

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)095

(Question Serial No. 2490)

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:

With regard to handling water seepage problem in buildings, please inform this Committee of the following:

- a). the staff establishment and estimated expenditure of the Buildings Department (BD) for identifying sources of water seepage in buildings in the past three years;
- b). the numbers of cases that BD handled to identify sources of water seepage in buildings in the past three years; and
- c). the numbers of prosecutions instigated by BD by invoking relevant ordinances against cases of water seepage in buildings in the past three years.

Asked by: Hon HO Kai-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

- a). Reports on water seepage in buildings are handled by the Joint Office (JO) set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Buildings Department (BD). The staff establishment and the expenditure of BD in connection with JO's operation in the past three years are tabulated below –

BD	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Number of professional and technical staff	64	76	82
Staff cost and departmental expenses (\$ million)	34.3	42.6	53.7 (estimated)
Expenditure for engaging outsourced consultants (\$ million)	36.6	36.7	26.0 (estimated)

- 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. Statistics of water seepage cases requiring professional investigation by BD staff in the past three years are tabulated below –

	2017	2018	2019
Number of cases handled by BD staff of JO for professional investigation	11 190	9 716	10 078

- c). Statistics on prosecutions instigated by JO in the past three years are tabulated below –

	2017	2018	2019
Number of prosecutions instigated	114	82	126