

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)297****(Question Serial No. 3796)**

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:

The Buildings Department mentioned that the number of mandatory building inspection notices issued in 2017 was 12 384 but would decrease to 5 000 in 2018. The Department's note stated that the increase in the number of notices discharged in 2018 had taken into account the adjustment in work priority with more focus on enhancing compliance with served notices. However, the number of notices discharged will only increase from 7 975 in 2017 to 9 000 in 2018. The decrease in the number of mandatory building inspection notices issued is far more than the number of notices discharged from 2017 to 2018. In this connection, please inform this Committee:

1. of the changes in staff establishment and expenditure of the Department involved in mandatory building inspection from 2017 to 2018; and
2. of the reasons for the decrease in the number of mandatory building inspection notices issued being far more than the number of notices discharged from 2017 to 2018.

Asked by: Hon HO Kai-ming (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 54)

Reply:

1. The Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS) and the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme are implemented by the Mandatory Building Inspection (MBI) Sections of the Buildings Department (BD). The manpower and expenditure of MBI Sections in 2017-18 and 2018-19 are tabulated below –

Financial year	No. of professional and technical staff	Expenditure
2017-18	105	\$117 million (estimated)
2018-19	160	\$139 million (estimated)

We are not able to provide a breakdown of the expenditure incurred solely for MBIS.

2. In 2018, BD's work priority with respect to the implementation of MBIS is to clear the outstanding MBIS notices instead of selecting new target buildings. Since the workload arising from these tasks (e.g. issuing warning letters, instigating prosecutions as needed, arranging default works) is relatively heavier than that for issuing statutory notices under MBIS, the decrease in the number of notices issued in 2018 will not result in a corresponding increase in the same number of statutory notices discharged.

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