

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)076

(Question Serial No. 3113)

Head: (82) Buildings Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (Ms Clarice YU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Building Information Centre (BIC) of the Buildings Department (BD) provides viewing and copying services of building records and minor works records, occupation permits, etc., for all private buildings. In 2018, BIC was moved from 13/F, Pioneer Centre, Mong Kok to 2/F, Buildings Department Headquarters, North Tower, West Kowloon Government Offices. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What were the total operating expenditures of BD's BIC in the past three years?
2. What were the total numbers of visitors of BD's BIC in the past three years?
3. What were the average numbers of viewing requests for building records catered for in each of the past three years? What were the numbers of copying requests for building records?
4. Upon the relocation of BIC from the crowded area of Mong Kok to a new development area, together with the impact of the Coronavirus disease 2019 epidemic in recent years, what measures will BD put in place to increase the usage and popularity of BIC?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

1. The Building Information Centre (BIC) of the Buildings Department (BD) provides inspection and copying services of building records for applicants who attend BIC in person or access BD's Building Records Access and Viewing On-line (BRAVO) system via the internet upon payment of the prescribed fees. BIC engages outsourced services for image conversion and uploading of building records onto BRAVO, courier delivery of building records to applicants, and system operation and maintenance of BRAVO. In the past three years, the expenditures are as follows –

Financial Year	Staff Cost and Departmental Expenses (\$ million)	Image Conversion and Uploading (\$ million)	Courier Delivery (\$ million)	System Operation and Maintenance of BRAVO (\$ million)
2020-21	15.94	2.28	0.20	1.41
2021-22	15.73	2.31	0.24	0.23
2022-23 (Estimate)	16.10	2.23	0.26	1.31

2. The total numbers of visitors to BIC in person in the past three years are tabulated below –

Year	Number of Visitors to BIC
2020	9 814
2021	9 419
2022	9 089

3. The numbers of requests for inspection and copying of building records handled by BIC in the past three years are tabulated below –

Year	Number of Requests on Inspection of Building Records ⁽¹⁾			Number of Requests on Copying of Building Records ⁽²⁾		
	Via visit to BIC	Via BRAVO	Total	Via visit to BIC	Via BRAVO	Total
2020	4 139	78 366	82 505	21 899	75 532	97 431
2021	5 148	86 623	91 771	28 919	107 281	136 200
2022	3 504	84 178	87 682	32 353	115 100	147 453

Note ⁽¹⁾: Based on the number of building files, with each building file comprising one type of building plans for one building development, requested for inspection.

Note ⁽²⁾: Based on the number of sheets of plans or documents requested for copies.

4. BD has been organising briefings and visits on the operation of BIC/BRAVO for interested organisations, hosting various public educational programmes, as well as holding meetings and delivering talks and seminars with building stakeholders in BIC. Besides, with the epidemic situation gradually stabilised at the end of 2022, BD has resumed the open days of BIC during the Building Safety Week in October 2022 to showcase its services. The relevant information of BIC services has also been promulgated on BD website. BD will continue to promote BIC services via its public education and publicity activities.