

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)130

(Question Serial No. 2245)

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:

I, together with several District Council members from Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin, have met officials from the Buildings Department and the Joint Office (JO) to reflect the public's discontentment with the ineffectiveness and inefficiency of JO's work in investigating the sources of water seepage. Officials at the meeting told me that if the source of water seepage is from the external wall of a building, it is not within the scope of JO's investigation. However, in most of the water seepage cases in buildings I received, the complainants did not aware that JO does not accept/follow-up complaints on external wall seepage investigation. What are the policies of JO to promote the public's understanding of the scope of water seepage investigation?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 26)

Reply:

When acknowledging receipt of a water seepage report, the Joint Office (JO) set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Buildings Department (BD) will issue "Notes to Owners / Occupiers - General Procedures for Investigating Water Seepage" (Notes) to the concerned owners/occupiers to explain the objective of JO's investigation, and the general procedures involved. The Notes clearly state that under normal circumstances, seepage originated from the penetration of rainwater through the roof or external walls of a building or from leaking water pipe will not cause any public health implications and is not regarded as nuisance under section 12 of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (PH&MSO) (Cap. 132).

Information on the responsibility and co-operation of building owners in resolving water seepage problems and the role of JO in handling water seepage reports and enforcing the relevant provisions of the PH&MSO is also promulgated through the websites of FEHD and BD.

- End -