

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSTB226

(Question Serial No. 1041)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

As far as the hiring of civic centres under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department is concerned, would the Government advise this Committee of:

- 1) the hiring rate of facilities of each civic centre over the past 3 years;
- 2) the measures to be taken by the Government to further combat touting activities, given the previous cases of unauthorised touting activities for profit; and
- 3) the additional expenditure to be incurred by such anti-touting measures.

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

- 1) The usage rates of major facilities of the 14 civic centres under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in the past 3 financial years are set out at Annex.
- 2) Applications for hire of facilities in civic centres under the LCSD are assessed according to a set of established criteria. It is stipulated in the Terms and Conditions of Hire that except with prior permission, hirers shall not and shall not attempt to assign, sublet or part with possession of a venue or any part of it in any manner whatsoever. Before using the venues, hirers are required to produce their identification documents and Confirmed Booking Forms for verification by venue staff. The Department also monitors the using of venues by the hirers to check if they comply with the activities stated in the applications. Surprise inspections are carried out from time to time on venues and more frequently on popular ones. No case of unauthorised assignment, subletting, or parting with possession has been found so far.
- 3) There have been so far no cases of unauthorised touting activities found at the civic centres under the LCSD, and therefore no additional expenditure incurred by anti-touting measures.

Annex to Reply Serial No. CSTB226

Usage Rates of Civic Centres under
the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
(from 2020-21 to 2022-23)

Venue	Major Facility ⁽¹⁾	Usage ⁽²⁾		
		2020-21 (Actual)	2021-22 (Actual)	2022-23 (Estimate)
Hong Kong City Hall	Concert Hall	94%	99%	99%
	Theatre	96%	99%	99%
Hong Kong Cultural Centre	Concert Hall	99%	100%	99%
	Grand Theatre	100%	100%	100%
Ko Shan Theatre	Theatre	100%	100%	100%
	New Wing Auditorium	100%	100%	97%
Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	Theatre	91%	95%	97%
Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	Theatre	100%	100%	-(3)
Sheung Wan Civic Centre	Theatre	97%	-(4)	99% ⁽⁴⁾
Yau Ma Tei Theatre	Theatre	98%	99%	77% ⁽⁵⁾
Sha Tin Town Hall	Auditorium	86%	96%	98%
Tai Po Civic Centre	Auditorium	76%	92% ⁽⁶⁾	-(6)
North District Town Hall	Auditorium	78%	99%	98%
Kwai Tsing Theatre	Auditorium	99%	100%	98%
Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Auditorium	82%	97%	97%
Tuen Mun Town Hall	Auditorium	97%	91%	93%
Yuen Long Theatre	Auditorium	94%	91%	100% ⁽⁷⁾

Notes

- (1) Including concert hall/theatre/auditorium of the 14 civic centres.
- (2) Usage rates are based on the number of days used over the total number of days available, excluding maintenance and the closure of venues due to COVID-19 epidemic.
- (3) The Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre has been closed from April 2022 for a period until the first quarter of 2025 for refurbishment and improvement works.
- (4) The Theatre and Lecture Hall of the Sheung Wan Civic Centre were closed from April 2021 to June 2022 for refurbishment and improvement works.

- (5) To dovetail with the demolition works to Shanghai Street refuse collection point and street sleepers' shelter units, the Theatre of the Yau Ma Tei Theatre only accepts applications for hiring the venue in the coming 3 months between 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm from Mondays to Saturdays, and between 9:00 am and 11:00 pm during Sundays and public holidays. Meanwhile, the Yau Ma Tei Theatre has been closed from September 2022 for a period until the first quarter of 2026 for construction of the Yau Ma Tei Theatre Phase 2.
- (6) The Tai Po Civic Centre has been closed from November 2021 for a period until the first quarter of 2025 for facility upgrading works.
- (7) The Yuen Long Theatre has been closed from January 2023 for a period until June 2023 for refurbishment and improvement works.

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