

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)305

(Question Serial No. 5867)

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 Department stated that it would continue the consultancy study on the latest technological methods in identifying the sources of water seepage in buildings. Please provide:

- a. the distribution of manpower and expenditure for the consultancy study in the past three years and this year, as well as the details and completion time of the consultancy study; and
- b. the numbers of complaints received by the Joint Office, the average handling time for each complaint, and the distribution of manpower and expenditure in the past three years.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 65)

Reply:

- a. The Buildings Department (BD) has engaged a consultant to conduct a study on the latest technological methods for identifying sources of water seepage in buildings. The study researches into technological matters relating to water seepage investigation in buildings both locally and overseas. It will assess and recommend the most suitable testing methods for investigating water seepage in private buildings and help formulate technical guidelines for application of these methods by the Joint Office (JO) set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and BD. The study is scheduled for completion in 2018.

The expenditures of the consultancy study in the past three years and this year are tabulated below –

| 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| \$ 457,800 | \$ 823,350 | \$ 2,371,000 (estimated) | \$ 109,000 (estimated) |

The consultancy agreement is administered by BD staff of JO as part of their overall duties. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower solely involved in the administration of the consultancy study.

- b. The numbers of water seepage reports received in 2015, 2016 and 2017 were 29 617, 36 376 and 36 002 respectively. The time spent on investigating a water seepage case varies due to a number of factors, including the nature and complexity of the case and whether the relevant owners or occupants are cooperative. JO does not compile statistics on the average handling time of the cases.

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

| 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) |

| 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) |

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