

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)132**

**(Question Serial No. 1581)**

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. 18):

In 2013, the Administration continued to take enforcement action against unauthorised building works (UBWs). The actual numbers of cases handled were 350 buildings in 2012 and 600 buildings in 2013, and it is expected that the number of cases handled in 2014 will be 200 buildings. Please advise this Committee:

- 1) of the number of selected target UBWs pending removal up to 2013; and
- 2) of the enforcement details, timetable, expenditure and manpower involved in view of the much lowered target in 2014 and the large number of UBWs pending removal.

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

1. In 2013, the Buildings Department (BD) redeployed resources from another large scale operation (LSO) on inspection of dilapidated buildings for issue of repair or investigation orders to increase the number of target buildings under LSO for removal of unauthorised building works (UBWs) on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes from 350 to 600. The target of the latter LSO will be reduced to 200 buildings in 2014 as resources will be redeployed to expedite the handling of about 68 000 outstanding removal orders.
2. Apart from LSO for removal of UBWs on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes, BD will continue to take vigorous enforcement action against UBWs associated with sub-divided flats and unauthorised signboards through conducting LSOs. In addition, BD will also continue its enforcement action against UBWs in response to reports from members of the public and other government departments. It is anticipated that 6 000 removal orders will be issued and 17 000 UBWs will be removed or rectified in 2014.

The enforcement action against UBWs is carried out by the existing resources of 576 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions, the Mandatory Building Inspection Division and the Minor Works and Signboard Control Section of BD as part of their overall duties to implement BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower or expenditure involved solely for the enforcement action against UBWs on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes.