

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)136****(Question Serial No. 2712)**

Head: (82) Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (AU Choi-kai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 44):

The Government allocated funds in 2013-14 to commence a consultancy study on the comprehensive review of the Building (Planning) Regulations (Cap. 123F). What are the progress of the study, name of the consultant, consultancy fee, estimated time of completion and publication of the study findings? Will the relevant trades and the public be consulted on the findings? Will the interim findings of the study be published? If yes, when will they be published? Has the Bureau earmarked provision and manpower in 2014-15 to handle the follow-up work arising from the interim findings? If yes, what are the provision and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

The Buildings Department (BD) has commissioned Ronald Lu and Partners (Hong Kong) Limited (the consultant) to conduct a consultancy study to comprehensively review the Building (Planning) Regulations (B(P)R) (Cap. 123F) and make recommendations on the planning and design standards of buildings stipulated therein so as to keep abreast with the advancement of technology and energy efficiency in building design. The study will also seek to update the B(P)R generally to facilitate modern and innovative building design with a view to developing a performance-based regulatory system.

The study, which commenced in November 2013, is steered by a committee under BD with members comprising representatives from professional institutions, associations of the building industry as well as relevant government departments. While similar to other consultancy studies conducted by BD, it is not planned that the interim findings of the study will be published. The consultant will conduct consultation sessions with stakeholders on the findings and recommendations during the course of study. Under the tentative timetable, we estimate that the study will be completed in 2015.

The contract sum for the consultancy study is \$2.38 million and the estimated expenditure for this study in 2014-15 is \$0.952 million. No additional manpower in BD will be required as the consultancy study is administered by using the existing manpower resources of the Department.