

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****DEVB(PL)303****(Question Serial No. 5369)**

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 operation of the Joint Office set up by the Buildings Department and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, please provide the following figures:

- the numbers of reports received, reports handled, cases screened out, cases with investigations concluded (broken down by “seepage ceased during investigation”, “source of water seepage identified” and “source of water seepage could not be identified and investigation terminated”), entry warrants granted by the Court, Nuisance Notices issued, prosecutions instigated, Nuisance Orders granted by the Court and convictions, with the range of fines, in 2017-18; and
- the expenditure for engaging outsourced consultants in 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 70)

Reply:

- Statistics on water seepage reports received, reports handled, results of investigation and enforcement actions taken by the Joint Office (JO) set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Buildings Department in 2017 are tabulated below –

| <b>Number of Cases</b>                | <b>2017</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Reports received                      | 36 002      |
| Reports handled <sup>(1)</sup>        | 30 605      |
| • Cases screened out <sup>(2)</sup>   | 14 732      |
| • Cases with investigations concluded | 15 873      |
| - Seepage ceased during investigation | 5 448       |
| - Source of water seepage identified  | 6 253       |

| <b>Number of Cases</b>   | <b>2017</b>     |
|--|-----------------|
| - Source of water seepage could not be identified and investigation terminated | 4 172           |
| Entry warrants granted by the Court <sup>(1)</sup>                             | 62              |
| Nuisance Notices issued <sup>(1)</sup>   | 5 006           |
| Prosecutions instigated <sup>(1)</sup>   | 114             |
| Nuisance Orders granted by the Court <sup>(1)</sup>                            | 39              |
| Convictions <sup>(1)</sup>   | 49              |
| Range of fines   | \$500 - \$5,000 |

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

Note <sup>(2)</sup>: These include unjustified cases and withdrawn cases, in respect of which no investigation will be made by JO.

2. The expenditures for engaging outsourced consultants in 2016-17 and 2017-18 are tabulated below –

|  | <b>2016-17</b> | <b>2017-18</b>    |
|--|----------------|-------------------|
| Expenditure for engaging outsourced consultants (\$ million) | 31             | 34<br>(estimated) |

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