

**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:

Among the indicators under unauthorised building works (“UBWs”) of “Existing Buildings”, the actual number of “unauthorised structures removed and irregularities rectified” is 25 751 in 2010, but the number in 2011 is 17 879. What is the reason for the decrease in number? Have the resources involved been reduced because of the decrease?

Asked by: Hon. IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina

Reply:

The decrease in the number of unauthorised structures removed and irregularities rectified from 25 751 in 2010 to 17 879 in 2011 is mainly due to the completion of the Blitz Operation on Unauthorised Building Works Clearance (BUC) in 2011. The BUC was launched in 2000 and focused on removal of a large number of unauthorised building works (UBWs) on external walls of target buildings in one go.

After the completion of the BUC, the clearance of UBWs has continued under the revised enforcement policy against UBWs implemented since April 2011, which has extended the coverage of actionable UBWs to include UBWs on rooftops and podiums as well as those in yards and lanes of buildings, irrespective of their risk to public safety and whether they are newly constructed. A Large Scale Operation (LSO) which focuses on the removal of such newly included actionable UBWs has also been launched since April 2011. Such UBWs are generally larger in size, and can rarely be found in large numbers in a single target building.

Apart from the above LSO against UBWs, enforcement actions are also taken under other LSOs of the new package of measures to enhance building safety, including the LSO on tackling irregularities of building works associated with sub-divided flats and LSO on inspection of dilapidated buildings. In addition, the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme and the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme are scheduled for full implementation in the second quarter of 2012. To implement the above initiatives, the staff resources assigned for the building safety and maintenance enforcement programmes will increase in the 2012-13 financial year.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ AU Choi-kai

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Buildings

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 27.2.2012