

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

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)062

Question Serial No.

1462

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 : Regarding the actions taken to complete the follow-up work on the outstanding drainage orders issued in respect of private buildings and hygiene blackspots in the wake of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak, what is the number of buildings that has not complied with these repair orders so far? What is the number of cases that prosecution action has been taken?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

During the outbreak of SARS in 2003, the Buildings Department had organized a territory-wide inspection of the external drainage system of some 30 000 private residential buildings and thereafter followed up with enforcement to seek repair of the drainage defects found in 6 000 of these buildings. Most of the building owners had carried out the improvement or repair works voluntarily. For the remaining cases, we have issued drainage repair orders to the owners of 2 373 buildings. The repair works in 2 178 buildings have been completed. For the remaining 195 buildings where the drainage 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 repair orders have been instigated so far.

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. We will closely monitor the progress of these outstanding cases to pursue early completion of the repair works.

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

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

CHEUNG Hau-wai

Director of Buildings

11 March 2006

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