

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)088

(Question Serial No. 1463)

Head: (82) Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (YU Tak-cheung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Provision for 2020-21 is \$165.8 million, including that for 106 posts, higher than the revised estimate for the previous year. In this connection, would the Department list the following:

- 1) the distribution of ranks and job nature of the 106 posts;
- 2) the numbers of water seepage complaints received and prosecutions instigated last year; and
- 3) the estimated expenditure and manpower allocated to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Joint Office with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in handling public reports about water seepage problem?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

- 1) The net increase of 106 posts in the Buildings Department (BD) in 2020-21 involves the creation of 109 non-directorate posts, to be offset by the expiry of three time-limited posts. The 109 posts to be created in 2020-21 comprise 43 professional posts (Senior Building Surveyor/Senior Structural Engineer/Building Surveyor/Structural Engineer) and 66 technical posts (Senior Survey Officer (Building)/Senior Technical Officer (Structural)/Survey Officer (Building)/Technical Officer (Structural)).

Among the 109 posts, 24 posts will be engaged in implementing Operation Building Bright 2.0; 15 posts will be engaged in enhancing the efficiency of enforcement actions against unauthorised/dangerous/abandoned signboards; 38 posts will be engaged in enhancing departmental enforcement efforts on slope safety, window safety, control on unauthorised building works and construction site safety; eight posts will be engaged in coping with the increased workload arising from processing building plan submissions; four posts will be engaged in supporting the development of a Self-certification system by Authorized Persons under various licensing regimes; one post will be engaged in expediting the processing of applications under the Private Columbaria Ordinance and the remaining 19 posts will be engaged in implementing the Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance.

- 2) In 2019, the Joint Office (JO) set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and BD received 34 169 water seepage reports and instigated 126 prosecutions against building owners for their non-compliance with the nuisance notices issued under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132). The number of prosecutions instigated does not necessarily correspond to the number of water seepage reports received in the same year.
- 3) In 2020-21, the estimated additional expenditure of BD allocated to JO in handling water seepage reports is \$26.3 million and the staff establishment of BD in JO remains as 82 professional and technical staff. To enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of JO, the additional expenditure will be used for employing contract staff and engaging outsourced consultants for further extension of the use of new testing technologies for investigation of water seepages in other pilot districts.