

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)111

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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. 8):

Regarding the continued removal of 250 targeted large unauthorised signboards, how many signboards have been removed so far? What is the average time and cost required for the removal of each signboard? When are all the removal works expected to be completed, and what is the expenditure involved this year?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

Under the large scale operation for the removal of 250 targeted large unauthorised signboards in 2013, 250 removal orders had been issued by the Buildings Department (BD). Out of these targeted signboards, 77 had already been removed by the owners by the end of February 2014.

We do not have information on the average time and cost required for the removal of each signboard. The time taken for order compliance varies with the complexity of the case, and BD will continue to monitor the progress of removal of the remaining targeted signboards. We will issue warning letters to the signboard owners to urge them to comply with the removal orders. Prosecution may be initiated if the owners fail to comply with the orders without any reasonable excuse after the issue of warning letter. Furthermore, if the signboards become dangerous, BD will engage government contractors to carry out the required works in the owners' default and recover the cost of such works, plus supervision charge and surcharge from the owners afterwards.

The existing 19 professional and technical staff in the Signboard Control Unit of BD are responsible for the large scale operation on removal of large unauthorised signboards as part of their overall duties to implement the Signboard Control System. We are not able to provide breakdown of expenditure solely for the removal of large unauthorised signboards.