

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)243

(Question Serial No. 6078)

Head: (82) Buildings Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (HUI Siu-wai)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

- (1) Regarding repair orders issued in connection with maintenance of private slopes, how many of them involved appointing consultants or contractors on behalf of the owners by the Department in each of the past two years (i.e. 2013 and 2014)? Please list the respective annual expenditures involved.
- (2) Did the Department successfully recover the full cost from the owners concerned in all these cases of the period from 2012-13 up to now? If not, what is the progress? Were any amounts written off? What are the details and reasons?
- (3) At present, how many dangerous hillside orders (DHOs) have not yet been complied with (or the required repair has not yet been completed) for one to three years, four to six years, seven to nine years, and ten years or above after the specified time?
- (4) What are the details of redeploying resources to clear the backlog of outstanding repair orders, including the estimated increase in staff establishment and expenditure for such work in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth (Member Question No. 367)

Reply:

- (1) The Buildings Department (BD) has been engaging consultants and contractors to carry out the required slope investigation and repair works in the owners' default and recovers the costs of such works plus supervision charge and surcharge from the owners afterwards. In 2013 and 2014, the number of dangerous hillside orders (DHOs) involved is 16 and 11 respectively. The amount paid to consultants and contractors in 2013-14 and 2014-15 (up to December 2014) is \$9.7 million and \$9.6 million respectively.

- (2) From 2012-13 up to now, the amount of costs recovered and written off in relation to the carrying out of slope investigation and repair works in the owners' default is as follows –

	Amount of cost recovered from owners (HK\$)	Amount of cost written off⁽¹⁾ (HK\$)
2012-13	1.5 million	5,655
2013-14	3.8 million	751
2014-15 (up to December 2014)	7.4 million	0

Note ⁽¹⁾: The reasons of the cost having been written off include that the owner has deceased without a probate, the whereabouts of the owner is not known, etc.

- (3) Up to end February 2015, the number of outstanding DHOs based on the overdue period is tabulated below –

Overdue period	Number of DHOs
less than 1 year	84
1 to 3 years	246
4 to 6 years	217
7 to 9 years	107
10 years or above	91
Total	745

- (4) In 2015-16, the work in relation to the safety of private slopes will continue to be handled by the 52 professional and technical staff of the Slope Safety Section (SSS) of the BD. Depending on the workload associated with the issue of new DHOs, the SSS will deploy available resources to clear the backlog of outstanding orders.

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