

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)302

(Question Serial No. 3617)

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 problem of water seepage, please inform this Committee:

- 1) of the statistics on the numbers of water seepage complaints received, cases handled, cases with the source of seepage identified and applications to the court for entry warrants in the past three years;
- 2) of the numbers of prosecutions instigated against owners connected with the source of seepage under the relevant provisions of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance and the numbers of convictions in the past three years;
- 3) of the staff establishment and operational expenses of the Joint Office (JO) deployed by the Government in the past three years; and
- 4) of the percentage of the expenditure of JO spent on equipment for checking the source of seepage; and the estimated expenditure last year for procurement of new equipment to increase the chance of successfully identifying the source of seepage.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 73)

Reply:

- 1) Statistics on water seepage reports received, reports handled, cases with source of water seepage identified and entry warrants granted by the Court in the past three years are tabulated below –

Number of Cases	2016	2017	2018
Reports received	36 376	36 002	36 684
Reports handled ⁽¹⁾	29 148	30 605	28 221
• Cases screened out ⁽²⁾	13 196	14 732	14 571
• Cases with investigations concluded	15 952	15 873	13 650
Cases with source identified ⁽¹⁾	6 846	6 253	5 729
Entry warrants granted by the Court ⁽¹⁾	55	62	51

Note ⁽¹⁾: The figures do not necessarily correspond to the reports received in the same year.

Note ⁽²⁾: These include unjustified cases and withdrawn cases where no investigation was conducted by the Joint Office (JO) set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Buildings Department (BD).

- 2) In 2016, 2017 and 2018, JO instigated 95, 114 and 82 prosecutions respectively against building owners for their non-compliance with the nuisance notice issued under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132). There were 68, 49 and 105 convictions in the respective years. As there is a lapse of time between the instigation of prosecution and adjudication by the Court, the number of convictions may not necessarily correspond to that of the prosecutions instigated in the same year.
- 3) The staff establishment and the expenditure of BD and FEHD in connection with JO's operation in the past three years are tabulated below –

BD	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Number of professional and technical staff	64	64	76
Staff cost and departmental expenses (\$ million)	32.0	34.3	42.2 (estimated)
Expenditure for engaging outsourced consultants (\$ million)	31.0	36.6	36.0 (estimated)

FEHD	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Number of investigation and co-ordinating staff	220	224	227
Staff cost and departmental expenses (\$ million)	86.3	99.7	109.2 (estimated)

- 4) Outsourced consultants engaged by JO may make use of different methods and equipment in investigating sources of water seepage. BD is not able to provide a breakdown of the expenditure spent solely on equipment by the outsourced consultants.

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