

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-FSTB(FS)001**

**(Question Serial No. S015)**

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:

Further to the Reply of Serial No. FSTB(FS)135, please inform the Council:

The consulting and analysis services on data science provided by the Census and Statistics Department to various bureaux and departments over the past 3 years. Please provide the details categorized by the following items: Bureaux/Departments involved, Project nature and content, business pain points or problems, corresponding solutions developed, project progress, and outcome evaluation and analysis.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung

Reply:

In April 2023, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) established the Data Analytics Branch, which was subsequently renamed as the Data Science Branch in April 2024, to strengthen the application of data science techniques across various statistical systems within the Government Statistical Service, with a view to enhancing work efficiency, improving data quality, and exploring the compilation of new statistics.

With the accumulation of know-how and experience, the C&SD leveraged existing resources to expand the service scope moderately to offer data science advisory and analysis services to bureaux and departments in need.

Since April 2023, the C&SD has provided or is providing services to the following policy bureaux and departments to date—

<b>Policy bureau / Department</b>	<b>Project content / Business pain point / Corresponding solution</b>	<b>Progress / Outcome</b>
Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department	Collaboration on developing an artificial intelligence (AI) model to conduct risk assessment on massive volumes of import and export cargoes, in order to	Modelling completed; expected to be applied in the Trade Single Window Phase 3.

<b>Policy bureau / Department</b>	<b>Project content / Business pain point / Corresponding solution</b>	<b>Progress / Outcome</b>
	identify high-risk consignments for further examination, thereby enhancing customs clearance efficiency.	
Correctional Services Department	Collaboration on a proof-of-concept study using machine learning models to predict self-harm risks among persons in custody.	Proof-of-concept completed.
Government Logistics Department	Collaboration on developing an AI tool to assist in collecting and consolidating information on tenderers and contractors.	Currently in testing phase.
Water Supplies Department	Collaboration on applying AI and machine learning models to conduct a proof-of-concept study on predicting failures of pipes in the water supply network, with a view to progressively achieving data-driven predictive asset maintenance.	Project commenced.
Hong Kong Police Force	Collaboration on applying language models to automate coding work, thereby optimising the statistical system.	Project commenced.
Labour and Welfare Bureau	Providing advisory services on multiple potential application cases (e.g., automating application processing workflows, data matching, and retrieval-augmented generation applications).	Advisory services have been or are being provided.
Government Property Agency		
Labour Department		
Leisure and Cultural Services Department		
Transport Department		
Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency		

In addition to the specific collaboration projects above, the C&SD has also provided self-developed data science toolkits to various departments (for example, an address matching tool and application examples on the AI platforms). Through various channels such as workshops, seminars and meetings, the C&SD has been actively sharing its knowledge and experience in applying data science techniques with bureaux and departments, while exploring potential applications and collaboration opportunities.