

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(PL)080

Question Serial No.

1719

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

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

The estimate for “removal orders issued” for unauthorised building works in existing buildings in 2009 is 28 000, while the actual removal orders issued in 2007 and 2008 were 32 898 and 32 847 respectively. Why is there such a significant reduction given that the estimates on “reports from members of the public attended to” and “warning notices issued” remain at around 26 000 and 8 000 respectively? In “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10”, the department states that it will take vigorous enforcement action in respect of the removal of unauthorised building works. Is the reduction in the estimate for “removal orders issued” a contradiction to such a claim?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

For the number of removal orders issued against unauthorised building works, the actual performance and the estimates for 2007 and 2008 as well as the estimate for 2009, as indicated in the Controlling Officer's Report, are as follows :

Indicators	Actual		Estimate		
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2009
Removal orders issued	32 898	32 847	25 000	28 000	28 000

While the estimate for removal orders issued had been raised from 25 000 in 2007 to 28 000 in 2008, the actual performance was about 32 800 for both years. Taking into account the actual performance and experience in both 2007 and 2008, the Buildings Department has not proposed any reduction for the corresponding estimate for 2009. The actual performance depends on a number of varying factors, including the number of unauthorised structures existing in the particular buildings targeted for enforcement action. The estimates on “reports from members of the public attended to” and “warning notices issued” are however not the key factors for the estimation of “removal orders issued”.

Signature _____
Name in block letters AU Choi-kai
Post Title Director of Buildings
Date 17 March 2009