

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1156)

Head: (23) Auxiliary Medical Service

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

Programme: (1) Auxiliary Medical Service

Controlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service (WONG Ying-keung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

There was a shortage of medical manpower in Hong Kong in the past 3 years. In order to enhance the operational efficiency and emergency preparedness of voluntary members in view of the pandemic, the Government increases the 2023/24 Budget by 3.6% year-on-year. Please advise this Committee of:

- 1) the details of increase in budget, including staff establishment, training hours and performance pledges;
- 2) the budget and budget details of providing national security education for adult members and cadet corps of the Auxiliary Medical Service.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

1) The year-on-year increase of the 2023/24 Budget by 3.6% is mainly due to the adjustments in the following items:

- In view of resumption to normalcy of society, the recruitment and training of AMS will be resumed gradually. The expenses of training and pay and allowance will therefore increase.
- The number of public events which require on-site first aid service is also expected to increase in view of resumption to normalcy of society. Moreover, the AMS will further extend its first aid bicycle service along cycling tracks, ambulance transfer service and the "Health Awareness and Promotion Programme for Youth" (HAPPY), leading to an expected rise in the related expenses.

2) The AMS prepares messages on national security education and disseminates them regularly via different channels, including publishing them in the departmental publication "Auxiliary Medical Service News", uploading them to online platforms, and compiling educational powerpoint files every quarter for unit supervisors to arrange group discussion

and sharing in regular training, with a view to enhancing the understanding and knowledge of adult members and cadet corps on national security.

Apart from including civic education and national security education in the HAPPY Programme, the Auxiliary Medical Service Cadet Corps (AMSCC) also shows its support by organising different national security education events. Since 2020, the AMSCC has organised four quizzes on the National Security Law, two thematic talks on national security education, four visits to related museums or historic and cultural monuments, etc., so as to nurture the sense of patriotism, national identity and the awareness of national security of cadet corps.

The above educational activities have been incorporated into regular training and therefore there is no extra expense involved.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB153****(Question Serial No. 1726)**Head: (23) Auxiliary Medical ServiceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Auxiliary Medical ServiceControlling Officer: Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary Medical Service (WONG Ying-keung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Ever since the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2019, the Auxiliary Medical Service has provided various types of support for the anti-epidemic work of the Government, including assisting in the management of community isolation facilities, execute restriction-testing declaration operations, carry out enforcement work in accordance with the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599), etc. What are the resources involved? For example, what are the number of deployed manpower, emoluments and expenses on overtime payment?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)Reply:

From January 2020 to February 2023, the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) shouldered the responsibility to protect public health by actively carrying out anti-epidemic work and supporting the Department of Health, the Hospital Authority and various government departments in this regard. AMS engaged in over 10 types of anti-epidemic works which mainly included escorting persons under quarantine order, carrying out evacuation operations in residential homes, supporting the operation of medical centres in 23 quarantine and isolation facilities, assisting in law enforcement work of the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation (Cap. 599J) for the first time, and handling corpses in public mortuaries during the fifth wave of the epidemic.

During the above period, the AMS deployed 1 500 volunteer members who participated in 140 000 shifts of anti-epidemic duty, reaching a total of 1.3 million service hours. The related expenses on pay and allowance are as follows:-

Year	Expenses on Pay and Allowance
2020	\$51,483,500
2021	\$57,139,047
2022	\$57,944,582

**Note: The calculation on the expenses on pay and allowance in relation to anti-epidemic work in 2023 is still in progress*

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