

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)281**

**(Question Serial No. 4183)**

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 authorities stated that the provision for 2016-17 is \$41.8 million (3.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16, mainly due to the increased provision for enhancing enforcement relating to building safety including large scale operations against unauthorised building works and clearance of outstanding removal orders, processing of new building plans, and filling of vacancies. In this connection, will the authorities inform this Committee of the details and nature of the work of enhancing enforcement relating to building safety, and the expenditure and number of staff involved?

Asked by: Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long (Member Question No. 98)

Reply:

The additional provision of \$41.8 million is mainly for the creation of 86 new civil service posts in the Buildings Department (BD) in 2016-17. Among the 86 posts, 40 posts will be engaged in enhancing enforcement relating to building safety.

With the additional resources and redeployment of existing resources, the BD will expedite the clearance of outstanding removal orders and completion of outstanding large scale operations. There will be enhancements in different aspects of enforcement. For example, it is estimated that there will be increases in unauthorised building works removed (from around 24 000 in 2015 to 28 000 in 2016), prosecutions against failure to comply with removal orders (from about 3 000 in 2015 to 3 300 in 2016), sub-divided flats (SDFs) inspected (from around 3 400 in 2015 to 3 800 in 2016) and SDFs with irregularities rectified (from around 200 in 2015 to 260 in 2016).

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