

**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:

In 2012-13, the Buildings Department will continue to implement the revised enforcement policy against unauthorised building works (UBWs) introduced since April 2011, which includes extending the scope of actionable UBWs for enforcement action to cover UBWs on rooftops, podiums, yards and lanes, continue to take vigorous enforcement action against UBWs by, inter alia, planning to instigate more prosecutions, and respond to reports from members of the public. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the provision of additional resources required for the work, and the work plan and target for this year.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply:

The Buildings Department (BD) has implemented the revised enforcement policy against unauthorised building works (UBWs) since April 2011 by expanding the scope of actionable UBWs to include UBWs on rooftops and flat roofs as well as those in yards and lanes of private buildings. A large scale operation to inspect 500 target buildings per year for removal of such actionable UBWs has commenced since April 2011 and will continue in 2012-13. The BD will also continue to encourage the public to report building safety problems and will actively respond to reports on UBWs by issuing statutory orders requiring the owners concerned to carry out rectification works if the UBWs are confirmed to be actionable after inspection. In addition, the BD will step up prosecutions against owners who fail to comply with removal orders. The estimated number of prosecutions to be instigated will increase from 3 000 in 2011 to 3 300 in 2012.

The enforcement work will be handled by the existing resources for 488 professional and

technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions and the Mandatory Building Inspection Division of the BD as part of the Divisions' overall duties to implement the Department's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ AU Choi-kai _____

Post Title _____ Director of Buildings _____

Date _____ 28.2.2012 _____