Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2015-16

Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)081

(Question Serial No. 0419)

Head: (82) Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (HUI Siu-wai)

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Development

Question:

During 2015-16, the Buildings Department will continue to implement the revised enforcement policy against unauthorised building works (UBWs) introduced since April 2011 and respond to reports on UBWs from members of the public. In this connection, will the authorities inform this Committee:

- (1) of the total number of UBWs handled each year (set out by type in a table) and the expenditure involved since the implementation of the policy; and
- (2) of the specific work plan and breakdown of the estimated expenditure in 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Pei-chun, James (Member Question No. 17)

Reply:

- (1) In 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, there were respectively 17 879, 13 581, 14 972 and 22 866 unauthorised building works (UBWs) removed. The Buildings Department (BD) does not keep separate statistics on the number of different types of UBWs removed.
- (2) Apart from handling reports on UBWs made by members of the public, the BD will also continue its enforcement action against UBWs in 2015-16 through its large scale operations to tackle actionable UBWs in an orderly and systematic manner.

The enforcement action against UBWs is carried out by the existing resources of 620 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 programmes. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower resources involved solely for the implementation of the enforcement policy against UBWs.