

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****DEVB(W)109****(Question Serial No. 3273)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Heritage & Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Mrs. Betty FUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 38):

Regarding the conservation of historic buildings,

1. what is the estimated expenditure of the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) for 2014-15 and how does it compare with that for 2013-14?
2. the assessment of 1 444 historic buildings has not been completed and it is known that a total of 202 buildings have been referred to the AMO for the assessment of their historical significance. When is the work expected to be completed? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

1. The estimated expenditures of the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) for 2013-14 and 2014-15 are \$111.4 million and \$126.7 million respectively.
2. Since 2009, the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) has been processing the grading of the 1 444 historic buildings. As the assessment and grading process involves lengthy discussions with the owners/stakeholders (e.g. seeking clarification on the status of the buildings, handling objections), the AAB has not set a specific deadline for the completion of the grading exercise. In February 2013, the AAB further decided that assessment of the 202 new items would be processed alongside the remaining buildings on the list of 1 444 buildings. As at March 2014, the AAB has finalised the grading of 1 292 buildings, including 1 241 from the original list of 1 444 buildings and 51 from the 202 new items. The cost incurred in the grading of historic buildings has been absorbed in the annual provision for the AMO, which provides executive support to the AAB.

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