

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)128

(Question Serial No. 0464)

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:

With regard to the matter to “continue the one-off special scheme to inspect external drainage systems of all private residential and composite buildings and to take appropriate enforcement action after inspection”, will the Department inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the commencement date, the estimated completion date and the number of buildings which have been inspected?
2. Were outsourced companies engaged to conduct inspections? If so, what is the expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?
3. What are the details of the “appropriate enforcement action”?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 74)

Reply:

1. & 2. 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 and 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 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. As at the end of February 2021, BD's consultants have inspected about 5 000 buildings. \$300 million has been earmarked for the inspection scheme.

3. If drainage defects or irregularities are identified, BD may take enforcement actions under the Buildings Ordinance, such as issuing drainage repair orders requiring owners concerned to carry out the necessary repair or rectification works depending on case circumstances.

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