

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

S-DEVB(PL)07

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

Question Serial No.

S076

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In Reply Serial No. DEVB(PL)128, the Administration stated that the existing staff of the Existing Buildings Divisions of the Buildings Department had been monitoring the outsourced consultants' work. What was the expenditure required for the monitoring of the outsourced consultants? Why didn't the Administration stop using the outsourced consultancy service and the Buildings Department handle the work directly instead?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Monitoring of the work of the Buildings Department (BD)'s outsourced consultants, including that of the outsourced consultants for the one-off special operation on abandoned/dangerous signboards, is handled by the existing resources of 477 professional and technical staff of the Existing Buildings Divisions of the BD 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 monitoring the outsourced consultants' work for the one-off special operation on abandoned/dangerous signboards.

The one-off special operation to identify abandoned/dangerous signboards for enforcement action launched in August 2010 involves comprehensive planned surveys in the territory and subsequent enforcement action. Having taken into account the nature of the work involved, the BD has engaged private sector consultants to carry out the non-statutory work in respect of the special operation, such as carrying out of survey and inspection of abandoned/dangerous signboards before and after the BD's issue of statutory notices, with a view to maximising the overall cost effectiveness of the Department's enforcement actions and flexibility in the Department's staff deployment in the special operation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters AU Choi-kai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 1.4.2011