

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)090

(Question Serial No. 0395)

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:

According to the information provided by the authorities on rooftop removal, the actual removal number in 2013 was 600, but the figure dropped sharply to 200 in 2014. In this connection, please inform this Committee:

- (a) of the numbers of unauthorised building works (UBWs) on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes of buildings targeted for inspection, enforcement and removal in the past three years (2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15), set out in a table and grouped under 18 districts;
- (b) given that frontline staff of the Buildings Department responsible for enforcement was working under much pressure due to incidents such as the issue of UBWs in village houses in the past few years, of the respective staff establishment and expenditure for tackling the UBWs on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories in the past three years (2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15); and whether there is any plan to expand the staff establishment of the above three regions in 2015-16 to cope with the increasingly heavy workload, please provide relevant figures.

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing (Member Question No. 13)

Reply:

Since 2010, the Buildings Department (BD) has been taking enforcement action against unauthorised building works (UBWs) on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes in an orderly and systematic manner through large scale operations (LSOs). The number of target buildings was adjusted from 600 in 2013 to 200 and 270 in 2014 and 2015 respectively as resources had been redeployed to clear the outstanding removal orders.

Our reply to the question is as follows –

- (a) The LSOs for the removal of UBWs on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes are conducted on a building basis. The numbers and geographical distribution of the target buildings covered by the LSOs from 2012 to 2014 are tabulated below -

District	No. of target buildings		
	2012	2013	2014
Central & Western	42	22	9
Wan Chai	36	28	7
Eastern	34	81	5
Southern	6	19	0
Kowloon City	47	97	50
Kwun Tong	30	14	14
Yau Tsim Mong	59	142	45
Sham Shui Po	36	66	47
Wong Tai Sin	8	23	8
Islands	0	0	0
North	10	12	3
Sai Kung	0	6	0
Sha Tin	0	12	0
Tai Po	6	28	5
Tsuen Wan	12	5	2
Tuen Mun	10	10	0
Yuen Long	5	28	4
Kwai Tsing	9	7	1
Total	350	600	200

- (b) The LSOs for the removal of UBWs on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes are carried out by the existing manpower resources of the two Existing Buildings Divisions and the Mandatory Building Inspection Division of BD 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 involved solely for the LSOs. The manpower resources and expenditure for implementing BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programmes in the past three years are tabulated below.

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

Additional resources of 18 technical staff on non-civil service contract will be deployed to the two Existing Building Divisions of the BD in 2015-16 to assist in implementing the BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programmes.

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