

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)081****(Question Serial No. 1534)**

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:

What were the respective numbers of inspections made, removal operations carried out and prosecutions instigated against unauthorised building works in each of the past five years? What was the expenditure involved? What detailed action plans do the authorities have to tackle the problem?

Asked by: Hon LAM Cheuk-ting (Member Question No. 12)

Reply:

The Buildings Department (BD) takes enforcement action against unauthorised building works (UBWs) in response to public reports and through its large scale operations. It does not keep separate statistics on the number of inspections made for UBWs. As regards the BD's enforcement action against UBWs, the numbers of reports from members of the public attended to, removal orders issued and prosecutions against failure to comply with removal orders in the past five years are tabulated as follows –

Year	No. of Reports on UBWs attended to⁽¹⁾	No. of Removal Orders issued⁽¹⁾	No. of Prosecutions⁽¹⁾
2012	44 562	12 292	2 104
2013	44 512	12 005	2 513
2014	41 146	11 816	2 532
2015	39 281	12 918	3 030
2016	36 461	12 901	3 362

Note (1): The figures do not necessarily correspond to those in the other columns.

Enforcement action against UBWs is carried out by the 633 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions, the Mandatory Building Inspection Division and the Minor Works and Signboard Control Section of the BD in 2016-17 as part of their overall duties to implement the BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programmes. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower resources and expenditure involved solely for enforcement action against UBWs.

The BD will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach to address building safety issues related to UBWs. In addition to taking enforcement action against UBWs in response to public reports and through large scale operations, the BD will continue to enhance its public education and publicity campaign on building safety and foster a building safety culture in the community.

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