

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)135

(Question Serial No. 1173)

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):

The Department will have a net increase of 215 posts in 2014-15. Please provide a breakdown of these 215 posts by position, terms of appointment, major scope of work or project designated, pay band, and indication of whether they are for new appointment or internal redeployment.

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

Among the 215 new posts to be created in the Buildings Department (BD) in 2014-15, 202 posts are converted from non-civil service contract (NCSC) positions which comprise 59 professional posts (Building Surveyor/Structural Engineer posts), 115 technical posts (33 Senior Survey Officer (Building)/Senior Technical Officer (Structural) posts and 82 Survey Officer (Building)/Technical Officer (Structural) posts) as well as 28 clerical and other grade posts (23 clerical grade and five other grades). The remaining 13 civil service posts are additional new posts which comprise three professional posts (Building Surveyor/Structural Engineer posts), nine technical posts (one Senior Survey Officer (Building)/Senior Technical Officer (Structural) post and eight Survey Officer (Building)/Technical Officer (Structural) posts) and one clerical post (one Clerical Assistant post).

For the professional officers, they are remunerated at Master Pay Scale (MPS) Points 30 – 44. The Senior Survey Officer (Building) and Senior Technical Officer (Structural) are at MPS Points 23 – 29, and the Survey Officer (Building)/Technical Officer (Structural) are at MPS Points 9 – 22. The Clerical Grade Officers are at MPS Points 1- 15, and the remaining officers of other grades are at MPS Points 15 – 44. New civil service appointees will generally be appointed on "New Probationary Terms" for a maximum period of three years. Upon passage of the probation bar, the appointees may be considered for further appointment under the prevailing permanent terms.

Among the 215 new posts to be created in BD in 2014-15, 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).