

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)129

Question Serial No.

0532

Head: 60 – Highways Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) – District and Maintenance Works

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please explain why the number of excavation permits extended has increased from 894 nos. in year 2011 to 1200 nos. in recent two years, and table out the excavation permits extended in terms of work trades.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply:

In 2012, there was an increase in the amount of utility works involving more difficult and complex deep excavations. The increase in the number of permit extensions issued in 2012 mainly arose from the increase in extension to permits for these more difficult and complex deep excavation works for electricity and water supplies. These deep excavation works are more susceptible to higher chances of unexpected problems and delays during the course of the works, such as uncharted underground utility, unanticipated obstructions, and/or adverse weather conditions, which may subsequently trigger the need for permit extensions. It is anticipated that a similar level of excavation permit extension will continue in 2013. The breakdown of the excavation permits extended in 2011 and 2012, in terms of work trades, is as follow:

	Gas	Electricity	Tele-comm unications	Water works	Drainage/ Sewage	Road construction/ maintenance	Other Government Departments	Other non-government Departments	Total
2011	54	280	70	105	68	58	145	114	894
2012	51	414	120	225	71	72	121	145	1219

