

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****DEVB(PL)304****(Question Serial No. 6183)**

Head: (82) Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (HUI Siu-wai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

- (1) Regarding the handling of dangerous, abandoned or unauthorised signboards, what were the respective numbers of repair orders and removal orders issued by the Buildings Department (BD) each year in 2014-15 and 2015-16;
- (2) how many repair orders or removal orders have not yet been complied with after the specified time and remain outstanding? Please list, according to the nature of the orders, the respective numbers of statutory orders not yet complied with for one to three years, four to six years, seven to nine years, and ten years or above after the specified time;
- (3) in 2014-15 and 2015-16, how many cases are there that the BD has engaged consultants or works contractors to carry out the necessary works for the defaulters? What were the expenditure per year and the progress of recovering the costs?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 201)

Reply:

- (1) The Buildings Department (BD) will issue Dangerous Structure Removal Notices (DSRNs) under section 105 of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance in respect of dangerous or abandoned signboards, and removal orders under section 24 of the Buildings Ordinance in respect of unauthorised signboards. The numbers of DSRNs and removal orders issued in 2014 and 2015 were as follows –

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of DSRNs issued</b>	<b>No. of removal orders issued</b>
2014	590	349
2015	816	682
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 406</b>	<b>1 031</b>

- (2) As of end-2015, 263 DSRNs and 1 130 removal orders issued against signboards had not yet been complied with. The distribution of these DSRNs and removal orders was as follows –

<b>Overdue period</b>	<b>No. of DSRNs not yet complied with</b>	<b>No. of removal orders not yet complied with</b>
less than 1 year	259	541
1 to 3 years	4	364
4 to 6 years	0	181
7 to 9 years	0	41
10 years or above	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>1 130</b>

- (3) The BD appointed consultants and contractors to carry out the required removal works in respect of 419 and 445 unauthorised, dangerous or abandoned signboards in 2014 and 2015 respectively. Where the owners of the signboards could not be identified, the expenditure of the removal works would be covered by government funding. The relevant expenditure was \$0.77 million in 2014-15 and \$0.61 million in 2015-16 (up to end 2015). In cases where owners could be identified, the expenditure and cost recovered in relation to removal works carried out due to default by the owners are set out in the table below –

	<b>Amount paid to consultant/contractors</b>	<b>Amount recovered from owners</b>
2014-15	\$60,000	\$20,000
2015-16 (up to end 2015)	\$162,000	\$46,000

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