

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0268)

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:

Regarding the monitoring of the safety performance of railway services provided by the MTR Corporation Limited, please advise on the following:

1. the manpower and establishment by rank for monitoring railway services and enforcing the ordinances on railway safety in each of the past three years;
2. the expenditures involved; and
3. the average number of days taken to handle railway safety incidents over the past three years.

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

1. The Railways Branch (RB) of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department is responsible for regulating and monitoring the safe operation of railway systems, including those operated by the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL), the Automated People Mover at the Hong Kong International Airport, the tramway system operated by the Hong Kong Tramways Limited and the peak tramway system operated by the Peak Tramways Company Limited. There are no breakdown figures of establishment and expenditure figures for individual railway systems. The establishment of the RB over the past three years is set out below.

Rank	2020	2021	2022
Assistant Director	1	1	1
Chief Engineer	2	4*	4*
Senior Engineer	15	15	15
Engineer	28	28	28
Inspector	4	4	4

* Two Chief Engineer posts are supernumerary posts for four years starting from July 2021.

2. The expenditures of the RB in the past three years are shown in the following table.

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as at Jan 2023)
Expenditure (\$ million)	76.5	80.6	66.3 [^]

[^] The overall expenditure for the financial year 2022-23 is not yet available.

3. The RB conducts investigation into railway incidents concerning safety, and follows up with various actions, including examining MTRCL's investigation reports to ascertain the root cause of the incidents and identify improvement measures, and monitoring MTRCL's progress in implementing the improvement measures to prevent recurrence. The time required to complete an incident investigation depends on the nature and complexity of the incident. An investigation into minor incidents may only take a few days to complete, whilst a few months may be required to complete the entire investigation process for the more complicated incidents.

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