

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

DEVB(PL)123

Question Serial No.

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

3189

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the estimates of expenditure of the information technology management unit of the Buildings Department (BD):

- a. What is the estimated expenditure for 2011-12? What is the percentage change compared with the actual expenditure for 2010-11? What account for this percentage change in expenditure?
- b. What specific initiatives are involved in the estimates of expenditure for 2011-12? Which of them are ongoing and new initiatives respectively? What are the staff number, cost and implementation timetable of each initiative? Among the staff involved, how many of them are civil servants, non-civil service contract staff and staff of outsourced services respectively?
- c. Whether funds have been reserved for promoting e-engagement and public sector information access? If so, what are the specific details, including the titles and particulars of the initiatives, the manpower and cost involved, and the implementation timetable? If not, what are the reasons and will consideration be given to introducing the initiatives in the future?
- d. What are the permanent establishment and the number of existing staff and vacancies of the information technology unit? Is manpower expected to increase in the coming year? If so, how many additional posts will be created? What ranks will be involved? Will they be permanent posts? Will the staff concerned be appointed on civil service terms? If there will be no increase in manpower, what are the reasons?
- e. Has there been any comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the information technology unit? If so, what are the results and the specific improvement measures involved? If not, what are the reasons and will a review be conducted in the future?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply :

(a) The estimated expenditure of the Information Technology Unit (ITU) of the Buildings Department (BD) in 2011-12 is \$26.8 million which is 7% less than the revised estimate of expenditure in 2010-11. The higher expenditure in 2010-11 is due to mass replacement of old office computers.

(b) The major ongoing projects in 2011-12 are as follows:

Project	No. of staff required in 2011-12	Estimated expenditure
Support and System Maintenance of : <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Building Records Access and Viewing On-line (BRAVO) System● Minor Works Management System● Building Condition Information System● Building Development Information System● Geographical Information System● Site Monitoring Information System● Loan Scheme Management System	16 civil service staff	\$26.8 million
Support of Network Infrastructure and Facilities	13 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff	
Homepage Maintenance and Enhancement		
System Procurement and Enhancement Planning		

These projects will be handled by the existing staff of ITU of the BD as part of their overall duties in information technology (IT) management. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the manpower and the expenditure required for each project.

(c) The BD has launched the BRAVO and the Minor Works Management System that provide members of the public with access to records of existing buildings through the Internet. Moreover, the BD is developing an on-line system for members of the public to report building safety problems through the BD's website. The BD will also continue to explore initiatives to enhance its e-services. The related work will be handled by the existing staff of ITU of the BD as part of their overall duties in IT management. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the manpower and the expenditure required for carrying out such initiatives.

(d) The permanent establishment, existing strength and vacancies of the ITU are as follows:

Grade	Establishment	Strength	Vacancy
Senior Building Surveyor	1	1	0
Senior Building Surveyor/Senior Structural Engineer	1	1	0
Building Surveyor	2	2	0
Structural Engineer	2	2	0
Senior Survey Officer	2	2	0
Senior Technical Officer	1	1	0
Survey Officer	1	1	0
Technical Officer	1	1	0
System Manager	1	1	0
Analyst/ Programmer 1	1	1	0
Total	13	13	0

The existing strength of the ITU comprises 13 civil service staff and 16 NCSC staff. They are supported by outsourced service providers. In 2011-12, the BD will convert three NCSC staff posts to permanent establishment posts. The Department will continue to engage outsourced service providers to meet the BD's short-term programming needs.

(e) The BD has set up an internal Information Technology Steering Committee to review the manpower resources as well as the development plan of the ITU every year. The Department also conducts surveys to gauge users' views regarding the quality of services provided by the ITU. The ITU will continue to enhance its efficiency and services to the Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters AU Choi-kai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 17.3.2011