

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)077****(Question Serial No. 1056)**

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:

What are the estimated expenditures and manpower to be deployed in the financial year 2016-17 for the Joint Office established by the Buildings Department and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to handle water seepage cases? What is the expected number of successful cases in identifying the sources of water seepage? What are the percentage changes as compared with the previous two financial years?

Asked by: Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun (Member Question No. 9)

Reply:

The staff establishment and the expenditures of the Buildings Department and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for the operation of the Joint Office (JO) in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 are tabulated below –

Buildings Department

	2014-15 (a)	2015-16 (b)	2016-17 (c)	Change (%)	
				(c)-(a)	(c)-(b)
Number of professional and technical staff	64	64	64	0%	0%
Staff cost and departmental expenses (\$ million)	29	30 (estimated)	31 (estimated)	+7%	+3%
Expenditure for engaging outsourced consultants (\$ million)	28	30 (estimated)	30 (estimated)	+7%	0%

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

	2014-15 (a)	2015-16 (b)	2016-17 (c)	Change (%)	
				(c)-(a)	(c)-(b)
Number of investigation staff	219	219	219	0%	0%
Staff cost and departmental expenses (\$ million)	72.1	81 (estimated)	84 (estimated)	+17%	+4%

The cause of water seepage in a building is complicated and often involves more than one source. The JO will conduct a series of appropriate non-destructive tests to ascertain the source of water seepage. However, there may still be cases where the source of water seepage cannot be established despite extensive practical tests conducted, especially where the seepage is not obvious or is only intermittent. We are unable to predict the number of cases where the sources of water seepage can be identified in 2016-17.

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