

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(W)086**

**(Question Serial No. 2439)**

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 lift safety under the Programme, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. In respect of the manpower deployed by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department for lift and escalator inspection, what were the manpower and salary of the dedicated team for lift and escalator safety and the expenditure involved in the past three years?
2. What were the wastage rates of the dedicated team for lift and escalator safety in the past three years?
3. Will additional resources be allocated to enhance the manpower for lift inspection? What are the estimated expenditure and details?

Asked by: Hon LAM Cheuk-ting (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

1. The administration and enforcement of the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance (Cap. 618) including lift and escalator inspection work are collectively undertaken by a dedicated team of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department. The manpower and personal emolument of the team as well as the expenditure involved in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 are given in the following table:

	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
Number of staff	27	34	46
Total notional annual mid-point salary of the posts concerned	\$19.2 million	\$23.9 million	\$33.9 million
Total expenditure (including salary)	\$32.6 million	\$37.7 million	\$51.6 million (estimated)

2. The wastage rates of the dedicated team in 2016, 2017 and 2018 were 4%, 3% and 2% respectively (entirely due to retirement). The vacancies were filled with comprehensive training provided to new members.

3. The number of lift inspections will further rise from 15 409 in 2018 (actual) to about 28 900 in 2019 (estimated), as a result of the stepping up of surveillance of aged lifts and escalators as well as establishment of a new dedicated team comprising one Senior Engineer, one Engineer, two Inspectors, two Assistant Inspectors and one Clerical Assistant to inspect lift modernisation works under the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme. The estimated expenditure involved in setting up the new team is around \$4.7 million in 2019-20.

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