

**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 authority says it will launch a large scale operation for removal of unauthorised building works (UBWs) in New Territories exempted houses (NTEHs) that constitute serious contravention of the law and pose higher potential risks to building safety. In this regard, please provide the following information:

- (a) the estimated provision for such work for 2012-13;
- (b) the annual removal target of UBWs in NTEHs the authority plans to achieve for 2012-13;
- (c) the manpower to be deployed for such work for 2012-13; and
- (d) whether the Buildings Department will set up a dedicated team to handle such work.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

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 professional, technical and clerical staff will be allocated to this dedicated 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, a Reporting Scheme for existing UBWs in NTEHs that constitute less serious contravention and pose lower potential risks to building safety, and immediate enforcement action 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 this 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.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ AU Choi-kai _____

Post Title _____ Director of Buildings _____

Date _____ 27.2.2012 _____