

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)136****(Question Serial No. 2252)**

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:

What is the public expenditure earmarked by the Buildings Department and the Joint Office for outsourcing investigation cases to private water seepage investigation companies in the new financial year? Is there an estimation of the number of outsourced investigation cases involved?

What are the percentage changes as compared with the previous three financial years?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 33)

Reply:

The Joint Office (JO) set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Buildings Department refers cases in which the source of seepage cannot be identified in its initial investigation to outsourced consultants for professional investigation. JO cannot predict the number of such cases in 2018-19.

The expenditures for engaging outsourced consultants in 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 are tabulated below –

2015-16 (a)	2016-17 (b)	2017-18 (c)	2018-19 (d)	Change (%)		
				(d)/(a)	(d)/(b)	(d)/(c)
\$30 million	\$31 million	\$34 million (estimated)	\$40 million (estimated)	+33%	+29%	+18%

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