

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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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. 9):

What were the numbers of sub-divided flats with irregularities discovered during inspections by the Buildings Department in the past three years? What are the expenditure and staffing provision involved in the rectification of the irregularities by the Administration?

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

In the past three years, the Buildings Department (BD) has attended to 19 104 reports on sub-divided flats (SDFs) from members of the public or other government departments, with 309 removal orders issued against the irregularities of building works associated with SDFs.

Apart from responding to reports on SDFs, BD has been conducting large scale operations (LSOs) on rectification of irregularities of building works associated with SDFs since 2011. LSOs on SDFs for the past three years covered a total of 785 target buildings, including 60 industrial buildings. Up to February 2014, 637 domestic/composite buildings had been inspected, with 3 884 SDFs identified. As follow-up, 1 421 removal orders had been issued. In addition, 60 industrial buildings had been inspected and so far 34 sub-divided units for domestic use had been identified in these buildings. As follow-up, 53 removal and discontinuation orders had been issued.

The enforcement action against irregularities of building works associated with SDFs is being carried out by the existing resources of 493 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions and the Mandatory Building Inspection Division of BD as part of their overall duties to implement BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme. We are unable to provide a breakdown of the manpower resources involved solely for carrying out enforcement action in relation to SDFs.