

**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 Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13, the Buildings Department will continue to implement the revised enforcement policy against unauthorised building works (UBWs) introduced since April 2011 and take enforcement action against UBWs by, inter alia, planning to instigate more prosecutions in 2012. Please advise this Committee of the relevant details, including:

- (a) enforcement against UBWs in New Territories Exempted Houses (NTEHs) in 2011, including the type and number of UBWs concerned, and the reporting of UBWs that constitute less serious contravention of the law, including the type and number of UBWs concerned; and
- (b) the targeted number of prosecutions and enforcement action against UBWs in NTEHs in 2012, and the staff and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The Buildings Department (BD) has been taking immediate enforcement action against unauthorised building works (UBWs) in New Territories Exempted Houses (NTEHs) which constitute obvious hazard or imminent danger to life or property and UBWs which are under construction or are newly erected. In 2011, the BD issued 372 removal orders against such UBWs.

The BD will set up a dedicated section for implementing an enhanced enforcement strategy against UBWs in NTEHs in April 2012. The dedicated section will involve provision of forty-one professional, technical and clerical staff in 2012-13, at an estimated expenditure of about \$32 million.

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 scheduled for launch in April 2012, the numbers of UBWs targeted for removal and the associated prosecution cases will be available upon completion of the survey work and expiry of the removal orders concerned respectively. Since participation in the Reporting Scheme is voluntary, it is not possible at this stage to estimate the number of reports which will be received and details of the associated UBWs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ AU Choi-kai

Post Title _____ Director of Buildings

Date _____ 28.2.2012