

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)349

(Question Serial No. 4772)

Head: (82) Buildings Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (HUI Siu-wai)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 66):

Under the programme of Buildings and Building Works, the Administration will issue fire safety directions (FSDns) to prescribed commercial premises and commercial and composite buildings. Will the Government advise this Committee:

1. since the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance came into effect, of the number of commercial/residential buildings and domestic buildings inspected (broken down by year); and as at 31 March 2014, of the number of commercial/residential buildings and domestic buildings not yet inspected;
2. of the manpower and expenditure involved in the above work this year; whether there will be additional manpower to handle the more complicated cases in the coming year; if yes, of the manpower and expenditure involved; if not, the reasons for that;
3. whether any FSDns were issued to old-style domestic buildings this year; if yes, of the details, the number of buildings, and the manpower and expenditure involved; if not, when the Administration will start issuing the FSDns to old-style domestic buildings; and
4. of the respective numbers of prosecutions instigated against prescribed commercial premises, commercial and composite buildings under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance in the past three years; given that the Administration will spend more efforts in enforcing outstanding directions in the coming year, of the details, and the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (1) Since the implementation of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (FS(B)O) on 1 July 2007, the numbers of target composite buildings inspected by the Buildings Department (BD) broken down by year are tabulated below:

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014*	Total
No. of composite buildings inspected	552	842	1 001	1 150	1 150	1 150	1 150	189	7 184

* As at 28 February 2014

Under the current programme, inspection of target buildings is to be carried out in two phases. Inspection of about 9 000 target composite buildings is being carried out in the first phase, while inspection of about 3 000 target domestic buildings in the second phase has not yet commenced. As of March 2014, about 2 000 composite buildings and 3 000 domestic buildings have not yet been inspected.

- (2) In 2014-15, BD will maintain a dedicated Fire Safety Section (FSS) of 118 professional, technical and clerical staff responsible for the administration and enforcement of FS(B)O and the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance (FS(CP)O), including handling complicated cases as part of their overall duties to administer these two Ordinances. In the coming year, more efforts will be spent in enforcing outstanding fire safety directions (FSDns). We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower or expenditure involved solely with handling complicated cases under FS(B)O.
- (3) As the inspection of target domestic buildings in the second phase has not commenced, we are not able to provide the programme for issuing FSDns to these buildings for the time being.
- (4) In the past three years, the numbers of prosecution instigated against owners of composite buildings, specified commercial buildings and prescribed commercial premises failing to comply with FSDns and fire safety improvement directions (FSIDns) issued under FS(B)O and FS(CP)O respectively are tabulated below:

Type of buildings/premises	No. of prosecutions instigated
Composite buildings	2
Specified commercial buildings	40
Prescribed commercial premises	0

In 2014-15, BD will step up efforts to instigate prosecutions against owners failing to comply with the relevant FSDns or FSIDns. The work associated with the instigation of prosecutions is mainly carried out by the existing resources of 53 professional and technical staff of the Legal Services Section of BD as part of their overall duties in handling all prosecutions and disciplinary proceedings arising from the enforcement work of the Department. The existing resources of FSS of BD are also involved in compiling documentary evidence and attending court hearings as prosecution witnesses. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower or expenditure involved solely with handling prosecutions under FS(B)O.