

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

**Reply Serial No.**

**DEVB(PL)072**

Question Serial No.

1510

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

Programme:                      Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer:                      Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau:                      Secretary for Development

Question :

Under the Targets in respect of buildings and building works, it is stated that 1 000 existing buildings will be targeted for clearance of unauthorised building works (UBWs) in 2008. This is lower than the actual number of 1 514 buildings targeted in 2007. Please provide the reason for such reduction and possible measures to be adopted in order to expedite the removal of UBWs?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The actual statistical figures for the Buildings Department (BD)'s enforcement actions against unauthorised building works (UBWs) depend on a number of varying factors, including the number of unauthorised structures existing in the buildings targeted for enforcement action as well as the readiness of and time taken by building owners to comply with the statutory orders. With the aim to removing 40 000 UBWs in a year, the BD will suitably adjust the number of buildings targeted for enforcement action in accordance with the actual circumstances. The BD adopts a multi-pronged approach in tackling the problem of UBWs, including immediate removal of dangerous and new UBWs, annual large-scale operations to remove existing UBWs, and enhancing the public's awareness of problems of UBWs and their responsibilities as owners through publicity and education programmes. We will continue to monitor the progress of our operation in removing UBWs.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters                      CHEUNG Hau-wai

Post Title                      Director of Buildings

Date                      19 March 2008