

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)097**

**(Question Serial No. 0605)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Donald NG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Classified as a Grade 2 historic building by the Antiquities Advisory Board, the Second Street Public Bathhouse is the only remaining pre-war public bathhouse in Hong Kong. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department plans to close it in June 2025, and it is expected that users will use the Water Street Bathhouse, which is 300 metres away, instead. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- (1) the respective utilisation rates of the Second Street Public Bathhouse and the Water Street Bathhouse in each of the past 3 years, the estimation method for such rates and the expenditures involved; and
- (2) the planned use of the Second Street Public Bathhouse after its closure in order to promote its value as a historic building.

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

- (1) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) conducted infrared sensor counting exercises to measure the utilisation rates of the Second Street Public Bathhouse and the Water Street Bathhouse in 2022 and 2024. The counting results and the expenditures on the Second Street Public Bathhouse and the Water Street Bathhouse in each of the past 3 years are provided in **Annex**.
- (2) FEHD will, in accordance with the established mechanism, invite the Antiquities and Monuments Office and the relevant government departments to consider the use of the Second Street Public Bathhouse after its closure and the suggestions put forward by interested organisations. A final decision has yet to be made.

**Table 1: Average daily utilisation rates (number of visitors) of the Second Street Public Bathhouse and the Water Street Bathhouse**

	<b>2022</b>		<b>2024</b>			
	<b>(Date of counting: 28 January to 27 February)</b>		<b>(Date of counting: 1 February to 29 February)</b>		<b>(Date of counting: 1 August to 31 August)</b>	
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Second Street Public Bathhouse	- (The utilisation rate was not measured in 2022)		44	34	77	31
Water Street Bathhouse	138	42	25	13	50	33

**Table 2: Expenditures on the Second Street Public Bathhouse and the Water Street Bathhouse in the past 3 years**

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25 (Revised estimate)</b>
Second Street Public Bathhouse (\$million)	0.20	0.26	0.28
Water Street Public Toilet and Bathhouse (\$million)	0.98	1.02	1.04

(Expenditures on the salaries of FEHD staff are not included)

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