

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)304

(Question Serial No. 3619)

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 fire safety improvement directions (FSIDns) issued to specified commercial buildings and the fire safety directions (FSDns) issued to composite buildings under the Programme, please inform this Committee:

- 1) of the number of FSIDns issued to and discharged from specified commercial buildings from 2015 to 2018;
- 2) of the number of FSIDns yet to be discharged from specified commercial buildings up to March 2019;
- 3) of the number of FSDns issued to and discharged from composite buildings in each of the 18 districts in 2017 and 2018;
- 4) of the measures to clear the backlog of outstanding FSDns of composite buildings; of the details and estimated expenditure of the measures concerned.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 76)

Reply:

- 1) From 2015 to 2018, the Buildings Department (BD) issued 654 fire safety improvement directions (FSIDns) to specified commercial buildings (SCBs) and 1 757 FSIDns were discharged. The FSIDns discharged may not correspond to the FSIDns issued during the same period.
- 2) As at 1 March 2019, there were 5 431 outstanding FSIDns in respect of SCBs.

- 3) For composite buildings, the geographical distribution of fire safety directions (FSDns) issued and discharged in 2017 and 2018 is tabulated below –

District	Number of FSDns issued		Number of FSDns discharged ^{Note}	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
Central & Western	543	719	168	245
Wan Chai	540	347	302	243
Eastern	243	364	229	238
Southern	90	33	23	53
Yau Tsim Mong	1 011	997	356	377
Sham Shui Po	284	541	126	293
Kowloon City	295	504	249	257
Wong Tai Sin	86	153	88	55
Kwun Tong	32	122	4	61
Tsuen Wan	58	113	16	6
Tuen Mun	18	54	2	7
Yuen Long	76	142	41	47
North	117	56	2	0
Tai Po	44	108	3	24
Sai Kung	6	0	0	0
Sha Tin	20	11	0	1
Islands	0	17	0	1
Kwai Tsing	27	56	0	4
Total	3 490	4 337	1 609	1 912

Note: The figures do not necessarily correspond to the FSDns issued in the same year.

- 4) In 2019-20, BD will continue to step up enforcement action concerning the outstanding FSDns, including instigating prosecution against building owners who fail to comply with FSDns without reasonable excuse. BD will also continue to take measures to encourage and render assistance to building owners in complying with FSDns. These measures include –

- (a) in collaboration with the Fire Services Department and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA), implementing the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme to subsidise eligible building owners to undertake fire safety improvement works;
- (b) working with the Home Affairs Department to assist building owners in forming owners' corporations;
- (c) offering technical advice through meetings with the building owners and their appointed consultants;
- (d) in collaboration with the Hong Kong Housing Society and URA, providing technical and financial assistance to eligible building owners; and
- (e) supporting District Fire Safety Committees and other organisations in organising seminars and activities to enhance public awareness of the importance of fire safety in old buildings.

In 2019-20, the 104 professional and technical staff of BD's Fire Safety Section will follow up on the outstanding FSDns as part of their overall duties in implementing the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance (Cap. 502) and the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572). BD is not able to provide a breakdown of the expenditure involved solely for the aforesaid follow-up work.

- End -