

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

DEVB(PL)106

Question Serial No.

1282

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 large scale operation for removal of unauthorised building works (UBWs) in New Territories exempted houses that constitute serious contravention of the law and pose higher potential risks to building safety, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the amount of resources and the number of staff involved? Is there any need to employ additional staff? If yes, what is the number?
- (b) Whether assessment of the number of existing UBWs as mentioned above has been made? If yes, what are the details? If no, will assessment be made?
- (c) Whether a time frame has been set and is there a planned completion date for the entire operation? If yes, what are the details? If no, will consideration be given to setting a time frame and a completion date?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The Buildings Department will set up a dedicated section for implementing an enhanced enforcement strategy against unauthorised building works (UBWs) in New Territories Exempted Houses (NTEHs) in April 2012. Forty-one additional professional, technical and clerical staff will be allocated to this 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 which are the first round target for priority enforcement action, 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 the LSO alone.

The LSO is scheduled for launch in April 2012, and the number of UBWs targeted for removal will be available upon completion of the survey work concerned. Given the large number and variety of UBWs in NTEHs, we are at this stage unable to accurately assess the time span of the entire enforcement programme. We will closely monitor progress and will make improvements in the light of operational experience to enhance efficiency for early completion of the work.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ AU Choi-kai _____
Post Title	_____ Director of Buildings _____
Date	_____ 27.2.2012 _____