

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)087

(Question Serial No. 1261)

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:

The Department mentioned in the indicators under the Programme: “The estimate in 2017 has taken into account the adjustment in work priority. Resources will be redeployed to step up enforcement actions against non-compliant notices, enhancing assistance to owners to facilitate compliance, and strengthening regulation of service providers.” As such, it is estimated that the numbers of mandatory building inspection notices and window inspection notices to be issued in 2017 will decrease substantially. In this connection, could the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) of the details of the adjustment in work priority?
- (2) of the details of the redeployment of resources?
- (3) of the numbers of non-compliant mandatory building inspection notices and window inspection notices in the past two years, and of the enforcement actions taken?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (Member Question No. 13)

Reply:

- (1) & (2) In 2017, the Buildings Department (BD)'s work priority with respect to the implementation of the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS) and Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme (MWIS) is to clear the outstanding statutory notices instead of selecting new target buildings. As such, the BD will step up enforcement actions by issuing warning letters and fixed penalty notices as well as instigating prosecutions against building owners who, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with the statutory notices. The BD will also continue its public education and publicity efforts and, in collaboration with the Home Affairs Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Urban Renewal Authority, offer assistance to building owners to encourage compliance. In addition, the BD will strengthen the regulation of service providers by stepping up audit check and prosecution or disciplinary actions against malpractices.

The two schemes will continue to be implemented by the existing 127 professional and technical staff in the Mandatory Building Inspection Sections as well as other supporting manpower in 2017-18 as part of their overall duties. We are not able to provide details on the redeployment of resources.

- (3) As at 31 December 2015, there were 38 184 MBIS notices and 167 839 MWIS notices not yet discharged whereas the numbers have been reduced to 35 474 MBIS notices and 102 347 MWIS notices by 31 December 2016. Up to 31 December 2016, the BD had issued over 12 500 warning letters and instigated 30 prosecutions against building owners who, without reasonable excuse, failed to comply with MBIS notices; and issued over 38 500 warning letters and 1 700 fixed penalty notices against building owners who failed to comply with MWIS notices.

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