

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)074

(Question Serial No. 1003)

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:

With regard to the figures of the Signboard Control System in 2014 and 2015, will the authorities provide the following information:

1. the number of unauthorised signboards validated;
2. the number of dangerous/abandoned signboards removed;
3. the number of unauthorised and dangerous/abandoned signboards removed by term contractors of the Buildings Department and the expenditure involved;
4. regarding the expenditure in question 3, the amount of cost successfully recovered;
5. the average number of hours used to process reports on unauthorised, dangerous or abandoned signboards; and
6. whether the estimated expenditure for this part of work is increased in 2016-17, and if so, the details of it?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. 10)

Reply:

1. In 2014 and 2015, 32 and 86 unauthorised signboards were validated under the Validation Scheme respectively.
2. In 2014 and 2015, 1 301 and 1 500 dangerous or abandoned signboards were removed/repared respectively. We are unable to provide breakdowns on the number of signboards removed and the number of signboards repared.

3.&4. The Buildings Department (BD) appointed consultants and contractors to carry out the required removal works in respect of 419 and 445 unauthorised, dangerous or abandoned signboards in 2014 and 2015 respectively. Where the owners of the signboards could not be identified, the expenditure of the removal works would be covered by government funding. The relevant expenditure was \$0.77 million in 2014-15 and \$0.61 million in 2015-16 (up to end 2015). In cases where the owners could be identified, the expenditure and cost recovered in relation to the removal works in the owners' default are set out in the table below.

	Amount paid to consultant/contractors for cases where owners could be identified	Amount recovered from owners
2014-15	\$60,000	\$20,000
2015-16 (up to end 2015)	\$162,000	\$46,000

5. The BD does not maintain separate statistics on the average man-hours spent in handling reports on unauthorised, dangerous or abandoned signboards.
6. 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 in implementing the Signboard Control System. The manpower-related expenditure incurred by the Signboard Control Unit was about \$30 million in 2015-16 and is estimated to be about \$31 million in 2016-17. We are unable to predict the expenditure for engaging consultants and contractors as mentioned in our reply to questions 3&4 above as it depends on the circumstances of the cases.

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