

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)074

(Question Serial No. 2683)

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:

As for the present staff of the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO), what are the ratios among civil service contract staff, non-civil service contract staff and outsourced contract staff? Some opine that there is a shortage of manpower for conducting research and collecting historical information in AMO. Will the Government increase the relevant estimates for 2017-18? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (Member Question No. 29)

Reply:

The establishment of the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) was 72 as at 1 April 2016. It is expected that this figure will increase to 98 on 1 April 2017 and to 104 on 1 April 2018 because of the conversion of non-civil service contract (NCSC) positions to civil service posts. As a result, AMO's estimated provision for personal emoluments and personnel-related expenses will increase from \$38.78 million in 2016-17 to \$55.88 million in 2017-18. The office's existing ratio of civil servants to NCSC staff stands at 1:0.4. Owing to the above-mentioned conversion, the ratio is expected to become 1:0.35 on 1 April 2017 and 1:0.19 on 1 April 2018. In addition, AMO is supported by contractors in the management, security and cleansing of the heritage centres/monuments/historic buildings under its purview.

In AMO, research and collection of historical information is undertaken by professional staff equipped with the required knowledge and skills. We will constantly review AMO's establishment and manpower requirements in the light of changing operational needs.