

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(PL)054

Question Serial No.

0833

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In this Programme, the Administration indicates that the estimated number of fire safety improvement directions (FSIDns) to be issued in 2009 is 800. The drop is due to the small number of target specified commercial buildings (SCBs) to be inspected in 2009, and most of which are with a small amount of owners, resulting in fewer FSIDns to be issued. However, according to the estimate of expenditure submitted by the Administration in 2008, the estimated number of FSIDns was also 800 and a similar reason was given to explain the drop in number as compared with 2007. But ultimately, the actual number of FSIDns issued in 2008 amounted to 1 528. Would the Administration give the reason for the discrepancy found in the estimate for 2008, and whether there are measures to ensure that the actual number of FSIDns to be issued in 2009 will not far exceed the estimated number.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The number of fire safety improvement directions (FSIDns) issued by the Buildings Department (BD) depends on the number of specified commercial buildings (SCBs) inspected and the total number of owners in such SCBs. The number of SCBs inspected and the number of FSIDns issued by the BD from 2006 to 2008 are as follows :

Target/Indicator	Estimate			Actual		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
No. of SCB inspected	140	100	30	128	100	31
No. of FSIDn issued by BD	3000	2000	800	3003	2001	1528

In 2008, the number of SCBs inspected was estimated to be 30, and the corresponding number of FSIDns to be issued was 800, which was in proportion to the achievements in 2006 and 2007. Nevertheless, the effect of rolling-over of three SCBs inspected in the second half of 2007 with orders issued in 2008 had caused a surge in the statistical figures. Over 600 additional FSIDns were issued by the BD in 2008 for these three SCBs because of the unexpectedly large number of subdivided flats/units in those buildings.

The indicator of issuing 800 FSIDns in 2009 is derived from the number of SCBs to be inspected, taking into account past experience and the rolling-over effect.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u> AU Choi-kai </u>
Post Title	<u> Director of Buildings </u>
Date	<u> 18 March 2009 </u>