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Replies to initial written questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2025-26

**Director of Bureau : Director of Administration
Session No. : 1**

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
<u>CSO019</u>	1718	MA Fung-kwok	142	(2) Government Records Service

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO019

(Question Serial No. 1718)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Government Records Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Mrs Millie NG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

1. Please provide the number of users of the Public Records Office (PRO) Search Room in 2024;
2. The actual number of visitors to the PRO in 2024 was 7 288, and the estimated number of visitors in 2025 has been revised down to 6 200. Please explain the downward adjustment in the estimated number of visitors;
3. The PRO has earmarked \$100,000 in 2024-25 for the procurement of archival records from other places. Please provide the details of the records procured;
4. Please inform the Committee whether the Government has earmarked any provision for the procurement of archival records relating to Hong Kong from other places in 2025-26;
5. What are the specific publicity activities to be organised by the Government in 2025-26 to strengthen public education and publicity on Hong Kong's documentary heritage?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

1. In 2024, the number of users of the Public Records Office (PRO) Search Room was 7 288.
2. The Government Records Service (GRS) makes reference to various factors, including data from past years, when estimating the number of visitors in future. As the actual number of visitors exceeded 7 000 for the first time in 2024, the GRS has upward adjusted the estimated number of visitors in 2025 from 5 300 (last year's estimate) to 6 200.
3. Over the years, the GRS has been procuring copies of archival records relating to the past of Hong Kong from archival institutions in various regions (including overseas and the Mainland) to enrich its holdings. In 2024-25, the GRS procured copies of 177 archival records including files, photographs and maps concerning transport development, social welfare, education, etc., from The National Archives of the United Kingdom.

4. To enrich its holdings, the GRS has earmarked \$70,000 in 2025-26 for the procurement of copies of archival records relating to Hong Kong from the archival institutions of other places.
5. The GRS organises exhibitions, seminars, workshops, group visits and other educational activities regularly to promote the documentary heritage of Hong Kong. Details of the GRS' public education and publicity programmes scheduled for 2025-26 are set out below:
 - (a) organise onsite or online group visits to the GRS with an estimated number of more than 2 000 participants;
 - (b) conduct onsite or online educational talks or workshops for teachers and students, facilitating them to use the archival records kept by the GRS to conduct researches on Hong Kong's development in different areas;
 - (c) co-organise academic seminars and workshops relating to Hong Kong's archival records with local universities;
 - (d) organise an annual thematic exhibition cum roving exhibitions and set up an online Resources Page to help the public better understand, appreciate and utilise the local documentary heritage and archival records kept by the GRS;
 - (e) continue to enrich the online Educational Resources Portal to enable more people to view the archival holdings and information therein. Frequently used and popular holdings will be digitised for more convenient access; and
 - (f) continue to enrich the content of the PRO Facebook page (fb.com/grs.publicrecordsoffice), so as to strengthen connection and interaction with the public.

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