

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)097****(Question Serial No. 2378)**

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:

What is the expenditure earmarked for outsourcing cases in which the source of water seepage cannot be identified by the Joint Office to private consultants? What is the estimated number of cases to be outsourced?

Concerning the above expenditure and number of cases, what are the percentage changes as compared with the figures in the past three financial years?

In this financial year, upon completion of the consultancy study on the latest technological methods in identifying the sources of water seepage in buildings by the Department, will the number of cases to be outsourced be reduced? If yes, how much is the estimated saving on outsourcing expenditure?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

The Joint Office (JO) set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Buildings Department refers cases in which the source of seepage cannot be identified in its initial investigation to outsourced consultants for professional investigation. The JO cannot predict the number of such cases in 2017-18.

The expenditures for engaging outsourced consultants in 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 are tabulated below –

2014-15 (a)	2015-16 (b)	2016-17 (c)	2017-18 (d)	Change (%)		
				(d)-(a)	(d)-(b)	(d)-(c)
\$28 million	\$30 million	\$31 million (estimated)	\$30 million (estimated)	+7%	0%	-3%

As regards the consultancy study on the latest technological methods in identifying the sources of water seepage in buildings commenced in October 2014, the consultant has identified a number of methods and field tests are being conducted to assess those methods. Upon completion, the study will recommend the most suitable methods for use by the JO for handling reports on water seepage. It is expected that the study will be completed this year. At this stage, it is difficult to assess if there will be any saving on the outsourcing expenditure.

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