

**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:

According to the key performance report, 2 400 New Territories exempted houses (NTEHs) have been surveyed for the purpose to identify unauthorised building works under First Round Targets in 2012, and 8 000 NTEHs are planned for 2013, how many staff, including cost, will be needed for the operation and survey in 2013-14 and if external consultants will be appointed for the work? If so, what is the estimated cost? And what are the additional manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

Since 1 April 2012, the Buildings Department (BD) has set up a dedicated Village Houses Section comprising 41 professional, technical and clerical staff to implement the enhanced enforcement strategy against unauthorised building works (UBWs) in New Territories exempted houses (NTEHs). The enhanced enforcement strategy 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.

In view of the substantial scale of the enforcement against the First Round Targets, the above LSO will be conducted in phases and in a systematic manner. As a start after the setting up of the dedicated Village Houses Section on 1 April 2012, one target village has been selected from each of the nine New Territories districts for a pilot village by village survey which involved 2 400 NTEHs. We have streamlined the modus operandi in the light of the pilot survey experience. It is assessed that the Village Houses Section will be able to meet the target of surveying the First Round Targets in 8 000 NTEHs in 2013 without additional manpower. In 2013-14, the staff and associated expenses of the Village Houses Section are estimated to be about \$25 million. In addition, BD has engaged consultants, not only to handle the village by village surveys and the associated

administrative work under the LSO but also to process the reporting forms received under the Reporting Scheme. In 2013-14, the expenditure for the consultancy fees is estimated to be about \$8 million.

Name in block letters: AU Choi-kai

Post Title: Director of Buildings

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