

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)133**

**(Question Serial No. 2249)**

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:

- 1) The number of complaints lodged with me about water seepage in buildings from Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts is ever-increasing. What was the total number of complaints received by the Buildings Department (BD) and the Joint Office (JO) last year? How many of them involved buildings from Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts?
- 2) Under the existing establishment of JO, how much manpower is engaged in the investigation of water seepage in buildings in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts? In response to the increasing complaints from these two districts, will JO and BD allocate more resources and manpower to cope with the service demand?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 30)

Reply:

- 1) In 2017, the Joint Office (JO) set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Buildings Department (BD) for handling reports on water seepage in buildings received 36 002 reports, including 2 937 cases in Kwun Tong and 1 507 cases in Wong Tai Sin.
- 2) There are a total of nine BD staff and 25 FEHD staff handling water seepage reports of Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts in JO. The nine BD staff also handle water seepage reports of two other districts. The handling of water seepage reports of Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts forms part of the overall operation of JO. We are unable to provide a breakdown of the expenditure solely for these two districts.

In 2018-19, 12 professional and technical posts will be created in BD to strengthen JO manpower. The change in expenditure of BD and FEHD in connection with JO operation in 2017-18 and 2018-19 are tabulated below –

<b>BD</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
Staff cost and departmental expenses (\$ million)	34 (estimated)	42 (estimated)
Expenditure for engaging outsourced consultants (\$ million)	34 (estimated)	40 (estimated)

<b>FEHD</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
Staff cost and departmental expenses (\$ million)	99.7 (estimated)	108.1 (estimated)

FEHD and BD will continue to keep in view the manpower situation and review the resources deployed to Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts from time to time to ensure that JO will continue to provide sufficient staff strength in handling water seepage reports.

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