

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

S-DEVB(PL)06

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

Question Serial No.

S089

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Follow-up to Reply Serial No. DEVB(PL)100

In the reply, the Government stated that the web-based system for retrieval and viewing of the minor works records had been launched at the end of last year, but fees were charged for using the system to retrieve and view the records. What are the details of the fees? Will the Government consider allowing the public to view certain information in the system free of charge, especially the information that can help owners or owners' corporations to better understand the carrying out of repair and maintenance of minor works? The estimated operation cost for the system is only \$0.3 million per year, will the Government consider taking up the cost as government expenditure so as to increase the transparency of the Government?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The fees for viewing and copying of building records maintained by the Buildings Department (BD) are prescribed in regulation 42 of the Building (Administration) Regulations (Cap 123 sub. leg. A). The relevant prescribed fees for viewing and copying of minor works records through the web-based system are as follows¹:-

- (a) Viewing of building records - \$36 per file²
- (b) Certified copy of a plan - \$42 per copy
- (c) Non-certified copy of a plan - \$24 per copy
- (d) Certified copy of a document - \$8 per copy
- (e) Non-certified copy of a document - \$1.4 per copy

¹ The latest full fee schedule, including the fees for viewing and copying minor works and other building records in paper and microfilm formats, can be found on the BD's website (http://www.bd.gov.hk/english/services/index_support4.html).

² In general, all building records for a single residential building or the residential part of a composite building can be found in a single file.

In general, all fees and charges under the BD will follow the user-pay principle which is applicable to the provision of Government services. Users of the web-based system are required to pay the prescribed fees in accordance with the above principle on a full cost recovery basis.

The system keeps records of the completed minor works which are available for viewing and copying by members of the public. To help individual owners and owners' corporations to better understand the conduct of repair and maintenance works, relevant pamphlets, guidelines, practice notes, registers of building professionals and contractors are currently available for viewing and download free of charge from the BD's website (<http://www.bd.gov.hk>).

Signature _____

Name in block letters AU Choi-kai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 1.4.2011