

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)061

(Question Serial No. 1688)

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:

Regarding the staff establishment of the Buildings Department (BD), please inform this Committee:

1. given that there will be a net increase of 152 posts in 2015-16 in the BD, of the number of these civil service posts that are converted from existing non-civil service contract (NCSC) positions, and the major duties of the other additional posts;
2. of the number of NCSC positions to be retained in 2015-16, the change as compared with the number in 2014-15, the major duties of the retained NCSC positions and the estimated expenditure involved;
3. of the estimated additional annual expenditure involved if the NCSC positions retained in 2015-16 are replaced by civil service posts of the same ranks;
4. of the staff turnover rate of NCSC positions in each of the past three years, and the respective expenditures of the consequential recruitment and administrative work.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 37)

Reply:

1. In 2015-16, the Buildings Department (BD) will create 152 non-directorate civil service posts. Among these posts, 145 posts are to be converted from non-civil service contract (NCSC) positions. For the remaining seven posts, four professional and technical grade posts will be deployed to strengthen support in plan processing work, and three general grade posts will be engaged in the handling of office relocation projects.
2. We are now reviewing the number of NCSC positions for 2015-16 with the Civil Service Bureau. Hence, we are not able to provide the number of NCSC positions to be retained in 2015-16, the changes as compared to the number in 2014-15 and the estimated expenditure involved. The NCSC staff in BD mainly assist in the implementation of different building safety initiatives including the Operation Building Bright and the operation of the Joint Offices set up by BD and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to tackle public reports on water seepage, as well as provide administrative/clerical support to various sections/units.

3. As we are reviewing the number of NCSC positions for 2015-16, we are not able to provide the estimated additional expenditure involved if the NCSC positions retained in 2015-16 are to be replaced by civil service posts of comparable ranks.
4. The turnover rates of NCSC staff in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 were 34.2%, 34.1% and 43.8% respectively. The respective recruitment and administrative expenditures (excluding staff cost) involved in the aforementioned financial years were \$21,955, \$18,485 and \$8,262 respectively.

- End -