

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

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Question Serial No.

3039

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

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In 2011, 2012 and 2013, what were the manpower and resource expenditure allocated each year by the Buildings Department for the survey to identify unauthorised building works in New Territories exempted houses?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

Since 1 April 2012, the Buildings Department (BD) has set up a dedicated Village Houses Section to implement the enhanced enforcement strategy against unauthorised building works (UBWs) in New Territories exempted houses (NTEHs). It includes a large scale operation (LSO) for removal of existing UBWs in NTEHs that constitute serious contravention of the law and pose higher potential risks to building safety (known as First Round Targets), a Reporting Scheme for existing UBWs in NTEHs that constitute less serious contravention of the law and pose lower potential risks to building safety, and immediate enforcement actions against other UBWs in NTEHs which constitute imminent danger or are newly erected or found under construction. The Village Houses Section comprises 41 professional, technical and clerical staff. In 2013-14, the annual operating cost of the Section is estimated at \$33 million, made up of \$25 million in staff cost and associated departmental expenditure and \$8 million in consultancy fees.

The BD has not organised surveys for identification of UBWs in NTEHs generally. The surveys conducted in selected New Territories villages since April 2012 are conducted under the LSO specifically for the purpose of identifying First Round Targets for priority enforcement action. They do not cover other categories of UBWs, for example, those which constitute less serious contravention of the law and pose lower potential risks to building safety, which are eligible for reporting under the Reporting Scheme for UBWs in NTEHs. Because these surveys are an integral part of the overall exercise for the implementation of the enhanced enforcement strategy against UBWs in NTEHs, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower and resource expenditure involved.

Name in block letters: AU Choi-kai

Post Title: Director of Buildings

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