

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

DEVB(PL)299

Question Serial No.

4605

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

Programme: Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the work of the Buildings Department (BD) on scrutinising and approving building plan submissions for new buildings, please advise this Committee:

1. In each of the past three years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13), what was the number of new submissions received by the BD? How many of such applications required a re-submission of plans? What was the percentage of such re-submissions in the total number of applications? What was the number of applications requiring more than one re-submission?
2. In each of the past three years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13), what was the average time required from the receipt of a new submission to the completion of the approval process?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

The Buildings Department (BD) processes applications for approval of building plans in accordance with the provisions of the Buildings Ordinance (BO) and its allied regulations. If a first submission is disapproved and the applicant wishes to proceed with the proposal, a re-submission will be required. On the other hand, for approved cases, a re-submission of plans should be made when the applicant proposes to change the design of the proposal as shown on the approved plans. The BD does not keep statistics on building works proposals with or without re-submissions of building plans.

The BD is subject to statutory time limits under the BO in processing building plan applications. Under the BO, the Building Authority shall be deemed to have given his approval of plans unless he has notified his refusal to give approval within the stipulated timeframes. The statutory timeframe is 60 days for new submissions.

The statistics on the numbers of new submissions and re-submissions of building plans and the average processing time of new submissions processed in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 are tabulated below:

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13*
Number of new submissions of building plans processed by the BD	5 391	5 515	4 125
Number of re-submissions of building plans processed by the BD	9 411	10 308	8 370
Average processing time of new submissions of building plans received	53.3 days	53.9 days	54.5 days

* Figures up to 31 December 2012

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