

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSTB339

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Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

There are widespread complaints from members of the public about the long-term over-utilisation of indoor sports centres in districts. Instead of stepping up provision of indoor sports centres, the Government opted to spend \$500 million on upgrading the old booking system to the new SmartPlay system, which has failed to solve the problem of venue touting. The increasingly serious touting activities will only make indoor sports facilities available at even higher costs.

A case in point is indoor badminton courts. Thanks to the medals won by increasing number of local badminton athletes in international events in recent years, there has been a marked increase in the demand for recreational badminton and its training among members of the public of all ages. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of:

1. whether it has provided additional indoor sports centres in the 18 districts over the past 3 financial years;
2. whether it has paid attention to the acute under-supply of indoor sports venues;
3. how many badminton courts, based on the established standards, are under-supplied in each of the 18 districts across Hong Kong;
4. whether it has a plan to provide additional indoor badminton courts in 2024-25. If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. The following 3 indoor sports centres were completed over the past 3 years:

District	Name
Kwun Tong	Choi Wing Road Sports Centre
Tai Po	Tung Cheong Street Sports Centre
Sham Shui Po	Sham Shui Po Sports Centre

- 2., 3. & 4. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is committed to the planning and construction of various recreation and sports facilities including indoor sports centres across Hong Kong to meet the needs of the public. In planning new sports facilities and improving the existing ones, the LCSD not only makes reference to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG), but also considers various relevant factors, including the current provision of sports facilities across Hong Kong and at the district levels, policy objectives of sports development, utilisation of existing facilities, demographic changes, views of District Councils and stakeholders, site availability and technical feasibility.

The LCSD provides a total of 823 badminton courts, including those projects under implementation, in the 18 districts across Hong Kong, with distribution set out in the following table:

District	Population projection in 2023	Number of badminton courts suggested by the HKPSG (Note 1)	Number of badminton courts currently provided by the LCSD	Number of additional badminton courts in projects under implementation (Note 2)	Surplus/shortage
Central and Western	233 500	29.2	44		14.8
Wan Chai	167 900	21.0	18		-3.0
Eastern	535 100	66.9	38	24	-4.9
Southern	267 200	33.4	28	12	6.6
Sham Shui Po	459 000	57.4	40	4	-13.4
Kowloon City	433 000	54.1	32		-22.1
Wong Tai Sin	423 100	52.9	38	8	-6.9
Kwun Tong	703 800	88.0	56		-32.0
Yau Tsim Mong	318 800	39.9	42	16	18.1
Kwai Tsing	515 500	64.4	44		-20.4
Tsuen Wan	307 300	38.4	37		-1.4
Tuen Mun	550 400	68.8	43		-25.8
Yuen Long	662 700	82.8	53	34	4.2
North	359 800	45.0	29		-16.0
Tai Po	343 200	42.9	36	8	1.1
Sha Tin	716 500	89.6	47	8	-34.6
Sai Kung	501 900	62.7	39	12	-11.7
Islands	198 000	24.8	21	12	8.2
Across Hong Kong	7 696 700	962.2	685	138	-139.2

Note 1: Under the current HKPSG, the population standard is set at 1 per 8 000 for provision of badminton courts. The above table only gives the number of those facilities provided by the LCSD.

Note 2: Some of the projects involve reprovisioning of existing facilities. The above table gives the number of additional badminton courts, a net number calculated by subtracting the number of badminton courts subject to demolition during reprovisioning from the total number of badminton courts upon reprovisioning.

The “Five-year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities” (the Five-year Plan) and the “Ten-year Development Blueprint for Sports and Recreation Facilities” (the Ten-year Blueprint) were announced in the Policy Addresses in 2017 and 2022 respectively. The works projects to be implemented under the Five-year Plan and the Ten-year Blueprint will provide no fewer than a total of 110 badminton courts. Apart from projects under the Five-year Plan and the Ten-year Blueprint, the LCSD also works with the policy bureaux and other government departments such as the Development Bureau and the Civil Engineering and Development Department in planning and taking forward the provision of sports and recreation facilities under other works projects.

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