

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

DEVB(PL)079

Question Serial No.

2012

Head: 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

With the serious problems currently posed by sub-divided flats, the numbers of sub-divided flats rectified of irregularities in 2011 and 2012 were only 12 and 82 respectively. In the past five years (i.e. 2008 to 2012), what was the number of sub-divided flats with irregularities not yet rectified? What was the number of sub-divided flats which were issued warning notices or removal orders but their irregularities were not yet rectified?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

In the past five years, from 2008 to 2012, 16 336 reports on sub-divided flats (SDFs) were received from members of the public and 1 041 removal orders were issued against the irregularities of building works associated with SDFs.

Apart from responding to reports on SDFs, a large scale operation (LSO) to inspect 150 target buildings per year for rectification of irregularities of buildings works associated with SDFs was first commenced in April 2011 (it should be noted that not all SDFs have irregularities of building works). The LSO was enhanced in April 2012 by increasing the target to 200 buildings per year, including 30 industrial buildings. The strategy of this operation was adjusted by taking into account the fire risk that might be brought about by hawker stalls when choosing the target buildings for the operation in 2012. As a result, 339 old style domestic and composite buildings in the vicinity of hawker stalls were selected, in addition to 30 industrial buildings. From April 2011 to February 2013, a total of 485 target buildings had been inspected, with 2 587 SDFs being identified. Where irregularities of building works associated with SDFs are identified during the inspection, the Buildings Department (BD) will issue removal orders in accordance with the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123). As the BD is still finalising the inspection results, we are not able to provide information on the number of SDFs with irregularities yet to be rectified.

Name in block letters: AU Choi-kai

Post Title: Director of Buildings

Date: 2.4.2013