

LCQ9: Issuance of Hong Kong identity cards

Following is a question by the Hon Leung Yiu-chung and a written reply by the Secretary for Security, Mr John Lee, in the Legislative Council today (December 5):

Question 145

Regarding the issuance of Hong Kong identity cards by the Immigration Department, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) of the respective numbers of Hong Kong Permanent Identity Cards (HKPICs) and Hong Kong Identity Cards issued in the past decade, with a breakdown by the applicants' gender and the age group (i.e. aged (i) below 16, (ii) 16 to 24, (iii) 25 to 40, (iv) 41 to 64 and (v) 65 or above) to which they belonged when they applied for the identity cards; and

(2) of a breakdown, by the following circumstances of issuance, of the number of HKPICs issued in the past decade:

(i) permanent residents applying for the first time upon reaching the age of 11;

(ii) permanent residents applying for a replacement card upon reaching the age of 18;

(iii) Chinese citizens, who had met the eligibility criteria for application as they had ordinarily resided in Hong Kong for a continuous period of not less than seven years, applying for the first time;

(iv) non-Chinese citizens, who had met the eligibility criteria for application as they had ordinarily resided in Hong Kong for a continuous period of not less than seven years and had taken Hong Kong as their place of permanent residence, applying for the first time;

(v) children under the age of 11 applying in connection with their applications for a Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Passport;

(vi) cardholders applying for a replacement card because their cards were lost, destroyed, damaged or defaced;

(vii) cardholders applying for a replacement card because they had changed the registered particulars on their cards; and

(viii) applications made in other circumstances, with a breakdown of such number by the 10 most common circumstances?

Reply:

President,

(1) According to the records of the Immigration Department (ImmD), the numbers of Hong Kong Permanent Identity Cards (HKPICs) and Hong Kong Identity Cards (HKICs) issued (Note 1) in the past 10 years are tabulated below:

Year	HKPICs				HKICs			
	Persons aged 18 or above	Persons aged 11 to 17	Persons aged under 11 (Note 2)	Sub-total	Persons aged 18 or above	Persons aged 11 to 17	Persons aged under 11 (Note 2)	Sub-total
2008	269 817	88 483	53 247	411 547	148 260	16 925	0	165 185
2009	241 200	80 440	63 150	384 790	150 308	16 284	0	166 592
2010	247 064	75 910	70 974	393 948	156 466	15 932	0	172 398
2011	238 933	74 869	74 666	388 468	164 940	15 216	0	180 156
2012	265 488	71 450	82 429	419 367	179 965	13 789	0	193 754
2013	254 858	71 428	78 014	404 300	166 719	12 647	0	179 366
2014	233 343	66 239	77 679	377 261	168 149	12 712	0	180 861
2015	237 944	66 356	86 690	390 990	167 412	12 077	0	179 489
2016	240 585	70 062	83 896	394 543	177 651	14 849	0	192 500
2017	231 912	76 930	78 665	387 507	177 581	14 348	0	191 929
2018 (January to October)	186 182	69 262	63 134	318 578	153 005	11 476	0	164 481

ImmD has not maintained other breakdown figures mentioned in the question.

(2) The numbers of HKPICs which ImmD issued to persons aged 18 or above, persons aged 11 to 17, and persons aged under 11; and the numbers of HKPICs ImmD issued for replacement due to loss, destruction, damage or defacement of cards or changes of registered particulars on the cards in the past 10 years are tabulated below:

Year	HKPICs				
	Persons aged 18 or above (Note 3)	Persons aged 11 to 17 (Note 3)	Persons aged under 11 (Note 2 & 3)	Due to loss, destruction, damage or defacement or changes of registered particulars	Sub-total
2008	151 068	74 963	51 842	133 674	411 547
2009	128 091	67 244	61 512	127 943	384 790

2010	120 956	62 175	69 038	141 779	393 948
2011	120 954	63 333	72 401	131 780	388 468
2012	130 276	58 741	79 990	150 360	419 367
2013	106 714	56 131	74 957	166 498	404 300
2014	99 015	54 920	74 356	148 970	377 261
2015	91 165	54 568	83 118	162 139	390 990
2016	82 496	59 499	80 671	171 877	394 543
2017	76 742	66 187	75 145	169 433	387 507
2018 (January to October)	60 157	60 137	59 827	138 457	318 578

ImmD has not maintained other breakdown figures mentioned in the question.

Note 1: Including identity cards issued due to loss, destruction, damage or defacement, registration of identity cards for persons who have attained the age of 11 and 18, and replacement of identity cards due to changes of registered particulars, etc.

Note 2: Under the Registration of Persons Regulations, children under the age of 11 are not required to register for an identity card unless the children are Hong Kong permanent residents who need to apply for HKPICs in connection with their applications for Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passports.

Note 3: Excluding HKPICs issued due to loss, destruction, damage or defacement or changes of registered particulars.