

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)224**

**(Question Serial No. 4167)**

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:

Would the Bureau provide the following:

- (a) the number of buildings governed by the Buildings Ordinance (BO);
- (b) the total number of buildings exempt from the BO under section 41 of the BO and the following breakdown:
  - (i) the number of buildings under the Housing Ordinance;
  - (ii) the number of railway structures in Hong Kong;
  - (iii) the number of buildings under the Buildings Ordinance (Application to the New Territories) Ordinance;
  - (iv) the number of buildings of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) and those, the construction works of which were managed by ArchSD;
  - (v) the number of buildings of the Highways Department (HyD);
  - (vi) the number of buildings of the Garrison; and
  - (vii) the number of other buildings.

- (c) The Buildings Department (BD) is unable to collaborate with other departments on the “Building Records Access and Viewing On-line” system, while the Housing Authority, the MTR Corporation Limited, HyD and ArchSD, unlike BD, are unable to produce the plans of the buildings exempt from the BO. As a result, the public cannot monitor whether such buildings are involved in the erection of unauthorised building works. What is the view of the Bureau on such matters?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 132)

Reply:

Buildings Department (BD) is responsible for the enforcement of the safety and health standards for the planning, design and construction of buildings and associated works on private land, and keeps a repository of records of private buildings regulated under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) (BO). According to the records of BD, some 44 000 private buildings were regulated under the BO as at end of 2019.

For buildings which are exempt from the provisions of the BO, BD does not possess records of such buildings and statistics on the number of such buildings. In general, subsequent alteration and addition works to these buildings are also exempt from the BO. Members of the public may approach the relevant bureaux/departments for any enquiries on the buildings exempted from the BO under their respective purview. Generally speaking, administrative arrangements have been put in place to ensure that such buildings are built to standards not inferior to those required under the BO and are properly maintained.