

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

TLB008

(Question Serial No. 1382)

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 (PANG Yiu-hung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Logistics

Question:

- (1) In 2022-23, what are the numbers of (registered) vehicle mechanics (RVMs) and (registered) vehicle maintenance workshops (RVMWs), and the percentages they represented among the total numbers of vehicle mechanics (VMs) and vehicle maintenance workshops (VMWs)? In 2023-24, what are the estimated numbers of RVMs and RVMWs, and the percentages they represented among the total numbers of VMs and VMWs? What are the manpower and expenditures involved?
- (2) In 2022-23, what are the measures that the Government has put in place to promote voluntary registration of trade members, and what are the resources and expenditures involved in such promotion work?
- (3) What will be the resources and expenditures involved in the promotion work in 2023-24?
- (4) Does the Government have a timetable for the introduction of a mandatory registration system for VMs and VMWs? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

- (1) As at December 2022, the numbers of registered vehicle mechanics (RVMs) and registered vehicle maintenance workshops (RVMWs), and the percentages with respect to the total numbers of vehicle mechanics (VMs) and vehicle maintenance workshops (VMWs) are tabulated below:

	Number of RVMs (Percentage of the total number of VMs)	Number of RVMWs (Percentage of the total number of VMWs)
2022-23 (as at Dec 2022)	8 284 (80.4%)	2 024 (72.7%)

We will continue with the promotion of the voluntary registration schemes in the year ahead, with a view to encouraging more VMs and VMWs to be registered. As

the manpower and expenses for the work have been absorbed and met by existing resources, the expenditure involved cannot be separately identified.

- (2)&(3) The Government will continue to encourage more members of the vehicle maintenance trade to register under the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics (VRSVM) and the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Maintenance Workshops (VRSVMW) through various means, including:
- (a) promoting the voluntary registration schemes through announcements in the public interests and publication of newsletters;
 - (b) promoting the voluntary registration schemes directly to the VMWs and VMs through the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD)'s regular inspections;
 - (c) organising webinars and providing an online continuing professional development platform to uplift the standards of RVMs and RVMWs;
 - (d) paying regular visits to RVMWs to provide guidance and advice to workshop owners and RVMs for improving their work practices and standards in accordance with the voluntary registration schemes; and
 - (e) enhancing the publicity of RVMWs through the provision of a digital map on the location of the RVMWs on the "Vehicle Maintenance Easy" website.

The Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit of the EMSD is responsible for all matters related to the implementation and promotion of the registration schemes, including processing applications of RVMs and RVMWs, arranging continuing professional development training for RVMs, conducting inspections of RVMWs, liaison with the trades/stakeholders and promotion works for the schemes. There is no separate breakdown on the resources deployed to the promotion of the schemes.

- (4) The Government has introduced the VRSVM and VRSVMW with the aim of enhancing the overall standard of the local vehicle maintenance trade. Drawing on the experience of implementing the two voluntary registration schemes, the Government and Vehicle Maintenance Technical Advisory Committee (VMTAC), which is established by the Government with representatives from the vehicle maintenance trade, academia and training institutes, professional bodies, vehicle owners' associations and other stakeholders, are examining the feasibility of introducing a mandatory registration system for VMs and VMWs, with a view to keeping up with the development of vehicle technology including maintenance needs of electric vehicles (EVs) etc., ensuring that the public can have safe and reliable services and facilitating their choice of such services, as well as providing continuous professional development and opportunities for practitioners in the trade. We have also been liaising closely with stakeholders. In this connection, a consultancy study would be commissioned in 2023 to benchmark other jurisdictions' practice and to advise the Government and the VMTAC on the technical details and requirements from the voluntary registration for EV maintenance with a view to putting forward proposals in 2023-24; while the Government and VMTAC will in parallel examine the introduction of the mandatory registration system mentioned above, formulating an appropriate regulatory framework and timeframe.