

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)127

(Question Serial No. 1917)

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:

There will be an estimated 1 924 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2019, rising by 72 posts to 1 996 posts as at 31 March 2020. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- a) the main scope of work to be undertaken by the newly created posts;
- b) the staff establishment for the inspection of sub-divided flats in the past three years.

Asked by: Hon MAK Mei-kuen, Alice (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

- a) Among the 72 posts to be created in 2019-20 in the Buildings Department (BD), 30 posts will be engaged in coping with the increasing workload arising from the processing of building plan submissions including projects adopting Modular Integrated Construction and transitional housing projects; 18 posts will be engaged in enhancing building safety including strengthening enforcement actions and supporting the administration of the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme and the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme; seven posts will be engaged in implementing the Electronic Submission Hub project; six 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; five posts will be engaged in enhancing the fire safety of old industrial buildings; two posts will be engaged in enhancing the use of information technology to strengthen public education and publicity efforts; two posts will be engaged in coping with the additional workload arising from the regulation of private columbaria; and the remaining two posts will be engaged in supporting the Government's efforts in promoting wider use of renewable energy.
- b) Enforcement action against irregularities associated with sub-divided flats (SDFs) is carried out by the professional and technical staff of the two Existing Buildings Divisions (EBDs) of BD as part of their overall duties to implement BD's building

safety and maintenance enforcement programmes. The number of professional and technical staff in EBDs in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 are 414, 434 and 434 respectively. We are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower involved solely for inspections of SDFs.

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