

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)298

(Question Serial No. 4073)

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:

1. What were the frequency and details of the promotion of building safety in the past three years? What were the manpower and expenditure involved? (by District Council constituency)
2. What are the types of services provided to owners and occupants in both existing and new private buildings? What are the manpower and expenditure involved? (by District Council constituency)
3. What were the frequency and details of the regular or surprise inspection of buildings in the past three years? What was the manpower deployment involved? (by District Council constituency)
4. How many applications and complaints were received in the past three years under the Operation Building Bright implemented in collaboration with the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Urban Renewal Authority? What were the manpower and expenditure involved?
5. What were the details of the implementation of the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS) and the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme (MWIS) in the past three years? What were the manpower and expenditure involved? (by District Council constituency)
6. How many reports on water seepage were received in the past three years? What were the manpower and expenditure involved? Did the authorities instigate any prosecution in this connection? What was the number and situation of such prosecutions, and what were the manpower and expenditure involved?
7. What were the frequency and details of the territory-wide publicity and public education campaign in the past three years? What were the manpower and expenditure involved? (by District Council constituency)

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 240)

Reply:

1. and 7. The Buildings Department (BD) undertook, among others, the following public education and publicity (PEP) activities in the past three years to promote building safety and foster a building safety culture —
- (a) conducting over 100 briefings, events and visits etc. for the industry, students and the general public each year;
 - (b) revamping BD's website to improve its usability and uploading relevant guidelines onto BD's website and BD's thematic website on building safety regularly;
 - (c) organising an annual large-scale publicity event, namely the Building Safety Week, which included a wide variety of activities such as roadshows, comic drawing and drama competitions for students, exhibitions and seminars for the general public and a symposium for building professionals and registered contractors;
 - (d) launching and maintaining mobile applications for the Minor Works Control System, Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS) and Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme (MWIS);
 - (e) launching an e-learning centre to promulgate an on-line Building Safety Certificate Course targeting building owners and the general public;
 - (f) broadcasting Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) on TV, radio, buses, trains and online media; and
 - (g) producing various short video films and broadcasting them on BD's website and during BD's events.

The total expenditure for the printing of publicity materials, producing and broadcasting APIs and short films, and employing outsourced contractors and service providers to carry out PEP activities on building safety for 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 were about \$19 million, \$12.8 million and \$12.4 million (estimated) respectively.

The related work was territory-wide and handled by six staff of the Public Education and Publicity Unit, and three staff of the Information Unit of BD as part of their overall duties. We are unable to provide a breakdown of the manpower and the expenditure involved by geographical district.

2. and 3. The services provided by BD for private buildings include implementing MBIS and MWIS; removing danger and nuisances caused by unauthorised building works (including irregularities associated with sub-divided flats and unauthorised signboards), defective drain pipes and dangerous slopes; processing minor works submissions; responding to emergency and non-emergency reports; implementing fire safety improvement measures; and promoting proper and timely building repair and maintenance. The work related to the provision of the above services is mainly handled by 848 professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions, the Mandatory Building Inspection Division and the Minor Works and Signboard Control Section of BD. The staff cost and departmental expenses involved in 2017-18 and 2018-19 are estimated to be \$720 million and \$775 million respectively.

The 848 professional and technical staff mentioned above are also responsible for the inspections of existing private buildings, either in response to reports received from members of the public and other government departments or through large scale operations. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower resources involved solely for carrying out the inspections by geographical district.

4. The application period for Operation Building Bright (OBB) ended in 2010. Therefore, no application was received in the past three years. BD, the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) do not compile statistics on the number of complaints received for OBB.

The administrative cost incurred by HKHS and URA in implementing OBB, including the staff cost, is absorbed by the two organisations. For BD, additional temporary contract staff members have been employed to co-ordinate the repair works. The number of such contract staff varies over time. The total staff cost and associated expenses incurred since the inception of OBB up to 31 December 2017 is about \$81.5 million.

5. BD has been fully implementing MBIS and MWIS since June 2012. The geographical distribution of statutory notices issued under MBIS and MWIS from 2015 to 2017 is as follows –

Districts	MBIS			MWIS		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Central & Western	662	769	1 012	7 943	5 552	3 302
Eastern	4 040	656	1 824	18 027	18 513	2 875
Southern	398	195	1 552	5 138	4 388	1 784

Districts	MBIS			MWIS		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Wan Chai	701	916	770	7 556	4 443	1 444
Kowloon City	2 054	1 424	2 183	8 363	9 572	3 501
Kwun Tong	18	19	44	7 353	1 484	1 180
Sham Shui Po	2 774	325	886	7 180	3 166	1 773
Wong Tai Sin	46	28	25	1 418	763	471
Yau Tsim Mong	510	779	839	8 295	11 523	1 971
Islands	27	7	58	2 272	1 156	91
Kwai Tsing	99	63	21	7 135	3 794	1 872
North	43	54	22	333	1 659	30
Sai Kung	0	10	38	89	200	597
Sha Tin	60	13	1 468	8 013	2 383	2 006
Tai Po	2	163	1 391	2 281	462	1 444
Tsuen Wan	37	116	35	11 376	9 273	1 143
Tuen Mun	22	8	146	17 222	6 277	4 491
Yuen Long	26	26	70	3 265	1 672	248
Total	11 519	5 571	12 384	123 259	86 280	30 223

The professional and technical staff of the Mandatory Building Inspection (MBI) Sections of BD is responsible for implementing MBIS and MWIS. The manpower and expenditure of MBI Sections in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 are as follows —

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Number of professional and technical staff	126	127	105
Expenditure (\$ million)	116	124	117 (estimated)

6. Statistics on water seepage reports received, prosecutions instigated, convictions and range of fines in the past three years are tabulated below –

Number of Cases	2015	2016	2017
Reports received	29 617	36 376	36 002
Prosecutions instigated ⁽¹⁾	61	95	114
Convictions ⁽¹⁾	44	68	49
Range of fines ⁽¹⁾	\$800-\$5,000	\$400-\$4,000	\$500-\$5,000

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

The related work is handled by the Joint Office (JO) set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and BD.

The staff establishment and the expenditure of FEHD and BD in connection with the operation of JO in the past three years are as follows –

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

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

We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved solely in handling the prosecution cases.

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