

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

Head: 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the launching of a large scale operation (LSO) “for removal of unauthorised building works in New Territories exempted houses that constitute serious contravention of the law and pose higher potential risks to building safety”, what is the amount of resources set aside by the Administration in 2012-13? What is the number of target buildings involved and the date when the LSO will be launched?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply:

The Buildings Department will set up a dedicated section to implement an enhanced enforcement strategy against unauthorised building works (UBWs) in New Territories Exempted Houses (NTEHs) in April 2012. Forty-one professional, technical and clerical staff will be allocated to this dedicated section in 2012-13.

The enhanced enforcement strategy includes a large scale operation (LSO) for removal of existing UBWs in NTEHs that constitute serious contravention of the law and pose higher potential risks to building safety, a Reporting Scheme for existing UBWs in NTEHs that constitute less serious contravention and pose lower potential risks to building safety, and immediate enforcement actions against other UBWs in NTEHs which constitute imminent danger, or are newly erected or found under construction.

As the LSO is part of the overall responsibility of the dedicated section for a full range of work in relation to the enhanced enforcement strategy, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the total expenditure for this LSO alone. As we are at the planning stage of launching the LSO in April 2012, the number of target buildings is not available at present.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ AU Choi-kai _____

Post Title _____ Director of Buildings _____

Date _____ 27.2.2012 _____