

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)111

(Question Serial No. 2523)

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:

1. Please provide the staff establishment and expenditure of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Buildings Department in connection with the operation of the Joint Office for Investigation of Water Seepage Complaints (JO) in 2020-21.
2. Please provide a breakdown of the numbers of water seepage cases received and handled by JO (including the number of cases in which the sources of seepage were identified by conventional tests), the number of cases in which professional investigation was carried out by JO staff and the number of cases handled by consultants commissioned by JO in 2020.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

1. The staff establishment and expenditure of the Joint Office (JO) set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Buildings Department (BD) in handling water seepage reports in buildings in 2020-21 are tabulated below –

| FEHD | 2020-21 |
|--|----------------------|
| Number of investigation and co-ordinating staff | 241 |
| Staff cost and departmental expenses (\$ million) | 180.5 (estimated) |

| BD | 2020-21 |
|---|---------------------|
| Number of professional and technical staff | 82 |
| Staff cost and departmental expenses (\$ million) | 65.8 (estimated) |
| Expenditure for engaging outsourced consultants (\$ million) | 36.1 (estimated) |

2. Generally speaking, JO staff are responsible for carrying out initial investigation of the source of seepage, such as colour water test for drainage pipes. In cases where the source of seepage cannot be identified during the initial investigation, JO staff will carry out a professional investigation with the assistance of outsourced consultants. Statistics on handling of water seepage reports by JO in 2020 are tabulated below –

| Number of Cases | 2020 |
|---|-------------|
| Reports received | 39 166 |
| Reports handled ⁽¹⁾ | 35 397 |
| (a) Cases screened out ⁽²⁾ | 21 345 |
| (b) Cases with investigation concluded ⁽³⁾ | 14 052 |
| - Cases with source of water seepage identified | 6 746 |
| - Cases with source of water seepage not identified and investigation terminated | 3 403 |
| - Cases with seepage ceased during investigation | 3 903 |
| (c) Among the cases in (b) above, cases requiring professional investigation ⁽⁴⁾ | 9 780 |

Note ⁽¹⁾: The number of reports handled does not necessarily correspond to the number of reports received in the same year.

Note ⁽²⁾: These include unjustified cases not meeting the 35% moisture content criterion and withdrawn cases, etc. where no investigation was conducted by JO.

Note ⁽³⁾: These include cases adopting conventional testing methods and/or new testing methods (including infrared thermography and microwave tomography).

Note ⁽⁴⁾: Cases requiring professional investigation were carried out with the assistance of outsourced consultants.

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