

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)109****(Question Serial No. 1839)**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:

Building Safety Loan Scheme provides loans to individual owners of private buildings who may wish to obtain financial assistance in carrying out maintenance and repair works to reinstate or improve the safety conditions of their buildings and/or private slopes. Regarding the loan scheme, what were the numbers of applications received, the total amount of financial assistance involved, the numbers of buildings benefited, the duration between submission of application and release of loan in general, the numbers of applications rejected, and the general reasons for rejection in each of the past three years?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)Reply:

In the past three years, the number of applications received, the number of applications approved, the total amount of loan approved and the number of buildings benefited under the Building Safety Loan Scheme are tabulated as follows –

Year	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved ^{Note}	Total amount of loan approved ^{Note} (\$million)	Number of buildings benefited ^{Note}
2018	514	460	38	201
2019	574	423	41.8	142
2020	330	187	16	81

Note: Figures do not necessarily correspond to the applications received in the same year.

The decrease in the numbers of applications received and approved as well as the total loan amount approved in 2020 is due to the slowdown of building maintenance works under COVID-19.

Approved loans will be released to the applicants based on the progress of works and submission of corresponding certification. In the past three years, the average duration between submission of application and release of loan for each year was about seven months.

In 2018, 2019 and 2020, the numbers of applications rejected were 121, 52 and 19 respectively. The major reason for rejecting applications in 2018 and 2019 was that the applicants did not provide the required information whereas the major reason for rejecting applications in 2020 was that the applicants were not the registered owners of the properties concerned. In 2018 and 2019, the Buildings Department took the initiative to clear backlog cases where applicants had failed to provide information in support of their applications for an extended period of time, which explains the higher numbers of rejected applications in 2018 and 2019.

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