

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)097****(Question Serial No. 1710)**

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

Question (Member Question No. 15):

The Department issued 161 and 328 removal orders for unauthorised building works in New Territories exempted houses in 2012 and 2013 respectively. Please advise this Committee of the respective number of cases with the orders discharged, with the deadline for removal extended, under appeal, and cases subject to further legal action due to non-compliance with the order within the statutory time limit.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

The Buildings Department started implementing the enhanced enforcement strategy against unauthorised building works (UBWs) in New Territories exempted houses (NTEHs) on 1 April 2012. The enhanced enforcement strategy includes a large scale operation for removal of existing UBWs in NTEHs that constitute serious contravention of the law and pose higher potential risks to building safety, a Reporting Scheme for existing UBWs in NTEHs that constitute less serious contravention of the law and pose lower potential risks to building safety, and immediate enforcement actions against those UBWs in NTEHs which constitute imminent danger or are newly erected or found under construction.

Of the 161 and 328 removal orders against UBWs in NTEHs issued in 2012 and 2013 respectively, the relevant statistics on the numbers of removal orders discharged, cases with extension of time granted for compliance with removal orders, notifications of appeal received and prosecutions instigated are tabulated below:

	For removal orders issued in 2012	For removal orders issued in 2013
Number of removal orders issued	161	328
Number of removal orders discharged	65	20
Number of cases with extension of time granted	29	34
Number of notifications of appeal received	14	61
Number of prosecutions instigated	19	12