

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

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**(Question Serial No. 4115)**

Head: (91) Lands Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (1) Land Administration  
Controlling Officer: Director of Lands (Ms. Bernadette LINN)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question (Member Question No. 72):

What are the expenditure and manpower involved for inspections to identify any illegal excavation on private land leading to development for the past five years? How many cases of illegal excavation on private land leading to development have been identified during routine inspections by the Lands Department over the past five years and what is their percentage share in the total number of cases of illegal excavation on private land leading to development? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower required by the Department for handling this task in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

Given the large area of land in Hong Kong, it is impracticable for the Lands Department (Lands D) to inspect every piece of private land regularly for the purpose of identifying cases of unauthorised excavation. Lands D mainly acts on such cases upon receipt of complaints, referrals or enquiries. In the past five calendar years (2009 to 2013), Lands D received and followed up on one enquiry concerning unauthorised excavation on private land leading to development. Tackling such cases is part of the Department's overall lease enforcement work. We do not have a separate breakdown of the resources involved solely for handling this specific task.