

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(PL)120****(Question Serial No. 2616)**

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:

It is mentioned in the Programme that the Government will continue to oversee the implementation of the multi-pronged package of measures to enhance building safety, covering legislation, enforcement, support and assistance for owners as well as publicity and public education. In this connection, would the Government provide:

- (1) What are the numbers of complaints received and summonses in respect of building safety in the past two years?
- (2) What are the expenditures involved in the support and assistance for owners as well as publicity and public education in respect of building safety in the past two years?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 50)

Reply:

- (1) In the past two years, the numbers of reports received and summonses served for offences under the Buildings Ordinance in respect of building safety including non-compliance with statutory orders/notices issued are tabulated below –

Year	Number of reports received ⁽¹⁾	Number of summonses served
2019	64 621	4 993
2020	49 035	4 067

Note ⁽¹⁾: Reports received from the public on dangerous buildings, hillsides, advertising signs, unauthorised building works and defective drains.

- (2) There are a number of schemes providing financial and technical assistance to building owners in conducting maintenance and repair of their buildings. Specifically, the Buildings Department (BD) is responsible for implementing the Building Safety Loan Scheme (BSLS), which provides low interest or interest-free (subject to means test) loans to individual owners of private buildings for carrying out works related to the improvement of building safety and hygiene or for compliance with statutory orders notices. The amounts of loan approved under BSLS in 2019 and 2020 are as follows –

Year	Amount of loan approved (\$ million)
2019	41.8
2020	16.0 ⁽²⁾

Note ⁽²⁾: The decrease in the loan amount approved in 2020 is due to the reducing number of loan applications as a result of the slowdown of building maintenance works under COVID-19.

Apart from BSLS, other existing assistance schemes funded by the Government under the Development Bureau and administered by the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) include the Operation Building Bright 2.0, the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme, and the Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Needy Owners (taken over by the URA from the Hong Kong Housing Society on 2 July 2020 to replace the Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Elderly Owners with enhanced features) with total approved commitments of \$6 billion, \$4.5 billion and \$3 billion respectively, and a scheme to allow property owners to participate in “Smart Tender” Building Rehabilitation Facilitating Services Scheme at a concessionary rate with approved commitment of \$300 million.

Moreover, to address rising public concerns regarding defective drains amid the COVID-19 epidemic, the Government plans to launch in May 2021 the Building Drainage System Repair Subsidy Scheme in partnership with the URA at a commitment of \$1 billion to subsidise the repairing and/or upgrading of common drainage systems of old residential or composite buildings.

The expenditure involved in publicity and public education by BD for printing of publicity materials, producing and broadcasting Announcements of Public Interest, and employing outsourced contractors and service providers in 2019-20 and 2020-21 were about \$25.8 million and \$24.9 million (estimated) respectively.

- End -