

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3129)

Head: (26) Census and Statistics Department

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

Programme: (1) Trade Statistics

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question:

Regarding "Head 26 – Census and Statistics Department, Programme (1): Trade Statistics", the aim is to process import/export declarations and cargo manifests, to safeguard the Government's revenue from import/export declaration charges. However, the 2026 budget will be reduced by 6.9%. Please inform the Council of the reasons for the reduction in the budget.

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Ki-fung, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

In recent years, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) has been actively exploring the application of big data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) to optimise its workflows with a view to enhancing efficiency and quality in processing trade documents. In 2026-27, C&SD will further leverage AI to assist in handling public enquiries about commodity codes and analysing the risks of suspected cases of non-lodgement of trade declaration, thereby enhancing efficiency of human resource utilisation. The decrease in 2026-27 estimate is mainly due to the decrease in operating expenses and deletion of 21 posts.

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