

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)058

(Question Serial No. 0712)

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:

How many inspections against large unauthorised signboards were made in 2015-16? What were the numbers of removal operations carried out and prosecutions instigated? What was the expenditure involved? Please list in detail the actions to be taken by the authorities to tackle problems arising from large unauthorised signboards in the future.

Asked by: Hon James TO Kun-sun (Member Question No. 41)

Reply:

The Buildings Department (BD) takes enforcement action against unauthorised signboards in response to public reports and through its large scale operations. It does not keep separate statistics on the number of inspections made for unauthorised signboards. In 2015, 682 removal orders were issued against unauthorised signboards, 1 215 unauthorised signboards were removed/validated, and 1 500 dangerous/abandoned signboards were removed/repared. The BD also instigated 61 prosecutions against signboard owners for failure to comply with removal orders. The enforcement action against unauthorised signboards is carried out by the 35 professional and technical staff of the Signboard Control Unit of the BD as part of their overall duties. The expenditure incurred by the Signboard Control Unit was about \$30 million in 2015-16.

In 2016-17, the BD will continue to take enforcement action against unauthorised signboards, including removing/repairing dangerous signboards regardless of their sizes. It is estimated that 600 removal orders will be issued, 900 unauthorised signboards will be removed/validated and 1 500 dangerous/abandoned signboards will be removed/repared. The BD will also continue to enhance efforts in public education and publicity on building safety. Among them is a large-scale publicity event, namely the Building Safety Week 2016, which will be held in mid-April 2016 to raise public awareness of building safety, including issues related to unauthorised signboards.

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