

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(PL)087

Question Serial No.

3164

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

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Among the matters requiring special attention in the coming year, the Department will:

1. take vigorous enforcement action in respect of the removal of unauthorised building works and instigate 3 000 prosecutions;
2. continue the implementation of the Operation Building Bright;
3. implement the minor works control system;
4. take enforcement action against unauthorised decorative works at ground floor shopfronts of target buildings in areas with heavy pedestrian flow and commercial activities;
5. carry out clearance of unauthorised structures on rooftops, podiums and yards constituting safety hazard or environmental nuisance.

Please provide details of the expenditure and manpower required in the coming year for the areas of work mentioned above. Regarding the manpower, please list the number of staff under civil service establishment and staff under non-civil service contract employment required for taking forward the initiatives.

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

The work concerning the 3 000 prosecutions is mainly handled by the 58 staff (12 civil servants and 46 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff) of the Legal Section of the Buildings Department (BD) as part of their overall duties in dealing with all prosecutions and disciplinary proceedings arising from the enforcement work of the Department. Staff of the frontline enforcement teams will also be involved in prosecution cases for compiling documentary evidence and attending court as prosecution witnesses. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure required solely for handling the 3 000 prosecutions against failure to comply with removal orders.

Forty-eight NCSC staff, with an expenditure of \$32 million, are responsible for the implementation of Operation Building Bright in 2010-11.

An annual provision of \$15.5 million involving 32 staff (23 civil servants and 9 NCSC staff) is provided for the implementation of the minor works control system.

The enforcement work against unauthorised decorative works at ground floor shopfronts of target buildings, as well as the special operation for clearance of unauthorised structures on rooftops, podiums and yards constituting safety hazard or environmental nuisance, are mainly handled by 681 professional and technical staff (262 civil servants and 419 NCSC staff) in the Existing Buildings Divisions (EBD) of the BD, as part of their 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 manpower or the expenditure required solely for such enforcement work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters AU Choi-kai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 19 March 2010