

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. 17):

Under this Programme, regarding the large scale operation on removal of large unauthorised signboards targeting at 250 such signboards in 2013, please advise this Committee:

- 1) of the details of these 250 large unauthorised signboards, including the irregularities, the dates of enforcement, the fees for the removal works, their locations and the types of buildings involved;
- 2) of the number of large unauthorised signboards still pending removal; and
- 3) of the expected progress of work in 2014-15.

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

1. The 250 large unauthorised signboards issued with removal orders under the large scale operation (LSO) by the Buildings Department (BD) in 2013 included projecting signboards with display areas larger than 20 square metres (m²), wall signboards with display areas larger than 40m² and signboards with projections over street of more than 4.2 metres from the external wall of a building. These target signboards were unauthorised as they were erected without obtaining prior approval and consent from BD.

BD does not have statistical breakdown on the type of buildings involved. The distribution of the 250 large unauthorised signboards on geographical basis is tabulated as follows:

Area	Districts	No. of large unauthorised signboards targeted for removal
Hong Kong	Central and Western	23
	Wan Chai	21
	Eastern	26
	Southern	4
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>74</i>
Kowloon	Kowloon City	35
	Kwun Tong	9
	Yau Tsim Mong	66
	Sham Shui Po	28
	Wong Tai Sin	4
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>142</i>
New Territories	Islands	0
	North	7
	Sai Kung	0
	Sha Tin	2
	Tai Po	4
	Tsuen Wan	4
	Tuen Mun	0
	Yuen Long	8
	Kwai Tsing	9
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>34</i>
Total:		250

Under the above-mentioned LSO, BD had issued 250 removal orders and 77 of them had already been removed by the owners by the end of February 2014. We have no information on the removal costs involved. BD will continue to monitor the progress of removal of the remaining targeted signboards.

2. According to the preliminary results obtained from the stock taking exercise recently conducted by BD on the numbers and types of unauthorised building works and unauthorised signboards at the exterior of private buildings, there are a total of about 120 000 signboards in Hong Kong. However, we do not have information on the total number of large unauthorised signboards among these 120 000 signboards.

3. In 2014-15, BD will continue to carry out LSO on removal of unauthorised signboards. In 2014, we estimate that 300 removal orders will be issued against signboards (of large size as mentioned in (1)) ineligible for the Validation Scheme for Unauthorised Signboards (validation scheme) and signboards that are eligible but have not joined the validation scheme. Also, 1 300 unauthorised signboards will be removed or validated under the validation scheme.