

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)087****(Question Serial No. 1933)**

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:

What were the respective numbers of inspections made, removal operations carried out and prosecutions instigated against unauthorised building works by the Buildings Department in each of the past five years? What was the expenditure involved? What detailed action plans does the authorities have to tackle the problem?

Asked by: Hon TO Kun-sun, James (Member Question No. 37)

Reply:

The Buildings Department (BD) takes enforcement action against unauthorised building works (UBWs) in response to public reports and through its large scale operation. It does not keep separate statistics on the number of inspections made for UBWs. On BD's enforcement action against UBWs, the numbers of reports from members of the public attended to, removal orders issued and prosecutions against failure to comply with removal orders in the past five years are tabulated as follows -

Year	No. of Reports on UBWs Attended to	No. of Removal Orders Issued⁽¹⁾	No. of Prosecutions⁽¹⁾
2010	28 613	22 903	2 609
2011	38 275	9 176	2 264
2012	44 562	12 292	2 104
2013	44 512	12 005	2 513
2014	41 146	11 816	2 532

Note (1): The figures do not necessarily correspond to the reports on UBWs attended to in the same year.

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 BD in

2014-15 as part of their overall duties to implement BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programmes. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower resources and expenditure involved solely for the enforcement action against UBWs.

BD will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach to enhance building safety. In particular, to address the building safety issues related to UBWs, BD will continue its enforcement action against UBWs in response to public reports and through its large scale operation. BD will also continue its public education and publicity campaign to disseminate messages on building safety, including that UBWs should not be carried out, and foster a building safety culture in the community.

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