

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)104**

**(Question Serial No. 0875)**

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:

Regarding mandatory building inspection under the Programme, please inform this Committee:

- 1) of the respective numbers of mandatory building inspection notices received and discharged in 2015 and 2016 in each of the 18 districts;
- 2) of the improvement measures by the Buildings Department (BD) in 2017-18 given the large backlog of building inspection notices or non-compliant notices? What are the details and estimated expenditure involved?
- 3) whether the BD has instigated prosecution against non-compliant mandatory building inspection notices in 2015 and 2016; if so, of the number concerned?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 65)

Reply:

- 1) The geographical distribution of statutory notices issued and discharged under the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS) in 2015 and 2016 is shown at **Annex**.
- 2) In 2017-18, the Buildings Department (BD) will continue its public education and publicity efforts to enhance public awareness and understanding of the requirements of the MBIS. In addition, the BD will continue to work with the Home Affairs Department to assist building owners in forming owners' corporations and, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA), provide financial and technical assistance to help owners comply with the statutory notices. The BD will also step up enforcement actions by issuing warning letters and instigating prosecutions against those building owners who, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with the statutory notices. The BD may arrange for the required inspection and necessary repair works to be carried out in the event of default by owners. Cost of the inspection and repair works, supervision charges and a surcharge not exceeding 20% on the cost due will be recovered from the owners concerned.

The above-mentioned measures will be implemented by the 127 professional and technical staff of the Mandatory Building Inspection Sections, six staff of the Public Education and Publicity Unit and assisted by three staff of the Information Unit of the BD as part of their overall duties. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the expenditure to be incurred solely for the relevant work.

- 3) Up to 31 December 2016, the BD issued over 12 500 warning letters against building owners who failed to comply with statutory notices issued under the MBIS. While there was no prosecution case in 2015, the BD instigated 30 prosecutions in 2016 against building owners who failed to comply with the statutory notices.

**Number of Mandatory Building Inspection Notices  
issued and discharged in 2015 and 2016**

District	Number of Notices			
	2015		2016	
	Issued	Discharged <sup>Note</sup>	Issued	Discharged <sup>Note</sup>
<b>Central &amp; Western</b>	662	582	769	1 013
<b>Eastern</b>	4 040	701	656	1 676
<b>Southern</b>	398	101	195	172
<b>Wan Chai</b>	701	838	916	954
<b>Kowloon City</b>	2 054	898	1 424	1 391
<b>Kwun Tong</b>	18	46	19	252
<b>Sham Shui Po</b>	2 774	279	325	983
<b>Wong Tai Sin</b>	46	59	28	190
<b>Yau Tsim Mong</b>	510	282	779	593
<b>Islands</b>	27	10	7	211
<b>Kwai Tsing</b>	99	0	63	57
<b>North</b>	43	3	54	3
<b>Sai Kung</b>	0	3	10	1
<b>Sha Tin</b>	60	407	13	51
<b>Tai Po</b>	2	1	163	32
<b>Tsuen Wan</b>	37	5	116	21
<b>Tuen Mun</b>	22	18	8	643
<b>Yuen Long</b>	26	14	26	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 519</b>	<b>4 247</b>	<b>5 571</b>	<b>8 281</b>

Note : The figures do not necessarily correspond to the notices issued in the same year.

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