

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)085****(Question Serial No. 2611)**

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 cases of suspected irregularities involving contractors have been received by the Buildings Department in each of the years since the implementation of the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme and Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme? How many of them have been referred to other enforcement departments or relevant organisations to follow up? If so, what are the details of each referral case (including the date, the enforcement departments or organisations that such case was referred to and the result)? Does the Department have any administrative or other supportive measures to help owners comply with the schemes?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 17)

Reply:

Up to 31 December 2015, the Buildings Department (BD) has handled 23 cases of suspected irregularities involving contractors under the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme (MWIS) since its commencement in June 2012. There is no such case under the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS). A breakdown of the 23 cases by year is tabulated below -

Year	Number of cases
2012	0
2013	2
2014	6
2015	15
Total	23

The BD has investigated into these cases and taken appropriate follow-up actions in substantiated cases, including instigating prosecution or disciplinary action. So far, none of these cases has been referred to other enforcement departments or organisations for follow-up.

The BD, in collaboration with relevant parties including the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA), will continue to operate various financial and technical assistance schemes and implement other measures to support building owners in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the MBIS and the MWIS, and in carrying out building repair and maintenance works in general. These include -

- (a) the Mandatory Building Inspection Subsidy Scheme administered by the HKHS and the URA, which provides subsidies, subject to a cap, for covering the expenses on the first prescribed building inspection of the common parts of a building conducted by a registered inspector, as well as provides standard tender documents and services agreements to owners for the appointment of a service provider;
- (b) other assistance schemes, including the Integrated Building Maintenance Assistance Scheme administered by the URA which provides owners in need with one-stop financial assistance and technical support for the formation of Owners' Corporation and for carrying out the prescribed building repair; the Building Safety Loan Scheme administered by the BD which offers low-interest loans for voluntary or mandatory building or slope repairs, maintenance and upgrading of fire services, lift, electrical and gas risers installations, and removal of unauthorised building works etc.; and the Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Elderly Owners administered by the HKHS which caters specifically for the needs of elderly owners;
- (c) the BD's continued public education and publicity efforts, including district briefing sessions held in collaboration with the Home Affairs Department, the HKHS, the URA to enhance public awareness of the MBIS and the MWIS, the relevant requirements and the details of the assistance schemes mentioned above; and
- (d) publication of useful and relevant reference materials, such as the market price range for window inspection and parts repair (e.g. hinges, screws).

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