

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)290**

**(Question Serial No. 4655)**

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:

With regard to the control of unauthorised building works in New Territories Exempted Houses (NTEHs) as mentioned in the Programme, please inform this Committee:

- 1) of the respective numbers of NTEHs surveyed and removal orders issued for the surveyed NTEHs in each of the past two years, as well as the number of compliance cases among the removal orders issued;
- 2) of the number of NTEHs requiring priority enforcement action among those identified as First Round Targets in the past two years, as well as the number of prosecutions instigated by the Department and number of convictions regarding the outstanding removal orders;
- 3) of the detailed work plan for the Programme, as well as the manpower and expenditure for implementing the work plan in 2016-17.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 26)

Reply:

- 1) & 2) In 2014 and 2015, the Buildings Department (BD) completed surveys of 5 210 and 5 274 New Territories Exempted Houses (NTEHs) to identify First Round Targets (i.e. unauthorised buildings works (UBWs) that constitute serious contravention of the law and pose higher potential risks to building safety). Amongst the surveyed NTEHs, the numbers of NTEHs with suspected First Round Targets, removal orders issued, removal orders complied with, prosecutions instigated and convictions in 2014 and 2015 are tabulated below –

Year	Number of NTEHs surveyed	Number of NTEHs with Suspected First Round Targets	Number of removal orders issued	Number of removal orders complied with	Number of prosecutions instigated	Number of convictions
2014	5 210	586	179	21	0	0
2015	5 274	434	52	1	0	0

The BD will continue to issue the remaining removal orders, monitor the compliance status of the issued removal orders and consider instigating prosecution against owners who fail to comply with removal orders without any reasonable excuse where necessary.

- 3) For 2016, the BD estimates that about 4 000 NTEHs will be surveyed to identify First Round Targets for priority enforcement action. These works will be carried out by the 37 professional and technical staff of the Village Houses Section (VHS) of the BD as part of their overall duties in implementing the enhanced enforcement strategy against UBWs in NTEHs. The estimated expenditure to be incurred by the VHS in 2016-17 is \$38 million.

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