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Replies to initial written questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Session No. : 21

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB039

(Question Serial No. 1787)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the enforcement against animal cruelty, will the Government inform this Committee of the following for the past 3 years:

1. The annual total number of officers in the Animal Crime Police Teams across all police districts in the territory;
2. The number of animal cruelty cases received, handled and prosecuted each year, including the number of dog poisoning cases;
3. The training courses attended by members of the Animal Crime Police Teams, including the course content and any exchanges conducted with Mainland or overseas law enforcement agencies;
4. The frequency of liaison and collaboration with other government departments and organisations under the Animal Watch Scheme each year;
5. The expenditure and effectiveness of the Animal Watchers Programme (AWP), the "Animal Care Corner" and the "AWP Student Ambassadors," including any co-operation with other government departments such as the Education Bureau; and
6. How the Police will support the enforcement of the forthcoming amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance, including whether there are plans to establish a dedicated animal police team to conduct more proactive and professional investigations into animal cruelty cases.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

1. To combat acts of cruelty to animals, the Police Force has established Animal Crime Police Teams in 22 police districts. These teams are staffed by officers with experience in investigating and handling serious crimes. The establishment of Animal Crime Police Team varies in different police districts. In general, a team comprises 1 Inspector, 1 Sergeant and 4 to 6 Police Constables. The Force will review the

manpower deployment from time to time and make appropriate deployment to meet operational needs.

2. The numbers of cases on cruelty to animals reported to the Force and prosecutions instituted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance for the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	2022	2023	2024
Number of cases reported	54	74	71
Number of persons arrested	32	60	59
Number of prosecutions instituted	20	22	17 (as at third quarter)

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

3. The Force has been exchanging experiences with its Mainland and overseas counterparts in various areas of policing, including the prevention of cruelty to animals. On education and training, the Force has invited officers from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to explain to the trainees of training programmes the laws related to cruelty to animals, skills in handling animals, experience in case investigation, and the inter-departmental co-operation mechanism. 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 of and trend in cruelty to animals.
4. 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. Later on, the College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences of the City University of Hong Kong was also invited to join the Scheme. The Scheme aims at consolidating co-operation among various stakeholders through a multi-pronged approach of education, training, publicity, intelligence gathering and investigation, as well as enhancing the efficacy of the Force's efforts in the investigation of such cases. The Force does not maintain the other breakdown requested in the question.
5. To enlist public support and assistance for combating acts of cruelty to animals, the Force implemented the Animal Watchers Programme (AWP) in 2021, with a view to agglomerating the strengths of animals lovers at the community level and on online social media platforms in the 4 directions of education, publicity, intelligence-gathering and investigation; 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. Through organising territory-wide large-scale events involving different communities and age groups, AWP aims to strengthen the awareness and care of the general public on the issue of cruelty to animals and animal welfare, as well as to disseminate the message of prevention of cruelty to animals effectively to the public.

In addition to organising various community activities, AWP has been actively promoting the “Animal Care Corner” initiative in schools, encouraging them to keep pets. Students are appointed as “AWP Student Ambassadors” to take responsibility for caring for the animals in the “Animal Care Corner.” By collaborating with government departments and animal welfare organisations, such as the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and Ocean Park, AWP provides diverse training to enhance students’ pet care skills. Furthermore, AWP has partnered with the Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences at the City University of Hong Kong to launch the “AWP Student Mentorship Programme”, aimed at providing professional animal care guidance to students in schools with an “Animal Care Corner”.

The expenditure involved forms part of the total expenditure under Programme (1) “Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community”. No specific breakdown is available.

The Force will continue to raise awareness of preventing cruelty to animals through AWP and adopt a multifaceted approach in evaluating its effectiveness by a variety of indicators, including the numbers of cases reported and persons arrested as well as the level of overall public engagement. At present, most of the cases of cruelty to animals are reported to the Force by members of the public who voluntarily offer information for investigation. This shows that AWP has a significant impact on enhancing police-community co-operation and raising public awareness of combating cruelty to animals.

6. The Animal Crime Police Teams are responsible for the law enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169). 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, AFCD and 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.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB040

(Question Serial No. 1788)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Government indicated last year that 2 000 closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs) would be installed at various locations across the territory and further indicated plans this year to increase the number to 6 000 to 7 000. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) The progress and effectiveness of the installation;
- (2) Whether policy objectives, such as the crime detection rate, have been devised for the installation of CCTVs; if so, the details; if not, the reasons;
- (3) Whether the CCTVs are equipped with facial recognition capabilities; and
- (4) Whether collaboration with other government departments is considered for a joint installation of CCTVs to enhance law enforcement efficiency; if so, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

A consolidated reply to questions 1 to 4 is as follows:

To further enhance public safety and combat crime comprehensively, the Police Force has been, under the government-led "Territory-wide Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Installation Scheme" (the Scheme), installing CCTVs across the territory since April 2024. To date, installations have commenced at 615 locations within the 18 districts that record relatively higher crime rates and pedestrian flow. The first phase of the Scheme, involving the installation of 2 000 CCTV units, is targeted for completion within 2025.

As at the end of December 2024, the CCTV system had assisted the Force in detecting 122 criminal cases, including serious crimes such as murder, robbery and burglary, resulting in 202 arrests. Among the 28 cases of murder, robbery and burglary detected with the assistance of CCTV system, 90% were detected within an average of 2 days. This

demonstrates that the CCTV system not only makes the investigations more effective but also significantly enhances the efficiency in detecting crime.

Apart from aiding in crime detection, the CCTV system also serves as a deterrent to criminal acts. The Force conducted a detailed analysis of the number of cases of various types of crimes that occurred on street and observed declines in the figures for these crimes (down by 3.2% to 27.4%) after the installation of CCTVs, showing the Scheme's positive impact on crime prevention and detection.

Meanwhile, the Force is now actively studying and drawing reference from the CCTV standards and enforcement practices of law enforcement agencies around the world. By incorporating more advanced technologies into the Scheme (including the Crowd Size Analysis System, facial recognition technology and the Automatic Number Plate Recognition System), the Force aims to maximise its contribution to the public interest. The Force has also formulated a set of comprehensive and robust internal operational guidelines to ensure a rigorous monitoring standard for the supervision of the CCTV system. In-house training programmes will be provided to authorised officers to ensure proper and effective operation of the video management system.

In parallel, the Force is maintaining close liaison with relevant government departments and other stakeholders in studying the plan to import the Force's CCTV footage into its video management system by 2025. By fully leveraging the resources of government departments and private organisations, the Force aims to expand the coverage of the CCTV network in an orderly manner, thereby further enhancing the effectiveness of crime prevention and detection. Regarding the relevant arrangements, the Force will commission an independent consultancy to conduct a Privacy Impact Assessment, and will seek advice from the Department of Justice and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data to ensure that the relevant operations comply with the requirements under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance.

Details of the subsequent phases of the Scheme are yet to be finalised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB041

(Question Serial No. 1869)

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 (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the Police Force's one-stop scam and pitfall search engine "Scameter+", which helps the public identify frauds and online pitfalls, please provide the following information:

1. Its development cost, annual maintenance expenditure, total number of downloads, promotional expenditure in the past year, and the estimated promotional budget for the coming year;
2. The total number of public search queries recorded, the total number of Call Alert notifications issued, the total number of Website Detection notifications issued, and the total number of cases adopted after receiving public reports since the upgrade was launched last year; and
3. Whether there is a detailed plan for continued refinement of the application, including whether its mechanisms will be extended to other platforms and whether a function for actively blocking junk calls will be introduced. If so, the details and estimated expenditure; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

1. The expenditures on the development, maintenance and publicity campaigns for "Scameter" and "Scameter+" form part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime". The Police Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved.
2. To better help members of the public identify scams and pitfalls, the Force launched the self-developed "Scameter" in September 2022 and its mobile application "Scameter+" in February 2023. In February 2024, the Force upgraded "Scameter+" by introducing a public reporting platform and enabling it to issue alerts when users browse suspicious

websites or receive suspicious calls. By the end of last year, “Scameter” had recorded about 6.95 million searches and issued 880 000 alerts to members of the public, whereas “Scameter+” had alerted users to over 90 000 suspicious calls and over 600 000 suspicious websites. Meanwhile, from September 2022 to the end of last year, the Force requested telecommunications service providers to intercept more than 8 300 local and non-local suspicious phone numbers, as well as nearly 30 000 suspicious website links.

3. “Scameter” has undergone continuous upgrades and expansion of its functions since its launch. Currently, “Scameter+” is equipped with blocking functions, as well as call alert and website detection functions that automatically identify scam calls and fraudulent websites. Upon detecting potential scams or cybersecurity risks, the application sends real-time notifications to remind users not to answer the calls or browse the websites. Additionally, “Scameter” includes a public intelligence platform, allowing members of the public to report scams and pitfalls, thereby further enriching its database.

In addition, the Force has been working closely with the banking industry to make effective use of the data available from “Scameter”. In November 2023, the first phase of the Suspicious Account Alert mechanism was introduced, initially covering transactions conducted via the Faster Payment System. Subsequent expansions in the second and third phases, launched in August and December 2024 respectively, extended the mechanism to cover internet banking, physical branch transactions and automated teller machines (including cash deposit machines), providing the public with more comprehensive protection. Before a transaction is confirmed, the mechanism issues an alert to remind users of potential fraud risks. At present, the mechanism covers the vast majority of the public’s day-to-day transfers.

The Force will continuously review and enhance the functions of “Scameter”, with a view to strengthening anti-fraud measures in a proactive manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB042****(Question Serial No. 0663)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of CrimeControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

It is mentioned that the Police Force will, among others, strengthen its response in tackling deceptions and frauds through the e-Crime Processing and Analysis Hub and Anti-Deception Coordination Centre. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The number of deceptions and frauds reported and the amount of losses over the past 3 years;
2. The number of deceptions and frauds successfully detected by the Police, the number of persons arrested, and the amount successfully recovered over the past 3 years; and
3. Regarding the Police's mobile app "Scameter+", which enables the public to report suspicious websites or calls through the application, how frequently does the Force update the database to ensure the data remains accurate and readily accessible?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-por (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

- 1-2. The number of deceptions and frauds reported to the Police Force, the detection rate, the amount involved, the number of arrests and the amount of fraudulent payments intercepted for each of the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	2022	2023	2024
Number of cases	27 923	39 824	44 480
Detection rate	12.0%	11.9%	10.6%
Amount involved (HK\$)	4.85 billion	9.18 billion	9.15 billion
Number of arrests	4 112	7 043	8 692
Fraudulent payments intercepted (HK\$)	1.36 billion	1.29 billion	1.48 billion

3. To better help members of the public identify scams and pitfalls, the Force launched the self-developed "Scameter" in September 2022 and its mobile application "Scameter+"

in February 2023. In February 2024, the Force upgraded “Scameter+” by introducing a public reporting platform to enrich its database and enabling it to issue alerts when users browse suspicious websites or receive suspicious calls. By the end of last year, “Scameter” had recorded about 6.95 million searches and issued 880 000 alerts to members of the public.

The Force updates the “Scameter” database daily to ensure that the data remain accurate and up-to-date.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB043

(Question Serial No. 0560)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The estimate of the amount required in 2025-26 for the salaries and expenses of the Hong Kong Police Force is \$28,056,461,000, representing an increase of \$1,322,008,000 over the revised estimate for 2024-25. As of 31 March 2025, the Hong Kong Police Force had an establishment of 37 992 posts, with an expected net decrease of 199 posts in 2025-26. In this connection, please provide the following details to this Committee:

1. Details of the posts to be created, including the total expenditure to be involved, as well as the posts to be deleted and the total expenditure thus saved;
2. Details of the current vacancies in the Force, including the total number of vacancies, post titles, ranks, duties and payroll costs. Please also outline the measures and strategies that the Force intends to implement to strengthen recruitment efforts in the future.
3. Detailed information on the number of recruitment exercises conducted through events such as the Police Recruitment Experience and Assessment Day, the Education and Careers Expo, advertisements and various promotional channels; the number of persons engaged; the number of applications received; the number of persons employed; and the respective financial expenditures for each of the past 3 years;
4. The Force has conducted the Police University Recruitment Express (PURE) at 11 local universities to facilitate students' entry into the Force and launched the PURE (Mainland) to recruit Hong Kong students studying in Mainland China. Please advise on the total number of students engaged, the number of applications received, and the number of students employed through these programmes since their inception, with a breakdown by local students and Hong Kong students studying in the Mainland. Please also indicate whether the effectiveness of these recruitment exercises has been reviewed; if so, the details; if not, the reason(s); and
5. Under Head 122, the number of staff under all programmes is projected to be 37 793 as of 31 March 2026. Of these, 28 335 police officers will be available for front-line operational duties, 2 405 for front-line professional support and 2 390 for

logistical/administrative support and training. Please advise whether information is available on the deployment of the remaining 4 663 officers; if so, the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

1. In 2025-26, there will be a net decrease of 199 non-directorate posts (involving creation of 32 civilian posts, and reduction of 208 disciplined service posts and 23 civilian posts) in the Police Force.

Details on the salaries of the 32 civilian posts to be created are tabulated as follows:

Rank	Number of posts to be created	Master Pay Scale (MPS)	Monthly salary for the rank in HK\$ (from 1 April 2024)
Total (civilian staff)	32	MPS 1 – 10	15,180 – 26,590

Details on the 208 disciplined service posts and 23 civilian posts to be reduced and the salaries involved are tabulated as follows:

Rank	Number of posts to be reduced	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)/ Model Scale 1 Pay Scale (MOD)	Monthly salary for the rank in HK\$ (from 1 April 2024)
Senior Superintendent	-1	PPS 54 – 54b	154,775 – 163,905
Superintendent	-2	PPS 50 – 53	132,365 – 148,775
Chief Inspector	-3	PPS 44 – 49	103,205 – 127,620
Senior Inspector/Inspector	-7	PPS 24 – 43	52,015 – 99,500
Station Sergeant	-3	PPS 24 – 33a	52,015 – 76,830
Sergeant	-11	PPS 17 – 28	42,390 – 60,850
Police Constable	-181	PPS 4 – 17	28,940 – 42,390
Total (police officers)	-208		
Total (civilian staff)	-23	MPS 1 – 11 MOD 0 – 13	15,180 – 28,225 15,175 – 19,755
Total	-231		

2. At present, there are approximately 6 000 vacancies for police officers in the Force. Details on the rank categories mainly involved are as follows:

Rank category	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)	Monthly salary for the rank in HK\$ (from 1 April 2024)
Inspectorate	PPS 24 – 49	52,015 – 127,620
Junior officer	PPS 4 – 33a	28,940 – 76,830

The Force has been adopting proactive recruitment strategies to attract high calibre candidates who have the competence to become police officers, the affection for the Motherland and Hong Kong, and the passion to serve the public.

The Force has disseminated recruitment and publicity information through various media and social networking platforms, and has organised and participated in regular recruitment activities and projects in Hong Kong, such as the Police Recruitment Experience and Assessment Day, Community Outreach Recruitment Express, Sportsmen's Programme for Recruitment, Police Recruitment Buddies Scheme, Auxiliary Police Recruitment Express, as well as has set up booths at the Education and Careers Expo. In September 2024, the Force launched the "HKPF Recruit" mobile application to leverage technology and enhance recruitment efficiency. Through the app, members of the public can submit applications for police positions, track their selection progress, including interview scheduling and results, and register for recruitment-related activities.

Targeting local students, the Force has introduced initiatives such as the Police Mentorship Programme, Police University Recruitment Express (PURE) and Auxiliary Undergraduate Scheme, while also co-organising full-time "Diploma of Applied Education – Police Cadet Training" programmes with 3 post-secondary institutions. Additionally, in February 2025, the Force signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a local vocational training institution to identify individuals interested in joining the disciplined services at an early stage. Recognising the increasing number of Hong Kong students pursuing higher education in the Mainland in recent years, the Force launched the PURE (Mainland) in November 2022. Recruitment efforts have included visits to cities such as Guangdong, Fujian, Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan to encourage Mainland-based Hong Kong students to join the Force.

The Force has also been actively conducting publicity and recruitment campaigns in overseas cities, including London, Toronto, and Sydney. To provide a one-stop comprehensive selection process for Hong Kong students studying overseas and returning to Hong Kong during holidays, the Force launched the PURE (Overseas) in December 2024.

The Force has disseminated recruitment and publicity information through various media and social networking platforms, and has organised and participated in regular recruitment activities and projects in Hong Kong. The Force has also introduced diverse recruitment activities and projects targeting local, Mainland and overseas students to facilitate students' applications to the Force upon graduation. In addition, the Force is also committed to strengthening training collaboration with local educational institutions. Since the 2024/25 academic year, the Force has co-organised full-time "Diploma of Applied Education – Police Cadet Training" programmes with 3 post-secondary institutions. Students who successfully complete the programme and pass the police constable selection process can immediately proceed to the Hong Kong Police College for foundation training. In February 2025, the Force signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a local vocational training institution to identify and nurture individuals interested in joining the disciplined services at an early stage.

The Force will continue to adjust the approach of recruitment publicity in light of general social conditions such as the economic situation and demand in the labour market.

3. The Force has regularly organised a variety of recruitment activities and programmes, including the Police Recruitment Experience and Assessment Day, Community Outreach Recruitment Express, Police Mentorship Programme, PURE, “Diploma of Applied Education – Police Cadet Training” programmes, Police Recruitment Buddies Scheme, Sportsmen’s Recruitment Programme and participation in the Education and Careers Expo. In addition, the Force has disseminated recruitment and publicity information through various media channels and social networking platforms, such as banners, posters, recruitment videos, television, the Police Force’s website, the “Hong Kong Police Force” mobile application and the Force’s social media platforms. Publicity videos have also been shared on major social networking platforms and websites. The Force does not maintain a breakdown on the expenditure involved.

With the implementation of various proactive recruitment strategies and activities, the number of applicants to the Force and recruits over the past 3 years is as follows:

Financial year	Number of applicants		Number of recruits	
	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable
2022-23	3 391	4 606	165	554
2023-24	5 051	6 647	157	818
2024-25 (As at 28 February 2025)	5 129	6 491	148	817

4. To facilitate university students’ entry into the Force, the Force has been conducting publicity work on university campuses. The Force has organised the PURE at 12 local universities since 2022, offering recruitment information and conducting selection process. As at 28 February 2025, around 2 000 applications for the position of Probationary Inspector, Police Constable and Auxiliary Police Constable have been received through the PURE. Among them, around 40% of the applicants are at various stages of the recruitment process, and around 10% of the applicants have joined the Force as probationary inspectors, police constables or auxiliary police constables.

Given the increasing number of Hong Kong students pursuing higher education in the Mainland in recent years, the Force launched the PURE (Mainland) in November 2022. Recruitment efforts have included visits to Guangdong, Fujian, Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan to attract Mainland-based Hong Kong students to join the Force. The initiative received over 4 000 applications, with around 2 000 applicants submitting their applications and participating in the selection process (including for Probationary Inspector, Police Constable, and Auxiliary Police Constable) on-site. As at 28 February 2025, over 50% of these applicants are at various stages of the recruitment process, while over 10% have successfully joined the Force as probationary inspectors, police constables or auxiliary police constables. The Force has been proactively communicating with applicants to expedite the recruitment process.

5. The remaining 4 663 officers are civilian staff who support the frontline operational duties of police officers, as well as provide professional frontline support, logistical/administrative support and training.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB044

(Question Serial No. 0561)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): (661) Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Provision of \$1,063,365,000 under Subhead 661 minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote) represents an increase of \$846,079,000 (389.4%) over the revised estimate for 2024-25. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for capital account items including the Government's territory-wide closed-circuit televisions (CCTV) installation at crime black spots. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the estimate for the territory-wide installation of CCTVs at crime black spots for 2025-26. It was indicated earlier that 612 sets of CCTVs were installed in 2024, with plans to install more than 1 300 sets next year. By 2027, a cumulative total of 6 000 to 7 000 sets of CCTVs is expected to be installed. Please provide detailed information on the number of CCTVs to be installed each year and the corresponding estimated expenditures for 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027. If such measures are in place, please provide details; if not, please explain the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The first phase of the "Territory-wide Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Installation Scheme" (the Scheme) involves the installation of 2 000 CCTV units across various districts in Hong Kong. To date, installations have commenced at 615 locations within the 18 districts that record relatively higher crime rates and pedestrian flow. The first phase of the Scheme, involving the installation of 2 000 CCTV units, is targeted for completion within 2025.

As the development of the system in the first phase, which involves the installation of 2 000 CCTV units across the territory, has been supported by the Force's existing resources, no specific breakdown of the expenditure is maintained. Details of the subsequent phases of the Scheme are yet to be finalised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB045****(Question Serial No. 0562)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (2) Prevention and Detection of CrimeControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

The provision for 2025-26 is \$110.4 million (1.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024-25. This is mainly due to the increased provisions for filling of vacancies, full-year effect of vacancies filled in 2024-25, salary increments and increased cash flow requirement for capital account items. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The details of the vacancies under Programme 2, including the respective post titles, ranks, duties, payroll costs, and whether they are permanent or supernumerary, as well as the nature of the work involved;
2. In 2024, a total of 94 747 crimes were reported and the crime detection rate was 30.4%. Please explain the specific reasons for this relatively low crime detection rate and how the Force plans to improve it; and
3. As mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26, the Force plans to strengthen its crime investigation capability by improving the existing criminal intelligence systems. Please specify which systems will be improved and provide details of the estimated expenditure and staff establishment required for the enhancements, as well as the expected completion timeline for the system upgrades.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)Reply:

1. At present, there are approximately 6 000 vacancies for police officers under Programmes (1)-(4) in the Police Force. Details on the rank categories mainly involved are as follows:

Rank	Police Pay Scale (PPS)	Monthly salary for the rank (HK\$) (from 1 April 2024)
Inspectorate	PPS 24 – 49	52,015 – 127,620
Junior officer	PPS 4 – 33a	28,940 – 76,830

The Force reviews the manpower and resources allocated to various formations from time to time and makes flexible deployment to meet the policing needs and the service needs of the community. The Force will continue to enhance effectiveness and efficiency through re-prioritisation, internal redeployment and streamlining of work processes, so that various new policies and initiatives can be taken forward.

2. In 2024, a total of 94 747 crimes were recorded in Hong Kong, representing an increase of 4 471 cases or 5% compared with 2023. The overall detection rate was 30.4%, representing a slight decrease of 0.7 percentage point compared with that of 2023. Leaving deception cases aside, the overall crime figure recorded a drop of 185 cases (-0.4%) last year, while the detection rate rose by 1.7 percentage points to 47.9%, indicating that the rise in deception cases was the main reason for the increase in the overall crime figure and the decline in the overall detection rate.

A number of traditional crimes such as homicide, robbery, burglary, wounding and serious assault, serious drug offences, theft, criminal damage, criminal intimidation and arson recorded declines in 2024. Quite a number of these crimes even reached new lows not seen in years or on record, while their detection rates were considerably high as well, with some even reaching the highest levels on record. For instance, the detection rate for robbery and snatching reached the highest level on record, while the detection rates for burglary, arson, theft from vehicles and criminal damage were the second-highest since records began.

In 2024, 44 480 cases of deception were recorded, representing an increase of 4 656 cases or 11.7% compared with 2023. The detection rate stood at 10.6%. The low detection rate was primarily attributed to the fact that over 80% of the cases involved online and telephone scams. Fraudsters were able to bypass geographical boundaries to contact victims and swiftly transfer a portion of the proceeds overseas, making it challenging for the Force to trace and recover the funds. Additionally, fraud syndicates often operated remotely from regions with weak rule of law, further complicating enforcement efforts. Some stooge accounts used to collect fraudulent payments in Hong Kong were also opened by non-locals, who left the city after setting up the accounts to evade arrest by the Force.

To address this issue, the Force, together with Mainland public security authorities and overseas law enforcement agencies, has carried out a series of enforcement actions. Between May and July 2024, the Force conducted joint operations with Mainland public security authorities. These efforts resulted in the arrest of 261 persons across both jurisdictions, associated with 535 deception cases in Hong Kong and involving over HK\$330 million in laundered fraudulent funds. In September last year, the Force also dismantled a cross-border money laundering syndicate operating in Hong Kong and the Mainland through timely intelligence exchanges facilitated by the Anti-Deception Alliance and the banking sector, leading to the arrest of 14 persons. The Force will continue to maintain close intelligence exchanges with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies to combat deception and related money laundering crimes.

3. To effectively prevent and detect crime, the Force periodically pursues the upgrading and enhancement of its relevant criminal intelligence computer systems. In 2021, funding was approved for the Force to develop the Financial Data Analytic Platform.

This platform leverages advanced technologies and big data analysis tools to enhance the analytical capabilities of the financial intelligence system. In June 2023, the Force, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the banking sector, launched the Financial Intelligence Evaluation Sharing Tool for banks to share information on corporate accounts involved in fraud-related money laundering activities, improving the success rates of identifying and combatting criminal activities, strengthening due diligence measures and fostering industry-wide cooperation. In January 2025, the Force further introduced the Transaction Analytics System, which automates fund flow analysis to a high degree, enabling investigators to conduct fund flow and network analysis with greater efficiency. Additionally, funding was approved in 2024 for the Force to develop the Centralised Digital Image Platform for the proper storage, processing, retrieval and sharing of multimedia files with intelligence or evidential value. The Force will continue to employ advanced technologies to enhance its capabilities in collecting and analysing criminal intelligence, and in combatting organised and serious crime, technology crime and deception.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB046

(Question Serial No. 0563)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Police attach great importance on animal welfare and have assigned a designated Animal Crime Police Team in each of the 22 police districts with crime investigation units to handle animal cruelty cases across the territory. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the total number of reported cases of cruelty to animals received by the Force, the types of animals involved, and the respective numbers of prosecutions and convictions in such cases for each of the past 3 years;
2. the staff establishment and estimated expenditure in respect of the Animal Crime Police Teams for each of the past 3 years, whether the current staff establishment is adequate for coping with their daily work, and whether there are any plans to strengthen the staff establishment;
3. regarding the continued implementation of the Animal Watchers Programme, as mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26, the number and types of activities organised since the launch of the Programme, the number of participants and the expenditure involved, as well as whether the effectiveness of these activities has been evaluated; and
4. the number of police dogs trained and the expenditure involved for each of the past 3 years, as well as the expenditure earmarked this year for training police dogs.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

1. The numbers of cases on cruelty to animals reported to the Police Force, persons arrested, prosecutions instituted and persons convicted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance for the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2022	2023	2024
Number of cases reported	54	74	71
Number of persons arrested	32	60	59
Number of prosecutions instituted	20	22	17 (as at third quarter)
Number of persons convicted	23	20	14 (as at third quarter)

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

2. To more accurately represent the role of the specialised criminal investigation teams assigned to animal cruelty cases in various police districts, these groups have been officially named “Animal Crime Police Teams” effective from 28 February 2021. The establishment of an Animal Crime Police Team varies across different police districts. Generally, a team is comprised of 1 Inspector, 1 Sergeant, and 4 to 6 Police Constables. The Force will review the manpower deployment from time to time and make appropriate deployment to meet operational needs.

The expenditure involved forms part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. No specific breakdown is available.

3. To enlist public support and assistance in combating acts of cruelty to animals, the Force implemented the Animal Watchers Programme (AWP) in 2021, with a view to agglomerating the strengths of animal lovers at the community level and on social media platforms in the 4 directions of education, publicity, intelligence-gathering and investigation; 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. Through organising territory-wide large-scale events involving different communities and age groups, AWP aims to strengthen the awareness and care of the general public on the issue of cruelty to animals and animal welfare, as well as to disseminate the message of prevention of cruelty to animals effectively to the public.

In 2021, the Force organised several large-scale activities related to crime prevention, including an event titled “AWP Fight Poisoning Campaign”, a video competition named “AWP Plank Challenge”, and a public education event called “AWP Community Mobile Classroom”. In 2022, the Force launched a series of educational and promotional activities under the banner of “AWP x 25A”. These activities included the “AWP Colours in 25A” colouring and drawing contest, school promotions titled “Animal Care Corner”, and the “BYOP (Bring Your Own Pet) Treasure Hunt”. In 2023, AWP initiated the “Synergy for Great” initiative, collaborating with various organisations to introduce the “Life-wide Animal Care College” educational programmes. This initiative featured the “Adventure King Summer Camp”, educational seminars, visits to the veterinary medical centre, and the “Hang-in-there Charity Challenge” in observance of World Animal Day. In 2024, AWP organised a variety of activities, including the “Education Programme of Ocean Park Academy Hong Kong”, “Community Mobile Classroom 2.0”, “Animal Care Summer Camp” and the “Bring Your Own Pets x Sunny & Zander Charity Run.” Furthermore, AWP has

partnered with the Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences at the City University of Hong Kong to launch the “AWP Student Mentorship Programme”, aimed at providing professional animal care guidance to students in schools with an “Animal Care Corner”.

The events organised from 2021 to 2024 saw the physical participation of over 198 000 people, with approximately 22 million online engagements (e.g. social media posts) recorded. The Force will continue its efforts to raise public awareness about preventing cruelty to animals through the AWP initiative. A multifaceted approach will be used to evaluate its effectiveness, using a variety of indicators such as the number of cases reported, the number of persons arrested and the level of public engagement. Currently, most animal cruelty cases are reported to the Force by members of the public who voluntarily provide information for investigations. This demonstrates that the AWP initiative has a significant impact on enhancing police-community co-operation and raising public awareness in the fight against animal cruelty.

The expenditure involved forms part of the total expenditure under Programme (1) “Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community”. No specific breakdown is available.

4. The average number of serving police dogs of the year for the past 3 years is as follows:

Year	Number of serving police dogs (average number of the year)
2022	154
2023	152
2024	152
2025 (as at February)	153

The expenditure of the Police Dog Unit (PDU) includes expenses on the daily operation of PDU bases, dog food, medication and dog training equipment, as well as salaries for dog handlers, supervising officers and civilian staff, and costs for equipment. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure on training police dogs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB047

(Question Serial No. 0137)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Cross-Border Deception

Regarding the captioned matter, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the number of deception cases, the number of victims involved and the total amount of financial losses reported last year;
2. details on how the Government plans to enhance publicity on social media and public awareness of deception prevention; and
3. the current status of joint efforts with the Mainland and overseas counterparts in combating deception each year, including the effectiveness of these efforts, the number of cases detected and the amount of defrauded money recovered?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuet-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

1. In 2024, a total of 44 480 cases of deception and fraud were reported, involving losses amounting to \$9.15 billion. The Police Force does not maintain overall data on the total number of victims.
2. Over the past year, the Force has brought anti-deception messages to various districts of the territory through channels like ferries, minibuses, trams, a major logistics company's fleet and the Anti-scam Promotional Truck, while getting the anti-scam information across to households with the assistance of Care Teams. To further promote the use of the self-developed "Scameter+", the Force launched the Anti-Scam Lucky Draw with the support from private organisations from October to November 2024. The event attracted over 1.8 million participants and "Scameter+" recorded a significant rise of 300 000 downloads. By the end of last year, the application had accumulated 874 000 downloads. In December, the Force also held the large-scale Anti-Scam Carnival at the West Kowloon Cultural District and placed decorative lights and art installations of

considerable size featuring “The Little Grape” in Tsim Sha Tsui East. In January 2025, the Force organised the “Anti-Money Laundering Month” again and launched a brand-new mini-movie titled “Your Life. Your Choice” together with the Correctional Services Department to remind members of the public not to rent, lend or sell their bank accounts.

The Force will continue to adopt an extensive publicity strategy. This includes using traditional platforms, such as television programmes, and social media like the Force’s official accounts on Facebook and Xiaohongshu, the websites of the “CyberDefender” and the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre, as well as the mobile application “Scameter+” to disseminate anti-deception messages in various forms like short videos, audios and texts. The Force has also received support from a number of government departments and various public and private organisations to promote anti-deception messages through diverse channels that could reach citizens from all walks of life and different backgrounds.

3. The Force has been maintaining close intelligence exchanges with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies to jointly combat cross-border deception activities. Over the past 5 years (2020 to 2024), multiple joint operations conducted with these agencies have resulted in the arrest of over 730 persons. These operations were linked to at least 3 177 deception and technology crime cases, involving criminal proceeds exceeding \$7.2 billion.

In collaboration with the banking sector, the Force’s Anti-Deception Coordination Centre successfully intercepted \$9.55 billion in fraudulent funds across 4 919 fraud cases over the past 5 years. The Force does not maintain statistics on the amounts recovered by the victims.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB048

(Question Serial No. 1537)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the upgrading of the existing criminal intelligence computer systems (the systems) to enhance the Force's intelligence analysis and serious crime investigation capability, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The lifespan of the existing systems and the amount of recurrent expenditure incurred (including but not limited to hardware and software maintenance, communication networks and system maintenance);
2. Any preliminary plans proposed (e.g. how the updated system will address existing technical limitations); and
3. Given the critical role of the systems in crime investigation and prevention, whether the Police Force will expedite the relevant upgrading work and whether the expenditure involved has been assessed.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

- 1-3. To effectively prevent and detect crime, the Police Force periodically pursues the upgrading and enhancement of its relevant criminal intelligence computer systems.

Expenditures related to the Force's Operational Nominal Index Computer System and Criminal Intelligence Computer System form part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime". The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditures involved.

In 2021, funding was approved for the Force to develop the Financial Data Analytic Platform. This platform leverages advanced technologies and big data analysis tools to enhance the analytical capabilities of the financial intelligence system. In June 2023, the Force, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the banking sector, launched the Financial Intelligence Sharing Tool for banks to share information

on corporate accounts involved in fraud-related money laundering activities, improving the success rates of identifying and combating criminal activities, strengthening due diligence measures and fostering industry-wide cooperation. In January 2025, the Force further introduced the Transaction Analytics System, which automates fund flow analysis to a high degree, enabling investigators to conduct fund flow and network analysis with greater efficiency.

Additionally, funding was approved in 2024 for the Force to develop the Centralised Digital Image Platform for the proper storage, processing, retrieval and sharing of multimedia files with intelligence or evidential value.

The Force will continue to employ advanced technologies to enhance its capabilities in collecting and analysing criminal intelligence, and in combating organised and serious crime, technology crime and deception.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB049

(Question Serial No. 1019)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): (001) Salaries

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Hong Kong Police Force expects a net decrease of 199 posts in 2025-26. In this connection, please provide this Committee with the following information:

- 1) Details of the reduction in establishment, including (a) the formations affected, (b) the ranks involved, and (c) the amount of expenditure on emoluments related to the reduction;
- 2) The method by which the reduction in establishment will be implemented;
- 3) How the Force will ensure sufficient police manpower to uphold law and order and safeguard public safety following the reduction in establishment; and
- 4) Whether additional auxiliary police officer posts will be created; if so, the reasons and the estimated expenditures involved; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

1&2. In 2025-26, there will be a net decrease of 199 non-directorate posts (involving creation of 32 civilian posts, and reduction of 208 disciplined service posts and 23 civilian posts) in the Police Force. Of these, 153 posts fall under Programme (1) "Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community". Details on the number of posts to be reduced and the salaries involved are tabulated as follows:

Rank	Number of posts to be reduced	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)/ Model Scale 1 Pay Scale (MOD)	Monthly salary for the rank in HK\$ (from 1 April 2024)
Senior Superintendent	-1	PPS 54 – 54b	154,775 – 163,905
Superintendent	-2	PPS 50 – 53	132,365 – 148,775
Chief Inspector	-3	PPS 44 – 49	103,205 – 127,620
Senior Inspector/ Inspector	-7	PPS 24 – 43	52,015 – 99,500
Station Sergeant	-3	PPS 24 – 33a	52,015 – 76,830
Sergeant	-11	PPS 17 – 28	42,390 – 60,850
Police Constable	-181	PPS 4 – 17	28,940 – 42,390
Total (police officers)	-208		
Total (civilian staff)	-23	MPS 1 – 11 MOD 0 – 13	15,180 – 28,225 15,175 – 19,755
Total	-231		

The Force will review the manpower and resources allocated to various formations and adjust the establishment in light of policing needs from time to time.

3. Through re-prioritisation, internal redeployment and streamlining of work processes and efficiency enhancement, the Force regularly examines its staff establishment and makes flexible deployment in response to policing needs to meet the community's service demands. At the same time, the Force has formulated comprehensive human resources and strategic plans for staff training, career development, among others. Officers are encouraged to make self-advancement and strengthen their own professional capacity so as to serve members of the public more effectively. In general, policing services will not be affected by the reduction in establishment.
4. As at 28 February 2025, the establishment and strength of the Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force were 4 501 and 3 323 respectively. The Force will continue to adopt its current recruitment strategies to attract high-calibre candidates with the passion to serve the community to join the Auxiliary Police Force and fill the existing vacancies.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB050****(Question Serial No. 1027)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Road SafetyControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

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

Question:

It is mentioned that the Force aims to enhance road safety by reducing traffic accidents and maintaining a smooth and safe traffic flow in Hong Kong. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The number of fixed penalty tickets issued by the Police for the past 3 years, with a breakdown by Police District;
2. A) The number of traffic wardens, as well as B) the number of newly recruited traffic wardens and those lost due to natural wastage, in each Police District for the past 3 years; and
3. Whether the Police plan to recruit additional traffic wardens in the upcoming financial year; if so, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1. The number of fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) for illegal parking issued by the Police Force under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) for the past 3 years by Police Region is tabulated as follows:

Police Region	Number of FPTs for illegal parking		
	2022	2023	2024
Hong Kong Island	624 000	523 167	397 077
Kowloon East	555 417	443 038	297 579
Kowloon West	1 011 084	960 276	872 319
New Territories South	570 895	471 527	390 462
New Territories North	602 075	615 011	585 760

Police Region	Number of FPTs for illegal parking		
	2022	2023	2024
Total	3 363 471	3 013 019	2 543 197

2. The number of traffic wardens in the Force in each Police District for the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Police District	Number of Senior Traffic Warden			Number of Traffic Warden		
Year (as at 31 December each year)	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Wan Chai District	5	5	5	25	26	24
Eastern District	2	2	2	15	13	14
Western District	2	2	2	11	11	11
Central District	2	2	2	12	9	13
Wong Tai Sin District	2	2	2	11	13	13
Kwun Tong District	2	2	2	9	7	10
Sau Mau Ping District	1	1	1	7	7	7
Tseung Kwan O District	2	2	2	10	11	10
Yau Tsim District	4	4	4	26	21	26
Mong Kok District	4	3	4	25	25	26
Kowloon City District	4	4	4	22	22	20
Sham Shui Po District	2	2	2	16	16	17
Tuen Mun District	2	2	2	8	6	6
Yuen Long District	2	2	2	14	14	13
Tai Po District	2	2	2	11	11	8
Tsuen Wan District	2	2	2	14	11	11
Kwai Tsing District	2	2	2	16	14	16
Airport District	1	1	1	7	7	9
Shatin District	1	1	1	10	9	10
Lantau District	1	1	1	7	7	6
Border District	0	0	0	3	2	3

The number of newly recruited traffic wardens and those lost due to natural wastage for the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of new recruits	Number of members lost due to natural wastage
2022	59	23
2023	7	35
2024	51	39

3. The Force has been closely monitoring the manpower situation of traffic wardens and conducts recruitment exercises when necessary. In the latest recruitment exercise concluded in 2024, a total of 51 new traffic wardens were recruited. Should there be vacancies to be filled in the future, another round of recruitment will be arranged.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB051

(Question Serial No. 1381)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Since February 2025, the Government has listed etomidate and its 3 analogues (metomidate, propoxate and isopropoxate) as dangerous drugs and renamed “space oil” as “space oil drug” to make clear to the public its nature as a dangerous drug and its associated harm to the public. In this connection, will this Committee be informed of the following:

- 1) The number of cases identified / reported so far involving the consumption, unlawful sale and possession, trafficking and unlawful manufacture of “space oil drug”, broken down by age group and case nature;
- 2) In relation to “space oil drug”-related offences in 2025-26, the i) staff establishment, ii) estimated expenditure, iii) nature and details of operations and iv) anticipated crime figures;
- 3) For public awareness and education efforts on the harm caused by “space oil drug” in 2025-26, the i) staff establishment, ii) estimated expenditure, iii) nature and details of activities and iv) anticipated number of people to be reached; and
- 4) In light of concerns that the consumption of “space oil drug” may move underground and become more clandestine following its regulation, any specific preventive and enforcement measures to address the issue, as well as plans for additional manpower and estimated expenditure; if so, the details?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

- 1) Following the gazettal of etomidate, the main active ingredient of “space oil drug”, and its 3 analogues as dangerous drugs on 14 February 2025, the number of persons arrested by the Police Force for related offences, broken down by age and offence type, is as follows:

Offence involving “space oil drug”	Between 14 and 28 February 2025	
	Number of arrested persons aged under 21	Number of arrested persons aged 21 or above
Trafficking	4	17
Consumption and possession	6	8
Manufacture	0	4

- 2 to 4) Since 14 February 2025, “space oil drug” has been listed as a dangerous drug upon gazettal. As at 28 February 2025, the Force has detected a total of 29 cases involving “space oil drug”, resulting in the arrest of 39 persons, including 10 youths aged under 21. On 17 February 2025, the Force detected the first case of manufacture of “space oil drug” after the legislative amendment, resulting in the arrest of 1 male and the seizure of about 400 suspected “space oil drug” capsules, 1.6 litres of suspected liquid etomidate and a batch of drug manufacturing paraphernalia. In another case on 20 February 2025, the Force arrested 3 persons and seized about 12 suspected “space oil drug” capsules, 563.5 millilitres of suspected liquid etomidate and a batch of drug manufacturing paraphernalia.

To tackle the issue of “space oil drug”, the Force introduced Etomidate Rapid Test Kits on 18 January 2025, enabling on-duty frontline officers to conduct on-site rapid tests for suspected possession of “space oil drug”.

In addition to enforcement actions, the Force remains committed to the anti-drug education work. Apart from incorporating the information about “space oil drug” into school talks and the “interactive anti-drugs drama”, the Force has also disseminated infographics and short videos on “space oil drug” to all schools in Hong Kong for showing to their students. Founded by the Force in 2021, the “Leadership Institute on Narcotics” (L.I.O.N.) trains 100 undergraduates and secondary students annually to become anti-drug leaders. Now in its fourth cohort, L.I.O.N. continues to uphold its mission of fostering a drug-free culture.

The expenditure on combating drug crimes forms part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB052

(Question Serial No. 1382)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In April 2024, the Territory-wide Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Installation Scheme was launched to combat crime through the installation of CCTVs at crime black spots across Hong Kong. Furthermore, the provision for this Programme in 2025-26 has increased by \$1.075 billion (18.1%) compared to the revised estimate for 2024-25. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) The amount allocated for the Territory-wide CCTV Installation Scheme, its proportion of the \$1.075 billion increase in the 2025-26 financial provision, along with details of the staff establishment and expenditures involved;
- 2) The number and distribution of CCTVs installed and planned to be installed at crime black spots across Hong Kong from 2024 to 2027, broken down by District Council district, along with the annual target number of CCTVs to be installed;
- 3) The number and types of crime cases detected with the assistance of CCTVs since the Scheme's launch, broken down by District Council district; and
- 4) Whether the Police have assessed if the number of CCTVs installed under the Scheme is sufficient, and whether there are plans to expand the Scheme further; if so, the relevant details and the proposed number of additional CCTVs to be installed?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

A consolidated reply to questions 1 to 4 is as follows:

The first phase of the "Territory-wide Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Installation Scheme" (the Scheme) involves the installation of 2 000 CCTV units across various districts in Hong Kong. To date, installations have commenced at 615 locations within the 18 districts that record relatively higher crime rates and pedestrian flow. The first phase of the Scheme, involving the installation of 2 000 CCTV units, is targeted for completion within 2025.

As at the end of December 2024, the CCTV system had assisted the Force in detecting 122 criminal cases, including serious crimes such as murder, robbery and burglary, resulting in 202 arrests. Among the 28 cases of murder, robbery and burglary detected with the assistance of CCTV system, 90% were detected within an average of 2 days. This demonstrates that the CCTV system not only makes investigation more effective but also significantly enhances the efficiency in detecting crime.

Apart from aiding in crime detection, the CCTV system also serves as a deterrent to criminal acts. The Force conducted a detailed analysis of the number of cases of various types of crimes that occurred on street and observed declines in the figures for these crimes (down by 3.2% to 27.4%) after the installation of CCTVs, showing the Scheme's significant positive impact on crime prevention and detection.

As part of its anti-crime efforts, the Force will continue to review locations across the 18 districts that record relatively higher crime rates and pedestrian flow, and install CCTVs at strategic locations in various districts. This initiative seeks to enhance the Force's capabilities in preventing and detecting crime through CCTV installation, with a view to improving community-wide public safety.

As the development of the system in the first phase, which involves the installation of 2 000 CCTV units across the territory, has been supported by the Force's existing resources, no specific breakdown of the expenditure is maintained. Details of the subsequent phases of the Scheme are yet to be finalised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB053

(Question Serial No. 3092)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

There has been a noticeable escalation in deception crimes in recent years. However, the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 under this Programme do not include specific measures to strengthen efforts against various types of deception cases. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) Details of various types of deception over the past 3 years, including i) the number of cases, ii) the amount of money involved, iii) the number of prosecutions, iv) the number of convictions and the detection rate, as well as v) the amount of money recovered;
- 2) The number of offenders and victims of various types of deception over the past 3 years, with a breakdown by 10-year age groups;
- 3) For the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre over the past 3 years, an annual breakdown of the staff establishment, staff grades, expenditures involved and the total amount of fraudulent funds intercepted; and
- 4) Information on the measures introduced to address and prevent the increasing trend of crimes with the use of technologies such as Deepfake and other generative artificial intelligence in recent years, along with details of the staff establishment and expenditures allocated for these efforts.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

- 1 to 3) The total number of deceptions and frauds reported to the Police Force, the detection rate, the amount involved, the number of arrests and the amount of fraudulent funds intercepted for each of the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	2022	2023	2024
Number of cases	27 923	39 824	44 480
Detection rate	12.0%	11.9%	10.6%
Amount involved (HK\$)	4.85 billion	9.18 billion	9.15 billion
Number of arrests	4 112	7 043	8 692
Fraudulent funds intercepted (HK\$)	1.36 billion	1.29 billion	1.48 billion

The number of persons arrested for deception, broken down by age group, in each of the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

	2022	2023	2024
Aged 10 to 20	340	589	525
Aged 21 to 30	1 209	2 008	2 207
Aged 31 to 60	2 331	3 943	5 321
Aged 61 or above	232	503	639
Total	4 112	7 043	8 692

The common types of deception and fraud reported to the Force as well as the amount of losses for each of the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	Number of cases			Amount of losses (HK\$ million)		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Overall Deception Cases	27 923	39 824	44 480	4,850	9,180	9,150
Online Deception	19 599	27 314	27 485	3,073.8	5,345.9	4,924.1
<i>E-shopping Fraud</i>	8 735	8 950	11 559	74.1	190.5	356.3
<i>Online Investment Fraud</i>	1 884	5 105	3 930	926.5	3,267.4	2,261.7
<i>Online Employment Fraud</i>	2 884	3 518	3 853	459.1	760.2	797.2
<i>Social Media Deception</i>	3 605	3 372	3 039	779.0	745.4	662.5
<i>Phishing Scam (Note 1)</i>		4 322	2 731		102.4	53.5
<i>Email Scam</i>	391	208	197	751.1	163.6	104.1
Telephone Deception	2 831	3 213	9 204	1,076.5	1,102.8	2,911.0
<i>Impersonating Customer Service (Note 2)</i>			5 575			1,040.3
<i>Guess Who</i>	1 540	2 237	1 153	114.1	188.7	79.2
<i>Pretend Officials</i>	1 290	969	1 166	962.3	913.8	1,686.2
<i>Detained Son</i>	1	7	3	0.07	0.3	0.6

Note 1: Figures related to phishing scam have been maintained by the Force since 2023.

Note 2: Figures related to telephone deception involving “impersonating customer service” have been maintained by the Force since 2024.

The Force does not maintain statistics on the numbers of prosecutions, convictions and victims. Additionally, no breakdowns are maintained on the detection rate, the number of arrests and the amount of fraudulent funds intercepted for individual types of deception and fraud.

- 3) The staff establishment of the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) for the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Rank	Number of posts		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Superintendent	0	0	1
Chief Inspector	1	3	3
Senior Inspector/Inspector	5	10	10
Station Sergeant	1	2	2
Sergeant	10	14	17
Police Constable	32	51	51
Total (police officers)	49	80	84

The relevant expenditures of the ADCC form part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditures involved.

- 4) In 2024, the Force received 3 deception cases involving deepfake technology, one of which was detected through intelligence-led operations. In January 2025, the Force also dismantled another criminal syndicate that used deepfake technology to perpetrate scams. These two operations led to the arrest of 58 persons, including the mastermind and core members, with a total amount of nearly HK\$400 million involved. The criminal syndicate used deepfake technology to engage in online dating to lure victims in various parts of Asia to invest in fraudulent cryptocurrency platforms.

In response to various challenges posed to cyber policing by artificial intelligence (AI) such as deepfake technology, the Force has been exchanging intelligence with International Criminal Police Organization, law enforcement agencies of different jurisdictions and the AI industry. The Force has also been keeping track of the latest modus operandi and criminal trends worldwide, which include the application of deepfake technology.

To combat different technology crimes, the Force set up the Cybercrime Policing Advisory Panel (CPAP) in December 2022. Led by the Director of Crime and Security and comprising 12 experts and leaders from the technology sector, the CPAP seeks to look into risks of crime and fraud involving AI (including deepfake technology) and to enhance public awareness on the potential risks of AI. The Force will continue to step up co-operation with stakeholders of relevant sectors, and will jointly explore and formulate effective measures to combat relevant crimes.

On enhancing professional competence, the Force has been organising internal training from time to time to enrich officers’ knowledge of deepfake technology and the related cybercrimes. Relevant equipment will also be timely upgraded to strengthen the Force’s capability in combating different types of cybercrimes.

In terms of publicity and education, the Force has been working on various fronts, including holding press conferences from time to time to educate the public about common tactics used by fraudsters and demonstrate how deepfake technology can be used to conduct video conferences. Through its Facebook page and the CyberDefender website, the Force has been disseminating information about the latest crime situation and anti-deception advice related to deepfake technology.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB054

(Question Serial No. 2522)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned that the Police will raise public awareness in the fight against cruelty to animals through the Animal Watchers Programme. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) The specific activities (e.g. talks and exhibitions), organised by the Government in the past 3 years, along with the expenditure for each activity;
- (2) The total number of animal cruelty cases recorded in each of the past 5 years; and whether consideration will be given to strengthening legislative measures and allocating additional funds to prevent animal cruelty in 2025-26; if so, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

- (1) To enlist public support and assistance in combating acts of cruelty to animals, the Police Force implemented the Animal Watchers Programme (AWP) in 2021, with a view to agglomerating the strengths of animal lovers at the community level and on social media platforms in the 4 directions of education, publicity, intelligence-gathering and investigation; 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. Through organising territory-wide large-scale events involving different communities and age groups, AWP aims to strengthen the awareness and care of the general public on the issue of cruelty to animals and animal welfare, as well as to disseminate the message of prevention of cruelty to animals effectively to the public.

In 2022, the Force launched a series of educational and promotional activities under the banner of “AWP x 25A”. These activities included the “AWP Colours in 25A” colouring and drawing contest, school promotions titled “Animal Care Corner”, and the “BYOP (Bring Your Own Pet) Treasure Hunt”. In 2023, AWP initiated the “Synergy for Great” initiative, collaborating with various organisations to introduce the “Life-wide Animal Care College” educational programmes. This initiative featured the

“Adventure King Summer Camp”, educational seminars, visits to the veterinary medical centre, and the “Hang-in-there Charity Challenge” in observance of World Animal Day. In 2024, AWP organised a variety of activities, including the “Education Programme of Ocean Park Academy Hong Kong”, “Community Mobile Classroom 2.0”, “Animal Care Summer Camp” and the “Bring Your Own Pets x Sunny & Zander Charity Run.” Furthermore, AWP has partnered with the Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences at the City University of Hong Kong to launch the “AWP Student Mentorship Programme”, aimed at providing professional animal care guidance to students in schools with an “Animal Care Corner”.

The expenditures involved form part of the total expenditure under Programme (1) “Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community”. No specific breakdown is available.

- (2) The numbers of cases on cruelty to animals reported to the Force for the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of cases reported
2020	70
2021	88
2022	54
2023	74
2024	71

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap.169) falls under the policy purview of the Environment and Ecology Bureau. The Force will actively support relevant studies and, where necessary, provide recommendations from a law enforcement perspective.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB055

(Question Serial No. 2418)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Police Force indicated that there would be a net decrease of 153 posts in its establishment for 2025-26. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The details of the posts to be created by the Police Force, including the total expenditure to be involved, as well as the details of the posts to be deleted and the total expenditure thus saved;
2. Any specific plans to be implemented for recruiting police officers, along with the details of these plans;
3. The number of auxiliary police officers who have been appointed as regular police officers over the past 1 year; and
4. (i) The figures and rates of wastage for police officers at various ranks over the past 1 year, (ii) a breakdown of these figures by reasons, and (iii) the average length of service of the officers.

Asked by: Hon LEE Chun-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

1. In 2025-26, there will be a net decrease of 153 non-directorate posts (involving creation of 14 civilian posts and reduction of 160 disciplined services posts and 7 civilian posts) on the staff establishment under Programme (1) "Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community".

Details on the 14 civilian posts to be created and the salaries involved are tabulated as follows:

Rank	Number of posts to be created	Master Pay Scale (MPS)	Monthly Salary for the rank in HK\$ (from 1 April 2024)
Total (civilian staff)	14	MPS 1 – 10	15,180 – 26,590

Details on the 160 disciplined services posts and 7 civilian posts to be reduced and the salaries involved are tabulated as follows:

Rank	Number of posts to be reduced	Police Pay Scale (PPS) / Master Pay Scale (MPS) / Model Scale 1 Pay Scale (MOD)	Monthly Salary for the rank in HK\$ (from 1 April 2024)
Superintendent	-1	PPS 50 – 53	132,365 – 148,775
Chief Inspector	-1	PPS 44 – 49	103,205 – 127,620
Senior Inspector/Inspector	-2	PPS 24 – 43	52,015 – 99,500
Sergeant	-1	PPS 17 – 28	42,390 – 60,850
Police Constable	-155	PPS 4 – 17	28,940 – 42,390
Total (police officers)	-160		
Total (civilian staff)	-7	MPS 1 – 10 MOD 0 – 8	15,180 – 26,590 15,175 – 17,880
Total	-167		

The Force will review the manpower and resources of all formations from time to time and adjust the establishment based on policing needs.

2. The Force has been adopting proactive recruitment strategies to attract high calibre candidates who have the competence to become police officers, the affection for the Motherland and Hong Kong, and the passion to serve the public.

The Force has disseminated recruitment and publicity information through various media and social networking platforms, and has organised and participated in regular recruitment activities and projects in Hong Kong, such as the Police Recruitment Experience and Assessment Day, Community Outreach Recruitment Express, Sportsmen's Programme for Recruitment, Police Recruitment Buddies Scheme, Auxiliary Police Recruitment Express, as well as has set up booths at the Education and Careers Expo. In September 2024, the Force launched the "HKPF Recruit" mobile application to leverage technology and enhance recruitment efficiency. Through the app, members of the public can submit applications for police positions, track their selection progress, including interview scheduling and results, and register for recruitment-related activities.

Targeting local students, the Force has introduced initiatives such as the Police Mentorship Programme, Police University Recruitment Express (PURE) and Auxiliary Undergraduate Scheme, while also co-organising full-time "Diploma of Applied Education – Police Cadet Training" programmes with 3 post-secondary institutions.

Additionally, in February 2025, the Force signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a local vocational training institution to identify individuals interested in joining the disciplined services at an early stage. Recognising the increasing number of Hong Kong students pursuing higher education in the Mainland in recent years, the Force launched the PURE (Mainland) in November 2022. Recruitment efforts have included visits to cities such as Guangdong, Fujian, Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan to encourage Mainland-based Hong Kong students to join the Force. The Force has also been actively conducting publicity and recruitment campaigns in overseas cities, including London, Toronto and Sydney. To provide a one-stop comprehensive selection process for Hong Kong students studying overseas and returning to Hong Kong during holidays, the Force launched the PURE (Overseas) in December 2024.

The Force will continue to adjust its publicity strategy in light of general social conditions such as the economic situation and demand in the labour market. It will review and assess the effectiveness of using different resources, and make suitable manpower deployment as appropriate.

3. The number of auxiliary police officers appointed as regular police officers over the past 2 financial years is tabulated as follows.

Financial Year	Number of auxiliary police officers appointed as regular police officers	
	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable
2023-24	31	32
2024-25 (As at 28 February 2025)	24	4

4. The figures for wastage of police officers in the Force over the past 2 financial years are tabulated as follows:

Rank	Reasons of leaving	2023-24		2024-25 (As at 28 February 2025)	
		No of leavers	Wastage rate	No of leavers	Wastage rate
Gazetted Officer Note 1	Retirement or end of contract	20	4.5%	13	2.9%
	Resignation	1	0.2%	2	0.5%
	Others Note 2	0	0%	0	0%
Inspectorate Officer	Retirement or end of contract	11	0.5%	16	0.6%
	Resignation	19	0.8%	31	1.2%
	Others Note 2	3	0.1%	5	0.2%
Junior Officer	Retirement or end of contract	439	1.8%	556	2.3%
	Resignation	215	0.9%	216	0.9%
	Others Note 2	149	0.6%	105	0.4%

Note 1: Gazetted officers refer to those of the rank of superintendent or above.

Note 2: Other reasons for leaving include transfer, dismissal, termination of service, death, retirement on invaliding and compulsory retirement.

The number of leavers in the Force, broken down by years of service, over the past 2 financial years is tabulated as follows:

Rank	Years of service	No of leavers	
		2023-24	2024-25 (As at 28 February 2025)
Gazetted Officer <small>Note 3</small>	10 years or below	0	0
	11-20 years	1	0
	21-30 years	5	5
	Over 30 years	15	10
Inspectorate Officer	10 years or below	14	21
	11-20 years	6	11
	21-30 years	4	9
	Over 30 years	9	11
Junior Officer	10 years or below	232	227
	11-20 years	78	39
	21-30 years	105	86
	Over 30 years	388	525

Note 3: Gazetted officers refer to those of the rank of superintendent or above.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB056

(Question Serial No. 2419)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is stated under this Programme that one of the primary responsibilities of the Police is to organise anti-crime publicity programmes to address specific crime problems, such as “Social Media Deception”, “E-shopping Fraud”, “Naked Chat Blackmail”, “Email Scam”, “Online Employment Fraud”, “Online Investment Fraud”, “Telephone Deception” (including Pretend Officials Telephone Deception), “Money Laundering”, “Youth Crime”, “Drug Abuse and Trafficking”, “Sexual Assault”, “Financial Intermediary Deception” and “Quick Cash Crime”. In this connection, will the Government provide this Committee with the following:

1. In tabular form, (i) the number of reported fraud cases, including “Social Media Deception”, “E-shopping Fraud”, “Naked Chat Blackmail”, “Email Scam”, “Online Employment Fraud”, “Online Investment Fraud”, “Telephone Deception” (including Pretend Officials Telephone Deception), “Money Laundering”, “Youth Crime”, “Drug Abuse and Trafficking”, “Sexual Assault”, “Financial Intermediary Deception” and “Quick Cash Crime”, (ii) the age range of the victims, (iii) the amount of monetary losses and (iv) the number of cases detected in the past year;
2. Details of any targeted plans the Police intends to implement in the coming year to strengthen enforcement actions against the above-mentioned types of deception?

Asked by: Hon LEE Chun-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

1. In 2024, the number of cases reported to the Police Force, the number of cases detected, and the amount of losses (if applicable) for the offences mentioned in the question are as follows:

	Number of cases reported	Number of cases detected	Amount of losses (\$ million)
Deception	44 480	4 715	9,150.0
Social Media Deception	3 039	The Force does not maintain a breakdown on the number of cases detected by deception modi operandi.	662.5
E-shopping Fraud	11 559		356.3
Online Investment Fraud	3 930		2,261.7
Online Employment Fraud	3 853		797.2
Email Scam	197		104.1
Telephone Deception	9 204		2,911.0
<i>Pretend Officials</i>	<i>1 166</i>		<i>1,686.2</i>
Deception Involving Financial Intermediaries	58	11	16.4
Naked Chat Blackmail	2 434	Not available	80.2
Rape	77	75	Not applicable
Indecent Assault	1 185	912	Not applicable
Drug-related Offences (including serious and minor drug offences)	2 325	2 315	Not applicable
Offences related to “Quick Cash Crimes”			
Miscellaneous Theft	11 811	3 079	Not available
Shop Theft	8 764	5 561	Not available
Burglary	1 220	463	140.0
Pickpocketing	476	155	Not available
Snatching	64	39	Not available
Street Robbery (not involving the use of firearms, stun guns or pistol-like objects)	41	37	Not available
Street Deception	23	11	3.0
Taxi Robbery	6	6	Not available
“Head-bashing” Robbery	2	2	Not available

In 2024, the age ranges of victims for individual offences are as follows:

	Age of victims
Telephone Deception	14 to 108
Naked Chat Blackmail	11 to 77
Rape	9 to 51
Indecent Assault	0 to 94

2. The Force will continue to focus on combating deception through a multi-pronged approach, including enhancing law enforcement, raising awareness through publicity and education and maintaining close collaboration with stakeholders, as well as local and overseas law enforcement agencies.

The increase of 11.7% in the number of deception cases in 2024 was a marked slow-down compared with the consecutive rises of over 40% in 2022 and 2023 (+45.1%

in 2022 compared with 2021 and +42.6% in 2023 compared with 2022), while the amount involved dropped by \$30 million as well. This shows that the Force's efforts to combat deception on various fronts and the multiple initiatives against deception launched in collaboration with stakeholders over the past 3 years are beginning to yield results.

Regarding the interception of fraudulent funds, the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre, in collaboration with local banks, successfully intercepted \$1.48 billion in fraudulent funds across 1 372 deception cases last year.

As for enforcement, a total of 10 496 persons were arrested for being involved in various types of deception cases and money laundering offences in 2024, representing an increase of 13.6%. Among them, about 70% were stooge account holders. The Force adopted approaches of concentrating resources, speeding up investigation and enhancing sentences to investigate cases with stooge accounts involved, including assigning cases involving the same stooge account holders to a single investigation team for follow-up enquiries, continuously applying technologies to assist frontline officers in enhancing investigation efficiency and expediting prosecution. Therefore, in 2024, 1 484 persons were prosecuted for the offence of money laundering, representing an increase of 226.9% compared with 2023. The Force also continued to apply to the court for enhanced sentencing for related cases. By the end of last year, the sentences of 47 stooge account holders had been increased by 10% to over 30% successfully (ranging from 3 to 13 months), resulting in 21 to 75 months of imprisonment. Furthermore, the Force stepped up publicity about the cases with successful application for enhanced sentences across various platforms to increase the deterrent effect.

To combat cross-border fraud syndicates using stooge accounts to collect fraudulent funds and launder money, the Force carried out several joint operations last year in collaboration with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies. Between May and August, joint operations with the Mainland Public Security Authorities, as well as Singaporean and Malaysian police forces, led to approximately 290 arrests. The Force will continue to maintain close intelligence exchange with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies to jointly combat cross-border deception.

On publicity and education, the Force has brought anti-deception messages to various districts of the territory over the past year through channels like ferries, minibuses, trams, a major logistics company's fleet and the Anti-scam Promotional Truck, while getting the anti-scam information across to households with the assistance of Care Teams. To further promote the use of the self-developed "Scameter+", the Force launched the Anti-Scam Lucky Draw with the support from various organisations from October to November 2024. The event attracted over 1.8 million participants and "Scameter+" recorded a significant rise of 300 000 downloads. By the end of last year, the application had accumulated 874 000 downloads. In December, the Force also held the large-scale Anti-Scam Carnival at the West Kowloon Cultural District and placed decorative lights and art installations of considerable size featuring "The Little Grape" in Tsim Sha Tsui East. In January 2025, the Force organised the "Anti-Money Laundering Month" again and launched a brand-new mini-movie titled "Your Life. Your Choice" together with the Correctional Services Department to remind members of the public not to rent, lend or sell their bank accounts. The Force has also received support

from a number of government departments and various public and private organisations to promote anti-deception messages through diverse channels that could reach citizens from all walks of life and different backgrounds.

In addition to strengthening ongoing intelligence exchanges and joint law enforcement operations with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies, the Force will continue to adopt an extensive publicity strategy. This includes using traditional platforms, such as television programmes, as well as social media to disseminate anti-deception messages in various forms like short videos, audios and texts. Additionally, the Force will maintain its strong collaboration with stakeholders, including banks, the communications sector and regulatory bodies, to proactively explore all feasible solutions, such as improving existing legislation and initiatives, and will provide recommendations from a law enforcement perspective where necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB057

(Question Serial No. 0890)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the year-on-year increase of 46% in the number of job applications received by the Police Force in the 2023-24 financial year, will the Government provide this Committee with the following information:

1. The figures for staff wastage and vacancies, categorised by rank, in the Police Force for the past 2 financial years;
2. The number of applications received and appointments offered, categorised by rank, in the Police Force for the past 2 financial years;
3. The staff establishment and related expenditures of the Police Recruitment Division for the past 2 financial years;
4. The number of visitors to the Police Recruitment Centre and the expenditures involved for the past 2 financial years;
5. The respective numbers of applications received and appointments offered, categorised by rank, under the “Police University Recruitment Express” in the past 2 financial years;
6. For the “Police University Recruitment Express (Mainland)”, please provide details including the mainland cities visited, the public response to the initiative, and the respective numbers of applications received and appointments offered, categorised by rank, in the past 2 financial years;
7. For the “Police University Recruitment Express (Overseas)” launched in December last year, please provide details of the public response to the initiative, as well as the respective numbers of applications received and appointments offered, categorised by rank; and

8. Any recruitment plans for this financial year aimed at encouraging more aspiring people to join the Force, along with the estimated expenditures to be involved.

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

1. The figures for wastage and vacancies in the Police Force are tabulated as follows:

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 28 February 2025)
Wastage of police officers	615	857	944

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as at 28 February 2025)
Actual establishment	33 210	33 260	33 090
Actual strength	27 299	27 254	27 155
Number of vacancies	5 911	6 006	5 935

2. Through various proactive recruitment strategies and activities, the numbers of applicants to the Force and those successfully recruited over the past 2 years are as follows:

Financial year	Number of applicants		Number of successful candidates	
	Probationary inspectors	Police constables	Probationary inspectors	Police constables
2022-23	3 391	4 606	165	554
2023-24	5 051	6 647	157	818
2024-25 (as at 28 February 2025)	5 129	6 491	148	817

The Force will continue to adopt proactive recruitment strategies to attract high calibre candidates who have the competence to become police officers, the affection for the Motherland and Hong Kong, and the passion to serve the public.

3. As at 28 February 2025, the establishment of the Police Recruitment Division in the past 2 years are tabulated as follows:

Actual establishment	Police officers	Civilian staff
80	65	15

The Force will review and assess the effectiveness of using different resources by re-establishing work priorities and redeploying staff to handle recruitment-related tasks. The Force does not maintain a breakdown on the expenditure involved.

4. In October 2022, the Force established the Police Recruitment Centre to provide the public with a channel to learn more about police work and obtain recruitment information. It also facilitates job applications by potential candidates through face-to-face consultation and experience session for selection process. Besides, the recruitment centre is widely utilised for recruitment-related work and regularly organises recruitment talks and police-related thematic exhibitions. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure incurred for the recruitment centre.
5. To facilitate university students' entry into the Force, the Force has been conducting publicity work on university campuses. The Force has organised the Police University Recruitment Express (PURE) at 12 local universities since 2022, offering recruitment information and conducting selection process. As at 28 February 2025, around 2 000 applications for the position of Probationary Inspector, Police Constable and Auxiliary Police Constable have been received through the PURE. Among them, around 40% of the applicants are at various stages of the recruitment process, and around 10% of the applicants have joined the Force as probationary inspectors, police constables or auxiliary police constables. The Force has been proactively communicating with applicants to expedite the recruitment process.
6. Given the increasing number of Hong Kong students pursuing higher education in the Mainland in recent years, the Force launched the PURE (Mainland) in November 2022. Recruitment efforts have included visits to Guangdong, Fujian, Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan to attract Mainland-based Hong Kong students to join the Force. The initiative received over 4 000 applications, with around 2 000 applicants submitting their applications and participating in the selection process (including for Probationary Inspector, Police Constable, and Auxiliary Police Constable) on-site. As at 28 February 2025, over 50% of these applicants are at various stages of the recruitment process, while over 10% have successfully joined the Force as probationary inspectors, police constables or auxiliary police constables. The Force has been proactively communicating with applicants to expedite the recruitment process.
7. To further facilitate the comprehensive selection process for Hong Kong students studying at overseas universities and returning to Hong Kong during holidays, the Force launched the PURE (Overseas) for the first time in December 2024. A total of 51 students returned to Hong Kong and applied for the position of Probationary Inspector. As the initiative was launched only 3 months ago, the applicants are still undergoing various stages of the recruitment process.
8. The Force has been adopting proactive recruitment strategies to attract high calibre candidates who have the competence to become police officers, the affection for the Motherland and Hong Kong, and the passion to serve the public.

The Force promotes recruitment and publicity through various media and social networking platforms, while regularly organising and participating in a diverse range of recruitment activities and programmes in Hong Kong. These include the Police Recruitment Experience and Assessment Day, the Sportsmen's Programme for Recruitment, the Police Recruitment Buddies Scheme, the Auxiliary Police Recruitment Express, the Community Outreach Recruitment Express, as well as setting up booths at education and careers expos. In September 2024, the Force launched the "HKPF

Recruit” mobile application to enhance recruitment efficiency through technology. The app allows members of the public to submit applications for police positions, track the selection process such as interview scheduling and result notifications, and register for recruitment activities, all via their mobile devices.

Targeting local students, the Force has launched the Police Mentorship Programme, PURE and Auxiliary Undergraduate Scheme, and has also co-organised the full-time “Diploma of Applied Education – Police Cadet Training” programme with 3 local education institutions. In February 2025, the Force signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a local vocational training institution to identify people with an early interest in joining the disciplined services. In response to the increasing number of Hong Kong students pursuing studies in the Mainland in recent years, the Force launched the PURE (Mainland) in November 2022. Recruitment visits have been conducted in cities including Guangdong, Fujian, Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan to attract Mainland-based Hong Kong students to join the Force. Furthermore, the Force has been conducting publicity and recruitment campaigns in overseas cities such as London, Toronto, and Sydney. To further facilitate the one-stop and comprehensive selection of Hong Kong students studying at overseas universities and returning to Hong Kong for holidays, the Force launched the PURE (Overseas) for the first time in December 2024.

The Force will continue to adjust its publicity strategy in light of general social conditions such as the economic situation and demand in the labour market. It will review and assess the effectiveness of using different resources, make suitable manpower deployment and make provisions for publicity as appropriate. The Force does not maintain a breakdown on the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB058

(Question Serial No. 2120)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding efforts to combat “space oil”, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. Since the gazettal of “space oil” as a dangerous drug, the numbers of searches conducted, arrests made and prosecutions instituted against suspected users of “space oil”;
2. The expenditure incurred in procuring “space oil” rapid test kits for police officers, the cost per use and the total number of test kits used to date; and
3. Whether the use of such rapid test kits in entertainment premises will be enhanced to strengthen the crackdown on such behaviours; if so, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 138)

Reply:

1. Since 14 February 2025, etomidate, the main active ingredient of “space oil drug”, and its 3 analogues have been listed as dangerous drugs upon gazettal. As at 28 February 2025, a total of 29 cases involving “space oil drug” were detected by the Police Force, resulting in the arrest of 39 persons, including 10 youths aged under 21.

The Force does not maintain figures on prosecutions.

- 2-3. With the Force's introduction of Etomidate Rapid Test Kits on 18 January 2025, on-duty frontline officers may conduct on-site rapid tests for suspected possession of "space oil drug". As at 28 February 2025, a total of 10 persons were arrested by the Force after using the test kits. Sufficient test kits have been made available to frontline officers for use where appropriate.

The expenditure on combating drug crimes forms part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime". The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB059

(Question Serial No. 2328)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): (661) Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2025-26, the provision for Subhead 661 “Minor plant, vehicles and equipment” has substantially increased to \$1,063.3 million, representing a 389.4% rise compared to the revised estimate for 2024-25. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

(a) For the provision of \$1,063.3 million, the specific procurement plan for equipment, including the types, specifications, unit prices and total quantities of various equipment, as well as their allocation to different police districts and specialised formations. Please also provide the expected service life of each type of equipment, along with a detailed explanation of the main reasons for and the urgency behind this substantial increase; and

(b) How these equipment will enhance the enforcement efficiency of the Police Force, and the specific improvements in services that will benefit the public.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Tsz-wing, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

The provision under Subhead 661 “Minor plant, vehicles and equipment” (block vote) covers capital expenditure for the procurement and replacement of minor plant and equipment (except administrative computer systems), such as operational gear and supplies for supporting the front line, as well as equipment and facilities for law enforcement gathering evidence and training. The estimate for Subhead 661 “Minor plant, vehicles and equipment” (block vote) in 2025-26 is higher than the revised estimate for 2024-25. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the procurement and replacement of the Police Force’s plant and equipment, including the Government’s installation of closed-circuit televisions at crime black spots across the territory.

To ensure that police officers can effectively cope with operational needs, the Force will timely evaluate operational circumstances and review officers’ operational needs for the procurement and replacement of plant and equipment.

Information on the procurement of various plant and equipment is part of the Force's operational details and are therefore inappropriate for disclosure.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB060

(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 (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

(1) Regarding the identification of themes that address specific crime problems for Force-wide implementation as mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26, what are the details of the work plan, manpower and expenditures this financial year for preventing telecommunications scams targeting new arrivals from the Mainland, international students and foreigners?

(2) Scammers use “fraudulent mobile base station” technology to interfere with the networks of telecommunications service providers, impersonating companies or organisations to send phishing messages. Some even send fraudulent Short Message Service (SMS) messages with the prefix # to impersonate companies participating in the SMS Sender Registration Scheme. As there are views suggesting that the Police require additional resources to locate fraudulent mobile base stations, what are the details of the Police’s work plan to combat such scams? What is the estimated manpower allocation, and what technological facilities will be used?

(3) Is there any plan to collaborate with the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) to upgrade the “SMS Sender Registration Scheme”, address technical loopholes and prevent scams involving “fraudulent mobile base stations”? If so, what are the details of the expenditures involved?

(4) A survey has revealed that many members of the public have either not installed or have not used the Scameter+ after installation. What plans do the Police have to enhance the effectiveness of the publicity for the Scameter+? Are there plans to assist the public in downloading and using the app’s features through mobile kiosks or similar initiatives? If so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

- (1) To effectively protect new arrivals in Hong Kong from falling victim to scams, the Police Force has launched a series of anti-fraud initiatives with various stakeholders,

including tertiary institutions, the banking sector, government organisations and relevant parties. These initiatives aim to raise awareness among new arrivals, helping them better identify and guard against scams. Since 2023, educational pamphlets specifically designed for new arrivals have been made available at public service kiosks of the Immigration Department for their access. Additionally, the Force has leveraged diverse social media platforms, such as the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre's official website, Xiaohongshu, Douyin and WeChat group chats, to disseminate the latest anti-deception information to new arrivals continuously.

Targeting newly arrived talents, the Force has partnered with the Labour and Welfare Bureau to organise regular anti-deception seminars for those admitted under the Top Talent Pass Scheme and organisations employing Mainland professionals. Leaflets have also been distributed to “Hong Kong drifters” through the Labour Department. Furthermore, the Force has assisted the Hong Kong Talent Engage (HKTE) in establishing an anti-deception section on its official website and has co-organised anti-deception seminars with the HKTE to enhance scam awareness among newly arrived talents.

To support newly arrived Mainland students in identifying and preventing scams, the Force collaborated with tertiary institutions to strengthen promotional and educational efforts. For instance, in August 2023, Anti-Scam Learning Kits tailored for “Hong Kong drifter” students were launched. These learning kits, presented in the form of short videos and multiple-choice quizzes, provided information on common scams and guidance on detecting suspicious activities and messages. They also equipped students with the knowledge to respond promptly and seek assistance via the “Anti-Scam Helpline 18222”, “Scameter+”, etc. when encountering suspicious calls or messages. The learning kits were introduced to new students through the student affairs offices of tertiary institutions and the Police Community Relations Office, ensuring that newly arrived students had access to the relevant information.

Furthermore, the Force has been actively collaborating with the student affairs offices of tertiary institutions and the Hong Kong Mainland Students Association (“the Association”) to promote anti-deception education on campuses. These efforts include updating anti-deception information in the annually published handbook for newly arrived Mainland students, distributing publicity materials and periodically disseminating anti-deception information through WeChat. The Force has also held regular meetings with various student affairs offices and the Association to discuss the implementation and effectiveness of anti-deception publicity campaigns targeted at newly arrived students. Additionally, the Force has arranged an ice cream van and a promotional truck to visit various university campuses to promote anti-deception and has organised seminars specifically for Mainland students at universities and institutions, with content covering advice on identifying common scam tactics, sharing real-life accounts from Mainland students who have fallen victim to scams, or playing videos featuring victims' self-narratives to share their experiences.

The Force has also designed the “Survival Guide” tailored for “Hong Kong drifter” students. With the assistance from various banks, particularly branches near university campuses, bank staff distribute and explain the guide to the Mainland students who open

accounts at banks. Bank staff also pay special attention to large-value fund transfers conducted by Mainland students to detect any suspicious transactions.

The Force also worked with Mainland China's National Anti-Fraud Center, the Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange and the National Immigration Administration to enhance anti-deception publicity and education for Mainland students, both before and after their arrival in Hong Kong. Additionally, the Force will also collaborate with Mainland authorities to enhance the notification and mutual assistance mechanism for timely exchange of intelligence on scams and fraud cases. Discussions are underway with the National Anti-Fraud Center and other relevant units to extend similar measures to successful applicants of the Top Talent Pass Scheme.

The expenditure for anti-deception forms part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime". The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- (2) Regarding the phishing scam involving the "fraudulent mobile base station" mentioned in the question, since February 2025, the Force has received reports concerning suspected phishing Short Message Service (SMS) messages with prefix "#" that were allegedly sent by registered senders. The Force and the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) suspected that radio jammers were being used to commit crimes via "fraudulent mobile base stations." On 17 February 2025, the Force arrested a male in Mong Kok and seized the telecommunications equipment involved. Among the 31 related cases reported to the Force, only 2 resulted in financial losses, amounting to approximately \$30,000. Following the incident, the Force and OFCA held a joint press briefing to educate the public on how to guard against such scams. OFCA also pledged to work closely with telecommunications service providers to enhance monitoring of network signals for any irregularities.

The Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) will continue to monitor the latest technological advancements, introduce appropriate equipment and arrange its officers to receive regular professional training on technology crime investigation, digital forensics and cyber intelligence gathering. Frontline officers will also be provided with up-to-date information and relevant training on a regular basis.

- (3) The Force has been maintaining close communication with OFCA and offering advice from an enforcement perspective. The relevant expenditures form part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime". The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditures involved.
- (4) To better help members of the public identify scams and pitfalls, the Force launched the self-developed "Scameter" in September 2022 and its mobile application "Scameter+" in February 2023. In February 2024, the Force upgraded "Scameter+" by introducing a public reporting platform to enrich its database and enabling it to issue alerts when users browse suspicious websites or receive suspicious calls. By the end of last year, "Scameter" had recorded about 6.95 million searches and issued 880 000 alerts to members of the public.

To further promote the use of “Scameter+”, the Force launched the Anti-Scam Lucky Draw with the support from private organisations from October to November 2024. The event attracted over 1.8 million participants and “Scameter+” recorded a significant rise of 300 000 downloads. By the end of last year, the application had accumulated 874 000 downloads. With assistance from the Water Supplies Department, a QR code for downloading “Scameter+” was included on quarterly water bill envelopes from October 2024 to January 2025. Over the past year, the Force also deployed anti-scam promotional trucks across various districts to disseminate anti-deception messages, with officers on-site to assist members of the public in downloading the application. The Force will continue its efforts to actively promote the use of “Scameter+.”

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB061****(Question Serial No. 1981)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of CrimeControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Under the Indicators for this Programme, the seizure of dangerous drugs such as heroin, ketamine and cocaine recorded a significant drop in 2024. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- a) The quantities of these drugs seized over the past 5 years;
- b) The reasons for the significant drop in 2024, including whether it is due to a notable decline in abuse trends or other specific factors; and
- c) In addressing one of the Matters Requiring Special Attention, where the Police plan to take strong and proactive enforcement actions against drug-related offences, attacking both the supply of and demand for drugs, particularly drug abuse and trafficking involving juveniles and young persons, the specific measures being implemented, as well as the effectiveness of these measures in combating youth drug abuse?

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)Reply:

- a) The quantities of heroin, ketamine and cocaine seized by the Police Force and the Customs and Excise Department over the past 5 years are as follows:

Type of drugs	Seizure of drugs (kilograms)				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (Provisional figures)
Heroin	189	410	372	566	252
Ketamine	294	1 302	2 175	1 009	1 602
Cocaine	512	1 079	2 418	2 643	2 677

Note: Figures between 2020 and 2023 were actual quantities confirmed by the Government Laboratory (GL) upon examination, while provisional figures for 2024 are pending examination by the GL.

- b) The seizures of these drugs fluctuated over the past 5 years, subject to numerous factors, including harvest yields, the legal, political and economic environment, as well as drug prices in drug-producing countries. Global drug markets were also affected by these factors.

Nevertheless, the Force has remained committed to combating dangerous drugs as one of the Commissioner's Operational Priorities.

The Force will continue to step up enforcement against drug trafficking through intelligence-led operations. In light of ever-evolving modes of transport adopted by overseas drug traffickers, the Force will maintain close intelligence exchange and conduct timely joint operations with local, Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies.

- c) In 2024, there were 1 114 serious drug cases, representing a decrease of 3.4%. Of these cases, the number of arrested youths aged under 21 fell by 27.5% to 129 persons, including 31 students, representing a decrease of 35.4%. The number of youths involved in serious drug cases has been steadily declining since its peak in 2021. By the end of 2024, the cumulative decrease had reached 70.0%, with the decline in the number of students arrested being more significant than that of non-students arrested, showing a cumulative drop of 76.9%. However, there was a significant increase in the use of e-cigarettes for consumption of "space oil drug" in 2024. The Force detected 195 related cases and arrested 278 persons in total, including 61 youths in 2024. The Force introduced Etomidate Rapid Test Kits on 18 January 2025, enabling on-duty frontline officers to conduct on-site rapid tests for suspected possession of "space oil drug".

Since 14 February 2025, "space oil drug" has been listed as a dangerous drug upon gazettal. As at 28 February 2025, the Force has detected a total of 29 cases involving "space oil drug", resulting in the arrest of 39 persons, including 10 youths. On 17 February 2025, the Force detected the first case of manufacture of "space oil drug" after the legislative amendment, resulting in the arrest of 1 male and the seizure of about 400 suspected "space oil drug" capsules, 1.6 litres of suspected liquid etomidate and a batch of drug manufacturing paraphernalia. In another case on 20 February 2025, the Force arrested 3 persons and seized about 12 suspected "space oil drug" capsules, 563.5 millilitres of suspected liquid etomidate and a batch of drug manufacturing paraphernalia.

The Force will continue to enhance intelligence gathering on drug offences, including drug trafficking through social media, with a view to interdicting the supply of drugs by all means.

In addition to enforcement actions, the Force remains committed to the anti-drug education work. Apart from incorporating the information about "space oil drug" into school talks and the "interactive anti-drugs drama", the Force has also disseminated infographics and short videos on "space oil drug" to all schools in Hong Kong for showing to their students. Founded by the Force in 2021, the "Leadership Institute on Narcotics" (L.I.O.N.) trains 100 undergraduates and secondary students annually to

become anti-drug leaders. Now in its fourth cohort, L.I.O.N. continues to uphold its mission of fostering a drug-free culture.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB062

(Question Serial No. 1982)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

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

Question:

Regarding the indicators of Road Safety, the number of summonses issued for moving and miscellaneous offences, as well as the number of fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) issued for moving offences, parking offences and prosecutions for speeding offences in 2024, recorded significant decreases compared to 2023. Meanwhile, the estimates for 2025 are based on the lower figures recorded in 2024. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- a) The annual numbers of summonses and FPTs issued for the offences mentioned above over the past 5 years;
- b) The reasons for the significant decreases in the numbers of summonses and FPTs issued for the offences mentioned above, and whether the manpower deployment for these duties will be reviewed and revised. If so, the details; if not, the reasons; and
- c) In the Matters Requiring Special Attention, the Police Force indicates that it will enhance enforcement actions against red light jumping and speeding offences assisted by the red light camera system and speed enforcement camera system and work closely with the Transport Department on the planning and commissioning of the expansion of the systems. The Police also mentions that it will work closely with relevant government departments including the Transport Department and other stakeholders to develop and launch the Traffic e-Enforcement System. Are these plans related to the significant decreases mentioned above?

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

a) The numbers of fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) and summonses (moving and miscellaneous offences) issued by the Police Force over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Number of FPTs and summonses issued					
Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fixed penalty (moving offences)	471 957	527 923	545 358	548 670	479 015
Fixed penalty (parking offences)	2 707 869	3 302 160	3 363 471	3 013 019	2 543 197
Summonses (moving and miscellaneous offences)	20 220	24 210	24 589	23 632	19 287

b)&c) Road safety is one of the Commissioner's Operational Priorities. The Force is committed to adopting a "result-oriented" enforcement approach when formulating the overall traffic policing strategy, with a view to enhancing road safety, reducing the number of persons killed and seriously injured in traffic accidents as well as changing the irresponsible behaviour of road users causing obstruction on roads.

The Force will closely monitor the trends and causes of traffic accidents and co-ordinate targeted operations. The Force will also regularly review and appropriately deploy manpower in light of the actual circumstances, while adopting other corresponding measures such as streamlining workflow and harnessing technology to facilitate traffic enforcement, thereby maximising the enforcement effectiveness.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB063

(Question Serial No. 0800)

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

Question:

The Police launched the Territory-wide Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Installation Scheme in April 2024, aiming to strengthen overall district law and order by installing CCTVs in public places. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The total number of CCTVs installed at various crime black spots to date and the total expenditure incurred, with a breakdown of equipment costs, operational expenses and administrative expenses;
2. A list of the main crime black spots where CCTVs have been installed, along with the number of CCTVs installed in each district; whether the scheme has led to a reduction in crime in the respective districts; and whether it will be extended to more districts in the future;
3. It was previously stated that the use of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) System and facial recognition technologies is being studied to identify vehicles or persons involved in serious crimes or wanted by the Police. Please provide an update on the progress of the study, including whether it is being conducted by professionals or consultancy firms. If so, please provide details of the related administrative costs.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

A consolidated reply to questions 1 to 3 is as follows:

Under the “Territory-wide Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Installation Scheme” (the Scheme), the Police Force has been installing CCTVs across the territory since April 2024. To date, installations have commenced at 615 locations within the 18 districts that record relatively higher crime rates and pedestrian flow. The first phase of the Scheme, involving the installation of 2 000 CCTV units, is targeted for completion within 2025. As at the end of December 2024, the CCTV system had assisted the Force in detecting 122 criminal cases, including serious crimes such as murder, robbery and burglary, resulting in 202 arrests.

Among the 28 cases of murder, robbery and burglary detected with the assistance of CCTV system, 90% were detected within an average of 2 days. This demonstrates that the CCTV system not only makes investigations more effective but also significantly enhances the efficiency in detecting crime.

Apart from aiding in crime detection, the CCTV system also serves as a deterrent to criminal acts. The Force conducted a detailed analysis of the number of cases of various types of crimes that occurred on street and observed declines in the figures for these crimes (down by 3.2% to 27.4%) after the installation of CCTVs, showing the Scheme's positive impact on crime prevention and detection.

Meanwhile, the Force is now actively studying and drawing reference from the CCTV standards and enforcement practices of law enforcement agencies around the world. By incorporating more advanced technologies into the Scheme (including the Crowd Size Analysis System, facial recognition technology and the Automatic Number Plate Recognition System), the Force aims to maximise its contribution to the public interest. The Force has also formulated a set of comprehensive and robust internal operational guidelines to ensure a rigorous monitoring standard for the supervision of the CCTV system. In-house training programmes will be provided to authorised officers to ensure proper and effective operation of the video management system.

As the development of the system in the first phase, which involves the installation of 2 000 CCTV units across the territory, has been supported by the Force's existing resources, no specific breakdown of the expenditure is maintained. Details of the subsequent phases of the Scheme are yet to be finalised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB064

(Question Serial No. 0845)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In recent years, the emerging drug “space oil” has gained rapid popularity, leading to a sharp increase in the number of abusers. Its misuse causes addiction, loss of consciousness, memory loss and irreversible brain damage. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The numbers of arrests and prosecutions following the gazettal of the Order to amend Dangerous Drugs Ordinance on 14 February 2025, which lists etomidate, the main ingredient of “space oil drug”, and its three analogues as dangerous drugs. Additionally, information on whether the gazettal has facilitated the Police in dismantling the supply chain and storage sites of space oil; if so, the figures;
2. Details of the expenditure incurred for the procurement of etomidate rapid test kits introduced by the Police on 18 January 2025 for detecting the presence of space oil in smoking devices, as well as the number of arrestees since the introduction of these test kits; and
3. Details on relevant public education works (particularly those targeting schools) by the Police, along with any assessments conducted to evaluate the effectiveness.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1. Following the gazettal of etomidate, the main active ingredient of “space oil drug”, and its 3 analogues as dangerous drugs on 14 February 2025, the Police Force has detected a total of 29 cases involving “space oil drug” as at 28 February 2025, resulting in the arrest of 39 persons, including 10 youths. On 17 February 2025, the Force detected the first case of manufacture of “space oil drug” after the legislative amendment, resulting in the arrest of 1 male and the seizure of about 400 suspected “space oil drug” capsules, 1.6 litres of suspected liquid ETO and a batch of drug manufacturing paraphernalia. In another case on 20 February 2025, the Force arrested 3 persons and seized about 12 suspected “space oil drug” capsules, 563.5 millilitres of suspected liquid etomidate and a batch of drug manufacturing paraphernalia.

The Force does not maintain figures on prosecutions.

2. To tackle the issue of “space oil drug”, the Force introduced Etomidate Rapid Test Kits on 18 January 2025, enabling on-duty frontline officers to conduct on-site rapid tests for suspected possession of “space oil drug”. As at 28 February, the Force had arrested a total of 10 persons after using the test kits.

The relevant expenditure on combatting drug crimes forms part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

3. The Force has disseminated infographics, animations and short videos on “space oil drug” to all schools in Hong Kong. The relevant education package has also been uploaded to the Police Public Page for public download. Additionally, the Force has organised the “Interactive Anti-Drug Theatre” for the third consecutive year. Over the past 2 years, anti-drug messages have been disseminated to more than 13 500 primary students in nearly 100 school performances. In March 2025, the Force staged its new play, “Interactive Anti-Drug Theatre - A Space Study Adventure”, at an experience session, to deliver anti-drug messages to over 200 principals, teachers and upper primary students, aiming to safeguard schools from the emerging “space oil drug”. The play will be staged at least 30 times in various primary schools within this academic year.

Furthermore, the Force will continue to disseminate anti-drug messages featuring the “space oil drug” through Police Community Relations Officers and School Liaison Officers. These efforts will include activities such as anti-crime campaigns and educational talks to engage the community and schools.

In addition, founded by the Force in 2021, the “Leadership Institute on Narcotics” (L.I.O.N.) trains 100 undergraduates and secondary students annually to become anti-drug leaders. Now in its fourth cohort, L.I.O.N. continues to uphold its mission of fostering a drug free culture. The Force remains committed to anti-drug education work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB065

(Question Serial No. 0989)

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 (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Force launched the HKSOS mobile application in January 2024. This application is specifically designed for various outdoor activities on land, sea or air, allowing users to directly connect to the 999 Reporting Centre with a single tap during emergencies, thereby reducing the risk of accidents. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following information:

1. The development cost of the HKSOS mobile application and its associated maintenance costs;
2. The total number of downloads of the HKSOS mobile application since its launch;
3. The total number of assistance requests received through the HKSOS mobile application since its launch, and whether statistics have been compiled on the types of accidents involved, such as mountaineering, aquatic activities, etc.; if so, please provide the relevant figures; and
4. The measures the Force will take to more effectively promote the HKSOS mobile application, encouraging more members of the public to download and use it, thereby reducing the risk of accidents.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

- 1-3. Since its launch in January 2024, the HKSOS mobile application has been downloaded 129 000 times as at February 2025, safeguarding over 50 000 outdoor journeys on land, sea or air. Moreover, it has successfully assisted in 62 search and rescue operations, helping 142 citizens in distress, all of whom were involved in mountaineering activities. The development cost of the app was approximately \$7 million. The estimated maintenance expenditure for 2025-26, which covers the Government Cloud Infrastructure Services and the maintenance service of the whole system, amounts to around \$2.6 million.

The HKSOS app is currently the Police Force's only application specifically designed to ensure public safety and support inter-departmental search and rescue operations. As more citizens and tourists begin to use the HKSOS app, the Force must keep pace with advancements. Subject to resource availability, additional investment will be made to enhance the app's functionality, including improvements to its interface, map features and automatic accident detection system, to safeguard public safety.

4. To help more citizens and tourists become aware of the HKSOS app, the Force will, subject to resource availability, continue to promote the app through different channels, such as supporting international trail running competitions and advertising it on different media, including the Force's social media platforms and public transport. Moreover, the Force has sought the support of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department to place more publicity materials about the HKSOS app in country parks, aiming to encourage more hikers to download it.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB066****(Question Serial No. 1717)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (4) OperationsControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the various replacement plans of the Marine Police launches, including replacement programmes for High-speed Interceptor, Versatile Patrol Launch, Mobile Response and Command Platform, Divisional Logistic Launch, Small Boat Divisional Disguised Craft, Divisional Fast Patrol Craft Mark IV, Medium Patrol Launch Mark II and Personal Watercraft, etc., please provide the types, basic features (total length/crew members/speed), progress of replacement or estimated commissioning time, and estimates of expenditure of the new launches procured as from 2024, 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.: 23)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)	Replacement progress or estimated commissioning time	Total estimate (\$)	Type of serving police launch to be replaced
High-speed Interceptor	LOA: 14.2 metres OMS: 5 crew Speed: minimum 66 knots	3 vessels delivered in 2023; the remaining 2 vessels scheduled for delivery in 2025	126.31 million (5 vessels)	Damen Cougartek Sea Stalker
Versatile Patrol Launch	LOA: 37 metres OMS: 16 crew (including one Cook) Speed: minimum 25 knots	Contract signed in the fourth quarter of 2023; scheduled for delivery in 2025-2028	2,218.10 million (12 vessels)	Divisional Command Launch and Keka Launch

Type of police launch to be procured	Basic features (Length Overall (LOA)/ Operational Manning Standard (OMS)/Speed)	Replacement progress or estimated commissioning time	Total estimate (\$)	Type of serving police launch to be replaced
Mobile Response and Command Platform	LOA: 41 metres OMS: 19 crew (including one Cook) Speed: minimum 25 knots	Contract signed in the fourth quarter of 2023; scheduled for delivery in 2026	375.83 million (2 vessels)	Regional Training Launch
Catamaran Patrol Launch (previously known as Divisional Logistic Launch)	LOA: 15.6 metres OMS: 4 crew Speed: minimum 35 knots	Contract signed in the third quarter of 2024; scheduled for delivery in 2025-2028	541.98 million (11 vessels)	Seaspray Police Launch
Small Boat Divisional Disguised Craft	LOA: 7.9 metres OMS: 2 crew Speed: minimum 40 knots	Contract signed in the second quarter of 2023 and delivered in the fourth quarter of the same year	1.53 million (1 vessel)	Confiscated Speedboat
Divisional Fast Patrol Craft Mark IV	LOA: 10.5-12 metres OMS: 4 crew Speed: minimum 55 knots	Invitation to Tender gazetted in the fourth quarter of 2023; contract expected to be signed in the second quarter of 2025; scheduled for delivery in 2026-2028	265.94 million (12 vessels)	Divisional Fast Patrol Craft Mark I and II
Medium Patrol Launch Mark II	LOA: 16-20 metres OMS: 5 crew Speed: minimum 45 knots	Invitation to Tender expected to be gazetted in the second quarter of 2025; scheduled for delivery in 2028-2029	1,496.61 million (12 vessels)	Inshore Patrol Launch (6 vessels) and Medium Patrol Launch (6 vessels)
Personal Watercraft	LOA: 3.58 metres OMS: 2 crew Speed: minimum 35 knots	Delivered in the third quarter of 2024	4.51 million	Newly procured item

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB067

(Question Serial No. 0921)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Under this Programme, it is mentioned that the Force will organise anti-crime publicity programmes to address specific crime problems, including “Social Media Deception”, “E-shopping Fraud”, “Naked Chat Blackmail”, “Email Scam”, “Online Employment Fraud”, “Online Investment Fraud”, “Telephone Deception” (including Pretend Officials Telephone Deception), “Money Laundering”, “Youth Crime”, “Drug Abuse and Trafficking”, “Sexual Assault”, “Financial Intermediary Deception”, “Quick Cash Crime”, etc. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the expenditure and manpower involved in organising these publicity campaigns in 2024-25, as well as the effectiveness of the initiatives. Please also provide the estimated expenditure and manpower to be involved for implementing such anti-crime publicity campaigns in 2025-26, the specific plans to be carried out, the targeted crime issues and the anticipated outcomes.

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

In 2024, a total of 94 747 crimes were recorded, representing an increase of 4 471 cases or 5% compared with 2023. The overall detection rate was 30.4%, similar to that of 2023. Leaving deception cases aside, the overall crime figure recorded a drop of 185 cases (-0.4%) last year, while the detection rate rose by 1.7 percentage points to 47.9%, indicating that the increase in deception cases was the main reason for the increase in the overall crime figure and the decline in the overall detection rate.

Several traditional crimes, such as homicide, robbery, burglary, wounding and serious assault, serious drug offenses, theft, criminal damage, criminal intimidation and arson, recorded decreases in 2024. Quite a number of these crimes even reached new lows not seen in years or on record, while their detection rates were considerably high as well, with some even reaching the highest levels on record.

In 2024, 44 480 cases of deception were recorded, representing an increase of 4 656 cases or 11.7% compared with 2023 (39 824 cases). Of these, about 60% (61.8%) were internet-related (27 485 cases). The increase of approximately 12% in 2024 was a marked

slow-down compared with the consecutive rises of over 40% in 2022 and 2023 (+45.1% in 2022 compared with 2021 and +42.6% in 2023 compared with 2022), while the amount involved dropped by \$30 million as well. This shows that the Police Force's efforts to combat deception on various fronts and the multiple initiatives against deception launched in collaboration with stakeholders over the past 3 years are beginning to yield results. The expenditure for anti-deception forms part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime". The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

The effectiveness of crime prevention and detection is integral to the Force's publicity and educational efforts. Over the past year, the Force has brought anti-deception messages to various districts of the territory through channels like ferries, minibuses, trams, a major logistics company's fleet and the Anti-scam Promotional Truck, while getting the anti-scam information across to households with the assistance of Care Teams. To further promote the use of the self-developed "Scameter+", the Force launched the Anti-Scam Lucky Draw with the support from private organisations from October to November 2024. The event attracted 1.8 million participants and "Scameter+" recorded a significant rise of 300 000 downloads. By the end of last year, the application had accumulated 874 000 downloads. In December, the Force also held the large-scale Anti-Scam Carnival at the West Kowloon Cultural District and placed decorative lights and art installations of considerable size featuring "The Little Grape" in Tsim Sha Tsui East. In January 2025, the Force organised the "Anti-Money Laundering Month" again and launched a brand-new mini-movie titled "Your Life. Your Choice" together with the Correctional Services Department to remind members of the public not to rent, lend or sell their bank accounts.

To tackle youth crime, the Force places great importance on cultivating law-abiding awareness among young people and will continue to deepen collaboration with stakeholders, including disseminating crime prevention messages through schools and parents, as well as organising various activities and exchange programmes for youngsters in partnership with the Education Bureau (EDB) and through the Junior Police Call, to realise the concept that crime prevention and combating work should "start from a young age with continuous and concerted efforts" and to help youngsters become law-abiding citizens.

In the previous school year, the Force conducted seminars on anti-drugs, digital literacy, anti-deception and child protection for over 5 000 teachers, with the goal to provide the relevant training to 8 000 teachers this school year. Additionally, the Force has published the "Youth Crime Prevention Booklet" for three consecutive years and collaborated with the Education University of Hong Kong to prepare teaching materials, while co-organising training camps with the EDB to help students enhance their self-discipline and resilience.

When it comes to drug-related issues, the Force places particular focus on preventing youth involvement in drugs. To this end, the Force founded the "Leadership Institute on Narcotics" (L.I.O.N.) in 2021, nurturing 100 undergraduates and secondary students every year to become anti-drug leaders who shoulder the mission of promoting the anti-drug culture. Four cohorts of L.I.O.N. had been launched so far.

The Force will continue to adopt an extensive publicity strategy. This includes using traditional platforms, such as television programmes, and social media like the Force's official accounts on Facebook and Xiaohongshu, the websites of the "CyberDefender" and the

Anti-Deception Coordination Centre, as well as the mobile application “Scameter+” to disseminate anti-deception messages in various forms like short videos, audios and texts. The Force has also received support from a number of government departments and various public and private organisations to promote anti-deception messages through diverse channels that could reach citizens from all walks of life and different backgrounds.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB068

(Question Serial No. 0922)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the financial and staffing provision of the Police Force, the provision under Programme (4) for 2025-26 is \$1,075.0 million (18.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024-25. This is mainly due to the increased provisions for filling of vacancies, full-year effect of vacancies filled in 2024-25 and salary increments and increased cash flow requirements for the Government's territory-wide closed-circuit televisions installation at crime black spots and replacement of vessels, partly offset by a net decrease of 15 posts in 2025-26. Please provide this Committee with the details and a breakdown of the increased provision of \$1,075.0 million, as well as information on any relevant performance indicators.

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

The increase in the estimate for Programme (4) "Operations" for 2025-26 is mainly due to the increased provisions for salaries (including some vacancies expected to be filled in 2025-26) and the increased cash flow requirements for capital account items, including the installation of closed-circuit televisions at crime black spots, as well as replacement of crafts.

The Police Force has no plans to formulate performance indicators for specific types of expenditure. The Force prioritises expenditure items flexibly in response to policing needs and implements its action plans through consolidating internal resources, streamlining procedures and leveraging technology.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB069

(Question Serial No. 0923)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 under this Programme that the Hong Kong Police Force will, among others, enhance its capability in tackling technology crime and financial investigation. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the expenditure and manpower involved as well as its effectiveness for 2024-25. Please also advise on the estimated expenditure and manpower to be involved, the respective plans, and whether additional manpower, training, new equipment and technological facilities will be required for enhancing the Force's capability in tackling technology crime and financial investigation in the coming 2025-26; if so, the details.

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

The Police Force is committed to taking proactive measures to combat technology crime and money laundering activities, primarily through the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) and the Financial Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (FIIB).

In 2024-25, the establishment of CSTCB and FIIB comprises police officers of ranks ranging from Police Constable to Chief Superintendent, with 420 and 217 officers (including 1 time-limited post^{Note} of Chief Superintendent) respectively. Among the establishment of CSTCB, 17 time-limited posts were created to provide network security support for the 15th National Games, the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games in 2025. In 2025-26, these 17 posts will be reduced from the establishment of police officers in CSTCB, while the establishment of police officers in FIIB will remain unchanged.

Note: The civil service establishment comprises posts on the permanent establishment as well as those on the non-permanent establishment (i.e. time-limited posts). Time-limited directorate posts are referred to as "supernumerary directorate posts", which are time-limited posts under the non-permanent establishment. This does not imply that such posts are excluded from the establishment.

The estimated expenditure for these 2 formations forms part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

Enhancing cyber security and combating technology crime are among Commissioner’s Operational Priorities in 2025. The Force will continue to enhance its capability in combating technology crimes and handling cyber security incidents, as well as stepping up collaboration, intelligence exchange and law enforcement with relevant stakeholders and law enforcement agencies, such as the Digital Policy Office and the Hong Kong Productivity Council. In addition, the Cybercrime Policing Advisory Panel (CPAP) of the CSTCB was set up in December 2022, comprising 12 panel members who are experts and leaders from the academia, the education sector, commercial chambers, the financial sector, the information technology sector, the telecommunications sector and various public entities. The CPAP assists the Force in formulating short, medium and long term strategic directions in order to strengthen the Force’s digital policing capabilities in combating cybercrimes. As of December 2024, 7 meetings had been convened by the CPAP.

On the international cooperation front, officers of the CSTCB attended the first International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Asia and South Pacific Working Group Meeting on Cybercrime for Heads of Units held in the Philippines in September 2024. The Chief Superintendent of CSTCB was elected Vice-Chairperson of the group to lead and work with Singapore and Fiji Police Forces in deepening cooperation amongst law enforcement agencies in the Asian and South Pacific region and to formulate long-term strategies for enhancing joint operational capabilities in combatting technology crimes. In October 2024, CSTCB and INTERPOL jointly organised the 14th INTERPOL Cybercrime Directors Workshop. The event provided a platform for law enforcement agencies and corporate entities to exchange ideas and collaborate on tackling cybercrime challenges, including issues related to deepfake technology, AI-related cybercrime, ransomware and malware threats.

In terms of staff training, the CSTCB regularly conducts training programmes to bolster police officers’ expertise in handling technology crime, with two courses accredited at Level 4 and one at Level 5 of the Qualifications Framework respectively.

Targeting and investigating money laundering activities is among the Commissioner’s Operational Priorities for 2025. The Force has been strengthening its professional capabilities in financial intelligence analysis and financial investigations, including the founding of the Money Laundering Expert Cadre in October 2022, a volunteer secondary duty cadre currently comprising over 50 officers to assist the frontline in investigating money laundering cases and to testify as expert witnesses in court hearings. In addition, funding was approved in 2021 for the FIIB to develop the Financial Data Analytic Platform. This platform leverages advanced technologies and big data analysis tools to enhance the analytical capabilities of the financial intelligence system. In June 2023, the FIIB, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the banking sector, launched the Financial Intelligence Evaluation Sharing Tool for banks to share information on corporate accounts involved in fraud-related money laundering activities, improving the success rates of identifying and combatting criminal activities, strengthening due diligence measures and fostering industry-wide cooperation. In January 2025, the Force further introduced the Transaction Analytics System, which automates fund flow analysis to a high degree, enabling investigators to conduct fund flow and network analysis with greater efficiency.

To combat money laundering, the Force continues to strengthen the knowledge and techniques of police officers and industry stakeholders in financial investigations by regularly offering local and international training courses. Additionally, the Force has been refining collaboration mechanisms with local financial institutions, international organisations and law enforcement agencies from the Mainland and overseas to enhance efforts against money laundering. To further promote public-private cooperation in combating money laundering, the Force organised the Financial Institutions Anti-Money Laundering Forum in August 2024. Through panel discussions, the forum facilitated the exploration of collaborative strategies with representatives from various law enforcement agencies, financial regulators and financial institutions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB070

(Question Serial No. 0924)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

As stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 under this Programme, the Hong Kong Police Force will, among others, utilise social media platforms to disseminate crime prevention messages to the public. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the expenditure and manpower allocated to related work in 2024-25, as well as the effectiveness of these efforts. Please also provide the estimated expenditure and manpower to be allocated to such work in 2025-26, along with specific plans and new measures for disseminating crime prevention messages on social media platforms, particularly those targeting online scams.

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

The Police Force has been utilising social media platforms to disseminate crime prevention messages to the public. These platforms are mainly managed by the Multi-media Communication Division of the Public Relations Wing, which is currently led by 1 Superintendent and staffed with 27 police officers and 2 contract staff members who are responsible for managing the Force's social media platforms. This Division conducts live broadcasts at large-scale events or operations and provides support to other Force formations as necessary.

In light of the latest crime trends, the Force has produced crime prevention videos and posts for social media to disseminate anti-deception and anti-crime messages in a simple and lively way, with the aims of raising awareness of crime prevention among people of all ages and levels, as well as interacting with the public in the fight against crime.

In 2024-25, the Force leveraged social media to launch various thematic anti-deception and anti-crime campaigns, including "Anti-Drugs Month", "Child Protection Month", "Anti-Money Laundering Month", "Anti-Deception Month" and "All-Round CyberDefence". These activities were organised both online and offline, along with conventional media and support of key opinion leaders on the Internet, to ensure wider public reach and more comprehensive publicity.

To help the public identify scams and online pitfalls, the Force continues its efforts to promote anti-deception and anti-crime messages as well as useful tools such as “Scameter+” and the expanded Suspicious Account Alert mechanism through various social media and channels. These efforts aim to enable the public to promptly assess deception risks and obtain fraud-related information, thereby raising public awareness against deception.

The Force now operates a total of 9 social media channels, including YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Weibo, X, WeChat, WhatsApp Channels, Xiaohongshu and Douyin. A total of 4 689 posts were published across these platforms in 2024, attracting over 6.9 million followers as of 5 March 2025. This demonstrates effective engagement and dissemination of the Force’s anti-deception and anti-crime messaging.

In 2025-26, the Force intends to maintain communication with the public through various social media platforms, enhancing their understanding of police work and crime prevention awareness. In addition, it will keep abreast of the times by reviewing developments in the mass and social media, and will disseminate information via other emerging platforms when necessary. In the coming financial year, the Force will make optimum use of manpower and resources for managing the social media platforms. The expenditure to be involved falls under the total expenditure of Programme (1) “Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community”, and no specific breakdown is available.

The Force will continue to disseminate information on deception and crime prevention to the public through various channels. The effectiveness of publicity campaigns will be reviewed in a timely manner. To better deter deception and prevent crime, the Force will also strengthen collaboration with stakeholders to promote anti-deception and crime prevention for all.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB071

(Question Serial No. 3273)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

According to Programme (2), the Security Bureau aims to safeguard life and property. Recently, many university students have fallen victim to fraud, resulting in significant monetary losses. Regarding the new measures introduced to enhance students' awareness of anti-deception, what are the details of their effectiveness? What are the respective manpower and expenditure involved? Over the past 2 years, what efforts have been made to assist affected students in recovering their financial losses? Please provide the relevant details.

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 243)

Reply:

Among cases of university students being deceived, the majority involve Mainland students in Hong Kong falling victim to telephone scams. In 2024, a total of 318 newly arrived Mainland students suffered monetary losses due to telephone scams, with the total amount exceeding \$235.5 million.

To effectively protect new arrivals in Hong Kong from falling victim to scams, the Police Force has launched a series of anti-fraud initiatives with various stakeholders, including tertiary institutions, the banking sector, government organisations and relevant parties. These initiatives aim to raise awareness among new arrivals, helping them better identify and guard against scams. Since 2023, educational pamphlets specifically designed for new arrivals have been made available at public service kiosks of the Immigration Department for their access. Additionally, the Force has leveraged diverse social media platforms, such as the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre's official website, Xiaohongshu, Douyin and WeChat group chats, to disseminate the latest anti-deception information to new arrivals continuously.

To support newly arrived Mainland students in identifying and preventing scams, the Force collaborated with tertiary institutions to strengthen promotional and educational efforts. For instance, in August 2023, Anti-Scam Learning Kits tailored for "Hong Kong drifter" students were launched. These learning kits, presented in the form of short videos and multiple-

choice quizzes, provided information on common scams and guidance on detecting suspicious activities and messages. They also equipped students with the knowledge to respond promptly and seek assistance via the “Anti-Scam Helpline 18222”, “Scameter+”, etc. when encountering suspicious calls or messages. The learning kits were introduced to new students through the student affairs offices of tertiary institutions and the Police Community Relations Office, ensuring that newly arrived students had access to the relevant information.

Furthermore, the Force has been actively collaborating with the student affairs offices of tertiary institutions and the Hong Kong Mainland Students Association (“the Association”) to promote anti-deception education on campuses. These efforts include updating anti-deception information in the annually published handbook for newly arrived Mainland students, distributing publicity materials and periodically disseminating anti-deception information through WeChat. The Force has also held regular meetings with various student affairs offices and the Association to discuss the implementation and effectiveness of anti-deception publicity campaigns targeted at newly arrived students. Additionally, the Force has arranged an ice cream van and a promotional truck to visit various university campuses to promote anti-deception and has organised seminars specifically for Mainland students at universities and institutions, with content covering advice on identifying common scam tactics, sharing real-life accounts from Mainland students who have fallen victim to scams, or playing videos featuring victims’ self-narratives to share their experiences.

The Force has also designed the “Survival Guide” tailored for “Hong Kong drifter” students. With the assistance from various banks, particularly branches near university campuses, bank staff distribute and explain the guide to the Mainland students who open accounts at banks. Bank staff also pay special attention to large-value fund transfers conducted by Mainland students to detect any suspicious transactions.

The Force also worked with Mainland China’s National Anti-Fraud Center, the Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange and the National Immigration Administration to enhance anti-deception publicity and education for Mainland students, both before and after their arrival in Hong Kong. Additionally, the Force will also collaborate with Mainland authorities to enhance the notification and mutual assistance mechanism for timely exchange of intelligence on scams and fraud cases. Discussions are underway with the National Anti-Fraud Center and other relevant units to extend similar measures to successful applicants of the Top Talent Pass Scheme.

The expenditure for anti-deception forms part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

The Force does not maintain statistics on the amount of fraudulent funds recovered by student victims.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB072

(Question Serial No. 2490)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The number of deception cases in Hong Kong has continuously hit record highs in recent years. Despite the Police Force's efforts to raise the public's anti-deception awareness through frequent updates on social media and posters across the city, telephone scam remains prevalent, with even highly educated or professional individuals falling victim to scammers using "old tricks in new ways". In 2017, the Police established the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) to specifically combat deception and co-ordinate the publicity efforts of all relevant departments in fighting the crime. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The number of deception cases, number of victims, amounts involved, as well as the numbers of cases detected and persons arrested for the previous financial year, with a breakdown by type of crime (e.g. telephone scam, online scam, etc.);
2. In tabular form, the number of deception cases involving multi-level marketing and fraudulent financial intermediaries, the amount involved, as well as the numbers of cases detected, and the persons arrested and prosecuted for the previous financial year;
3. In light of the increasingly rampant online scams, whether additional manpower and resources will be solicited for the ADCC in 3 key areas, namely, intelligence sharing and law enforcement, cross-agency collaboration, as well as publicity and education, so as to prevent deception, strengthen law enforcement, intercept fraudulent funds and raise public awareness of anti-deception; if so, the details; if not, the reasons;
4. As of October last year, approximately 120 000 applications under the Top Talent Pass Scheme had been approved, with around 75 000 talents having arrived in Hong Kong. Furthermore, by the end of last year, more than 75 000 dependants had been approved to join them, with over 150 000 people having arrived in total. The influx of these talents and their dependants is significant. However, concerns have been raised that many talents may hesitate to seek police assistance immediately after falling prey to scammers due to potential language barriers. In this regard, please advise whether the Police has any plans to collaborate with the Hong Kong Talent Engage to enhance anti-deception publicity efforts

tailored to the “Hong Kong drifters”, so as to extend the reach of such campaigns and heighten the newcomers’ alertness to deception;

5. Whether the Police will consider introducing a “one-touch” emergency function on its WeChat official account to facilitate new talents in reporting deception crimes or other cases directly; and

6. Whether the Police will explore the use of artificial intelligence to develop “digital police officers” to improve communication with the new arrivals.

Asked by: Hon SHANG Hailong (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

1. The total number of deception cases reported to the Police Force, the detection rate, the amount involved and the number of arrests for 2024 are tabulated as follows:

	2024
Number of cases	44 480
Detection rate	10.6%
Amount involved (\$)	9.15 billion
Number of arrests	8 692

The common types of deception as well as the amount involved for 2024 are tabulated as follows:

	Number of cases	Amount of losses (\$ million)
E-shopping Fraud	11 559	356.3
Online Investment Fraud	3 930	2,261.7
Online Employment Fraud	3 853	797.2
Social Media Deception	3 039	662.5
Phishing Scam	2 731	53.5
Email Scam	197	104.1
Telephone Deception	9 204	2,911.0

The Force does not maintain the breakdowns of the numbers of victims and arrests by individual types of deception.

2. The number of deception cases reported to the Force involving financial intermediaries, the amount involved, the number of cases detected and the number of arrests for 2024 are tabulated as follows:

	2024
Number of cases	58
Amount involved (\$ million)	16.4
Number of cases detected	11
Number of arrests	29

No cases of deception involving multi-level marketing practices were reported to the Force in 2024.

3. In 2024, 44 480 cases of deception were recorded, representing an increase of 4 656 cases or 11.7% when compared with 2023 (39 824 cases). Of these, 61.8% were internet-related. The increase of approximately 12% in 2024 was a marked slow-down compared with the consecutive rises of over 40% in 2022 and 2023 (+45.1% in 2022 compared with 2021 and +42.6% in 2023 compared with 2022), while the amount involved dropped by \$30 million as well. This shows that the Force's efforts to combat deception on various fronts and the multiple initiatives against deception launched in collaboration with stakeholders over the past 3 years are beginning to yield results.

Regarding the interception of fraudulent funds, the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC), in collaboration with local banks, successfully intercepted \$1.48 billion in fraudulent funds across 1 372 deception cases last year.

As for enforcement, a total of 10 496 persons were arrested for being involved in various types of deception cases and money laundering offences in 2024, representing an increase of 13.6%. Among them, about 70% were stooge account holders. The Force adopted approaches of concentrating resources, speeding up investigation and enhancing sentences to investigate cases with stooge accounts involved, including assigning cases involving the same stooge account holders to a single investigation team for follow-up enquiries, continuously applying technologies to assist frontline officers in enhancing investigation efficiency and expediting prosecution. Therefore, in 2024, 1 484 persons were prosecuted for the offence of money laundering, representing an increase of 226.9% compared with 2023. The Force also continued to apply to the court for enhanced sentencing for related cases. By the end of last year, the sentences of 47 stooge account holders had been increased by 10% to over 30% successfully (ranging from 3 to 13 months), resulting in 21 to 75 months of imprisonment. Furthermore, the Force stepped up publicity about the cases with successful application for enhanced sentences across various platforms to increase the deterrent effect.

To combat cross-border fraud syndicates using stooge accounts to collect fraudulent funds and launder money, the Force carried out several joint operations last year in collaboration with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies. Between May and August, joint operations with the Mainland Public Security Authorities, as well as Singaporean and Malaysian police forces, led to approximately 290 arrests. The Force will continue to maintain close intelligence exchange with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies to jointly combat cross-border deception.

On publicity and education, the Force has brought anti-deception messages to various districts of the territory over the past year through channels like ferries, minibuses, trams, a major logistics company's fleet and the Anti-scam Promotional Truck, while getting the anti-scam information across to households with the assistance of Care Teams. To further promote the use of the self-developed "Scameter+", the Force launched the Anti-Scam Lucky Draw with the support from various organisations from October to November 2024. The event attracted over 1.8 million participants and "Scameter+" recorded a significant rise of 300 000 downloads. By the end of last year, the

application had accumulated 874 000 downloads. In December, the Force also held the large-scale Anti-Scam Carnival at the West Kowloon Cultural District and placed decorative lights and art installations of considerable size featuring “The Little Grape” in Tsim Sha Tsui East. In January 2025, the Force organised the “Anti-Money Laundering Month” again and launched a brand-new mini-movie titled “Your Life. Your Choice” together with the Correctional Services Department to remind members of the public not to rent, lend or sell their bank accounts.

The Force will continue to adopt an extensive publicity strategy. This includes using traditional platforms, such as television programmes, and social media like the Force’s official accounts on Facebook and Xiaohongshu, the websites of the “CyberDefender” and the ADCC, as well as the mobile application “Scameter+” to disseminate anti-deception messages in various forms like short videos, audios and texts. The Force has also received support from a number of government departments and various public and private organisations to promote anti-deception messages through diverse channels that could reach citizens from all walks of life and different backgrounds.

The Force will periodically review the manpower and resources allocated to various formations and adjust the establishment in light of the latest crime trends and policing needs.

4. To effectively protect new arrivals in Hong Kong from falling victim to scams, the Force has launched a series of anti-fraud initiatives with various stakeholders, including tertiary institutions, the banking sector, government departments/organisations and related units. These initiatives aim to raise awareness among new arrivals, helping them better identify and guard against scams. Since 2023, educational pamphlets specifically designed for new arrivals have been made available at public service kiosks of the Immigration Department for their access. Additionally, the Force has leveraged diverse social media platforms, such as the ADCC’s official website, Xiaohongshu, Douyin and WeChat group chats, to disseminate the latest anti-deception information to new arrivals continuously.

Targeting newly arrived talents, the Force has partnered with the Labour and Welfare Bureau to organise regular anti-deception seminars for those admitted under the Top Talent Pass Scheme and organisations employing Mainland professionals. Leaflets have also been distributed to “Hong Kong drifters” through the Labour Department. Furthermore, the Force has assisted the Hong Kong Talent Engage (HKTE) in establishing an anti-deception section on its official website and has co-organised anti-deception seminars with the HKTE to enhance scam awareness among newly arrived talents.

The Force also worked with Mainland China’s National Anti-Fraud Center, the Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange and the National Immigration Administration to enhance anti-deception publicity and education for Mainland students, both before and after their arrival in Hong Kong.

Additionally, the Force will also collaborate with Mainland authorities to enhance the notification and mutual assistance mechanism for timely exchange of intelligence on scams and fraud cases. Discussions are underway with the National Anti-Fraud Center

and other relevant units to extend similar measures to successful applicants of the Top Talent Pass Scheme.

- 5-6. Any members of the public, including new arrivals in Hong Kong, who suspect they have fallen victim to a scam, can report to the Force through its e-Report Centre or call 999 for assistance in emergencies. In addition, members of the public can call the Anti-Scam Helpline 18222 for enquiries or use the “Scameter” tool on the “CyberDefender” website or its mobile application version “Scameter+” to verify suspicious phone numbers or websites.

The Force will continue to update its anti-deception strategies, including leveraging technological solutions to combat deception, in response to the latest defrauding methods and trends.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB073

(Question Serial No. 2034)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): (114) Transport and Traffic

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

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

Question:

It is mentioned that one of the duties of the Police Force is to work closely with relevant agencies and government departments to identify technological solutions to address serious parking offences. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the respective numbers of fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) for illegal parking, both electronic and handwritten, issued by the Police Force in the 5 police regions in each of the past 3 years;
- (b) the respective numbers of enforcement actions against illegal road racing conducted and the number of FPTs issued by the Police Force in the 5 police regions in each of the past 3 years; and
- (c) regarding the trial scheme on the average speed camera system conducted by the Transport Department which was relaunched in 2020 and completed, the number of speeding cases successfully collected through this trial scheme and whether the scheme will be formally launched; if so, the proposed locations, construction costs and timetable for the installation of the system; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

- (a) The numbers of both electronic and handwritten 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 tabulated as follows:

Police Region	Number of FPTs issued for illegal parking					
	2022		2023		2024	
	Handwritten	Electronic	Handwritten	Electronic	Handwritten	Electronic
Hong Kong Island	81 520	542 480	21 622	501 545	8 965	388 112
Kowloon East	28 931	526 486	3 509	439 529	794	296 785
Kowloon West	76 906	934 178	10 686	949 590	4 316	868 003
New Territories South	52 787	518 108	11 655	459 872	3 834	386 628
New Territories North	47 929	554 146	10 318	604 693	2 949	582 811
Total	288 073	3 075 398	57 790	2 955 229	20 858	2 522 339

- (b) The figures on enforcement actions taken by the Force against races or trials of speed for the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

2022	2023	2024
11	6	18

The figures on enforcement actions taken by the Force against speeding by Police Region for the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Police Region	Enforcement figures on speeding		
	2022	2023	2024
Hong Kong Island	29 380	19 793	15 977
Kowloon East	43 132	50 576	47 487
Kowloon West	70 508	58 089	36 676
New Territories South	47 211	53 898	41 397
New Territories North	75 052	71 215	53 431
Total	265 283	253 571	194 968

- (c) Based on the data from the average speed camera system installed at West Kowloon Corridor (westbound) and Tsuen Wan Road (westbound), the two locations recorded a daily average of about 1 000 and 2 000 speeding vehicles respectively between May and August 2022. To facilitate a wider use of the average speed camera system for law enforcement purposes, the Government is examining the final arrangements for system

implementation, including manpower deployment for system operation and arrangement of repair and maintenance.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB074

(Question Serial No. 2635)

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
(4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide a detailed breakdown of the Police Force's annual expenditure since the financial year 2018-19, including:

1. The actual number of newly recruited gazetted officers, inspectorate officers and junior officers, as well as the number of vacant posts;
2. The estimated and actual expenditure for the procurement of police equipment (such as armoured vehicles and pistols);
3. The recurrent expenditure for the maintenance of the aforementioned equipment; and
4. A detailed breakdown of the recurrent expenditure allocated to "Crime Prevention".

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

1. The actual number of newly recruited officers and the number of vacant posts in the Police Force from 2018-19 to 2024-25 are tabulated as follows:

	Actual number of newly recruited officers			Vacant posts		
Financial year	Junior officers	Inspectorate officers	Gazetted officers Note 1 and 2	Junior officers	Inspectorate officers	Gazetted officers Note 1
2018-19	1 121	220	-	1 342	98	0^
2019-20	705	169	-	2 109	126	0^
2020-21	596	158	-	4 702	438	44
2021-22	484	170	-	5 284	452	40
2022-23	554	165	-	5 471	401	39
2023-24	818	157	-	5 655	320	31
2024-25 (As at 28 Feb 2025)	817	148	-	5 633	275	27

Note 1: Gazetted officers refer to those of the rank of superintendent or above.

Note 2: Gazetted officers are promoted to their ranks through internal promotion rather than direct recruitment; hence, no data on actual recruitment numbers for such officers is maintained.

- 2-3. The estimated and actual expenditure for the procurement and maintenance of police equipment involves details of operation and deployment, which are classified as sensitive information. It is inappropriate to disclose such information.
4. A detailed breakdown of the expenditure allocated to Programme (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime involves internal operational details. It is inappropriate to disclose such information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB075

(Question Serial No. 2744)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Many members of the public have expressed concerns about the increasing prevalence of telephone scams in Hong Kong, noting that fraudsters are employing increasingly diverse tactics. Even with the Real-name Registration Programme for Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) Cards and the Short Message Service (SMS) Sender Registration Scheme in place, telephone deception persists. Crime statistics released earlier by the Police also revealed a significant surge in telephone scams last year, underscoring the challenges of fraud prevention. There have also been public complaints that substantial public funds allocated to combat telephone deceptions have delivered unsatisfactory results. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The number of telephone deception cases reported to the Police in each of the past 3 financial years, including the number of cases detected and undetected, the total number of persons arrested, prosecuted and convicted, as well as the year-on-year changes in these figures;
2. Further to the above, the total amount involved in these cases, the amount successfully recovered, and the amount yet to be recovered;
3. The additional estimated expenditure allocated to combating telephone deceptions; and
4. Although the current “Scameter+” application has gained increasing public attention, some media surveys indicate that as many as 50% of respondents are unaware of its existence. On the other hand, widely used call-filtering applications available in the market, such as Whoscall and Jima Caller ID, provide features that identify the nature of incoming calls, such as commercial advertisements, scam alerts (“beware of scams”), or calls from government departments and public organisations. These features allow users to decide whether to answer the call. Will the Government consider leveraging the extensive telecommunications database to incorporate similar features into “Scameter+” to enhance its functions and encourage more downloads? If so, please provide details, including the expenditure involved. If not, please explain the reasons.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

- 1-2. The total number of deception cases reported to the Police Force, the detection rate, the amount involved, the number of arrests and the amount of fraudulent funds intercepted for each of the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	2022	2023 (against the preceding year)	2024 (against the preceding year)
Number of cases	27 923	39 824 (+42.6%)	44 480 (+11.7%)
Detection rate	12.0%	11.9% (-0.1 percentage point)	10.6% (-1.3 percentage points)
Amount involved (HK\$)	4.85 billion	9.18 billion (+89.3%)	9.15 billion (-0.3%)
Number of arrests	4 112	7 043 (+71.3%)	8 692 (+23.4%)
Fraudulent funds intercepted (HK\$)	1.36 billion	1.29 billion (-5.1%)	1.48 billion (+14.7%)

The number of telephone deception cases reported to the Force and the amount involved for each of the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	2022	2023 (against the preceding year)	2024 (against the preceding year)
Number of cases	2 831	3 213 (+13.5%)	9 204 (+186.5%)
Amount involved (HK\$ million)	1,076.5	1,102.8 (+2.4%)	2,911.0 (+164.0%)

The Force does not maintain statistics on prosecutions, convictions and the amounts of fraudulent funds recovered by the victims concerned. There is no breakdown of the detection rate, the number of arrests and the amount of fraudulent funds intercepted by individual types of deception cases.

3. The expenditure for combating telephone deception forms part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved.
4. To better help members of the public identify scams and pitfalls, the Force launched the self-developed “Scameter” in September 2022 and its mobile application “Scameter+” in February 2023. In February 2024, the Force upgraded “Scameter+” by introducing a public reporting platform and enabling it to issue alerts when users browse suspicious websites or receive suspicious calls. By the end of last year, “Scameter” had recorded about 6.95 million searches and issued 880 000 alerts to members of the public, whereas

“Scameter+” had alerted users to over 90 000 suspicious calls and over 600 000 suspicious websites. Meanwhile, from September 2022 to the end of last year, the Force requested telecommunications service providers to intercept more than 8 300 local and non-local suspicious phone numbers, as well as nearly 30 000 suspicious website links.

“Scameter” has undergone continuous upgrades and expansion of its functions since its launch. Currently, “Scameter+” is equipped with blocking functions, as well as call alert and website detection functions that automatically identify scam calls and fraudulent websites. Upon detecting potential scams or cybersecurity risks, the application sends real-time notifications to remind users not to answer the calls or browse the websites. Additionally, “Scameter” includes a public intelligence platform, allowing members of the public to report scams and pitfalls, thereby further enriching its database.

In addition, the Force has been working closely with the banking industry to make effective use of the data available from “Scameter”. In November 2023, the first phase of the Suspicious Account Alert mechanism was introduced, initially covering transactions conducted via the Faster Payment System. Subsequent expansions in the second and third phases, launched in August and December 2024 respectively, extended the mechanism to cover internet banking, physical branch transactions and automated teller machines (including cash deposit machines), providing the public with more comprehensive protection. Before a transaction is confirmed, the mechanism issues an alert to remind users of potential fraud risks. At present, the mechanism covers the vast majority of the public’s day-to-day transfers.

The Force will continuously review and enhance the functions of “Scameter”, with a view to strengthening anti-fraud measures in a proactive manner.

To further promote the use of “Scameter+”, the Force launched the Anti-Scam Lucky Draw with the support from private organisations from October to November 2024. The event attracted over 1.8 million participants and “Scameter+” recorded a significant rise of 300 000 downloads. By the end of last year, the application had accumulated 874 000 downloads. With assistance from the Water Supplies Department, a QR code for downloading “Scameter+” was included on quarterly water bill envelopes from October 2024 to January 2025. Over the past year, the Force also deployed Anti-scam Promotional Truck across various districts to disseminate anti-deception messages, with officers on-site to assist members of the public in downloading the application. The Force will continue its efforts to actively promote the use of “Scameter+”.

The Force proactively explores all practicable measures to effectively combat and prevent deception cases, including optimising existing measures, maintaining close communication with stakeholders, and offering advice from an enforcement perspective when necessary.

The expenditures on the development and maintenance for “Scameter” and “Scameter+” form part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditures involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB076

(Question Serial No. 2669)

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 (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the specific figures related to the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre's efforts over the past 3 years in intercepting fraudulent payments and persuading potential victims to halt their fund transfers to fraudsters, including the number of cases successfully intercepted and prevented each year, the total amounts intercepted and prevented, the average and highest amounts involved, as well as the types of scams. Additionally, in cases where scams were successfully intercepted or prevented, were there instances where fraudsters were arrested based on the relevant leads?

What specific plans and initiatives does the Police Force have in the coming year to enhance efforts in combating scams? Have performance indicators been set for these plans and initiatives? If so, what are the specific plans, initiatives and performance indicators? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

The statistics related to fraudulent payments intercepted by the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) and the launch of the "Upstream Scam Intervention" scheme over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	2022	2023	2024
Number of cases intercepted	888	989	1 372
Amount of fraudulent payments intercepted (\$)	1.36 billion	1.29 billion	1.48 billion
Average amount of fraudulent payments intercepted (\$)	1.532 million	1.304 million	1.079 million
Since the launch of the “Upstream Scam Intervention” scheme in May 2023			
Number of cases with victim’s fund transfer prevented		654	2 397
Amount of fund transfer prevented (\$)		20 million	180 million
Average amount of fund transfer prevented (\$)		29,000	75,000

In 2024, the largest amount of fraudulent payments intercepted in a single deception case was \$146 million. In August 2024, through the “Upstream Scam Intervention” scheme, the ADCC identified a German company as a potential victim and discovered that the employee of which had fallen prey to an email scam. With the assistance of the bank concerned, the ADCC intercepted the transfer of \$146 million in fraudulent proceeds to local bank accounts.

In 2024, the largest amount of fund transfer prevented in a single deception case was \$7.4 million. In September 2024, the ADCC identified a local accountant as a potential victim through the “Upstream Scam Intervention” scheme. Initially, the victim ignored the alert and, under the scammer’s instructions, relocated to a hotel. Police officers located the victim and stopped the transfer of \$7.4 million from the victim’s account. Subsequent investigation revealed that the victim had fallen prey to a “Pretend Official” telephone deception and was under the scammer’s control. In the same month, a 19-year-old male suspect involved in the case was arrested.

The primary types of deception that involved interception of fraudulent proceeds or dissuasion of victims from continuing fund transfers include social media deception, telephone deception and investment fraud.

“Enhancing cyber security and combating technology crime” and “combating deception and quick cash crime” remain among the Commissioner’s Operational Priorities for 2025. The Commercial Crime Bureau and its ADCC, the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau, the Financial Intelligence and Investigation Bureau, as well as the crime investigation units of various Police Regions and Districts, are all dedicated to cracking down on deception, including the cases related to technology crime.

In 2024, 44 480 cases of deception were recorded, representing an increase of 11.7% compared with 2023. Among them, 61.8% were Internet-related. Deception cases accounted for 46.9% of the overall number of crimes. When it comes to the trend of deception cases over the past few years, the increase of approximately 12% in 2024 was a marked slow-down compared with the consecutive rises of over 40% in 2022 and 2023, while the amount involved dropped by \$30 million as well. This shows that the Force’s efforts to

combat deception on various fronts and the multiple initiatives against deception launched in collaboration with stakeholders over the past 3 years are beginning to yield results.

Over the past year, the Force has collaborated with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), the banking industry, the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) and telecommunications service providers to launch a series of enhanced measures with a view to fortifying defences against deception for members of the public.

The Force, together with the HKMA, announced in August 2024 that the scope of the Suspicious Account Alert mechanism had been extended from the Faster Payment System to cover internet banking and physical branch transactions, and it was further expanded in December to include transactions at Automated Teller Machines. The mechanism has covered the majority of the public's day-to-day transfers. If the recipient's account number is labelled as suspicious in the "Scameter" database, the system will send a high risk alert to users before confirming the transaction.

The ADCC and the Anti-Deception Alliance continue to play a pivotal role. By collaborating with local banks, they proactively send alerts to potential victims. A total of 3 051 ongoing deception cases had been intervened successfully by the end of last year. Also, the ADCC successfully intercepted \$1.48 billion of fraudulent payments in 1 372 deception cases last year.

As regards the enhanced measures implemented in collaboration with the OFCA and the telecommunications industry, starting from October 2024, Hong Kong residents must use the "iAM Smart" mobile application to verify identities for real-name registration for pre-paid SIM (PPS) cards, otherwise telecommunications service providers will conduct verification manually before activating the relevant PPS cards. Under the latest measure launched since 31 December 2024, when members of the public answer calls made from newly activated local PPS cards, they will first hear a voice alert message stating, "This call is made from a new PPS card", so as to raise public vigilance against phone scams.

In addition, the Force continued to request telecommunications service providers to block and intercept telephone numbers and websites suspected to be involved in deception cases. By the end of last year, nearly 30 000 suspicious website links and over 8 300 suspicious phone numbers had been intercepted.

To better help members of the public identify scams and pitfalls, the Force upgraded the self-developed "Scameter+" in February 2024 to include a public reporting platform and issue alerts when users browse suspicious websites or receive suspicious calls. By the end of last year, "Scameter" had recorded about 6.95 million searches and issued 880 000 alerts to members of the public. To further promote the use of "Scameter+", the Force launched the Anti-Scam Lucky Draw with the support from private organisations from October to November 2024. The event attracted over 1.8 million participants and "Scameter+" recorded a significant rise of 300 000 downloads. By the end of last year, the application had accumulated 874 000 downloads.

As for enforcement, a total of 10 496 persons were arrested for being involved in various types of deception cases and money laundering offences in 2024, representing an increase of 13.6%. Among them, about 7 700 persons were stooge account holders. The Force adopted approaches of concentrating resources, speeding up investigation and enhancing sentences to investigate cases with stooge accounts involved, including assigning cases involving the same stooge account holders to a single investigation team for follow-up enquiries, continuously applying technologies to assist frontline officers in enhancing investigation efficiency and expediting prosecution. Therefore, in 2024, 1 484 persons were prosecuted for the offence of money laundering, a 2.3-fold increase compared with 2023. The Force also continued to apply to the court for enhanced sentencing for related cases. By the end of last year, the sentences of 47 stooge account holders had been increased by 10% to over 30% successfully, resulting in 21 to 75 months of imprisonment. Furthermore, the Force stepped up publicity about the cases with successful application for enhanced sentences to increase the deterrent effect.

To combat cross-border fraud syndicates using stooge accounts to collect fraudulent payments and launder money, the Force mounted joint operations with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies last year. These operations included the one conducted with the Mainland Public Security Authorities from May to July leading to a total of 261 arrests, and the other one executed with the Singapore police force in August resulting in 7 arrests in Hong Kong, involving the laundering of over HK\$330 million and HK\$100 million respectively. Additionally, a joint operation was initiated with the police forces of Singapore and Malaysia in June, neutralising a transnational deception syndicate in Malaysia using malware to commit crimes, with 21 arrests made in Hong Kong. The Force will continue to maintain close intelligence exchange with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies to jointly combat cross-border deception.

On publicity and education, over the past year, the Force has brought anti-deception messages to various districts of the territory through the anti-deception ferry “Ping On”, anti-deception minibuses, tram tours, a major logistics company’s fleet, Anti-scam Promotional Truck and so on, while getting the anti-scam information across to households with the assistance of Care Teams. Last December, the Force also held the large-scale Anti-Scam Carnival at the West Kowloon Cultural District and placed decorative lights and art installations of considerable size featuring “The Little Grape” in Tsim Sha Tsui East. In January 2025, the Force organised the “Anti-Money Laundering Month” again and launched a brand-new mini-movie titled “Your Life. Your Choice” together with the Correctional Services Department to remind members of the public not to rent, lend or sell their bank accounts. The Force has also received support from a number of government departments and various public and private organisations to promote anti-deception messages through diverse channels that could reach citizens from all walks of life and different backgrounds.

While the Force has no plans to establish specific key performance indicators for combating deception, it remains committed to prioritising efforts in this area. In addition to strengthening ongoing intelligence exchanges and joint law enforcement operations with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies, the Force will continue to adopt an extensive publicity strategy. This includes using traditional platforms, such as television programmes, as well as social media to disseminate anti-deception messages in various forms like short videos, audios and texts. Additionally, the Force will maintain its strong collaboration with stakeholders, including banks, the communications sector and regulatory

bodies, to proactively explore all feasible solutions, such as improving existing legislation and initiatives, and will provide recommendations from a law enforcement perspective where necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB077

(Question Serial No. 2670)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Will the Police Force please provide an update, as of March this year, on the specific progress of the investigation into the JPEX case, including the total number of victims involved, the total amount involved, whether any suspects have been successfully arrested and prosecuted, the total amount of criminal proceeds and property recovered, and the amount of proceeds of crime that has been frozen?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

As at 28 February 2025, the Police Force had received a total of 2 636 related reports, involving approximately \$1.616 billion. A total of 80 persons were arrested, with frozen assets amounting to about \$228 million, including cryptocurrencies valued at approximately \$14.5 million. Other frozen assets included property, luxury vehicles, bank account balances and cash.

Of the 2 636 informants, 666 indicated they would not pursue the case further; 659 could not be reached despite multiple attempts by the Force; and the remaining 1 311 have given statements.

The Force's investigation is ongoing, including seeking legal advice from the Department of Justice regarding evidence against persons involved in the case.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB078****(Question Serial No. 0104)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

1. In the establishment ceiling for 2025-26, there is a reduction of 199 non-directorate posts. Please advise on the reason(s) for the reduction, the specific posts and the relevant expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)Reply:

1. In 2025-26, there will be a net decrease of 199 non-directorate posts (involving creation of 32 civilian posts, and reduction of 208 disciplined service posts and 23 civilian posts) in the Police Force. Of these, 153 posts fall under Programme (1) "Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community". Details on the number of posts to be reduced and the salaries involved are tabulated as follows:

Rank	Number of posts to be reduced	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)/ Model Scale 1 Pay Scale (MOD)	Monthly salary for the rank in HK\$ (from 1 April 2024)
Senior Superintendent	-1	PPS 54 – 54b	154,775 – 163,905
Superintendent	-2	PPS 50 – 53	132,365 – 148,775
Chief Inspector	-3	PPS 44 – 49	103,205 – 127,620
Senior Inspector/ Inspector	-7	PPS 24 – 43	52,015 – 99,500
Station Sergeant	-3	PPS 24 – 33a	52,015 – 76,830
Sergeant	-11	PPS 17 – 28	42,390 – 60,850
Police Constable	-181	PPS 4 – 17	28,940 – 42,390
Total (police officers)	-208		
Total (civilian staff)	-23	MPS 1 – 11 MOD 0 – 13	15,180 – 28,225 15,175 – 19,755
Total	-231		

The reduction in staff establishment mentioned above is the result of the Force's enhanced effectiveness and efficiency through various management measures and digitalisation. These include the re-prioritisation of duties, internal redeployment, streamlining of work processes, and the adoption of technological solutions, enabling the implementation of new policies and initiatives.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB079

(Question Serial No. 0105)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. Under the Matters Requiring Special Attention this year, it is stated that the Police Force will formulate the Strategic Directions 2025-2027.

The Strategic Directions are expected to be announced early this year. Please provide specific details, the follow-up actions to be taken for their formulation and implementation, as well as details of the internal and external surveys conducted over the past 5 years.

2. Please advise on the current establishment of the Force and the number of vacancies that remain unfilled. Please also provide information on the publicity efforts and initiatives for recruiting police officers, along with the estimated expenditure and its allocation.

3. The Police have been arranging for its members to participate in training programmes outside the territory. Please provide information on the number of officers who have attended such training, the locations, courses and expenditure incurred over the past 5 years, as well as the respective future plans.

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. The Police Force formulates Strategic Directions to address various strategic issues and challenges, enabling the Force to adapt to an evolving operating environment. Each Strategic Direction, together with its strategic objectives, outlines the priorities the Force must focus on to realise its strategic vision. Based on the Strategic Directions 2025-2027, major formations and their commanders will formulate and implement corresponding policing policies in alignment with the Force's overall Strategic Directions to maintain the safety and stability of Hong Kong.

Over the past 5 years, the Force conducted internal and external surveys in 2021 and 2024. The survey cycle aligns with the Strategic Planning Process cycle. These surveys aim to understand the needs and expectations of internal and external customers

to improve the quality of the Force's services. Through its Force Survey Strategy, the Force effectively and consistently gathers feedback from both the public and internal staff on aspects such as service/performance, policing priorities, customer satisfaction and potential areas for improvement. The Public Opinion Survey focuses on public perceptions of safety, confidence in the Force and overall performance. The Police Service Satisfaction Survey evaluates respondents' impressions of the Force after interacting with police officers. Meanwhile, the Staff Opinion Survey gauges Force members' perceptions and opinions on the Force's values and other related matters. The 2024 surveys revealed that the public continued to highly recognise the overall performance of the Hong Kong Police Force. Similarly, the Staff Opinion Survey indicated that the Force has consistently maintained high standards across various aspects.

2. As at 28 February 2025, the establishment and number of vacancies for police officers are tabulated as follows:

Actual establishment	Actual strength	Number of vacancies
33 090	27 155	5 935

The Force has been adopting proactive recruitment strategies to attract high calibre candidates who have the competence to become police officers, the affection for the Motherland and Hong Kong, and the passion to serve the public.

The Force promotes recruitment and publicity through various media channels and social networking platforms, while regularly organising and participating in a diverse range of recruitment activities and programmes in Hong Kong. These include the Police Recruitment Experience and Assessment Day, the Sportsmen's Programme for Recruitment, the Police Recruitment Buddies Scheme, the Auxiliary Police Recruitment Express, and the Community Outreach Recruitment Express, as well as setting up booths at Education and Careers Expo. In September 2024, the Force launched the "HKPF Recruit" mobile application to enhance recruitment efficiency through technology. The app allows members of the public to submit applications for police positions, track the selection process such as interview scheduling and result notifications, and register for recruitment activities, all via their mobile devices.

Targeting local students, the Force has launched the Police Mentorship Programme, Police University Recruitment Express and Auxiliary Undergraduate Scheme, and has also co-organised the full-time "Diploma of Applied Education – Police Cadet Training" programme with 3 local education institutions. In February 2025, the Force signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a local vocational training institution to identify people with an early interest in joining the disciplined services. In response to the increasing number of Hong Kong students pursuing studies in the Mainland in recent years, the Force launched the Police University Recruitment Express (Mainland) in November 2022. Recruitment visits have been conducted in cities including Guangdong, Fujian, Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan to attract Mainland-based Hong Kong students to join the Force. Furthermore, the Force has been conducting publicity and recruitment campaigns in overseas cities such as London, Toronto, and Sydney. To further facilitate the comprehensive selection of Hong Kong students studying at overseas universities and returning to Hong Kong for holidays, the Force

launched the “Police University Recruitment Express – Overseas” for the first time in December 2024.

The Force will continue to adjust its publicity strategy in light of general social conditions such as the economic situation and demand in the labour market. It will review and assess the effectiveness of using different resources, make suitable manpower deployment and make provisions for publicity as appropriate. The Force does not maintain a breakdown on the expenditure involved.

3. “Preparing the Workforce to Meet Emerging Challenges” is one of the 4 Strategic Directions promulgated by the Force. The Force actively maintains close collaborative training partnerships with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies and academic institutions to enhance the expertise and capabilities of its officers, equipping them to address future challenges across various domains.

Between 2020 and 2024 (from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2024), the Force arranged for about 770 officers to participate in a range of training programmes overseas, with a total expenditure of about HK\$19 million.

These training programmes included vocational skills development, management and command courses, as well as field studies and exchange opportunities. Training locations spanned countries in Europe, Oceania and Asia.

The Force’s human resources strategy places a strong emphasis on broadening the horizons of officers through exchanges with the Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies. As such, the Force will continue to organise regular exchange and training programmes with the Mainland and overseas counterparts, as well as other academic institutions, in order to enhance officers’ professionalism and law enforcement efficiency effectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB080

(Question Serial No. 0106)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. Under the Matters Requiring Special Attention this financial year, it is stated that the Police Force will strengthen its digital capabilities and information technology proficiency.

Please provide details on how the Police will enhance the use of innovative technology in its procurement policy, the current level of advancement of police equipment in use and the expenditure on new arms and protective equipment, along with related initiatives for the current financial year.

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

1. The digital policing initiatives of the Police Force focuses on leveraging technology to meet the public demand, streamline workflows and enhance investigative capabilities. To ensure the Force's technological capabilities advance with the times, the technical standards of market products and their alignment with the requirements of digital policing are evaluated during the procurement process.

The Force will review the global trend of technology development and the application of technology by law enforcement agencies around the world from time to time. Suitable accoutrements and equipment will be introduced in a timely manner based on actual operational needs to further enhance the Force's operational effectiveness. The Force has reviewed its equipment regularly to ensure that it copes with the actual operational needs of the officers. It will conduct procurement in strict accordance with the government's established procurement procedures. Information on the procurement of equipment is part of the Force's operational deployment details. It is thus inappropriate to disclose such information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB081

(Question Serial No. 0107)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. Please provide information on the innovative technologies adopted by the Police over the past 5 years to assist in crime investigations and improve detection rates, along with the relevant expenditures.
2. Please advise whether there are plans to enhance the use of innovative technologies to strengthen investigative capabilities, such as purchasing drones to assist with inspection and patrolling duties, and adopting more modern technologies to support the Police's security work. Please also provide details on the specific plans and expenditures related to technological applications and staff training.

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1. The Police Force has been proactively exploring the use of technology to prevent and combat various types of crime, including deception and technology crime. In September 2022, the Force established the e-Crime Processing and Analysis Hub (e-Hub) to provide a one-stop platform for handling electronic reports related to deception and technology crimes. Leveraging an enhanced computer system, the e-Hub conducts correlation analysis to identify clusters of related cases for consolidated investigation, with a view to focusing resources more swiftly and effectively, thereby enhancing the Force's overall capability in tackling deception and technology crime. Since July 2024, the e-Hub has further enhanced investigation efficiency by coordinating frontline efforts and consolidating information on stooge accounts. Cases involving the same stooge account holders are now assigned to a single investigation team for follow-up.

To enhance the effectiveness of frontline criminal investigation units in handling deception and technology crime cases, the Force has, in recent years, launched a series of internal electronic systems. These include the "e-Statement System", "Bank Document Digitisation System", "Bank Statement Conversion and Analysis System", "Electronic Stop-Payment Mechanism System", "Crypto Asset Tracing System (CryptoTrace)" and the "Digital Forensics Laboratory System".

In 2021, the Force received funding to develop the Financial Data Analytic Platform. This platform leverages advanced technologies and big data analysis tools to enhance the analytical capabilities of the financial intelligence system. In June 2023, the Force, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) and the banking sector, launched the Financial Intelligence Evaluation Sharing Tool. This platform enables banks to share corporate account information on fraud-related money laundering activities, improving the success rate of identifying and combatting criminal activities, strengthening due diligence measures and fostering industry-wide cooperation. In January 2025, the Force further introduced the Transaction Analytics System, providing police officers with a highly automated tool for fund flow analysis. This system significantly enhances the efficiency of fund flow and network analysis, enabling investigators to perform their work more effectively.

To better help members of the public identify scams and pitfalls, the Force launched the self-developed “Scameter” in September 2022 and its mobile application “Scameter+” in February 2023. In February 2024, the Force upgraded “Scameter+” by introducing a public reporting platform and enabling it to issue alerts when users browse suspicious websites or receive suspicious calls. By the end of last year, “Scameter” had recorded about 6.95 million searches and issued 880 000 alerts to members of the public. Another key feature of the Scameter platform is the “Suspicious Account Alert” mechanism. In August 2024, the Force and the HKMA jointly announced its extension from the Faster Payment System to cover internet banking and physical branch transactions. This initiative was further expanded in December to include transactions at Automated Teller Machines. The mechanism has covered the vast majority of the public’s day-to-day transfers. If the recipient’s account number is labelled as suspicious in the “Scameter” database, the system will send a high risk alert to the user before confirming the transaction.

To further enhance public safety, combat crime comprehensively, and strengthen the Force’s operational effectiveness in maintaining public order, the Police Force has implemented the government-led “Territory-wide Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Installation Scheme” in collaboration with various government bureaux and departments. The initiative was carried out following the coordination of inter-departmental resources and in accordance with the guiding principles provided by the “Task Force on District Governance” chaired by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration.

Since April 2024, the Force has been rolling out the installation of CCTV cameras across the territory. CCTVs have initially been installed at 615 locations with high crime figures and pedestrian flow in all 18 districts in Hong Kong, with the first phase, involving the installation of 2 000 cameras, set to be completed in 2025. As of December 2024, the CCTV system had played a key role in solving 122 criminal cases, including serious crimes such as murder, robbery and burglary, leading to the arrest of 202 persons. Notably, among the 28 cases of homicide, robbery and burglary, 90% were solved within 2 days, demonstrating that the CCTV system not only makes investigations more effective but also significantly enhances the efficiency in detecting crime.

Apart from aiding in crime detection, the CCTV system also serves as a deterrent to criminal acts. To understand the relevant figures, the Force conducted a detailed analysis of the number of cases of various types of crimes that occurred on street and observed declines in the figures for these crimes (down by 3.2% to 27.4%) after the installation of CCTVs, showing the Scheme's significant positive impact on crime prevention and detection.

The expenditure related to the use of technology in combating deception and technology crimes forms part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime". The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

2. The Force reviews global technological developments and the use of technology by law enforcement agencies worldwide from time to time. Suitable accoutrements and equipment will be introduced in a timely manner based on actual operational needs to further enhance the Force's operational effectiveness. In recent years, leveraging advanced technology in tandem with the Government's initiative to develop the low-altitude economy, the Force has proactively adopted drone technology to support and optimise a wide range of policing duties. At present, drones are being deployed in various operational scenarios, including search and rescue missions in remote and marine environments, crime prevention patrols in rural areas and evidence collection to assist criminal investigations.

In terms of staff training, the Force has been accredited by the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) as a Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA) Approved Training Organisation, the first government department in Hong Kong to receive this recognition. This enables the Force to provide "Advanced Rating" training to its officers. Currently, more than 600 officers in the Force are licensed remote pilots with CAD-recognised Advanced Ratings, and the Force plans to continue strengthening training efforts in this area.

The Force regularly reviews its operational needs and plans to procure various types of drones and related safety equipment. It will continue to make full use of innovations in drone technology and research outcomes to enhance operational efficiency and further improve overall public safety.

For the Territory-wide CCTV Installation Scheme, the Force is actively studying and drawing reference from the CCTV standards and enforcement practices of law enforcement agencies around the world. By incorporating more advanced technologies into the Scheme, the Force aims to maximise its contribution to the public interest. In October 2024, the Force had utilised the Crowd Size Analysis System for the first time during the Halloween events in Lan Kwai Fong. The system used video analytic functions to perform real-time crowd density assessments, effectively leveraging technology to improve the efficiency of the Force's crowd management operations. The Force has also formulated a set of comprehensive and robust internal operational guidelines to ensure a rigorous monitoring standard for the supervision of the CCTV system. In-house training programmes will be provided to authorised officers to ensure the proper and effective operation of the video management system.

The procurement of accoutrements and equipment as well as relevant staff training are supported by the Force's existing resources. The related expenditure and quantities are part of the Force's operational deployment details. It is thus inappropriate to disclose such information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB082

(Question Serial No. 0108)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

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

Question:

1. Regarding the number of fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) issued by the Police Force in the past 2 years, the number of FPTs for moving offences last year dropped by nearly 50 000 compared to the same period in the previous year, while the number of FPTs for illegal parking decreased by nearly 400 000.

Please explain the reasons and provide details of the types of promotional and educational activities on road safety conducted by the Police over the past 5 years, along with the expenses.

2. Please set out in tabular form the total amounts of fixed penalties paid by members of the public for moving offences and illegal parking over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1. Road safety is one of the Commissioner's Operational Priorities. The Police Force is committed to adopting a "result-oriented" enforcement approach when formulating the overall traffic policing strategy, with a view to enhancing road safety, reducing the number of persons killed and seriously injured in traffic accidents as well as changing the irresponsible behaviour of road users causing obstruction on roads.

During traffic enforcement, the Force allocates resources flexibly, adheres to established guidelines and considers the specific circumstances of individual case to take appropriate control and enforcement actions, thereby achieving the abovementioned objectives.

The Force has been promoting road safety in collaboration with various stakeholders through a multi-agency approach. Its promotional and educational initiatives include producing and broadcasting television and online publicity video clips, affixing publicity wraps on traffic signal controllers, organising road safety talks at primary and secondary schools and elderly centres, as well as disseminating information via social media platforms. The expenditure involved falls under the Programme “Road Safety”. No specific breakdown is available.

2.

Total amount of FPTs issued from 2020 to 2024					
Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Amount of fixed penalty for illegal parking (\$ million)	867	1,057	1,076	964	814
Amount of fixed penalty for moving offences (\$ million)	198	221	229	229	202

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB083

(Question Serial No. 0109)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. The number of Mainland visitors arrested for crimes increased by more than 600 in 2024 compared to 2023.

Please provide information on the reasons for the increase, the types of crimes committed, the property losses incurred, the number of persons successfully prosecuted and the sentences imposed. Similarly, for non-Mainland visitors who committed crimes in Hong Kong, please provide details on their nationalities, the relevant figures as outlined above and the actions taken by the Police to reduce such crimes.

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

In 2024, a total of 2 161 Mainland visitors were arrested, representing an increase of 613 persons or 39.6% compared to 2023. The rise was mainly attributed to a significant increase of over 7 million in the total number of Mainland visitors to Hong Kong (which reached 34.04 million, up by 27.2%). In fact, the number of arrestees only accounted for an extremely small proportion (approximately 0.006%) of the total number of Mainland visitors. By comparison, a total of 1 254 visitors from other regions were arrested, representing an increase of 131 persons or 11.7%. This represented approximately 0.01% of the total number of visitors from other regions, nearly double (1.9 times) the corresponding figure for Mainland visitors.

Among the arrested Mainland visitors, 949 persons, the majority of whom were stooge account holders, were involved in deception and money laundering (up by 179.9%). Other offences included shop theft, involving 160 arrestees (down by 18.4%); serious immigration offences, involving 139 arrestees (up by 27.5%); and miscellaneous theft, involving 129 arrestees (down by 17.8%). Meanwhile, the primary offences committed by arrested visitors from other regions included shop theft, involving 259 arrestees (down by 5.1%); miscellaneous theft, involving 131 arrestees (up by 31%); and wounding and serious assault, involving 99 arrestees (up by 8.8%).

To combat the criminal activities of syndicates recruiting and arranging for Mainlanders to open stooge accounts in Hong Kong, the Police Force conducted joint operations with Mainland Public Security Authorities between May and July 2024. These efforts resulted in the arrest of 261 persons across both jurisdictions, associated with 535 deception cases in Hong Kong and involving over HK\$330 million in laundered fraudulent funds. In September 2024, the Force also dismantled a cross-border money laundering syndicate operating in Hong Kong and the Mainland through timely intelligence exchanges facilitated by the Anti-Deception Alliance and the banking sector, leading to the arrest of 14 persons.

The Force will continue to maintain close intelligence exchanges with local, Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies to combat offences involving people entering Hong Kong as visitors.

The Force does not maintain statistics on matters such as the amounts of related losses, or the numbers of prosecutions and convictions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB084

(Question Serial No. 0110)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. The Police Force has developed the HKSOS mobile application to enhance the efficiency of rescue teams during search and rescue operations. Please provide details on the number of users who have downloaded the app to date, its effectiveness and the expenditure incurred by the Police for its development.

Please also provide information on the number and expenditure of other security-related applications developed in the past, and advise whether there are plans to further develop or streamline the use of these applications; if so, estimated resources to be allocated for such plans.

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

Since its launch in January 2024, the HKSOS mobile application has been downloaded 129 000 times as at February 2025, safeguarding over 50 000 outdoor journeys on land, sea or air. Moreover, it has successfully assisted in 62 search and rescue operations, helping 142 citizens in distress. The development cost of the app was approximately \$7 million.

The HKSOS app is currently the Police Force's only application specifically designed to ensure public safety and support inter-departmental search and rescue operations. As more citizens and tourists begin to use the HKSOS app, the Force must keep pace with advancements. Subject to resource availability, additional investment will be made to enhance the app's functionality, including improvements to its interface, map features and automatic accident detection system, to safeguard public safety.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB085

(Question Serial No. 0114)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. What is the current safety index of Hong Kong? Over the past 5 years, what specific measures have been implemented, and what expenditures have been incurred by the Police in areas such as counter-terrorism (CT) deployment, the enhancement of CT strategies, action plans, cross-departmental co-operation, intelligence gathering, training and public education?
2. How do the Police evaluate the risk of terrorist infiltration in the community? What measures will be implemented to enhance CT training and prepare for long-term CT operations, and what specific work and resources will be required?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

- 1&2. The current Terrorist Threat Level of Hong Kong is “Moderate”, which means that there is the possibility of an attack, but there is no specific intelligence suggesting that Hong Kong is likely to be a target.

Strengthening CT efforts is one of the Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2025. The Police Force will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach to enhance CT strategies and action plans through strengthening cross-departmental co-operation, intelligence gathering, as well as training and public education, thereby enhancing CT preparedness. The specific initiatives implemented over the past 5 years include:

Enhancement of CT Strategies and Action Plans

The HKSAR Government's CT strategy covers four areas, namely prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, setting out the roles and responsibilities of various government departments in combating terrorist threats.

Cross-departmental Co-operation and Intelligence Gathering

To strengthen CT preparedness, the HKSAR Government has set up a new three-tier prevention framework, comprising the Chief Executive CT Steering Group, the

Secretary for Security CT Co-ordinating Group and several inter-departmental working groups. This new framework has optimised Hong Kong's overall CT strategies by effectively enhancing inter-departmental co-operation and the HKSAR Government's capability in intelligence gathering, thus strengthening Hong Kong's terrorism prevention and CT responsiveness on all fronts.

Training and Public Education

The Security Bureau, in collaboration with the Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit (ICTU), co-ordinates regular cross-agency CT exercises that simulate various types of unforeseen events, such as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents, bomb threats and terrorist attacks, enhancing various departments' response and co-ordination capabilities in handling such incidents. In addition, training on emergency handling, such as the Critical Incident Command Courses, has been provided to commanders from government emergency services to strengthen their command skills.

On public education, the Force actively co-ordinates the efforts of member departments through the ICTU, with particular emphasis on the promotion of CT publicity and education to the public, including the important messages regarding "Stay Vigilant to Bomb", "Run, Hide, Report" and "Spot and Report". In June 2022, the ICTU launched the "CT Reporting Hotline" and "CT reward" to encourage members of the public to provide terrorism or violence-related information and raise public awareness of "Spot and Report". To enhance promotion of the CT Reporting Hotline and increase the coverage of CT information, the ICTU has promoted CT information through various platforms such as television, various mobile applications and websites, public transport, large outdoor television screens and billboards, allowing the general public to better understand CT and security messages.

The estimated expenditure on CT initiatives involves details of the internal operations of government departments, and is thus not suitable for public disclosure.

The HKSAR Government remains highly concerned about the potential terrorist threats in Hong Kong, and will closely monitor the trend of global and local terrorism to guard against such threats.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB086

(Question Serial No. 1350)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the work of tackling deception, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The number of deception cases reported to the Police Force, the detection rate and the number of arrests for each of the past 3 years;
2. A breakdown of the amount involved in these cases each year, categorised by the types of deception cases;
3. The staff establishment of the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC), as well as any new measures for preventing and tackling deception;
4. Whether the feasibility of adding auto-blocking functions for fraudulent calls and messages to the mobile application "Scameter+" will be studied, in order to reduce the public's risk of falling victim to scams; if so, the details; if not, the reasons;
5. Whether co-operation with Mainland authorities will be pursued to address online "caller ID spoofing" technology, in order to tackle the issue of scam calls at the source; if so, the details; if not, the reasons; and
6. Whether the arrangement of the voice alert message stating "this call is made from a new prepaid SIM card" will be reviewed, in order to safeguard the public's right to make calls; if so, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon YANG Wing-kit (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

1. The number of deception cases reported to the Police Force, the detection rate and the number of arrests for each of the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	2022	2023	2024
Number of cases	27 923	39 824	44 480
Detection rate	12.0%	11.9%	10.6%
Number of arrests	4 112	7 043	8 692

2. The common types of deception cases reported to the Force as well as the amount of losses for each of the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	Number of cases			Amount of losses (HK\$ million)		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Overall Deception Cases	27 923	39 824	44 480	4,850	9,180	9,150
Online Deception	19 599	27 314	27 485	3,073.8	5,345.9	4,924.1
<i>E-shopping Fraud</i>	8 735	8 950	11 559	74.1	190.5	356.3
<i>Online Investment Fraud</i>	1 884	5 105	3 930	926.5	3,267.4	2,261.7
<i>Online Employment Fraud</i>	2 884	3 518	3 853	459.1	760.2	797.2
<i>Social Media Deception</i>	3 605	3 372	3 039	779.0	745.4	662.5
<i>Phishing Scam (Note 1)</i>		4 322	2 731		102.4	53.5
<i>Email Scam</i>	391	208	197	751.1	163.6	104.1
Telephone Deception	2 831	3 213	9 204	1,076.5	1,102.8	2,911.0
<i>Impersonating Customer Service (Note 2)</i>			5 575			1,040.3
<i>Guess Who</i>	1 540	2 237	1 153	114.1	188.7	79.2
<i>Pretend Officials</i>	1 290	969	1 166	962.3	913.8	1,686.2
<i>Detained Son</i>	1	7	3	0.07	0.3	0.6

Note 1: Figures related to phishing scam have been maintained by the Force since 2023.

Note 2: Figures related to “Impersonating Customer Service” telephone deception have been maintained by the Force since 2024.

3. In 2024-25, the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) had an establishment of 84 posts, with 40 being permanent establishment and 44 on secondment from different Force formations.

“Enhancing cyber security and combating technology crime” and “combating deception and quick cash crime” remain among the Commissioner’s Operational Priorities for 2025. The Commercial Crime Bureau and its ADCC, the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau, the Financial Intelligence and Investigation Bureau, as well as the crime investigation units of various Police Regions and Districts, are all dedicated to cracking down on deception, including the cases related to technology crime.

When it comes to the trend of deception cases over the past few years, the increase of approximately 12% in 2024 was a marked slow-down compared with the consecutive rises of over 40% in 2022 and 2023, while the amount involved dropped by \$30 million as well. This shows that the Force’s efforts to combat deception on various fronts and the multiple initiatives against deception launched in collaboration with stakeholders over the past 3 years are beginning to yield results.

Over the past year, the Force has collaborated with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), the banking industry, the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) and telecommunications service providers to launch a series of enhanced measures with a view to fortifying defences against deception for members of the public.

The Force, together with the HKMA, announced in August 2024 that the scope of the Suspicious Account Alert mechanism had been extended from the Faster Payment System to cover internet banking and physical branch transactions, and it was further expanded in December to include transactions at Automated Teller Machines. The mechanism has covered the majority of the public's day-to-day transfers. If the recipient's account number is labelled as suspicious in the "Scameter" database, the system will send a high risk alert to users before confirming the transaction.

The ADCC and the Anti-Deception Alliance continue to play a pivotal role. By collaborating with local banks, they proactively send alerts to potential victims. A total of 3 051 ongoing deception cases had been intervened successfully by the end of last year. Also, the ADCC successfully intercepted \$1.48 billion of fraudulent payments in 1 372 deception cases last year.

As regards the enhanced measures implemented in collaboration with the OFCA and the telecommunications industry, starting from October 2024, Hong Kong residents must use the "iAM Smart" mobile application to verify identities for real-name registration for pre-paid SIM (PPS) cards, otherwise telecommunications service providers will conduct verification manually before activating the relevant PPS cards. Under the latest measure launched since 31 December 2024, when members of the public answer calls made from newly activated local PPS cards, they will first hear a voice alert message stating, "This call is made from a new PPS card", so as to raise public vigilance against phone scams.

In addition, the Force continued to request telecommunications service providers to block and intercept telephone numbers and websites suspected to be involved in deception cases. By the end of last year, nearly 30 000 suspicious website links and over 8 300 suspicious phone numbers had been intercepted.

To better help members of the public identify scams and pitfalls, the Force upgraded the self-developed "Scameter+" in February 2024 to include a public reporting platform and issue alerts when users browse suspicious websites or receive suspicious calls. By the end of last year, "Scameter" had recorded about 6.95 million searches and issued 880 000 alerts to members of the public. To further promote the use of "Scameter+", the Force launched the Anti-Scam Lucky Draw with the support from private organisations from October to November 2024. The event attracted over 1.8 million participants and "Scameter+" recorded a significant rise of 300 000 downloads. By the end of last year, the application had accumulated 874 000 downloads.

As for enforcement, a total of 10 496 persons were arrested for being involved in various types of deception cases and money laundering offences in 2024, representing an increase of 13.6%. Among them, about 7 700 persons were stooge account holders. The Force adopted approaches of concentrating resources, speeding up investigation and enhancing sentences to investigate cases with stooge accounts involved, including

assigning cases involving the same stooge account holders to a single investigation team for follow-up enquiries, continuously applying technologies to assist frontline officers in enhancing investigation efficiency and expediting prosecution. Therefore, in 2024, 1 484 persons were prosecuted for the offence of money laundering, a 2.3-fold increase compared with 2023. The Force also continued to apply to the court for enhanced sentencing for related cases. By the end of last year, the sentences of 47 stooge account holders had been increased by 10% to over 30% successfully, resulting in 21 to 75 months of imprisonment. Furthermore, the Force stepped up publicity about the cases with successful application for enhanced sentences to increase the deterrent effect.

To combat cross-border fraud syndicates using stooge accounts to collect fraudulent payments and launder money, the Force mounted joint operations with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies last year. These operations included the one conducted with the Mainland Public Security Authorities from May to July leading to a total of 261 arrests, and the other one executed with the Singapore police force in August resulting in 7 arrests in Hong Kong, involving the laundering of over HK\$330 million and HK\$100 million respectively. Additionally, a joint operation was initiated with the police forces of Singapore and Malaysia in June, neutralising a transnational deception syndicate in Malaysia using malware to commit crimes, with 21 arrests made in Hong Kong. The Force will continue to maintain close intelligence exchange with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies to jointly combat cross-border deception.

On publicity and education, over the past year, the Force has brought anti-deception messages to various districts of the territory through the anti-deception ferry “Ping On”, anti-deception minibuses, tram tours, a major logistics company’s fleet, Anti-scam Promotional Truck and so on, while getting the anti-scam information across to households with the assistance of Care Teams. Last December, the Force also held the large-scale Anti-Scam Carnival at the West Kowloon Cultural District and placed decorative lights and art installations of considerable size featuring “The Little Grape” in Tsim Sha Tsui East. In January 2025, the Force organised the “Anti-Money Laundering Month” again and launched a brand-new mini-movie titled “Your Life. Your Choice” together with the Correctional Services Department to remind members of the public not to rent, lend or sell their bank accounts. The Force has also received support from a number of government departments and various public and private organisations to promote anti-deception messages through diverse channels that could reach citizens from all walks of life and different backgrounds.

4. To better help members of the public identify scams and pitfalls, the Force launched the self-developed “Scameter” in September 2022 and its mobile application “Scameter+” in February 2023. “Scameter” has undergone continuous upgrades and expansion of its functions since its launch. Currently, “Scameter+” is equipped with blocking functions, as well as call alert and website detection functions that automatically identify scam calls and fraudulent websites. Upon detecting potential scams or cybersecurity risks, the application sends real-time notifications to remind users not to answer the calls or browse the websites. Additionally, “Scameter” includes a public intelligence platform, allowing members of the public to report scams and pitfalls, thereby further enriching its database. By the end of last year, “Scameter” had recorded about 6.95 million searches and issued 880 000 alerts to members of the public, whereas

“Scameter+” had alerted users to over 90 000 suspicious calls and over 600 000 suspicious websites.

5. Following the establishment of a dedicated working group with the OFCA and telecommunications operators, the Force has implemented a number of initiatives. These include blocking spoofed calls originating from outside local regions with the prefix “+852” and sending text or voice alerts to users who receive such calls. To combat telephone deception, the Force has also conducted timely intelligence-led operations. In August 2024, the Force dismantled 4 operation centres and arrested 11 persons, including 6 Malaysian visitors suspected of “conspiracy to defraud”, “using false instruments” and “money laundering”. During the operation, 87 modem pools, commonly referred to as “cat pools”, and more than 80 000 stored-value telephone cards were seized. Investigations revealed that the 6 visitors were recruited by an overseas deception syndicate to register local telephone cards in Hong Kong using false identity documents between April and August. These telephone cards, supported by the “cat pools”, were used to make and send international fraudulent calls and messages that appeared to originate from Hong Kong. It is believed that these telephone cards were used in approximately 400 cases of “Impersonating Customer Service” deception, involving over \$60 million. The 6 visitors have been charged with 1 count of “conspiracy to defraud”. The Force will continue to maintain close intelligence exchanges with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies to conduct timely joint operations targeting deception and technology crime.
6. As mentioned in part 3 above, since 31 December last year, members of the public will first hear a voice alert message stating, “This call is made from a new PPS card”, when they answer calls made from newly activated local PPS cards, so as to raise public vigilance against phone scams. To combat and prevent deception, the Force will proactively explore all feasible measures, including ways to improve existing legislation and initiatives. The Force will also maintain close collaboration with relevant stakeholders and provide recommendations from a law enforcement perspective where necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB087****(Question Serial No. 1351)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the CommunityControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 under Programme (1) that a multi-agency approach will continue to be adopted to address the problems of juvenile delinquency and youth involvement in crime and drugs. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The number of youths arrested for committing criminal offences in each of the past 3 years and up to the present;
2. The number of youths aged under 21 arrested for drug offences in each of the past 3 years and up to the present, as well as their proportion among all arrestees for drug offences;
3. The number of youths aged under 21 arrested for the illegal sale and possession of "space oil" in each of the past 3 years and up to the present; and
4. New measures to curb youth involvement in crime and drug-related activities, particularly initiatives to prevent youths from vaping "space oil"?

Asked by: Hon YANG Wing-kit (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)Reply:

1. The numbers of youths (aged 10-20) arrested for criminal offences over the past 3 years are as follows:

	2022	2023	2024
Number of arrested youths	2 774	3 041	2 840

2. The numbers of youths (aged 10-20) arrested by the Police Force for drug offences (including serious and minor drug offences), as well as their percentage among all drug arrestees, over the past 3 years are as follows:

Arrestees involved in drug offences (including serious and minor drug offences)	2022	2023	2024
Number of arrested youths	452	297	271
Percentage among all drug arrestees	12%	9.7%	9.6%

3. The numbers of youths (aged 10-20) arrested by the Force for offences involving “space oil drug” over the past 3 years, broken down by unlawful sale and unlawful possession of etomidate, are as follows:

Number of youths arrested for offences involving “space oil drug”	2022	2023	2024
Unlawful sale	0	0	3
Unlawful possession	0	2	58

4. In 2024, there were 1 114 serious drug cases, a decrease of 3.4%. The number of youths arrested in connection with serious drug cases had dropped by 27.5% to 129 persons, of whom 31 persons were students, a drop of 35.4%. The number of youths involved in serious drug cases has been steadily declining since its peak in 2021. By the end of 2024, the cumulative decrease had reached 70%, with the decline in the number of students arrested being more significant than that of non-students arrested, showing a cumulative drop of 76.9%. However, there was a noticeable increase in the use of e-cigarettes for consumption of “space oil drug” in 2024. According to the provisional figures from the Government Laboratory, as at 31 December 2024, the Force had detected 195 related cases and arrested 278 persons in total, including 61 youths. On 18 January 2025, the Force introduced Etomidate Rapid Test Kits, which enable on-duty frontline officers to conduct on-site rapid tests for suspected possession of “space oil drug”.

Since 14 February 2025, etomidate, the main active ingredient of “space oil drug”, and its 3 analogues have been listed as dangerous drugs upon gazettal. As at 28 February 2025, a total of 29 cases involving “space oil drug” were detected by the Force, resulting in the arrest of 39 persons, including 10 youths.

In addition to enforcement actions, the Force remains committed to the anti-drug education work. Apart from incorporating information about “space oil drug” into school talks and the “interactive anti-drugs drama”, the Force has also disseminated infographics and short videos on “space oil drug” to all schools in Hong Kong for showing to their students. Founded by the Force in 2021, the “Leadership Institute on Narcotics” (L.I.O.N.) trains 100 undergraduates and secondary students annually to become anti-drug leaders. Now in its fourth cohort, L.I.O.N. continues to uphold its mission of fostering a drug-free culture.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB088****(Question Serial No. 2561)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

1. Please provide, in tabular form, the number of visitors to the Police Museum and the proportion of tourists among them for 2022, 2023, and 2024 respectively.

2. The Old Yau Ma Tei Police Station, a popular tourist attraction, currently has its new wing temporarily used as a works area for the Central Kowloon Route Project (the Project). In view of the Project's scheduled completion at the end of this year, will consideration be given to better utilising the Old Yau Ma Tei Police Station after the Project's completion? For example, will the police station be redeveloped into a police museum to enhance public access and further capitalise on its unique value?

Asked by: Hon YIU Pak-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)Reply:

1. The numbers of visitors to the Police Museum for 2022, 2023 and 2024 are tabulated as follows:

	2022	2023	2024
Number of visitors	12 947 (Note)	22 799	26 886

(Note): The Police Museum was closed for enhancement works from June 2021 to August 2022 and reopened in September 2022.

The Police Force does not maintain statistics on the proportion of tourists among visitors to the Police Museum.

2. The Old Yau Ma Tei Police Station has become a popular tourist attraction. The Government will consider and explore development plans to promote characteristic local tourism in this regard.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB089

(Question Serial No. 1489)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC), will the Government advise on the following:

1. The current manpower, establishment, ranks involved, payroll costs broken down by rank, and the total payroll cost of the ADCC;
2. A breakdown, in tabular form, of the number and details of anti-scam campaigns conducted by the ADCC each year over the past 5 years, along with the associated expenditure;
3. A breakdown, in tabular form, of the number, content, and formats of promotional materials produced for anti-crime publicity initiatives targeting specific crime types, as well as the related expenditure, for each of the past 5 years;
4. The number of consultations handled via the “Anti-Scam Helpline 18222” and the number of reported cases referred by the helpline for each of the past 5 years; and
5. For each of the past 5 years, the usage statistics of the “Scameter” by the public, including the number of suspicious phone calls, websites and other sources identified by the Public Intelligence Platform in the scam database and the related expenditure, broken down by the type of information available from the “Scameter”.

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1. In 2024-25, the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) had an establishment of 84 posts, with 40 being permanent establishment and 44 on secondment from different Force formations.

Details on the posts and salaries involved are set out in the following table:

Rank	Number of posts	Police Pay Scale (PPS)	Monthly salary for the rank (HK\$) (from 1 April 2024)
Superintendent	1	PPS 50 – 53	132,365 – 148,775
Chief Inspector	3	PPS 44 – 49	103,205 – 127,620
Senior Inspector/Inspector	10	PPS 24 – 43	52,015 – 99,500
Station Sergeant	2	PPS 24 – 33a	52,015 – 76,830
Sergeant	17	PPS 17 – 28	42,390 – 60,850
Police Constable	51	PPS 4 – 17	28,940 – 42,390
Total (police officers)	84		

- 2-3. The Police Force has been adopting a multi-agency approach by collaborating with other government departments, regulatory agencies and industry stakeholders. Through different channels, both online and offline, the Force has conducted various anti-crime publicity and educational campaigns.

Apart from the ADCC, various formations at the headquarters, regional and district levels are involved in publicity and educational initiatives aimed not only at deterring deception but also at preventing and combating crimes. The Force does not maintain detailed statistics on crime prevention and anti-deception campaigns implemented by different formations.

In the fight against fraud, over the past year, the Force has brought anti-deception messages to various districts of the territory through channels like ferries, minibuses, trams, major logistics company's fleet and the anti-scam promotional truck, while getting the anti-scam information across to households with the assistance of Care Teams. To further promote the use of the self-developed "Scameter+", the Force launched the "Anti-Scam Lucky Draw" with the support from private organisations from October to November 2024. The event attracted over 1.8 million participants and "Scameter+" recorded a significant rise of 300 000 downloads. By the end of last year, the application had accumulated 874 000 downloads. In December, the Force also held the large-scale "Anti-Scam Carnival" at the West Kowloon Cultural District and placed decorative lights and art installations of considerable size featuring "The Little Grape" in Tsim Sha Tsui East. In January 2025, the Force organised the "Anti-Money Laundering Month" again and launched a brand-new mini-movie titled "Your Life. Your Choice" together with the Correctional Services Department to remind members of the public not to rent, lend or sell their bank accounts.

The Force will continue to adopt an extensive publicity strategy. This includes using traditional platforms, such as television programmes, and social media like the Force's official accounts on Facebook and Xiaohongshu, the websites of the "CyberDefender" and the ADCC, as well as the mobile application "Scameter+" to disseminate anti-deception messages in various forms like short videos, audios and texts. The Force has also received support from a number of government departments and various public and private organisations to promote anti-deception messages through diverse channels that could reach citizens from all walks of life and different backgrounds.

The expenditure incurred by the ADCC, as well as that spent on publicity and educational initiatives to combat and prevent crimes (including deception cases), form

part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

4. The number of consultations handled via the “Anti-Scam Helpline 18222” for each of the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of consultations handled via the “Anti-Scam Helpline 18222”	22 668	27 935	38 279	52 458	79 595

The “Anti-Scam Helpline 18222” only provides consultation services. If members of the public suspect that they have fallen victim to a scam, they should report it to the Police as soon as possible for assistance.

5. To better help members of the public identify scams and pitfalls, the Force launched the self-developed “Scameter” in September 2022 and its mobile application “Scameter+” in February 2023. In February 2024, the Force upgraded “Scameter+” by introducing a public reporting platform and enabling it to issue alerts when users browse suspicious websites or receive suspicious calls. Between September 2022 and the end of 2024, “Scameter” and “Scameter+” had recorded about 6.95 million searches and issued 880 000 alerts to members of the public.

With the support of private organisations, the Force launched the “Anti-Scam Lucky Draw” from October to November 2024 to further promote the use of the self-developed “Scameter+,” attracting over 1.8 million participants. Between February 2023 and the end of 2024, “Scameter+” recorded a significant rise of 300 000 downloads, bringing the total to 874 000.

In addition, from February to the end of 2024, “Scameter+” issued over 90 000 alerts for suspicious calls and more than 600 000 alerts for suspicious websites, while members of the public reported over 330 000 suspicious calls and more than 35 000 suspicious websites.

The expenditure incurred by “Scameter” forms part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB090****(Question Serial No. 1499)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of CrimeControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding efforts to combat drug-related crimes, will the Government advise on the following:

1. The total number of drug-related crimes reported to the Police Force, the total number of cases detected, the number of arrests, the number of prosecutions, and the number of successful prosecutions for each of the past 5 years;
2. In relation to space oil, the number of prosecutions, the number of successful prosecutions, the number of cases resulting in convictions and imprisonment, the number of persons involved, the number of minors involved, the age of the youngest involved and the quantity of space oil seized for each of the past 5 years;
3. The number, format and content of activities held or publicity materials produced to prevent drug abuse and drug trafficking, the number of citizens reached, and the related expenditures for each of the past 5 years; and
4. The current number of staff, their ranks, salary expenditures by rank, and the total expenditure for salaries of the Narcotics Division under the Security Bureau.

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)Reply:

1. The numbers of drug-related cases (including serious and minor drug cases) detected and persons arrested by the Police Force in the past 5 years are as follows:

Drug-related offences (including serious and minor offences)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of cases detected	2 760	3 515	3 131	2 497	2 315
Number of persons arrested	3 587	4 303	3 775	3 060	2 818

The Force does not maintain the relevant prosecution and conviction figures.

2. Figures on “space oil drug” maintained by the Force since 2023 are detailed as follows:

Offences involving “space oil drug”	2023	2024
Number of persons arrested	8	278
Number of arrested youths aged under 21	2	61
Age of the youngest arrestee	12 years old	12 years old
Quantity seized	0.286 kg	12.4 kg and 510 ml

The Force does not maintain the relevant prosecution and conviction figures.

3. The Force is committed to combatting drug-related offences, with particular attention to youth involvement in drugs. The Force will continue to deepen collaboration with stakeholders, including enlisting the support of schools and parents to disseminate crime prevention messages. In the previous school year, the Force conducted seminars on subjects such as anti-drugs for over 5 000 teachers, with the goal to provide the relevant training to 8 000 teachers this school year. Founded by the Force in 2021, the “Leadership Institute on Narcotics” (L.I.O.N.) trains 100 undergraduates and secondary students annually to become anti-drug leaders. Now in its fourth cohort, L.I.O.N. continues to uphold its mission of fostering a drug-free culture.

Additionally, the Force has been reaching out to schools and the community to spread anti-drug messages. Specifically, School Liaison Officers were arranged to host anti-drug seminars and the “interactive anti-drug drama” was staged in over 50 primary schools to convey anti-drug messages to 8 000 teachers and students. Meanwhile, the Force strives to get across the “Drugs? Never, Ever!” message to the public through the lively image of the Force’s anti-drug mascots “Mighty Cat” along with his two friends “No-No” and “Sneaky Rat”, coupled with the release of the promotional animation *Mighty Cat’s Diary*. Other anti-drug efforts include organising the “Anti-Cannabis Month”, “Anti-Drugs Campaign” and a large-scale anti-drug carnival, as well as arranging “Anti-Drugs Promotion Trucks” to tour various districts to disseminate the anti-drug message. Between 2023 and 2024, various anti-drug publicity campaigns organised by the Force had attracted over 130 000 participants.

4. Currently, the Narcotics Division (ND) under the Security Bureau is staffed with 31 civil servants (comprising 3 directorate and 28 non-directorate officers) and 4 other contract staff, with no supernumerary posts. The expenditures on staff of the ND were approximately \$31.09 million, \$32.33 million and \$29.68 million in 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 (as at 28 February 2025) respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB091****(Question Serial No. 1505)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (3) Road SafetyControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

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

Question:

Regarding the e-Ticketing Scheme, will the Government advise on the following:

1. The current number of portable printers procured under the e-Ticketing Scheme, with a breakdown by Police Region;
2. The number of complaints received from members of the public about illegal parking in each of the past 5 years, with a breakdown by Police Region;
3. The number of fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) issued in each of the past 5 years, with a breakdown by Police Region and vehicle type, including the respective numbers and proportions of FPTs issued through traditional handwritten methods, printed on the spot, or served via electronic contact methods such as email or SMS;
4. Further to the above, the number and proportion of cases with unpaid fines, broken down by the method of FPT issuance; and
5. The current number of vehicle licences with an encrypted QR code printed on them to facilitate the Scheme, with a breakdown by vehicle type.

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

1. The number of portable printers procured for the e-Ticketing Scheme since its launch, with breakdown by Police Region, is tabulated as follows:

Police Region	Number of portable printers
Hong Kong Island	718

Police Region	Number of portable printers
Kowloon West	628
Kowloon East	526
New Territories South	734
New Territories North	498
Total	3 104

2. The numbers of complaints about traffic obstructions and illegal parking reported by the public to the Police Force for the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Number of complaints about traffic obstructions and illegal parking reported by the public					
Police Region	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Hong Kong Island	31 638	27 417	20 781	17 995	20 492
Kowloon East	53 094	46 620	31 956	27 223	26 012
Kowloon West	72 577	66 594	51 908	46 007	40 457
New Territories South	36 430	33 613	30 155	27 859	27 080
New Territories North	24 891	23 116	33 275	23 869	13 334
Total	218 630	197 360	168 075	142 953	127 375

- 3-4. The figures on handwritten and electronic FPTs for illegal parking issued by the Force under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) by Police Region for the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Police Region	Number of FPTs issued for illegal parking									
	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Handwritten	Electronic	Handwritten	Electronic	Handwritten	Electronic	Handwritten	Electronic	Handwritten	Electronic
Hong Kong Island	294 009	305 209	191 500	479 092	81 520	542 480	21 622	501 545	8 965	388 112
Kowloon East	317 543	172 358	195 357	375 109	28 931	526 486	3 509	439 529	794	296 785
Kowloon West	347 326	284 267	216 708	646 284	76 906	934 178	10 686	949 590	4 316	868 003
New Territories South	368 824	144 007	184 200	400 506	52 787	518 108	11 655	459 872	3 834	386 628
New Territories North	311 372	162 954	147 737	447 667	47 929	554 146	10 318	604 693	2 949	582 811
Total	1 639 074	1 068 795	935 502	2 366 658	288 073	3 075 398	57 790	2 955 229	20 858	2 522 339

The numbers of FPTs for illegal parking issued under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) by vehicle type for the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Vehicle type	Number of FPTs issued for illegal parking				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Private car	1 977 286	2 180 390	2 061 425	1 786 162	1 481 864
Goods vehicle	560 073	826 856	956 171	875 438	768 055
Taxi	54 460	73 232	82 856	83 025	74 898
Public bus (Note)	23 474	33 675	43 977	53 187	50 711
Public light bus	2 510	3 505	5 668	7 715	6 144

Vehicle type	Number of FPTs issued for illegal parking				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Motorcycle (Note)	73 776	171 633	199 734	191 817	148 184
Others (Note)	16 290	12 869	13 640	15 675	13 341
Total	2 707 869	3 302 160	3 363 471	3 013 019	2 543 197

(Note) According to data on FPTs issued for illegal parking maintained by the Force, public buses comprise franchised and non-franchised buses, motorcycles comprise motorcycles and motor tricycles, and other vehicles comprise private buses, private light buses, special purpose vehicles and towing vehicles.

The Force is currently in the final stage of preparation for the implementation of electronic fixed penalty notices (FPNs) and the Traffic e-Enforcement System. At present, electronic FPNs have not yet been issued via e-mail or SMS. The system is expected to be rolled out by phases in 2025. Prior to the launch of electronic FPNs and the enforcement system, the Force will announce relevant arrangements and specific details to the public in due course to ensure a clear understanding of and smooth transition to the new measures.

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

- To facilitate the implementation of the e-Ticketing Scheme by the Force, starting from 20 April 2020, the Transport Department has printed a system encrypted QR code on newly issued vehicle licence (VL). At present, all VLs for licensed vehicles have been printed with such QR codes. As at the end of 2024, the number of licensed vehicles by type is tabulated as follows:

Vehicle type	Number of licensed vehicles (as at the end of 2024)
Motorcycle and motor tricycle	73 494
Private car	578 001
Taxi	17 773
Franchised bus	5 870
Non-franchised bus	6 582
Private bus	837
Public light bus	4 077
Private light bus	3 354
Goods vehicle	109 885
Special purpose vehicle	1 892
Towing vehicle	9 877
Total:	811 642

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB092

(Question Serial No. 2973)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

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

Question:

Please provide this Committee with the following information for the past 3 years:

1. A monthly breakdown of the number of illegal parking complaints lodged by members of the public across the 18 districts in Hong Kong;
2. A monthly breakdown of the number of fixed penalty tickets issued for illegal parking across the 18 districts in Hong Kong. Please include a tabulated breakdown by type of traffic contravention that led to the issuance of the tickets, such as illegal parking, double parking, illegal pick-up/drop-off of passengers, loading/unloading of goods in restricted zones and at bus stops, prolonged stopping and waiting, unauthorised entry into yellow box markings or pedestrian crossings, and causing traffic congestion; and
3. The annual number of cases in which payment was not made on time for the fixed penalty of a Fixed Penalty Notice against parking contraventions (Form 1) and a Notice Demanding Payment of Fixed Penalty (Form 2).

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1. The Police Force categorises the figures for complaints about and fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) issued for illegal parking by Police Region and does not maintain these figures with a breakdown by the 18 districts. The numbers of complaints about traffic obstructions and illegal parking reported by the public to the Police for the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Police Region	Number of complaints about traffic obstructions and illegal parking reported by the public		
	2022	2023	2024
Hong Kong Island	20 781	17 995	20 492
Kowloon East	31 956	27 223	26 012
Kowloon West	51 908	46 007	40 457
New Territories South	30 155	27 859	27 080
New Territories North	33 275	23 869	13 334
Total	168 075	142 953	127 375

2. The numbers of FPTs issued for illegal parking by the Force under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237), with a breakdown by Police Region, for the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Police Region	Number of FPTs issued for illegal parking		
	2022	2023	2024
Hong Kong Island	624 000	523 167	397 077
Kowloon East	555 417	443 038	297 579
Kowloon West	1 011 084	960 276	872 319
New Territories South	570 895	471 527	390 462
New Territories North	602 075	615 011	585 760
Total	3 363 471	3 013 019	2 543 197

The numbers of FPTs issued by the Force for congestion-related offences under the Fixed Penalty (Criminal Proceedings) Ordinance (Cap. 240), categorised by Police Region and specific offence, for the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Police Region	Offence	2022	2023	2024
Hong Kong Island	Unlawfully entering box junction	689	199	359
	Unlawfully entering yellow striped light signal crossing	149	102	140
	Picking up/setting down passengers in restricted zone	4 547	4 150	3 714
	Loading/unloading goods in restricted zone	1 338	1 375	1 113
	“U” turn causing obstruction	11	21	22
	Unauthorised stopping at bus stop/public light bus stand/taxi stand/public light bus stopping place	828	1 077	971
	Stopping public bus, public light bus or taxi longer than necessary when picking up/setting down passengers	1	1	0
	Sub-total	7 563	6 925	6 319

Police Region	Offence	2022	2023	2024
Kowloon East	Unlawfully entering box junction	241	493	169
	Unlawfully entering yellow striped light signal crossing	9	12	14
	Picking up/setting down passengers in restricted zone	2 144	2 245	1 395
	Loading/unloading goods in restricted zone	671	427	239
	“U” turn causing obstruction	2	3	5
	Unauthorised stopping at bus stop/public light bus stand/taxi stand/public light bus stopping place	547	437	542
	Stopping public bus, public light bus or taxi longer than necessary when picking up/setting down passengers	0	0	0
	Sub-total	3 614	3 617	2 364
Kowloon West	Unlawfully entering box junction	743	1 122	1 154
	Unlawfully entering yellow striped light signal crossing	241	313	326
	Picking up/setting down passengers in restricted zone	2 134	2 214	2 105
	Loading/unloading goods in restricted zone	353	345	251
	“U” turn causing obstruction	1	5	11
	Unauthorised stopping at bus stop/public light bus stand/taxi stand/public light bus stopping place	728	431	551
	Stopping public bus, public light bus or taxi longer than necessary when picking up/setting down passengers	7	0	0
	Sub-total	4 207	4 430	4 398
New Territories South	Unlawfully entering box junction	155	373	210
	Unlawfully entering yellow striped light signal crossing	13	12	33
	Picking up/setting down passengers in restricted zone	1 769	1 669	1 283
	Loading/unloading goods in restricted zone	419	388	241
	“U” turn causing obstruction	5	8	10
	Unauthorised stopping at bus stop/public light bus stand/taxi stand/public light bus stopping place	168	385	364
	Stopping public bus, public light bus or taxi longer than necessary when picking up/setting down passengers	0	0	0
	Sub-total	2 529	2 835	2 141

Police Region	Offence	2022	2023	2024
New Territories North	Unlawfully entering box junction	197	207	243
	Unlawfully entering yellow striped light signal crossing	10	13	21
	Picking up/setting down passengers in restricted zone	2 001	2 965	2 764
	Loading/unloading goods in restricted zone	124	176	175
	“U” turn causing obstruction	6	13	13
	Unauthorised stopping at bus stop/public light bus stand/taxi stand/public light bus stopping place	312	502	670
	Stopping public bus, public light bus or taxi longer than necessary when picking up/setting down passengers	0	0	0
	Sub-total	2 650	3 876	3 886

3. Regarding cases where the payment of fixed penalty was not made on time for a Fixed Penalty Notice against parking contraventions (Form 1) and a Notice Demanding Payment of Fixed Penalty (Form 2), the figures maintained by the Force for the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	2022	2023	2024
Number of cases where the payment of fixed penalty was not made on time for a Fixed Penalty Notice (Form 1)	847 561	779 877	686 410
Number of cases where the payment of fixed penalty was not made on time for a Notice Demanding Payment of Fixed Penalty (Form 2)	126 651	129 683	119 877

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB184****(Question Serial No. 3644)**Head: (30) Correctional Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Prison ManagementControlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (WONG Kwok-hing)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide the records of cases in which correctional officers subdued persons in custody (PICs) with empty hands, or with the use of oleoresin capsicum foam or extendable truncheon in various prisons and correctional institutions in the past 5 years. How many records mentioned above involved female PICs, young offenders and PICs over the age of 65?

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.:172)Reply:

By virtue of the duties and powers conferred by law, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) is committed to ensuring a secure, safe, humane, decent and healthy custodial environment.

Rule 237 of the Prison Rules (Cap. 234A) stipulates that no correctional officer in dealing with persons in custody (PICs) shall use force unnecessarily and, when the application of force to a PIC is necessary, no more force than is necessary shall be used. The appropriate force to be used by correctional officers against PICs should be non-lethal, defensive and minimal to prevent correctional officers themselves, PICs or other persons from being harmed.

The numbers of cases involving the use of necessary force against PICs by correctional officers in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	Number of cases by type of necessary force used			
	Empty-hand control	Use of oleoresin capsicum foam	Empty-hand control and use of oleoresin capsicum foam	Total
2024	4	10	53	67
2023	8	4	66	78
2022	8	7	62	77
2021	12	5	84	101
2020	14	9	68	91

Note: In the past 5 years, no correctional officers used extendable truncheons on PICs.

CSD does not maintain a breakdown of cases involving the use of necessary force by correctional officers on PICs by age. The numbers of cases involving institutions for young PICs and female PICs respectively in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	Number of Cases Involving Institutions for Young PICs	Number of Cases Involving Institutions for Female PICs
2024	4	14
2023	2	17
2022	3	22
2021	12	24
2020	4	20

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB185****(Question Serial No. 3384)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (3) Road SafetyControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

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

Question:

Regarding the monitoring of taxi services, please provide this Committee with the following information:

1. The total number of reported cases received by the Police in 2024 involving soliciting passengers, refusing hire, overcharging and taximeter offences;
2. Of the above cases, the number that were accepted for investigation and the number that resulted in prosecutions; and
3. The plans and measures to strengthen enforcement efforts.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

Reply:

1. The number of complaints about taxis received by the Police Force in 2024 is tabulated as follows:

Overcharging	1 080
Refusing or neglecting to accept a hire	1 285
Refusing or neglecting to drive a taxi to a place indicated by the hirer	161
Driving to a destination other than by the most direct practicable route (commonly known as "taking a detour")	1 408
Irregularities involving taximeters	24
Others (Note)	7625
Total	11 583

Note: Other complaints include taxi drivers not behaving in a civil and orderly manner, as well as soliciting passengers.

2. The number of enforcement actions (i.e. the numbers of summonses issued and arrests made) taken by the Force against offences committed by taxi drivers in 2024 is tabulated as follows:

Overcharging	25
Refusing or neglecting to accept a hire	68
Refusing or neglecting to drive a taxi to a place indicated by the hirer	19
Driving to a destination other than by the most direct practicable route (commonly known as “taking a detour”)	20
Irregularities involving taximeters	38
Others (Note)	454
Total	624

Note: Other enforcement actions include those against taxi drivers for not behaving in a civil or orderly manner, as well as soliciting passengers. The figures above do not include enforcement actions against taxi drivers for offences related to improper driving behaviour (e.g. careless driving, speeding, etc.)

3. The Force has implemented various effective measures to address the illegal behaviour of taxi drivers. These measures include conducting intelligence-led operations, enforcing the law through “decoy operations” (where officers disguise themselves as passengers) and enhancing publicity. The Force will continue to conduct targeted enforcement actions based on intelligence and operational priorities to address the misconduct of the minority of taxi drivers who tarnish the reputation of the trade, thereby achieving a deterrent effect.

In parallel, the Force closely monitors and follows up on complaints regarding alleged unlawful behaviour by taxi drivers. Members of the public who suspect a taxi driver of committing offences, such as refusing to accept a hire or overcharging, are encouraged to record relevant details, including the driver’s name, the taxi’s vehicle registration number, the time and the location, before reporting the matter to the Force. If evidence suffices, the Force will take enforcement action without hesitation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB186****(Question Serial No. 3393)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (3) Road SafetyControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

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

Question:

Regarding the road safety issues of cyclists, will the Government inform this Committee of the following for the past 3 years:

- (1) The numbers of complaints and prosecutions related to cycling offences, as well as the number of traffic accidents involving bicycles and the resulting casualties each year;
- (2) The progress of work on implementing the requirement for cyclists to wear helmets;
- (3) The current number of electric mobility devices in Hong Kong and the number of offences related to their use; and
- (4) The plans and measures to strengthen enforcement in relation to these issues.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 57)

Reply:

- (1) The numbers of prosecutions related to cycling offences, traffic accidents involving bicycles and the resulting casualties for the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2022	2023	2024
Number of summonses issued for cycling offences	5 818	4 083	3 797
Number of traffic accidents involving bicycles	2 224	1 980	1 868 (Note)
Casualties resulted from traffic accidents involving bicycles	2 310	2 051	1 952 (Note)

(Note): Figures are provisional as the Police Force is still processing the traffic accident statistics for 2024.

The Force does not maintain statistics on the number of complaints related to cycling offences.

- (2) The Government is studying legislative amendments to introduce the mandatory requirement for cyclists to wear helmets, and will submit the legislative amendment proposal to the Legislative Council as soon as possible. The Transport Department (TD) has noted that legal requirements vary across different places, including whether helmets should be required in all locations or only in designated areas, as well as the applicable age. In addition, the Government has received suggestions from various local stakeholders regarding the applicable locations and scope of the mandatory requirement to wear bicycle helmets. The Government is currently conducting a careful study and analysis of the collected information and views to refine the legislative amendment proposal.
- (3) Neither the Force nor the TD has maintained statistics on the current number of electric mobility devices in Hong Kong.

The number of persons arrested by the Force for illegal use of electric mobility devices for the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

2022	2023	2024
236	267	647

- (4) Road safety is one of the Force's operational priorities, while combatting the illegal use of electric mobility devices and cycling offences are among the Force's Selected Traffic Enforcement Priorities. The Force will continue to launch operations from time to time to take stringent enforcement actions against the illegal use of electric mobility devices and careless cycling to ensure road safety.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB187

(Question Serial No. 3903)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

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

Question:

In regard to the electronic traffic enforcement regime, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The extent to which the processing time for handling electronic notices issued to vehicle owners will be reduced following the implementation of electronic enforcement, as well as the savings in manpower costs for enforcement; and
2. Details regarding the implementation of the electronic enforcement system, including its maintenance costs, with particular emphasis on measures to prevent fraudulent activities and whether these measures will place additional pressure on officers.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

1. In support of the implementation of e-Ticketing, the Police Force will concurrently launch a new dedicated online portal and a mobile application for traffic e-enforcement. These online platforms will provide a convenient means for vehicle owners and drivers to handle matters related to fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) for traffic contraventions. Upon the launch of these initiatives, members of the public may settle fixed penalties using traditional methods (such as automated teller machines, Payment by Phone Service (PPS), postal services and post office counters) based on the information provided in their electronic notices. They may also verify and view these notices through the system and settle their penalties via electronic means (such as e-credit card payments and the Faster Payment System). These enhancements aim to deliver more convenient public services and align with the Government's policy direction of developing Hong Kong into a smart city.

With the full implementation of the Traffic e-Enforcement System (the System), the time required to process paper-based FPTs will be reduced, thereby enhancing the efficiency of the Force's traffic enforcement efforts and enabling more flexible deployment of manpower to other traffic management duties.

2. The estimated maintenance cost of the System for 2025-26 is \$65,425,000, which will primarily cover the maintenance of hardware and software, communications networks and data transmission. The Force will make effective use of resources in light of actual circumstances and demands to ensure the System's stable operation.

As part of the Force's anti-deception efforts, the System has been registered under the Short Message Service (SMS) Sender Registration Scheme administered by the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA). All SMS messages issued by the Force in relation to FPTs will display a sender ID prefixed with a “#” symbol, making it easier for the public to verify their authenticity and avoid falling victim to fraudulent messages. Furthermore, neither SMS messages nor emails issued in relation to FPTs will contain any hyperlinks. The Force also reminds members of the public not to click on any links embedded in purported FPT-related SMS messages or emails, in order to avoid potential scams.

Upon commissioning, the designated portal for processing FPTs will use a domain name ending in “.gov.hk”. The Force will remind members of the public to carefully verify the website's domain name and content. If there is any doubt about the source of the information, personal data should not be provided lightly, in order to safeguard one's own interests.

In addition, the Force will continue to strengthen its promotional and educational efforts and disseminate anti-deception messages through multiple channels, with the aim of reminding the public to stay vigilant and enhancing their awareness of fraud prevention. The Force also encourages members of the public to optimise the use of the 24-hour “Anti-Scam Helpline 18222”, the “Scameter” tool and the “Scameter+” mobile app, and to report suspected scams proactively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB188****(Question Serial No. 3334)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (4) OperationsControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

The provision for 2025-26 is \$1,075.0 million (18.1%) higher than the revised estimate for the previous year. This is mainly due to the increased provisions for filling of vacancies, full-year effect of vacancies filled in 2024-25 and salary increments and increased cash flow requirements for the Government's territory-wide closed-circuit televisions installation at crime black spots and replacement of vessels, partly offset by a net decrease of 15 posts in 2025-26. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the details regarding the filling of the vacancies concerned and the net decrease of posts, including the respective post titles, ranks, duties and the payroll costs. Please also advise on the total expenditure incurred by the proposed creation of posts and the total expenditure saved by the proposed deletion of posts, as well as how the duty of maintaining public order and safety will be balanced in light of the reduced number of posts.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 53)Reply:

In 2025-26, there will be a net decrease of 15 non-directorate posts under Programme (4) "Operations" (involving creation of 8 civilian posts, and reduction of 16 disciplined service posts and 7 civilian posts).

Details on the salaries of the 8 civilian posts to be created are tabulated as follows:

Rank	Number of posts to be created	Master Pay Scale (MPS)	Monthly salary for the rank in HK\$ (from 1 April 2024)
Total (civilian staff)	8	MPS 1 – 8	15,180 – 23,585

Details on the 16 disciplined service posts and 7 civilian posts to be reduced and the salaries involved are tabulated as follows:

Rank	Number of posts to be reduced	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)/ Model Scale 1 Pay Scale (MOD)	Monthly salary for the rank in HK\$ (from 1 April 2024)
Senior Superintendent	-1	PPS 54 – 54b	154,775 – 163,905
Superintendent	-1	PPS 50 – 53	132,365 – 148,775
Chief Inspector	-1	PPS 44 – 49	103,205 – 127,620
Senior Inspector/Inspector	-3	PPS 24 – 43	52,015 – 99,500
Station Sergeant	-1	PPS 24 – 33a	52,015 – 76,830
Sergeant	-6	PPS 17 – 28	42,390 – 60,850
Police Constable	-3	PPS 4 – 17	28,940 – 42,390
Total (police officers)	-16		
Total (civilian staff)	-7	MPS 1 – 10 MOD 0 – 8	15,180 – 26,590 15,175 – 17,880
Total	-23		

Through re-prioritisation, internal redeployment and streamlining of work processes and efficiency enhancement, the Force regularly examines its staff establishment and makes flexible deployment in response to policing needs to meet the community's service demands. At the same time, the Force has formulated comprehensive human resources and strategic plans for staff training, career development, among others. Officers are encouraged to make self-advancement and strengthen their own professional capacity so as to serve members of the public more effectively. In general, policing services will not be affected by the reduction in establishment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB189****(Question Serial No. 3763)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of CrimeControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the illegal trans-boundary operations by Mainland oyster farmers at Deep Bay, please advise on:

- (a) the manpower currently deployed by the Government to patrol in the waters around Urmston Road, the numbers of patrols conducted and the division of work; and
- (b) the numbers of enforcement actions against illegal activities of Mainland oyster farmers and their effectiveness over the past 3 years (2022-23 to 2024-25), as well as the penalties and fines imposed.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 53)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 at Deep Bay. The sub-unit currently has an establishment of 57 police officers, comprising 1 Inspector, 3 Station Sergeants, 16 Sergeants and 37 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 Immigrant Operation" carried out by the Deep Bay Sub-unit and various Marine Police units in the waters at Deep Bay in 2022, 2023, 2024 and the first 2 months of 2025 are as follows:

Year	Number of operations
2022	322
2023	825
2024	585
2025 (as at 28 February 2025)	46

- (b) The numbers of Mainland illegal immigrants arrested by the Deep Bay Sub-unit and various Marine Police units in the waters at Deep Bay in 2022, 2023, 2024 and the first 2 months of 2025 are as follows:

Year	Number of persons arrested	Supplementary notes
2022	29	All illegal immigrants have been referred to the Immigration Department for action. No refusal notice (ID122) was issued to Mainland oyster farmers who were suspected of breaching the requirements.
2023	36	
2024	22	
2025 (as at 28 February 2025)	6	

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB190

(Question Serial No. 3777)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Not specified

Question:

Regarding efforts to combat absconding, please provide the following:

- (a) The number of persons arrested, convicted and currently wanted since the enactment of the National Security Law (NSL), with a breakdown by month; and
- (b) The most severe penalty imposed on those convicted of absconding since the enactment of the NSL, as well as the maximum and minimum penalties applicable to such cases.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 67)

Reply:

- (a) & (b) The National Security Department of the Police Force is a department established under Article 16 of the Hong Kong National Security Law (HKNSL) for safeguarding national security; its duties form part of the work in safeguarding national security and do not fall under Head 122.

Safeguarding national security is the most important task of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government. Individuals endangering national security often abscond overseas to evade criminal liability, and continue to endanger national security through various means. Sections 89(1) and 89(4) of the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance confer power upon the Secretary for Security, to specify by notices published in the Gazette, persons who are suspected of having committed offences endangering national security and absconded overseas, as well as the measures to be applied against the relevant absconders, depending on the situation and subject to certain conditions being fulfilled. These measures include prohibiting the provision of funds to, or dealing with the funds of, an absconder; suspending an absconder's qualification to practise, or the permission or registration required for operating businesses or employment; temporarily removing an absconder from holding the office of director of a company; and cancelling the absconder's HKSAR passport. The

specified measures aim at addressing, combating, deterring and preventing acts of abscondment, and procuring the return of absconded persons to Hong Kong to face law enforcement and judicial proceedings.

According to statistics provided by the Security Bureau, as at 1 March 2025, a total of 320 persons had been arrested on suspicion of engaging in acts or activities endangering national security under all relevant laws since the implementation of the NSL. Of these cases, 186 persons and 5 companies were prosecuted, with 161 persons and 1 company convicted, including cases where sentencing has been completed or is still pending.

Among the aforementioned figures concerning cases under all relevant laws, 91 persons and 4 companies were prosecuted for offences under the HKNSL, with 76 persons convicted. Meanwhile, 5 persons were prosecuted for offences under the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance, with 3 persons convicted.

Safeguarding national security is a top priority, and endangering national security is a serious offence. The breakdown of arrest figures and related details constitute information pertaining to the HKSAR's work on safeguarding national security and, therefore, cannot be disclosed.

The acts or activities endangering national security may lead to extremely serious consequences. The HKSAR Government has the responsibility to pursue the legal liabilities of the persons who have committed an offence under the NSL or other offences endangering national security outside the Region in accordance with the law.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB191

(Question Serial No. 3845)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 in Programme (1) that the Police Force would continue to identify and implement measures to ensure effective and flexible tasking of front-line officers to enhance supervision, deployment and distribution of workload. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) the staff establishment and estimated expenditure of all Police Regions and the respective police stations in Hong Kong over the past 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25); and
- 2) whether resources have been deployed in a timely manner according to the population growth trends and the application of technology (e.g. the progress of CCTV installations) in various districts; if so, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 64)

Reply:

- 1) The yearly distribution of the Police Force's establishment (as at 31 December), categorised by rank and region, is detailed in the appendices of the *Hong Kong Police Review*. For information on the staff establishment of all police districts in the territory for 2020 to 2023, please refer to the *Hong Kong Police Review* available on the Force's website (https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/01_about_us/police_review.html). The staff establishment, including both police officers and civilian staff, for all police regions and their respective police districts in 2024, is tabulated as follows:

Police Districts	Establishment (As at 31 December 2024)	
	Police Officers	Civilian Staff
Central District	892	74
Eastern District	798	69
Wan Chai District	773	87
Western District	796	65
Hong Kong Island Region Headquarters	1 182	198
Hong Kong Island Region Total	4 441	493
Kwun Tong District	489	41
Sau Mau Ping District	664	54
Tseung Kwan O District	491	47
Wong Tai Sin District	802	68
Kowloon East Region Headquarters	1 003 [^]	88
Kowloon East Region Total	3 449	298
Kowloon City District	886	81
Mong Kok District	780	82
Sham Shui Po District	964	79
Yau Tsim District	1 109	96
Kowloon West Region Headquarters	1 434	279
Kowloon West Region Total	5 173	617
Border District	1 116	96
Tai Po District	874	62
Tuen Mun District	804	61
Yuen Long District	1 140	78
New Territories North Region Headquarters	1 347	267
New Territories North Region Total	5 281	564
Airport District	608	45
Kwai Tsing District	774	61
Lantau District	379	37
Shatin District	896	72
Tsuen Wan District	646	50
New Territories South Region Headquarters	1 152	90
New Territories South Region Total	4 455	355
Outer Waters District	1 126	48
Port District	674	37
Marine Region	520	68
Marine Region Total	2 320	153
Other Departments Total	7 957	2 170
Grand Total	33 076	4 650

[^] Including 13 leave reserve posts from the former Railway District.

The estimated expenditures of all police regions form part of the total expenditure under the Programme “Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community”. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- 2) The Force will review the manpower and resources of all police districts from time to time, and adjust the staff establishment and redeploy resources flexibly according to policing needs in view of factors such as crime trends, infrastructural developments, population growth and geographical characteristics.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB192

(Question Serial No. 3846)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding technology crime, please advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) The number of technology crime cases reported in each of the past 5 years (from 2020-21 to 2024-25), with a breakdown by type;
- 2) The number of technology crime cases detected in each of the past 5 years (from 2020-21 to 2024-25) and the amounts involved. Please also advise details on the research work on technology crimes conducted by the Law Reform Commission that requires collaboration with the Police Force and the progress made; as well as initiatives taken by the Police Force to better protect the public and to strengthen its efforts in combating technology crime (including legislative enhancements and digital policing initiatives);
- 3) The respective ranks, duties, formations and salaries of the 18 posts subject to the net decrease under Programme (2) in 2025-26, as well as the reasons for such a reduction; and
- 4) Noting that under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Police Force will enhance its capability in tackling technology crime and financial investigation, please advise on the initiatives to be undertaken to achieve these goals despite the net decrease of 18 posts under Programme (2) in 2025-26.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 65)

Reply:

- 1) The number of common technology crime cases reported to the Police Force in each of the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

	Number of Cases				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Technology Crime	12 916	16 159	22 797	34 112	33 903
Online Deception	10 716	13 859	19 599	27 314	27 485
Common Types of Online Scam					
Online Shopping Fraud	6 678	6 120	8 735	8 950	11 559
Online Investment Fraud	544	980	1 884	5 105	3 930
Online Employment Fraud	236	1 063	2 884	3 518	3 853
Phishing Scam (Note)				4 322	2 731
Social Media Deception	1 988	3 638	3 605	3 372	3 039
Email Scam	767	549	391	208	197
Misuse of Computer	111	142	192	3 471	3 055
Account Abuse	79	123	168	3 434	2 989
Hacking Activities	30	18	24	37	61
Distributed Denial-of-service Attacks	2	1	-	-	5
Internet Blackmail	1 144	1 317	1 557	2 428	2 559
Naked Chat	1 009	1 159	1 402	2 117	2 434
Other Internet Blackmail	135	158	155	311	125

Note: Figures related to phishing scam have been maintained by the Force since 2023.

2, 4) The amount involved in the common types of technology crime reported to the Force in each of the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

	Amount of losses (\$ million)				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Technology Crime	2,964.1	3,023.8	3,215.4	5,496.8	5,129.0
Online Deception	2,945.6	2,965.8	3,073.8	5,345.9	4,924.1
Common Types of Online Scam					
Online Shopping Fraud	122.3	71.5	74.1	190.5	356.3
Online Investment Fraud	266.3	472.0	926.5	3,267.4	2,261.7
Online Employment Fraud	10.5	85.3	459.1	760.2	797.2
Phishing Scam (Note)				102.4	53.5
Social Media Deception	259.1	669.4	779.0	745.4	662.5
Email Scam	2,247.4	1538.8	751.1	163.6	104.1
Misuse of Computer	6.2	34.5	74.5	89.7	121.4
Account Abuse	5.1	34.3	73.8	87.6	91.3
Hacking Activities	1.1	0.2	0.7	2.1	25.5
Distributed Denial-of-service Attacks	-	-	-	-	4.6
Internet Blackmail	9.1	15.0	23.0	48.9	81.6
Naked Chat	8.0	13.9	22.1	44.1	80.2
Other Internet Blackmail	1.1	1.1	0.9	4.8	1.4

Note: Figures related to phishing scam have been maintained by the Force since 2023.

The Force does not maintain statistics on cases detected for the respective crimes.

The Force is committed to taking proactive measures to combat technology crime and money laundering activities, primarily through the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) and the Financial Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (FIIB).

Enhancing cyber security and combating technology crime are among Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2025. The Force will continue to enhance its capability in combating technology crimes and handling cyber security incidents, as well as stepping up collaboration, intelligence exchange and law enforcement with relevant stakeholders and law enforcement agencies, such as the Digital Policy Office and the Hong Kong Productivity Council. In addition, the Cybercrime Policing Advisory Panel (CPAP) of the CSTCB was set up in December 2022, comprising 12 panel members who are experts and leaders from the academia, the education sector, commercial chambers, the financial sector, the information technology sector, the telecommunications sector and various public entities. The CPAP assists the Force in formulating short, medium and long term strategic directions in order to strengthen the Force's digital policing capabilities in combating cybercrimes. As of December 2024, 7 meetings had been convened by the CPAP.

On the international cooperation front, officers of the CSTCB attended the first International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Asia and South Pacific Working Group Meeting on Cybercrime for Heads of Units held in the Philippines in September 2024. The Chief Superintendent of CSTCB was elected Vice-Chairperson of the group to lead and work with Singapore and Fiji Police Forces in deepening cooperation amongst law enforcement agencies in the Asian and South Pacific region and to formulate long-term strategies for enhancing joint operational capabilities in combating technology crimes. In October 2024, CSTCB and INTERPOL jointly organised the 14th INTERPOL Cybercrime Directors Workshop. The event provided a platform for law enforcement agencies and corporate entities to exchange ideas and collaborate on tackling cybercrime challenges, including issues related to deepfake technology, AI-related cybercrime, ransomware and malware threats.

In terms of staff training, the CSTCB regularly conducts training programmes to bolster police officers' expertise in handling technology crime, with two courses accredited at Level 4 and one at Level 5 of the Qualifications Framework respectively.

Targeting and investigating money laundering activities is among the Commissioner's Operational Priorities for 2025. The Force has been strengthening its professional capabilities in financial intelligence analysis and financial investigations, including the founding of the Money Laundering Expert Cadre in October 2022, a volunteer secondary duty cadre currently comprising over 50 officers to assist the frontline in investigating money laundering cases and to testify as expert witnesses in court hearings. In addition, funding was approved in 2021 for the FIIB to develop the Financial Data Analytic Platform. This platform leverages advanced technologies and big data analysis tools to enhance the analytical capabilities of the financial intelligence system. In June 2023, the FIIB, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the banking sector, launched the Financial Intelligence Evaluation Sharing Tool for banks to share information on corporate accounts involved in fraud-related money laundering activities, improving the success rates of identifying and combatting criminal activities, strengthening due diligence measures and fostering industry-wide cooperation. In

January 2025, the Force further introduced the Transaction Analytics System, which automates fund flow analysis to a high degree, enabling investigators to conduct fund flow and network analysis with greater efficiency.

To combat money laundering, the Force continues to strengthen the knowledge and techniques of police officers and industry stakeholders in financial investigations by regularly offering local and international training courses. Additionally, the Force has been refining collaboration mechanisms with local financial institutions, international organisations and law enforcement agencies from the Mainland and overseas to enhance efforts against money laundering. To further promote public-private cooperation in combating money laundering, the Force organised the Financial Institutions Anti-Money Laundering Forum in August 2024. Through panel discussions, the forum facilitated the exploration of collaborative strategies with representatives from various law enforcement agencies, financial regulators and financial institutions.

The Force will periodically review the manpower and resources allocated to various formations and, where necessary, adjust the staff establishment in response to the latest crime trends.

To combat and prevent deception, the Force will proactively explore all feasible measures, including ways to improve existing legislation and initiatives. The Force will also maintain close collaboration with relevant stakeholders and, where necessary, propose recommendations from a law enforcement perspective. Specifically, the Chief Superintendent of CSTCB, a member of the Cybercrime Sub-committee of the Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong, has been proactively proposing recommendations to refine the relevant legislations from a law enforcement perspective.

- 3) In 2025-26, the Force will have a net decrease of 18 non-directorate posts (including an increase of 5 civilian posts and a decrease of 17 disciplined service posts and 6 civilian posts) under Programme (2) “Prevention and Detection of Crime” through re-prioritisation, internal redeployment, streamlining of work processes and improving work efficiency.

Details on the 17 disciplined service posts and 6 civilian posts to be reduced and the salaries involved are tabulated as follows:

Rank	Number of posts to be reduced	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)/ Model Scale 1 Pay Scale (MOD)	Monthly salary for the rank (HK\$) (from 1 April 2024)
Chief Inspector	-1	PPS 44 - 49	103,205 - 127,620
Senior Inspector/Inspector	-2	PPS 24 - 43	52,015 - 99,500
Station Sergeant	-2	PPS 24 - 33a	52,015 - 76,830
Sergeant	-4	PPS 17 - 28	42,390 - 60,850
Police Constable	-8	PPS 4 - 17	28,940 - 42,390
Total (police officers)	-17		

Rank	Number of posts to be reduced	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)/ Model Scale 1 Pay Scale (MOD)	Monthly salary for the rank (HK\$) (from 1 April 2024)
Clerical Assistant	-3	MPS 1 - 10	15,180 - 26,590
Data Processor	-1	MPS 2 - 11	16,135 - 28,225
Workman II	-2	MOD 0 - 8	15,175 - 17,880
Total (civilian staff)	-6		
Total	-23		

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB193

(Question Serial No. 3847)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 under Programme (2), the Police Force will maintain a high standard of investigation and provide professional service in all cases of domestic violence and continue to adopt a multi-disciplinary approach with other stakeholders in tackling the problem. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) The number of cases involving domestic violence for each of the past 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25), categorised by police division, case category and victim type (e.g. children); and
- 2) Details on how the Police Force will continue to adopt a multi-disciplinary approach with other stakeholders to tackle the problem of domestic violence when handling such cases, including whether resources will be allocated to professional bodies.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 66)

Reply:

- 1) The Police Force attaches great importance to offences of domestic violence. Police officers will handle and investigate such cases with empathy, professionalism, fairness and impartiality.

Domestic violence refers to any cases involving assault or a breach of the peace that occurs between persons having marital or intimate partner relationships. These relationships include married, separated or divorced couples, cohabitants or former cohabitants, and lovers or former lovers.

Domestic Conflict Reports can be classified as “Domestic Violence (Crime)” (including more serious criminal cases such as murder, wounding, rape, indecent assault, criminal intimidation, etc.); “Domestic Violence (Miscellaneous)” (including common assault and a breach of the peace); and “Domestic Incidents” (including cases not involving a breach of the peace or crime elements such as disputes and nuisance).

The numbers of Domestic Conflict Reports received by the Force in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Domestic Violence (Crime)	1 139	1 196	1 128	1 235	1 163
Domestic Violence (Miscellaneous)	466	470	437	470	413
Domestic Incidents	7 500	7 646	7 450	7 650	7 313
Total number of Domestic Conflict Reports	9 105	9 312	9 015	9 355	8 889

The numbers of cases involving Domestic Violence (Crime) categorised by gender of the victims in the past 5 years are set out below:

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Male	258	278	287	315	303
Female	881	918	841	920	860

The Force does not maintain statistics on victim type.

The numbers of cases involving Domestic Violence (Crime) and Domestic Violence (Miscellaneous) categorised by police district in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Domestic Violence (Crime)																					Total
	Hong Kong Island Region				Kowloon East Region				Kowloon West Region				New Territories North Region				New Territories South Region				Marine Region	
	Eastern District	Wan Chai District	Central District	Western District	Wong Tai Sin District	Kwun Tong District	Tseung Kwan O District	Sau Mau Ping District	Mong Kok District	Sham Shui Po District	Yau Tsim District	Kowloon City District	Tai Po District	Tuen Mun District	Yuen Long District	Border District	Tsuen Wan District	Kwai Tsing District	Shatin District	Lantau District	Airport District	
2020	56	42	17	37	72	38	28	59	57	99	76	66	79	66	94	14	40	82	80	31	0	6
2021	39	37	24	38	52	53	48	77	67	88	73	68	69	71	132	10	46	91	87	23	1	2
2022	45	19	18	27	56	39	46	74	51	98	68	64	101	65	131	22	40	79	63	19	0	3
2023	50	25	16	33	73	37	30	55	71	121	85	73	99	84	132	21	36	69	87	31	3	4
2024	38	18	25	34	51	37	46	62	70	85	61	61	96	98	123	12	38	89	83	30	1	5

	Domestic Violence (Miscellaneous)																						
	Hong Kong Island Region				Kowloon East Region				Kowloon West Region				New Territories North Region				New Territories South Region				Marine Region	Total	
Year	Eastern District	Wan Chai District	Central District	Western District	Wong Tai Sin District	Kwun Tong District	Tseung Kwan O District	Sau Mau Ping District	Mong Kok District	Sham Shui Po District	Yau Tsim District	Kowloon City District	Tai Po District	Tuen Mun District	Yuen Long District	Border District	Tsuen Wan District	Kwai Tsing District	Shatin District	Lantau District			Airport District
2020	25	6	3	6	22	13	7	22	29	45	33	41	59	23	36	3	28	23	33	6	0	3	466
2021	6	11	11	14	18	9	9	31	23	39	38	36	40	23	49	12	36	27	28	9	0	1	470
2022	7	5	0	8	20	17	7	25	27	52	35	40	39	26	47	3	24	16	26	11	1	1	437
2023	12	4	5	12	24	9	11	22	25	59	30	35	65	29	57	4	23	19	13	10	2	0	470
2024	16	5	5	12	18	6	9	20	23	49	21	19	56	29	59	3	15	22	9	12	4	1	413

- 2) Domestic violence is not only a crime but also a social issue. Therefore, a collective effort is needed to handle domestic violence cases. The Force has been handling such cases through an inter-departmental and multi-disciplinary approach, with a view to achieving the dual objectives of protecting the personal safety of the victims and their families as well as bringing the offenders to justice.

A regular referral mechanism has been established between the Force and the Social Welfare Department (SWD) since 2003 through which the Force, in general, having obtained the consent from victims of domestic violence cases, refers cases to the SWD for follow-up service. Non-consensual referrals are also made if an individual case is assessed as high-risk and a Superintendent of Police, after personally reviewing the case, decides that a referral is necessary to mitigate the risk of further deterioration. To strengthen communication between frontline police officers and social workers during the case referral process, the SWD will acknowledge receipt on receiving a police referral and inform the Force of the contact details of the responsible social worker. They will also inform whether the victims have accepted, among others, the follow-up service.

Moreover, to facilitate the Force's work in seeking urgent professional advice and social work support for handling urgent and high-risk cases, a 24-hour Direct Referral Line has been set up for police officers by the SWD since October 2006.

The Force has implemented the "Let's T.A.L.K. Child Protection Campaign" since 2021. To further enhance public awareness and prevent domestic violence cases, the Force also staged a large-scale carnival, "Let's T.A.L.K. LOL Party 2024", at the West Kowloon Cultural District from 16 to 17 November 2024, attracting around 17 000 participants. The event has fostered child protection and anti-drug awareness, encouraging the public to build harmonious families together and create a caring environment of mutual trust.

To raise public awareness and prevent domestic violence cases, the Force will continue to work closely with relevant government departments, non-governmental organisations and stakeholders from various professional sectors.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB194

(Question Serial No. 3464)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

According to information released by the Police, a total of 94 747 crimes were reported last year, representing a year-on-year increase of 5%. Among these, the number of deception cases rose by 11.7% to 44 480, accounting for 46.9% of the overall number of crimes. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- 1) Whether the Police can provide a detailed breakdown of the specific allocation of funds for each programme (Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community, Prevention and Detection of Crime, Road Safety, and Operations) in the 2025-26 Estimates, as well as the percentage increase or decrease compared to the previous year. Please also explain the rationale behind these allocation decisions;
- 2) The specific measures the Police have taken to enhance operational efficiency, such as innovative solutions involving technology applications or inter-departmental collaboration, the effectiveness of these measures, and whether there are plans to expand their scope of application or introduce new measures to further enhance efficiency;
- 3) The key initiatives the Police plan to implement in 2025-26 to combat deception cases, including the targets, the estimated resources to be allocated, the current progress, and whether key performance indicators have been established to measure the effectiveness;
- 4) Whether the Police intend to strengthen communication channels with the public to raise awareness of deception and improve self-protection capabilities, in view of the increasingly serious issue of deception. Please provide detailed information on the future plans in this area, along with the specific resource allocation in the budget.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

- 1) The allocation of provision by programme in the estimates for 2025-26, along with the increment compared to the revised estimates for 2024-25, are as follows:

Programme	2024-25 (Revised) (\$ million)	2025-26 (Estimate) (\$ million)	Increment
(1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community	12,458.4	12,568.9	+0.9%
(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime	5,854.8	5,965.2	+1.9%
(3) Road Safety	2,486.3	2,512.4	+1.0%
(4) Operations	5,935.0	7,010.0	+18.1%

The allocation of provision to programmes was determined based on the respective staff establishment and the changes in cash flow requirements for operating and capital accounts.

- 2-4) The Police Force has been proactively exploring the use of technology to prevent and combat various types of crimes, including deceptions and technology crimes.

In September 2022, the Force established the e-Crime Processing and Analysis Hub (e-Hub), a one-stop platform for handling electronic reports on technology crimes and deceptions. The e-Hub conducts correlation analysis on cases through an enhanced computer system to identify relevant clusters of cases for consolidated investigation, with a view to focusing resources on following up the cases in a more efficient and effective manner, thereby enhancing the Force's effectiveness in handling technology crimes and deceptions. Since July 2024, through case analysis, the e-Hub has been coordinating frontline operations and consolidating information on stooge accounts. Cases involving the same stooge account holders are assigned to a single investigation team for follow-up, further improving investigation efficiency.

To enhance the capabilities of frontline investigation formations in handling deceptions and technology crimes, the Force has introduced a series of internal electronic systems in recent years. These include the "e-154 App", "Bank Document Digitalization System", "Bank Statement Conversion and Analysis System", "Electronic Stop-Payment System", "CryptoTrace" and "Digital Forensics Laboratory System".

In 2021, funding was approved for the Force to develop the Financial Data Analytic Platform. This platform leverages advanced technologies and big data analysis tools to enhance the analytical capabilities of the financial intelligence system. In June 2023, the Force, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) and the banking sector, launched the Financial Intelligence Evaluation Sharing Tool for banks to share information on corporate accounts involved in fraud-related money laundering activities, improving the success rates of identifying and combating criminal activities, strengthening due diligence measures and fostering industry-wide cooperation. In January 2025, the Force further introduced the Transaction Analytics System, which automates fund flow analysis to a high degree, enabling investigators to conduct fund flow and network analysis with greater efficiency.

Meanwhile, to better help members of the public identify scams and pitfalls, the Force launched the self-developed “Scameter” in September 2022 and its mobile application “Scameter+” in February 2023. In February 2024, the Force upgraded “Scameter+” by introducing a public reporting platform to enrich its database and enabling it to issue alerts when users browse suspicious websites or receive suspicious calls. By the end of last year, “Scameter” had recorded about 6.95 million searches and issued 880 000 alerts to members of the public. Another critical feature of “Scameter” is the Suspicious Account Alert. In August 2024, the Force, together with the HKMA, announced that the scope of the alert mechanism had been extended from the Faster Payment System to cover internet banking and physical branch transactions, and it was further expanded in December last year to include transactions at Automated Teller Machines. The mechanism has covered the majority of the public’s day-to-day transfers. If the recipient’s account number is labelled as suspicious in the “Scameter” database, the system will send a high risk alert to the user before confirming the transaction.

The Force continues to request telecommunications service providers to block and intercept phone numbers and websites suspected to be involved in deception cases. By the end of last year, nearly 30 000 suspicious website links and over 8 300 suspicious phone numbers had been intercepted.

In 2024, 44 480 cases of deception were recorded, representing an increase of 11.7% compared with 2023. The increase in deception cases in 2024 was a marked slow-down compared with the consecutive rises of over 40% in 2022 and 2023, while the amount involved dropped by \$30 million as well. This shows that the Force’s efforts to combat deception on various fronts and the multiple initiatives against deception launched in collaboration with stakeholders over the past 3 years are beginning to yield results.

The Force will continue to adopt an extensive publicity strategy. This includes using traditional platforms, such as television programmes, and social media like the Force’s official accounts on Facebook and Xiaohongshu, the websites of the “CyberDefender” and the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre, as well as the mobile application “Scameter+” to disseminate anti-deception message in various forms like short videos, audios and texts. The Force has also received support from a number of government departments and various public and private organisations to promote anti-deception messages through diverse channels that could reach citizens from all walks of life and different backgrounds. The Force will continue to explore technological solutions to combat deception while actively promoting the use of “Scameter+”.

To further enhance public safety and combat crime comprehensively, the Force has been installing closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras at various locations across the territory since April 2024. By the end of last year, a total of 615 sets of CCTV cameras had been installed, and the first phase of installation comprising 2 000 sets of CCTV cameras in total will be completed within this year. As at the end of December 2024, the CCTV system had assisted the Force in detecting 122 cases, including serious crimes such as murder, robbery and burglary, resulting in 202 arrests. Among the 28 cases of murder, robbery and burglary detected with the assistance of CCTV system, 90% were detected within an average of 2 days. This demonstrates that the CCTV system not

only makes investigations more effective but also significantly enhances the efficiency in detecting crime.

Apart from assisting in detecting crime, the CCTV system also serves as a deterrent to criminal acts. To understand the relevant figures, the Force conducted a detailed analysis of the number of cases of various types of crimes that occurred on street and observed declines in the figures for these crimes (down by 3.2% to 27.4%) after the installation of CCTVs, demonstrating the scheme's significant positive impact on crime prevention and detection.

Expenditures on combating deceptions and technology crimes through technological solutions form part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime". The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditures involved.

The Force has no plans to formulate key performance indicators for combating specific types of crimes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB195

(Question Serial No. 3496)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the “Animal Watchers Programme”, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The staff establishment and expenditure involved;
2. The number of activities organised over the past 3 years to raise public awareness about assisting in combating animal cruelty, the number of engagements and details of the effectiveness of these efforts;
3. The number of reports received, investigations conducted, and prosecutions initiated in relation to animal cruelty over the past 3 years; and
4. In light of recent dog poisoning cases, whether proactive investigations have been conducted and whether the installation of closed-circuit televisions at specific black spots, particularly in pet gardens managed by the Government, has been considered to deter such acts. If so, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 137)

Reply:

1. To enlist public support and assistance in combating acts of cruelty to animals, the Police Force implemented the Animal Watchers Programme (AWP) in 2021, with a view to agglomerating the strengths of animal lovers at the community level and on social media platforms in the 4 directions of education, publicity, intelligence-gathering and investigation; 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 dedicated officers to implement the AWP at the policy-making level as well as in frontline police districts. The expenditures involved form part of the total expenditure under Programme (1) “Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community” and Programme (4) “Operations” respectively. No specific breakdown is available.

2. Through organising territory-wide large-scale events involving different communities and age groups, AWP aims to strengthen the awareness and care of the general public on the issue of cruelty to animals and animal welfare, as well as to disseminate the message of prevention of cruelty to animals effectively to the public.

In 2022, the Force launched a series of educational and promotional activities under the banner of “AWP x 25A”. These activities included the “AWP Colours in 25A” colouring and drawing contest, school promotions titled “Animal Care Corner”, and the “BYOP (Bring Your Own Pet) Treasure Hunt”. In 2023, AWP initiated the “Synergy for Great” initiative, collaborating with various organisations to introduce the “Life-wide Animal Care College” educational programmes. This initiative featured the “Adventure King Summer Camp”, educational seminars, visits to the veterinary medical centre, and the “Hang-in-there Charity Challenge” in observance of World Animal Day. In 2024, AWP organised a variety of activities, including the “Education Programme of Ocean Park Academy Hong Kong”, “Community Mobile Classroom 2.0”, “Animal Care Summer Camp” and the “Bring Your Own Pets x Sunny & Zander Charity Run.” Furthermore, AWP has partnered with the Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences at the City University of Hong Kong to launch the “AWP Student Mentorship Programme”, aimed at providing professional animal care guidance to students in schools with an “Animal Care Corner”.

The events organised from 2022 to 2024 saw the physical participation of over 164 000 people, with more than 19 million online engagements (e.g. social media posts) recorded. The Force will continue its efforts to raise public awareness about preventing cruelty to animals through the AWP initiative. A multifaceted approach will be used to evaluate its effectiveness, using a variety of indicators such as the number of cases reported, the number of persons arrested and the level of public engagement. Currently, most animal cruelty cases are reported to the Force by members of the public who voluntarily provide information for investigations. This demonstrates that the AWP initiative has a significant impact on enhancing police-community co-operation and raising public awareness in the fight against animal cruelty.

3. The numbers of cases on cruelty to animals reported to the Force and prosecutions instituted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance for the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2022	2023	2024
Number of cases reported	54	74	71
Number of persons arrested	32	60	59
Number of prosecutions instituted	20	22	17 (as at third quarter)

4. The Force has all along attached importance to suspected cases of animal cruelty. To combat such offences, the Force has established Animal Crime Police Teams in 22 police districts. These teams are staffed by officers with experience in investigating and handling serious crimes. In addition, the Force, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) have established a collaborative mechanism to proactively prevent and investigate related crimes through multi-agency collaboration. Where necessary, AFCD and SPCA officers will attend the scene of an animal cruelty case to provide professional advice and assist in the investigation.

To further enhance law and order and combat crime in a holistic manner, the Force has been installing closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs) across Hong Kong since April 2024. At present, CCTVs have been installed at 615 locations with high crime rates and heavy pedestrian traffic across all 18 districts in the territory. The initial stage of the Territory-wide CCTV Installation Scheme aims to complete the installation of 2 000 CCTV units by the end of 2025.

The Force will continue to assess locations with high crime rates and pedestrian flow across the 18 districts. CCTVs will be strategically installed in these areas to enhance the Force's capability in preventing and detecting crimes. Through this initiative, the Force seeks to improve overall law and order across the territory.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB196

(Question Serial No. 3818)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In addressing technology-related deception, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. The number of reported cases, the amount of financial losses and the number of arrests and prosecutions related to the use of AI technologies, such as face swapping or voice manipulation, over the past 3 years and up to the present;
2. The expenditure and manpower allocated this financial year for combatting such crimes, along with the objectives and planned initiatives; and
3. Given the rise in such crimes, which are increasingly difficult to prevent, whether reference has been made to overseas practices to strengthen enforcement, and whether consideration has been given in collaboration with relevant departments on legislating to protect the personality rights of public figures. If so, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 160)

Reply:

1. In view of the emergence of new modus operandi involving deepfake technology in recent years, the Police Force has been maintaining separate statistics on this type of fraud since 2023. The first case was detected through the Force's proactive intelligence-led investigation. During an operation code-named Smashscam in August 2023, the Force smashed a local fraud syndicate suspected of using an artificial intelligence (AI) face-swapping programme to steal others' identities and apply for loans online from finance companies. The case involved \$200,000 and 9 persons were arrested for the suspected offence of "conspiracy to defraud".

In 2024, a total of 3 fraud cases involving deepfake technology were reported to the Force. The first two cases, which remain under investigation, are believed to involve the use of pre-recorded video conferences, resulting in financial losses of \$240 million and \$4 million respectively. The third case was detected through the Force's proactive intelligence-led investigation, leading to the neutralisation of a triad-controlled criminal

syndicate. The syndicate used deepfake technology to engage in online dating to lure victims in Hong Kong, the Mainland and other parts of Asia to invest in cryptocurrencies. The case involved more than \$360 million, with 27 persons arrested, including the masterminds and key members of the syndicate.

In January 2025, the Force launched another intelligence-led operation, dismantling a criminal syndicate that used deepfake technology to perpetrate scams. A total of 31 persons, including the masterminds and core members, were arrested, with a total of \$34 million involved. The criminal syndicate used deepfake technology to engage in online dating to lure victims in various parts of Asia to invest in fraudulent cryptocurrency platforms.

The Force does not maintain figures on the number of related prosecutions.

2. In response to various challenges posed to cyber policing by AI such as deepfake technology, the Force has been exchanging intelligence with International Criminal Police Organization, law enforcement agencies of different jurisdictions and the AI industry. The Force has also been keeping track of the latest modus operandi and criminal trends worldwide, which include the application of deepfake technology.

To combat different technology crimes, the Force set up the Cybercrime Policing Advisory Panel (CPAP) in December 2022. Led by the Director of Crime and Security and comprising 12 experts and leaders from the technology sector, the CPAP seeks to look into risks of crime and fraud involving AI (including deepfake technology) and to enhance public awareness on the potential risks of AI. The Force will continue to step up co-operation with stakeholders of relevant sectors, and will jointly explore and formulate effective measures to combat relevant crimes.

On enhancing professional competence, the Force has been organising internal training from time to time to enrich officers' knowledge of deepfake technology and the related cybercrimes. Relevant equipment will also be timely upgraded to strengthen the Force's capability in combating different types of cybercrimes.

In terms of publicity and education, the Force has been working on various fronts, including holding press conferences from time to time to educate the public about common tactics used by fraudsters and demonstrate how deepfake technology can be used to conduct video conferences. Through its Facebook page and the CyberDefender website, the Force has been disseminating information about the latest crime situation and anti-deception advice related to deepfake technology.

The expenditure on combating technology-related fraud forms part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime". The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

3. To combat and prevent deception, the Force proactively explores all feasible measures, including ways to improve existing legislation and initiatives. The Force will also maintain close collaboration with relevant stakeholders and, where necessary, propose recommendations from a law enforcement perspective.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB197****(Question Serial No. 3660)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the CommunityControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please provide the number of reported missing persons with dementia (2018-2024), the number of those found, as well as the average time taken to locate them over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 188)

Reply:

The number of missing person reports received by the Police Force and the number of cases in which the missing persons were located from 2018 to 2024 are set out below:

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of reports	3 046	2 643	1 934	2 154	2 110	2 705	2 494
Number of cases in which the missing persons were located*	2 723	2 530	1 806	1 655	2 050	2 629	2 419

* The year in which a missing person was located may not correspond to the year the person was reported missing.

The Force does not maintain records on whether the missing persons had illnesses or other related details.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB198

(Question Serial No. 3748)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (CHOW Yat-ming, Joe)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Given the severe psychological trauma caused by sexual offences, it is essential for the Government to adopt proactive measures to combat such crimes and provide appropriate support to victims. In this connection, the Committee request the Government to provide the following information:

1. Over the past few years, sexual offences in Hong Kong have remained a significant concern. To better understand the trends and assess the effectiveness of law enforcement actions, please provide statistics on the following:

. Statistics on general sexual violence offences

	2020			2021			2022			2023			2024		
	No. of cases reported	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	No. of cases reported	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	No. of cases reported	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	No. of cases reported	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	No. of cases reported	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted
Rape (Section 118 of the Crimes Ordinance)															
Procuring other persons by threats to do an unlawful sexual act (Section 119 of the Crimes Ordinance)															
Procuring other persons by false pretences to do an unlawful sexual act (Section 120 of the Crimes Ordinance)															
Administering drugs to obtain or facilitate an unlawful sexual act (Section 121 of the Crimes Ordinance)															
Indecent assault (Section 122 of the Crimes Ordinance)															

2. With the advancement of technology, image-based sexual violence offences have become an increasing concern in the community. Please provide law enforcement statistics on the following:

. Statistics on image-based sexual violence offences

	2020			2021			2022			2023			2024		
	No. of cases reported	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	No. of cases reported	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	No. of cases reported	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	No. of cases reported	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	No. of cases reported	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted
Voyeurism (Section 159AAB of the Crimes Ordinance)															
Unlawful recording or observation of intimate parts (Section 159AAC of the Crimes Ordinance)															
Publication of images originating from commission of offence under section 159AAB(1) or 159AAC(1) (Section 159AAD of the Crimes Ordinance)															
Publication or threatened publication of intimate images without consent (Section 159AAE of the Crimes Ordinance)															

Asked by: Hon TIK Chi-yuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

1. The numbers of cases of sexual offences mentioned in the question for the past 5 years are as follows:

	2020			2021			2022			2023			2024		
	No. of cases reported to the Police Force	No. of persons prosecuted*	No. of persons convicted*	No. of cases reported to the Police Force	No. of persons prosecuted*	No. of persons convicted*	No. of cases reported to the Police Force	No. of persons prosecuted*	No. of persons convicted*	No. of cases reported to the Police Force	No. of persons prosecuted*	No. of persons convicted*	No. of cases reported to the Police Force	No. of persons prosecuted (as at third quarter)*	No. of persons convicted (as at third quarter)*
Rape (Section 118 of the Crimes Ordinance)	64	24	9	79	32	14	53	34	11	67	31	14	77	30	11
Procuring other persons by threats to do an unlawful sexual act (Section 119 of the Crime Ordinance)	8	7	6	15	7	3	11	3	-	6	4	2	10	4	2
Procuring other persons by false pretences to do an unlawful sexual act (Section 120 of the Crimes Ordinance)	2	2	1	4	4	3	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	1
Administering drugs to obtain or facilitate an unlawful sexual act (Section 121 of the Crimes Ordinance)	1	-	-	7	1	1	1	-	-	3	2	1	1	1	-
Indecent assault (Section 122 of the Crimes Ordinance)	682	233	159	1 018	304	202	953	299	197	1 162	355	243	1 185	288	184

* The numbers are based on the year of case conclusion. As some cases require time for investigation or await advice from the Department of Justice, the persons convicted may not necessarily correspond to those prosecuted in the same period. Similarly, the persons prosecuted may not necessarily correspond to those arrested in the same period.

2. Since the gazettal and commencement of voyeurism and related crimes on 8 October 2021, the numbers of cases for such crimes are as follows:

	2021 (from 8 October)			2022			2023			2024		
	No. of cases reported to the Police Force	No. of persons prosecuted*	No. of persons convicted*	No. of cases reported to the Police Force	No. of persons prosecuted*	No. of persons convicted*	No. of cases reported to the Police Force	No. of persons prosecuted*	No. of persons convicted*	No. of cases reported to the Police Force	No. of persons prosecuted (as at third quarter)*	No. of persons convicted (as at third quarter)*
Voyeurism (Section 159AAB of the Crimes Ordinance)	31	-	-	99	30	29	139	58	53	172	43	37
Unlawful recording or observation of intimate parts (Section 159AAC of the Crimes Ordinance)	86	-	-	435	178	171	358	207	195	350	135	121
Publication of image originating from commission of offence under section 159AAB(1) or 159AAC(1) (Section 159AAD of the Crimes Ordinance)	2	-	-	7	-	-	7	4	4	5	1	1
Publication or threatened publication of intimate images without consent (Section 159AAE of the Crimes Ordinance)	15	-	-	94	2	2	134	8	7	146	10	7

* The numbers are based on the year of case conclusion. As some cases require time for investigation or await advice from the Department of Justice, the persons convicted may not necessarily correspond to those prosecuted in the same period. Similarly, the persons prosecuted may not necessarily correspond to those arrested in the same period.

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