

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

DEVB(PL)083

Question Serial No.

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

3595

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

- (a) In 2010-11, what was the amount of resources allocated by the Buildings Department (BD) for processing building plans submitted by the developers?
- (b) As a result of the incident concerning The Icon, the public has become sceptical about the BD's work of processing building plans submitted by the developers. In 2011-12, will the BD allocate more resources for processing building plans submitted by the developers? If so, what are the details and estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

- (a) The existing manpower resources of 94 professional and technical staff of the New Buildings Division 1 of the Buildings Department (BD) are used to process building plan applications submitted to the BD for approval. As such duty is part of the Division's overall duties in the regulation and control of new buildings and new building works, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the expenditure solely for the processing of building plan applications.
- (b) In the incident relating to the Icon, there was concern about the information provided in the promotion materials for sale of the units. The incident is not related to the processing of building plan applications by the BD. The BD has established procedures and performance pledges for processing building plan applications. The Department has all along been examining building plans in accordance with the provisions of the Buildings Ordinance (BO) (Cap. 123) and its subsidiary regulations to ensure that the planning, design and construction of the proposed building are in compliance with the statutory requirements. Taking open kitchen design as an example, in examining building plans, the BD would ensure that the design complies with the statutory requirements in relation to fire-resisting construction and fire services installations. In 2010, the BD fully met the performance pledges in processing building plans.

The BD will continue to monitor the proposed building works of new buildings to ensure that the building works under construction comply with the statutory requirements in respect of safety and quality control of the building works. Upon completion of the building works of a new building, the BD will examine if the building has been constructed in accordance with the approved building plans and is in compliance with the requirements of the BO before considering issuance of an occupation permit. No additional resources are required to be allocated to BD in 2011-12 for the processing of building plan applications.

Signature _____

Name in block letters AU Choi-kai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 17.3.2011