

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)116

(Question Serial No. 2547)

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:

With regard to handling water seepage problem in buildings, please inform this Committee of the following:

- a) the staff establishment of the Buildings Department (BD) for handling water seepage cases in buildings in the last three years;
- b) the numbers of water seepage cases in buildings handled by BD in the last three years;
- c) whether BD has instigated prosecution against water seepage cases in buildings in the last three years; if so, what are the numbers concerned?

Asked by: Hon HO Kai-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

- a) Reports on water seepage in buildings are handled by the Joint Office (JO) set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Buildings Department (BD). The staff establishment of the BD in connection with the JO operation in the past three years are as follows –

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Number of professional and technical staff	64	64	76

- b) Generally speaking, the FEHD staff are responsible for carrying out initial investigation of the source of seepage as well as undertaking enforcements such as issuing nuisance notices and instigating prosecutions in accordance with the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) where necessary. In case the initial investigation cannot identify the source of seepage, professional investigation by outsourced consultants is required. BD staff will monitor the work of the consultants and co-ordinate the investigation. The numbers of water seepage cases requiring professional investigation by BD staff in the last three years are tabulated below –

	2016	2017	2018
Number of cases handled by BD staff of JO for professional investigation	10 451	11 190	9 716

Statistics on prosecutions instigated by JO in the last three years are tabulated below –

	2016	2017	2018
Number of prosecutions instigated	95	114	82

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