

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)142

(Question Serial No. 1042)

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. 115):

In respect of the scrutiny and approval of building plans for new buildings by the Buildings Department (BD), please advise this Committee:

- (1) of the number of new building plan submissions received by BD, the number of new building plans approved, and the number of processed building plans requiring re-submission over the past three years (2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14);
- (2) of the total number of housing estates, blocks or units involved in the approved new building plans over the past three years (2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14);
- (3) of the total number of housing estates, blocks or units under construction or completed in relation to the approved new building plans over the past three years (2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14);
- (4) of the number of cases with approved new building plans found to have been altered without permission over the past three years (2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14); and
- (5) given that new building projects approved in 2014-15 is expected to increase sharply as compared to the previous year, whether the Administration has any plan to increase the staffing provision; if yes, of the details and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

(1) to (3)

The Buildings Department (BD) does not keep statistics on the number of residential estates and domestic units involved in new building proposals. The other statistics related to new building proposals handled in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 are tabulated below:

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14*
No. of new building proposals received	272	282	261
No. of new building proposals approved#	381	187	139
No. of new building proposals disapproved requiring re-submission#	282	197	168
No. of residential blocks approved	1 131	390	539
No. of residential blocks involved in the notification of commencement of superstructure works	169	224	257
No. of residential units involved in the notification of commencement of superstructure works	15 625	10 898	7 898
No. of residential blocks issued with an occupation permit	232	296	466
No. of residential units issued with an occupation permit	6 803	9 767	8 018

* Statistics up to 31 December 2013.

As there is a lapse of time between receipt of a new building proposal and completion of processing of the proposal, the number of new building proposals approved or disapproved in a year does not necessarily correspond to the number of new building proposals received in that year.

(4)

A new building cannot be occupied unless it is issued with an occupation permit. Before issue of an occupation permit, the building has to be completed in accordance with the approved plans and in compliance with the Buildings Ordinance. BD does not keep statistics on the number of cases involving building works constructed not in accordance with the approved plans.

(5)

To strengthen services in the approval of plans and related applications for private development projects, five new posts comprising one Building Surveyor, one Structural Engineer, one Survey Officer (Building), one Technical Officer (Structural) and one Clerical Assistant will be deployed to the New Buildings Divisions of BD in 2014-15. The above increase in manpower involves an additional expenditure of about \$2 million per annum.