

**Question on the hillside behind Phase III, Hillgrove Village of Discovery Bay**

**(Paper TAFEHC 66/2016)**

**Written reply from the Buildings Department**

Question 1 & 2 : What works are being conducted on the slope? Are they slope maintenance or road construction or both? If a road or buildings are being constructed on the slope, has the Building Authority received the relevant documents and plans and considered it safe to carry out the works and granted a written consent?

Answer 1 & 2 : According to our records, site formation plans for the proposed debris resisting barrier on the slope behind Hillgrove Village had been approved and consent to the commencement of the works had been granted by this Department. In addition, the Authorized Person (AP) responsible for the works also submitted hoarding plans to ensure safety in construction. Having consulted with relevant government departments, hoarding plans for the proposed works had been accepted by this Department and a hoarding permit had been issued in this regard.

According to the information provided by the AP, the proposed works were in progress, but no road works would be carried out.

Question 3 : Currently, how many dangerous slopes exist in the Islands District and how many of those have yet to comply with the Dangerous Hillside Orders served?

Answer 3 : This department has no record of the number of dangerous slopes on the outlying islands. However, 151 dangerous hillside orders (DHOs) issued by this department on dangerous slopes on the outlying islands remain outstanding as at the end of October 2016. Among these 151 outstanding DHOs, 25 DHOs are being handled by the APs and Registered Geotechnical Engineers (RGEs) appointed by the owners/ responsible persons, 24 defaulted DHOs are being handled by the default slope works consultants (DSWCs) employed by this department pursuant to the Buildings Ordinance (BO), 29 DHOs are still not yet expired and the remaining 73 DHOs are already expired. If the owners/ responsible persons fail to comply with the DHOs without reasonable excuse, this department will consider prosecuting them pursuant to the BO. Besides, arrangements may also be made to carry out the necessary works on their behalf and the cost of works plus supervision charges and surcharge will be recovered from them upon completion of works according to the BO. The owners/ responsible persons have the responsibilities to maintain their slopes, and the APs appointed by them should monitor the stability of the slopes and give warning of impending danger until completion of remedial/ preventive works. For those slopes with outstanding DHOs and not being handled by APs/ DSWCs, this department will arrange consultant to monitor the safety of the slopes regularly.