

**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:

- (a) In the past year, what was the amount of resources used by the Buildings Department (BD) for publicity and public education against unauthorised building works (UBWs) targeting the owners and occupants of New Territories Exempted Houses (hereafter referred to as "NT village houses")? Please provide details such as the expenditure. How effective are these activities?
- (b) In the past year, how many complaint cases against UBWs in NT village houses were received by the BD in each of the districts? What was the number of cases that were handled, that were confirmed unauthorised and that were already issued removal orders in each of the districts?
- (c) In the past year, what was the amount of resources allocated by the BD for proactive inspection of NT village houses? How many UBWs cases were found in these houses during inspection? Of these cases, how many were issued removal orders?
- (d) So far, how many removal orders against UBWs in NT village houses are not yet complied with after the expiry date? Please list out the respective number of removal orders not complied within 1-3 years, 4-6 years, 7-9 years and 10 years or above after the expiry date?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

In the past year, the Buildings Department (BD) launched a series of publicity and public education activities to enhance the awareness for building safety among the owners and occupants of New Territories Exempted Houses (hereafter referred to as NT village houses) and promote their understanding of unauthorised building works (UBWs). The publicity activities included direct mailing of promotional pamphlets; Announcements in the Public Interest on television, radio, buses and trains; newspaper supplements; as well as outdoor advertisements on bus bodies and train bodies, banners at ferry piers, and posters at bus stations and railway stations. The expenditure incurred is around \$5 million. The BD will continue to monitor the effectiveness of these publicity activities and enhance the publicity programme as necessary.

For UBWs in NT village houses, the BD has been acting on complaints, reports from the public and referrals from other government departments. In the past year, the BD received 3 503 reports and referral cases about UBWs in NT village houses. The distribution of these cases, number of cases handled as well as the corresponding number of UBWs subject to enforcement action and number of removal orders issued as at 14 February 2012, broken down by the nine District Council districts in the New Territories, are as follows:

District	Number of complaints received	Number of cases handled	Number of UBWs subject to enforcement	Number of removal orders issued
Islands	117	109	8	8
Tsuen Wan	83	68	14	14
Sai Kung	580	556	58	58
Sha Tin	258	235	16	16
Tai Po	737	704	109	108
Yuen Long	1 162	1 079	126	116
North	378	283	31	31
Kwai Tsing	9	6	0	0
Tuen Mun	179	78	8	8
Total	3 503	3 118	370	359

As at 14 February 2012, there were 866 removal orders relating to UBWs in NT village houses that had not yet been complied with after the order expiry date. The number of these orders, broken down by the number of years over which they had been over-due, is tabulated below :

Over-due period	Number of removal orders
less than 1 year	318
within 1-3 years	479
within 4-6 years	64
within 7-9 years	5
10 years or above	0
Total	866

Signature _____

Name in block letters AU Choi-kai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 28.2.2012