures as at 25 February 2021 are as follows:

- i) The post with the highest reach has reached over 3.2 million users;
- ii) The post with the lowest reach has reached about 2 500 users;
- iii) A total of 5 414 posts have been posted with an average reach of about 115 000 users per post.

Since the launch of the Hong Kong Police Instagram page in November 2016, about 69 000 “page followers” have been attracted. The figures as at 25 February 2021 are as follows:

- i) The post with the highest reach has reached over 130 000 users;
- ii) The post with the lowest reach has reached about 2 500 users;
- iii) A total of 1 975 posts have been posted with an average reach of about 13 300 users per post.

Since the launch of the Hong Kong Police Twitter page in January 2019, more than 85 000 “page followers” have been attracted. The figures as at 25 February 2021 are as follows:

- i) The post with the highest reach has reached over 2.13 million users;
- ii) The post with the lowest reach has reached about 400 users;
- iii) A total of 2 779 posts have been posted with an average reach of about 13 000 users per post.

Since the launch of the Hong Kong Police Weibo page in January 2019, more than 420 000 “fans” have been attracted. The figures as at 25 February 2021 are as follows:

- i) The post with the highest reach has reached over 21 million users;
- ii) The post with the lowest reach has reached about 23 000 users;
- iii) A total of 1 727 posts have been posted with an average reach of about 290 000 users per post.

The Force has been enhancing its professional image as law enforcement officers in various ways. A new theme song “Safeguard Hong Kong” was released and a promotional video “Guarding Our City” was premiered in 2020. The professional capability of the Force was highlighted through the engagement of a professional production team and police officers. As the theme song was funded by members of the public, no expenditure of the Force was involved. Meanwhile, a third party was involved in the production of the promotional video. To respect the spirit of contract, the Force would not disclose the expenditure involved. The production cost incurred has been included in the Force’s annual estimate for publicity, and relevant services have been acquired in accordance with the existing government

requirements and procedures. The Force will allocate manpower and resources in light of the actual needs to ensure proper use of resources and public funds.

The theme song “Safeguard Hong Kong” and the promotional video “Guarding Our City” have been broadcast on various platforms (including social media, TV channels, music platforms, etc.) to reach out widely to the general public, giving them an understanding of the Force’s determination to protect Hong Kong and safeguard the life and properties of Hong Kong people.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB067

(Question Serial No. 2511)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. In the past 3 years, how many police officers attended development and training programmes in the Mainland and overseas? Please provide a breakdown by officer rank and training location.
2. What were the actual expenditures incurred for development and training programmes in the past 3 years? What is the estimated expenditure for such initiatives in the coming year?
3. Has any overseas law enforcement agency or academic institution terminated its partnership with the Force as a result of the latest international developments? If affirmative, has the Force made any changes to its training plans to ensure continued access for police officers to quality development and training programmes?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 182)

Reply:

1. The numbers of Hong Kong police officers who attended development and training programmes in the Mainland and overseas over the past 3 years are set out in the following table:

| Year | Mainland China | | | Overseas | | |
|---------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | Junior police officers | Inspectorate officers or above | Total | Junior police officers | Inspectorate officers or above | Total |
| 2018-19 | 199 | 159 | 358 | 27 | 108 | 135 |
| 2019-20 | 67 | 81 | 148 | 30 | 58 | 88 |
| 2020-21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

2. The actual expenditures incurred by the Hong Kong Police College for development and training programmes overseas and in the Mainland over the past 3 years and the estimated expenditure for the coming year are set out in the following table:

| Year | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 (estimate) |
|------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Expenditure (\$) | 10,147,137 | 5,421,940 | 2,595,937 | 10,051,201 |

3. As for collaboration with overseas training institutions, the only such organisation that has suspended training for the Hong Kong Police Force is the International Law Enforcement Academies (ILEAs), with funding from the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs under the Department of State of the United States of America (US) and training services from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, the US Drug Enforcement Administration and the US Department of Homeland Security. The ILEAs stopped training activities for the Force in July 2020 due to the acts and orders signed by the then US President. In fact, since September 2019, the Force has proactively scaled back overseas development and training programmes for officers due to operational needs and the epidemic. Therefore, the impact of the discontinuation of training has been minimal for the Force.

While maintaining co-operation with a wide range of training partners all over the world, the Force will continue to identify suitable training and exchange opportunities to enhance its enforcement efficiency and service quality.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB068

(Question Serial No. 2512)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. In each of the past three years, how many Police requests for court warrants were granted to examine the content of mobile phones belonging to arrestees? How many arrestees and mobile phones were involved in such Police examination under the warrants granted?
2. In each of the past three years, how many arrestees had their mobile phones scrutinised for their content by the Police without a warrant? How many mobile phones were involved?
3. In each of the past three years, how many smart phones were cracked (i) by the Police or (ii) through service providers to access their content? What were the additional expenditures incurred for engaging the service providers?
4. Media reports suggest that some overseas technology firms which had helped the Police crack smart phones stopped offering such services due to the so-called “sanctions” imposed by the United States of America. In light of the latest international developments, what measures have been, are being, or will be taken by the Police to ensure adequate capability in unlocking smart phones for their content with a view to preventing and detecting crime?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 183)

Reply:

- 1-2. The Police Force has the statutory duty to prevent and detect crimes. Where necessary, the Force would exercise the powers conferred by the relevant legislation to search for, seize and examine objects allegedly linked to cases, including mobile phones and other similar devices. Generally, the Force would only conduct digital forensic examination on mobile phones after obtaining court warrants. In a judgment handed down in April 2020 for a case of judicial review regarding the Force’s power to access mobile phones, the Court of Appeal ruled that a police officer may conduct an immediate mobile phone search for its digital contents when it is not reasonably practicable to obtain such warrant before a search is conducted and the police officer has a reasonable basis for having to conduct the search immediately as being necessary for the investigation of the offence(s) for which the arrested person is involved or for the protection of the safety of persons.

The Force does not maintain the figures requested in the question.

3-4. Disclosing such information may reveal to criminals details of the operations of law enforcement agencies (LEAs), thus allowing criminals to take advantage by undermining LEAs' capabilities in combating serious crimes and maintaining public safety. As such, it is inappropriate to disclose the information.

The Force always keeps watch on various kinds of equipment available in the world and will procure suitable equipment in accordance with the operational needs and the established procurement procedures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB069

(Question Serial No. 2579)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide information on the number of applications for society registration received and approved by the Police Force in each of the past three years and the average processing time (number of days).

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 115)

Reply:

From 2018 to 2020, the Police Force approved a total of 3 740 applications for society registration/exemption from society registration.

The processing time required for each application for society registration/exemption from society registration varies from case to case, depending on whether the information provided by the applicant is complete and sufficient.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB070****(Question Serial No. 2590)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the number of applications for Certificates of No Criminal Conviction processed by the Police Force and the staff establishment and salary expenditure involved in the past 3 years. It was reported that the bookings were always full in the fourth quarter of 2020. In this connection, will the Force deploy additional manpower to handle the applications?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 135)

Reply:

The statistics on applications for Certificates of No Criminal Conviction (CNCC) processed by the Police Force in the past 3 years are set out below:

| Year | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total | 23 524 | 33 252 | 29 251 |

The staff establishment and expenditure involved in processing CNCC falls under the Force's Programme of "Prevention and Detection of Crime". No specific breakdown is available.

To address the issue of full bookings for CNCC, the Force has already redeployed additional staff to handle the increased applications since July 2020. Moreover, 10 additional officers have been employed under the "Post-retirement Service Contract Scheme" to handle the applications since early 2021. The CNCC office will soon start to extend the opening hours of its counter service to facilitate submission of applications by the public.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB071

(Question Serial No. 2591)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

“Police Magazine”, a programme produced in collaboration with Radio Television Hong Kong, ceased to air in August 2020. Since then, what measures have the Police taken to promote crime prevention and police-community co-operation?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 136)

Reply:

The Police Force has always endeavoured to provide the public with crime prevention information through a variety of channels. The rise of social media in the midst of technological advancements in recent years has led to a shift in the way citizens access information.

In October 2020, the Force created a new programme titled “OffBeat On Air” to replace “Police Magazine”, the long-running show on television. “OffBeat On Air” is broadcast live every Thursday on the “Hong Kong Police Facebook page” and the “Hong Kong Police YouTube Channel”. With fighting and preventing crime remaining its main message, the new programme will continue to appeal to the public to come forward with crime leads and introduce the work of different police units. To enhance interaction with the public and transparency of the Force’s work, chat segments are also featured in the new programme where viewers can put questions to the guests and hosts in real time.

The Force will continue to disseminate crime updates and Force information through different platforms, including its official social media platforms.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB072

(Question Serial No. 2593)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2019-20 and 2020-21, how many temporary police officers and Special Constables did the Force appoint under section 24 of the Police Force Ordinance and section 40 of the Public Order Ordinance respectively? How many of them were from other bureaux, departments and disciplined services (please provide a breakdown by department)?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 141)

Reply:

Since mid-November 2019, the Commissioner of Police, in accordance with section 40 of the Public Order Ordinance (Cap. 245), has appointed officers of the Correctional Services Department, Immigration Department, Customs and Excise Department, Hong Kong Fire Services Department and Government Flying Service as Special Constables.

The Police Force will appoint Special Constables having regard to its manpower needs and development of the social events. As the number of officers appointed is part of the operational details and reflects the Force's enforcement capabilities, it is inappropriate to disclose such information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB073****(Question Serial No. 2605)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the number of cases of cruelty to animals received by the Police Force in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively, and among them the number of cases prosecuted and convicted. In addition to enforcement operations, what other measures have been/are being/will be taken by the Force to promote the message of caring for animals and preventing cruelty to animals?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 166)

Reply:

From 2018 to 2020, the numbers of cases received by the Police Force for involvement in cruelty to animals were 105, 60 and 70 respectively. The numbers of persons prosecuted by the Force and the numbers of persons later convicted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance are listed in the following table:

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 (as at September) |
|--------------------|------|------|---------------------------|
| Persons prosecuted | 27 | 27 | 11 |
| Persons convicted | 21 | 23 | 8 |

To enlist public support and assistance in combating acts of cruelty to animals, the Force is implementing the Animal Watchers Programme, with a view to agglomerating the strengths of animal lovers at the community level in the 4 directions of education, publicity, investigation and intelligence-gathering; raising public awareness on prevention of cruelty to animals; and encouraging the public to report in a timely manner and provide information that could help investigations.

Participants of the Programme could disseminate to the community the messages of caring for animals and preventing cruelty to animals through organising and participating in various activities promoting animal welfare.

In addition, to combat acts of cruelty to animals, the Force has since 2018 established dedicated crime investigation teams in 22 police districts to handle animal cruelty cases. In order to best reflect their positioning, these dedicated teams were officially named “Animal Crime Police Team” with effect from 28 February 2021. The Animal Crime Police Teams, comprising officers with experience and skills in investigating and handling other serious crimes, take up the animal cruelty cases in their respective districts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB074

(Question Serial No. 2609)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

How many reports did the Police receive each year through the hotline set up under the RenoSafe Scheme in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively? How many persons have been prosecuted and convicted as a result?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 176)

Reply:

In collaboration with relevant departments and organisations, the Police Force launched the RenoSafe Scheme (RenoSafe) in 2013 to tackle crime arising from building renovation by adopting a cross-departmental and multi-disciplinary approach. RenoSafe aims at preventing any person such as consultants, contractors, or any other person from using unlawful means to affect the tendering or the conduct of building management or renovations, and invites participants to provide information of any unlawful act to the Force and other participating law enforcement agencies including the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the Competition Commission. Under RenoSafe, a 24-hour hotline has been set up by the Government to let members of the public make enquiries or report on suspected irregularities.

Through the RenoSafe hotline, the Force received 17, 13 and 6 enquiries or reports in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively. The Force does not maintain the other figures requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB075

(Question Serial No. 3015)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the number of minors arrested, prosecuted and convicted in the anti-extradition bill disturbances since 9 June 2019 with a breakdown by age group (aged 12 or below, aged 13, 14, 15, 16, 17) and category of crime. Among them, how many arrestees were handled by means of the Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme or had the charges against them withdrawn and were offered a bind over arrangement? How many arrestees were sentenced to imprisonment for less than 3 months or fined less than \$10,000, which means the arrestees' criminal records will be regarded as spent if they have not been convicted of an offence again within 3 years.

Please provide figures related to the measures taken/to be taken by the Police Force to help rehabilitate juvenile arrestees and minimise the chance of recidivating (e.g. the number of juvenile arrestees being referred to social welfare organisations for follow-up action).

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 117)

Reply:

From 9 June 2019 to 28 February 2021, the Police Force arrested a total of 10 242 persons, aged between 11 and 84, in relation to the "anti-extradition amendment bill" related incident for offences including "taking part in a riot", "unlawful assembly", "wounding", "assault occasioning actual bodily harm", "common assault", "arson", "criminal damage", "assaulting police officer", "obstructing a police officer in the execution of the officer's duty" and "in possession of offensive weapons", etc.

As at 28 February 2021, among the 10 242 arrestees, 1 752 persons were under the age of 18. 462 of them already entered into or were in the course of legal proceedings, comprising 209 who had to bear legal consequences (including 115 convicted, 90 bound over and 4 under a Care and Protection Order). Another 22 persons were released under the Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme (PSDS).

To facilitate the rehabilitation of the arrested youth, the Force will refer those aged below 18 to the Community Support Service Scheme (CSSS) as soon as possible upon the consent of

the youth and their parents/guardians, regardless of whether they will be prosecuted or cautioned under the PSDS. CSSS is operated under the subvention of the Social Welfare Department with the participation of non-government organisations, which provide supporting and follow-up services to the arrestees aged below 18, with a view to assisting them in rehabilitation and minimising the chance of re-offending.

The Force does not maintain other statistical breakdowns requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB076

(Question Serial No. 1278)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Operations
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The work of the Police Force involves maintaining readiness to respond swiftly and effectively to cope with major incidents, civil disturbances or terrorist activities, as well as conducting major security and crowd management operations to ensure public safety and order.

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22, the Force will continue to maintain the Government's overall capability in response to major incidents by way of aligned response plans, inter-departmental exercises, close liaison with key public and private sector stakeholders as well as benchmarking against the experience of overseas emergency services.

Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Given the impact of the novel coronavirus, how many inter-departmental exercises were conducted in 2020-21? What were the scale and effectiveness of such exercises? What were the manpower deployed and expenditure involved?
- (2) Will private sector stakeholders be involved in the inter-departmental exercises planned for 2021-22? If affirmative, what are the details? What are the manpower deployment and estimated expenditure involved?
- (3) Has the Government enhanced its measures in response to major incidents by drawing on the experience of overseas emergency services? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 78)

Reply:

- (1) In 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021), the Police Force conducted a total of 62 joint exercises with other government departments and public organisations. These exercises generally comprised counter-terrorism (CT) and major incident contingency drills in order to test the CT response capabilities and the contingency plans of various

government departments and organisations; optimise the co-ordination and readiness of various units in light of the experience gained; as well as heighten the public's CT awareness through relevant education and publicity.

The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the relevant manpower and expenditure.

- (2) In 2021-22, the Force will continue to conduct CT and major incident exercises with relevant government departments and public organisations to ensure the operational and co-ordination capabilities in responding to terrorist attacks or emergencies. The exercises will reinforce training of frontline officers on "Immediate Tactical Intervention" to such that those arriving earliest at the scene are capable of making a swift response to provide members of the public with immediate care for the sake of their safety. In addition, the Force will also engage the public in the exercises where appropriate to enhance public alertness and awareness about terrorist attacks and major incidents.

The above is an integral part of departmental work. The Force does not maintain the breakdowns in this aspect.

- (3) The Force has always endeavoured to refine its measures and enhance its officers' capability to respond to major incidents. The Operations Wing regularly reviews and optimises Force's strategies for handling major incidents, including maintaining readiness, offering swift responses and strengthening recovery capabilities. Based on these strategies, the Force provides officers from relevant formations with multi-faceted training covering deployment strategies and tactics to build up their capacity for dealing with contingencies. Mechanisms have also been established to mobilise sufficient police manpower at short notice to handle unforeseen major incidents. In addition, the Force consistently reviews and improves its weapons and equipment to ensure that frontline officers are fully capable of handling violent incidents.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB077****(Question Serial No. 2355)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (4) OperationsControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the various replacement plans of the Marine Police launches, please provide the types, basic features (total length/crew members/speed), estimated commissioning time, and estimates of expenditure of the launches to be procured, as well as the types of serving police launches that will be replaced by the new ones.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 65)Reply:

Details of the launch replacement programmes are set out in the following table:

| Type of police launch to be procured | Basic features (Length Overall (LOA)/ Operational Manning Standard (OMS)/speed) | Estimated commissioning time | Total estimate | Type of serving police launch to be replaced |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Multi-Mission Interceptor | LOA: 10.7 metres OMS: 3 crew Speed: minimum 55 knots | Commissioned in 2019-2020 | 94.56 million (8 vessels) | Fast Pursuit Craft |
| Deep Bay Hovercraft | LOA: 8.6 metres OMS: 4 crew Speed: minimum 30 knots | Delivered in the fourth quarter of 2020 | 19.995 million (2 vessels) | Searider 5.4 RHIB Craft and Anda RH Craft |
| High-speed Interception Training Boat | LOA: 11.9 metres OMS: 3 crew Speed: minimum 55 knots | Delivered in the first quarter of 2021 | 9.898 million (1 vessel) | Confiscated "Tai Fei" Speedboat |
| Deep Bay High-speed Craft | LOA: 8.5 metres OMS: 2 crew Speed: minimum 40 knots | Scheduled for delivery in batches from the second quarter | 43.086 million (10 vessels) | Searider 5.4 RHIB Craft and Anda RH Craft |

| Type of police launch to be procured | Basic features (Length Overall (LOA)/ Operational Manning Standard (OMS)/speed) | Estimated commissioning time | Total estimate | Type of serving police launch to be replaced |
|---|--|--|-------------------------------|---|
| | | to the fourth quarter of 2021 | | |
| High-speed Interceptor | LOA: 13-16 metres OMS: 5 crew Speed: minimum 66 knots | Contract expected to be signed in the second quarter of 2021; scheduled for delivery in batches from the third quarter of 2022 | 126.31 million (5 vessels) | Damen Cougartek Sea Stalker |
| Versatile Patrol Units | LOA: 35-37 metres OMS: 16 crew (including one Cook) Speed: minimum 25 knots | Contract expected to be signed in the second quarter of 2022; scheduled for delivery in 2024-2027 | 1,869.16 million (12 vessels) | Divisional Command Launch and Keka Launch |
| Mobile Response and Command Platform | LOA: 40 metres OMS: 19 crew (including one Cook) Speed: minimum 25 knots | Invitation to Tender expected to be gazetted in the second quarter of 2021; scheduled for delivery in 2025-2026 | 239.03 million (2 vessels) | Regional Training Launch |
| Divisional Logistic Launch | LOA: 12-14 metres OMS: 4 crew Speed: minimum 35 knots | Invitation to Tender expected to be gazetted in 2022; scheduled for delivery in 2024-2025 | 114.9 million (11 vessels) | Seaspray Police Launch |
| Inshore Patrol Launch | LOA: 8-11 metres OMS: 3 crew Speed: minimum 45 knots | Invitation to Tender expected to be gazetted in 2022; scheduled for delivery in 2024-2025 | 39.08 million (7 vessels) | Boston Whaler Inshore Patrol Launch |
| Inshore Patrol Craft | LOA: 14-16 metres OMS: 4 crew Speed: minimum 45 knots | Invitation to Tender expected to be gazetted in 2023; scheduled | 213.3 million (6 vessels) | Inshore Patrol Craft |

| Type of police launch to be procured | Basic features (Length Overall (LOA)/ Operational Manning Standard (OMS)/speed) | Estimated commissioning time | Total estimate | Type of serving police launch to be replaced |
|---|--|--|---------------------------|---|
| | | for delivery in 2025-2026 | | |
| The Fifth Police Barge Operating Platform | LOA: 30 metres OMS: 4 crew | Invitation to Tender expected to be gazetted in 2023; scheduled for delivery in 2025 | 35.762 million (1 vessel) | New item |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB078

(Question Serial No. 0311)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

According to the information from the Police Force, the overall number of crimes reported in 2020 was 63 232 cases, representing an increase of 6.8% when compared with 2019. It is of the public concern that criminal intimidation, blackmail, rape, deception and triad-related cases rose by 18.7%, 2.4 folds, 28%, 89.3% and 30.2% respectively. In this connection, will the Force tackle the above-mentioned crime cases and prevent the law and order situation from worsening through increased manpower and resources? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 82)

Reply:

The overall number of crimes reported in Hong Kong in 2020 was 63 232 cases, representing an increase of 6.8% when compared with 2019. The detection rates for overall crimes rose slightly in 2020 by 0.7 percentage points from 37.1% to 37.8%.

The Police Force will, having regard to the actual situations and crime trends, flexibly deploy manpower to fight and prevent crime. These efforts include targeted intelligence-led enforcement actions and publicity work for crime prevention with the aim to reduce crime and prevent the law and order situation from worsening.

To improve the law and order situation effectively, the Force will continue to deploy increased manpower and resources for intelligence-led operation and stringent enforcement of law, with a view to maintaining social order. In addition, the Force strives to work closely with the community and make good use of technology to combat crime, so as to ensure that Hong Kong remains one of the safest and most stable societies in the world.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB079

(Question Serial No. 1765)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

According to Programme (1), the Force will continue to adopt a multi-agency approach to address the problems of juvenile delinquency and youth involvement in drug for the coming year. What are the manpower and expenditure involved respectively? It is mentioned in the 2020 Policy Address that in connection with the disturbances arising from the legislative exercise of the Fugitive Offenders Bill, for arrestees under the age of 18 who have expressed contrition and are not involved in serious offences, the Police is prepared to consider handling the cases with measures conducive to their rehabilitation as appropriate, for example, by cautioning them under the Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme or imposing bind over orders. What is the number of persons under the age of 18 who have admitted their wrongdoings in light of this, and how many of them have been handled with the above rehabilitation measures?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 88)

Reply:

The Police Force adopts an inter-departmental and multi-agency approach in combating juvenile delinquency in various fronts, including prevention and publicity, strengthened law enforcement actions, graduated sanction and rehabilitation programme, with a view to achieving a dual purpose of deterring first offenders and minimising the chance of re-offending by young people.

Regarding prevention and publicity, the Force maintains close co-operation with other government departments and relevant stakeholders, such as non-governmental organisations, to formulate policies and plans in order to prevent youth involvement in crime. The Force will continue to disseminate crime prevention messages to young people via different channels. In addition, the Police School Liaison Officers serve as bridges between the Force, schools and students. They organise community and educational programmes in various police districts jointly with other departments/agencies so as to enhance civil awareness of the youths, and promote participation in healthy community activities to cultivate positive values.

The Force will continue to conduct anti-crime patrols in places frequented by juveniles, with a view to preventing negative influence exerted on juveniles through bad association. Having regard to the situation of each police district and crime trends, intelligence-led operations will be taken to combat juvenile delinquency and target syndicates who exploit students and youths for drug trafficking.

In addition, the Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme (PSDS) is preferred as an alternative to prosecution as appropriate. The PSDS is a substitute for prosecution procedure for arrestees under the age of 18 who have expressed contrition and are not involved in serious offences. An officer at the rank of Superintendent can exercise his discretion in considering the issue of a caution to a juvenile offender in place of criminal prosecution to provide an opportunity for rehabilitation and to promote law-abiding awareness. With the consent of parents or guardians, cautioned youths will be referred to the Juvenile Protection Sections for post-caution visits with the provision of after-care services to minimise the chance of re-offending. The Force will also consider referring the arrested youths to relevant organisations (including the Social Welfare Department, the Education Bureau and/or non-governmental organisations running the Community Support Service Scheme, etc.), with their parents' or guardians' consent, for follow-up action and rehabilitation.

In 2020, a total of 402 youths arrested for criminal offences were cautioned. Among the youths who were arrested in relation to the "anti-extradition amendment bill" related incident, 22 were cautioned from June 2019 to 28 February 2021.

The expenditure on the above items falls under the Programmes of "Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community" and "Prevention and Detection of Crime". No specific breakdown is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB080

(Question Serial No. 1148)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22, the Police Force will enhance the efficiency and overall accuracy of traffic enforcement through the wider use of technology including e-Ticketing. In this connection, please provide the number of electronic fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) issued in 2020 and the percentage of electronic FPTs in the total number of FPTs.

At present, how many mobile smart devices (smart phones and portable printers) for issuing electronic FPTs are there in Hong Kong? How many such devices are to be provided by the Police Force in the coming three years?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

Starting from March 2020, the Police Force has been implementing a pilot scheme on Electronic Fixed Penalty Tickets (FPTs) in all Police Districts by phases. The frontline law enforcement officers have since been able to access data on vehicles parked illegally via their mobile smart devices and print out FPTs without delay, with enhanced accuracy and efficiency in enforcement.

In 2020, the Force issued a total of 1 068 795 electronic FPTs for illegal parking in accordance with the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contravention) Ordinance (Cap. 237), accounting for around 40% of the total number of FPTs for illegal parking.

At present, there are 800 set of mobile smart devices for issuing Electronic FPTs.

Building on the success of the pilot scheme, the Force plans to develop a new Traffic e-Enforcement System to facilitate the processing of FPTs and applications for traffic summonses by electronic means in order to enhance enforcement accuracy and efficiency of the Force. This in turn would help ensure the proper use of limited road space more effectively, enhance road safety and alleviate traffic congestion. The Force plans to consult the Panel on Transport of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on the proposed system in April 2021. It expects to seek funding support from the Finance Committee of the LegCo in this legislative session, with a view to launching the first phase of the system in the first quarter of 2023. Full commissioning of the system is targeted in January 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB081

(Question Serial No. 2411)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Under the Brief Description in the Controlling Officer's Report, it is stated that the Police provided anti-epidemic support to the Department of Health amidst the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, including rendering assistance in managing quarantine centres, contact-tracing and taking enforcement actions under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599).

In 2020, how many man-hours of police officers were devoted to assistance in managing quarantine centres and contact tracing respectively? How many enforcement operations were mounted by the Police under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance in 2020? How many persons were arrested in total for contravention of the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance? What are the percentages of arrestees who have been charged and convicted?

In the coming year, how much manpower will the Police allocate to provide anti-epidemic support? Will dedicated teams be formed in different Police Districts to support such duties so as to balance various responsibilities of the Police Districts in enforcing law and order?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

To tie in with the implementation of the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I) in 2020, the Police Force has deployed additional manpower for patrols in various districts and reminded the public to comply with the requirements of these regulations by verbal explanation, advice or warning.

To help fight the COVID-19 pandemic, the Force has made use of the Major Incident Investigation and Disaster Support System (MIIDSS), with 63 officers dedicated to assisting in case analysis and 40 officers on loan to the Contact Tracing Office under the Department

of Health at the peak of the epidemic. Over 100 000 man-hours were involved in helping with contact-tracing as at December 2020.

In 2020, the Force had conducted around 70 000 inspections in total to enforce the relevant anti-epidemic regulations, with around 350 persons arrested or served with summonses, and more than 9 000 fixed penalty tickets issued during the operations. The Force will follow up every case and prosecute the persons involved after investigating the matter and gathering sufficient evidence. The Force does not maintain the number of convictions for related cases.

In 2020, the Force also assisted other government departments in mounting 6 operations related to “restriction-testing declarations” and “compulsory testing notices” at various high-risk premises across the territory. Over 600 officers in total were deployed in such operations.

In light of the flaring up of the epidemic, the Force will deploy resources and manpower in a flexible manner, having regard to the actual circumstances. While maintaining law and order, officers will continue to provide anti-epidemic support in various ways, including carrying out the above law enforcement duties in relation to anti-epidemic measures, ensuring the security of quarantine centres, facilitating the implementation of quarantine orders at immigration control points, calling and conducting spot checks on persons under mandatory quarantine, and helping relevant departments with contact-tracing analysis.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB082

(Question Serial No. 2432)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the enforcement work against animal abuse, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (a) the permanent establishment and expenditure involved (by rank) in the dedicated investigation teams (“investigation teams”) under the Hong Kong Police Force for handling cases of cruelty to animals in the past 3 years;
- (b) the numbers of patrols proactively carried out by the investigation teams in the past 3 years apart from response actions to the reports on suspected cases of animal cruelty. If no proactive patrols were carried out, what were the reasons?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 70)

Reply:

- (a) To best reflect the positioning of the dedicated criminal investigation teams for handling the animal cruelty cases in different Police Districts, these dedicated teams have been officially named “Animal Crime Police Teams” from 28 February 2021. The establishment of the “Animal Crime Police Teams” varies in different Police Districts. The Police Force will review the manpower deployment from time to time and make appropriate deployment to meet operational needs.

The expenditure of the Force for investigating such cases falls under the Programme of “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. No specific breakdown is available.

- (b) The “Animal Crime Police Teams”, comprising officers with experience and skills in investigating and handling other serious crimes, take up the animal cruelty cases in their respective districts. The Force, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) have established a co-operation mechanism whereby AFCD and SPCA officers will provide professional advice and assist in investigation at the scene of an animal cruelty case where necessary.

To enlist public support and assistance in combating acts of cruelty to animals, the Force is implementing the Animal Watchers Programme, with a view to agglomerating the strengths of animal lovers at the community level in the 4 directions of education, publicity, investigation and intelligence-gathering; raising public awareness on prevention of cruelty to animals; and encouraging the public to report in a timely manner and provide information that could help investigations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB083

(Question Serial No. 3150)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

On 18 March last year, the Police formally launched a pilot scheme on Electronic Fixed Penalty Tickets (FPTs) to record the registration numbers or scan the QR codes on vehicle licences of illegally parked vehicles with a mobile phone application, and issue FPTs by printing out the tickets using a mobile printer without delay.

1. How many electronic FPTs have been issued in the 18 districts respectively since the scheme was launched?
2. How many handwritten FPTs have been issued in the 18 districts respectively since the scheme was launched?
3. What is the total expenditure involved in the scheme?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

1. to 3.

Starting from March 2020, the Police Force has been implementing a pilot scheme on Electronic Fixed Penalty Tickets (FPTs) in all Police Districts by phases. The frontline law enforcement officers have since been able to access data on vehicles parked illegally via their mobile smart devices and print out FPTs without delay, with enhanced accuracy and efficiency in enforcement. The expenditure on this scheme is about HK\$18 million.

The Force handles information on FPTs for illegal parking by Police Region, and therefore does not maintain the prosecution figures by District Council district. In 2020, the figures

on FPTs for illegal parking issued by the Force under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) by Police Region are listed in the following table:

| | Electronic FPTs | Handwritten FPTs | Total |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------|
| Hong Kong Island | 305 209 | 294 009 | 599 218 |
| Kowloon East | 172 358 | 317 543 | 489 901 |
| Kowloon West | 284 267 | 347 326 | 631 593 |
| New Territories South | 144 007 | 368 824 | 512 831 |
| New Territories North | 162 954 | 311 372 | 474 326 |
| Total | 1 068 795 | 1 639 074 | 2 707 869 |

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB084

(Question Serial No. 0102)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Disinformation, bogus news and scurrilous rumours have been spread in relation to black-clad rioters and Police enforcement operations, undermining the image of the Hong Kong Police Force and its enforcement effectiveness and also weakening the law-abiding awareness among certain people. What new strategies and specific work plans does the Force have for 2021-22 in terms of pursuing the police public relations strategy, media strategy and social media strategy to project a positive image of the Force with a view to maintaining a high level of public support and participation in upholding law and order in the community, and producing multi-media programmes with a view to enhancing the public's knowledge of and confidence in police services? Are there plans to increase the Force's manpower and expenditures accordingly?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 110)

Reply:

The Police Force has the responsibility to explain the facts and police work to the public. As such, the Force has been proactive in enhancing its work transparency, repeatedly clarifying various unfounded reports and information and handling fabricated news. Apart from sending letters to media organisations, the Force also disseminates information and dismisses unfounded claims through press conferences and press releases, as well as on social media platforms. The Force will continue to enhance public understanding of police work and earn the support and trust of the citizens, including young people, through various channels.

Moreover, the Force will continue to provide the public with its latest information through active use of online platforms and social media, including the Hong Kong Police Mobile Application, the Hong Kong Police YouTube Channel, the Hong Kong Police Facebook page, the Hong Kong Police Instagram page, the Hong Kong Police Force Weibo and Hong Kong Police Force Twitter. The Force will continue to explore the ways to extend the service coverage of its social media platforms so as to strengthen its communication with the public with a view to improving its service quality.

In mid-2020, the Force commenced the preparations for the production of a new series of publicity videos showcasing its professional capabilities to the public. In October 2020, the Force also created a new programme titled “OffBeat On Air” to replace “Police Magazine”, the long-running show on television. “OffBeat On Air” is broadcast live every Thursday on the Hong Kong Police Facebook page and the Hong Kong Police YouTube Channel. With fighting and preventing crime remaining its main message, the new programme will continue to appeal to the public to come forward with crime leads and introduce the work of different police units. To enhance interaction with the public and transparency of the Force’s work, chat segments are also featured in the new programme where viewers can put questions to the guests and hosts in real time.

To keep abreast of the times, the Force will review and improve from time to time the social media platforms to strengthen the communication and interaction with different clusters in the community. The Police Public Relations Branch will also review the manpower involved and the distribution of resources in light of the actual needs, with a view to providing the public with the Force’s latest information in a timely, direct and effective manner. It is aimed to project a positive image in a bid to enhance the police-community relations and the public trust in the Force.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB085

(Question Serial No. 0103)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 of Programme (2), the Hong Kong Police Force states that it will enhance the Force's capability in tackling technology crime and financial investigation, including the expansion of the Joint Financial Intelligence Unit. Please provide the relevant details, including the work plans, performance indicators, manpower and expenditures involved. In particular, what new strategies and measures does the Force have to better protect the public from online investment frauds, which have become increasingly rampant, and step up the investigation into such cases?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 111)

Reply:

Technology Crime

The year 2020 saw a total of 12 916 technology crimes reported, representing a rise of 55.2% compared with the 8 322 cases in 2019.

The Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) of the Police Force is responsible for co-ordinating the Force's efforts in combating technology crime, as well as enhancing and expanding the capabilities in combating technology crime and handling cyber security incidents, including detecting syndicated and highly sophisticated technology crimes, conducting timely cyber threat audits and analysis, enhancing response capability to major cyber security incidents or massive cyber attacks and strengthening relevant thematic researches, and strengthening partnership and information exchange with local stakeholders and overseas law enforcement agencies. The work of the CSTCB has attained certain results in curbing technology crime.

In the past year, the CSTCB created additional posts to strengthen its capabilities in digital forensics, cyber security incidents and cyber threat audits.

“Cyber Security and Technology Crime” continues to be one of the Commissioner’s Operational Priorities 2021. In the coming year, the CSTCB will continue to adopt a multi-agency approach to promote public awareness of computer and cyber security and the risks associated with the use of the internet and social media, and will also continue to strengthen partnership with other law enforcement agencies and relevant stakeholders, including the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and the Hong Kong Computer Emergency Response Team Co-ordination Centre under the Hong Kong Productivity Council, to combat technology crime. The Force will also strive to maintain professional competence and advanced capability in computer forensics, and enhance frontline officers’ awareness of and investigation skills in technology crime through training. Besides, the CSTCB will continue to work closely with INTERPOL in sharing and exchanging intelligence as well as information on the latest development of and investigation skills in technology crime.

In collaboration with other stakeholders in the public and private sectors, the CSTCB also organises a variety of activities, including the “Cyber Security Competition 2020/21”, the yearlong territory-wide campaign “Cyberthon 2021” and other publicity and education initiatives, to deliver cyber security messages to the community through different channels with a view to raising awareness of technology crime.

Financial Investigation

The cases of money laundering decreased by 5.9% from 1 158 cases in 2019 to 1 090 cases in 2020.

On tackling money laundering, the Force will increase manpower in the relevant formations, such as the Joint Financial Intelligence Unit and the Financial Investigation Group. It will also continue to adopt different measures to enhance the capabilities of police officers in analysing financial intelligence and financial investigation, including enhancing the awareness and investigation skills of police officers and the relevant industries in financial investigation and optimising the co-operation mechanism with local financial institutions as well as international organisations, Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies to combat money laundering.

The Force’s expenditure and estimated expenditure on combating technology crime and conducting financial investigation fall under the Programme of “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. No specific breakdown is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB086

(Question Serial No. 0104)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What are the staff establishment and expenditure of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Bureau (EODB) of the Hong Kong Police Force from 2019-20 to 2021-22? Given the rise of explosives cases and suspected explosives cases related to violence, has the Force increased the manpower, equipment and training appropriately for the officers of EODB, and enhanced the training and safety awareness of frontline officers in handling suspected explosives cases?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 113)

Reply:

There has been a rising trend in explosives-related cases since 2019-20. As such, the staff establishment, expenditure, equipment and training of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Bureau (EODB) have been increased appropriately. The Police Force will also strengthen the training of frontline officers in handling cases of suspected explosives so as to enhance their safety awareness. EODB will continue to maintain high professional standard in supporting frontline police work. As staff establishment involves operational details, it is inappropriate to disclose such information. The Force does not maintain the breakdowns requested in the question.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB087

(Question Serial No. 0105)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (603) Plant, vehicles and equipment
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In the estimate for 2021-22, more than \$400 million is planned to be used for procurement of new and replacement of police specialised vehicles up to \$10 million, representing an increase of 179.4% over the estimate for 2020-21. At the same time, the Police Force plans to replace 6 armoured personnel carriers with an estimated cost of \$12.776 million each. Please provide the breakdown of relevant vehicles and justifications.

Some European and American countries have imposed unreasonable restrictions on the export of police supplies to Hong Kong due to misunderstanding or for political reasons. Does the Force have any measures to minimise the impact of such restrictions on the Force's procurement (including options available and costs) and the repair and maintenance of the existing equipment?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 114)

Reply:

The Police Force's replacement and procurement of specialised vehicles fall under the Programme of "Operations". To meet the developmental and overall operational needs in the coming year, the provision for 2021-22 under Subhead 695 "Police specialised vehicles (block vote)" will be used for replacing and procuring 596 specialised vehicles. Details are as follows:

| <u>Type of Vehicle</u> | <u>Quantity</u> |
|--|-----------------|
| Replacement of Police Large Van | 55 |
| Replacement of Police Large Van ^(note) | 238 |
| Replacement of Police Large Motorcycle | 48 |
| Replacement of Police Large Estate Car | 32 |
| Replacement and Procurement of Police Large Estate Car ^(note) | 20 |
| Replacement of Cross-country Vehicle | 1 |
| Replacement of VIP Protection Saloon | 2 |
| Replacement of Police Small Patrol Car | 3 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| Replacement of PTU Bus | 68 |
| Replacement of Large Saloon (Special Duties) | 2 |
| Replacement of Armoured Tactical Intervention Vehicle ^(note) | 4 |
| Replacement and Procurement of Police Small Motorcycle ^(note) | 12 |
| Procurement of Police Large Van | 7 |
| Procurement of Police Large Motorcycle | 4 |
| Procurement of Cross-country Vehicle | 2 |
| Procurement of High-performance Medium Saloon | 2 |
| Procurement of Police Large Van ^(note) | 5 |
| Procurement of PTU Bus ^(note) | 24 |
| Procurement of Specialised Crowd Management Vehicle ^(note) | 3 |
| Procurement of Police Multi-passenger Carrier ^(note) | 64 |
| Total | <u>596</u> |

(Note: Replacement/acquisition work that have been allocated funding before 2021-22 and will continue in 2021-22.)

The Force’s specialised vehicles are mainly used in patrols, traffic duties, VIP protection, emergency calls, transportation of officers and other special operations.

The 6 serving “Unimog” armoured personnel carriers have been in service for more than 12 years since their commissioning in February 2009. After examining the vehicles in early 2019, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department confirmed that replacements were necessary. Therefore, the Force planned to replace all the 6 armoured personnel carriers and the funding commitment was approved under the “Appropriation Bill 2020”. The new vehicles will be commissioned in 2023. The replacement of armoured personnel carriers is considered to be normal and necessary.

The Force always keeps watch on the supply of firearms and weapons from around the world and will procure suitable equipment in accordance with the operational needs and the established procurement procedures. The restrictions on the export of weapons imposed by individual nations or areas will not affect the day-to-day operations and the enforcement capabilities of the Force.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB088

(Question Serial No. 0156)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

Under Programme (3), the Police Force states that it will enhance the efficiency and overall accuracy of traffic enforcement through the wider use of technology, including e-Ticketing, and work closely with relevant agencies and government departments to identify technological solutions to address serious parking offences. Please provide the relevant details, including the specific work plans, implementation timetables, performance indicators, manpower and expenditures involved.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 112)

Reply:

Starting from March 2020, the Police Force has been implementing a pilot scheme on Electronic Fixed Penalty Tickets (FPTs) in all Police Districts by phases. The frontline law enforcement officers have since been able to access data on vehicles parked illegally via their mobile smart devices and print out FPTs without delay, with enhanced accuracy and efficiency in enforcement. The expenditure on this scheme is about HK\$18 million. No additional manpower is involved.

Building on the success of the pilot scheme, the Force plans to develop a new Traffic e-Enforcement System to facilitate the processing of FPTs and applications for traffic summonses by electronic means in order to enhance enforcement accuracy and efficiency of the Force. This in turn would help ensure the proper use of limited road space more effectively, enhance road safety and alleviate traffic congestion. The Force plans to consult the Panel on Transport of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on the proposed system in April 2021. It expects to seek funding support from the Finance Committee of the LegCo in this legislative session, with a view to launching the first phase of the system in the first quarter of 2023. Full commissioning of the system is targeted in January 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB089****(Question Serial No. 1421)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In an economic downturn caused by COVID-19, all sectors in Hong Kong are affected. Waves of layoffs, borrowings from loan sharks and harassment cases by finance companies are likely to occur one after another. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. How many reports of harassment cases by finance companies did the Police receive in the past 3 financial years?
2. Numerous citizens, hounded by finance companies that sought to recover debts, reported such incidents to the Police. They demanded the Police to accept the cases, only to have their requests refused. Will the Police undertake to treat these cases seriously by stepping up efforts to protect the personal safety of those subjected to unreasonable intimidation by finance companies?
3. In the new financial year, will the Force allocate more manpower resources to handle cases of harassment by finance companies as mentioned above? If yes, what is the estimated increase in manpower?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

1. The numbers of cases related to debt collection activities received by the Police Force in the past 3 years are as follows:

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Crime Case (Note 1) | 1 568 | 1 913 | 2 916 |
| Non-Crime Case (Note 2) | 8 042 | 7 970 | 8 084 |

Note 1: Mainly including criminal damage, blackmail, criminal intimidation, etc.

Note 2: Mainly including harassment by telephone calls, harassment by visits, etc.

2. The Force attaches great importance to combating loansharking and illegal debt collection activities, and adopts pro-active measures to enhance the effectiveness of their law enforcement actions.

The Force has set up a dedicated team to closely monitor the trend of improper debt collection practices in various districts, and formulate comprehensive preventive and operational strategies in the light of specific circumstances. In addition, the Force will continue to step up patrol and co-operate with property management companies in respective districts through distribution of leaflets at residential buildings and request for assistance from management companies of public housing estates and private residential estates, in a bid to prevent loansharking syndicates from launching promotion or displaying advertisements in housing estates or within the building areas, and to thwart debt collection agencies' illegal or improper debt collection activities therein. On another front, the Force will enhance communication with stakeholders, while continuing to disseminate messages against improper debt collection practices through the media and publicising successful law enforcement and prosecution actions as deterrence.

In handling individual cases, the Force will refer cases that involve criminal offences, such as those relating to criminal damage or intimidation, to dedicated criminal investigation teams for investigation and evidence gathering, as well as instituting criminal prosecution in accordance with the law.

In dealing with reports that may not involve criminal offences at the moment, the Force will, having regard to the circumstances, assess whether there is any possibility that such debt collection practices may turn into criminal offences, and will then classify such cases as "high threat" or "low threat" cases. Every "high threat" case will be referred to the criminal investigation teams for follow-up. For "low threat" cases, the Force will continue to monitor their developments. In case there are signs that the seriousness of the case has heightened, the criminal investigation teams will take over the investigation.

3. The Force will continue to monitor closely relevant crime trends and deploy resources and manpower to enhance the efficiency in law enforcement whenever necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB090

(Question Serial No. 3095)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned in Programme (1) of the Estimates that the Police Force took enforcement actions under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance in 2020. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Please provide the total number of fixed penalty tickets and verbal warnings issued for breaching the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation in the last financial year.
- (2) Some residents and representatives of owners' corporations in Kwun Tong complained that quite some sex workers continued to work in the old buildings in Hong Ning Road and Fu Yan Street in Kwun Tong despite the severe epidemic situation and the mandatory requirements on prohibition of group gathering, mask-wearing and closure of entertainment premises announced by the Government. The clients of the sex workers also ignored the requirements and took off their masks to smoke while queuing for sex service. It was likely that the virus would spread further.

Please advise whether the Force has received relevant complaints or reports. If yes, what were the follow-up actions? If not, will the Force follow up such cases in the coming financial year?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

Reply:

- (1) In 2020, more than 9 000 fixed penalty tickets and more than 4 200 verbal warnings were issued under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap 599G) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap 599I). Upon the implementation of relevant regulations, the Police Force stepped up patrols in all districts to remind the public to comply with the requirements of the Regulations by verbal explanation, advice or warning. In addition, the Force conducted joint operations with other Government departments to proactively

inspect catering business and other scheduled premises. The Force, having regard to the actual circumstances, will continue to provide support to anti-epidemic work by deploying resources and manpower flexibly on the premise that law and order can be maintained.

- (2) The Force conducted altogether 4 operations against street prostitution in Kwun Tong District in 2020. 35 persons were arrested for “breaching the conditions of stay” and “soliciting for immoral purposes” during the operations. The Force will remain committed to combating prostitution activities in collaboration with various agencies through intelligence-led operations in a proactive manner. At present, the epidemic situation is still severe. The Force will continue to fight against the virus together with other Government departments and take enforcement actions under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB091

(Question Serial No. 3096)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

Programme (3) mentions that the Police will enhance enforcement actions against red light and speeding offences assisted by the Red Light and Speed Enforcement Camera Systems. In the vicinity of New Clear Water Bay Road, according to the complainants including Shun Lee residents and local District Council member Ms FU Pik-chun, the problem of suspected illegal road racing is extremely serious late in the night. Sports cars travelling at high speed produce high decibel noises which wake residents nearby every night, making them sleepless and disrupting their normal lives. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) How many enforcement actions against speeding offences have the Police taken at the above location in the past 2 financial years?
- (2) How many speeding drivers have been arrested and prosecuted in total and how many fixed penalty tickets have been issued in those actions?
- (3) In the coming financial year, what new measures or strategies (e.g. installation of Speed Enforcement Camera Systems) will the Police adopt to tackle the above traffic offences so as to restore a quiet and liveable environment?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 49)

Reply:

- (1) and (2) In 2020, the Police Force's enforcement figures on speeding by Police Region are listed in the following table:

| Police Region | Hong Kong Island | Kowloon East | Kowloon West | New Territories South | New Territories North | Total for 2020 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Enforcement figures on speeding | 29 102 | 53 567 | 31 647 | 81 166 | 50 512 | 245 994 |

The Force does not maintain enforcement figures in respect of individual locations.

- (3) Combating speeding is one of the Force’s “Selected Traffic Enforcement Priorities”. The Force will continue to take stringent enforcement against dangerous driving behaviour such as speeding by conducting operations on an irregular basis. The aim of the operations is to change and combat drivers’ unsafe and irresponsible driving behaviour so as to protect their lives and enhance the safety of other road users.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB092

(Question Serial No. 0631)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

How many enforcement operations were taken by the Police against the offence of illegal carriage of passengers for reward in the past two years (2019 and 2020)? How many persons were prosecuted and convicted? What plans do the Police have to step up the clampdown on such offence in 2021-22? What are the estimated manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

The Police Force has been closely monitoring the situation regarding illegal carriage of passengers for reward and following up relevant complaints. It will take appropriate enforcement actions if there is sufficient evidence. In 2019 and 2020, 233 enforcement actions were taken in relation to illegal carriage of passengers for reward. The Force does not maintain the number of successful convictions.

The Force's combat against illegal carriage of passengers for reward is part of the day-to-day traffic enforcement. The manpower and resources deployed fall under the Programme "Road Safety". No specific breakdown in this respect is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB093

(Question Serial No. 0632)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

To prevent citizens from being misled by ride-hailing platforms and falling into the pitfall of illegal carriage of passengers for reward or taking illegal white licence cars without hire car permits, which may render the insurance policy invalid, what work plans do the Police have to curb illegal carriage of passengers for reward in 2021-22? What are the manpower and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

The Police Force has been closely monitoring the situation regarding illegal carriage of passengers for reward and following up relevant complaints. It will take appropriate enforcement actions if there is sufficient evidence.

The Force's combat against illegal carriage of passengers for reward is part of the day-to-day traffic enforcement. The manpower and resources deployed fall under the Programme "Road Safety". No specific breakdown in this respect is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB094

(Question Serial No. 0634)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

During 2021-22, the Force will continue to alleviate traffic congestion strategically and identify technological solutions to address serious parking offences in partnership with other agencies and government departments. What are the latest progress of the work involved, and the manpower and estimated expenditure involved in the plans for 2021-22?

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

The Police Force is committed to adopting technological solutions for traffic enforcement. It will also continue to maintain liaison with law enforcement agencies around the world and make reference to their experience to explore the use of new technologies in enhancing the effectiveness of traffic enforcement against illegal parking and road traffic congestion.

Starting from March 2020, the Force has been implementing a pilot scheme on Electronic Fixed Penalty Tickets (FPTs) in all Police Districts by phases. The frontline law enforcement officers have since been able to access data on vehicles parked illegally via their mobile smart devices and print out FPTs without delay, with enhanced accuracy and efficiency in enforcement. The expenditure on this scheme is about HK\$18 million. No additional manpower is involved.

Building on the success of the pilot scheme, the Force plans to develop a new Traffic e-Enforcement System to facilitate the processing of FPTs and applications for traffic summonses by electronic means in order to enhance enforcement accuracy and efficiency of the Force. This in turn would help ensure the proper use of limited road space more effectively, enhance road safety and alleviate traffic congestion. The Force plans to consult

the Panel on Transport of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on the proposed system in April 2021. It expects to seek funding support from the Finance Committee of the LegCo in this legislative session, with a view to launching the first phase of the system in the first quarter of 2023. Full commissioning of the system is targeted in January 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB095

(Question Serial No. 0635)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

The Police issued 2.6 million fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) for illegal parking in 2020, representing a sharp increase of 90% as compared with 1.4 million FPTs in 2019. What are the reasons? Please provide information on FPTs for illegal parking by 18 districts and type of vehicle. With regard to the Police's work of handling illegal parking in 2021-22, what are the manpower and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

Road safety is one of the Police Force's operational priorities, and changing the irresponsible behaviour of road users that obstructs traffic flow is also among the Force's Selected Traffic Enforcement Priorities. The Force has been very concerned with the illegal parking situation. The Force aims to change the undesirable behaviour of road users that obstructs traffic flow through publicity and education, and address parking offences through patrols and enforcement actions.

The social incidents since mid-2019 lasted for months. The Force's priority then was to stop violence and curb disorder, so there was a decrease in the traffic enforcement figures in 2019. As social tensions eased in 2020, Police Districts have redeployed resources to strengthen traffic enforcement actions since then.

The Force handles information on fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) for illegal parking by Police Region, and therefore does not maintain the prosecution figures by District Council district. In the past 2 years, the figures on FPTs for illegal parking issued by the Force under the Fixed

Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) by Police Region are listed in the following table:

| Police Region | Number of FPTs for illegal parking issued | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------|
| | 2019 | 2020 |
| Hong Kong Island | 287 149 | 599 218 |
| Kowloon East | 251 430 | 489 901 |
| Kowloon West | 339 549 | 631 593 |
| New Territories South | 296 732 | 512 831 |
| New Territories North | 249 884 | 474 326 |
| Total | 1 424 744 | 2 707 869 |

The Force does not maintain any breakdown of prosecution figures for illegal parking by type of vehicle.

The Force's manpower and expenditure on tackling illegal parking fall under the Programme of "Road Safety". No specific breakdown is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB096

(Question Serial No. 0990)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Crime figures in the territory rose last year, with frauds and telephone deception registering the most significant jumps, culminating in losses amounting to HK\$780 million. Will the Police inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Have the Police increased its establishment and equipment over the past year for handling various types of deception cases, including e-shopping frauds, phone scams, "Guess Who I Am?" and online romance scams? If affirmative, what are the details and expenditure involved?
- (2) In the future, will the Police continue to devote additional resources to tackling scams, which have become increasingly rampant?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

- (1) The Police Force has all along been committed to tackling telephone, internet and social media deception. Two related initiatives, i.e. "Quick Cash Crime" and "Cyber Security and Technology Crime", are also on the list of the Commissioner's Operational Priorities 2020. As always, the Force co-ordinates resources from different sources, adopting all-round strategies to combat frauds on various fronts, including intelligence exchanges, law enforcement actions, collaboration with overseas partners, cross-agency co-operation and enhanced publicity and education, etc.

To reinforce the combat against deception and raise the public awareness of anti-deception, the Commercial Crime Bureau of the Force established the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) in July 2017 to provide round-the-clock service. The ADCC is tasked with monitoring and analysing deception trends with a view to formulating and implementing anti-scam strategies, including:

- (i) managing and operating the 24-hour "Anti-Scam Helpline 18222" to facilitate public enquiries and provide citizens with timely assistance;
- (ii) co-operating with the banking sector and overseas law enforcement agencies to intercept payments to fraudsters so as to minimise the victims' loss;

- (iii) mounting intelligence-led law enforcement operations;
- (iv) clamping down on frauds through proactive collaboration with relevant stakeholders; and
- (v) co-ordinating anti-deception publicity work.

To step up the efforts to combat frauds, the ADCC set up an Intelligence and Scam Response Team in October 2020. The officers concerned are responsible for analysing the money-laundering networks of criminal gangs and cracking down on these perpetrators effectively through enhanced law enforcement operations.

In addition, the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) is also committed to combating frauds related to technology crime, including e-shopping frauds, online romance scams, etc. In the past year, the CSTCB created additional posts to strengthen its capabilities in digital forensics, handling of cyber security incidents and cyber threat audits.

The expenditures of the ADCC and the CSTCB form part of the total expenditure under the Programme of “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. The Force does not maintain the breakdown of the expenditures involved.

- (2) The Force will review the manpower and resources allocated to various formations from time to time. Having regard to the prevailing policing needs, it will adjust the establishment to cope with the challenges effectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB097

(Question Serial No. 3090)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What specific measures will the Police Force adopt to rationalise disciplined manpower on administrative duties? What are the details and expenditures of such measures, and the innovative technologies and administrative duties involved? Has the Force set any clear objectives on the manpower to be freed up for deployment to operations through rationalisation of disciplined manpower on administrative duties in 2021-22?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

It is the established target of the Police Force to rationalise disciplined manpower on administrative duties. Officers at various levels will study and adopt feasible measures within their ambit for more effective deployment of the disciplined officers to perform frontline operational duties.

The Force has assigned most of the administrative duties that are not related to operations or investigation of cases to the civilian staff, with a view to reducing disciplined manpower deployed for clerical duties and the time required.

Moreover, the Force has always been exploring technology-based solutions with the potential to enhance frontline officers' efficiency by reducing reliance on paper-based processes and procedures. For example, the electronic licensing system was enhanced in 2020 to accept electronic application for certain licences. The Force also plans to launch more electronic services in the future, with the aim of further streamlining work flows through technology and freeing up manpower for deployment to operations.

The Force does not maintain the other information requested in the question.

- End -