

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)140

(Question Serial No. 0496)

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 the fire safety improvement directions (FSIDns) issued to specified commercial buildings and the fire safety directions (FSDns) issued to composite buildings under the Programme, please inform this Committee:

- 1) of the number of FSIDns issued to and discharged from specified commercial buildings from 2014 to 2017;
- 2) of the number of FSIDns yet to be discharged from specified commercial buildings up to 2017;
- 3) of the number of FSDns issued to and discharged from composite buildings in each of the 18 districts in 2016 and 2017;
- 4) of the measures to clear the backlog of outstanding FSDns of composite buildings; of the details and estimated expenditure of the measures concerned.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 23)

Reply:

- 1) From 2014 to 2017, the Buildings Department (BD) issued 789 fire safety improvement directions (FSIDns) to specified commercial buildings (SCBs) and 2 089 FSIDns were discharged. The FSIDns discharged may not correspond to the FSIDns issued during the same period.
- 2) As at end of 2017, there were 5 753 outstanding FSIDns in respect of SCBs.
- 3) For composite buildings, the geographical distribution of fire safety directions (FSDns) issued and discharged in 2016 and 2017 is tabulated below –

District	No. of FSDns issued		No. of FSDns discharged ^{Note}	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
Central & Western	521	543	189	168
Wan Chai	571	540	195	302
Eastern	432	243	251	229
Southern	131	90	49	23
Yau Tsim Mong	708	1011	491	356
Sham Shui Po	337	284	240	126
Kowloon City	351	295	199	249
Wong Tai Sin	84	86	62	88
Kwun Tong	47	32	21	4
Tsuen Wan	89	58	33	16
Tuen Mun	21	18	7	2
Yuen Long	112	76	61	41
North	131	117	16	2
Tai Po	86	44	10	3
Sai Kung	0	6	0	0
Sha Tin	9	20	2	0
Island	39	0	1	0
Kwai Tsing	7	27	1	0
Total	3 676	3 490	1 828	1 609

Note: The figures do not necessarily correspond to the FSDns issued in the same year.

- 4) In 2018-19, BD will continue to step up enforcement action concerning the outstanding FSDns, including instigating prosecution against building owners who fail to comply with FSDns without reasonable excuse. BD will also continue to take measures to encourage and render assistance to building owners in complying with FSDns. These measures include –
- (a) in collaboration with the Fire Services Department and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA), implementing the proposed Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme to subsidise eligible building owners to undertake fire safety improvement works;

- (b) working with the Home Affairs Department to assist building owners in forming owners' corporations;
- (c) offering technical advice through meetings with the building owners and their appointed consultants;
- (d) in collaboration with the Hong Kong Housing Society and the URA, providing technical and financial assistance to eligible building owners; and
- (e) supporting District Fire Safety Committees and other organisations in organising seminars and activities to enhance public awareness of the importance of fire safety in old buildings.

In 2018-19, the 104 professional and technical staff of BD's Fire Safety Section will follow up on the outstanding FSDns as part of their overall duties in implementing the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance (Cap. 502) and the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572). We are not able to provide a breakdown of the expenditure involved solely for the aforesaid follow-up work.

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