

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FSTB(Tsy)177****(Question Serial No. 6374)**

Head: (162) Rating and Valuation Department

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

Programme: (3) Provision of Valuation and Property Information Services

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Rating and Valuation (Mrs. Mimi BROWN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

This question originates from: Estimates of Expenditure Volume 1 Page 827 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 267):

In the past five years, how did the Administration calculate the vacancy rate of residential flats? Which department was responsible for the task? What was the frequency of site inspection? What was the amount of public money involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

The Rating and Valuation Department (RVD) conducts vacancy survey every year to provide a snapshot of the year-end vacancy position of various types of private properties. Properties which are not physically occupied or which are under decoration at the time of survey would be treated as vacant. The vacancy survey is conducted at the end of each year, which includes a full survey on residential units completed within two calendar years (increased to three calendar years since 2013) at the time of the survey, and a random sample survey covering 3% of the remaining residential units. After collating the data collected from building management offices, owners and occupants, as well as the information obtained through inspection by property inspectors, RVD then comes up with the relevant vacancy data for incorporation into the Hong Kong Property Review published by RVD. Public housing, village houses, quarters, subsidised home ownership flats and subsidised flats that can be traded in the open market are not included in the category of private domestic properties in the Hong Kong Property Review.

RVD's vacancy survey is undertaken by outsourced contractor through tender. Total expenditure on the relevant survey in the past five years is as follows –

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2009-10	1.19
2010-11	1.22
2011-12	1.27
2012-13	1.38
2013-14	1.61