

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)156

(Question Serial No. 5607)

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:

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 three years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 138)

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 the 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 the AAB to facilitate its discussions about historic buildings' grading and heritage impact assessments concerning proposed development works. With AMO's support, the AAB has endorsed nine heritage impact assessment reports, graded 122 historic buildings (including "nil grade") and advised the AA on the declaration of nine monuments and one proposed monument in the past three financial years. The recurrent expenditures of AMO in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 were \$94.84 million, \$94.80 million and \$107.82 million respectively.

The Commissioner for Heritage's Office (CHO) under the Development Bureau is responsible for formulating the Government's policy on built heritage conservation and overseeing its implementation, including providing policy guidance to AMO. The expenditures of CHO in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 were \$47.63 million, \$51.89 million and \$61.86 million respectively.