

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)085

(Question Serial No. 3050)

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:

Regarding signboard control, would the authorities inform this Committee:

- a. of the changes in staff establishment and estimated expenditure for signboard control in 2016-17 as compared with 2015-16;
- b. of the estimated number of signboards in the territory at present, as well as the respective numbers of signboards erected upon application under the Buildings Ordinance, registered under the Validation Scheme for Unauthorised Signboards, and registered under the Minor Works Control System, according to the records of the authorities;
- c. of the numbers of Dangerous Structure Removal Notices and removal orders against signboards not yet complied with. Please list, according to document types, 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.

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (Member Question No. 37)

Reply:

- a. The Buildings Department (BD) takes enforcement action against unauthorised signboards in response to public reports and through its large scale operations. The enforcement action is carried out by the professional and technical staff of the Signboard Control Unit (SBCU) of the BD as part of their overall duties. The numbers of staff involved and the expenditures incurred in 2015-16 and 2016-17 are tabulated below-

	2015-16	2016-17
Number of professional and technical staff of the SBCU	35	35
Expenditure (\$ million)	30.2	32 (estimate)

- b. According to the results of a stock taking exercise conducted by the BD in 2011, there were about 120 000 signboards in Hong Kong, of which the majority were unauthorised. Up to end of 2016, 20 175 minor works submissions associated with the erection, alteration and removal of signboards have been received under the Minor Works Control System and 214 unauthorised signboards have been validated under the Signboard Validation Scheme. The BD does not compile statistics on the number of signboards that have been erected with the prior approval and consent of the Building Authority under the Buildings Ordinance (BO) (Cap. 123).
- c. The BD will issue Dangerous Structure Removal Notices (DSRNs) under section 105 of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) in respect of dangerous or abandoned signboards, and removal orders under section 24 of the BO in respect of unauthorised signboards. As at end of 2016, 268 DSRNs and 1 282 removal orders issued against signboards have not yet been complied with. The overdue periods of these outstanding DSRNs and removal orders are tabulated as follow-

Overdue Period	No. of DSRNs	No. of Removal Orders
Less than 1 year	231	608
1 to 3 years	37	438
4 to 6 years	0	168
7 to 9 years	0	64
10 years or above	0	4
Total	268	1 282

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