

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

**DEVB(PL)295**

Question Serial No.

4918

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 the Programme, it is mentioned that the Department “completed the stock taking exercise to record all unauthorised building works (UBWs) and unauthorised signboards erected on the exterior of private buildings”. Please provide the following information:

- 1) The estimated number of UBWs and unauthorised signboards involved;
- 2) The resource allocation and staff establishment for the entire exercise; and
- 3) The estimated time required to complete the stock taking exercise.

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

- 1) Prior to the commencement of the stock taking exercise, the number of unauthorised building works (UBWs) and unauthorised signboards were estimated at 400 000 and 190 000 respectively. As the survey results of the stock taking exercise are still being finalised, we are not able to provide the respective estimated numbers of UBWs and unauthorised signboards recorded at this stage.
- 2) The site surveys and information system enhancement to record the numbers and types of UBWs and unauthorised signboards erected on the exterior of private buildings were mainly carried out by outsourced consultants employed by the Buildings Department (BD) using a funding of \$27.4 million allocated to the BD in 2011. The existing resources for 530 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions and the Mandatory Building Inspection Division of the BD were also responsible for contract administration and audit checking of the survey results as part of their overall duties to implement the BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme. We are thus not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower and resources solely for the stock taking exercise.

- 3) The stock taking exercise was commenced in May 2011 and site surveys were practically completed in December 2012. The survey results are currently being finalised. The whole exercise is expected to be completed in the second half of 2013.

Name in block letters: AU Choi-kai

Post Title: Director of Buildings

Date: 9.4.2013