

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)144

(Question Serial No. 3539)

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 maintenance of private slopes, please inform this Committee:

- 1) of the numbers of cases involving engagement of consultants and contractors by the Department to carry out the required slope investigation and repair works in the event of default by owners and the expenditure involved in 2016 and 2017 respectively;
- 2) up to March 2018, did the Department successfully recover the cost from the owners concerned in all these cases? If not, what is the progress? Were any amounts written off? What are the details and reasons?
- 3) at present, how many dangerous hillside orders have not yet been complied with (or the required repair has not yet been completed) for one to three years, four to six years, seven to nine years, and ten years or above after the specified time.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 75)

Reply:

- 1) The Buildings Department (BD) engages consultants and contractors to carry out the required slope investigation and repair works in the event of default by owners. The costs of such works plus supervision charges and surcharges will be recovered from the owners afterwards. BD commissioned consultants to carry out such works in respect of 11 dangerous hillside orders (DHOs) in 2016 and 64 DHOs in 2017. The amount paid to consultants and contractors was \$28.0 million in 2016-17 and \$12.6 million in 2017-18 (up to December 2017).

- 2) From 2016-17 to the end of 2017, the amount of cost recovered and written off in relation to the carrying out of slope investigation and repair works in the event of default by owners is as follows –

	Amount of cost recovered from owners (\$ million)	Amount of cost written off ⁽¹⁾ (\$)
2016-17	16.3	158,883
2017-18 (up to December 2017)	8.3	46,826

Note ⁽¹⁾: The reasons for writing off the cost include that the owner has deceased without a probate and the whereabouts of the owner is not known.

- 3) Up to end February 2018, statistics on outstanding DHOs based on the overdue period are tabulated below –

Overdue period	Number of DHOs
less than 1 year	63
1 to 3 years	205
4 to 6 years	140
7 to 9 years	103
10 years or above	105
Total	616

- End -