

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)116

(Question Serial No. 3040)

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:

The Buildings Department continued to take enforcement action against unauthorised building works (UBWs) and to require building owners to carry out necessary repairs to dilapidated buildings. Would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) the numbers of (i) removal orders and (ii) closure orders issued regarding removal of UBWs on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes as well as rectification of irregularities associated with sub-divided flats (including those for domestic use in industrial buildings) in the past five years;
- 2) further to the above question, the average duration between issuance of removal orders and closure orders, and the criteria of issuing closure orders; and
- 3) the numbers of building owners who applied to the court for eviction orders in the past five years.

Asked by: Hon WAN Siu-kin, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

- 1) As regards the enforcement actions against unauthorised building works (UBWs) on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes as well as building irregularities associated with subdivided flats (SDFs) (including those for domestic use in industrial buildings), the numbers of removal orders and closure orders issued in the past five years are tabulated as follows –

Year	UBWs on rooftops, flat roofs, yards and lanes		Building irregularities associated with SDFs	
	Number of removal orders issued	Number of closure orders issued ⁽¹⁾	Number of removal orders issued	Number of closure orders issued ⁽¹⁾
2015	3 319	9	249	3
2016	3 519	7	255	0
2017	3 201	5	300	0
2018	3 376	6	599	0
2019	2 920	4	438	0

Note ⁽¹⁾: The numbers of closure orders issued do not necessarily relate to the removal orders issued in the same year.

- 2) Pursuant to the Buildings Ordinance, the Buildings Department (BD) may apply to the District Court for a closure order for any part of a building for carrying out the works required under a statutory order by the government contractor in the owner's default so as to avoid causing danger to the occupiers or to the public. BD does not compile statistics on the duration between issuance of removal orders and closure orders.
- 3) BD does not possess information on applications to the court for eviction orders by building owners.