

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)088****(Question Serial No. 3254)**

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 stated that it would continue the consultancy study on the latest technological methods in identifying the sources of water seepage in buildings. Please provide:

1. the distribution of manpower and expenditure for the consultancy study in the past three years and this year, as well as the details and completion time of the consultancy study;
2. the numbers of complaints received by the Joint Office, the average handling time for each complaint, and the distribution of manpower and expenditure in the past three years.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 52)

Reply:

1. The Buildings Department (BD) commissioned a consultant to study on the latest technological methods in identifying sources of water seepage in buildings in October 2014. The study researches into technological matters relating to water seepage investigation in buildings both locally and overseas. It will assess and recommend the most suitable testing methods for use in private buildings and help formulate technical guidelines for use by the Joint Office (JO) set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the BD. The study is expected to complete in 2017 and the JO will then consider how to follow up on the findings.

The estimated expenditure of the study is \$4.5 million and the expenditures in the past three years are tabulated below –

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Expenditure (\$ million)	0.3	0.5	0.8 (Estimated)

The JO staff monitor and supervise the work of the consultant as part of their overall duties. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower involved solely for the work.

2. The numbers of water seepage reports received in 2014, 2015 and 2016 were 27 896, 29 617 and 36 376 respectively. The JO does not compile statistics on the average handling time of the cases. The time required for investigating a water seepage case varies due to a number of factors, including the nature and complexity of the case and whether the relevant owners and occupants are cooperative.

The staff establishment and the expenditure of the BD and the FEHD in connection with the operation of the JO in the past three years are tabulated below –

BD	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Number of professional and technical staff	64	64	64
Staff cost and departmental expenses (\$ million)	29	31	32 (estimated)
Expenditure for engaging outsourced consultants (\$ million)	28	30	31 (estimated)

FEHD	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Number of investigation staff	219	219	220
Staff cost and departmental expenses (\$ million)	72.1	80.7	86.4 (estimated)

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