

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)093

(Question Serial No. 2610)

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:

As stated in the Programme, regarding the fire safety improvement directions (FSIDns) issued to specified commercial buildings, “many directions issued with relatively simple requirements have been discharged gradually and difficult cases particularly those involving improvement works in the common parts of buildings are accumulating”. Please inform this Committee of the measures to handle this type of cases and to help owners comply with the FSIDns in 2015-16, and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 5)

Reply:

In 2015-16, the Buildings Department (BD) will continue to take measures to encourage and render assistance to building owners in complying with fire safety improvement directions (FSIDns). These measures include -

- (a) working with the Home Affairs Department to assist building owners to form owners' corporations;
- (b) offering technical advice through meetings with the building owners and their appointed consultants;
- (c) carrying out joint inspections with building owners' appointed consultants to explore possible ways to overcome site constraints hindering compliance with FSIDns;
- (d) providing financial assistance to eligible building owners through the Building Safety Loan Scheme; and
- (e) enhancing public awareness of the importance of fire safety in old buildings through seminars and activities organised by District Fire Safety Committees and other organisations.

In addition, BD will also step up enforcement action, including instigating prosecution, against building owners who fail to comply with FSIDns without reasonable excuse.

In 2015-16, BD's Fire Safety Section, comprising 126 professional, technical and clerical staff, will handle outstanding FSIDns, including rendering assistance to building owners, as part of their overall duties. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the expenditure deployed solely for the work.

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