Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2016-17

Reply Serial No.

THB(H)093

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4894)

Head: (62) Housing Department

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

<u>Programme</u>: (2) Private Housing

<u>Controlling Officer</u>: Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)

(Stanley YING)

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please advise on the number of complaints received by the Sales of First-hand Residential Properties Authority each year since the commencement of the Residential Properties (First-hand Sales) Ordinance, as well as the number of cases substantiated, under investigation and not substantiated.

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 66)

Reply:

The Sales of First-hand Residential Properties Authority ("SRPA") received 159 complaints since it came into full operation on 29 April 2013 and up to end 2015.

A breakdown of the complaints by year and categories are as follows:

	Categories of complaints	2013 (from 29 April onwards)	2014	2015	Accumulative Total
(a)	Sales brochure	4	10	12	26
(b)	Price list	1	1	0	2
(c)	Sales arrangements	14	10	6	30
(d)	Show flats	0	0	0	0
(e)	Viewing of completed residential properties	0	5	1	6
(f)	Preliminary agreement	1	0	1	2
	for sale and purchase				
	and/or agreement for				
	sale and purchase				

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	Categories of complaints	2013 (from 29 April onwards)	2014	2015	Accumulative Total
(g)	Register of	1	1	0	2
	transactions				
(h)	Advertisements	2	6	15	23
(i)	Websites	1	0	0	1
(j)	Misrepresentation	6	15	9	30
	and/or dissemination				
	of false or misleading				
	information				
(k)	Others	5	24	8	37
	Total	35	72	52	159

Among the 159 complaints aforementioned, 122 are related to the Residential Properties (First-hand Sales) Ordinance (the Ordinance), while the remaining 37 are not. Amongst those 122 complaints relating to the Ordinance, one is substantiated. 109 complaints are not substantiated. The SRPA is still following up on the remaining 12 complaints.

Contraventions of the provisions in the Ordinance are criminal offences. The SRPA carries out investigations on cases which are suspected of contravening the Ordinance and, depending on the investigation results, refers cases to the Prosecutions Division of the Department of Justice for follow-up action as appropriate.