

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)080

(Question Serial No. 1533)

Head: (82) Buildings Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (CHEUNG Tin-cheung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

How many inspections against large unauthorised signboards were made in 2016-17? What were the numbers of removal operations carried out and prosecutions instigated? What was the expenditure involved? Please list in detail the actions to be taken by the authorities to tackle problems arising from large unauthorised signboards in the future.

Asked by: Hon LAM Cheuk-ting (Member Question No. 13)

Reply:

The Buildings Department (BD) takes enforcement action against unauthorised signboards in response to public reports and through its large scale operations. It does not keep separate statistics on the number of inspections made for unauthorised signboards. In 2016, 719 removal orders were issued against unauthorised signboards, 1 153 unauthorised signboards were removed/validated, and 1 566 dangerous/abandoned signboards were removed/repared. The BD also instigated 33 prosecutions against signboard owners for failure to comply with removal orders. The enforcement action against unauthorised signboards is carried out by 35 professional and technical staff of the Signboard Control Unit of the BD as part of their overall duties. The expenditure incurred by the Signboard Control Unit is about \$32 million in 2016-17.

The BD will continue to take a multi-pronged approach in tackling unauthorised signboards in 2017-18. In particular, the BD will continue to implement the Signboard Validation Scheme, promote the Minor Works Control System for erection of small signboards, enhance public awareness of building safety through public education and publicity, and take enforcement action against unauthorised signboards. Details are set out in LegCo Paper No. CB(1)930/15-16(04). As far as enforcement action is concerned, it is estimated that 750 removal orders will be issued, 950 unauthorised signboards will be removed/validated and 1 200 dangerous/abandoned signboards will be removed/repared in 2017-18.

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