

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

Head: 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

- (a) Since the introduction of a grading scheme for historic buildings, how many applications for alteration and addition works to or redevelopment of heritage buildings have been received by the Buildings Department (BD) each year? Among the applications, how many have been approved? Please provide the names of the heritage buildings concerned. What are the criteria currently adopted by the BD when processing the applications?
- (b) The BD indicates that a set of building design guidelines for works including alteration and addition works to heritage buildings will be developed. Please provide the specific details of the work arrangement and planned programmes, including the estimated expenditure, manpower arrangement, work schedule and so on.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

- (a) The grading system for historic buildings operated by the Antiquities Advisory Board is administrative in nature and does not provide historic buildings with statutory protection. Government departments will consider approving applications for redevelopment or alteration of graded historic buildings if the applications comply with the requirements stipulated under the respective Ordinances or policy. For the Buildings Department (BD), building plans submitted to the BD for approval are processed in accordance with the provisions of the Buildings Ordinance to ensure that the design, planning and construction of the proposed building, and any alteration and addition works comply with the

safety and health standards stipulated therein. The BD does not keep separate statistics on the number of plan submissions or approvals involving graded buildings.

Nevertheless, the Development Bureau will engage the owners concerned to explore preservation-cum-development options upon receipt of alerts of redevelopment / demolition proposals from government departments concerned under the internal monitoring mechanism, whereby relevant government departments will alert the Commissioner for Heritage's Office and the Antiquities and Monuments Office regarding any identified possible threat which may affect privately-owned historic buildings that have been brought to departments' attention through applications and enquiries received.

- (b) Based on the findings of an earlier consultancy study, the BD has drafted a Practice Guidebook on Compliance with Building Safety and Health Requirements for Adaptive Reuse of and Alteration and Addition Works to Heritage Buildings under the Buildings Ordinance (the 'Practice Guidebook'). The Practice Guidebook will soon be issued after consultation with the relevant stakeholders which is now near completion. No further expenditure for preparation of the Practice Guidebook is required in 2012-13.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ AU Choi-kai

Post Title _____ Director of Buildings

Date _____ 28.2.2012