

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)301

(Question Serial No. 6088)

Head: (82) Buildings Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (CHEUNG Tin-cheung)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The number of non-directorate posts of the Buildings Department (BD) is expected to increase from 1 799 posts of the last financial year by 125 posts to 1 924 posts in this financial year. However, BD is responsible for inspecting a large number of buildings in Hong Kong to ensure their safety, including the inspection of unauthorised building works and sub-divided flats. What are BD's criteria for increasing manpower? Are there any manpower resources to initiate inspection of irregularities in buildings? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 53)

Reply:

Among the 125 posts to be created in 2018-19 in the Buildings Department (BD), 52 posts will be engaged in enhancing building safety including strengthening enforcement actions and supporting the implementation of Operation Building Bright 2.0; 30 posts will be engaged in coping with the increased workload in processing new building plans; 15 posts will be allocated to the Joint Office set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and BD to strengthen the manpower to tackle public reports on water seepage; four posts will be engaged in implementing the Electronic Submission Hub project; 18 posts will be engaged in coping with the workload arising from the implementation of the Three-Runway System project; and the remaining six posts will be engaged in coping with the additional workload arising from the regulation of private columbarium.

In 2018-19, enforcement action against dilapidated buildings and unauthorised building works, including building irregularities associated with sub-divided flats, will be carried out by 693 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 as part of their overall duties to implement BD's building safety and maintenance enforcement programmes. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower involved solely for inspection of irregularities in buildings.

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