

(Translation)

(Letterhead of the Secretariat of Legislative Councillors of the Democratic Party)

30 November 1999

CAS(1)6
Clerk to the LegCo Panel on Housing

Dear Mrs Mary TANG,

In preparation for the series of special meetings of the LegCo Panel on Housing to be held in December for the discussion of measures to improve the building quality of public housing flats, I would like to raise the following questions. Please refer them to the Housing Bureau and request an early reply in writing.

Buildings Department (BD)

1. After a series of slippages in the construction and supervision of public housing development projects, BD undertook to increase the frequency of spot checks on construction sites. At present, how often does BD conduct such checks on individual sites? What are the items to be checked and what is the proposed frequency? How many additional staff will be required by BD for carrying out such duties?
2. According to BD, the relevant code of practice will be amended to require the presence of the contractor's engineers on site to supervise the whole process of piling works and to examine every pile in a building. Apart from this, what other suggestions are made by BD in respect of improving project supervision by building contractors?
3. How many piling contractors and building contractors were prosecuted by BD in the past five years, and what were the causes for prosecution? Please provide a breakdown of the required information on a yearly basis by prosecution causes and the related penalties.

Employment of permanent construction workers

4. Of the building projects under the Housing Department (HD), how many contractors have employed permanent construction workers? Please provide the required information by the percentage of permanent

construction workers employed as follows: None, 5% or less, 5.1-10%, 10.1-15%, 15.1 -20%, 20.1-25%, 25.1-30% and more than 30%.

5. The Construction Industry Training Authority (CITA) has implemented a pilot subsidy scheme since the end of 1998. Under the scheme, an employer who employs graduates from CITA on a formal apprenticeship contract will get a subsidy of \$2,000 per month per apprentice throughout the contract period. After implementation of the scheme, how many CITA graduates have been employed to work for the construction projects of the Housing Authority as a result of such arrangement?

6. Since 1995, HD has imposed a new condition in the contracts for new projects, under which 15-35% of the workers employed by the contractor must be qualified craftsmen who have passed the relevant trade tests of CITA. What are the criteria adopted by HD for setting the required percentage of qualified craftsmen to be employed by building contractors? Please provide the respective numbers of HD's contracts where 15-20%, 20.1-25%, 25.1-30%, 30.1-35% and 35% of qualified craftsmen have been employed.

LAM Pui-yee
for Hon LEE Wing-tat
Chairman, LegCo Panel on Housing