

**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 Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Concerning the consultancy study to compile a full list of existing private buildings in Hong Kong, the funding has been approved but has not been used. Please explain the reason of not using it and the timetable of the consultancy.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The scope for the consultancy in question includes the setting up of a computer database of existing private buildings. The database was intended to capture such details as the address, lot number, building name, date of occupation permit, building type and number of storeys of all existing private buildings in Hong Kong.

Since mid-2002, we have developed and put into use a 'Building Condition Information System' to facilitate the control of existing private buildings. This system has enabled the building up of the database mentioned above.

The study will also include developing a database of the discharge values of the staircases for about 15,000 buildings with licensed premises. (The discharge value of a staircase of a given width and design refers to the maximum number of persons it can carry to a place of safety in the case of a fire.) This database would facilitate the selection of licensed premises by applicants and the processing of licence applications such as those for restaurants. We have just completed a feasibility study on the development of such a database, and work on the consultancy is scheduled to commence in 2005/06.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

6 April 2005