

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)107**

**(Question Serial No. 1220)**

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 signboard control, would the authorities inform this Committee:

- a. of the changes in staff establishment and estimated expenditure for signboard control in this year as compared with 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18;
- b. whether the authorities have re-evaluated the number of signboards in the territory since 2011; if so, the number of signboards in the territory at present;
- c. the respective numbers of signboards erected after obtaining approval under the Buildings Ordinance, registered under the Validation Scheme for Unauthorised Signboards, and registered under the Minor Works Control System in the past five years; and
- d. of the numbers of Dangerous Structure Removal Notices and removal orders against signboards not yet complied with. Please list, according to document types, the respective numbers of statutory orders not yet complied with for one to three years, four to six years, seven to nine years, and ten years or above after the specified time.

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 60)

Reply:

- a. The Buildings Department (BD) takes enforcement action against unauthorised signboards in response to public reports and through its large scale operations. The enforcement action is carried out by the professional and technical staff of the Signboard Control Unit (SBCU) of BD as part of their overall duties in implementing the Signboard Control System. The numbers of staff involved and the expenditures incurred in 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 are as follows –

	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
<b>Number of professional and technical staff of the SBCU</b>	35	35	42	42
<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	30.2	31	32.2 (estimate)	36.7 (estimate)

- b. According to the results of a stock taking exercise conducted by BD in 2011, there were about 120 000 signboards in Hong Kong. BD did not conduct another stock taking exercise afterwards.
- c. As of the end of 2017, 22 948 minor works submissions associated with the erection, alteration and removal of signboards had been received under the Minor Works Control System and 259 unauthorised signboards had been validated under the Signboard Validation Scheme (SVS) since the implementation of SVS on 2 September 2013. BD does not compile statistics on the number of signboards that have been erected with the prior approval and consent of the Building Authority under the Buildings Ordinance (BO) (Cap. 123).
- d. BD will issue Dangerous Structure Removal Notices (DSRNs) under section 105 of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) in respect of dangerous or abandoned signboards, and removal orders under section 24 of the BO in respect of unauthorised signboards. As at end of 2017, 436 DSRNs and 1 588 removal orders issued against signboards have not been complied with. The overdue periods of these outstanding DSRNs and removal orders are as follows –

<b>Overdue period</b>	<b>No. of DSRNs</b>	<b>No. of removal orders</b>
Less than 1 year	405	845
1 to 3 years	31	524
4 to 6 years	0	127
7 to 9 years	0	85
10 years or above	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>1 588</b>

- End -