

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)046

Question Serial No.

1036

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 target set for advertisement signboards to be removed/repared is 1200 per year. However, the actual and planned performances for 2004 to 2006 have been higher than this target. Will the Administration consider raising the target to a level close to the actual workload that it can handle?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

The target to remove/repair 1200 signboards per year was set having taken into account the staff resources available to patrol, identify and enforce removal or repair of signboards. Based on the resources available and given that the Buildings Department provides a wide variety of services to the public including taking enforcement actions against unauthorised building works to ensure building safety and dealing with reports from the public on dilapidated buildings, we consider that the target of 1,200 per year should be maintained.

Notwithstanding this, we have been urging our staff to pay extra efforts in dealing with building safety issues, in particular signboards, in order to enhance public safety. Therefore we have been able to achieve slightly more than the set target in the removal/repair of signboards. As we expect that staff will continue to pay such extra efforts in 2006, we have set our performance target for signboards removed/repared in 2006 at 1400. The number of signboards removed/repared also partly depends on the number of reports on defective signboards received from the public. In the event that the number of reports from the public on defective signboards in 2006 is more than expected, we would consider redeploying resources to deal with them.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

CHEUNG Hau-wai

Director of Buildings

10 March 2006

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