

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

DEVB(PL)294

Question Serial No.

4915

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

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Under this Programme, the financial provision estimated for 2013-14 is \$1,124 million. It is mentioned in the Programme that the Buildings Department “continued the operation of the pilot Joint Office (JO) with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to handle public reports about water seepage problems for another two years from 2012-13”. In this connection, please provide the respective details about the following since 2006:

- 1) The expenditure items and staff establishment of the JO each year;
- 2) List out in table form the respective numbers of complaints received by the JO and its district offices from commercial, residential and industrial buildings each year, and provide a breakdown according to the age of the buildings at ten-year intervals; and
- 3) The number of staff and the staff establishment, estimated provision and expenditure of each district office of the JO.

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

- 1) Water seepage in private premises is primarily a matter of building management and maintenance for property owners. However, if the problem of water seepage causes public health nuisance, building structural safety risks or wastage of water, the Government will consider intervention by exercising the relevant statutory powers. To facilitate action, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Buildings Department (BD) have established the Joint Office (JO) as a pilot programme since 2006 to co-ordinate investigation of reports on water seepage and taking of enforcement actions. The programme has been extended for another two years from 2012-13, involving the provision of 64 professional and technical staff from the BD and an estimated expenditure of about \$23 million per year for engaging outsourced consultants to assist in conducting professional investigation on water seepage cases. The number of staff from the BD for the operation of the JO and the expenditure for

engaging consultants in the past seven years since the JO was established in 2006 are tabulated below:

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Number of staff from the BD	60	60	60	60	60	60	64
Expenditure for engaging consultants (\$ million)	1.4	7.5	19.9	23.0	28.0	22.5	23.0 (estimate)

2) The numbers of reports on water seepage received by the JO from 2006 to 2012, broken down by its 19 district offices, are as follows:

District Offices	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Central & Western	448	803	1 085	1 014	1 338	1 177	1 213
Wanchai	826	857	1 071	874	908	835	910
Southern	281	662	924	905	1 132	958	1 138
Eastern	2 311	2 229	2 555	2 761	3 169	2 948	3 315
Kwun Tong	1 048	1 250	1 309	1 494	1 675	1 867	2 161
Wong Tai Sin	275	585	672	763	980	894	1 125
Islands	50	115	185	103	121	94	127
Yuen Long	186	404	519	509	613	612	674
North	196	391	444	564	663	517	675
Shatin	503	1 144	1 406	1 509	2 003	1 796	1 985
Sai Kung	144	344	520	518	695	757	977
Tai Po	186	476	594	626	752	648	826
Kowloon City	2 048	1 974	2 641	2 637	3 116	2 380	2 798
Sham Shui Po	1 298	1 512	1 754	1 640	1 826	1 516	1 771
Yau Tsim	528	810	942	904	1 007	1 041	1 093
Mong Kok	957	996	1 307	1 394	1 434	1 313	1 399

District Offices	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Kwai Tsing	344	687	996	930	1 188	1 370	1 656
Tsuen Wan	543	1 033	1 306	1 093	1 330	1 234	1 531
Tuen Mun	561	1 135	1 487	1 531	1 767	1 703	1 979
Total	12 733	17 405	21 717	21 769	25 717	23 660	27 353

The JO does not keep separate statistics for buildings of different types and age.

- 3) As some staff from the BD have been deployed to handle the work of the JO in more than one district office and some consultants have been engaged to handle the assignments from more than one district office, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower or expenditure from the BD for each of the 19 district offices of the JO.

Name in block letters: AU Choi-kai
Post Title: Director of Buildings
Date: 9.4.2013