

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)083****(Question Serial No. 2384)**

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:

The Buildings Department stated that it would continue the large scale operations to follow up the work listed below in 2016-17. In this connection, will the authorities give their reply in the following table:

	Number of cases handled and expenditure in 2015-16	Estimated number of cases to be handled and estimated expenditure in 2016-17
Comprehensive clearance of unauthorised building works (UBWs) on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes of target buildings		
Inspection of sub-divided flats in target buildings and rectification of irregularities of building works associated with sub-divided flats		
Removal of large unauthorised signboards and signboards that are not validated on target buildings or target streets		
Removal of UBWs in New Territories Exempted Houses that constitute serious contravention of the law and pose higher potential risks to building safety, and administration of the reporting scheme for other UBWs		

Asked by: Hon James TIEN Pei-chun (Member Question No. 36)

Reply:

In 2016-17, the Buildings Department (BD) will continue its enforcement action against unauthorised building works (UBWs). Relevant information on BD's large scale operations (LSOs) on clearance of UBWs and inspection of sub-divided flats (SDFs); as well as BD's enforcement action against unauthorised signboards and UBWs in New Territories Exempted Houses (NTEHs) are set out in the tables below.

Table 1: Performance

	Actual Performance in 2015	Target Performance in 2016
(1) LSOs on comprehensive clearance of UBWs on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes of target buildings	190 target buildings	80 target buildings ^{Note 1}
(2) LSOs on inspection of SDFs and rectification of irregularities of building works associated with SDFs in target buildings	210 target buildings	100 target buildings ^{Note 2}
(3) Removal of unauthorised signboards and implementation of the Validation Scheme for Unauthorised Signboards	1 215 unauthorised signboards removed/ validated ^{Note 3}	900 unauthorised signboards to be removed/ validated
(4) Survey of NTEHs to identify UBWs that constitute serious contravention of the law and pose higher potential risks to building safety, and administration of the Reporting Scheme for eligible UBWs in NTEHs	5 274 NTEHs surveyed; and 7 731 reporting forms processed under the Reporting Scheme	4 000 NTEHs to be surveyed ^{Note 4} ; and processing of safety certificates submitted by owners in each five-year inspection cycle of the Reporting Scheme

Note 1: Taking into account the recommendations of the Audit Commission in its Director of Audit's Report No. 64 (Audit Report), the target is reduced in order to redeploy resources to complete outstanding LSOs and clear the backlog of outstanding removal orders.

Note 2: Taking into account the recommendations of the Audit Commission in its Audit Report and the difficulties encountered in enforcement actions, the target is reduced in order to redeploy resources to complete outstanding LSOs and clear the backlog of outstanding removal orders.

Note 3: The figure in 2015 is particularly high due to the stepped up enforcement actions against unauthorised signboards including the clearance of outstanding removal orders.

Note 4: The number of NTEHs planned to be surveyed in 2016 is adjusted downwards to 4 000 due to the redeployment of resources for clearing the backlog of outstanding removal orders.

Table 2: Expenditure

	Estimated Expenditure in 2015-16	Estimated Expenditure in 2016-17
(1) LSOs on comprehensive clearance of UBWs on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes of target buildings	The LSOs were carried out by the 376 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions of the BD, as part of their overall duties to implement the BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved solely for the LSOs.	The LSOs will be carried out by the 412 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions of the BD, as part of their overall duties to implement the BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved solely for the LSOs.
(2) LSOs on inspection of SDFs and rectification of irregularities of building works associated with SDFs in target buildings	The LSOs were carried out by the 376 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions of the BD, as part of their overall duties to implement the BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved solely for the LSOs.	The LSOs will be carried out by the 412 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions of the BD, as part of their overall duties to implement the BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programme. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved solely for the LSOs.

	Estimated Expenditure in 2015-16	Estimated Expenditure in 2016-17
(3) Removal of unauthorised signboards and implementation of the Validation Scheme for Unauthorised Signboard	The enforcement action against unauthorised signboards and implementation of the Validation Scheme for Unauthorised Signboard were 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 expenditure incurred by the Signboard Control Unit is about \$30 million.	The enforcement action against unauthorised signboards and implementation of the Validation Scheme for Unauthorised Signboard will be 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 expenditure to be incurred by the Signboard Control Unit is estimated to be about \$31 million.
(4) Survey of NTEHs to identify UBWs that constitute serious contravention of the law and pose higher potential risks to building safety, and administration of the Reporting Scheme for eligible UBWs in NTEHs	The enforcement action against UBWs in NTEHs and the administration of the Reporting Scheme were carried out by the 37 professional and technical staff of the Village Houses Section of the BD, as part of their overall duties in implementing the enhanced strategy against UBWs in NTEHs. The expenditure incurred by the Village Houses Section is about \$37 million.	The enforcement action against UBWs in NTEHs and the administration of the Reporting Scheme will be carried out by the 37 professional and technical staff of the Village Houses Section of the BD, as part of their overall duties in implementing the enhanced strategy against UBWs in NTEHs. The expenditure to be incurred by the Village Houses Section is estimated to be about \$38 million.

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