

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)244****(Question Serial No. 6079)**

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 the handling of dangerous, abandoned or unauthorised signboards, what were the respective numbers of repair orders and removal orders issued by the Buildings Department (BD) each year in 2013-14 and 2014-15;
- (2) how many repair orders or removal orders have not yet been complied with after the specified time and remain outstanding? Please list, according to the nature of the orders, the respective numbers of statutory orders not yet complied with for one to three years, four to six years, seven to nine years, and ten years or above after the specified time; and
- (3) in 2013-14 and 2014-15, how many cases are there that the BD has engaged consultants or works contractors to carry out the necessary works for the defaulters? What were the expenditure per year and the progress of recovering the costs?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth (Member Question No. 368)

Reply:

- (1) In taking enforcement action against dangerous, abandoned and unauthorised signboards, the Buildings Department (BD) will issue Dangerous Structure Removal Notices (DSRNs) under section 105 of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance for removal of dangerous or abandoned signboards, and removal orders under the Buildings Ordinance for removal of unauthorised signboards. The numbers of DSRNs and removal orders issued in 2013 and 2014 are as follows -

Year	No. of DSRNs issued	No. of removal orders issued
2013	360	523
2014	590	349
Total	950	872

- (2) As at end 2014, 156 DSRNs and 937 removal orders issued against signboards had not yet been complied with. The distribution of these DSRNs and removal orders is as follows -

Overdue period	No. of DSRNs	No. of removal orders
less than 1 year	151	250
1 to 3 years	5	430
4 to 6 years	---	225
7 to 9 years	---	28
10 years or above	---	4
Total	156	937

- (3) The BD appointed consultants and contractors to carry out the required removal works in respect of 171 and 336 defaulted DSRNs/removal orders in 2013 and 2014 respectively. Where the owners of the signboards could not be identified, the expenditure of the removal works was covered by government funding. The relevant expenditure in 2013-14 and 2014-15 (up to end 2014) was \$0.44 million and \$0.25 million respectively. In cases where the owners could be identified, the expenditure and cost recovered in relation to the removal works in the owners' default are as follows -

	Amount paid to consultants/ contractors	Amount recovered from owners
2013-14	\$84,000	\$53,000
2014-15 (up to end 2014)	\$46,000	\$20,000

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