

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 1730)

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 Buildings Department (BD) and the Joint Office (JO) have not been cost-effective in identifying the sources of water seepage in buildings, causing grievances among public rental housing tenants and private housing owners. Once again, “identifying the sources of water seepage in buildings” has been stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention by the BD in 2017-2018. In this connection, would the Director inform this Committee:

1. of the policies and measures to collect comments and criticisms from the public with a view to improving the effectiveness of work in the new financial year;
2. Last year, staff of the JO was invited to attend a seminar on water seepage in buildings organised by the large private housing estate Laguna City in my constituency, the relevant District Council (DC) member and me. The response from the residents was very positive.

During the seminar, the public expressed their views on the unsatisfactory performance of the JO and called for follow-up actions. Similar activities can facilitate direct communication among the BD, the JO and residents affected by water seepage, with the public's voice being heard.

In the new financial year, will the BD and the JO set aside manpower and resources to attend/participate in similar seminars on water seepage in buildings at the request of LegCo members and DC members? If yes, what are the details? What are the expenditure and manpower resources involved? If no, what are the reasons? Will the BD consider setting aside manpower for actively attending seminars on water seepage in buildings to explain the JO's work?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (Member Question No. 2)

Reply:

The Joint Office (JO) set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Buildings Department welcomes comments and suggestions from the public with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of its work. Members of the public may provide comments and suggestions to the JO through 1823, e-mails, letters, etc.

The JO staff has been attending meetings and seminars with building owners, owners' corporations, District Council members and Legislative Council members to discuss water seepage issues as part of their overall duties, and will continue to do so in the new financial year. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved, and we currently have no plan to set aside resources solely for such work.

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