

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)094

(Question Serial No. 2488)

Head: (82) Buildings Department

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

Programme: (1) Building and Building Works

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the Joint Office for Investigation of Water Seepage Complaints (JO) set up by the Buildings Department (BD) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to handle problems caused by water seepage in buildings, please inform this Committee of the following:

- a). the manpower ratio of staff from FEHD and BD in JO;
- b). the detailed division of labour between FEHD and BD in JO; and
- c). the numbers of water seepage complaints received and cases successfully handled by JO in the past three years.

Asked by: Hon HO Kai-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

- a). In 2019-20, the manpower ratio of staff from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Buildings Department (BD) stationed at the Joint Office (JO) set up by the two departments in handling water seepage reports in buildings is around 3:1 (i.e. 236 investigation and co-ordination staff of FEHD and 82 professional and technical staff of BD).

- b). Generally speaking, the FEHD staff are responsible for carrying out initial investigation of the source of seepage as well as undertaking enforcement action against nuisance arisen by seepage such as issuing nuisance notices and instigating prosecutions in accordance with the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) where necessary. The BD staff are responsible for carrying out professional investigation with the assistance of outsourced consultants in cases where the source of seepage cannot be identified by the initial investigation.
- c). Statistics on water seepage reports received and handled by JO in the past three years are tabulated below –

Number of Cases	2017	2018	2019
Reports received	36 002	36 684	34 169
Reports handled ⁽¹⁾	30 605	28 221	28 096
• Cases screened out ⁽²⁾	14 732	14 571	13 867
• Cases with investigation concluded	15 873	13 650	14 229
- Cases with source of water seepage identified	6 253	5 729	5 663
- Cases with source of water seepage not identified and investigation terminated	4 172	3 164	2 891
- Cases with seepage ceased during investigation	5 448	4 757	5 675

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

Note ⁽²⁾: These include unjustified cases not meeting the 35% moisture content criterion and withdrawn cases, etc. where no investigation was conducted by JO.