

**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 both 2010 and 2011, the actual number of advertisement signboards removed/repared exceeded the target. Notwithstanding that the special operation is almost completed, and the number will resume normal and remain stable, the planned number of advertisement signboards for removal/repair in 2012 still exceeds the target. Will the Administration consider raising the target number to ensure there are sufficient resources and staffing to handle the huge number of cases? If so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

With the additional resources allocated to the Buildings Department (BD) in 2011-12, the BD has set up a dedicated Minor Works and Signboard Control Section for the implementation of a proposed statutory control scheme, similar to the one for prescribed minor building works (small canopies, drying racks and supporting frames for air-conditioners) under the Building (Minor Works) Regulation (Cap. 123 sub. leg. N). Under the proposed control scheme, the continued use of certain existing unauthorised signboards (e.g. within stipulated dimensional requirements, not blocking the operation of emergency vehicles, etc.) will be allowed after safety checks and certification by registered building professionals or registered contractors. The safety checking and certification have to be conducted once every five years. Unauthorised signboards not joining the scheme will be subject to the BD's enforcement actions. The legislative amendments for the proposed signboard control system are being scrutinised by the Legislative Council. We will review the target for removal of abandoned/dangerous advertisement signboards after the signboard control system has been fully implemented.

Signature _____

Name in block letters AU Choi-kai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 27.2.2012