

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 0963)

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 2021-22, the Buildings Department 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 3 storeys and to take appropriate enforcement action after inspection. Will the Department inform this Committee of the details of the initiative, including the number of buildings involved, districts, timetable and breakdown of the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

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. Implemented since June 2020, the inspection scheme is a 24-month special measure, covering inspection of external drainage systems of around 20 000 private residential or composite buildings across the territory. A total of 38 BD staff comprising professional, technical and clerical grade officers are required to implement the inspection scheme and take follow-up action under the Buildings Ordinance. \$300 million has been earmarked for the inspection scheme mainly to procure consultancy services and cover staff and other administrative cost.

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