

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)088**

**(Question Serial No. 1945)**

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:

How many inspections against large unauthorised signboards were made by the Buildings Department in 2014-15? What were the numbers of removal operations carried out and prosecutions instigated? What was the expenditure involved? Please list in detail the actions to be taken by the administration to tackle problems arising from large unauthorised signboards in the future.

Asked by: Hon TO Kun-sun, James (Member Question No. 50)

Reply:

The Buildings Department (BD) takes enforcement action against unauthorised signboards in response to public reports and through its large scale operations. It does not keep separate statistics on the number of inspections made for unauthorised signboards. In 2014, 349 removal orders were issued against unauthorised signboards, 791 unauthorised signboards were removed/validated, and 1 301 dangerous/abandoned signboards were removed/repared. BD also instigated 56 prosecutions against signboard owners for failure to comply with removal orders. The enforcement action against unauthorised signboards is carried out by 37 professional and technical staff of the Signboard Control Unit of BD as part of their overall duties. The expenditure incurred by the Signboard Control Unit is about \$26 million in 2014-15.

In 2015-16, BD will continue to take enforcement action against unauthorised signboards, including removing/repairing dangerous signboards regardless of their sizes. It is estimated that 600 removal orders will be issued, 800 unauthorised signboards will be removed/validated and 1 400 dangerous/abandoned signboards will be removed/repared. BD will also continue to enhance efforts in public education and publicity on building safety. Among them is a large-scale publicity event, namely the Building Safety Week 2015, which was held in mid-March 2015 to raise public awareness of building safety, including issues related to unauthorised signboards.

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