

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(PL)082

Question Serial No.

3594

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

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

- (a) After the incident concerning The Icon, the public is generally worried about the requirements for converting enclosed kitchens into open kitchens. Will the Buildings Department (BD) allocate resources for the publicity and public education on the statutory requirements on building alteration works? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (b) In 2011-12, will the BD allocate resources for the inspection of alteration works concerning open kitchens? If so, what are the details and estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

- (a) The BD will provide on its website guidelines related to the carrying out of internal alteration works in existing buildings, including conversion of enclosed kitchens into open kitchens in domestic units. Allocation of additional resources for this task is not required.
- (b) The BD will continue to respond to reports and complaints on unauthorised building works including unauthorised internal alterations in existing buildings. This task is handled by the 477 existing professional and technical staff of the Existing Buildings Divisions of the BD together with the additional resources of 124 professional and technical staff proposed for allocation to the Department in 2011-12 as part of the Divisions' overall duties to implement the Department's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the expenditure solely for handling the task.

Signature _____

Name in block letters AU Choi-kai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 17.3.2011