

**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:

Regarding the full implementation of the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme and the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme this year, what is the amount of funding reserved in 2012-13? What are the details of the work plan? How many qualified inspectors are there in Hong Kong currently? What is the distribution of the target buildings for mandatory building and window inspection this year?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wai-king, Starry

Reply:

The Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS) and the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme (MWIS) are planned for full implementation in the second quarter of 2012. The work arising from the MBIS and the MWIS 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 Buildings Department (BD) as part of the Divisions' overall duties to implement the Department's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the resources solely for implementing the two schemes.

Owners of buildings selected for the MBIS and MWIS are required to appoint Registered Inspectors (RI) and Qualified Persons (QP) to carry out prescribed inspection and, if necessary, prescribed repair, in respect of their buildings and windows respectively. Registration of RI has commenced since 30 December 2011. Our present assessment is that about 7 800 building professionals are qualified to register as RI, including registered architects, registered professional engineers in the relevant engineering disciplines and registered professional surveyors in the relevant surveying divisions. On the other hand,

there are about 10 000 building professionals (including authorised persons, registered structural engineers and registered inspectors) and registered contractors (including registered general building contractors and registered minor works contractors registered for window works) who are eligible to act as QP.

The BD will select 2 000 and 5 800 target buildings every year for the MBIS and the MWIS respectively. The selection of target buildings for the two schemes will be conducted at quarterly intervals. A selection panel comprising representatives from the BD, Hong Kong Housing Society, building professional institutes, property management associations and District Councils is being set up to advise on the selection of target buildings according to a set of selection criteria. Nominations for the first quarterly batch of the target buildings are underway for submission to the selection panel for consideration. Upon confirmation of this first batch of target buildings, the BD will issue pre-notification letters to the respective owners in the second quarter of 2012 to advise them that their buildings have been selected for the MBIS and the MWIS. The statutory notices will be issued in the second half of 2012. As the list of target buildings has yet to be finalised, we are not able to provide the distribution of the buildings at this stage.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters AU Choi-kai

Post Title Director of Buildings

Date 28.2.2012