

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)050

Question Serial No.

1458

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 : As regards taking actions to complete the follow-up work on outstanding drainage orders issued in respect of private buildings and hygiene blackspots in the wake of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak,

- (a) please list out the locations of the private buildings and hygiene blackspots involved in the works;
- (b) the details on the follow-up action, the methods in setting priorities in carrying out repair of the buildings and the targeted completed time of the repair works;
- (c) how to ensure that during the peak period of the outbreak of contagious disease, there will be no massive outbreak in the community due to the delay in carrying out drainage repair works at the above buildings?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

During the outbreak of SARS in 2003, the Buildings Department had organized a territory-wide inspection of external drainage system of some 30 000 private residential buildings and thereafter followed up with the enforcement of repair of the drainage defects found in 6 000 of these buildings. Most of the buildings owners had carried out the improvement or repair works voluntarily. For the remaining cases, we have issued drainage repair orders to the owners of some 2 373 buildings. 2 178 buildings have completed the required repair works to comply with the orders issued. For the remaining 195 buildings where the repair orders are still outstanding, repair works are being carried out or being arranged by either the government contractor in default of the owners or the consultants/contractors engaged by the owners. Two prosecutions against the owners who failed to comply with the drainage orders have been instigated so far.

The geographical distribution of these cases is as follows:

<u>Region</u>	<u>No of outstanding cases</u>
Hong Kong	95
Kowloon	82
New Territories	18
Total	<hr/> 195

For the clearance of the hygiene blackspots, the drainage repair orders issued in Phases I, II and III of the operations have all been complied with, except in one outstanding case in Kowloon, where the drainage repair works are being carried out by the government contractor in default of the owner.

We are determined to minimise the health hazard caused by the defective drainage systems in existing buildings. For any major drainage defects in those buildings which may pose a health hazard BD has already mobilised the government contractor to carry out the necessary repair to abate the hazard. To ensure timely enforcement action against drainage defects, we have set up a Progress Monitoring Committee to closely monitor the progress of our enforcement actions.

We will closely monitor the progress of the drainage repair works of the remaining 195 buildings where the drainage defects are minor, and the remaining case in the clearance of hygiene blackspot mentioned above, where the works are now being carried out or being arranged.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

CHEUNG Hau-wai

Director of Buildings

11 March 2006

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