

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CSTB170****(Question Serial No. 0360)**Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Horticulture and AmenitiesControlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and TourismQuestion:

Given there have been repeated incidents of fallen trees in recent years, would the Government advise this Committee of the funding to be committed in maintaining trees in landscaped areas along roadside in their best and healthy form in 2023-24? What will be the specific work involved in such tree maintenance? How many trees can be maintained? What are their distributions and locations?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)Reply:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is responsible for management and maintenance of about 550 000 trees, around 370 000 of which are located in areas of heavy pedestrian flow and high vehicular traffic. Details are as follows:

District	Number of trees (as at December 2022)	District	Number of trees (as at December 2022)
Central and Western District	20 860	Islands District	31 470
Southern District	29 050	Tsuen Wan District	21 790
Wan Chai District	15 310	Kwai Tsing District	31 490
Eastern District	70 140	Tuen Mun District	31 240
Sham Shui Po District	15 840	Yuen Long District	52 500
Yau Tsim Mong District	10 620	North District	31 750
Kowloon City District	13 030	Tai Po District	33 280
Wong Tai Sin District	9 360	Sha Tin District	45 220
Kwun Tong District	19 940	Sai Kung District	71 210
Total	554 100		

The LCSD's staff members and outsourced contractors will conduct regular inspections on the growth of those trees under its purview, examining whether there are such signs of abnormality as obvious wounds or diseases, man-induced injuries, and damage caused by nearby works, for their proper management. When necessary, personnel will be deployed as appropriate by the Department to conduct such work as further inspections of trees, pruning, fertilising, pest and disease control with pesticides, planting and transplanting, as well as removal of branches, in a bid to avoid obstructing traffic and causing inconvenience to the public.

On another front, the LCSD will, in line with the guidelines issued by the Development Bureau, carry out inspections no less than once a year on those trees located in areas of heavy pedestrian flow and high vehicular traffic and, in the case of those old and valuable trees listed in the Register of Old and Valuable Trees, inspections will be conducted at least twice a year. In inspecting trees, the Department will focus on examining signs of abnormality in their appearance. Immediate maintenance work including pruning of dieback twigs, weak branches or overgrown tree crown, as well as pest and disease control will be carried out as and when required. In addition, a detailed inspection on the health of the trees concerned will be conducted by the Department in light of the circumstances, with the aid of equipment such as sonic tomograph instruments. In case trees with risks of failure are identified, the LCSD will have them removed as early as possible to safeguard public safety.

The LCSD anticipates to commit about \$250 million to engage outsourced horticultural contractors ^{Note} to assist with the daily horticulture maintenance including tree maintenance in 2023-24.

^{Note} The contracts mostly involve the daily horticulture maintenance covering shrubs, groundcovers, lawns and trees. Such being the case, we are unable to provide the breakdown of the expenditure on tree maintenance.

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