

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

S-DEVB(PL)08

(Question Serial No. S0113)

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:

With reference to Reply Serial No. DEVB(PL)135:

Among the 215 new posts to be created in 2014-15, 202 posts are converted from non-civil service contract (NCSC) positions. Thus, the actual number of additional civil service posts is only 13. In this connection, with the surge in workload and a severe shortage of manpower in recent years, has the Buildings Department assessed whether the additional 13 posts will be sufficient for coping with the heavy workload? If yes, what are the results of the assessment; if not, what are the reasons for that, and what will be done to boost the morale of the Department's workforce?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

The Buildings Department (BD) will continue to monitor and examine the staffing position and workload of the Department and ensure that there is sufficient manpower to implement various building safety initiatives and enhance its service to the public. It will bid for the required additional resources as necessary in future resource allocation exercises. Moreover, if there is operational need, BD will engage non-civil service contract staff to meet service need that is short-term or where the mode of delivery of the service is under review or likely to be changed. Apart from strengthening the manpower, BD has also taken other measures such as streamlining procedures to enhance efficiency, and reviewing the job priorities to ensure that more resources will be deployed for handling work such as clearing outstanding backlog removal orders to enhance the effectiveness of the enforcement action.