

**Request departments to expedite the follow-up on fire safety issues in buildings**

Reply from the Buildings Department (BD):

Questions 1 & 3

For means of escape in private buildings, Fire Services Department (FSD) carries out routine inspection to ascertain any blockage of fire escape route. In case that Unauthorised Building Works (UBWs) are identified, FSD will refer the UBWs to BD for follow up actions. According to enforcement policy against UBWs, BD takes a risk-based approach by issuing removal orders under the Buildings Ordinance to concerned owners against UBWs involving serious effect on means of escape, while other UBWs will be handled in an orderly manner by means of large scale operations.

Besides the aforesaid BD's enforcement actions against UBWs discovered by FSD in the fire escape routes, Fire Safety Section of BD and FSD will also issue fire safety directions or fire safety improvement directions under the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance, Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance and Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance to target buildings/premises and take follow up actions.

Questions 2 & 4

BD has no such figures.

Question 5

During the period from 2011 to April 2021, BD received about 1250 reports from the public and about 1130 referrals from government departments in relation to UBWs within the means of escape in private buildings in Central and Western District.

Question 6

During the period from 2011 to April 2021, for private buildings in Central and Western District, BD issued about 1280 nos. of removal order under the

Buildings Ordinance to concerned owners against UBWs with serious effect on means of escape; BD has no figures of the numbers of fire safety directions or fire safety improvement directions issued; and BD instigated about 590 prosecution cases in relation to removal order and fire safety direction.

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C&WDC Secretariat

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