

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

DEVB(PL)090

Question Serial No.

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

2706

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In 2010, the Department will sustain its action to improve building safety, carrying out blitz clearances for 200 old buildings; continue the implementation of the Operation Building Bright (OBB), conducting repair works for about 300 OBB buildings; and take vigorous enforcement action in respect of the removal of unauthorised building works, continuing the instigation of 3 000 prosecutions. While there is increased workload on various fronts due to public expectations, the estimated funding has been reduced rather than increased. How does the Department plan to deploy adequate manpower and resources to cope with its heavy workload to enhance its performance in approval and inspection work on the one hand, and ensure building safety in Hong Kong on the other?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

As pointed out in the Controlling Officer's Report, the provision for the Buildings Department (BD) for 2010-11 is \$13.4 million (1.5%) lower than the revised estimate for 2009-10. This is mainly due to the full-year effect of the 2009 pay adjustment and the completion of a one-off special operation to remove 5 000 abandoned signboards.

With the planned provision of resources and manpower, the BD expects to be able to accomplish all the planned targets as stated in the Controlling Officer's Report. The BD attaches great importance to building safety and will maintain quality service, accomplishing its prime mission of enforcing safety and health standards for private buildings in Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters AU Choi-kai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 19 March 2010