Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

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Question Serial No.

0907

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:

(a) The Department indicated that it received 18 034 reporting forms for processing under the Reporting Scheme for unauthorised building works (UBWs) in New Territories exempted houses (NTEHs) in 2012. Has the Department assessed the percentage that these cases constitute among all UBWs in NTEHs?

(b) Of the reporting cases received, has the Department verified whether the UBWs meet the requirements that they "constitute less serious contravention of the law" and "pose lower potential risks to building safety"? If so, what is the progress of the assessment and what are the findings?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

(a) There are no statistics on the total number of unauthorised building works (UBWs) in New Territories exempted houses (NTEHs). We are therefore unable to provide the percentage of UBWs reported under the Reporting Scheme for UBWs in NTEHs.

(b) The Buildings Department is now processing all the 18 034 reporting forms submitted under the Reporting Scheme to check whether or not the UBWs reported satisfy the criteria for reporting and are eligible to join the Reporting Scheme, including verifying whether the UBWs meet the requirements that they "constitute less serious contravention of the law" and "pose lower potential risks to building safety". The exercise is in progress and will take some time. We are therefore unable to draw any conclusions or findings at this stage.

Name in block letters: AU Choi-kai

Post Title: Director of Buildings

Date: 2.4.2013