

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1661)**

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:

According to the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-2024, the Planning and Lands Branch will continue to oversee the Buildings Department on its trial application of new technologies for enhancing the efficiency of enforcement against dangerous and abandoned signboards and to review its effectiveness. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (a) the progress of this trial application of new technologies; and
- (b) the staff establishment and the expenditure involved in this trial application?

Asked by: Hon LOONG Hon-biu, Louis (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

- (a) The consultancy study to develop a defective signboards diagnostic system is currently underway. It makes use of a patrolling vehicle equipped with cameras and lidar equipment to carry out surveys of signboards along busy streets, and applies artificial intelligence to analyse and identify defective signboards. The first round of trials involving street surveys of selected street sections in Yau Tsim Mong and Sham Shui Po Districts has been completed. Pending completion of the remaining two rounds of trials, the consultancy study is expected to be completed in 2023. The Buildings Department (BD) will review the maturity and effectiveness of the technology in its enforcement work, and determine whether to extend the application to other districts.
- (b) The consultancy study is funded with a project provision of \$4.06 million. It is administered by the Signboard Control Unit of BD as part of its overall duties and no breakdown of the staff establishment could be provided solely for this task.