

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(PL)103**

**(Question Serial No. 0905)**

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:

Regarding the one-off special scheme of the Buildings Department (BD) to inspect external drainage systems of all private residential and composite buildings and to take appropriate enforcement action after inspection, please inform this Committee of the number and the percentage of buildings which have been inspected out of the total number of buildings in Hong Kong, the estimated completion date, the total amount of provision and the manpower involved. Will BD consider carrying out the special scheme on a regular basis? If so, what are the expenditure and manpower involved on a yearly basis?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

Through the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF), the Buildings Department (BD) has engaged consultancy firms to undertake this one-off special scheme to inspect the external drainage systems of all private residential or composite buildings exceeding three storeys in height (the inspection scheme). The funding for the inspection scheme under the AEF is outside the scope of the Appropriation Bill or the estimates of the General Revenue Account. The inspection scheme is a 24-month special measure, covering 20 000 private residential or composite buildings across the territory. A total of 38 BD staff comprising professional, technical and clerical grade officers are required to implement the inspection scheme and undertake follow-up actions under the Buildings Ordinance. Implemented since June 2020, BD's consultants have inspected about 5 000 buildings as at the end of February 2021, amounting to about 25% of all target buildings. \$300 million has been earmarked for the inspection scheme.

Owners should take primary responsibility for the proper maintenance of their private properties, including regular inspection and maintenance of the drainage systems of their buildings to ensure that they are functioning well with a view to creating a safe and healthy living environment. The Government has no plan to carry out the special scheme on a regular basis.

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