

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)034

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

0643

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

As stated in this Programme, the Buildings Department will step up drainage inspections and enforcement actions to rectify defective drainage in buildings in 2004-05. In this respect, can the Government advise this Council:

- (1) the details of this area of work; and
- (2) the number of staff engaged and the cost involved in this area of work?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (1) The Buildings Department (BD) previously identified some 3,100 buildings with drainage problems during the territory-wide inspections of private buildings carried out to detect defective drainage pipes in the wake of SARS outbreak. In 2004/05, BD will follow up with enforcement actions in these buildings, where 1,700 repair orders have been issued. In addition, the department will continue to assist in the clearance of environmental hygiene blackspots.
- (2) \$12 million for employing 48 staff on agreement terms have been provided in 2004/05 to step up enforcement actions against drainage defects in private buildings. Together with the existing staff in BD, a total of 365 professional and technical staff in BD are responsible for implementing these measures, along with their duties to take other enforcement actions under the Buildings Ordinance.

As the implementation of drainage rectification measures forms only part of the duties of BD staff, save for the \$12 million for employing the 48 additional staff, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the estimated expenditure in BD staff costs devoted to these rectification measures.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	26.3.2004