

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)105

(Question Serial No. 2940)

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 problem of water seepage, please inform this Committee:

- 1) of the statistics on the numbers of water seepage complaints received, cases handled, cases with the source of seepage identified and applications to the court for entry warrants last year;
- 2) of the number of prosecutions instigated against owners connected with the source of seepage under the relevant provisions of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance and the number of convictions last year;
- 3) of the staff establishment and operational expenses of the Joint Office (JO) deployed by the Government last year; and
- 4) of the percentage of the expenditure of JO spent on equipment for checking the source of seepage; and the estimated expenditure last year for procurement of new equipment to increase the chance of successfully identifying the source of seepage.

Asked by: Hon LAM Cheuk-ting (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 25)

Reply:

- 1) Statistics on water seepage reports received, reports handled, cases with source of water seepage identified and entry warrants granted by the Court last year are tabulated below –

Number of Cases	2017
Reports received	36 002
Reports handled ⁽¹⁾	30 605
• Cases screened out ⁽²⁾	14 732
• Cases with investigations concluded	15 873
Cases with source identified ⁽¹⁾	6 253
Entry warrants granted by the Court ⁽¹⁾	62

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Note ⁽²⁾: These include unjustified cases and withdrawn cases, in respect of which no investigation will be made by the Joint Office (JO) set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Buildings Department (BD).

- 2) In 2017, JO instigated prosecution against 114 building owners for their non-compliance with the nuisance notice issued under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap 132) and there were 49 convictions. As there is a lapse of time between the instigation of prosecution and adjudication by the Court, the number of convictions may not necessarily correspond to that of the prosecution cases instigated in the same year.
- 3) The staff establishment and the expenditure of BD and FEHD in connection with JO's operation in the last fiscal year are tabulated below –

BD	2017-18
Number of professional and technical staff	64
Staff cost and departmental expenses (\$ million)	34 (estimated)
Expenditure for engaging outsourced consultants (\$ million)	34 (estimated)

FEHD	2017-18
Number of investigation and co-ordinating staff	224
Staff cost and departmental expenses (\$ million)	99.7 (estimated)

- 4) Outsourced consultants engaged by JO may make use of different methods and equipment in investigating sources of water seepage. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the expenditure spent solely on equipment.