

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0575)

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:

Paragraph 47 of the Budget Speech mentions additional resources will be allocated to the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) to expand its consulting and analysis services on data science for bureaux and departments. In this regard, please inform the Council:

- a. Under which Head and Subhead in the 2026-27 Budget is this "additional allocation of resources" specifically listed? Please provide details of the estimated amount of this provision, its main purposes (for example: for recruiting additional staff in the C&SD, outsourcing consulting services, purchasing analytical software, or enhancing computing capacity), as well as the specific mechanisms and criteria for the application and allocation of these resources among different government departments.
- b. While strengthening the use of data, in order to safeguard data security and ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulations, has any dedicated portion of this provision been set aside for related security audits, technical safeguard measures, or staff training? If yes, please specify the estimated amount and the specific scope of work. How will the Government ensure that all data analysis projects conducted using this provision fully comply with the established standards for data security and privacy protection?

Asked by: Hon NG Kam-wah, Webster (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

- (a) The Government proposes to allocate additional resources to the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) to expand its consulting and analysis services on data science for bureaux and departments. The additional resources will be put under subhead 000 Operational Expenses of Head 26 —C&SD of the 2026-27 Budget. C&SD will set aside \$10 million in 2026-27 to engage contract staff (about \$5.7 million) and procure necessary information technology equipment and related services (about \$4.3 million), in order to strengthen its capacity to support data analysis. C&SD will determine

service priorities as appropriate taking into account the service needs and priorities of the relevant policy of individual bureaux and departments.

- (b) The said services 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. C&SD will carry out these tasks within the Government's internal networks, and will comply with the requirements on information security and privacy protection for the storage, transfer as well as access of relevant data as promulgated by the Digital Policy Office and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, including conducting security risk assessment and audit and privacy impact assessment as necessary.

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