

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)307

(Question Serial No. 3622)

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 maintenance of private slopes, please inform this Committee:

- 1) of the numbers of cases involving engagement of consultants and contractors by the Department to carry out the required slope investigation and repair works in the event of default by owners and the expenditure involved in 2017 and 2018 respectively;
- 2) up to March 2019, did the Department successfully recover the cost from the owners concerned in all these cases? If not, what is the progress? Were any amounts written off? What are the details and reasons?
- 3) at present, how many dangerous hillside orders have not yet been complied with (or the required repair has not yet been completed) for one to three years, four to six years, seven to nine years, and ten years or above after the specified time.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 79)

Reply:

- 1) The Buildings Department (BD) engages consultants and contractors to carry out the required slope investigation and repair works in the event of default by owners. The costs of such works plus supervision charges and surcharges will be recovered from the owners afterwards. BD commissioned consultants to carry out such works in respect of 64 dangerous hillside orders (DHOs) in 2017 and 85 DHOs in 2018. The amount paid to consultants and contractors was \$24.7 million in 2017-18 and \$18.8 million in 2018-19 (up to December 2018).
- 2) From 2017-18 to the end of 2018, the amount of cost recovered from owners and written-off in relation to the carrying out of the default slope investigation and repair works are as follows –

	Amount of cost recovered from owners (\$ million)	Amount of cost written-off ⁽¹⁾ (\$)
2017-18	10.0	136,745
2018-19 (up to December 2018)	2.6	0

Note ⁽¹⁾: The reasons for writing off the cost include that the owner has deceased without a probate and the whereabouts of the owner is not known, etc.

- 3) Up to end February 2019, statistics on outstanding DHOs based on the overdue period are tabulated below –

Overdue period	Number of DHOs
less than 1 year	71
1 to 3 years	156
4 to 6 years	134
7 to 9 years	105
10 years or above	102
Total	568

- End -