

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(W)090**

**(Question Serial No. 1674)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Will the Government provide the following information:

- (1) How many reports of discovery of relics/archaeological features/archaeological sites during construction were received by the Government in the past two years and what are the project names? Please provide information on the occasions where construction works were suspended pending site visits or conservation recommendations by the Government. Please provide details of these cases.
- (2) In the past two years, did the Government detect any cases where reports were not made or site visits not being arranged? Did any of these cases cause damage to the relics/archaeological features as a result? If so, please give the details.
- (3) Are there any plans for reviewing the existing notification mechanism, including the strengthening of establishment to step up the monitoring and advisory work related to conservation? If so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuen-han (Member Question No. 26)

Reply:

- (1) In the past two years, a total of six reports on discovery of archaeological features during construction works have been received by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO). Amongst the six reports, one is related to a "replacement and rehabilitation of water mains" project and the other five are related to the construction of Sung Wong Toi Station of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) project. Only the works covering an area of about 100 square meters around Well J2 of the SCL project were suspended pending a conservation proposal for the well.
- (2) There was no such case in the past two years.

- (3) Since 2012, the notification system for reporting archaeological discoveries to the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) has been enhanced. AMO will report archaeological discoveries to AAB through submitting progress reports, arranging site visits and making presentations. AMO will also submit the relevant sections on archaeology in the environment impact assessment reports concerned to AAB. Furthermore, once AMO has been notified of archaeological discoveries identified through development projects and has completed a preliminary assessment of the heritage value of such discoveries, AMO will inform AAB as soon as possible before informing the project proponent/archaeologist concerned of the agreed preservation method. As the notification system has been operating smoothly in providing AAB with an early opportunity to be kept informed of major archaeological discoveries so that AAB can render advice as appropriate, there is no plan now to review the existing notification mechanism.

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