

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2760)

Head: (26) Census and Statistics Department

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

Programme: (4) General Statistical Services

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question:

In the section on "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026-27", it is mentioned that the Census and Statistics Department will expand its data science consulting and analysis services. At the same time, the provision under this programme represents an increase of \$9.5 million (21.3%) over the previous year to support the expansion of such services to various bureaux and departments. Please inform the Council:

- (1) What specific expenditure items are covered by the additional \$9.5 million provision? Will it include the establishment of a data platform to enable mutual access of data among government departments? Or will it merely involve a "one-way" provision of information and services by the Census and Statistics Department to other departments?
- (2) Which bureaux and departments does the Department expect to provide data science consulting and analysis services to in the first phase during the 2026-27 financial year? Has any expected service indicator been set, or has a projected number of completed data analysis projects been established?
- (3) The Department has stated that it will support departments to "identify business pain points through data and develop corresponding solutions". Could you provide details of the application scenarios and pilot projects that are proposed for development or currently under testing?

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

- (1) The data science advisory and analysis services provided by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) aim to assist bureaux and departments in leveraging data to gain a deeper understanding of their operational pain points. Specific tasks include data pre-processing, integration, mining, model development and analysis, etc. The service scope does not involve establishing a data platform. In order to expand the services to more bureaux and departments, C&SD will set aside \$10 million in 2026-27 to engage

contract staff (around \$5.7 million) and procure necessary information technology equipment and related services (around \$4.3 million), with a view to strengthening its capacity to support data analysis.

- (2) It is expected that, in 2026-27, C&SD will be able to simultaneously handle approximately 5 projects with in-depth participation (i.e. performing specific technical work for client departments) and provide advisory services for around 10 departments (i.e. offering recommendations or feasibility assessments). However, the actual number of projects that can be completed will vary depending on various factors, such as the service needs of bureaux and departments, the specific requirements and complexity of individual projects, etc.
- (3) Based on C&SD's experiences of collaborating with other departments, some common application scenarios include risk monitoring, data analysis and predictive analytics, such as supporting the Customs and Excise Department in utilizing artificial intelligence and big data analytics technologies to perform risk assessment on import and export cargoes, assisting Customs Officers in targeting high-risk consignments for further examination, thereby enhancing custom clearance efficiency.

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