

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

DEVB(PL)280

Question Serial No.

4831

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

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Since last year (2012-13), what has been the provision of resources for investigation of the cases of unauthorised building works at No. 5A and 7 York Road and Houses No. 4 and 5 Yue Hei Yuen, Peel Rise, including the details of manpower, number of inspections and hours of work?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

In response to media reports on suspected unauthorised building works (UBWs) at No. 7 York Road, Kowloon Tong and Houses No. 4 and 5, No. 4 Peel Rise, The Peak, the Buildings Department (BD) conducted investigation by carrying out site inspection and checking its file records for taking appropriate follow-up action on the UBWs in accordance with the Buildings Ordinance (BO) and the prevailing enforcement policy. Such investigation and follow-up action in respect of the UBWs were carried out by staff of the respective Existing Buildings Divisions of the BD responsible for implementing the Department's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme.

For the case of No. 7 York Road, there was information indicating that registered persons under the BO were suspected to be involved in the erection of UBWs at the time of construction of the approved new building under their responsibility and that the registered persons were suspected to have knowingly submitted misrepresented documents to the BD. Therefore, apart from the investigation into the UBWs for taking appropriate enforcement action, the BD also conducted criminal investigation into whether the registered persons concerned had committed the relevant offences under the BO. The criminal investigation was conducted by staff of the New Buildings Division responsible for control of new buildings and associated building works.

As the above investigations were part of the overall duties of the concerned divisions of the BD, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure solely for handling the investigations in these two cases.

Name in block letters: AU Choi-kai

Post Title: Director of Buildings

Date: 15.4.2013