

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)109**

**(Question Serial No. 2746)**

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. 50):

In 2014-15, the Buildings Department will have a net increase of 215 posts. Please advise what the duties of these posts and the expenditures involved are. Has the Department assessed how to enhance the related work progress with the additional manpower; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Tai-fai

Reply:

215 new posts will be created in the Buildings Department (BD) in 2014-15. It is estimated that the salaries provision for these new posts is about \$84 million per annum. Among the 215 new posts, 193 posts, comprising 58 professional staff, 110 technical staff and 25 supporting staff, will be deployed to the two Existing Buildings Divisions, the Mandatory Building Inspection Division and the Corporate Services Division of BD. They will mainly be engaged for enhancing BD's various building safety and maintenance enforcement programmes such as the enforcement action against unauthorised building works and sub-divided flats as well as the implementation of the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme and the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme. The remaining 22 posts will be assigned for strengthening services in the approval of building plans and related applications for private development projects (five posts, comprising two professional staff, two technical staff and one supporting staff) and the Joint Office to tackle reports on water seepage through a "one-stop" approach (17 posts, comprising two professional staff, 12 technical staff and three supporting staff).

BD will continue to monitor and examine the staffing position and workload of the Department and ensure that there is sufficient manpower to implement different building safety initiatives and enhance its service to the public. Apart from strengthening the manpower, BD has also taken other measures such as streamlining procedures to enhance efficiency. BD also has reviewed the job priorities to ensure that more resources will be deployed for handling such works as clearing backlog removal orders so as to enhance the effectiveness of enforcement work.