

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)198

Question Serial No.

4277

Head: 42 - Electrical and Mechanical Subhead (No. & title):
Services Department

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

For the “incidents investigated (railway)” in 2012, could the Administration advise this committee on:

- (a) The number of passengers affected by the railway incidents in 2012;
- (b) The average time required by the Administration to carry out investigation of railway incidents; and
- (c) Any punitive action taken by the Administration against the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) due to the railway incidents? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons? How does the Administration ensure that the MTRCL reduces the recurrence of mistakes?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) is responsible for the safety aspects of the railway system. The MTRCL does not have statistical data on the number of passengers affected by railway incidents.
(For Internal Reference Only : EMSD has the record on the number of fatalities/injured persons for each incident but has no statistical data on the number of passengers affected by railway incidents related to safety and service aspects.)
- (b) The time required to complete an investigation into railway incident by the EMSD depends on the nature and complexity of the incident in question. In general, an investigation into minor incidents usually takes a few days to complete, whilst it may take a few months to complete the entire investigation process for some complicated incidents.

(For Internal Reference Only : For individual incidents which RB considers requiring further follow up action, RB will check with the MTRCL to identify the cause of the problem and the necessary rectification/improvement works. Normally, it will take a few days to complete. For major or complicated incidents (e.g. overhead line incident at Yau Ma Tei in Oct 2010 and rail breakages in early 2011), as the failed samples had to be sent to laboratory for analysis, it will usually take a few months to complete the entire investigation process.)

- (c) The EMSD did not detect any non-compliance of railway safety during the investigation of railway incidents in 2012. Therefore, no punitive action was taken in 2012. Where warranted, the EMSD will carry out incident investigation to find out the cause of incidents, identify improvement measures required, and monitor implementation of remedial actions and improvement measures undertaken by the MTRCL to avoid recurrence of similar incidents.

(For Internal Reference Only : EMSD did not detect any non-compliance of railway safety during the inspections and investigation of railway incidents in 2012. If there is any safety non-compliance detected, the government will undertake necessary punitive action according to the provisions of the Mass Transit Railway Ordinance (Chapter 556).)

Name in block letters:	CHAN FAN
Post Title:	Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services
Date:	5.4.2013