

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 0087)

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:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-2022, the Government states that it will “continue the one-off special scheme to inspect external drainage systems of all private residential and composite buildings except buildings of or not exceeding three storeys and to take appropriate enforcement action after inspection”. Under this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- a. the manpower and resources allocated to execute this policy initiative;
- b. the target and timetable for this special scheme and the priority for buildings that would be inspected;
- c. whether the Government has estimated the difficulties it might encounter for these inspection, for example, owners of subdivided units refused to let officers conduct inspection; if yes, of the details; if no, of the reasons.
- d. measures and resolutions that Government have or will introduce for cases that officers couldn't conduct the related inspection.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

- a. 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. A total of 38 BD staff comprising professional, technical and clerical grade officers are required to implement the inspection scheme and take follow-up actions under the Buildings Ordinance.

- b. The inspection scheme is a 24-month special measure, covering the inspection of external drainage systems of around 20 000 private residential and composite buildings across the territory. It has been implemented since June 2020. Priority has been given to those buildings located in the specified areas as announced by the Secretary for Food and Health in exercising his power to enforce compulsory testing under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Compulsory Testing for Certain Persons) Regulation.
- c. & d. As the inspection scheme is targeted at the external drainage systems at the external walls and the common area of a building, inspection of drainage pipes inside the individual unit is not required.

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