

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

<b>DEVB(PL)077</b>
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**(Question Serial No. 0872)**

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:

In the Programme, the authorities stated that it would continue to inspect within 48 hours unauthorised building works under construction upon receipt of reports. In this connection, please inform this Committee:

- (1) of the respective numbers of reports received, inspections made and orders issued in the past three years (2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015);
- (2) of the posts, staff establishment and related staff expenditure involved in making inspections and issuing orders in the past three years (2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015); and
- (3) whether there is any plan to recruit additional staff in 2015-16; if so, of the number and posts of the additional staff and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (Member Question No. 11)

Reply:

- (1) For cases involving unauthorised building works (UBWs) under construction (known as “works-in-progress” or “WIP” cases), the numbers of cases received, cases attended to within 48 hours and removal orders issued are tabulated as follows -

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Number of WIP cases received</b>	5 388	4 403	4 056
<b>Number of WIP cases attended to within 48 hours</b>	5 342	4 381	4 016
<b>Removal orders issued in relation to WIP cases</b> <sup>Note</sup>	679	540	303

Note: The figures do not necessarily correspond to the WIP cases received and attended to in the same year.

- (2) The enforcement action against WIP cases, including carrying out inspection and issuing orders as and when necessary, was carried out by the professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions, the Mandatory Building Inspection Division and the Minor Works and Signboard Control Section of the BD as part of their overall duties to implement the BD’s building safety and maintenance enforcement programme. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower resources involved solely for carrying out enforcement action in relation to WIP cases.

The manpower resources and expenditure for implementing BD’s building safety and maintenance enforcement programmes in the past three years are tabulated below.

	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
Number of professional and technical staff	530	576	620
Expenditure for staff cost, departmental expenses and engaging consultants (\$ million)	489	526	522

- (3) Additional resources of 18 technical staff on non-civil service contract will be deployed to the two Existing Buildings Divisions of the BD in 2015-16 to assist in implementing the BD’s building safety and maintenance enforcement programmes. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the additional manpower resources involved solely for carrying out enforcement action in relation to WIP cases.

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