

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(W)094**

**(Question Serial No. 0091)**

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (Alfred W H SIT)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

With regard to the manpower of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department for lift and escalator inspection:

1. What are the number of staff who received relevant training, their salaries and the expenditure involved in the past three years?
2. What is the wastage rate of the competent technical staff for lift and escalator inspection in the past three years?
3. Will the Government allocate more resources to increase the manpower for lift inspection? What is the estimated expenditure?
4. What measures will the Government plan to enhance lift and escalator safety? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 31)

Reply:

1. The whole range of the work of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) on lift and escalator safety is carried out collectively by a team, and the EMSD does not have a breakdown of the manpower for individual work such as lift and escalator inspection. The whole team of staff is technically competent and has received relevant training. The number of staff in the team, their salaries and the total expenditure in years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 are listed below:

	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>
Number of staff in the lift and escalator safety team	36	27	34
Total salary of staff	\$24.2 million	\$19.2 million	\$23.9 million
Total expenditure (including salary)	\$35.9 million	\$32.6 million	\$36.8 million (estimated)

2. The wastage rate of the lift and escalator safety team in 2015, 2016 and 2017 are 3%, 4% and 3% respectively. The staff wastage in the past three years is entirely due to retirement. The EMSD has established a staff posting and training mechanism for filling vacancies arising from retirement and ensuring staff competence in carrying out work related to lift and escalator safety.

3. In 2018-19, one Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer, two Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, one Electrical Inspector, six Assistant Mechanical Inspectors, two Clerical Assistants and one Executive Officer will be added to the lift and escalator safety team of the EMSD to carry out additional inspections, and strengthen the support to the Responsible Persons (RPs) for lifts and escalators in managing their lifts and escalators and carrying out lift and escalator modernisation works. The estimated additional expenditure in 2018-19 is \$7.3 million.

4. In 2018-19, the EMSD will continue to strictly enforce the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance (the Ordinance) (Cap. 618) and step up public education and publicity to enhance lift and escalator safety. The work related to lift and escalator safety in 2018-19 includes:

- (i) Increasing the number of lift and escalator inspections to about 14 000 according to a risk-based approach;
- (ii) Taking enforcement actions against contravention of the Ordinance;
- (iii) Maintaining a registration system for lift and escalator contractors, engineers and workers; and
- (iv) Carrying out public education and publicity, including the provision of support to the RPs in managing their lifts and escalators and promotion of modernisation of aged lifts and escalators.

The estimated total expenditure for lift and escalator safety in 2018-19 is \$45.1 million.

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