

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**TLB017**

**(Question Serial No. 2406)**

Head: (60) Highways Department

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

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (YAU Kwok-ting)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Logistics

Question:

The Highways Department established the Northern Metropolis Railways Office (NMRO) to assist in the implementation of railway projects related to the Northern Metropolis.

1. What are the details of the work undertaken by the NMRO in 2023-24?
2. What are the details of the work anticipated to be undertaken by the NMRO and the implementation timetable of the railway projects in 2024-25?
3. What are the differences and similarities in the division of work and functions between the NMRO and the other government departments that supervise the railway projects? and
4. Please list by rank the respective staff establishments (including permanent posts and supernumerary posts), the numbers of posts and the salary expenditures of the NMRO and the other government departments that supervise the railway projects.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

1. and 2. The Highways Department (HyD) established the Northern Metropolis Railways Office (NMRO) in 2023-24 to coordinate and implement the railway projects in relation to the Northern Metropolis. The details of the projects are tabulated below:

<b>Railway projects</b>	<b>Summary of implementation status</b>
1. Kwu Tung Station	The construction works commenced in 2023 for completion in 2027.
2. Hung Shui Kiu Station	The detailed planning and design is substantially completed. The construction works are anticipated to commence in 2024 for completion in 2030.

<b>Railway projects</b>	<b>Summary of implementation status</b>
3. Northern Link Main Line	The detailed planning and design is underway. The construction works are anticipated to commence in 2025 for completion in 2034.
4. Northern Link Spur Line	We are proactively taking forward the relevant planning works with the Shenzhen side. The detailed planning and design is anticipated to commence in 2024.
5. Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link (Hung Shui Kiu - Qianhai)	The First Stage Study established the strategic value and necessity of the project, as well as formulated a preliminary feasible scheme. The Second Stage Study, including planning of the railway scheme, preliminary engineering feasibility, benefits, environmental impact analysis, etc., is anticipated to complete in 2024.

3. Currently, the Railway Development Office (RDO) and NMRO of HyD are responsible for the planning of Hong Kong's railway development and overseeing the implementation of new railway projects. The NMRO is responsible for coordinating and implementing the railway projects in relation to the Northern Metropolis. The RDO is responsible for carrying out studies and formulating plans for the further development of the railway network to cater for the sustainable social, economic, land and housing developments of Hong Kong, and to coordinate and implement other railway projects outside the Northern Metropolis.

4. The establishment of NMRO and RDO as at 1 March 2024 are as follows:

NMRO:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>No. of permanent posts</b>	<b>No. of time-limited posts</b>
Directorate	1	3*
Professional Grade	16	18
Technical Grade	4	-
General Grade	1	2

\* Supernumerary directorate posts

The salary expenditure of NMRO in 2024-25 (in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value) is approximately \$50 million.

RDO:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>No. of permanent posts</b>	<b>No. of time-limited posts</b>
Directorate	6	1*
Professional Grade	71	21
Technical Grade	27	-
General Grade	31	1

\* Supernumerary directorate post

The salary expenditure of RDO in 2024-25 (in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value) is approximately \$150 million.

- End -