

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB007

(Question Serial No. 0815)

Head: (151) Government Secretariat: Security Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Internal Security

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Security (Ms Carol YIP)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the estimates of the auxiliary services departments, the estimates of the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) and the Civil Aid Service (CAS) are reduced by 5.3% and 2.7% respectively against the original estimates, despite the fact that these two departments have been providing frontline services during the epidemic.

1. The expenditure of CAS is reduced mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for acquisition and replacement of equipment. What kind of equipment is it?
2. AMS's estimated number of man-hours for emergency duties (serious traffic accidents, disastrous fires, typhoons, rainstorms and major epidemics) for 2022 is lower than the actual figures in 2020 and 2021. The estimated operational expenses are reduced as well. In the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak, why are the estimates reduced instead of increased?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

1. The cash flow required by the Civil Aid Service (CAS) for acquisition and replacement of equipment decreases in 2022-23 when compared with 2021-22 mainly because the replacement of the central air-conditioning control and monitoring system of the CAS Headquarters Building was completed with the necessary fees settled in 2021.
2. The number of man-hours of the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) in respect of "emergency duties (serious traffic accidents, disastrous fires, typhoons, rainstorms and major epidemics)" is subject to the actual needs in individual years and may vary from the estimated figure. A number of typhoons hit Hong Kong in both 2020 and 2021, and, as a result, the actual man-hours spent exceeded the estimated man-hours in the respective years.

Anti-epidemic work performed by the AMS is classified under the "supplementary services" item. In 2020 and 2021, with the outbreak of the epidemic, the actual man-hours for "supplementary services" for the respective years 2020 and 2021 were

greater than the corresponding estimates. The fifth wave of the COVID-19 epidemic was in its early stage when the 2022-23 estimates were drawn up. The estimated man-hours for 2022 therefore could not fully reflect the relevant impact of the epidemic.

Besides, AMS acquired operational equipment and replaced apparatus (e.g. automated external defibrillators and communication equipment) in 2021 while there will be no such one-off operational expenses in 2022-23. Thus, the estimated total operational expenses show a decrease when compared to 2021.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB034

(Question Serial No. 0015)

Head: (23) Auxiliary Medical Service

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Auxiliary Medical Service

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Has the Government assessed the total number of duty attendances of the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) since the outbreak of the fifth wave of the epidemic in January this year? What are the emoluments, duty allowances and other kinds of allowances involved? Are the resources currently allocated to the AMS sufficient to cover the expenditure? Will the Government consider allocating more resources and increasing emoluments and different kinds of allowances for members of the AMS in order to overcome the impact of the epidemic? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

In view of the fifth wave of the epidemic, the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) has been flexibly adjusting manpower from time to time and at peak period, over 300 volunteer members and staff have been arranged daily to participate in anti-epidemic work.

Since 14 February 2020, apart from the original pay and allowances, duty volunteer members receive a special allowance of \$400. This special allowance is raised to \$600 starting from 1 February 2022 to further recognise their contribution on anti-epidemic work. The AMS will maintain close communication with other relevant bureaux and departments, and review from time to time our support measures to those participating in anti-epidemic work. The AMS does not compile any statistics on the actual expenditure on emoluments and allowances under the fifth wave of the epidemic.

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