Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27 Reply Serial No.

CSTB228

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3328)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Manda CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

There has been an increase in collision accidents involving vessels and swimmers in recent years. Given this, please advise of:

a) public beaches aside, the waters where members of the public can swim legally, so far as the whole of Hong Kong waters is concerned;

b) the current measures put in place by the Government to ensure safety of swimmers and marine stakeholders at locations with heavy vessel traffic;

c) the total number of the above accidents in Hong Kong over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

a) The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is responsible for the management of 42 gazetted public beaches within Hong Kong waters, and does not keep relevant data on waters where members of the public can swim legally apart from public beaches under its purview.

b) & c) The LCSD manages its public beaches under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) and the Bathing Beaches Regulation (Cap. 132E). Section 11(1) of the Bathing Beaches Regulation stipulates that save with the permission in writing of the LCSD, no person shall bring into or use in, the waters of any bathing beach set aside for the use of swimmers, any vessel, boat, canoe or similar craft or any surf-board or water-skis or any board designed or adapted for use in water by being propelled by wind. Lifeguards conduct patrols and monitor the activities on public beaches and in swimming areas, while beach management

personnel immediately stop unauthorised activities, if any, in a bid to safeguard the public's safety.

There have been no records of collision accidents involving vessels and swimmers on the public beaches under the LCSD over the past 3 years.

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