

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 1731)

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:

In the new financial year, the Buildings Department will “complete the consultancy study on the latest technological methods in identifying the sources of water seepage in buildings” and “update guidelines on testing methods for water seepage investigations”. Could the Department inform this Committee:

1. of the expenditure spent on the above consultancy study so far?
2. of the expected impact of the new technology recommended by the study on the expenditure and manpower of the Department in 2017-2018 and the future financial years?
3. given that the successful rate of identifying the sources of water seepage in buildings by the Department and the Joint Office is merely 40%, of the expected increase in the percentage of successfully identifying the sources of water seepage?
4. of the details of “the latest technological methods” covered by the above study?
5. of the expenditure involved in updating the guidelines on testing methods for water seepage investigations?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (Member Question No. 3)

Reply:

The consultant has identified a number of methods for ascertaining sources of water seepage in buildings and field tests are being conducted to assess the methods. The study will 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 and the Buildings Department for handling reports on water seepage. The study is expected to be completed this year. At this stage, it is difficult to assess the implications of any testing methods on the expenditure and manpower of the JO as well as the expected success rate in identifying sources of water seepage.

The cumulative expenditure of the consultancy study as of 13 March 2017 amounted to about \$1.6 million. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the expenditure involved solely for updating the guidelines on testing methods for water seepage investigations.

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