

Hon Mrs Selina CHOW to ask on 21/05/08

Since 2003, the Government has adopted new measures in respect of the tendering arrangements for petrol filling station ("PFS") sites, which include putting up existing PFS sites for tender upon the expiry of their leases instead of having the tenancy renewed automatically, and putting up PFS sites for tender in batches, as well as allowing tenderers to submit a single bid for all the sites in a tender, with a view to facilitating new market players in acquiring a commercially viable number of sites to achieve economy of scale. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

1. in the past three years, of the respective numbers of PFS sites which had been put up for tender in the market or resumed by the authorities for alternative planning upon the expiry of their original leases;
2. of the average time gap between expiry of the original lease and commencement of a new one in respect of the PFS sites put up for tender referred to in (a); and
3. whether the authorities have assessed the effectiveness of the above new tendering arrangements in enhancing competition in the local auto-fuel retail market?

Public Officer to reply : **Secretary for the Environment**