

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-HPLB(PL)02

Question Serial No.

S058

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 Reply Serial No. HPLB(PL)023 (Question Serial No. 2432) on conducting inspections to find out if there are irregularities in the facilities for people with disabilities in buildings, it is noted that the Buildings Department has redeployed additional staff to set up a dedicated team to inspect and follow up any irregularities identified during the inspections. In this regard, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the number of additional staff provided for the dedicated team and the additional expenditure thus involved?
2. the number of members in the team and their respective ranks?
3. the work plan of the team and its target for inspection?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply :

Since 2004, the Buildings Department (BD) has established a dedicated team under the Special Task Section and has since increased the number of target commercial buildings for annual focused inspections from 5 to 15 each year. If the approved facilities for people with disabilities in these buildings are found to have been altered or removed, the team will take enforcement actions under the Buildings Ordinance. Besides, the team also educates the owners and management companies of their responsibility, the need for rectifying the altered or removed facilities, as well as the legal liabilities should they fail to properly maintain the facilities for people with disabilities. The team also provides advice to the parties concerned to help them resolve problems that they may encounter in carrying out the rectification works. The dedicated team includes two technical staff, i.e. one Building Safety Officer and one Survey Officer (at an estimated annual cost of \$0.443 million) and is supported by other staff of the Special Task Section. Other staff members of BD also take enforcement actions in response to reports by the public on irregularities in respect of such approved facilities for people with disabilities. The work is handled by the existing manpower of BD as part of the normal duties in handling reports on unauthorised building works.

We will keep in view our inspection programme and resource requirements for this area of work in liaison with the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>CHEUNG Hau-wai</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Buildings</u>
Date	<u>23 March 2007</u>