

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)095**

**(Question Serial No. 1708)**

Head: (82) Buildings Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works  
Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (AU Choi-kai)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 13):

The previous target of “dangerous/abandoned signboards removed/repared” (1 600 per year) in 2013 is changed to a new target “dangerous/abandoned signboards removed/repared” in 2014 by the Department. Why is the 2014 target estimated as 1 200, which is 400 less than the target of 1 600 in 2013? Apart from this, with the commencement of the central handling of enforcement actions against unauthorised signboards by the Signboard Control Unit in 2014, is there any change in the number of staff in the unit concerned as compared to the number of staff originally responsible for signboard control?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

In 2013, the actual number of dangerous/abandoned signboards removed or repaired was 1 144. It is expected that a similar number of such signboards would be handled in 2014. The indicator of this programme for 2014 is therefore set at 1 200.

The control of existing unauthorised signboards is handled centrally by the Signboard Control Unit (SBCU) of the Buildings Department (BD) commencing in 2014. To enable SBCU to take up the programme to remove abandoned and dangerous signboards as part of their overall duties to deal with all unauthorised signboards, 12 professional and technical staff from the two Existing Buildings Divisions and the Mandatory Building Inspection Division of BD will be redeployed to SBCU, in addition to the existing resources of 19 professional and technical staff in SBCU. These redeployed staff have previously handled the removal of abandoned and dangerous signboards as part of their overall duties to implement the building safety and maintenance enforcement programme of BD.