

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

DEVB(PL)111

Question Serial No.

2318

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

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

For the 87 posts to be created by the Buildings Department in 2013-14, what are the posts and ranks involved? What will be the respective number of civil servants and non-civil service contract staff? Among the posts to be created, what will be the respective number of staff mainly responsible for taking enforcement action against unauthorised building works in New Territories exempted houses, conducting the large scale operation against sub-divided flats and the work on the full implementation of the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme and the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

The 87 new posts to be created in the Buildings Department (BD) in 2013-14 are all civil service posts. They comprise 21 professional posts (four Senior Building Surveyor / Senior Structural Engineer and 17 Building Surveyor / Structural Engineer posts), nine technical posts (Survey Officer (Building) / Technical Officer (Structural) posts) and 57 clerical grade posts.

Among the 87 new posts, ten posts for professional and technical staff and 57 posts for clerical grade staff will be engaged for strengthening departmental and supporting services, as well as enhancing the BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme through strengthening the research and development capability, enhancing the audit function and reinforcing the support for various divisions in implementing the BD's enforcement programme. The other 20 posts for professional and technical staff will be assigned to strengthen services in the approval of building plans and related applications for private development projects.

The Village Houses Section of the BD is dedicated to implement the enhanced enforcement strategy against unauthorised building works in New Territories exempted houses. There will not be any change in the establishment of the Village Houses Section in 2013-14.

As the enforcement action against sub-divided flats (SDFs), including the large scale operation on SDFs, is carried out by the two Existing Buildings Divisions and the Mandatory Building Inspection Division of the BD as part of their overall duties, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower allocated solely for the initiative of taking enforcement action against SDFs.

The full implementation of the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS) and the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme (MWIS) is part of the overall duties of the Mandatory Building Inspection Division and the Existing Buildings Divisions of the BD. The Mandatory Building Inspection Division is also responsible for taking enforcement actions against irregularities of building works associated with SDFs and enforcing the fire safety legislation. We are thus not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower allocated specifically for implementing the MBIS and the MWIS.

Name in block letters: AU Choi-kai
Post Title: Director of Buildings
Date: 2.4.2013