

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

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Question Serial No.

5327

Head: 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In the past five years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2012-13), maintenance and related conservation costs were incurred by the grading of historic buildings. Please provide a detailed breakdown of these conservation-related costs and state the expenditure involved. How many graded historic buildings were involved? What is the estimated expenditure on the conservation of graded buildings for the coming year? How many buildings will be involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

Grading of historic buildings is an administrative system and exercise conducted by the Antiquities Advisory Board to indicate the heritage value of buildings. The grading exercise itself does not incur conservation and maintenance costs.

The Development Bureau has launched the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme (FAS) since 2008 under which owners of privately-owned graded historic buildings can apply for financial assistance to repair and maintain their properties. Each approved application will be given a grant of not more than \$1 million with payment made on reimbursement basis.

The vote for the FAS is controlled by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. The expenditures for repair and maintenance of privately-owned graded historic buildings under the FAS in the past five years are as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$'000)
2008-2009	0
2009-2010	1,206
2010-2011	3,788
2011-2012	2,826
2012-2013	3,913

The estimated expenditure for providing financial assistance under this scheme in 2013-14 is around \$6 million.

Since launching the FAS in 2008, the Development Bureau has approved 27 applications for repair and maintenance of privately-owned graded historic buildings and it is anticipated that six further applications will be approved in 2013-14.

Name in block letters: Mrs. BETTY FUNG
Post Title: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services
Date: 5 April 2013