

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(PL)081

Question Serial No.

1253

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

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the enforcement action against unauthorised decorative works at ground floor shopfronts of target buildings in areas with heavy pedestrian flow and commercial activities, please inform:

- (a) the number of enforcement action taken, the number of decorative works at shopfronts and advertisement signboards removed, the distribution of cases by district and the staff establishment involved in the work over the past three years (i.e. 2007-08 to 2009-10);
- (b) the number of outstanding cases of unauthorised decorative works at ground floor shopfronts as at 31 December 2009. As planned by the Department, how much resources will be allocated for handling the removal of unauthorised works in 2010-11?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

(a) The number of removal orders issued against shopfront unauthorised building works (UBWs) in 2007, 2008 and 2009 were 200, 214 and 316 respectively. The corresponding number of UBWs involved were 280, 300 and 443 respectively. Of these removal orders issued from 2007 to 2009, 334 have been complied with and 396 are being followed up. The shops concerned are located at Yau Ma Tei (YMT), Mong Kok (MGK), Sham Shui Po (SSP) and Causeway Bay (CWB) districts. The breakdown is provided in the table below.

Location \ Year	2007		2008		2009	
	No. of Orders	No. of UBWs	No. of Orders	No. of UBWs	No. of Orders	No. of UBWs
YMT	38	53	35	49	46	64
MGK	68	96	41	58	149	209
SSP	38	53	53	74	91	128
CWB	56	78	85	119	30	42
Total	200	280	214	300	316	443

(b) The Buildings Department will continue to follow up with the aforementioned 396 outstanding orders and handle any further shopfront UBWs identified from its operations or referrals in accordance with the enforcement policy against UBWs. The enforcement work against shopfront UBWs is mainly handled by 681 professional and technical staff in the Existing Buildings Divisions of the Department as part of the staff's overall duties in dealing with a full range of work in relation to building safety and maintenance. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the staff establishment or the resources solely for such enforcement work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters AU Choi-kai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 19 March 2010