

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

Reply Serial No.

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

DEVB(PL)120

Question Serial No.

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

3111

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the assistance to owners of dilapidated buildings to conduct repair works, please provide information on the following :

- (a) as categorised by the content of the orders (to conduct investigation, repair or demolition works within the specified period of time), please provide the itemised breakdown of the number of cases for which the Buildings Department (BD) had first to conduct the necessary repair works over the past five years, and the expenses thus involved.
- (b) the average time it has taken from the service of the notices to recover the costs of works by the BD to the receipt of such payment. Among the cases categorised as above, what were the respective numbers of cases where the costs of works have not been recovered. What were the expenses involved?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

- (a) In the past five years, the BD has carried out defaulted works in relation to investigation, repair and demolition orders for about 1 130 cases on behalf of the owners and the total cost (including supervision charges) involved is \$52 million. The BD does not maintain statistics on the breakdown of the cost of repair works, investigation works and demolition works carried out by the Department.

- (b) For cases with costs of defaulted works settled in the past five years, the average duration between issuance of demand notes and payment by owners is about five months. The BD has been pursuing cost recovery actions for about 420 cases which involve a total amount of about \$13 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters AU Choi-kai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 19 March 2010