

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)128****(Question Serial No. 2230)**

Head: (91) Lands Department

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

Programme: (2) Survey and Mapping

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands (Ms Bernadette LINN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

According to the Brief Description under this Programme of the Lands Department, the Survey and Mapping Office operates a Land Information System for maintaining updated digital maps and cadastral databases and hence providing a foundation geospatial data framework in Hong Kong. In this connection:

- Please set out the manpower required for operating the system and managing the databases in 2015-16, with a breakdown by grade and whether they were civil service posts or non-civil service contract posts. Is there any expected increase in the manpower in 2016-17? If yes, please state the number of staff and grade involved.
- Has any review been conducted to find out the utilisation and effectiveness of the data? If yes, what were the findings and specific follow-up measures? Will more data be released for use by other departments and various sectors so as to increase their utilisation rate? If yes, will resources and manpower be provided for carrying out the work?

Asked by: Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen (Member Question No. 36)

Reply:

A total of 21 staff members are directly engaged in the operation of the Land Information System and the management of the related database. Details regarding the manpower requirements are set out in the table below. No increase of staff is anticipated to maintain the same scope of work of the Land Information System in 2016-17.

Rank	Terms ^(Note 1)	No. of Staff
Land Surveyor Grade	CS	3
Survey Officer Grade	CS	8
Technical Officer Grade	CS	10
	Total:	21

Note 1: CS = Civil Servant (Permanent Establishment Terms)

The Survey and Mapping Office (SMO) of the Lands Department (Lands D) has set up different channels to handle enquiries and collect feedback on digital maps, including telephone hotline, email, and feedback forms downloadable from Lands D's website. Feedback from these channels, some of which covers the use of digital map data, is reviewed by SMO staff. In 2015, 62 departments obtained over 1.56 million sheet counts of digital map data, while 415 organisations and individuals purchased over 11 300 sheet counts of digital map data from Lands D for their different applications. The digital map data are used in different aspects to support public administration and social development in Hong Kong, including land administration, infrastructure design, planning, environmental protection, education, engineering works and law enforcement. In addition, in response to user feedback and needs, Lands D has since 2014 begun to provide seamless digital map data. This service provision enhances the efficiency of data use by helping map users reduce the time and resource required for merging discrete map tiles.

To support the Government's initiative to provide free online government information as Public Sector Information (PSI), two open maps, namely Digital Topographic Map (B100k-OM) and Digital Orthophoto Map (DOPM100-L0-OM), have been made available for free commercial and non-commercial uses through Lands D's website. SMO is deploying its existing resources to conduct a review to identify suitable information to be made available as PSI for free download by the public.

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