

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)264**

**(Question Serial No. 5669)**

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:

Will the Buildings Department (BD) inform this Committee:

- (1) of the reasons the number of New Territories exempted houses (NTEHs) surveyed in New Territories villages in 2014 decreased by 3 717 as compared with 2013; of the manpower deployed by the Buildings Department to carry out the survey in each of the past three years and the planned manpower for the coming year; (Page 72)
- (2) of the time needed to “process the 18 034 reporting forms received under the Reporting Scheme for unauthorised building works (UBWs) in NTEHs”; (Page 73)
- (3) of the estimated number of removal orders issued for UBWs in NTEHs this year?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 544)

Reply:

- (1) In 2013, the Buildings Department (BD) completed village by village survey of 8 927 New Territories exempted houses (NTEHs) to identify unauthorised building works (UBWs) that constitute serious contravention of the law and pose higher potential risks to building safety (i.e. First Round Targets). As the workload associated with follow-up enforcement action against the identified First Round Targets is substantial, the annual number of NTEHs to be targeted for survey in 2014 was adjusted to 5 000 to ensure that the enforcement action can be taken in a timely manner. The actual number of NTEHs surveyed in 2014 is 5 210.

Enforcement against UBWs in NTEHs is handled by the Village Houses Section (VHS) of the BD. In each of the past three years, i.e. 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, the VHS comprised 37 professional and technical staff. As survey of NTEHs and identification of First Round Targets are part of the overall duties of the VHS in tackling UBWs in NTEHs, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the staff establishment solely for these tasks. In 2015-16, the VHS will continue to maintain the existing manpower in implementing the enhanced enforcement strategy

against UBWs in NTEHs.

- (2) The BD targets to complete the processing of the reporting forms received under the Reporting Scheme for UBWs in NTEHs by mid 2015.
- (3) In 2015, the estimated number of removal orders to be issued for UBWs in NTEHs is 350.

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