

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

DEVB(PL)110

Question Serial No.

2315

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 received 18 034 reporting forms for processing under the Reporting Scheme for unauthorised building works in New Territories exempted houses in 2012. In this connection, please advise:

1. At the end of 2012, what were the staff establishment and actual number of staff responsible for handling cases of unauthorised works in New Territories exempted houses?
2. Will the current manpower be sufficient to process the aforesaid 18 034 reporting forms? Will the Department need to recruit more staff? If yes, what are the number of staff and posts involved? Among the posts, how many of them will be internally redeployed and how many of them will be newly created under the existing establishment?
3. What is the estimated time span to process these reporting forms? Has the Department devised any timetable for processing these reporting forms? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

Since 1 April 2012, the Buildings Department (BD) has been implementing the enhanced enforcement strategy against unauthorised building works (UBWs) in New Territories exempted houses (NTEHs). The enhanced enforcement strategy includes a large scale operation for removal of existing UBWs in NTEHs that constitute serious contravention of the law and pose higher potential risks to building safety, 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.

1. The BD has set up a new dedicated section with a staff establishment of 41 professional, technical and clerical staff to implement the enhanced enforcement strategy against UBWs in NTEHs. As at the end of 2012, all the 41 posts have been created.
2. The current manpower of the dedicated section should be sufficient to implement the enhanced enforcement strategy against UBWs in NTEHs, including processing of the 18 034 reporting forms received under the Reporting Scheme. There is no need to recruit more staff at this stage.
3. Under the Reporting Scheme, owners of NTEHs are required to appoint qualified personnel to inspect the structures concerned and submit safety certification to the BD within six months and thereafter every five years after reporting the UBWs. In addition, the BD will conduct audit check on the safety certifications to ensure compliance with the relevant requirements. The processing and administration of the Reporting Scheme is therefore an on-going process.

Name in block letters: AU Choi-kai
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