

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****TLB230****(Question Serial No. 3458)**

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:

In recent years, some people have brought in electric surfboards from abroad to play in different waters in various districts in Hong Kong. Some people have even taken this opportunity to offer courses on electric surfboards, with charging fees ranging from several hundred dollars to several thousand dollars per hour. However, it is stipulated in the law that the use of electric surfboards must be licensed and covered by third party insurance, otherwise it is a contravention of the law. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the respective numbers of persons who were warned or prosecuted for the unauthorised use of electric surfboards in the waters of Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years;
2. the number of complaints received by the Marine Department (MD) about the unauthorised use of electric surfboards in the waters of Hong Kong in the past 3 years;
3. the current number of electric surfboards in Hong Kong that have obtained a licence under the law; and whether surfboard players are required to obtain any vessel operating licence;
4. whether MD has imposed any additional requirements on instructors who intend to offer fee-charging training courses on electric surfboards.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

1. The number of successful prosecutions instituted by the Marine Department (MD) against the unauthorised use of electric surfboards in the waters of Hong Kong in the past 3 years (2022 to 2024) is tabulated as follows:

2022	2023	2024
1	0	0*

\* There is 1 case in 2024 that has been set down for trial.

2. The number of complaints received by MD about the use of electric surfboards in the waters of Hong Kong in the past 3 years (2022 to 2024) is tabulated as follows:

2022	2023	2024
8	1	0

3. According to the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap. 548), all vessels used exclusively for pleasure purposes and installed with an engine are required to obtain a local licence. As the manoeuvring or operation mode of electric surfboards poses a danger to their operators and other port users, MD will not issue licences for electric surfboards due to marine personnel and port safety considerations. The use of electric surfboards is therefore prohibited in the waters of Hong Kong.
4. MD reiterates that the use of electric surfboards is prohibited in the waters of Hong Kong. If any person is found using an electric surfboard during MD's patrols, MD will take enforcement action and institute prosecution in accordance with the established procedures as no licence for local vessel has been issued.

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