

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(PL)036

Question Serial No.

1745

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 actual number of advertisement signboards removed/repared in 2007 was over 2 400, about 30% more than the planned figure in 2008. This was attributed to a special removal operation conducted by the Buildings Department in collaboration with the Home Affairs Department in the first half of last year. Will the Government conduct similar joint operations again? If not, what are the reasons?

For the special removal operation in 2007, what was the total expenditure? What was the manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The special operation in collaboration with the Home Affairs Department for removal of abandoned signboards was undertaken from January to July in 2007 in connection with special major events held in 2007. This special operation was undertaken by a team of two professional and eight technical officers through temporary redeployment of existing resources of the Buildings Department (BD).

There is no plan for similar special operations in 2008. Nevertheless, the BD will continue its regular enforcement action against signboards in order to ensure public safety. Adequate staff resources will be deployed to patrol, identify and enforce removal or repair of defective signboards. The BD will also conduct inspections upon receipt of the general public's complaints on signboards.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ CHEUNG Hau-wai

Post Title _____ Director of Buildings

Date _____ 19 March 2008