

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 3890)

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:

How many reports of discovery of relics/archaeological features/archaeological sites during construction were received by the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) in the past two years? Please provide information on the occasions where construction works were suspended pending site visits or conservation recommendations by the AAB. Please provide details of these cases. If there are cases where reports were not made or site visits not being arranged for the AAB, what were the reasons? Will the Government review the existing notification mechanism so that the AAB could advise on more projects? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 384)

Reply:

In the past two years, a total of six reports on the discovery of archaeological features during construction works have been submitted to the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO). Of those 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. There has been no such case that a notification was not received or a site visit not arranged for AAB in the past two years.

Since 2012, an enhanced notification system for reporting archaeological discoveries to AAB has been in place. 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 it 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 mechanism.

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