

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)090

(Question Serial No. 3287)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): Not specified
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (Alfred W H SIT)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the provision of sign language interpretation services in the past five years, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Were there any sign language interpretation services provided? If yes, what were the frequency, occasions and causes for providing sign language interpretation services in each year?
2. Referring to the above question, what were the number of sign language interpreters involved in each year, their pay and the organisations to which they belong? What was the total expenditure involved in each year?
3. Will the Government consider allocating more resources to improve the services for communicating with the deaf and/or persons with hearing impairment in future? If yes, what are the details (including measures, manpower and expenditure involved and timetable, etc.)? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 59)

Reply:

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) did not provide any sign language interpretation services in the past five years. As there has been no demand for such services, the EMSD does not allocate resources in this respect. However, the EMSD is committed to engaging relevant non-governmental organisations for sign language interpretation services when situation requires.