CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3596)

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:

In 2014-2015, how many suspected water seepage cases did the Joint Office (JO) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Buildings Department responsible for co-ordinating reports on water seepage investigate on its own? What was the investigation cost per case?

In 2015-2016, what are the criteria adopted by the JO for assessing which suspected water seepage cases are suitable for outsourcing to consultants for investigation?

What is the difference between the investigation cost of an outsourced case and a case investigated by the JO itself?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (Member Question No. 60)

Reply:

In general, there are three stages in the investigation of a water seepage case conducted by the Joint Office (JO). Stage I (confirming the existence of water seepage nuisance) and Stage II (initial investigation) are carried out by the staff of the JO. Where the source of seepage cannot be identified in Stage II, Stage III (professional investigation) will be required. In Stage III, an outsourced consultant is engaged to assist in conducting detailed investigation including the carrying out of water ponding test, water spray test, etc. to identify the source of seepage. The staff of the JO act as the overall coordinator in Stage III and undertake subsequent enforcement actions, such as issuing nuisance notice and instigating prosecutions.

As explained above, the staff of the JO are involved in the investigation of all water seepage reports. However, the JO does not compile separate statistics on the number of cases concluded at different stages of investigation or the number of cases involving outsourced consultants. Therefore the JO is not able to provide the investigation cost of different cases.

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