

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)089****(Question Serial No. 3130)**

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:

As mentioned in the Programme, the Government would continue to study the latest technological methods in identifying the sources of water seepage in buildings. In this connection, please inform this Committee:

- (1) of the number of reports and complaints about water seepage received, the numbers of investigation visits and nuisance notices issued, prosecution instigated and the percentage of cases satisfactorily concluded in the past three years;
- (2) of the estimated expenditure and details of the scope of study in relation to the consultancy study which, as stated by the authorities, was being conducted on the latest methods in identifying the sources of water seepage in buildings; and
- (3) of the new technologies studied by the consultant and applied to current investigation work in the past three years; please set out in a table the names of the technologies, the costs of research/consultancy study involved, and the scope/methods of application of such technologies.

Asked by: Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen (Member Question No. 25)

Reply:

- (1) Statistics on water seepage reports received, reports handled, results of investigation, nuisance notices issued, prosecutions instigated and convictions in the past three years are tabulated below –

Number of Cases	2013	2014	2015
Reports received	28 504	27 896	29 617
Reports handled ⁽¹⁾	24 856	22 056	25 093
• Cases screened out ⁽²⁾	13 062	10 961	12 000
• Cases with investigations concluded	11 794	11 095	13 093
- Seepage ceased during investigation	4 766	4 146	4 920

Number of Cases	2013	2014	2015
- Source of water seepage identified	4 692	4 816	4 679
- Source of water seepage could not be identified and investigation terminated	2 336	2 133	3 494
Nuisance Notices issued ⁽¹⁾	4 338	4 700	4 988
Prosecutions instigated ⁽¹⁾	96	88	61
Convictions ⁽¹⁾	50	60	44

Note⁽¹⁾: The figures do not necessarily correspond to the number of reports received in the same year.

Note⁽²⁾: These include unjustified cases and withdrawal cases, in respect of which no investigation will be made by the Joint Office (JO) set up by the Buildings Department and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department.

The JO does not keep statistics on the number of investigation visits for water seepage cases. The number of visits required for investigating each individual case varies due to a number of factors, including the nature and complexity of the case and whether the relevant owners and occupants are cooperative.

(2)&(3) The consultancy study on the latest technological methods in identifying sources of water seepage in buildings commenced in October 2014. The study researches into technological matters relating to water seepage investigation in buildings both locally and overseas. It will assess and recommend the most suitable testing methods for use in private buildings as well as help formulate technical guidelines for use by the JO. The study is expected to complete in early 2017 and the JO will then consider how to follow up on the findings.

The estimated expenditure of the study is \$4.5 million and the actual expenditure of the consultancy up to end February 2016 amounted to about \$0.8 million.

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