

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

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

DEVB(PL)096

Question Serial No.

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

2351

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In 2010, the number of unauthorised structures removed and irregularities rectified by the Buildings Department (BD) was only 25 751, which was substantially lower than 42 425 of the previous year. The BD explained that the decrease was due to the need to deploy manpower for inspection of buildings aged 50 years or above in Hong Kong after the Ma Tau Wai Road building collapse incident. In 2011-12, will there be additional resources to step up the removal work of unauthorised structures? If yes, how much additional resources will be provided? Is there a target time frame to resolve the problems regarding unauthorised structures?

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply :

In 2011-12, the Buildings Department (BD) will continue its enforcement against unauthorised building works (UBWs) constituting obvious or imminent danger to life or property, new UBWs, UBWs under construction and actionable UBWs identified in target buildings of large-scale operations. From 1 April 2011 onwards, the BD will launch large-scale operations to enforce against an expanded scope of actionable UBWs, including unauthorised structures on rooftops and flat roofs as well as those in yards and lanes, in respect of 500 target buildings each year. The BD will launch a programme to encourage the public to report building safety problems and will actively respond to reports on UBWs by issuing statutory orders requiring the owners concerned to carry out rectification works if the UBWs are confirmed to be actionable after inspection. It will also mount various public education and publicity campaigns to promote a building safety culture and increase public awareness of the potential liability arising from UBWs.

The existing resources of 477 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 will be used for carrying out the enhanced enforcement actions against UBWs as part of the Existing Buildings Divisions' overall duties to implement the Department's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters AU Choi-kai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 17.3.2011