

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

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

The Buildings Department (BD) will step up the prosecution actions against outstanding removal orders by increasing prosecution cases from 1 664 in 2004 to an estimated number of 3 000 in 2005. Would the clearance of this type of unauthorized building works (UBW) be carried out by BD or by the owners themselves? Were there any cases that BD had been unsuccessful in recovering the removal cost? If so, what was the cost involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The responsibility for removing unauthorised building works and complying with removal orders rests with the building owners concerned. Where an owner fails to remove a UBW within a reasonable period of time, or where the UBW presents an immediate danger to the public, we would mobilise our contractors to carry out the removal work, and recover the cost of works from the owner thereafter.

As at 31.12.2004, there were about 420 cases with outstanding payments involving an amount of \$3.7 million. We have registered charges concerning these unrecovered costs and interest accrued with the Land Registry against the title of the premises concerned. This will enable the recovery of the money owed to the Government upon sale of the premises. Further cost recovery actions such as legal actions against the relevant owners would also be considered.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Marco WU

Director of Buildings

4 April 2005