

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)274

(Question Serial No. 4323)

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, the Buildings Department (BD) had completed survey of 5 210 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 (First Round Targets) for priority enforcement action. Please inform this Committee:

1. of the number of UBWs in these NTEHs the BD considers actionable;
2. of the respective number of UBWs in each of the districts with actionable UBWs;
3. of the number of compliance cases among the 454 removal orders issued for UBWs in NTEHs last year, and of any follow-up action regarding the outstanding removal orders;
4. of the respective manpower and expenditure estimated for the inspection and the removal of UBWs in NTEHs that constitute serious contravention of the law and pose higher potential risks to building safety in 2014-15;
5. of the manpower and expenditure estimated for the removal of UBWs in NTEHs that constitute serious contravention of the law and pose higher potential risks to building safety in 2015-16.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 76)

Reply:

- 1.&2. Breakdown of the 5 210 New Territories exempted houses (NTEHs) surveyed under the large scale operation (LSO) to identify First Round Targets (i.e. unauthorised building works that constitute serious contravention of the law and pose higher potential risks to building safety) for priority enforcement action by the nine administrative districts of the New Territories is tabulated below –

District	Number of NTEHs surveyed	Number of NTEHs with suspected First Round Targets	Number of removal orders issued
Islands	286	9	0
Kwai Tsing	74	23	0
North	1 050	57	0
Sai Kung	556	104	0
Sha Tin	388	92	0
Tai Po	532	51	0
Tsuen Wan	449	73	9
Tuen Mun	969	107	59
Yuen Long	906	70	0
Total	5 210	586	68

While BD is still processing the cases with suspected First Round Targets, 68 removal orders have been issued so far.

3. With regard to the 454 removal orders issued against unauthorised building works (UBWs) in NTEHs in 2014, 67 orders have been discharged. For the remaining removal orders, if the owners fail to comply with the orders without any reasonable excuse, BD will consider instigating prosecution against the owners.
4. The Village Houses Section (VHS) of BD comprising 37 professional and technical staff is responsible for implementing the enhanced enforcement strategy against UBWs in NTEHs. As inspection and taking enforcement action against the First Round Targets are part of their overall duties, we are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure solely for these tasks. The estimated expenditure incurred by VHS in 2014-15 is \$39 million.
5. In 2015-16, the enforcement action against the First Round Targets in NTEHs will continue to be carried out by 37 professional and technical staff of the VHS and the estimated expenditure is \$39 million.

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