

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)106

(Question Serial No. 0878)

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 window inspection under the Programme, please inform this Committee:

- 1) of the respective numbers of mandatory window inspection notices received and discharged in 2015 and 2016 in each of the 18 districts;
- 2) whether the Buildings Department (BD) has instigated prosecution against non-compliant mandatory window inspection notices in 2015 and 2016; if so, of the number concerned;
- 3) of the measures to be taken by the Department in 2017-18 to cope with contractors exaggerating or overcharging the works cost for window inspection? What are the expenditure and details involved?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 67)

Reply:

- 1) The geographical distribution of statutory notices issued and discharged under the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme (MWIS) in 2015 and 2016 is shown at **Annex**.
- 2) In 2015 and 2016, while no prosecution was instigated, the Buildings Department (BD) issued 38 564 warning letters and 1 713 fixed penalty notices (FPNs) against building owners who failed to comply with statutory notices issued under the MWIS. The majority of building owners comply with the statutory notices after receiving FPNs, but the BD would consider instigating prosecution against those building owners who fail to comply with the statutory notices without reasonable excuse despite having been served with FPNs.

- 3) In 2017-18, the BD will continue its public education and publicity efforts on the MWIS. In particular, the BD will make use of pamphlets and Announcements of Public Interest (API) to advise building owners of their rights as consumers and that they should exercise caution in selecting service providers for carrying out window inspection. The BD will also make available useful and relevant reference materials, such as the market price range for window inspection and parts repair (e.g. hinges, screws), to assist building owners in making informed decisions. In addition, the BD will publish a new “Layman’s Guide on Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme” aiming to educate the public on how to identify common window defects requiring repair under the MWIS.

Public education and publicity activities in relation to the MWIS are handled by 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 manpower resources and the manpower-related expenditure incurred solely for the activities in relation to the MWIS.

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

Districts	Number of Notices			
	2015		2016	
	Issued	Discharged ^{Note}	Issued	Discharged ^{Note}
Central & Western	7 943	8 752	5 552	10 624
Eastern	18 027	17 323	18 513	23 180
Southern	5 138	3 538	4 388	6 406
Wan Chai	7 556	8 989	4 443	9 484
Kowloon City	8 363	9 595	9 572	14 018
Kwun Tong	7 353	5 443	1 484	9 308
Sham Shui Po	7 180	7 337	3 166	7 151
Wong Tai Sin	1 418	3 847	763	2 575
Yau Tsim Mong	8 295	11 792	11 523	17 284
Islands	2 272	970	1 156	3 342
Kwai Tsing	7 135	8 391	3 794	5 043
North	333	2 564	1 659	1 606
Sai Kung	89	508	200	347
Sha Tin	8 013	9 369	2 383	8 930
Tai Po	2 281	2 023	4 62	2 665
Tsuen Wan	11 376	7 611	9 273	13 452
Tuen Mun	17 222	13 747	6 277	10 611
Yuen Long	3 265	1 828	1 672	5 746
Total	123 259	123 627	86 280	151 772

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

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