

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)277

(Question Serial No. 3506)

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 the “Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme and Window Inspection Scheme”, the authorities stated that they would “strengthen regulation of service providers”. In this connection, will the authorities inform this Committee:

- a) of the specific measures;
- b) of the additional manpower and resources involved?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 92)

Reply:

The Buildings Department (BD) will strengthen regulation of service providers through the following measures -

- a) providing more detailed guidelines on the requirements and standards of building inspections, window inspections and repair works in the Code of Practice for the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS) and Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme (MWIS) and the Practice Notes for Mandatory Building and Window Inspection Schemes, and offering technical advice through meetings with the Registered Inspectors (RIs) and the Qualified Persons (QPs);
- b) stepping up audit checks on the work of the RIs and QPs and taking vigorous prosecution and/or disciplinary actions against malpractices; and
- c) enhancing public education and publicity efforts to enable building owners to have a better understanding of the requirements of MBIS and MWIS (e.g. the market price range for window inspection and parts repair and the Layman’s Guide on Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme), and to report any malpractices of the RIs and QPs.

The MBIS and MWIS will continue to be implemented by the existing 127 professional and technical staff in the Mandatory Building Inspection Sections. Public education and publicity activities in relation to the MBIS and 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 regulation of service providers.

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