

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

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

Reply Serial No.

**DEVB(PL)100**

Question Serial No.

3111

Head : 82 Buildings Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the implementation and monitoring of the Minor Works Control System (MWCS),

- (1) As at the end of February 2011, how many contractors or workers have registered themselves as Registered Minor Works Contractor (Company) and Registered Minor Works Contractor (Individual) under the MWCS? Please provide a breakdown of the figures.
- (2) Of the 36 000 minor works submissions estimated to be received in 2011, which types of minor works will be involved ; and what is the average cost of works for each type? Of the 1 000 household minor works items validated, which Classes of minor works will be involved; and what is the average cost of works for each Class?
- (3) How is the progress of the web-based system for retrieval of the minor works records, and what is the estimated cost involved per annum? Will the Government consider making the system available to the public for free retrieval of the information concerned?

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

- (1) The breakdown of the number of registered minor works contractors as at 28 February 2011 is as follows:
  - a) Registered minor works contractors (Company) : 228
  - b) Registered minor works contractors (Provisional) : 1 853
  - c) Registered minor works contractors (Individual) : 2 258

- (2) Under the minor works control system, the 118 items of minor works are classified into three classes (i.e. Class I, Class II and Class III minor works) according to their scale, complexity and risk to safety. Regarding the estimate of 36 000 minor works submissions in 2011, the numbers of Class I, Class II and Class III submission are 600, 6 600 and 28 800 respectively. As each Class contains items of various nature, types and scales, the Buildings Department (BD) has no estimates on the average cost for each Class.

The household minor works items that are eligible for validation include unauthorised supporting structures for air-conditioning units or water cooling towers, unauthorised metal supporting frames for air-conditioning units, unauthorised drying racks and unauthorised canopies. The validation scheme applies only to such structures that were erected before 31 December 2010. While making an application for validation to the BD is free of charge, the costs for carrying out the inspection and reinforcement works required for the validation may vary significantly as they depend on the nature of the works involved. In general, the cost for such inspections (excluding the costs of any scaffoldings) can be in the range of \$200 per item to around \$1,000 per item, while the reinforcement works (excluding the costs of any scaffoldings) may generally cost \$300 to \$1,500 per item.

- (3) The web-based system for retrieval and viewing of the minor works records was launched on 31 December 2010. The estimated operation cost for the system in 2011-12 is \$0.3 million. In accordance with the user-pay principle, users of the system are required to pay the prescribed fees which are determined on a full cost recovery basis. All fees and charges under the BD will follow the above principle applicable to the provision of general Government services.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters     AU Choi-kai    

Post Title     Director of Buildings    

Date     17.3.2011