

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(PL)114

Question Serial No.

0476

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

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

After the building collapse incident at Ma Tau Wai Road, the Buildings Department (BD) has estimated that the number of cases under “Non-emergency services for reports on unauthorised building works (UBWs) under construction” to be attended to will rise from 5 838 in 2010 to 6 500 in 2011. In response to this increase, how will the BD arrange to provide additional resources to deal with the additional workload, and what are the details? Will it take longer time for the reports to be attended to, and what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wai-king, Starry

Reply :

To curb the erection of new unauthorised building works (UBWs) including the re-erection of UBWs removed previously, the Buildings Department (BD) attends to and takes prompt enforcement action in response to reports on UBWs found under construction. The BD has outsourced private sector consultants to inspect and investigate into UBWs under construction. The consultant teams will carry out inspection within 48 hours upon receipt of reports from the public while the in-house staff of the BD will follow up with the necessary enforcement action. The Department's performance pledge to carry out inspection within 48 hours upon receipt of reports on UBWs under construction will remain unchanged.

The existing resources of 477 professional and technical staff of the Existing Buildings Divisions of the BD, together with the additional resources of 124 additional professional and technical staff proposed for allocation to the Department in 2011-12, will be responsible for the management of the consultants and the enforcement work involved. \$63 million is to be allocated in 2011-12 for hiring consultants to assist the BD in carrying out the full range of enforcement work including that against UBWs under construction. As the aforementioned work is part of the Existing Buildings

Divisions' overall duties to implement the Department's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the resources solely for handling UBWs under construction.

Signature _____

Name in block letters AU Choi-kai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 16.3.2011