

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)142

(Question Serial No. 0747)

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 problem of water seepage, please inform this Committee:

- 1) of the statistics on the numbers of water seepage complaints received, cases handled, cases with the source of seepage identified and applications to the court for entry warrants in each year from 2015 to 2018;
- 2) of the general follow-up work for cases where the source of seepage cannot be identified;
- 3) of the number of prosecutions instigated against owners connected with the source of seepage under the relevant provisions of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance and the number of convictions in 2016 and 2017; and
- 4) of the staff establishment and operational expenses of the Joint Office deployed by the Government in year 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 32)

Reply:

- 1) Statistics on water seepage reports received, reports handled, cases with source of water seepage identified and entry warrants granted by the Court in the past three years are tabulated below –

Number of Cases	2015	2016	2017
Reports received	29 617	36 376	36 002
Reports handled ⁽¹⁾	25 093	29 148	30 605
● Cases screened out ⁽²⁾	12 000	13 196	14 732
● Cases with investigations concluded	13 093	15 952	15 873
Cases with source identified ⁽¹⁾	4 679	6 846	6 253
Entry warrants granted by the Court ⁽¹⁾	64	55	62

Note ⁽¹⁾: The figures do not necessarily correspond to the number of reports received in the same year.

Note ⁽²⁾: These include unjustified cases and withdrawn cases, in respect of which no investigation will be made by the Joint Office (JO) set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Buildings Department (BD).

- 2) For cases where the source of water seepage cannot be ascertained, the persons who lodged the water seepage reports will be notified of the findings and JO will keep the investigation information for reference. Such persons may contact JO should the seepage condition deteriorate or when there is new information which may be useful for invoking investigation again.
- 3) In 2016 and 2017, JO instigated 95 and 114 prosecutions respectively against building owners for their non-compliance with the nuisance notice issued under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132), and there were 68 and 49 convictions respectively. As there is a lapse of time between the instigation of prosecution and adjudication by the Court, the number of convictions may not necessarily correspond to that of the prosecutions instigated in the same year.
- 4) The staff establishment and the expenditure of BD and FEHD in connection with JO's operation in the past three fiscal years and year 2018-19 are tabulated below –

BD	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Number of professional and technical staff	64	64	64	76
Staff cost and departmental expenses (\$ million)	31	32	34 (estimated)	42 (estimated)
Expenditure for engaging outsourced consultants (\$ million)	30	31	34 (estimated)	40 (estimated)

FEHD	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Number of investigation and coordinating staff	219	220	224	224
Staff cost and departmental expenses (\$ million)	80.7	86.3	99.7 (estimated)	108.1 (estimated)

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