

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)054

(Question Serial No. 0645)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the operation of the Joint Offices for Investigation of Water Seepage Complaints (JO),

- i. please provide the staffing establishment and operating expenditure of JO in each of the past 3 years.
- ii. how many cases were received in each of the past 3 years? Of which how many cases have been screened out and how many have been completed?
- iii. what is the number of cases in which Nuisance Notices were issued by JO to the owner of the premises causing water seepage problem in each of the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

- i. The staffing establishment and expenditure of the Joint Office (JO), which is set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Buildings Department (BD) for the investigation of water seepage cases in buildings, in each of the past 3 years are as follows:

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
FEHD			
Number of investigation and coordinating staff	250	252	252
Staff costs and departmental expenses (\$ million)	202.6	192.1	195.9 (Revised estimate)
BD			
Number of professional and technical staff	82	82	102

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Staff costs and departmental expenses (\$ million)	64.9	66.8	82.7 (Revised estimate)
Expenditure for engaging outsourced consultants (\$ million)	47.4	38.4	45.0 (Revised estimate)

ii. & iii. Statistics on water seepage cases in buildings received and handled by JO in the past 3 years are as follows:

Number of cases	2021	2022	2023
Cases received	43 233	39 555	45 033
Total number of cases handled ¹	36 262	38 275	43 367
(a) Cases screened out ^{1, 2}	21 813	24 170	27 215
(b) Total number of cases with investigation concluded ¹	14 449	14 105	16 152
Nuisance Notices issued ¹ under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap.132)	5 281	4 587	5 794

Note 1: The number of cases does not necessarily correspond to the number of cases received in the same year. Some of them are received before that year.

Note 2: JO has prescribed standards and requirements for the investigation of water seepage in buildings. Some cases will be screened out if the moisture content is below 35%, the seepage originates from the property owned by the complainant, the nature of the case does not involve water seepage in buildings or the complainant has withdrawn the complaint.

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