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Replies to supplementary written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2020-21

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Session No. : 19

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-SB001

(Question Serial No. SV017)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Social Media Communication Division under the Police Public Relations Branch is responsible for managing the social media platforms (including Facebook) of the Police Force. Will the Force provide the date of establishment of the Social Media Communication Division?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth

Reply:

The Social Media Communication Division of the Police Force was established in July 2015.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-SB002

(Question Serial No. SV019)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (100) Supplies and equipment
Programme: (4) Operations
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Will the Hong Kong Police Force please explain the relevant considerations and its procurement policy in deciding whether to procure weapons (such as stun guns and net guns), including but not limited to the criteria concerning the technical aspect and the price, and the weighting assigned to each criterion during the assessment?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kenneth

Reply:

The Police Force has always procured its weapons and equipment in accordance with the Stores and Procurement Regulations of the Government. To ensure that police officers have more effective weapons and equipment to cope with actual operational needs, the Force will evaluate operational circumstances and review the operational needs of officers as appropriate, and launch procurement exercises in accordance with established policies, procedures and rules. All the weapons and equipment procured by the Force must undergo stringent practical tests. Reference should be made to any relevant reports provided by the manufacturers. These steps are taken to ensure that such weapons and equipment comply with safety and stability standards, and meet actual operational needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-SB003

(Question Serial No. SV020)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

Programme: Not specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide information on the establishments of the Criminal Intelligence Bureau, the Organized Crime and Triad Bureau and the Commercial Crime Bureau.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kenneth

Reply:

The Criminal Intelligence Bureau (CIB), the Organized Crime and Triad Bureau (OCTB) and the Commercial Crime Bureau (CCB) of the Police Force consist of police officers at the ranks from Police Constable to Chief Superintendent. The sizes of establishment of the CIB, the OCTB and the CCB are 806, 156 and 295 officers respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-SB004

(Question Serial No. SV018)

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

Question:

Previously, the Government informed the Finance Committee that the expenditure incurred by the Police Force on Disciplined Services Overtime Allowance (DSOA) for the work in handling the public order events from June to November 2019 was \$950 million. It is stated in Reply Serial Number SB054 that in 2019-20 (as at 29 February 2020), the Force's expenditure on DSOA in relation to tackling public order events since June 2019 under Subhead 000 (Operational expenses) was around \$1.92 billion. Please provide detailed information on the DSOA granted by the Police Force in January and February 2020 respectively.

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin

Reply:

The Police Force has put in place stringent control and approval procedures regarding overtime (OT) work. Supervisors will follow the requirements of relevant internal orders and criteria when approving OT work. According to the regulations in the Force, OT work must be approved by an officer not below Inspector rank, and the approving officer must be at least one rank higher than the officer applying for OT work. The approving officer must review all relevant documentation (such as police notebooks or case files) to ensure that the officer has indeed performed OT work with sound justifications and which meets the basic criteria.

According to Civil Service Regulation 664, OT should normally be compensated by time-off in lieu. Where this is, or is likely to be, impracticable within one month of the date on which the OT is worked, Disciplined Services Overtime Allowance (DSOA) may be paid to eligible officers. An application for DSOA needs to be certified with the signature of an officer at the rank of Superintendent or above before submission by the formation concerned to the Finance Wing for processing. The approval and payment of DSOA normally take about 2 months.

The total expenditure incurred by the Force for DSOA in the 2019-20 financial year is approximately \$2.52 billion, with about 13 000 officers receiving DSOA each month and

each of them receiving roughly \$16,000 per month on average. Since the rank distribution of police officers receiving OT allowance involves operational details, it is inappropriate to disclose such information as doing so may compromise the Force's operational effectiveness.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-SB005

(Question Serial No. SV021)

Head: (45) Fire Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (1) Fire Service
Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services (LEUNG Wai-hung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the service provided by first responders, the Fire Services Department conducted a comprehensive review of the relevant dispatch criteria in 2019 and the new arrangements were put in place officially on 1 January 2020. Please provide information on the changes in dispatch criteria and the numbers of emergency ambulance calls attended by first responders before and after the review.

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping

Reply:

The Fire Services Department (FSD) reviews the first responder service from time to time. After the enhanced post-dispatch advice service was fully implemented in October 2018, the FSD, with sufficient data and operational experience accumulated, has conducted a comprehensive review in the fourth quarter of 2019 on the dispatch criteria of the first responder service. Having sought professional advice from the FSD's Medical Director, the FSD, without prejudice to operation efficiency and the interest of patients, set out more precise definitions of 3 types of injuries and sicknesses that require the attendance of first responders. Adjustments in classification were made to change (1) "Cardiac Disease" to "Cardiac Arrest", (2) "Airway Obstruction by Foreign Body" to "Choking" and (3) "Absence of Breathing/Shortness of Breath" to "Severe Breathing Difficulty". With the adjusted definitions, injuries and sicknesses can be more accurately classified, allowing a more effective deployment of resources and timely provision of first responder service to patients who are most in need.

After the implementation of the relevant arrangements, the FSD handled a total of 6 904 cases that required the attendance of first responders from 1 January to 31 March 2020, representing a decrease against the 19 905 cases in the same period of 2019.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB001

(Question Serial No. S107)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Further to Reply Serial No. SB015:

1. Regarding the expenses of the duty visits, exchanges and study trips to the Mainland China, Macao and Taiwan in the past 3 years, the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) incurred a total of \$11.21 million, far more than those of the Security Bureau (SB) (\$750,000), the Correctional Services Department (\$1.62 million), the Customs and Excise Department (\$2.79 million), the Fire Services Department (\$2.86 million), the Immigration Department (\$530,000) and the Government Flying Service (\$220,000); as for the expenses of the overseas (apart from the Mainland China, Macao and Taiwan) duty visits, exchanges and study trips in the past 3 years, the total amount incurred by the HKPF has reached \$23.89 million, again far more than those of the SB (\$1.43 million), the Correctional Services Department (\$1.47 million), the Customs and Excise Department (\$7.8 million), the Fire Services Department (\$5.71 million), the Immigration Department (\$2.27 million) and the Government Flying Service (\$2.77 million).

In this connection:

- a) What are the criteria and mechanisms for examining the duty visit expenses of the SB and the various disciplined forces, and are these expenses in compliance with the mechanisms? The duty visit expenses of the HKPF were higher than those of the SB and the other disciplined forces combined. What are the reasons? Has the Government scrutinised and assessed whether the duty visit expenses were reasonable in the past?
- b) Regarding the duty visits, exchanges and study trips to the Mainland China, Macao and Taiwan made by the HKPF in the past 3 years, please tabulate the dates, destinations, numbers of days, numbers of officers on various ranks in the entourages, details of the meetings, study trips and exchanges, details of the local officials met and the details on the expenses of each activity.

Date and no. of days of the duty visit	Destination and no. of days of the stay	Ranks and no. of participating officers (e.g. gazetted police officers/inspectorate officers/junior police officers)	Titles and no. of meetings, study trips and exchange activities participated	Names of local authorities and no. and ranks of officials met	Details on expenses (air tickets, transportation, accommodation, meals, banquets or entertainment, gifting of souvenirs)

- c) Regarding the overseas (apart from the Mainland China, Macao and Taiwan) duty visits, exchanges and study trips made by the HKPF in the past 3 years, please tabulate the dates, destinations, numbers of days, numbers of officers on various ranks in the entourages, details of the meetings, study trips and exchanges, details of the local officials met and the details on the expenses of each activity.

Date and no. of days of the duty visit	Destination and no. of days of the stay	Ranks and no. of participating officers (e.g. gazetted police officers/inspectorate officers/junior police officers)	Title and no. of meetings, study trips and exchange activities participated	Names of local authorities and no. and ranks of officials met	Details on expenses (air tickets, transportation, accommodation, meals, banquets or entertainment, gifting of souvenirs)

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

Officials of the Security Bureau (SB) and the disciplined services under its purview conduct duty visits to meet operational needs, and the ranking and number of officers in each duty visit are considered on a case-by-case basis. An approval mechanism is in place to ensure that applications for duty visits are processed prudently. Applications for duty visits by Heads of Department (HoDs) require approval from the respective Permanent Secretary or Director of Bureau, while applications from officers below HoD level are approved by the relevant Permanent Secretary/HoDs or by senior officers not below the rank of Assistant Director. In considering such applications, the approving officers will consider various factors, including the purpose of visit, duration, number and frequency of such visits, and the appropriateness of the ranking and number of the officers involved, etc.

Civil servants on duty visits outside Hong Kong are entitled to a subsistence allowance provided under the Civil Service Regulations. The rate of the allowance is applicable to all civil servants. The allowance is intended to cover the cost of appropriate accommodation, travelling expenses within towns, and other minor incidental out-of-pocket expenses, etc. Transportation, accommodation and other arrangements of the duty visits are procured by the bureau/departments in accordance with the Stores and Procurement Regulations.

Having regard to operational needs, arrangements are made for officers of various ranks to participate in duty visits conducted by the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), including liaison and law enforcement co-operation with the Mainland and other countries and regions, and attendance at international conferences to enhance exchanges with government officials, agencies and international organisations of various places around the world.

The HKPF has the highest establishment figure among all disciplined services, a relatively broad range of duties, and frequent liaison and co-operation with the Mainland and other countries and regions. As such, the frequency and expenditure of duty visits conducted by the HKPF out of operational needs are higher than those of other disciplined services. It is worth mentioning that with the increase in recent years in cross-boundary/international crime activities and acts of terrorism, as well as new crime trends such as telephone and internet deception, technology crime and international money laundering, it is necessary for the HKPF to strengthen the liaison with the Mainland and other countries and regions for better co-operation in a bid to exchange information on the latest crime trends and modi operandi around the world and work out the ways to combat cross-boundary/international crime.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-SB002****(Question Serial No. S115)**Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security BureauSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Internal SecurityControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding Reply Serial No. SB006, will the Government provide further information about the recruitment figures on (1) applications and (2) intakes for the posts of Inspector of Police (IP) and Police Constable (PC) in the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) in 2019-20 (as at 31 March 2020) mentioned in the reply?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dickReply:

The recruitment details regarding the HKPF between 2017-18 and 2019-20 are as follows:

Department	Post	Number of applications per year (as at 31 March 2020)		
		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
HKPF	IP	7 734	7 350	5 223
	PC	11 818	10 578	6 751

Department	Post	Number of intakes per year (as at 31 March 2020)		
		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
HKPF	IP	244	220	169
	PC	1 349	1 121	705

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-SB003****(Question Serial No. S085)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

Programme: Not specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

There will be a net increase of 2 543 posts in the Police Force in 2020-21, including 2 375 disciplined services posts.

According to your reply, there are 1 551 police constables and 155 inspectors among them. Please explain what the remaining 669 disciplined services posts are and how they will be recruited.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

The Police Force will have a net increase of 2 543 posts in 2020-21. A breakdown of the increase by rank is as follows:

Ranks	Number of post
Chief Superintendent of Police	1
Senior Superintendent of Police	6
Superintendent of Police	18
Chief Inspector of Police	49
Senior Inspector / Inspector of Police	155
Station Sergeant	73
Sergeant	522
Police Constable	1 551
Total number of police officers	2 375
Total number of civilian staff	168
Total	2 543

Of the above new posts, 2 375 are disciplined services posts. The Force has been regularly reviewing its staff establishment according to policing needs. The aim is to support the Force's operation and meet the public's service needs. It will fill the new police officer

posts through recruitment, promotion and a number of measures to extend the years of service.

The Force has all along adopted a proactive recruitment strategy. Recruitment and publicity activities held every year include Recruitment Day, Recruitment Day for the Auxiliary Police Force, recruitment seminar and experience sharing sessions, Police Mentorship Programme, Police Mentorship Programme Outreach, Auxiliary Undergraduate Scheme, Project ACHIEVE, Education and Careers Expo and career talks organised for schools, etc.

In addition, the Force has formulated recruitment strategies tailor-made for youth uniform groups, students pursuing post-secondary education, vocational education or Yi Jin Diploma, local athletes, Junior Police Call and non-ethnic Chinese to attract them to join the Force.

In the light of the prevailing situation of the human resources market, the Force will continue to adopt its proactive recruitment strategy with a stringent selection process and a review when appropriate to draw and select high calibre candidates who share the same values to join the Force in serving the community.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB004

(Question Serial No. S108)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the brands of the handheld lighting equipment procured by the Force in 2019-20.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

The detailed information of the Police Force's procurement of lighting equipment is part of the Force's operational details. It is inappropriate to disclose such information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB005

(Question Serial No. S109)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Force replied that “as at 29 February 2020, the expenses on local official entertainment of the Police Force in 2019-20 was about \$1.01 million, inclusive of the Commissioner of Police’s (CP’s) entertainment expenses.” Will the Government further elaborate on:

- 1) the maximum limit on CP’s personal entertainment expenses in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 respectively;
- 2) if there is no maximum limit on CP’s personal entertainment expenses, whether it means that CP can personally expend the entertainment expenses of \$1.01 million reserved for the whole Force;
- 3) the amount of entertainment expenses expended on an accountable basis by CP TANG Ping-keung since his assumption of office on 19 November 2019.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

Civil servants should observe the same principles and act in accordance with the relevant regulations and administrative guidelines when providing official entertainment in the form of meals. According to the existing general guidelines, the expenses on official meals per person should not exceed \$450 for lunch or \$600 for dinner, inclusive of all expenses incurred on food and beverages consumed on the occasion, service charges and tips. Expenses for official entertainment, supported by receipts furnished by relevant officers, are reimbursed on an accountable basis upon approval.

In 2019-20 and 2020-21, the Police Force earmarked about \$120,000 per year for the expenses of the Commissioner of Police (CP) for official entertainment. The expenses incurred by the incumbent CP for official entertainment since his assumption of office on 19 November 2019 (as at 31 March 2020) were about one-third of the estimated expenditure.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB006

(Question Serial No. S110)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

Programme: Not specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide the breakdown of the revised estimate for 2019-2020 and the estimate for 2020-2021 for "General departmental expenses" under the Police Force's Subhead 000 (Operational Expenses) to illustrate the reasons for the surge in the relevant expenditure from \$1.86 billion to \$4.05 billion.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

The estimate for "General departmental expenses" under the Police Force's Subhead 000 (Operational Expenses) in 2020-21 is higher than the revised estimate for 2019-20 by about \$2 billion. This is mainly due to the increased expenses on operations and anti-epidemic work, as well as the expenses on making up for the delayed work as a result of prolonged social unrest and the recent epidemic.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB007

(Question Serial No. S111)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

According to Section 4 of Chapter 6 "Conduct and Discipline" of the Police General Orders, a police officer is permitted to apply for mortgage loans from financial institutions for the purpose of buying a dwelling. Will the Force further elaborate on the following:

- 1) Are police officers not permitted to apply for mortgage loans from financial institutions for buying "non-owner occupied buildings"?
- 2) What are the penalties if police officers apply for mortgage loans from financial institutions for buying "non-owner occupied buildings"? Will the penalties be so severe that lead to "dismissal without retirement benefits", "compulsory retirement with reduced retirement benefits", "compulsory retirement without retirement benefits" or "an order to resign forthwith without salary in lieu of notice"?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

In general, according to Acceptance of Advantages (Chief Executive's Permission) Notice, police officers have the general permission to solicit or accept a loan of money made available to them in their private capacity by a tradesman or company provided that the loan is approved in the course of normal business of the tradesman or company, and the tradesman or company has no official dealings with the police officers concerned and the loan is equally available on equal terms to persons who are not prescribed officers. Besides, police officers are only permitted to borrow or lend money in the way of business with a bank, or with a money lender registered or exempted from registration as a money lender under the provisions of the Money Lenders Ordinance (Cap. 163).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB008

(Question Serial No. S112)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (100) Supplies and equipment
Programme: (4) Operations
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Police stated in its reply that it “will continue to procure suitable equipment from around the world”. Please inform this Committee of the US and European enterprises from which the Police had procured equipment in 2019-2020 (only names of the companies are required with no need to specify the types of equipment to avoid “affecting” the operational deployments of the Police).

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

The Police Force will evaluate operational circumstances and review the operational needs of officers from time to time, and launch procurement exercises around the world in accordance with established policies, procedures and rules. All the equipment procured by the Force must undergo stringent practical tests and reference should be made to any relevant reports provided by the producers in order to ensure compliance with the safety and stability standards.

It is inappropriate to disclose information on the suppliers or producers involved to avoid affecting the operational deployments and procurement arrangements of the Force.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB009

(Question Serial No. S113)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In the reply, the Government has provided the numbers of officers sent to various provinces and municipalities in Mainland China for training. Will the Police Force just “provide the numbers and ranks of officers sent by the Hong Kong Police Force to the China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong and the Chinese People’s Public Security University for training in the past 5 years”.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

The Police Force compiles statistics on officers sent to Mainland China for training in each financial year by the categories of junior police officers and inspectorate officers or above instead of maintaining records on the numbers of officers sent for training at each rank.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-SB010****(Question Serial No. S114)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

1. Please further explain the “wastage figures and wastage rates of police officers at various ranks in the full year of 2019-20” in the reply.
2. Please provide the number of officers not anticipated to leave the service between June 2019 and March 2020, with a comparison with the same period last year.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dickReply:

1. The wastage figures and wastage rates of police officers at various ranks of the Police Force in 2019-20 are as follows:

Superintendent of Police or above	55
Inspectorate officer	97
Junior police officer	1 161
Total	1 313
Wastage rate	4.5%

2. From June 2019 to March 2020, the number of officers not anticipated to leave the service is 473, representing an increase of 119 officers (33.6%) compared with the same period last year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB011

(Question Serial No. S116)

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

Question:

It is stated in the initial reply that “In 2019-20, the target of the Police Force was to recruit 195 probationary inspectors and 1 620 police constables. The Hong Kong Police College will utilise the resources and adjust the training facilities flexibly to provide training for recruits”. Please further elaborate on the following:

- 1) To accomplish the mission to increase 2 543 posts in its establishment, how many retired police officers does the Force plan to recruit in 2020-2021?
- 2) Will the Police Force appoint Mainland law enforcement officers as “Special Constables” in the coming year to make up for the poor response in the Force’s local recruitment exercise?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

1. The Police Force has all along planned the overall manpower deployment in a timely manner and filled the vacancies for police officers through year-round recruitment, promotion and a number of measures to extend the years of service. The Force has been adopting a proactive recruitment strategy with a stringent selection process and a review when appropriate to draw and select high calibre candidates who share the same values to join the Force in serving the community.

There will be a net increase of 2 543 posts in the Force in 2020-21, of which 2 375 will be disciplined posts. In respect of recruitment, the Force’s target for 2020-21 is to recruit 225 probationary inspectors and 1 620 police constables. In parallel, the Force will, through a number of measures to extend the years of service (including the “Further Employment Mechanism”, “Post-retirement Service Contract Scheme” and “Final Extension of Service”, etc.), continue to hire retired or retiring officers. Professional knowledge or experience can be passed on by utilising these retired or retiring officers as valuable manpower resources. It is estimated that the Force will retain and recruit a total of 1 600 to 1 700 retiring or retired officers in 2020-21.

2. The Force has not appointed any Mainland law enforcement officers as Special Constables. It appoints Special Constables under the Public Order Ordinance as necessary. Since mid-November 2019, the Commissioner of Police, in accordance with section 40 of the Public Order Ordinance (Cap. 245), has appointed officers of the Correctional Services Department, Immigration Department and Customs and Excise Department as Special Constables to enhance the Force's manpower. These officers are appointed on a voluntary basis.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB012

(Question Serial No. S088)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (001) Salaries
Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the Force's reply about police officers who have applied for retirement and have officially retired, please further inform this Committee of the following:

Of the 544 police officers who have applied for retirement and the 501 police officers who have officially retired, whether any of them:

- (1) has been involved in controversial cases (for example, the 721 Yuen Long home-grown terrorist indiscriminate attack).
- (2) has been involved in complaint cases.
- (3) has been or is subject to disciplinary proceedings or actions under the Police (Discipline) Regulations.
- (4) has been or is under disciplinary investigation (which may result in caution, reprimand, forfeiture of pay, reduction in rank, compulsory resignation, compulsory retirement or dismissal).

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The Police Force will, in accordance with the requirements of the Pensions Ordinance (Cap. 89) and Pension Benefits Ordinance (Cap. 99) and established procedures, handle the criminal or disciplinary cases related to police officers who have applied for retirement or have officially retired. It will also process their applications for retirement and payment of pensions in the light of the background, nature and seriousness of the cases concerned.

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

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB013

(Question Serial No. S089)

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

Question:

- (1) Since the “operational call signs” measure was implemented by the Police Force, how many times have on-duty police officers been found wearing repetitive/identical operational identification numbers?
- (2) Has any police officer been rebuked or undergone internal proceedings as a result?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

- (1) The Police Force implemented the measure of “operational call signs” in November 2019. An operational call sign would be assigned to each police officer participating in operations in relation to the public order events against the proposed legislative amendments for identification purpose. This arrangement could enhance the Force’s overall efficiency in operational deployment and allow members of the public to identify the police officers involved when necessary, while protecting the privacy of police officers from malicious disclosure.

During an operation on 25 December 2019, certain unit(s) had misunderstanding about the operational call signs, resulting in various officers wearing identical operational call signs. The management immediately gave advice to the relevant unit(s) and rectified the issue by reiterating how the operational call signs should be used.

The Force has drawn up a set of stringent guidelines and rules on operational call signs to ensure that police officers clearly understand the use of operational call signs and relevant arrangements.

- (2) Of the cases where police officers were “rebuked”, only 1 was related to the use of tags with operational call signs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB014

(Question Serial No. S090)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is stated in the Bureau's reply that the Force procures lighting equipment with good efficiency because it needs to conduct "different kinds of work in night time or poor visibility conditions". In addition, the "lighting equipment procured complies with the safety standards. Besides, relevant guidelines are in place to govern the use of special lighting equipment." In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Are there guidelines on the lighting equipment procured by the Force clearly stipulating that the equipment "should not be pointed at a person/the eye"?
- (2) What is the classification of the lighting equipment given by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department based on the standards of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)?
- (3) If, unfortunately, beams of the lighting equipment are shone at the eyes of members of the public at a distance, will these citizens have to stay away to avoid eye injuries?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The Police Force is often required to handle different situations during operations. Hence, the use of lighting equipment with good efficiency is necessary to facilitate different kinds of work in night time or poor visibility conditions. The lighting equipment procured by the Force complies with the safety standards. Besides, relevant guidelines are in place to govern the use of special lighting equipment.

The detailed information of the Force's procurement of lighting equipment and the relevant guidelines are part of the Force's operational details. It is inappropriate to disclose such information.

- End -

S-SB015

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S091)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

When police officers conduct stopping and searching, they take down the particulars of the persons stopped and searched. Apart from names and identity card numbers, do officers also record the residential addresses and other information of these persons?

If affirmative, what is the legislation invoked by police officers on duty to take down the residential addresses and other information of persons stopped and searched?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

One of the important statutory functions of the Police Force is to prevent and detect crime, and to safeguard and protect life and property of the public. Under section 54 "Power to stop, detain and search" of the Police Force Ordinance (Cap. 232) (PFO), a police officer is given the power to stop a person and demand him to produce proof of his identity for inspection if the police officer finds any person who acts in a suspicious manner in any street or other public place or if the police officer reasonably suspects any person of having committed or of being about to commit or of intending to commit any offence. Police officers may also request members of the public to produce their proof of identity for inspection with the power given under section 17C "Carrying and production of proof of identity" of the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115). Besides, police officers are also empowered to conduct stop and searches by individual laws such as the Public Order Ordinance (Cap. 245), the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134), the Weapons Ordinance (Cap. 217) and the Firearms and Ammunition Ordinance (Cap. 238). Through such operations, the Force will be able to perform its statutory functions more effectively.

During a stop and search, police officers will enquire whether a person is suspected of having committed any offence in a variety of ways having regard to the specific circumstances and needs by, for example, asking for his residential address and destination. Upon exercising the power to conduct an identity card inspection, police officers shall record in their notebooks the incident as well as any basic information adequate for identifying the person, such as the person's name and his Hong Kong Identity Card number.

The Force handles all personal data obtained from identity card inspections in strict compliance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486). Police officers have to ensure that all such personal data are collected for the lawful purpose of execution of duties under section 10 of the PFO and that the data collected are no more than what is necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-SB016****(Question Serial No. S100)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): Not specifiedProgramme: Not specifiedControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (TANG Ping-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

1. What were the statistics on the number of police officers at different ranks who lost their warrant cards in the past 5 years?
2. What were the statistics on the number of police officers at different ranks who lost their warrant cards since 9 June 2019?
3. Since 9 June 2019, how many cases of complaints has the Force received in relation to police officers failing to produce warrant cards? How did the Force follow up the cases?
4. According to the Force's guidelines, can police officers who do not wear "operational call signs" discharge duties since the introduction of this system in November 2019?
5. How did the Force check whether police officers have put on "operational call signs" every time before discharging duties since November 2019? What were the ranks of the police officers responsible for checking? How many inspections have been conducted so far?
6. Please list the number of police officers deployed, the number of inspections conducted on "operational call signs" and the number of police officers who did not wear operational call signs on the days below.

Date	Number of police officers deployed	Number of inspections on "operational call signs"	Number of police officers who did not wear operational call signs
2 November 2019			
3 November 2019			
10 November 2019			
11 November 2019			

12 November 2019			
13 November 2019			
14 November 2019			
15 November 2019			
17 November 2019			
18 November 2019			
1 December 2019			
8 December 2019			
24 December 2019			
31 December 2019			
1 January 2020			
8 February 2020			
29 February 2020			
8 March 2020			
21 March 2020			
22 March 2020			
31 March 2020			

7. How many police officers were punished for not wearing “operational call signs”? How were they punished?
8. How many cases of complaints has the Force received in relation to police officers failing to wear “operational call signs”? How did the Force follow up the cases?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

1. The breakdown by rank of the number of police officers who lost their warrant cards in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Rank	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Police Constable / Senior Police Constable	84	92	72	61	75
Sergeant	18	24	18	23	28
Station Sergeant	5	3	3	5	10
Inspector / Senior Inspector	9	4	9	7	10
Chief Inspector	0	1	5	3	4
Superintendent or above	2	0	4	1	3
Total	118	124	111	100	130

2. The breakdown by rank of the number of police officers who lost their warrant cards from June 2019 to February 2020 are tabulated below:

Rank	Number of officers
Police Constable / Senior Police Constable	66
Sergeant	27
Station Sergeant	7
Inspector / Senior Inspector	9
Chief Inspector	5
Superintendent or above	3
Total	117

3. As at 9 April 2020, the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) received 26 and 62 Reportable Complaints and Notifiable Complaints respectively about police officers failing to produce warrant cards during the operations related to “anti-extradition law amendment bill” public events. The Police Force will stringently follow up and launch a fair investigation into the cases in accordance with established mechanism.
- 4-7. The Force implemented the measure of “operational call signs” in November 2019. An operational call sign would be assigned to police officers participating in operations related to “anti-extradition law amendment bill” public events for identification purpose. This initiative could enhance the Force’s overall effectiveness of operational deployment and allow members of the public to effectively identify officers when necessary, while protecting the personal data of officers from malicious disclosure.

The Force has drawn up a set of stringent guidelines and rules for the measure of “operational call signs” to ensure that officers clearly understand the use of “operational call signs” and relevant arrangements. Supervising officers have the responsibility to ensure that officers under their command correctly wear “operational call signs” and make relevant records. If anyone is found breaching the guidelines, the Force will stringently follow up and fairly handle the case in line with established procedure.

The number of officers deployed during operations involves the Force’s operational details. It is inappropriate to disclose such information. Besides, the Force does not maintain a breakdown on inspections conducted on “operational call signs” and the relevant information.

8. As at 9 April 2020, CAPO received 2 Notifiable Complaints about police officers failing to wear “operational call signs” during the operations in relation to “anti-extradition law amendment bill” incidents. The Force will stringently follow up and launch a fair investigation into the cases in accordance with established mechanism.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB017

(Question Serial No. S101)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is stated in the Police Force's reply that it will be proactive in enhancing its work transparency and repeatedly clarifying unfounded information and fake news in order to clarify unfounded information. Please further inform this Committee of the following:

What is the basis of the Force for determining that the information it disseminates/clarifies is true?

Does the Force make reference to the social media websites and outsource the verification work to independent third party agencies, with a view to addressing the issue of public distrust of the Police Force and the Government?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The Police Force has stringent approval procedures for dissemination of information.

The social media platforms of the Force are mainly managed by the Social Media Communication Division under the Police Public Relations Branch. The Force will continue to effectively deploy existing resources for managing the social media platforms.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB018

(Question Serial No. S102)

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
(4) Operations

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding your reply on the purposes of the Training Facility, please provide this Committee with additional information and clarify the following:

Does what you mean in your reply (“to reprovision the facilities ... at the site in Kong Nga Po”) refer to the same location or overlap with the area “near San Uk Ling” as mentioned in the Government spokesman’s announcement on 8 October 2019?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

As stated under Reply Serial No. SB108, the item at the Kong Nga Po site will be used solely as a police training facility for weapons, driving and tactical training. As for the online rumours that a police base will be constructed near San Uk Ling for counter-terrorism, the Government has also clarified that the claims are totally unfounded.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB019

(Question Serial No. S106)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

From the reply of the Bureau, this Committee notes that “the police facilities at the Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point include a police operational base, an Under Vehicle Surveillance System station, a weigh station and a police reporting centre located inside the departure hall of the passenger terminal building.”

Please give a supplementary reply to this Committee on the following:

Whether any counter-terrorism (CT) facilities are provided at the police operational base at present;

Whether or not any CT facilities will be provided among the police facilities at the Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point. Will the facilities not be used for CT purposes?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

Information on the police facilities at the Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point has been provided under Reply Serial No. SB114. The Police Force has nothing further to supplement.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB020

(Question Serial No. S087)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Under section 14 of the Public Finance Ordinance, a controlling officer may, in respect of any subhead for which he/she is the controlling officer, by an allocation warrant signed by him/her authorise any other controlling officer to incur expenditure for his/her subhead. Will the Government set out in the following table the details on the funding received via allocation warrants by the Hong Kong Police Force in the past 5 financial years:

Financial Year	Government department that issued the allocation warrant (e.g. the Treasury, the Civil Service Bureau, the Treasury)	Serial number	Date of issue of the allocation warrant (in chronological order)	Purpose of issuing the allocation warrant (e.g. receiving compensation for work-related injuries)	Head and subhead involved in the allocation warrant	Did the Police Force change the head and subhead of the funding after receiving it and spend it for other purposes?	Amount involved in the allocation warrant		
2019-20		1							
		2							
								
		Sub-total:	/	/			Sub-total:		
			1						
			2						
								
			Sub-total:	/	/			Sub-total:	
								
			Number of departments:	Total number of allocation warrants:	/	/			Total: \$231,000,000

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy

Reply:

Under section 14 of the Public Finance Ordinance, a controlling officer may, in respect of any subhead for which he/she is the controlling officer, authorise by an allocation warrant any other controlling officer to incur expenditure for the former's subhead. The purpose of the expenditure involved in the allocation warrant must conform with the ambit of the payment subhead. Besides, the amount involved in the allocation warrant will not be transferred from the relevant subhead of the controlling officer issuing the allocation warrant to the subhead of the controlling officer to whom the allocation warrant is issued. Therefore, the allocation warrant will not cause changes to the approved estimates of expenditure of the relevant subhead.

The total amounts authorised by other departments via allocation warrants to be used by the Police Force over the past 5 financial years are set out in the following table:

Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Total amount authorised by other departments via allocation warrants to be used (\$ million)	112	107	104	83	337

It is a common arrangement for government departments to use allocation warrants to incur expenditure for each other. The Force is regularly authorized to incur expenditures for other departments by allocation warrant. Common examples include compensation for work-related injuries of the Force employees incurred under the subhead of the Treasury, disbursements for studies programmes of the Force incurred under the subhead of the Civil Service Bureau, costs for installing administrative computer systems and employing consultants to conduct feasibility study and system development incurred under the subhead of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer, etc.

In the 2019-20 financial year, the Force was authorised to use a total of \$337 million for other departments via allocation warrant. Other than the above items, in response to the public order events in recent months, some departments need to strengthen premise and facility security, and have issued allocation warrants to the Force, incurring expenditure from their own subheads, for measures such as procuring large water-filled barriers and other equipment so as to enhance the security of government premises and public facilities, as well as maintain their daily operations and ensure that public services remain unaffected. Among these, the amount of allocation warrant involved on measures for strengthening the security of the Central Government Offices is \$161 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB021

(Question Serial No. S084)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Government has stated that the Force took the incident that took place in Yuen Long on the evening of 21 July 2019 very seriously, and the case has been handed over to the Regional Crime Unit of the New Territories North for investigation. As at 29 February 2020, the Force arrested a total of 37 persons in relation to the incident and prosecuted 7 of them for “taking part in a riot” and “conspiracy to wound with intent” after obtaining legal advice. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Did the Police dispatch patrol vehicles to patrol the vicinity of the Yuen Long MTR Station that day? If yes, when were the vehicles dispatched and how many vehicles were involved?
2. At what time did the Police receive the first 999 call reporting the attack happening in Yuen Long Station? How many police officers were dispatched in response to the first call? When did the officers arrive at Yuen Long Station respectively and how many officers were there?
3. At dusk that day, members of the public spotted a large number of white-clad men gathering around “Kai Tei”. Did the Police receive any relevant reports? Based on the Police’s judgment, were the white-clad men engaged in unlawful assembly? Did the Police make any contact with the white-clad men inside or in the vicinity of the Yuen Long MTR Station? If yes, for how long and why did the Police contact them?

Asked by: Hon TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The Police Force is a professional law enforcement agency tasked to maintain law and order. The Force upholds impartiality when dealing with illegal acts and treats all people equally regardless of their backgrounds and political stances in enforcing the law. The Force reiterates that it will not condone any violent acts. Whoever violates the law, the Force will resolutely take enforcement actions in a fair and impartial manner irrespective of the perpetrator’s background or occupation.

The Force takes the incident in Yuen Long on 21 July 2019 very seriously. The case has been assigned to the Regional Crime Unit of New Territories North for investigation. As at 29 February 2020, the Force arrested a total of 37 persons in relation to the incident and prosecuted 7 of them for “taking part in a riot” and “conspiracy to wound with intent” after obtaining legal advice. As the case has already entered into legal proceedings, it is inappropriate to disclose the details. The Force’s investigation is still ongoing and the likelihood of further arrests is not excluded.

On the evening of 21 July 2019, police officers arrived at the scene around 10 minutes after receiving reports made via the 999 hotline on the case taking place in MTR Yuen Long Station. After assessing the situation, they decided to call for reinforcements which subsequently reached the scene to handle the incident.

The Force has launched an internal review of the assault incident at MTR Yuen Long Station on 21 July 2019. However, the related criminal investigation is still underway, while the study by the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) is yet to complete. Therefore, the Force will pool its resources to conduct the criminal investigation and cooperate with the IPCC on its study before carrying out the internal review and following up the necessary disciplinary matters. The Complaints Against Police Office is now investigating the complaints related to the incident in Yuen Long on 21 July 2019 in accordance with the established procedures, and will submit an investigation report to the IPCC upon completion.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB022

(Question Serial No. S092)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

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

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Government has indicated that the Force all along respects press freedom and the media's right of reporting, and also cares for the safety of frontline journalists in covering news. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. How many cases of assault on journalists have taken place since June 2019? Among these cases, how many cases are there in which the suspects are captured successfully? How many cases are there in which the suspects are still at large?
2. In general, when the Police say that "no one has been arrested for the case, and if further information becomes available in the future showing that certain persons are involved in the case, the Police will review the case", what does it usually mean by "further information"? If the victim of an assault manages to track down the name and residential address of the attacker, will the Police re-launch an investigation into the case?
3. On the evening of 11 August 2019, a journalist from the News Unit of Radio Television Hong Kong, while reporting on news, was assaulted by a man wielding a club, leaving the journalist injured in the left hand. The episode and the face of the attacker were captured in the footage of several media organisations. However, the Police have not arrested anyone yet. The Commissioner of Police claimed many time that the Force would handle cases in a fair and impartial manner, but why have the Police made no arrests in this case even though the face of the suspect has been caught on camera? Will the Force really protect the safety of frontline journalists in covering news?

Asked by: Hon TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

1. The Police Force does not maintain the statistics requested in the question.
- 2-3. The Force is a professional law enforcement agency tasked to maintain law and order with a view to safeguarding and protecting life and property of the public. The Force all along respects press freedom and the media's right of reporting. It also cares for the safety of frontline journalists in covering news.

The Force upholds impartiality when dealing with illegal acts. Upon receiving reports of a criminal case, the Force will conduct an impartial, professional and vigorous investigation regardless of the occupation, political stance or background of the victim or the suspect. Suspects will be pursued in a variety of ways from different angles so that they can be brought to justice. If an inquiry yields no results, the Force will inform the victim or complainant when the investigation is discontinued. If new information, such as leads about the suspect, becomes available in the future, the Force will review the case to determine the appropriate actions, including re-launching an investigation based on the new leads.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB023

(Question Serial No. S093)

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

Question:

The Government has indicated that a large number of police officers had to carry out their duties for long hours since June last year to cater for the operational needs and, therefore, the expenditure on Disciplined Services Overtime Allowance (DSOA) increased. On the basis of an average of approximately 12 000 recipients of DSOA per month, the monthly DSOA received per officer would be about \$16,000. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the total monthly expenditures on overtime allowance (OTA) of the Force since April 2019? What is the average amount of OTA granted to each officer in each month?
2. What are the numbers of police officers at each rank of the Force receiving OTA in each month? What are the total amounts of OTA granted to police officers at each rank in each month?

Asked by: Hon TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The Police Force has put in place stringent control and approval procedures regarding overtime (OT) work. Supervisors will follow the requirements of relevant internal orders and criteria when approving OT work. According to the regulations in the Force, OT work must be approved by an officer not below Inspector rank, and the approving officer must be at least one rank higher than the officer applying for OT work. The approving officer must review all relevant documentation (such as police notebooks or case files) to ensure that the officer has indeed performed OT work with sound justifications and which meets the basic criteria.

According to Civil Service Regulation 664, OT should normally be compensated by time-off in lieu. Where this is, or is likely to be, impracticable within one month of the date on which the OT is worked, Disciplined Services Overtime Allowance (DSOA) may be paid to eligible officers. An application for DSOA needs to be certified with the signature

of an officer at the rank of Superintendent or above before submission by the formation concerned to the Finance Wing for processing. The approval and payment of DSOA normally take about 2 months.

The total expenditure incurred by the Force for DSOA in the 2019-20 financial year is approximately \$2.52 billion, with about 13 000 officers receiving DSOA each month and each of them receiving roughly \$16,000 per month on average. Since the rank distribution of police officers receiving OT allowance involves operational details, it is inappropriate to disclose such information as doing so may compromise the Force's operational effectiveness.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB024

(Question Serial No. S094)

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

Question:

The Government has indicated that in the 2019-20 financial year, the Force used the baton in 104 incidents during operations in relation to the handling of public order events against the proposed legislative amendments. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. According to the provisions in the Force Procedure Manual (FPM) and remarks made by the Police during press conferences, an officer using the baton must report on the number and area of hits, and the injuries inflicted. Now the Police are only saying the baton has been used in 104 incidents instead of the number of times that each police officer has used the baton. Are officers still required to follow the rules set out in the FPM regarding the use of the baton? If affirmative, do officers make any record of their use of the baton these days?
2. The baton is a lethal weapon that should not be deployed at will. If the Police does not maintain clear records on its use, in the event of injuries or fatalities resulting from the use of the baton by officers against innocent citizens, does the Force acknowledge that it will encounter greater difficulty in investigating the officers involved? Has the Force formulated new guidelines internally on the use of the baton, which eliminate the requirement to report on the use of the baton?

Asked by: Hon TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The Police Force has stringent guidelines on the use of force, which shall be the minimum force as necessary for accomplishing a lawful duty. Police officers shall, before using force and when circumstances permit, give warning of their intention to use force, and the persons involved shall be given every opportunity, whenever practicable, to obey police orders. Once the purpose of using force is achieved, the Force will cease to use force. All police officers are accountable for the force they use. They are required to make a report on the use of force through the established mechanism.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. S095)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

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

Programme: Not specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Government has indicated that to cope with prolonged and large-scale riots that may arise, the Force will set up 3 additional Police Tactical Unit (PTU) Companies so that the manpower of the PTU in each Police Region will be boosted to 2 Companies. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Over the recent decades, Hong Kong has witnessed only a handful of bitter conflicts between police officers and members of the public comparable to the opposition to the proposed amendment of the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance. Past examples of such conflicts include the riots started by pro-China trade unions in 1967 and the protests staged by Korean farmers. What is the Government's rationale for adding 3 PTU Companies on account of just a few large-scale incidents? How can the Government convince the public of the necessity of taking this step?
2. What will be the duties of the members of these PTU Companies in the absence of large-scale confrontations? Is it a waste of public funds for the Government to spend billions of dollars every year on the remuneration of the new PTU Companies?
3. The Force will create 168 civilian posts in the coming year. What is the nature of their work? Please set out in a table the numbers of staff for each type of duty or at each rank.

Asked by: Hon TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

In the 2020-21 financial year, the Police Force will set up 3 additional Police Tactical Unit (PTU) Companies (a total of 510 officers) so that the manpower of the PTU in each Police Region will be boosted to 2 Companies. Apart from performing anti-riot duties, thereby enabling the Force to cope with prolonged and large-scale riots that may arise effectively, these officers will also conduct routine anti-crime patrols to step up the crime prevention efforts of various Police Regions. Moreover, PTU officers will also assist in search and rescue operations and provide disaster support where necessary.

A breakdown of the 168 additional civilian posts mentioned in the question by rank is as follows:

Rank	Number of posts
Telecommunications Engineer / Assistant Telecommunications Engineer	1
Assistant Police Telecommunications Inspector	2
Radio Mechanic	1
Head Interviewer	1
Senior Executive Officer	1
Executive Officer I	7
Executive Officer II	3
Senior Traffic Warden	1
Traffic Warden	11
Treasury Accountant	2
Accounting Officer I	1
Accounting Officer II	2
Analyst / Programmer I	1
Management Services Officer II	1
Senior Supplies Officer	2
Supplies Officer	1
Supplies Supervisor II	1
Supplies Assistant	1
Senior Police Communications Officer	12
Police Communications Officer	44
Force Welfare Officer	1
Assistant Force Welfare Officer	1
Personal Secretary II	2
Senior Clinical Psychologist	1
Clinical Psychologist	7
Police Translator I	1
Police Translator II	4
Confidential Assistant	11
Senior Clerical Officer	3
Clerical Officer	8
Assistant Clerical Officer	16
Clerical Assistant	12
Workman II	5
Total	168

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB026

(Question Serial No. S058)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W TSANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the Bureau's reply with serial no. "THB(T)170", please provide this Committee with breakdown statistics on the daily passenger throughput of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge since its commissioning by month as specified in the table below:

Daily passenger throughput	October 2018	November 2018	March 2020
0	(Number of days within the range)			
1-1000				
1001-2000				
2001-3000				
3001-4000				
4001-5000				
5001-6000				
6001-7000				
7001-8000				
8001-9000				
9001-10000				
10001-11000				
11001-12000				
12001-13000				
13001-14000				
14001-15000				
>15000				

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

The numbers of inbound and outbound passenger trips at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port from its commissioning on 24 October 2018 to 31 March 2020 are set out as follows:

	2018			2019					
	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
1st	N/A	49 608	77 769	57 431	64 593	49 177	49 769	77 255	60 803
2nd		54 078	79 075	43 812	73 257	68 855	45 790	75 128	59 621
3rd		86 842	62 673	45 297	71 803	72 693	43 054	68 849	39 707
4th		102 919	59 476	48 051	47 396	50 198	57 060	59 732	44 339
5th		60 781	58 608	55 831	97 465	43 559	94 359	51 354	40 277
6th		62 232	65 319	59 036	139 823	41 842	83 344	41 560	50 663
7th		67 784	61 487	53 366	159 785	41 441	76 860	40 598	82 532
8th		64 926	75 054	57 420	144 047	49 315	47 420	43 027	75 495
9th		61 533	86 238	49 574	130 573	69 337	51 292	47 095	75 092
10th		92 266	67 989	54 577	111 273	69 674	58 695	55 550	42 931
11th		96 507	58 135	49 818	94 418	54 686	59 220	89 635	43 978
12th		79 823	61 270	68 460	85 832	61 687	61 148	100 280	41 130
13th		74 514	60 182	66 487	73 385	54 028	81 734	100 604	45 298
14th		70 939	60 053	49 034	64 377	52 914	78 326	52 658	48 534
15th		71 350	76 590	47 625	63 851	56 565	57 882	48 502	63 865
16th		64 411	77 884	45 823	73 934	85 750	57 305	51 233	63 413
17th		103 233	64 441	49 300	65 019	87 953	70 102	52 863	46 114
18th		101 562	67 133	48 830	40 281	64 448	86 042	76 373	41 672
19th		68 172	64 838	63 604	32 276	60 942	118 108	80 094	44 868
20th		74 655	81 335	65 007	39 486	57 397	116 215	52 880	45 134
21st		74 556	64 244	48 119	41 406	59 596	124 926	50 305	48 301
22nd		68 732	66 920	46 883	47 332	63 500	109 689	50 994	65 813
23rd		71 862	83 409	45 449	66 100	84 370	77 831	54 964	72 822
24th	38 461	84 341	73 222	47 431	65 456	80 707	72 374	53 509	
25th	31 562	81 362	92 592	47 206	46 635	62 066	71 392	76 429	
26th	34 178	63 520	99 693	59 583	46 166	61 961	67 923	70 935	
27th	58 710	64 797	80 554	63 319	45 401	63 526	78 818	50 523	
28th	77 952	62 623	76 855	50 678	47 036	63 660	71 113	46 704	
29th	44 215	69 304	70 935	50 148	N/A	59 301	55 259	43 898	86 402
30th	50 043	65 452	76 938	52 576		80 668	53 759	48 706	97 294
31st	50 226	N/A	67 114	56 321		80 603	N/A	45 435	N/A

	2019						2020		
	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
1st	97 237	43 214	34 837	35 749	40 534	53 417	51 236	11 961	11 286
2nd	43 335	47 133	21 856	39 360	50 309	34 315	34 187	11 483	11 242
3rd	39 365	62 994	24 656	39 561	54 149	30 457	35 327	9 222	10 868
4th	42 501	69 837	25 140	45 457	37 888	28 005	42 513	11 159	10 563
5th	49 274	43 058	26 269	51 161	33 717	29 598	43 232	8 457	11 422
6th	66 222	44 356	32 643	52 781	32 231	35 633	32 710	11 107	14 085
7th	69 903	45 941	32 911	55 456	36 382	47 537	30 813	13 143	14 409
8th	50 177	47 857	40 112	29 777	41 740	51 023	29 313	2 531	14 331
9th	51 367	48 975	29 814	25 999	50 265	35 928	29 905	3 086	13 745
10th	46 339	59 621	28 119	28 856	56 504	31 166	34 144	3 403	12 825
11th	49 399	66 084	26 506	33 390	32 405	31 885	43 303	2 713	12 151
12th	56 139	45 075	30 026	38 120	29 311	33 084	46 244	2 678	12 885
13th	74 077	40 489	38 845	45 249	23 728	37 268	32 979	3 110	15 611
14th	80 791	37 206	61 158	32 910	27 611	46 537	31 816	3 904	15 640
15th	57 794	36 518	58 568	31 281	32 852	51 343	30 405	3 377	17 711
16th	54 119	42 473	33 892	28 618	42 010	33 261	32 386	3 768	15 582
17th	57 881	52 913	28 888	31 650	48 776	28 264	35 323	4 467	13 643
18th	55 622	59 505	27 851	36 590	38 976	30 284	44 227	4 704	11 859
19th	58 178	43 215	30 227	46 708	31 881	29 308	46 329	4 233	10 354
20th	74 005	39 851	34 252	47 546	29 499	40 464	37 287	6 679	12 373
21st	83 146	38 094	43 761	35 708	30 632	43 320	36 994	8 366	11 080
22nd	60 054	40 375	42 009	32 874	37 729	47 748	39 294	8 261	10 150
23rd	53 762	44 455	32 530	31 055	45 596	53 357	38 104	8 049	11 603
24th	55 670	54 112	31 473	33 763	50 128	58 563	32 038	8 937	16 039
25th	55 497	58 612	29 303	37 952	33 842	91 155	32 491	7 711	542
26th	58 933	43 263	29 893	48 686	31 376	82 018	33 081	7 988	623
27th	69 018	37 164	35 842	50 116	30 752	59 512	30 581	8 497	1 137
28th	79 307	39 816	46 506	38 213	33 156	62 384	24 342	11 058	284
29th	56 273	37 008	50 081	34 107	39 186	62 115	20 604	11 336	305
30th	48 976	39 634	38 523	33 585	51 386	48 153	14 970	N/A	279
31st	31 821	44 803	N/A	32 831	N/A	43 578	12 891		282

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-SB027

(Question Serial No. S086)

Head: (70) Immigration Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Pre-entry Control, (2) Control upon Entry

Controlling Officer: Director of Immigration (K W TSANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the statistics on the assistance from the Immigration Department (ImmD) for the Mainland authorities in verifying the information of One-way Permit (OWP) applicants, given that the reply to the question has not made clear whether there is a possibility that more than one applicant may be involved for each case of application:

1. In each of the past 3 years, (a) what were the numbers of OWP applications received and approved respectively? (b) What were the actual numbers of applicants for the applications received and approved, and (c) what were the actual numbers of cases of entry and entrants to Hong Kong on the strength of OWPs respectively?

2. Given that there have been more than 40 000 persons coming to Hong Kong on the strength of OWPs annually in recent years, why are the figures provided by the Government in its reply to Question 2 different from the actual numbers of entrants? Did the "number for each application" provided by the Government involve more than one applicant? If yes, what was the average number of applicants for each application?

3. At present, do the Mainland authorities request the ImmD to verify every case of application? How many cases of applications required and not required verification by the ImmD respectively in each of the past 3 years? And among them, how many applicants were involved?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai

Reply:

The breakdown statistics on entrants holding One-way Permits (OWPs) (i.e. Permits for Proceeding to Hong Kong and Macao) in the past 3 years by category are tabulated as follows:

Category	2017	2018	2019
(a) Holders of Certificate of Entitlement to the Right of Abode	2 795	2 407	2 860
(b) Spouses separated for 10 years or more and their accompanying children	690	573	791
(c) Spouses separated for less than 10 years and their accompanying children	36 847	31 513	28 080
(d) Joining parents in Hong Kong ¹	5 535	6 681	6 009
(e) Joining children in Hong Kong ²	1 079	1 143	1 303
(f) Others ³	25	14	17
Total	46 971	42 331	39 060

Notes: The above figures are compiled from the statistics based on the information provided voluntarily by holders of OWPs upon their entry into Hong Kong.

1 Excluding accompanying children whose parents joined their spouses in Hong Kong in items (b) and (c) of the above table.

2 Including unsupported elderly people coming to Hong Kong to join their children settled in Hong Kong.

3 Exceptional cases such as unsupported elderly people coming to join their relatives, etc.

OWPs are documents issued by the relevant authorities in the Mainland. The application, approval and issuance of OWPs fall within the remit of the Mainland authorities. In processing OWP applications, the Mainland authorities will, when necessary, request assistance from the Immigration Department (ImmD) at case level, including rendering assistance in verifying the supporting documents submitted by the applicants and their claimed relationship with relatives in Hong Kong (e.g. husband and wife, parent and child). The ImmD assisted the Mainland authorities in verifying the information of applicants in 18 242, 16 854 and 15 645 cases of application for OWPs in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively, with each case involving 1 applicant.

The ImmD does not have other statistics mentioned in the question.

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