

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1414)

Head: (82) Buildings Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Buildings and Building Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Buildings (Ms Clarice YU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is mentioned in the programme that the Buildings Department (BD) responds to reports on “unauthorised building works (UBWs) under construction” within 48 hours. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What were the numbers of reports involving “UBWs under construction” received by BD for the period from 2020 to 2022? Among those substantiated reports, what were the numbers of UBWs that had been removed, cleared or reinstated within the period specified by BD? What were the numbers of reports on UBWs that were classified as “existing UBWs” due to the completion of works and were further categorised under the risk-based approach for follow-up actions?
2. What were the expenditure on engagement of outsourced consultants for investigation of reports on “UBWs under construction”, the numbers of investigations and the average expenditure on investigations per case during the period from 2020 to 2022?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hok-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

1. For reports involving unauthorised building works (UBWs) under construction (also known as “works-in-progress” (WIP) reports), the number of reports received, the number of orders issued arising from WIP reports and the number complied with for the period from 2020 to 2022 are tabulated as follows –

	2020	2021	2022
Number of WIP reports received	1 788	2 152	1 479
Number of orders issued arising from WIP reports ⁽¹⁾	227	215	241
Number of orders arising from WIP reports ⁽¹⁾ which have been complied with	256	327	314

Note ⁽¹⁾: The number of orders issued arising from WIP reports may include other types of UBWs other than those under construction (e.g. new UBWs and other actionable UBWs under the UBWs enforcement policy). The Buildings Department (BD) does not compile a breakdown of the number of orders issued solely for UBWs under construction. Also, the figures do not necessarily correspond to the WIP reports received in the same year (or orders issued in the same year).

BD does not compile statistics on the numbers of UBWs removed, cleared or reinstated within the period specified by BD, or the numbers of reports on UBWs that were classified as “existing UBWs”.

2. BD engages outsourced consultants for a range of services including investigations of WIP reports, reports on existing UBWs and dilapidated/dangerous buildings, and services on order serving and compliance inspections. BD does not compile a breakdown of expenditure solely for investigation of WIP reports nor the average expenditure on such investigation per case. The numbers of WIP reports assigned to outsourced consultants for investigation of WIP reports during the period from 2020 to 2022 are tabulated below –

	2020	2021	2022
Numbers of WIP reports assigned to outsourced consultants for investigations	1 772	2 137	1 466

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