

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(PL)090

Question Serial No.

0588

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

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

- (a) Following the commencement of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) in July 2007, the Buildings Department has planned to inspect approximately 5 000 pre-1973 composite buildings in six years. It will inspect 1 000 such buildings in 2009. What is the estimated amount of resources required? In which districts are these buildings situated? How is the distribution?
- (b) The annual target of inspection for such buildings has been revised to 1 150 per annum. What will be the amount of resources involved each year?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

Following the commencement of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) in July 2007, the Buildings Department (BD) has planned to inspect, in collaboration with the Fire Services Department (FSD), 840 buildings per annum with an annual provision of \$25 million for the BD. The BD will deploy additional provision of \$8.8 million, with 22 civil service posts (comprising six professional and 16 technical posts), to speed up the implementation programme starting from July 2009. As such, the annual target of inspection would be enhanced to 1 000 buildings for 2009 and 1 150 buildings for a full year from 2010 onwards.

The composite buildings covered by the fire safety improvement programme were built before 1973. Most of these buildings are located in old urban districts. Up to end of February 2009, the BD and FSD inspected 1 543 such composite buildings, of which 420 were in Yau Tsim Mong, 218 in Kowloon City, 216 in Sham Shui Po, 148 in Central & Western, 131 in Wan Chai and 410 in other districts.

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