

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)038

Question Serial No.

1899

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 : With respect to 1 000 buildings targeted for clearance of unauthorised building works in 2006, how many of them are in urban districts, new towns and rural areas in the New Territories respectively? What is their respective expenditure anticipated? Please provide a comparison regarding the cost of carrying out clearance operations in the above three regions.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

With respect to the target of 1 000 buildings for clearance of unauthorised building works (UBWs) under our blitz operations in 2006-07, we will select those buildings with a proliferation of external UBWs or which are situated in designated pedestrian zones. It is expected that about 80% of the target buildings will be located in urban districts, and the remainder in the other urban areas and new towns in the New Territories. We will outsource some of our work to private consulting firms, and the outsourcing cost is estimated to be \$29 million. The bulk of the work will continue to be discharged by the 667 professional and technical officers (with an annual cost of \$205.88 million) of the Buildings Department who carry out the blitz operations as part of their duties in dealing with UBW problems and dilapidated buildings. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the total expenditure allocated to the blitz operations. Consequently, it is also not possible to provide a breakdown of the expenditure involved by region according to different geographical locations of the target buildings.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

CHEUNG Hau-wai

Director of Buildings

11 March 2006

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