

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****DEVB(PL)120****(Question Serial No. 1522)**

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:

It is mentioned in the Programme that the Government will continue to oversee the implementation of the multi-pronged package of measures to enhance building safety, covering legislation, enforcement, support and assistance for owners as well as publicity and public education. In this connection, would the Government provide:

- (1) the numbers of complaints received and summonses in respect of building safety in the past two years; and
- (2) the expenditure involved in the support and assistance for owners as well as publicity and public education in respect of building safety in the past two years?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 33)

Reply:

- (1) In the past two years, the numbers of reports received and summonses served under the Buildings Ordinance in respect of building safety are tabulated below –

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of reports received <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Number of summonses served</b>
2016	52 797	3 473
2017	47 444	3 542

Note <sup>(1)</sup>: Reports received from the public on dangerous buildings, hillsides, advertising signs, unauthorised building works and defective drains.

- (2) There are a number of schemes providing financial and technical assistance to owners of buildings in conducting maintenance and repair of their buildings. Specifically, the Buildings Department (BD) is responsible for implementing the Building Safety Loan Scheme (BSLS), which provides low interest loans to individual owners of private buildings for carrying out works related to the improvement of building safety and hygiene or for compliance with statutory orders. The amounts of loan approved under BSLS in 2016 and 2017 are as follows –

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount of loan approved (\$million)</b>
2016	71.1
2017	41.3

Apart from BSLS, other assistance schemes funded by the Government include Operation Building Bright (which is administered by the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) and funded by an approved commitment of \$3.2 billion by the Government), the Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Elderly Owners (which is administered by HKHS and funded by an approved commitment of \$1 billion by the Government), and a scheme to allow property owners to participate in “Smart Tender” Building Rehabilitation Facilitating Services scheme at a concessionary rate (which is administered by URA and funded by an approved commitment of \$300 million by the Government).

The expenditure involved in publicity and public education by BD for printing of publicity materials, producing and broadcasting Announcements of Public Interest, and employing outsourced contractors and service providers for 2016-17 and 2017-18 were about \$12.8 million and \$12.4 million (estimated) respectively.

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