

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

**DEVB(PL)281**

Question Serial No.

5156

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

Programme:                      Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer:        Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau:        Secretary for Development

Question:

Please list, for the past five years (i.e. from 2008 to 2012), the number of inspections conducted each year by the Buildings Department on barrier-free facilities for persons with a disability (including in large shopping arcades, commercial buildings, public facilities, etc.). What were the manpower provision involved and the findings in these inspections (including the number of cases with irregularities found, number of warning letters issued, number of successful prosecutions, etc.)?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

The Buildings Department (BD) has been handling unauthorised removal or alteration of approved barrier-free facilities for persons with disabilities as a type of unauthorised building works in response to reports from the public, and taking appropriate enforcement actions under the Buildings Ordinance (BO). Moreover, since 1997, the BD has been conducting the "Operation Check Walk" (OCW) every year to inspect approved barrier-free facilities in target commercial buildings. The OCW aims to arouse the building owners' awareness of their obligation to maintain such facilities in their buildings. Where irregularities of barrier-free facilities are found, the BD will issue statutory orders under the BO to require the owners to rectify the irregularities.

The statistics on enforcement actions on barrier-free facilities since 2008 are tabulated below:

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Number of buildings inspected under the OCW	15	15	15	15	15
Number of reports on removal or alteration of approved barrier-free facilities received	16	8	15	17	16
Number of statutory orders issued	44	46	38	23	2
Number of prosecutions instigated against failure to comply with statutory orders	1	0	0	0	0

The existing resources of 530 professional and technical staff of the Existing Buildings Divisions and the Mandatory Building Inspection Division of the BD have been deployed to carry out the above enforcement actions against irregularities of barrier-free facilities as part of the overall duties of the concerned Divisions to implement the Department's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower involved solely for the enforcement work on barrier-free facilities.

Name in block letters: AU Choi-kai

Post Title: Director of Buildings

Date: 9.4.2013