

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)350

(Question Serial No. 4773)

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. 80):

Under the programme "Buildings and Building Works", the Administration has selected a total of 600 buildings this year for the comprehensive clearance of unauthorised building works (UBWs) on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes. Will the Government advise this Committee:

1. of the manpower and expenditure involved this year in the above work; of the number of owners prosecuted by the Administration in the past three years for failing to comply with removal orders; given that the Administration will reduce the number of target buildings for inspection to 200 in the coming year to redeploy resources for clearing the backlog of outstanding removal orders, of the details of the resource redeployment, and of the manpower and expenditure involved; and
2. of the current number of backlog cases of outstanding removal orders, and of years of delay in these cases?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

1. The large scale operation (LSO) for removal of unauthorised building works (UBWs) on rooftop, flat roofs, yards and lanes is carried out by the existing resources of 493 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions and the Mandatory Building Inspection Division of the Buildings Department (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 resources involved solely for this LSO.

As this LSO was first launched in 2010 with most removal orders issued in late 2011, there was no prosecution against failure to comply with removal orders arising from this LSO instigated in 2011. In 2012 and 2013, BD instigated four and 197 prosecutions respectively.

The number of target buildings of this LSO will be reduced to 200 in 2014 as resources will be redeployed to expedite the clearance of the backlog of some 68 000 outstanding removal orders as an interim arrangement. Additional resources will also be provided in 2014 for forming dedicated backlog clearance teams in order to clear the outstanding orders in a systematic and efficient manner.

2. As at the end of 2013, there were about 68 000 outstanding removal orders issued against UBWs in the whole territory. These removal orders are still at various stages of follow-up and are yet to be complied with. The distribution of these outstanding orders, according to the year of issue, is as follows:

Year of Issue	No. of Outstanding Orders
2004 and before	1 100
2005-2007	7 900
2008-2010	31 300
2011-2013	27 700
Total	68 000