

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

DEVB(PL)096

Question Serial No.

1452

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

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

As indicated under “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14”, the Buildings Department will enhance its revised enforcement policy against unauthorised building works (UBWs), which includes extending the scope of actionable UBWs, vigorous enforcement for removal of UBWs and responding efficiently to reports on UBWs from members of the public. In this connection, please advise:

1. What were the staff establishment and expenditure provided in 2012-13? What are the estimated manpower and resources involved in 2013-14?
2. Regarding the staff establishment currently responsible for the enforcement and removal operations concerned, please give a breakdown of the number of civil servants, non-civil service contract staff and staff of outsourced services. Will the Administration consider recruiting more staff, especially staff of the professional grades concerned? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

1. The enforcement action against unauthorised building works (UBWs) was carried out in 2012-13 using the existing resources of 530 professional and technical staff in 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 manpower and expenditure solely for handling enforcement action against UBWs.
2. The 530 professional and technical staff comprise 377 civil servant staff and 153 non-civil service contract staff. The BD does not keep statistics on the number of staff employed by its outsourced consultants.

The enforcement action against UBWs will continue to be carried out in 2013-14 using the existing resources. There is no plan to increase the professional and technical manpower specifically for the tasks at this stage.

Name in block letters: AU Choi-kai

Post Title: Director of Buildings

Date: 2.4.2013