

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

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**(Question Serial No. 1394)**

Head: (23) Auxiliary Medical Service

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

Programme: (1) Auxiliary Medical Service

Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service (HUI Wai-kwong, Sam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. Regarding the performance measures, please advise on the reason(s) for the decrease of almost 12 000 man-hours in the centralised training from 2016 to 2017.

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 7)

Reply:

The Auxiliary Medical Service reorganized the contents of centralised training programme in 2017 by re-categorizing and re-arranging part of the training courses. Hence, there was a decrease in the man-hours of centralised training in 2017. Nonetheless, the intensity and quality of the training for members were not affected.

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**(Question Serial No. 1966)**

Head: (23) Auxiliary Medical Service

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

Programme: (1) Auxiliary Medical Service

Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service (HUI Wai-kwong, Sam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please advise on the specific measures of the Auxiliary Medical Service to enhance its volunteers' operational efficiency and emergency preparedness for infectious disease pandemic. Please also advise on the staff establishment and administrative expenses involved.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 4)

Reply:

A total of 7 officers of the Operations and Training Officer grade of the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) are responsible for the preparatory work on emergency preparedness for influenza pandemic.

The AMS's specific measures to enhance its volunteers' operational efficiency and emergency preparedness for infectious disease pandemic are as follows:

— The Health Protection Unit of the AMS participated in an inter-departmental exercise for tackling Middle East Respiratory Syndrome in December 2017 for the purpose of familiarising all its participants with the actions to be taken in an emergency operation for tackling influenza pandemic.

— The Health Protection Unit will organise 2 seminars about influenza between the fourth quarter of 2018 and the first quarter of 2019 to inform members of the latest incidence of influenza so as to well prepare for the influenza pandemic outbreak in winter every year.

— The Health Protection Unit will upload information focusing on influenza or infectious diseases to AMS's intranet website in each quarter for members' information.

— Infectious disease control courses are offered in the regular team training for each district. The courses will be held in 2018-19 in accordance with the training schedule of each district to enhance members' knowledge in infection control and infectious diseases.

— All members newly recruited in 2018-19 will receive basic training in infection control and infectious diseases in order to have adequate knowledge on infectious diseases, including that on influenza pandemic.

This aspect of work and preparations, which are regular in nature, do not require any extra resources and thus there is no breakdown of the expenditure concerned for 2018-19.

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**(Question Serial No. 2894)**

Head: (23) Auxiliary Medical Service

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

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service (HUI Wai-kwong, Sam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the provision of sign language interpretation services in the past 5 years, will your department inform this Committee of the following:

1. Whether sign language interpretation services have been provided. If yes, the frequency, occasions and causes for providing sign language interpretation services in each year;
2. Further to the above question, the number of sign language interpreters involved in each year, their pay and the organisations to which they belonged; the total expenditure involved in each year;
3. Whether your department will consider allocating more resources to improve the services for communicating with the deaf and/or persons with hearing impairment in the future. If yes, what are the details (including measures, manpower and expenditure involved and the timetable, etc.)? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 53)

Reply:

The Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) currently does not provide sign language interpretation services in its day-to-day operations. Nonetheless, if such a need arises in the future, the AMS will consider individual circumstances and arrange the relevant services for people in need.

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**(Question Serial No. 5236)**

Head: (23) Auxiliary Medical Service

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

Programme: (1) Auxiliary Medical Service

Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service (HUI Wai-kwong, Sam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the man-hours for general regular training of the Auxiliary Medical Service, please advise on the reason(s) for the increase of almost 20% from the actual number in 2017 to the target number of 240 000 in 2018 despite an increase of only 2% in the number of members attending regular training in the same period.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 630)

Reply:

The number of Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) members attending regular training in each of the past 2 years was approximately the same. The number of man-hours for general regular training in 2016 and 2017 was below the target, mainly because the AMS deployed a considerable number of members in these 2 years to cope with and support emergency services in a number of serious incidents and a number of Typhoon Signal No. 8 or above incidents. At the same time, during the winter influenza peak season in 2017, the AMS deployed members at the Accident and Emergency Departments of various hospitals to provide support. Thus, the number of man-hours concerned was unable to meet the target. The AMS will continue to closely monitor the training of the members concerned in order to make appropriate deployment and adjustments.

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**(Question Serial No. 5237)**

Head: (23) Auxiliary Medical Service

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

Programme: (1) Auxiliary Medical Service

Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service (HUI Wai-kwong, Sam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the man-hours for emergency duties of the Auxiliary Medical Service, please advise on the reason(s) for the estimate number of only 4 500 in 2018 given that the actual number exceeded 7 000 in both 2016 and 2017.

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 631)

Reply:

The man-hours of Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) members depend on the needs under the actual circumstances. In 2016 and 2017, there were a number of serious incidents and a number of Typhoon Signal No. 8 or above incidents in Hong Kong. Hence, the AMS needed to deploy a considerable number of members to stand by and provide support. At the same time, during the winter influenza peak season in 2017, at the behest of the Hospital Authority, the AMS deployed members resident at the Accident and Emergency Departments of various hospitals to provide support. As a result, the number of man-hours for emergency duties in each of the 2 years was higher than the estimates. The AMS will continue to closely monitor the demand for emergency duties and examine the condition of its members, in order to provide appropriate support and ensure the effective use of public resources.

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**(Question Serial No. 5688)**

Head: (23) Auxiliary Medical Service

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

Programme: (1) Auxiliary Medical Service

Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service (HUI Wai-kwong, Sam)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

What was the budget for the provision of decontamination training to AMS members for response to nuclear emergencies in 2018-19?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 219)

Reply:

Decontamination of radiation is a topic included in the general regular training of AMS. As such courses are part of the regular training, no breakdown on budget is available.

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