

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1385)

Head: (26) Census and Statistics Department

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Census and Statistics (Leo YU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question:

Regarding the new online platform for interactive data dissemination service to be launched next month (i.e. in March) by the Census and Statistics Department, please inform the Council:

1. What types of statistical data will the platform integrate? Will all the data be provided by various government departments and public sector? If not, what percentage of the statistical data comes from private sector, and which industries and categories are involved?
2. Among the statistical data from private sector, over the past three financial years, what were the respective percentages of data obtained each year through data exchange with private sector, free acquisition, and purchase. Please also specify the involved industries, categories, number of enterprises, and expenses incurred.
3. For the 2026/27 financial year, what are the projected percentages, expenditures, involved industries, and categories of data obtained through data exchange with private sector, free acquisition, and purchase? How will these compare with the 2025/26 financial year?
4. As the platform involves a large volume of data flows, data security is of critical importance. At the initial stage of operation, how many staff members will be involved in operating the platform, and what proportion of them will be responsible for data and network security? Is an increase in staffing expected in the 2026/27 financial year? If yes, which areas will require additional staff, how many additional staff will be required in each area, and what will be the related expenditure?
5. Is the existing legal framework sufficient to meet the needs for the large volume of data flows and security requirements of the platform? Has any resource been reserved in the 2026/27 financial year for a comprehensive review of the relevant legislation and for drawing up a timetable for amendments?

Asked by: Hon CHIU Duncan (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

(1) The online platform for interactive data dissemination service covers the aggregate socio-economic statistics of Hong Kong released by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD). These data are currently disseminated in the form of statistical tables and reports of different themes on C&SD's Website. The new platform provides an additional channel that further integrates cross-theme statistical data to enable users to conduct analyses more flexibly and efficiently.

(2) and (3)

The aggregate statistics on the platform are solely compiled by using raw data from statistical surveys by C&SD and information provided by other government departments and public sector. They do not involve data exchanges with private organisations.

(4) and (5)

The platform only contains aggregate statistics that have already been released, but not any raw data of individual persons or organisations, or any other confidential information. Therefore, the operation of the platform poses no risk of leakage of confidential information. The design of the platform complies with government information security requirements and the platform has already passed an independent third-party security risk assessment and audit. The platform is hosted on the government cloud services and managed by staff of C&SD, and its security is continuously monitored by the cybersecurity professionals of the Digital Policy Office. C&SD will continue to absorb the costs related to the operations and security of the platform with its existing manpower and resources.

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