

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)281

(Question Serial No. 4857)

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 operation of the Joint Office set up by the Buildings Department and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, please provide the following figures:

- 1) the number of reports received, reports handled, cases screened out, cases with investigations concluded (broken down by “seepage ceased during investigation”, “source of water seepage identified” and “source of water seepage could not be identified and investigation terminated”), entry warrants granted by the Court, Nuisance Notices issued, prosecutions instigated, Nuisance Orders granted by the Court and convictions, with the range of fines, in each of the years from 2012-13 to 2016-17;
- 2) further to the above question, the number of cases still under investigation in each of the years (the investigation of such reports did not necessarily begin in the same year);
- 3) (i) the expenditure for engaging consultants to conduct professional investigation, and (ii) the number of cases involved in professional investigation in each of the years;
- 4) further to the above question, has the Department compiled statistics based on payment to consultants (for example, “\$1-\$5,000”, “\$5,001-\$10,000”, “\$10,001-\$15,000” and “\$15,001 or above”)? If yes, please provide the figures.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. 13)

Reply:

- 1) Statistics on water seepage reports received, reports handled, results of investigation and enforcement actions taken by the Joint Office (JO) set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Buildings Department in the past five years are tabulated below –

Number of Cases	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Reports received	27 353	28 504	27 896	29 617	36 376
Reports handled ⁽¹⁾	24 553	24 856	22 056	25 093	29 148
• Cases screened out ⁽²⁾	13 727	13 062	10 961	12 000	13 196
• Cases with investigations concluded	10 826	11 794	11 095	13 093	15 952
-Seepage ceased during investigation	4 810	4 766	4 146	4 920	5 385
-Source of water seepage identified	4 053	4 692	4 816	4 679	6 846
-Source of water seepage could not be identified and investigation terminated	1 963	2 336	2 133	3 494	3 721
Entry warrants granted by the Court ⁽¹⁾	101	64	74	64	55
Nuisance Notices issued ⁽¹⁾	3 639	4 338	4 700	4 988	5 584
Prosecutions instigated ⁽¹⁾	70	96	88	61	95
Nuisance Orders granted by the Court ⁽¹⁾	17	41	31	16	33
Convictions ⁽¹⁾	52	50	60	44	68
Range of fines	\$500 - \$4,500	\$100 - \$3,000	\$500 - \$7,000	\$800 - \$5,000	\$400 - 4,000

Note⁽¹⁾: The figures do not necessarily correspond to the number of reports received in the same year.

Note⁽²⁾: These include unjustified cases and withdrawn cases, in respect of which no investigation will be made by the JO.

2) – 4) The expenditures for engaging outsourced consultants in the past five years are tabulated below –

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Expenditure for engaging outsourced consultants (\$ million)	23	24	28	30	31 (estimated)

The JO does not compile statistics on the number of cases under investigation, the number of cases involving outsourced consultants for professional investigation in each of the years or the range of payments to consultants.

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