

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(PL)045

Question Serial No.

0088

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

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question :

On the sustained action to improve building safety under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09", will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (1) What are the details (including locations of the target buildings), manpower and expenditure anticipated?
- (2) What is the effect of the action on building owners and tenants?
- (3) What measures will be provided to assist the owners and tenants in need?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (1) In 2008-09, the Buildings Department (BD) will sustain action to improve building safety, targeting 1 000 old buildings for carrying out blitz clearance of unauthorised building works (UBWs) and repair of building defects, and 700 single-staircase buildings for clearance of illegal rooftop structures.

The target buildings are located in all districts in the territory. We estimate that about 40% of the target buildings will be on the Hong Kong Island, 40% in the Kowloon peninsula and 20% in the New Territories.

The above work will mainly be handled by existing staff of BD, with part of it outsourced to private consulting firms at an estimated cost of \$28 million for 2008-09.

- (2) The above action will improve the safety conditions of the target buildings. The building owners and owners' corporations will have to organise to remove the UBWs and repair their buildings. The Administration will provide appropriate assistance and advice to them.

- (3) The BD and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) will offer financial and technical assistance to owners in need. For example, owners with financial difficulties may apply for a loan from the BD's Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme or from the Home Renovation Loan Scheme of the HKHS. The Property Management Advisory Centres of the HKHS will also provide assistance to flat owners and owners' corporations on building maintenance and management matters.

Signature _____
Name in block letters CHEUNG Hau-wai
Post Title Director of Buildings
Date 26 March 2008