

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)120

(Question Serial No. 2615)

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:

In respect of the expenditure reduction in “removal orders issued for unauthorised building works (UBWs) in New Territories exempted houses (NTEHs)” in this year’s Estimates, please inform the following in table form:

1. whether there is manpower reduction; if so, please state the reasons for the reduction and the types of work involved of the reduced manpower;
2. whether the reduction in expenditure means that the enforcement actions against and removals of UBWs in most NTEHs have been completed;
3. a breakdown of the remaining numbers of buildings with UBWs in each recognised village by district;
4. a breakdown of the numbers of buildings with removal orders issued and complied with in each recognised village by district;
5. a breakdown of the numbers of buildings with removal orders issued but not yet complied with in each recognised village by district.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

Since 1 April 2012, the Buildings Department (BD) has been implementing the enhanced enforcement strategy against unauthorised building works (UBWs) in New Territories Exempted Houses (NTEHs). The enhanced enforcement strategy includes large scale operations (LSOs) for removal of existing UBWs in NTEHs that constitute serious contravention of the law and pose higher potential risks to building safety (known as First Round Targets), a Reporting Scheme for existing UBWs in NTEHs that constitute less serious contravention of the law and pose lower potential risks to building safety, and immediate enforcement actions against other UBWs in NTEHs which constitute imminent

danger or newly erected or found under constructions. Our reply to the questions is set out below –

1. & 2. In 2019-20, the implementation of the enhanced enforcement strategy will be carried out by 39 professional and technical staff of the Village Houses Section (VHS) of BD and the estimated expenditure to be incurred by VHS is \$41.7 million. There is no reduction in manpower and expenditure as compared with the provision for 2018-19. The targets on enforcement actions against UBWs in NTEHs (e.g. number of NTEHs surveyed to identify First Round Targets and number of removal orders issued) remain unchanged in 2019 as compared with the targets for 2018-19.
3. – 5. In line with the enhanced enforcement strategy, BD has been conducting village by village surveys of NTEHs to identify First Round Targets for priority enforcement action. A breakdown of the number of removal orders issued and complied with in the past five years by districts is set out below –

District	Number of removal orders issued	Number of removal orders complied with ⁽¹⁾
Islands	100	52
Kwai Tsing	8	11
North	270	209
Sai Kung	312	235
Sha Tin	166	115
Tai Po	584	324
Tsuen Wan	92	59
Tuen Mun	287	151
Yuen Long	724	281
Total	2 543	1 437

Note ⁽¹⁾: The figures do not necessarily correspond to the number of removal orders issued in the same year.

As of end 2018, the number of non-compliant removal orders for UBWs in NTEHs by districts is tabulated below –

District	Number of non-compliant removal orders
Islands	63
Kwai Tsing	1

District	Number of non-compliant removal orders
North	99
Sai Kung	145
Sha Tin	54
Tai Po	310
Tsuen Wan	51
Tuen Mun	172
Yuen Long	457
Total	1 352

BD does not have an estimate on the total number of NTEHs with UBWs.

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