

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)117

(Question Serial No. 0908)

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. 24):

Regarding the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme, will the Government advise this Committee:

- (a) of the number of requests for assistance the Government has received since the implementation of the scheme;
- (b) of the number of buildings that have complied with statutory notices of building inspection so far;
- (c) of the number of staff in the Department dedicated to assisting building owners to comply with the statutory notices of building inspection under the scheme (e.g. organising briefing sessions, assisting owners of old buildings to convene owners' meetings); and
- (d) of the Department's estimated expenditure for assisting building owners to comply with the statutory notices of building inspection in the coming year; whether additional manpower will be deployed; if yes, of the number of additional staff?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

- (a) As at 31 December 2013, the Buildings Department (BD) had received over 25 000 verbal and written enquiries or requests for assistance from members of the public about the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS) and the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme (MWIS). As BD does not keep separate statistics on the nature of enquiries or requests received, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the requests for assistance related only to the MBIS.
- (b) As at 31 December 2013, 126 statutory notices for prescribed building inspection under the MBIS involving 21 target buildings had been complied with.

(c)&(d) The implementation of the MBIS and the MWIS, including the handling of requests for assistance from owners and related public education and publicity work, is carried out by the existing resources of 497 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions, the Mandatory Building Inspection Division and the Public Education and Publicity Unit of BD as part of their overall duties to implement the Department's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme as well as the public education and publicity campaign. In 2014-15, 193 new non-directorate civil service posts, including those converted from existing non-civil service contract positions, will be assigned for enhancing various building safety and maintenance enforcement programmes including the MBIS and the MWIS. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower or expenditure involved solely for assisting building owners to comply with statutory notices under the MBIS.