

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

TLB044

(Question Serial No. 1281)

Head: (100) Marine Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Local Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Marine (Mr S.F. WONG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Logistics

Question:

Under the influence of the global economy, river trade cargo vessel arrivals dropped from 48 700 in 2022 to 43 300 in 2023 according to the indicator. Due to insufficient cargo throughput, river barges are unable to enjoy the buy-five-get-five-free discount on the Multiple Entry Permit offered by the Government, which is valid for 1 month. In this connection, will the Government consider changing the buy-five-get-five-free discount to buy-two-get-two-free? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons? What is the estimated expenditure involved in conducting port formalities for river trade vessels by the Government?

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

The Transport and Logistics Bureau promulgated the Action Plan on Maritime and Port Development Strategy on 20 December 2023, setting out 10 strategies and 32 specific action measures in 4 directions to support the sustainable development needs of the maritime and port industry of Hong Kong, including the action measure on enhancing the port's competitiveness and attracting more cargo vessels to operate in Hong Kong. In this connection, we will commence and complete a review in 2024 on the permit fees that are imposed on river trade vessels.

As the resources involved in the above work have been subsumed under the general operating expenditure, the Marine Department does not maintain a breakdown of the relevant figures.

- End -