

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

DEVB(PL)120

Question Serial No.

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

2607

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

Regarding the continued operation of the pilot Joint Office (JO) with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, will the Buildings Department provide information on the number of complaint cases of water seepage handled by the JO in the past three years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2010-11), the types of cases handled, the follow-up actions taken, and the estimated number of cases to be handled in 2011-12?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

The relevant statistics of the complaint cases of water seepage handled by the Joint Office (JO) is tabulated below -

Number of Cases	2008	2009	2010
Total number of cases handled	16 708	18 237	22 971
Number of cases screened out ^{Note}	7 144	8 115	11 051
Total number of cases with investigation concluded	9 564	10 122	11 920
- Number of cases with seepage ceased during investigation	4 102	3 876	4 861
- Number of cases with source identified	4 476	4 813	4 737
- Number of cases with source cannot be identified	986	1 433	2 322
Number of Nuisance Notices issued	2 101	3 581	3379
Number of Nuisance Orders granted by Court	8	29	40
Number of prosecution	42	132	145
Number of conviction	37	76	121

Note: The JO has prescribed standards and requirements for the investigation of sources of water seepage. Some water seepage complaints received do not involve public health nuisance, building structural safety risks or wastage of water, and hence do not fall within the scope of follow-up action under the statutory authority of the JO. There are also cases where the complaints are falsified, the seepage has stopped or the complainants have withdrawn their complaints, etc. Such cases will be screened out by the JO, and investigation into the sources of water seepage will not be conducted for such cases.

Upon receipt of a water seepage complaint, staff of the JO will make arrangements with the complainant to enter his premises for a site visit. If the case satisfies the prescribed standards and requirements mentioned in the note above, staff of the JO will carry out the initial investigation. Various tests, chosen based on the actual situation of the case, will be conducted. For those cases in which the source(s) of seepage cannot be reliably confirmed during the initial investigation, the JO will conduct a further round of detailed investigation and consider adopting additional types of investigation techniques. Based on the results of the tests, the JO will take appropriate follow-up actions including the issuance of Nuisance Notices, Nuisance Orders and making prosecutions.

The estimated number of water seepage cases that will be handled by the JO in 2011 is 23 000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters AU Choi-kai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 16.3.2011