

**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:

The Buildings Department has estimated that it will create 59 additional posts in 2012-13; on the other hand, the provision for the Department for 2012-13 is \$206.2 million, 23.4% higher than the revised estimate for 2011-12. In these connections, please provide a breakdown of the provision and the new posts created for the following work:

- a) enforcement against Unauthorized Building Works in New Territories exempted houses,
- b) large scale operations against sub-divided flats and
- c) full implementation of Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme and Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

The increase in 2012-13 draft Estimates by \$206.2 million is mainly due to the increase in salary payments for both civil servants and non-civil service contract staff (\$98 million), increase in payment for Land Registry / Companies Registry Trading Fund services (\$52 million), increase in payment to outsourced consultants (\$40 million) and increase in payment of rental for additional office accommodation (\$14 million). The additional provision is mainly for enhancing enforcement relating to building safety, including enforcement against unauthorised building works (UBWs) in New Territories Exempted Houses (NTEHs), large scale operations against irregularities of building works associated with sub-divided flats and full implementation of the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme and Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the additional provision allocated for each individual initiative.

In 2012-13, 59 new posts will be created in the Buildings Department comprising one directorate post (D1), 26 professional posts (four Senior Building Surveyor/Senior Structural Engineer and 22 Building Surveyor/Structural Engineer posts), 24 technical posts (four Senior Survey Officer (Building)/Senior Technical Officer (Structural) and 20 Survey Officer (Building)/Technical Officer (Structural) posts), as well as eight general grade posts (four Analyst/Programmer posts and four clerical grade posts). Among these new posts, 41 will be allocated for setting up a dedicated section for enhancing enforcement against UBWs in NTEHs, 13 for carrying out and providing support for large scale operations against irregularities of building works associated with sub-divided flats, and 5 for providing general administrative support.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ AU Choi-kai _____

Post Title _____ Director of Buildings _____

Date _____ 27.2.2012 _____