

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)045

Head : 82 Buildings Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

0168

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

The number of reports received from members of the public on unauthorised building works has increased significantly after the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003. In this respect, can the Government advise this Council the number and the ranks of existing staff responsible for attending the reports. As it is expected that the number of reports in 2004 will rise to 30 000, will the Buildings Department increase its manpower to deal with the situation? If yes, what are the respective numbers and ranks? If not, the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply :

There are a staff of 365 in the Buildings Department who handle reports received from members of the public on unauthorised building works (UBW) as part and parcel of their duties in carrying out enforcement actions, such as removal of UBW, and maintenance and repair to existing buildings under the Buildings Ordinance. Out of this staff of 365, 115 are professional grade officers (building surveyors and structural engineers) and the remaining 250 are technical staff.

In order to enhance our capability in dealing with increased number of reports on UBW, additional resources in the form of 12 Building Safety Officers, 30 Building Safety Assistants and 9 Contract Clerks have been provided at an annual staff cost of \$8.765 million in 2004/05. Part of their duties is the handling of reports on UBW received from members of the public.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

Marco WU

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Buildings

Date \_\_\_\_\_

26.3.2004