

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3381)

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:

Paragraph 47 of the Budget Speech mentions that additional resources will be allocated to enable the Census and Statistics Department to provide more data science consulting and analysis services to other departments, with a view to identifying pain points in operations and proposing corresponding solutions. In this regard, please inform the Council: What are the expenditures and establishment involved in implementing this policy initiative; and how will the Department coordinate with the AI Efficacy Enhancement Team?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kam-fai, William (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

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.

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 (about \$5.7 million) and procure necessary information technology equipment and related services (about \$4.3 million), with a view to strengthening its capacity to support data analysis. C&SD does not maintain itemised figures on the expenditure and establishment involved in the delivery of related services.

The AI Efficacy Enhancement Team (AIEET) is a high-level setup led by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration to review, from a macro and policy perspective, the application of artificial intelligence (AI) technology and business processes across various bureaux and departments, while fostering cross-departmental data sharing, so as to enhance the efficiency of government operations and services as a whole. The Commissioner for Census and Statistics is a member of AIEET, providing data science support, assisting AIEET in co-ordinating and steering government departments to apply AI, re-engineering workflow and enhancing efficiency. C&SD's data science services focus more on applying data analysis

methods to solve business problems, and the outcomes do not necessarily involve the deployment of AI solutions. The 2 streams of work are complementary in nature.

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