

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)072

(Question Serial No. 3059)

Head: (82) Buildings Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (Ms Clarice YU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The Buildings Department states that it will develop software to extract floor area information from and conduct compliance checks on Building Information Modelling files. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

What are the estimated expenditure and staff establishment for the development of the software?

Will the overall approval time of the departments be expedited with the use of the software? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 59)

Reply:

To facilitate and promote the use of Building Information Modelling (BIM), the Buildings Department (BD) and the Lands Department have jointly commissioned a consultancy study to develop a plug-in tool for BIM software for checking area calculations on building plans under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) and lease conditions. The total estimated expenditure for the consultancy study is \$6.12 million and shared by the two departments. The development of the plug-in tool is overseen by professional and technical staff of the Information Technology Unit and the New Buildings Divisions of BD as part of their overall duties. No breakdown of the staff establishment could be provided solely for this task.

While we expect the plug-in tool would help speed up plan processing by automating the checking of detailed calculations, as the plug-in tool is still in the development stage, we are unable to provide details on how much the approval process could be expedited with the use of the tool. Moreover, area calculation is only one of the many parameters involved in the approval process. It is our plan to roll out more plug-in tools in future to allow more automation in compliance check.