

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0965)

Head: (23) Auxiliary Medical Service
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (1) Auxiliary Medical Service
Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer (WONG Ying-keung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Under this Programme, the Auxiliary Medical Service stated that it would enhance the volunteers' operational efficiency and emergency preparedness for infectious disease pandemic; and also would provide paramedic training to cope with infectious disease prevention and control. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- a) in the light of the current epidemic haze, the details of the work effectiveness on volunteers' operational efficiency and emergency preparedness, and the plans for strengthening related work in the future; and
- b) the specific details, standards and training hours of paramedic training to be provided to cope with infectious disease prevention and control.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-por (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

a) In response to the development of the "Coronavirus Disease 2019" epidemic, as of early March, the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) has deployed a total of about 100 bodies working in three shifts per day (including responsible duty officers at the quarantine centres, escort service and headquarters support staff) to participate in the work concerned. In respect of anti-epidemic work, specific measures implemented to enhance the AMS members' operational efficiency and emergency preparedness are as follows:

— Since the beginning of the epidemic, the AMS has organised briefing sessions (each lasting for 3 hours) twice a week which are aimed at allowing all members involved in the operation to familiarise themselves with emergency work for dealing with infectious diseases. Up till mid-March, more than 1 000 members have participated in such briefing sessions.

— The AMS organised two classes (each lasting for 6 hours) of infection control course in March 2020 at which doctors and nurses would update members on the epidemic situation, infection control measures and protective equipment. A total of 80 training places were provided in the two classes.

— At the same time, the AMS also disseminates information on the epidemic situation from time to time through the dedicated page of the online social media “Facebook”, as well as the departmental online portal for all members’ information.

The AMS constantly reviews the current epidemic situation to ensure that relevant measures can meet the anti-epidemic purpose. The AMS also continues to review the effectiveness of the measures, making necessary adjustment. After the epidemic, we will review our experiences of the anti-epidemic work and roll out improvement measures to enhance members’ operational efficiency and work effectiveness.

b) New recruits will undergo elementary training courses that include 2-hour basic training on infection prevention and infectious diseases, so as to acquire knowledge of infectious diseases including influenza pandemics.

The 10-hour regular training which is organised monthly on a district basis also covers topics of infection control. The training will continue to be provided in 2020-21 according to the regular training schedule of each district, so as to deepen members' knowledge in infection control and infectious diseases.

The Health Protection Unit of the AMS also organises talks on infectious diseases / influenza every year to disseminate latest information on infectious diseases, thereby enabling members to get prepared for annual outbreaks of influenza or infectious diseases.

To enhance members' knowledge of infectious diseases, we publish feature articles on infectious diseases in our quarterly publication, entitled "Auxiliary Medical Service News".

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB870****(Question Serial No. 4867)**Head: (23) Auxiliary Medical ServiceSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (1) Auxiliary Medical ServiceControlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer (WONG Ying-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the work in relation to the Code on Access to Information, will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

1) Concerning the requests for information under the Code on Access to Information received by the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) from October 2018 to present for which only some of the required information has been provided, please state in table form: (i) the content of the requests for which only some of the required information has been provided; (ii) the reasons for providing some of the information only; (iii) whether the decision on withholding some of the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application); (iv) whether the decision on withholding some of the information was made subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)? If yes, please provide the details of how the requests have been handled eventually.

From October to December 2018

(i) Content of the requests for which only some of the required information was provided	(ii) Reasons for providing some of the information only	(iii) Whether the decision on withholding some of the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)	(iv) Whether the decision on withholding some of the information was made subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)

			Application). If yes, please provide the details.

2019

(i) Content of the requests for which only some of the required information was provided	(ii) Reasons for providing some of the information only	(iii) Whether the decision on withholding some of the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)	(iv) Whether the decision on withholding some of the information was made subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application). If yes, please provide the details.

2) Concerning the requests for information under the Code on Access to Information received by the AMS from October 2018 to present for which the required information has not been provided, please state in table form: (i) the content of the requests refused; (ii) the reasons for refusal; (iii) whether the decision on withholding the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application); (iv) whether the decision on withholding the information was made subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)? If yes, please provide the details of how the requests have been handled eventually.

From October to December 2018

(i) Content of the requests refused	(ii) Reasons for refusal	(iii) Whether the decision on withholding the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)	(iv) Whether the decision on withholding the information was made subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application). If yes, please

			provide the details.

2019

(i) Content of the requests refused	(ii) Reasons for refusal	(iii) Whether the decision on withholding the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)	(iv) Whether the decision on withholding the information was made subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application). If yes, please provide the details.

3) Any person who believes that a department has failed to comply with any provision of the Code on Access to Information may ask the department to review the situation. Please advise this Committee in each of the past 5 years, (i) the number of review cases received; (ii) the number of cases, among the review cases received in the year, in which further information was disclosed after review; (iii) whether the decisions on review were made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level.

Year in which review cases were received	(i) Number of review cases received	(ii) Number of cases, among the review cases received in the year, in which further information was disclosed after review	(iii) Whether the decisions on review were made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level
2015			
2016			
2017			
2018			
2019			

4) With reference to the target response times set out in paragraphs 1.16.1 to 1.19.1 of Guidelines on Interpretation and Application of the Code on Access to Information, please advise this Committee on the following information by year in table form (with text descriptions).

(a)

Within 10 days from date of receipt of a written request:

	Number of requests for which the information requested was provided	Number of requests involving third party information for which the information requested could not be provided	Number of requests for which the information requested could not be provided since the requests had to be transferred to another department which held the information under request	Number of requests for information which were refused under the exemption provisions in Part 2 of the Code on Access to Information	Number of applications which the applicants indicated that they did not wish to proceed with and withdrew since they did not accept the charge
2020					
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					

Within 10 to 21 days from date of receipt of a written request:

	Number of requests for which the information requested was provided	Number of requests involving third party information for which the information requested could not be provided	Number of requests for which the information requested could not be provided since the requests had to be transferred to another department which held the information under request	Number of requests for information which were refused under the exemption provisions in Part 2 of the Code on Access to Information	Number of applications which the applicants indicated that they did not wish to proceed with and withdrew since they did not accept the charge
2020					
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					

Within 21 to 51 days from date of receipt of a written request:

	Number of requests for which the information	Number of requests involving third party	Number of requests for which the information	Number of requests for information which were	Number of applications which the applicants
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	requested was provided	information for which the information requested could not be provided	requested could not be provided since the requests had to be transferred to another department which held the information under request	refused under the exemption provisions in Part 2 of the Code on Access to Information	indicated that they did not wish to proceed with and withdrew since they did not accept the charge
2020					
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					

(b) cases in which information could not be provided within 21 days from date of receipt of a request in the past 5 years:

Date	Subject of information requested	Specific reason

(c) cases in which information could not be provided within 51 days from date of receipt of a request in the past 5 years:

Date	Subject of information requested	Specific reason

5) Please state in table form the number of those, among the cases in which requests for information were refused under the exemption provisions in Part 2 of the Code on Access to Information, on which the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data was consulted when they were being handled in the past 5 years. For cases on which advice had been sought, was it fully accepted in the end? For cases where the advice of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data was not accepted or was only partially accepted, what are the reasons?

Date	Subject	Particular exemption provision in Part 2 of the Code on Access to Information under which requests for information were refused	Whether the advice of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data was fully accepted	Reasons for refusing to accept or only partially accepting the advice of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 435)

Reply:

From October 2018 to September 2019, concerning the requests for information under the Code on Access to Information received by the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS), there was only one case for which only some of the required information was provided. There was no case refused for providing information.

2. Regarding the above case for which only some of the required information was provided, the AMS refused to provide the applicant with the selection data concerning the recruitment of the Operations and Training Officer(s) according to Paragraph 2.9 "Management and operation of the public service" of the Code on Access to Information. As the nature of the case was not complicated, the decision on withholding some of the information was not made at the directorate level. The decision was made subject to the "harm or prejudice test", and the public interest in disclosure of such information did not outweigh any harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure.

3. The AMS did not receive any requests for review from 2015 to September 2019.

4. From 2016 to September 2019, the number of requests for which the information requested was provided within 10 days and 11 to 21 days from the date of the AMS's receipt of a written request were 4 and 2 respectively. Of these cases, there was only one request for information which was refused under the exemption provisions in Part 2 of the Code on Access to Information.

5. From 2016 to September 2019, there was no case in which information could not be provided within 21 days from date of receipt of a request.

6. From 2016 to September 2019, the AMS had not consulted the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data on any case in which request for information was refused.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB871

(Question Serial No. 5268)

Head: (23) Auxiliary Medical Service
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (1) Auxiliary Medical Service
Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer (WONG Ying-keung)
Director of Bureau: Not Specified

Question:

Regarding the masks for use by the department, please provide:

1. the amount of current stock;
2. the amounts of monthly stock in the past 5 years;
3. the amounts produced by the Correctional Services Department in the monthly stock in the past 5 years;
4. the expenditures incurred in the past 5 years;
5. the amounts of monthly consumption in the past 5 years;
6. the amounts of procurement in the past 5 years;
7. the amounts depleted due to storage problems in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1872)

Reply:

With the rapid surge of global demand for personal protective equipment (PPE), the SAR Government's procurement work faces keen competition. The Government opines that at this stage it is not appropriate to disclose publicly any further specific information such as the stock of PPE of individual departments from the past few years to present, sources of PPE, information about suppliers, quantity procured and the amount of money involved, delivery timetable and quantity of consumption to avoid undermining the bargaining power of the Government Logistics Department and all other departments in procuring PPE.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4521)

Head: (23) Auxiliary Medical Service

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

Programme: (1) Auxiliary Medical Service

Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer (WONG Ying-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the work performed by the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) in handling "Wuhan Pneumonia" so far in 2020, please advise on the (1) responsibilities of members deployed, (2) dates, (3) number of persons deployed, (4) work contents and details, and (5) equipment allocated to the persons deployed.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 102)

Reply:

(1) In response to the epidemic situation, the main responsibilities of the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) are to render assistance at the medical posts of the Department of Health set up in the quarantine centres, and to provide escort services for persons under quarantine to and from the quarantine centres or their homes.

(2) Since 23 January 2020, the AMS unremittingly deploys members in different positions to participate in the anti-epidemic operations each day.

(3) Up till mid-March, the AMS deployed a total of about 100 persons working in three shifts per day including responsible duty officers at the quarantine centres, escort service and headquarters support staff involved in the operation.

(4) Specific duties of the AMS members include providing escort services for persons under quarantine to and from the quarantine centres or their homes; and rendering assistance at the medical posts of the Department of Health set up in the quarantine centres by conducting body temperature checks and assessment of health conditions for the persons under quarantine.

(5) The health and safety of members is the prime concern of the AMS. We strive to ensure that all members on duty are equipped with adequate personal protective equipment such as caps, N95 masks, face shields, protective gowns, rubber gloves, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB873****(Question Serial No. 6031)**Head: (23) Auxiliary Medical ServiceSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: (1) Auxiliary Medical ServiceControlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer (WONG Ying-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

- a. Please set out the quantity, value and stock of surgical masks produced by the Correctional Services Department (CSI masks) that the Auxiliary Medical Service (the AMS) obtained from the Government Logistics Department (GLD) each month in the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	No. of CSI masks obtained	Value of CSI masks obtained	Stock of CSI masks

- b. Please set out the quantity, value, stock and consumption of surgical masks that the AMS obtained from the GLD or procured each month in the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	No. of surgical masks obtained from GLD (value)	No. of surgical masks procured (value)	Stock	Consumption

- c. Please set out the quantity, value, stock and consumption of N95 masks that the AMS obtained from the GLD or procured each month in the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	No. of N95 masks obtained from GLD (value)	No. of N95 masks procured (value)	Stock	Consumption

- d. Please set out the quantity, value, stock and consumption of gowns that the AMS obtained from the GLD or procured each month in the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	No. of gowns obtained from GLD (value)	No. of gowns procured (value)	Stock	Consumption

- e. Please set out the quantity, value, stock and consumption of protective coverall suits that the AMS obtained from the GLD or procured each month in the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	No. of protective coverall suits obtained from GLD (value)	No. of protective coverall suits procured (value)	Stock	Consumption

- f. Please set out the quantity, value, stock and consumption of face shields that the AMS obtained from the GLD or procured each month in the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	No. of face shields procured	Value of face shields procured	Stock of face shields	Consumption

- g. Please set out the quantity, value, stock and consumption of goggles that the AMS obtained from the GLD or procured each month in the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	No. of goggles procured	Value of goggles procured	Stock of goggles	Consumption

- h. Did the AMS supply or sell surgical masks, N95 masks, face shields, goggles, gowns and protective coverall suits to other organisations in the past 3 years? If yes, please provide the relevant information, including the quantity, consumption and stock, in the following table:

Month/Year	Name of organisations	Manner of provision (e.g. sold or supplied for free)	Surgical masks	N95 masks	Face shields	Goggles	Gowns	Protective coverall suits	Value

- i. If the AMS is to supply or sell surgical masks, N95 masks, face shields, goggles, gowns and protective coverall suits to other organisations, what are the departments and the ranks of the officers responsible for making such decisions? Please provide the ranks of the officers involved in each decision, the date they made the decision and other relevant information.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 120)

Reply:

- a - g. With the rapid surge of global demand for personal protective equipment (PPE), the SAR Government's procurement work faces keen competition. The Government opines that at this stage it is not appropriate to disclose publicly any further specific information such as the stock of PPE of individual departments from the past few years to present, sources of PPE, information about suppliers, quantity procured and the amount of money involved, delivery timetable and quantity of consumption to avoid undermining the bargaining power of the Government Logistics Department and all other departments in procuring PPE.
- h & i. The AMS did not supply or sell surgical masks, N95 masks, protective coverall suits, face shields and goggles to other organisations in the past 3 years.

- End -