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### Replies to initial written questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2022-23

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Session No. : 19

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB010**

**(Question Serial No. 0257)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022-23 that the Police Force will continue to strengthen interactions with the media and utilise social media to disseminate police messages in a timely and professional manner. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of:

1. the total number of multi-media programmes produced by the Force in 2021 as promotional tools for enhancing the public's knowledge of and confidence in police services, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved;
2. the manpower and expenditure to be involved for continuous management of social media platforms in the coming year; and
3. the number of multi-media programmes to be produced in the coming year to disseminate police messages for enhancing the public's knowledge of and confidence in police services, as well as the expenditure and manpower to be allocated?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1. The Police Force has been actively interacting with the media and utilising social media to disseminate messages on preventing and fighting crime in a timely and professional manner. To enhance the public's knowledge of and confidence in police services, the Force collaborated with various media outlets, such as television and radio stations, in 2021 to produce multi-media programmes including "Everlasting Mission", "Profession Impossible", "Scam Feud", "Tips against Scammers", "Hong Kong Police Story 2021" and "Morning OffBeat".

The Force has also produced "OffBeat On Air", an in-house production that is live-streamed on the Hong Kong Police Facebook page and the Hong Kong Police YouTube Channel at 9:00 p.m. on Thursdays. Spreading messages on crime fighting and prevention, the programme appeals to the public to come forward with crime leads

and introduces the work of different police units. To foster interaction with the public and enhance the transparency of policing work, the programme features a question-and-answer session for viewers to put questions to the guests and hosts in real time.

The multi-media programmes are mainly produced by the TV & Film Liaison Section of the Police Public Relations Branch (PPRB), which is currently staffed with 10 members.

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of officers</b>
Chief Inspector	1
Inspector/Senior Inspector	1
Sergeant	2
Police Constable/Senior Police Constable	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

The Force deploys existing manpower and resources for producing the multi-media programmes. The expenditure involved falls under the Programme of “Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community”. No specific breakdown is available.

2. Making good use of social media for publicity and promotion, the Force published nearly 6 000 posts in 2021 on 5 social media platforms, namely YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Weibo and Twitter.

The Hong Kong Police YouTube Channel was launched in March 2013, attracting more than 170 000 subscribers (as at 2 March 2022).

The Hong Kong Police Facebook page was launched in October 2015, receiving “likes” from over 330 000 users and attracting more than 510 000 followers (as at 2 March 2022).

The Hong Kong Police Instagram page was launched in November 2016, attracting more than 78 000 followers (as at 2 March 2022).

The Hong Kong Police Twitter page was launched in January 2019, attracting more than 87 000 followers (as at 2 March 2022).

The Hong Kong Police Weibo page was launched in January 2019, attracting more than 440 000 fans (as at 2 March 2022).

The social media platforms of the Force are mainly managed by the Social Media Communication Division of the PPRB, which is currently staffed with 30 members, comprising 28 police officers and 2 contract staff members:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Number of officers</b>
Superintendent	1
Chief Inspector	2
Inspector/Senior Inspector	4
Station Sergeant	1
Sergeant	8
Police Constable/Senior Police Constable	12
Contract New Media Writer	1
Contract New Media Designer	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

In the coming financial year, the Force will continue to deploy existing manpower and resources for managing the social media platforms. The expenditure to be involved falls under the Programme of “Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community”. No specific breakdown is available.

3. The Force will keep abreast of the times by reviewing developments in the mass media and social media when appropriate to foster interaction with the public and enhance the transparency of policing work.

On 10 January 2022, the Force formally launched its sixth social media account, the Hong Kong Police Force’s WeChat official account, to strengthen communication with the public via WeChat. On this platform, the Force aims to disseminate anti-scam and crime prevention information, and to promote its activities so as to further enhance public understanding of police work. As at 2 March 2022, the Hong Kong Police Force’s WeChat official account has published almost 60 articles and attracted over 82 000 followers.

The Force will continue to deploy existing manpower and resources for providing the public with professional services. The expenditure to be involved falls under the Programme of “Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community”. No specific breakdown is available.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB011**

**(Question Serial No. 0388)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force  
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses  
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime  
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. The Police School Liaison Programme (PSLP) aims at enhancing the law-abiding awareness of youths and tackling juvenile delinquency. In this connection, please advise how the Police collaborated with schools under PSLP in jointly promoting national security education (not limited to knowledge on the National Security Law of Hong Kong). Please set out specifically the projects, the number of participants and the expenditure involved in the past 3 years, and advise on the plans and the estimated expenditure for the current financial year.
2. Please advise whether additional resources have been allocated in this financial year to extend the PSLP to tertiary institutions for jointly promoting national security education and enhancing the law-abiding awareness of youths; if yes, the details of the plans and the estimated expenditure to be involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

1. The Police School Liaison Programme (PSLP) has been an integral part of the community policing strategy adopted by the Police Force. Through a multi-agency approach, the PSLP is aimed at preventing juvenile crime and diverting youths from going astray. The post of School Liaison Officer (SLO) was created in the Force in 1988 and the number of SLOs has been increased to 117 since 1 April 2017.

Through school visits, SLOs refer appropriate cases to relevant organisations for follow-ups and maintain close liaison with the education sector. Talks and group or individual discussions are conducted as necessary to enhance the law-abiding awareness of students.

In addition, the first-ever “Law Abidance Training Package” on juvenile crime and legal knowledge was released by the Force in June 2021 to help SLOs enhance the law-abiding awareness of youths. The training package, available in both primary

and secondary school editions, includes mini-movies, comics and quizzes on various crime prevention topics, along with explanations on punishment of certain offences by retired judges.

Separately, through the Junior Police Call (JPC), the Force has organised activities including movie screening, workshops on Chinese-style flag raising, visits to historical exhibitions and exchanges with Mainland Olympic gold medalists, with a view to deepening the youth's understanding of national history and development as well as enhancing their sense of national identity.

The expenditure of the above items falls under the Programmes of "Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community" and "Prevention and Detection of Crime". No specific breakdown is available.

2. Through the JPC and the Police Mentorship Programme, the Force is committed to enhancing its communication with the youths and promoting their active engagement in activities co-organised by the Force and tertiary institutions, the Education Bureau and other stakeholders. Community and educational projects are also organised in collaboration with other government departments / organisations in different police districts, with a view to encouraging youngsters to participate in healthy community activities. These activities help strengthen the law-abiding awareness and sense of national identity of the youths and cultivate their positive values.

The Force will also make proactive use of online platforms and social media to provide the public with the Force's updates, disseminate crime prevention messages and highlight the serious consequences of breaking the law. The Force will continue to explore and optimise the use of platforms favoured by youngsters, so as to strengthen the communication with them and enhance their law-abiding awareness.

The expenditure of the above items falls under the Programmes of "Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community" and "Prevention and Detection of Crime". No specific breakdown is available.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****SB012****(Question Serial No. 0279)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Police Force has been providing anti-epidemic support to the Department of Health amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, including taking enforcement actions under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599). Please set out in tabular form, in relation to the enforcement of (a) the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), (b) the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) and (c) the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I), (i) the number of prosecutions instituted, (ii) the number of fixed penalty notices issued, (iii) the amount of fines imposed for contravention of the said legislations and (iv) the cumulative amount of fines received in the last financial year, with a breakdown by month and an account on the use of fines so received.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

(i)-(iii) A breakdown on the numbers of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) (currently carrying a fine of \$5,000 each) issued and prosecutions instituted by the Police Force under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I) from 1 April 2021 to 28 February 2022 is as follows:

Month/Year	Cap. 599F		Cap. 599G		Cap. 599I	
	Number of FPNs	Number of Persons Prosecuted	Number of FPNs	Number of Persons Prosecuted	Number of FPNs	Number of Persons Prosecuted
Apr 2021	#	123	2 460	28	432	0
May 2021	#	52	976	23	484	1
Jun 2021	#	54	1 850	39	394	0

	<b>Cap. 599F</b>		<b>Cap. 599G</b>		<b>Cap. 599I</b>	
Jul 2021	#	45	1 265	21	385	2
Month/Year	Number of FPNs	Number of Persons Prosecuted	Number of FPNs	Number of Persons Prosecuted	Number of FPNs	Number of Persons Prosecuted
Aug 2021	297	79	1 389	25	395	0
Sep 2021	389	88	1 060	30	357	0
Oct 2021	248	78	704	32	456	3
Nov 2021	234	52	714	23	344	0
Dec 2021	520	124	1 400	39	396	0
Jan 2022	219	69	1 087	38	550	0
Feb 2022	79	24	620	12	1 909	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 986</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>13 525</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>6 102</b>	<b>9</b>

# Measures to impose penalties under Cap. 599F have been in place since August 2021.

- (iv) The amounts of fines collected from the FPNs issued by the Force under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I) in each month from 1 April 2021 to 28 February 2022 are as follows:

	<b>Cap. 599F</b>	<b>Cap. 599G</b>	<b>Cap. 599I</b>
Month/Year	Amount of Fines (\$)	Amount of Fines (\$)	Amount of Fines (\$)
Apr 2021	#	10,840,000	1,695,000
May 2021	#	5,290,000	1,760,000
Jun 2021	#	6,815,000	1,835,000
Jul 2021	#	6,160,000	1,600,000
Aug 2021	0	5,985,000	1,875,000
Sep 2021	85,000	5,590,000	1,367,000
Oct 2021	1,550,000	3,680,000	1,420,000
Nov 2021	1,400,000	3,470,000	1,795,000
Dec 2021	1,525,000	4,145,000	1,535,000
Jan 2022	1,940,000	6,240,000	2,345,000
Feb 2022	830,000	3,330,000	3,880,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,330,000</b>	<b>61,545,000</b>	<b>21,107,000</b>

# Measures to impose penalties under Cap. 599F have been in place since August 2021.

The fines collected are credited to the revenue under the General Revenue Account.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB013**

**(Question Serial No. 0596)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force  
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses  
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime  
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Community policing is a pivotal component in prevention of crime and radicalisation as well as crime detection. It is also a policing direction adopted by the Hong Kong Police Force. As stated in the Force's Programme of Prevention and Detection of Crime under Head 122, guarding against the threat of terrorist activities, juvenile crimes and youth involvement in drugs are among the key initiatives of the Force. In this connection, please advise the Committee of:

1. the details (in terms of rank, salary and job description) in respect of the increase of 29 posts in the Force in 2022;
2. general working data in respect of territory-wide and district-based crime prevention activities organised by the Fight Crime Committee of each district between 2019 and 2021;
3. working data in respect of the use of social media (i.e. Facebook and Instagram) by the Force between 2019 and 2021; and
4. general working data in respect of the Force's capabilities in counter-terrorism response and crime investigation between 2019 and 2021.

Asked by: Hon LEE Hoey Simon (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1. To meet operational needs, the Police Force will have a net increase of 29 posts (involving an increase of 32 disciplined services posts and a decrease of 3 civilian posts) in prevention and detection of crime for 2022-23, mainly for strengthening the Force's operational capabilities in countering terrorism and defending national security and to support the operation of the Intermodal Transfer Terminal at the Hong Kong International Airport. A breakdown of the additional posts by rank and salary is tabulated below:

Rank	Net increase/decrease of posts	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)
Chief Inspector	3	PPS 44 - 49
Senior Inspector/Inspector	5	PPS 24 - 43
Station Sergeant	3	PPS 24 - 33a
Sergeant	6	PPS 17 - 28
Police Constable	15	PPS 4 - 17
<b>Total number of police officers</b>	<b>32</b>	
Typist	-3	MPS 2 - 10
<b>Total number of civilian staff</b>	<b>-3</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	

2. According to the reports submitted to the Central Fight Crime Committee by the District Fight Crime Committees (DFCCs), the details of anti-crime activities organised by the DFCCs between 2019 and 2021 are tabulated below:

	2019	2020	2021
Total number of activities	122	93	182
Total number of participants	About 650 000	About 160 000	About 130 000

3. The Force endeavours to disseminate messages on preventing and fighting crime through social media in a professional and timely manner. The total number of posts published by the Force on 5 social media platforms, namely YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Weibo and Twitter, between 2019 and 2021 are tabulated below:

	Total
Number of posts in 2019	3 770
Number of posts in 2020	6 031
Number of posts in 2021	5 927

Furthermore, the Force officially launched its sixth social media platform, the Hong Kong Police Force's WeChat official account, on 10 January 2022 to enhance communication with the public through the WeChat, enabling members of the public to learn more about policing and raise their crime prevention awareness. As at 2 March 2022, the Force's WeChat official account has published nearly 60 posts, attracting more than 82 000 followers.

4. Strengthening counter-terrorism (CT) efforts is one of the Commissioner's Operational Priorities 2022. As a CT agency at the forefront, the Force will remain highly vigilant against terrorist activities and strategically allocate CT resources for appropriate deployment and preparation. Through professional training and

exercises, the Force ensures its workforce can respond promptly and effectively to any potential terrorist activities.

From 2019 to 2021, the Force conducted a total of 27 joint CT exercises with other government departments and public organisations to test their CT responsiveness and related contingency plans, which in turn enhance the coordination and cooperation among the participating parties from the experience gained.

In recent years, the Force has also vigorously strengthened CT training of frontline officers on “Immediate Tactical Intervention” to ensure that those arriving earliest at the scene are capable of making swift responses to provide members of the public with immediate care for the sake of their safety. To this end, dedicated training teams were deployed to provide enhanced training to nearly 800 frontline officers over the past 6 months with a total training time of more than 4 600 hours. Elements of public engagement will be introduced in various drills when appropriate to raise public alertness and awareness of terrorist attacks.

Through the Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit (ICTU), the Force also works with other law enforcement agencies to enhance CT strategies, action plans, intelligence gathering, training and public education. In particular, the ICTU has launched public education campaigns such as “Stay Vigilant to Bomb”, “Run, Hide, Report” and “Spot and Report” to raise the public’s awareness of terrorist threats and response capabilities.

Furthermore, the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau is committed to improving the reliability of information system networks of critical infrastructure and enhancing Hong Kong’s capabilities in protecting information system networks and defending against cyber attacks, whilst the Financial Intelligence and Investigation Bureau is tasked with anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism efforts.

The number of cases, detection rate, total number of arrestees and number of young arrestees aged between 10 and 20 in respect of overall crime and serious drug offences between 2019 and 2021 are tabulated as follows:

	2019			2020			2021		
	Number of cases	Detection rate	Number of arrestees (Number of young arrestees aged between 10 and 20)	Number of cases	Detection rate	Number of arrestees (Number of young arrestees aged between 10 and 20)	Number of cases	Detection rate	Number of arrestees (Number of young arrestees aged between 10 and 20)
Overall crime	59 225	37.1%	28 058 (4 268)	63 232	37.8%	29 565 (3 987)	64 428	38.5%	29 218 (3 021)
Serious drug offences	740	99.7%	1 014 (144)	1 149	99.9%	1 824 (318)	1 570	99.7%	2 188 (430)

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB014**

**(Question Serial No. 0332)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force  
Subhead (No. & title): ()  
Programme: (4) Operations  
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- (a) The estimate under this programme for 2021-22 is 13.2% lower than the original estimate. Please advise on the main reason for the reduction in estimate.
- (b) In recent years, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) technology has become increasingly mature. Please advise on the introduction of UAS in the Force to assist in law enforcement actions, including the number of UAS currently kept by the Force, the major purpose of using UAS, and the estimate for procurement of UAS in 2022-23.
- (c) Smuggling activities were rampant last year, particularly a law enforcement officer passed away in the line of duty. Please advise whether additional equipment will be acquired to enhance the Force's capabilities in conducting anti-smuggling operations.
- (d) There has been an increase in illegal border crossings of people from Hong Kong into the Mainland amidst the severe epidemic situation in the territory. Please advise on the countermeasures to be taken by the Government.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

- (a) The revised estimate is lower than the original estimate for 2021-22, mainly due to some vacancies remaining unfilled in 2021-22 and the lower than expected requirements on general departmental expenses. This is partly offset by the increase in personal emoluments and personnel-related expenses after the implementation of the recommendations of the grade structure review for the disciplined services grades which has taken effect from 1 September 2021.
- (b) The Police Force will review the global trend of technology development and the application of technology by law enforcement agencies around the world from time to time. Suitable accoutrements and equipment will be introduced in a timely manner based on actual operational needs to further enhance the operational effectiveness of the Force. At present, the Force has introduced unmanned aircraft systems to assist

in work in areas such as major incidents, rescue operations, internal security and counter-terrorism.

The expenditure and quantity of the Force's procurement of accoutrements and equipment are part of the Force's operational deployment details. It is inappropriate to disclose such information.

- (c) The Marine Region will review its existing accoutrements when necessary and procure appropriate new accoutrements in a timely manner to ensure the safety of frontline officers engaged in maritime operations and to effectively combat different types of maritime crimes, including smuggling. The Marine Region has formed a task force to review the existing equipment, facilities and training, and is in the process of acquiring relevant equipment, including emergency personal oxygen providers, personal buoyancy devices, maritime body-worn positioning devices and emergency cabin lighting systems. Meanwhile, the Marine Region is also studying proposals on enhancing the maritime survival training, including training on emergency escape during shipwreck. To further safeguard Marine Police officers in discharging their maritime duties, the Marine Region will, through a large-scale police launch replacement programme, incorporate more safety considerations into the design and build of vessels.
- (d) Adhering to an intelligence-led approach, the Force will continue to enhance intelligence gathering. Officers will also conduct high-profile patrols at blackspots of illegal border crossings and mount intelligence-led operations against such activities. Besides, the Force will work with other law enforcement agencies, including those in the city, such as the Immigration Department and the Customs and Excise Department, as well as those in the Mainland, such as China Coast Guard and Public Security Departments, in strengthening intelligence exchange and launching joint operations to combat related illegal acts.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB015**

**(Question Serial No. 0346)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force  
Subhead (No. & title): ()  
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime  
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022-23 under this Programme that the Force will strengthen its response in tackling deceptions and frauds through the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC). In this connection, please advise on:

1. the number of cases reported, the number of victims, the amount of money involved, the number of cases detected and the number of persons arrested for deception and fraud in the past 2 years, breaking down by type of crime (e.g. telephone scam, internet fraud, etc.);
2. the number of deceptions and frauds involving fraudulent multi-level marketing practices and financial intermediaries, the amount of money involved, the number of cases detected and the number of persons arrested in the past 2 years;
3. among the cases mentioned above, the number of offences committed abroad and the methods in hunting down the fugitives; and
4. (a) the new initiatives to be implemented, (b) the manpower earmarked and (c) the funding set aside for the ADCC on prevention of deception and combating the malpractices of financial intermediaries in the coming financial year.

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

1. The number of deceptions and frauds reported to the Police Force, the detection rate and the number of persons arrested in each of the past 2 years are tabulated below:

	2020	2021	Percentage change
Total number of deceptions and frauds	15 553	19 249	+23.8%
Detection rate	11.1%	10.6%	-0.5 percentage points
Number of persons arrested	2 058	2 835	+37.8%

The major types of deception and fraud as well as the amount of money involved are tabulated below:

	Number of cases			Amount of losses (HK\$ million)		
	2020	2021	Percentage change	2020	2021	Percentage change
Online business fraud	6 941	6 491	-6.5%	127.2	77.0	-39.5%
Social media scam	1 988	3 638	+83.0%	259.1	669.4	+158.4%
Investment scam	510	1 511	+196.3%	856.1	3 355.3	+291.9%
Advance fee fraud	819	1 252	+52.9%	56.0	102.7	+83.4%
Telephone deception	1 193	1 140	-4.4%	574.8	811.1	+41.1%
Employment fraud	332	1 074	+223.5%	19.9	85.1	+327.6%

The Force does not maintain statistics on the numbers of victims and arrestees by type of deception and fraud.

- The number of deceptions and frauds reported to the Force involving financial intermediaries, the amount of money involved, the number of cases detected and the numbers of persons arrested in each of the past 2 years are tabulated below:

	2020	2021	Percentage change
Number of cases	446	148	-66.8%
Amount of money involved (HK\$ million)	85.4	43.2	-49.4%
Number of cases detected	50	18	-64.0%
Number of persons arrested	139	96	-30.9%

No case of deception and fraud involving multi-level marketing practices has been reported to the Force for the past 2 years.

3. Deceptions and crimes related to money-laundering have no geographical boundaries. Through a close police cooperation mechanism, the Force has been sharing with overseas law enforcement agencies the latest modi operandi and information about deception and money-laundering, so as to enable them to take prompt corresponding actions. For example, last year the Force collaborated with the Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies in a series of intelligence-led joint operations, neutralising multiple cross-boundary deception syndicates involving over 260 Internet and telephone deception cases that occurred in Hong Kong. 85 scammers were arrested locally and 147 scammers were captured overseas, freezing as much as HK\$50 million worth of assets.

Moreover, the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) was established in July 2017 to build up collaborations with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies in intercepting crime proceeds. To further enhance the capability, the ADCC established the International Stop-Payment Mechanism with the Financial Crimes Unit of the INTERPOL in October 2019 to enable most member states to make mutual stop-payment requests, thereby facilitating the Force to combat cross-border deception more effectively. From its inception till December 2021, the ADCC has successfully intercepted more than HK\$9.87 billion in 2 844 deception cases where payments had already been made to local and overseas banks.

The Force does not maintain statistics on deceptions and frauds which involve offences committed abroad.

4. The ADCC has been updating its publicity and education materials to enhance public awareness of fraud prevention. Further to the large-scale territory-wide campaign “Anti-Deception Month” rolled out in April last year to promote anti-fraud vigilance on various fronts via different platforms and media, another round of “Anti-Deception Month” was rolled out in February this year. Under the theme “Scammers Steal, Stay Alert”, engaging videos featuring 4 new scam characters were produced to alert people to fraud including telephone deception, romance-cum-investment scam, employment fraud and phishing scam, etc. Relevant Announcements in the Public Interest were aired on 6 television stations and 3 radio stations, with the videos uploaded to the ADCC’s website. In addition, the ADCC’s advertisements were put up across the city, including tunnels, public transport and large outdoor advertising spaces. Besides, thematic postcards on romance-cum-investment scams were mailed to the public via the Hongkong Post Circular Service and a promotional truck was arranged to stop by various locations in town to spread anti-deception messages.

Also, the ADCC has co-produced a programme with a radio broadcaster entitled “Tips against Scammers”, a series revealing a range of tactics adopted in fraud cases with the aid of comic strips. In collaboration with a television network, the ADCC has also produced “Anti-Deception Month Feature” and “Scam Feud”, the latter being a television game show, to debunk common deception cases and enhance public awareness of scams so as to keep fraudsters at bay.

The ADCC currently has an establishment of 40 posts, comprising 26 officers on permanent terms and 14 officers redeployed from various formations in the Force.



Regarding the clampdown on illegal lending practices and lending malpractices of financial intermediaries, the Force will continue its efforts in public education and publicity, step up intelligence gathering and closely monitor the situation to take appropriate law enforcement actions when offences are identified.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB016**

**(Question Serial No. 0047)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force  
Subhead (No. & title): ()  
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime  
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The number of deception cases reported in Hong Kong in 2021 was 19 249, a substantial rise of 3 696 cases when compared with that in the preceding year. The jump was mainly driven by the upsurge of cases in compensated dating scams, romance scams, investment fraud and online employment fraud. It is stated under Programme 2 that the Police Force will strengthen its response in tackling deceptions and frauds through the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC). In this connection, please advise on the staff establishment and expenditure involved in respect of the ADCC for the current financial year, and whether additional manpower and resources will be sought for the ADCC in the next financial year in order to strengthen its capabilities in law enforcement and intercepting crime proceeds; if yes, please provide the details and the estimated expenditure involved. Please also advise whether relevant departments will continue to update the respective promotional and educational materials so as to raise public awareness of the latest modus operandi of deception; if yes, please provide the details.

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) currently has an establishment of 40 posts, comprising 26 officers on permanent terms and 14 officers redeployed from various formations in the Police Force. The Force does not maintain the expenditure breakdown of the manpower involved. The Force will review the manpower and resources allocated to various formations and adjust the establishment from time to time.

The ADCC has been updating its publicity and education materials to enhance public awareness of fraud prevention. Further to the large-scale territory-wide campaign "Anti-Deception Month" rolled out in April last year to promote anti-fraud vigilance on various fronts via different platforms and media, another round of "Anti-Deception Month" was rolled out in February this year. Under the theme "Scammers Steal, Stay Alert", stories featuring 4 scam characters were presented to alert the public to fraud including telephone deception, romance-cum-investment scam, employment fraud and phishing scam, etc. Relevant Announcements in the Public Interest were aired on 6 television stations and 3

radio stations, with the videos uploaded to the ADCC's website. In addition, the ADCC's advertisements were put up across the city, including tunnels, public transport and large outdoor advertising spaces. Besides, thematic postcards on romance-cum-investment scams were mailed to the public via the Hongkong Post Circular Service and a promotional truck was arranged to stop by various locations in town to spread anti-deception messages.

Also, the ADCC has co-produced a programme with a radio broadcaster entitled "Tips against Scammers", a series revealing a range of tactics adopted in fraud cases with the aid of comic strips. In collaboration with a television network, the ADCC has also produced "Anti-Deception Month Feature" and "Scam Feud", the latter being a television game show, to debunk common deception cases and enhance public awareness of scams so as to keep fraudsters at bay.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB017**

**(Question Serial No. 0011)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community  
(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding cases involving different types of drugs cracked down by the Police in 2021, both the number of youths arrested for drug offences and the quantity of drugs seized have increased substantially as compared with those in 2020. Please advise on the trend of drug-related cases expected by the Police in 2022, and whether new measures or strategies will be taken to combat such offences, particularly those involving youths; if yes, what are the respective measures and strategies; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

Combatting dangerous drugs is one of the Commissioner of Police's Operational Priorities for 2022. The work mainly includes (i) enhancing cooperation with other law enforcement agencies to interdict the flow of illicit drugs into Hong Kong; (ii) targeting drug traffickers, especially those exploiting students and youths; (iii) taking proactive measures to investigate and confiscate proceeds of drug trafficking; and (iv) promoting awareness and preventing the abuse of drugs by students and youths through multi-agency collaboration and community-based approach.

As the logistics as well as the export and import control measures of various places had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, drug traffickers changed their mode of transporting drugs, including making use of sea and air cargo more often to smuggle large quantities of drugs. This led to a surge in the seizure amounts of different types of drugs in 2021 as compared to those in 2020.

The Police Force will keep a close watch on the drug trends, and continue to conduct anti-drug operations and combat drug trafficking through intelligence-led operations, including enhancing intelligence-gathering targeting drug trafficking on the Internet and social media; and exchanging intelligence and conducting timely joint operations with the Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies.

On the exploitation of students and youths for drug trafficking, the Force will endeavour to track down drug syndicates exploiting youngsters, and invoke Section 56A of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134) to seek enhanced sentencing on the persons exploiting youngsters for drug trafficking, hence achieving a stronger deterrent effect.

On the prevention of drug abuse among youths, the Force will continue to work with stakeholders including other government departments, schools, parent-teacher associations, non-governmental organisations and other professional sectors to put in place measures targeting youth drug trafficking and drug abuse.

In June 2021, the Force organised the “Anti-drug Month”, a large-scale territory-wide publicity campaign to raise the public’s anti-drug awareness on all fronts, including seminars, publicity clips, press briefings, a promotion truck, etc. Coming with a drug smell simulator, the first of its kind in Hong Kong that helped parents and teachers to identify various drugs, the promotion truck also offered to visitors virtual reality experience on the discomfort caused by drug abuse. The Force is currently partnering with relevant stakeholders to launch a one-year “Leadership Institute on Anti-Narcotics” programme, under which participating secondary and tertiary students would be trained on anti-drug knowledge, leadership and event planning. They could then disseminate anti-drug messages on campus by designing, leading and executing anti-drug activities.

Through different channels such as the Force’s online platforms, the Junior Police Call, various crime prevention activities and seminars, the Force will continue to remind members of the public, especially young people, not to abuse drugs or deliver drugs or articles from unknown sources for other people. The Force will also continue to deepen teachers’ and parents’ understanding of the involvement of youths in drugs, with a view to enhancing their awareness of drug harms and ability to identify relevant situations.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB018**

**(Question Serial No. 0026)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force  
Subhead (No. & title): ()  
Programme: (4) Operations  
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It has been recently reported that a law enforcement officer passed away unfortunately in an accident while intercepting smugglers at sea. In this connection, will the Police consider, in addition to exercising greater care in operational deployment, acquiring more sophisticated equipment and facilities so as to enhance the protection to law enforcement officers engaged in such operations? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

In discharging their duties, Marine Police officers will conduct risk assessments and take corresponding safety measures, having regard to the uniqueness of each operation or each case. The Marine Region will also review its manpower, training and equipment where necessary to ensure the safety of frontline officers engaged in maritime operations and to effectively combat different types of maritime crimes. In light of the accident in question, the Marine Region has immediately formed a task force to review the existing equipment, facilities and training, and is in the process of acquiring relevant equipment, including emergency personal oxygen providers, personal buoyancy devices, maritime body-worn positioning devices and emergency cabin lighting systems. Meanwhile, the Marine Region is also studying proposals on enhancing the maritime survival training, including training on emergency escape during shipwreck. To further safeguard Marine Police officers in discharging their maritime duties, the Marine Region will, through a large-scale police launch replacement programme, incorporate more safety considerations into the design and manufacture of vessels.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB019**

**(Question Serial No. 0252)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the THB.]

Question:

Regarding the crackdown on illegal parking, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the reason(s) for an increase of 20% in the number of fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) issued for parking offences in 2021 (3 298 956 FPTs) as compared with 2020 (2 707 869 FPTs);
2. the progress of work and the resources involved for the Police to work closely with relevant agencies and government departments to identify technological solutions to address serious parking offences in 2021; and
3. the number of vehicles towed by the Police for parking offences and the number of cases in which multiple FPTs were issued against a vehicle at the same spot within the same day in the past 2 years, as well as the factors considered by the Police in determining whether to issue multiple FPTs against an illegally-parked vehicle or to tow it away.

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

1. Road safety is one of the Police Force's operational priorities, and changing the irresponsible behaviour of road users that obstructs traffic flow is also among the Force's Selected Traffic Enforcement Priorities. The Force has been very concerned about the illegal parking situation. The Force aims to address parking offences through patrols and enforcement actions, and change the undesirable behaviour of road users that obstructs traffic flow through publicity and education.

During the period from the second half of 2019 to the first half of 2020, the Force's priority was to stop violence and curb disorder caused by black-clad riots, hence

affecting the traffic enforcement figures. As social tensions began to ease in the second half of 2020, Police Districts have since redeployed resources to strengthen traffic enforcement actions.

In addition, to crack down rigorously on parking offences, the Force has all along leveraged technologies to enhance the effectiveness of frontline law enforcement officers. Since March 2020, the Force has launched in phases the e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme in all police districts across the territory. Frontline law enforcement officers have since been able to access and input data on vehicles parked illegally via their mobile smart devices and print out fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) without delay, minimising man-made errors arising from issuing summonses manually for parking offences and hence enhancing the overall accuracy of law enforcement. In 2021, the Force further extended the pilot scheme to facilitate engagement of more frontline officers, resulting in a jump in relevant law enforcement figures.

2. The Force has always been committed to adopting technological solutions for traffic enforcement. It will also continue to maintain liaison with law enforcement agencies worldwide and make reference to their experience to explore the use of new technologies in enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement against illegal parking and road obstruction.

As mentioned in part 1 of the reply, the e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme has effectively enhanced the accuracy of and efficiency in traffic enforcement. The Force is therefore currently developing a new Traffic e-Enforcement System to facilitate the electronic processing of FPTs and summons applications for traffic offences. The system will also process all information and data relating to traffic enforcement, which will be conducive to enhancing the Force's efficiency in traffic management. Meanwhile, the Force will also develop a public-oriented website dedicated to electronic traffic enforcement, through which members of the public can view their electronic FPTs and handle related matters online.

In June 2021, a funding of \$352 million was secured from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council (LegCo) for the development of the system, with a view to launching the first phase of the system in the first half of 2023 and putting it into full operation in 2024. Furthermore, the Transport and Housing Bureau and the Force plan to introduce a bill into the LegCo in the second half of 2022 to facilitate the issuance of electronic FPTs.

3. On law enforcement, the Force will be redoubling its efforts in areas with severe traffic congestion and issuing FPTs without prior warning to vehicles/drivers who commit offences causing serious obstruction and endangering road safety. Where necessary, apart from serving multiple summonses on the offending vehicles and repeatedly prosecuting the drivers concerned, the Force will even tow away the offending vehicles. In 2019, 2020 and 2021, there were 1 243, 3 226 and 2 997 cases in which vehicles parked illegally were towed away by the Force respectively.

The Force does not maintain statistics on cases in which multiple FPTs were issued against a vehicle at the same spot within the same day.

- End -