

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

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Question Serial No.

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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 is conducting a large scale operation on rectification of irregularities of building works associated with sub-divided flats. While the number of buildings targeted in 2012 was 369, the planned number for 2013 is 200. The number of buildings to be inspected in 2013 will be 169 less than that in 2012. What are the reasons? Regarding the financial provision for the work concerned, what is the percentage involved in the total expenditure under this Programme?

Asked by: Hon. CHIANG Lai-wan

Reply:

The large scale operation (LSO) to inspect 150 target buildings per year for rectification of irregularities of buildings works associated with sub-divided flats (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 inspect 200 buildings per year, including 30 industrial buildings. The strategy of the LSO 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. To balance the additional workload arising from the increase in the number of target buildings of the LSO on SDFs from 200 to 369, the target of another LSO on removal of unauthorised roof structures was correspondingly adjusted down from 500 to 350 buildings in 2012. The annual targets of the LSO on SDFs and the LSO on removal of unauthorised roof structures will be restored to 200 and 500 buildings respectively in 2013.

The LSO on SDFs has been carried out using the existing resources of 493 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions and the Mandatory Building Inspection Division of the Buildings Department (BD) as part of their overall duties to implement the BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme. We are thus not able to provide a breakdown of the expenditure involved solely for handling the

LSO on SDFs and the information about such expenditure as a percentage of the total expenditure of the BD.

Name in block letters: AU Choi-kai

Post Title: Director of Buildings

Date: 2.4.2013