

**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:

It is mentioned in the Estimates that the Blitz Operation on Unauthorised Building Works Clearance (BUC) focusing on removal of unauthorised building works (UBWs) on external walls of buildings commenced in 2000 and ceased in 2011. The clearance of the remaining UBWs will continue in the form of other large scale operations (LSOs) under a new package of measures to enhance building safety. Please advise this Committee of:

- (a) the number of existing UBWs on external walls of buildings since the cessation of the BUC;
- (b) the specific details of the other LSOs and the resources involved; and
- (c) the expected date of completing the removal of those UBWs involved in (a) above.

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

Reply:

- (a) The Buildings Department (BD) has engaged private sector consultants since 2011 to conduct a stock-taking exercise of all existing unauthorised building works (UBWs) on the exterior of private buildings in Hong Kong. It is anticipated that the stock-taking exercise will be completed in the second half of 2012. We will be able to have a clearer picture of the number of existing UBWs on the exterior of buildings after the completion of the exercise.

- (b) As one of the initiatives of the new package of measures to enhance building safety in Hong Kong, the BD has revised its enforcement policy against UBWs since April 2011 by extending the scope of actionable UBWs to cover all UBWs on the exterior of buildings, including those located on rooftops, flat roofs or in yards and lanes, irrespective of their risk to public safety and whether they are newly erected. To continue the momentum of tackling UBWs on the exterior of private buildings after the cessation of the Blitz Operation on Unauthorised Building Works Clearance, a large scale operation to remove these types of UBWs in 500 target buildings per year has been launched since April 2011. The existing resources for 488 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions and Mandatory Building Inspection Division have been deployed to carry out the abovementioned operation. As this operation is part of the concerned Divisions' overall duties to implement BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower solely for handling this operation.
- (c) As the details on the number and types of existing UBWs on the exterior of private buildings in Hong Kong will only be available upon the completion of the stock-taking exercise, we are not able to set a specific date by which all existing UBWs on the external walls of buildings can be removed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters AU Choi-kai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 28.2.2012