

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**DEVB(W)100**

Question Serial No.

Head: 60 - Highways Department      Subhead: 000 Operational expenses

1548

Programme:            (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the continued development of a new computer system to replace the Utility Management System to improve efficiency in excavation permit processing and management, please advise this Committee of -

- (a) the number of cases in which underground facilities (e.g. drains and cables) were damaged during construction works as a result of disorganised information about such facilities in 2006-2007, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009, and
- (b) the amount of resources used by the Government to update the maps of the underground facilities in 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009 respectively, and the amount of resources to be used for the same purpose in 2009-2010.

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

- (a) The current computer systems are for processing and management of excavation permits and do not contain underground utility records. Roadwork promoters and their contractors are required to obtain underground utility records from the respective utility undertakings, and to ascertain the locations of existing utility services on site or otherwise, before carrying out any road excavations. Utility damage incidents can be caused by several factors such as human error, inaccurate record, deteriorated condition of the affected utility installation, or a combination of them.

We have been collaborating with the utility undertakings to continually reduce utility damage incidents. The number of underground utility damage cases arising from road excavation works in the past three years are as follows:

Year	2006	2007	2008
Number of Underground Utility Damage Cases	179	128	115

- (b) Each utility undertaking maintains its own utility records and updates the records by its own resources. We do not keep centralised records on underground utility or resources used by each utility undertaking.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 19 March 2009