

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)165

(Question Serial No. 3572)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums
Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please provide the details of and expenditure on the support provided to the Antiquities Authority on matters relating to the preservation and conservation of built heritage and the secretariat support provided to the Antiquities Advisory Board in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 209)

Reply:

The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department is the executive arm of the Antiquities Authority (AA). It provides professional advice and support to AA on declaration and conservation of monuments under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53). AMO also provides secretariat and executive support to the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) in conserving places of historical and archaeological interest. In discharging its functions, AMO conducts studies and research on built heritage and presents the findings to AAB to facilitate discussions on historic buildings' grading and heritage impact assessments concerning proposed development works. With AMO's support, AAB has endorsed 11 heritage impact assessment reports, graded 56 historic buildings (including "nil grade") and advised AA on the declaration of ten monuments in the past three financial years.

The Commissioner for Heritage's Office (CHO) under the Development Bureau is responsible for taking forward a series of initiatives on built heritage conservation, including providing policy support and guidance to AMO in this regard.

As far as AMO is concerned, the cost incurred in providing professional support to AA and AAB has been absorbed in the existing resource allocation for AMO. The recurrent expenditures (including staff cost, departmental expenses and recurrent subventions) of AMO in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 were \$83.75 million, \$94.84 million and \$107.08 million respectively. The expenditures of CHO during the corresponding period were \$46.4 million, \$47.6 million and \$53.8 million.

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