

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)166

(Question Serial No. 5789)

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:

Regarding the status of historic buildings in the past 5 years, please provide information on the following:

- (1) The number of graded buildings (Grades 1, 2 and 3) demolished.
- (2) The number of demolished buildings which are pending grading assessment under the list of 1 444 historic buildings.
- (3) With regard to the demolished buildings mentioned above, did the Antiquities Advisory Board proactively liaise with the owners for their preservation before demolition? If so, please state the details. If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 47)

Reply:

- (1) & (2) Under the list of 1 444 historic buildings and the list of new items for grading assessment, 28 buildings have been demolished. Details are set out below:

<u>Grading Status</u>	<u>Number of Buildings Demolished</u>
Grade 1	1
Grade 2 or Proposed Grade 2	6
Grade 3 or Proposed Grade 3	21
Total:	28

- (3) The current grading system for historic buildings is administrative in nature, which provides an objective basis for determining the heritage value, and hence the preservation need, of historic buildings in Hong Kong. The Government has established an internal mechanism to monitor any demolition of/alterations to declared monuments/proposed monuments or graded buildings/buildings

proposed to be graded. Under the mechanism, the Buildings Department, Lands Department and Planning Department will alert the Commissioner for Heritage's Office (CHO) of the Development Bureau and the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to any identified possible threat which may affect privately owned sites of archaeological interest, and monuments and historic buildings that have been brought to the departments' attention through applications and enquiries received or in the normal course of duty such as regular inspections. The monitoring mechanism enables CHO and AMO to take timely follow-up action with the private owners to explore conservation options.

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