

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****DEVB(PL)105****(Question Serial No. 2046)**Head: (82) Buildings DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Buildings and Building WorksControlling Officer: Director of Buildings (YU Tak-cheung)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion:

It is mentioned in the Programme that the Government will continue to oversee the implementation of the multi-pronged package of measures to enhance building safety, covering legislation, enforcement, support and assistance for owners as well as publicity and public education. In this connection, would the Government provide:

- (1) the numbers of complaints received and summonses in respect of building safety in the past two years; and
- (2) the expenditure involved in the support and assistance for owners as well as publicity and public education in respect of building safety in the past two years.

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)Reply:

- (1) In the past two years, the numbers of reports received and summonses served for offences under the Buildings Ordinance in respect of building safety including non-compliance with statutory orders/notices issued are tabulated below –

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of reports received <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Number of summonses served</b>
2018	49 346	3 572
2019	64 621	4 993

Note <sup>(1)</sup>: Reports received from the public on dangerous buildings, hillsides, advertising signs, unauthorised building works and defective drains.

- (2) There are a number of schemes providing financial and technical assistance to owners of buildings in conducting maintenance and repair of their buildings. Specifically, the Buildings Department (BD) is responsible for implementing the Building Safety Loan Scheme (BSLS), which provides low interest loans to individual owners of private buildings for carrying out works related to the improvement of building safety and hygiene or for compliance with statutory orders. The amounts of loan approved under BSLS in 2018 and 2019 are as follows –

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount of loan approved (\$ million)</b>
2018	38.0
2019	41.8

Apart from BSLS, other assistance schemes funded by the Government under the Development Bureau include Operation Building Bright 2.0 (OBB 2.0) (which is administered by Urban Renewal Authority (URA) and funded by an approved commitment of \$3 billion by the Government), the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme (LIMSS) (which is administered by URA and funded by an approved commitment of \$2.5 billion by the Government), the Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Elderly Owners (BMGSEO) (which is administered by Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) and funded by an approved commitment of \$1 billion by the Government), and a scheme to allow property owners to participate in “Smart Tender” Building Rehabilitation Facilitating Services Scheme at a concessionary rate (which is administered by URA and funded by an approved commitment of \$300 million by the Government).

To further strengthen assistance to owners in need, the Government announced in October 2019 its plan to inject an additional funding of \$3 billion, \$2 billion and \$2 billion respectively into OBB 2.0, LIMSS and BMGSEO (administration of the last scheme will be taken up by URA and the scheme will be rechristened as “Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Needy Owners”) and to introduce various enhancement measures. Details are set out in LegCo Paper No. CB(1)230/19-20(06). The proposed funding injection is being sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2020.

The expenditure involved in publicity and public education by BD for printing of publicity materials, producing and broadcasting Announcements of Public Interest, and employing outsourced contractors and service providers in 2018-19 and 2019-20 were about \$17.2 million and \$24.6 million (estimated) respectively.