

# LegCo Public Accounts Committee will hold public hearing tomorrow

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will hold a public hearing on "Management of restored landfills" (Chapter 1) of the Director of Audit's Report No.70 at 9am tomorrow (May 26) in Conference Room 2 of the LegCo Complex.

Fifteen witnesses have been invited to appear before the above hearing to respond to points raised in the Report and answer questions asked by PAC members.

The programme for the public hearing is as follows:

Date: May 26 (Saturday)

Time: 9am

Venue: Conference Room 2

Subject: Management of restored landfills (Chapter 1 of the Director of Audit's Report No.70)

Witnesses:

Secretary for the Environment

Mr Wong Kam-sing

Under Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Jack Chan

Principal Assistant Secretary (Recreation and Sport)2, Home Affairs Bureau

Ms Linda Law

Director of Environmental Protection

Mr Donald Tong

Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2)

Mrs Vicki Kwok

Assistant Director (Environmental Infrastructure), Environmental Protection Department

Ms Betty Cheung

Assistant Director (Nature Conservation and Infrastructure Planning), Environmental Protection Department

Dr Samuel Chui

Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Landfills and Development), Environmental Protection Department

Mr Fong Kin-wa

Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Ms Michelle Li

Chief Executive Officer (Planning) 2, Leisure and Cultural Services

Department

Ms Linda Cheung

Director of Architectural Services

Mrs Sylvia Lam

Project Director/3, Architectural Services Department

Mr Edward Tse

Chief Project Manager 302, Architectural Services Department

Mr Chris Liu

Director of Home Affairs

Miss Janice Tse

Assistant Director (2), Home Affairs Department

Ms Eugenia Chung

PAC is chaired by Mr Abraham Shek, and its Deputy Chairman is Mr Kenneth Leung. Other members include Mr Paul Tse, Mr Steven Ho, Mr Lam Cheuk-ting, Mr Shiu Ka-fai and Ms Tanya Chan.

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## Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (May 25) released the latest grading of water quality for 37 gazetted beaches and one non-gazetted beach (Discovery Bay) that are open for swimming.

Twenty-five beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 11 as Fair (Grade 2) and two as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach

Middle Bay Beach

Chung Hom Kok Beach

Pui O Beach

Clear Water Bay Second Beach

Repulse Bay Beach

Deep Water Bay Beach

Shek O Beach

Discovery Bay	Silverstrand Beach
Golden Beach	South Bay Beach
Hap Mun Bay Beach	St Stephen's Beach
Hung Shing Yeh Beach	Stanley Main Beach
Kadoorie Beach	Tong Fuk Beach
Kiu Tsui Beach	Trio Beach
Kwun Yam Beach	Turtle Cove Beach
Lo So Shing Beach	Upper Cheung Sha Beach
Lower Cheung Sha Beach	

Grade 2 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach	Casam Beach
Approach Beach	Castle Peak Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach	Clear Water Bay First Beach
Butterfly Beach	Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Cafeteria New Beach	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	

Grade 3 beaches are:

Lido Beach	Ting Kau Beach
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Compared with the grading released last week, Golden Beach, Kadoorie Beach, Pui O Beach, Shek O Beach and Stanley Main Beach have been upgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 1, and Anglers' Beach, Approach Beach, Casam Beach, Hoi Mei Wan Beach and Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach from Grade 3 to Grade 2.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

While the ratings represent the general water quality at the beaches, the EPD spokesman reminded members of the public that water quality could be temporarily affected during and after periods of heavy rain. Bathers should avoid swimming at beaches for up to three days after a storm or heavy rainfall.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. The latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the department's websites on Beach Water Quality ([www.beachwq.gov.hk](http://www.beachwq.gov.hk) and [www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach](http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach)) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.

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## **Demand notes for Government rent issued**

The Lands Department has issued demand notes for Government rent in excess of \$100 per annum for the half year ending June 24 in respect of properties subject to the Government Leases Ordinance (Chapter 40) and certain other properties.

Payers can settle Government rent through various electronic means including autopay, bank automated teller machines (ATMs), e-Cheque/e-Cashier's Order, payment by phone service (PPS), and bill payment services provided by banks and PPS on the Internet. Payment may also be made in person and in cash at designated convenience stores. For details, please visit the Treasury's website at [www.try.gov.hk](http://www.try.gov.hk).

Payment may be made by sending a crossed cheque to PO Box No. 28000, Gloucester Road Post Office, Hong Kong, or in person at any post office. Please ensure sufficient mailing time and postage to make delivery in order. Underpaid mails will be rejected. For locations of post offices and their opening hours, please call Hongkong Post's enquiry hotline on 2921 2222 or visit Hongkong Post's website at [www.hongkongpost.hk](http://www.hongkongpost.hk).

Government rent payers who have not received their demand notes should enquire at the Government Rent and Premium Unit of the Lands Department at 1/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong. Enquiries can also be made at 2231 3033.

Purchasers of properties are strongly advised to instruct their solicitors to ensure that Government rent has been paid to date at the time of purchase. Enquiries on outstanding accounts can be made at 2231 3033. An enquiry fee is payable for each property if a written confirmation of accounts position is needed.

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## **EMSD releases latest lift maintenance cost information of private residential and commercial premises**

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) today (May 25) released the latest maintenance cost information on lifts in private

residential and commercial premises for public reference.

The EMSD had earlier engaged an independent consultant to conduct a sampling survey on the maintenance costs of lifts in private residential and commercial buildings in Hong Kong. The consultant analysed the data provided by around 7,700 questionnaires collected, and calculated the average monthly maintenance costs of the lifts as follows:

Private Residential Buildings			
Lift travel level	Rated speed of lift	Average monthly lift maintenance cost	Change as compared with last survey (Note 1)
1 to 15	≤ 1.0m/s	\$3,824	+0.0%
	> 1.0m/s	\$4,468	+0.5%
16 to 25	≤ 1.5m/s	\$4,064	+1.5%
	> 1.5m/s	\$5,277	+2.2%
26 to 35	≤ 1.75m/s	\$5,199	+2.0%
	> 1.75m/s	\$6,717	+3.0%
More than 35	≤ 2.5m/s	\$7,690	+0.6%
	> 2.5m/s	\$8,716	+1.0%

Private Commercial Buildings			
Lift travel level	Rated speed of lift	Average monthly lift maintenance cost	Change as compared with last survey (Notes 1 and 2)
1 to 15	≤ 1.5m/s	\$4,767	+0.5%
	> 1.5m/s	\$6,834	+0.6%
16 to 25	≤ 2.0m/s	\$5,877	+0.4%
	> 2.0m/s	\$9,096	+0.2%
26 to 35	≤ 3.0m/s	\$7,984	+0.3%
	> 3.0m/s	\$11,958	-2.4%
More than 35	≤ 3.5m/s	\$11,626	+2.6%
	> 3.5m/s	\$16,865	-4.0%

The cost information is available in the Responsible Persons' Corner on the EMSD's website ([www.emsd.gov.hk/en/lifts\\_and\\_escalators\\_safety/responsible\\_persons\\_corner/index.html](http://www.emsd.gov.hk/en/lifts_and_escalators_safety/responsible_persons_corner/index.html)). The EMSD will update it on a half-yearly basis.

In choosing registered lift contractors, the responsible persons of lifts are advised to make reference to the materials published in the Responsible Persons' Corner in addition to the price factor. The materials include:

- \* performance ratings of registered contractors;
- \* sample contracts for procurement of lift maintenance services;
- \* a guidebook for persons responsible for lifts;
- \* guidelines for selection of registered contractors for provision of maintenance services;
- \* guidelines for modernisation of existing lifts;
- \* guidelines for management of lift maintenance works;
- \* a checklist for building management staff to conduct daily safety inspection of lifts; and
- \* common questions and answers on lift management.

Note 1: The above price figures were updated on March 31, 2018, whereas the previous price figures were updated six months ago on September 30, 2017.

Note 2: As there are very few lifts with travel of more than 35 levels and rated speed of 3.5m/s or less, the surveyed price obtained through sampling of lifts in this group is prone to higher fluctuation.

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## **Dedicated Funding Programme for Publicly-funded Schools set up and 2018/19 priority themes of Quality Education Fund announced**

The following is issued on behalf of the Quality Education Fund Steering Committee:

The Chairman of the Quality Education Fund (QEF) Steering Committee, Dr Gordon Tsui, today (May 25) announced the direction of the QEF, including the setting up of the Dedicated Funding Programme for Publicly-funded Schools with the QEF allocating \$3 billion as proposed in the 2018-19 Budget, and the 11 priority themes for the 2018/19 QEF applications.

Dr Tsui said that since its introduction in 1998, the QEF, in line with the education development and policies of Hong Kong, had been striving to enhance the quality of school education and promote quality education. The QEF organises professional development activities, establishes quality school networks, and shares fruitful results with the education sector, with a view to facilitating professional exchanges and promoting a culture of quality education.

He added that the QEF Steering Committee had made a proactive response to the Government's suggestion in the Budget earlier and decided to allocate \$3 billion for the setting up of the Dedicated Funding Programme for Publicly-funded Schools for schools to launch school-based curriculum

development and support measures for students, as well as relevant school campus improvement works and procurement of supplies. This measure will be applicable to all publicly funded primary and secondary schools, including schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS), special schools, and the kindergartens under the New Kindergarten Education Scheme. It is a four-year programme starting from the 2018/19 school year. The first call for application will be made from July this year. To simplify the application procedures, the QEF has designed a designated application form and will upload examples to the QEF website for schools' reference.

"The QEF hopes that the programme would better assist schools to launch school-based pilot or improvement projects to enhance learning and teaching as well as student support measures. The QEF Steering Committee agreed to set a total indicative value for each school from the primary and secondary schools sector and the kindergarten sector for reference purposes only. The indicative value of projects from the kindergarten sector is \$500,000 and that of projects from the primary and secondary schools sectors (including special and DSS schools) is \$2 million. By making reference to the total indicative values, each school may apply for one or more projects in the four school years. The total indicative values are intended to enable schools to plan ahead in preparing their budgets, and should not be taken as absolute ceiling amounts or a grant of a fixed value provided to schools. Simplified procedures have been designed for this dedicated funding programme to reduce the workload of schools in the application process," Dr Tsui said.

In addition, the QEF will continue to provide 11 priority themes, covering the areas of "Learning and Teaching", "Support for Students and School Ethos" and "Management and Organisations". Elaboration on the respective priority themes is given to facilitate the preparation of proposals.

The 11 priority themes for 2018/19 are:

Areas	Priority Themes
Learning and Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Catering for Learners' Diversity</li> <li>* Effective Learning and Teaching of Languages               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Enhancing Learning and Teaching, and Assessment Literacy with a view to Enhancing Student Learning Outcomes in Primary General Studies, Key Learning Areas/Subject Curricula and Liberal Studies</li> <li>* Using e-Learning (IT) for Effective Learning</li> <li>* Values Education</li> <li>* Creative Arts and Culture Education</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Support for Students and School Ethos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Healthy Lifestyle and Positive Students and Development of Students</li> <li>* Support for Students with Diverse Needs               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Promoting Whole-person Development among Kindergarten Children</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Management and  
Organisation

- \* Supporting Effective School Organisations  
Management and Leadership
- \* Teacher Development and Wellness for  
Promoting Schools as Learning Organisations

The QEF will continue to enhance communication and partnership with various stakeholders to create and share successful QEF project experiences. In addition to implementing the QEF Thematic Networks for knowledge transfer and sustainable professional development of teachers, the QEF has expanded the scope of the Thematic Networks to include initiatives which, not funded by the QEF, have been implemented in schools with good effect, in order to promote professional exchange and collaboration over quality education and benefit more schools.

To familiarise potential applicants with the application procedures of the Dedicated Funding Programme for Publicly-funded Schools and the priority themes, the QEF Secretariat will hold briefing sessions for the applicants of the following groups:

- \* kindergartens (June 1, am)
- \* primary schools, special schools and school sponsoring bodies (June 4, am)
- \* secondary schools, special schools and school sponsoring bodies (June 4, pm)
- \* tertiary education institutions (June 8, am)
- \* non-government organisations (June 13, am)

Details of the application procedures will be uploaded to the QEF website ([qef.org.hk](http://qef.org.hk)) on May 29. Apart from briefing sessions, the QEF Secretariat will organise regular proposal-writing workshops and individual consultation sessions for prospective applicants pertaining to the preparation of proposals. The public can make reference to proposals of funded projects via the QEF Cyber Resource Centre ([qcrc.qef.org.hk](http://qcrc.qef.org.hk)).

QEF deliverables, such as teaching and learning resources, can be purchased by mail or online at the QEF website and Hong Kong Education City ([www.hkedcity.net](http://www.hkedcity.net)). The QEF has also identified good projects for developing electronic deliverables with interactive functions to facilitate self-directed learning. So far, over 100 sets of electronic deliverables have been developed. The public can access these deliverables via the QEF Cyber Resource Centre and Hong Kong Education City.