

**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 :

In 2005-06, the Buildings Department will “introduce proposed amendments to the Buildings Ordinance to provide for the statutory control of minor works in existing buildings including, inter alia, alteration and addition, removal of unauthorized building works, and erection and removal of signboards”. Can the Government advise this Council the details of this area of work as well as its expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

A proposed minor works control system was previously included in the Buildings (Amendment) Bill 2003 introduced into LegCo in April 2003. During the deliberation of the Bills Committee, some members of the Committee, some minor works operators and the contractors' associations raised various views and concerns on the proposal. In order to allow for a more thorough consultation with the industry with a view to working out a widely acceptable proposal and a smooth interface with the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance (which was not yet passed at that time), the minor works proposal was withdrawn from the Bill with the agreement of the Bills Committee.

Since then we have revised the proposal and are now conducting further consultation with the building industry, in particular the minor works sector on the revised proposal. Two open fora to collect views from the public were also held in October 2004. Preparation work on the legislative amendments is proceeding in parallel. We intend to take forward the revised minor works control proposal by introducing a Buildings (Amendment) Bill into LegCo in the 2005-06 session.

The existing Legislation Unit of the Legal Section in the Buildings Department handles all legislative reviews and proposals under the Buildings Ordinance and relevant regulations. The legislative amendment exercise on the minor works control system is one of the tasks handled by this Unit. This Unit is staffed by four Building Surveyors and a Senior Building Surveyor with an annual cost of HK\$2.77M.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Marco WU
Post Title	Director of Buildings
Date	4 April 2005

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