

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)093**

**(Question Serial No. 2833)**

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:

As regards new buildings, the Buildings Department (BD) scrutinises and approves building plans, carries out audit checks on construction works and site safety, and issues occupation permits upon completion of new buildings. According to BD's reply last year, BD had seconded a Buildings Ordinance (BO) Team to the Highways Department to handle matters related to the building safety standards, practices and procedures of BD for the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) Project and the Express Rail Link Project. The BO Team consisted of one Senior Structural Engineer, one Senior Building Surveyor, two Structural Engineers and two Building Surveyors, with a total staff cost of about \$6 million in 2018-19. Since problems have arisen from the works at Hung Hom Station and Wan Chai Station, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the actual and estimated numbers of staff and expenditure of the BO Team in 2019-20 and 2020-21? What are the reasons behind the changes?
- (b) BD did not respond to part (c) of last year's question. The question was about the numbers of site audits carried out by BD for the Hung Hom Station works under the SCL Project in each of the past five years. It is only mentioned in the reply that regular site visits were conducted 29 times by the Monitoring and Verification Consultant under Contract No. 1112 "Hung Hom Station and Stabling Sidings". Please reply again: regarding the Hung Hom Station works under the SCL Project, what are the numbers of site audits conducted by the one Senior Structural Engineer, one Senior Building Surveyor, two Structural Engineers and two Building Surveyors of the BO Team, the numbers and ranks of staff involved and departmental expenditure in each of the past five years?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 2012)

Reply:

- (a) The Highways Department (HyD) oversees the implementation of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) Project. Specifically, HyD is involved in planning, monitoring and coordinating various activities associated with the implementation of the SCL Project. The Buildings Department (BD) has seconded a Buildings Ordinance (BO) Team to HyD to handle matters related to the building safety standards, practices and procedures of BD for the SCL Project and the Express Rail Link Project. HyD has employed a Monitoring and Verification Consultant (M&V Consultant) to support HyD in monitoring the works of Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited and assist the BO Team in respect of the compliance with the BO and other relevant requirements.

According to the information provided by HyD, the numbers of staff and expenditure of the BO Team in 2019-20 and 2020-21 are tabulated as follows –

|   | <b>2019-20</b>     | <b>2020-21</b>     |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Number of Staff in BO Team <sup>(1)</sup> | 6                  | 6                  |
| Salaries (\$ million)                     | 6.0<br>(estimated) | 6.3<br>(estimated) |

Note <sup>(1)</sup>: The BO Team comprises one senior building surveyor, one senior structural engineer, two building surveyors and two structural engineers.

- (b) The numbers of site audits on the building works at Hung Hom Station Extension conducted by professional grade staff of the BO Team with the assistance of the M&V Consultant in the past five years are tabulated as follows –

| <b>Year</b>           | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Number of Site Audits | 32          | 22          | 18          | 28          | 106         | <b>206</b>   |

Conducting site audits forms part of the overall duties of the BO Team and we are not able to provide a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure incurred solely for this task.