

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)068

(Question Serial No. 3041)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (PANG Yiu-hung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme (LIMSS), would the Government advise the Committee of the following:

1. Please give a breakdown of the number of valid applications and completed cases regarding the first and second rounds of application for the LIMSS by District Council districts;
2. While the current eligibility criteria are based on different average annual rateable values of the flats in urban areas and the New Territories, those flats in the New Territories are subject to more stringent requirements. Does the Government have any plan to relax the requirements? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

1. A breakdown of the number of valid applications in the first and second rounds of application for the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme (LIMSS) by district is shown as follows:

District	Number of valid applications in the first round	Number of valid applications in the second round
Central and Western	93	82
Wan Chai	99	50
Eastern	95	98
Southern	26	17
Yau Tsim Mong	258	180
Sham Shui Po	157	118
Kowloon City	105	82
Wong Tai Sin	33	15

District	Number of valid applications in the first round	Number of valid applications in the second round
Kwun Tong	49	34
Kwai Tsing	40	26
Tsuen Wan	33	31
Tuen Mun	50	30
Yuen Long	64	37
North	16	15
Tai Po	18	21
Sha Tin	25	14
Sai Kung	9	8
Islands	1	6
Total:	1 171	864

In the two rounds of application for the LIMSS, a total of 2 035 valid applications involving 8 256 lifts were received. In view of the large number of buildings applying for the subsidies under the scheme as well as the capacity of the industry, the applications would be processed in batches according to their priorities. So far, a total of 1 646 applications have been approved, involving 5 094 lifts of higher priority.

The LIMSS commenced in end March 2019. Hampered by the epidemic, many building owners of the approved applications were unable to hold owners' meetings in the past year or so, and hence the progress of lift modernisation works has been greatly affected. Up to end February 2021, the modernisation works of 45 cases involving 102 lifts were completed. We will continue to closely liaise with the Urban Renewal Authority to provide support to the owners in need with a view to facilitating the implementation of lift modernisation works under the scheme as scheduled.

2. Under the principle of making good use of public financial resources, the target beneficiaries of the LIMSS are those private residential or composite buildings with lower average rateable values. The average rateable value thresholds of the LIMSS were formulated with reference to the current Operation Building Bright 2.0 Scheme and Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme. Owing to the differences in the prices and rental values of the buildings in urban areas and the New Territories, the adoption of two different average rateable value thresholds more appropriately addresses the needs of the buildings in the two areas. Since application for the LIMSS has already been closed, we have no plan to relax the criteria on the average rateable value thresholds.

- End -