

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

DEVB(PL)117

Question Serial No.

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

2745

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In respect of assisting owners of dilapidated buildings to conduct repair works, please provide the following information:

- (a) for the Buildings Department (BD), in each of the past five years (i.e. 2005-06 to 2009-10), what was the number of staff for handling reports from members of the public on dilapidated buildings and the number of staff for conducting the site inspections concerned? What were the expenses involved? What was the average number of cases each staff handled/inspected?
- (b) in each of the past five years (i.e. 2005-06 to 2009-10), what was the average number of site inspections conducted by the BD staff for each of the cases mentioned above? What were the details of the inspections?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a) The number of reports on dilapidated buildings received from members of the public between 2005 and 2009 and attended to by the Buildings Department (BD) are as follows:

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of reports from members of the public and attended to	15 523	10 614	8 271	11 337	11 389

At present, the workload arising from dilapidated buildings is mainly handled by 681 professional and technical staff in the Existing Buildings Divisions 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 total expenditure solely for handling reports from members of the public on dilapidated buildings. The number of reports on dilapidated buildings handled by each individual BD officer varies from district to district and staff may be transferred to different positions. The BD has not kept such statistics.

- (b) Upon receipt of reports on dilapidated buildings from members of the public, site inspection will be undertaken on the reported defects in relation to building structures (such as external walls, slabs, columns and beams, and drainage system of the building) to ascertain the building condition in terms of safety and health. Based on the findings of the inspection, the BD will take appropriate follow-up action for each reported case. For simple cases, one inspection would suffice, while additional inspections may be required for complicated cases. The BD does not maintain statistics on the number of inspections carried out for each of the reports on dilapidated buildings from members of the public.

Signature _____

Name in block letters AU Choi-kai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 19 March 2010