

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

FHB(FE)147

Question Serial No.

2560

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please give a breakdown by district of the number of complaints about water seepage on ceilings/walls of residential premises received by the Joint Office of the Buildings Department (BD) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Please advise on the number of Nuisance Notices issued; the number of prosecutions instituted; the number of convictions; the amount of fines in general; the number of cases that required application of Nuisance Orders from the court to order abatement of the nuisances; the number of complaints referred to BD or Water Supplies Department for follow up action; the average processing time for each complaint case that was not referred to other departments; the number of cases for which the source of nuisance could not be identified; the annual expenditure involved in handling complaints; and the resources earmarked for handling these complaints in 2008-09.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The breakdown by district of the number of water seepage complaints received by the Joint Office in 2005, 2006 and 2007 is set out at Annex. Up to end-2007, cumulatively, 835 Nuisance Notices were issued; 27 prosecutions were instituted; 17 convictions were recorded and nine Nuisance Orders were obtained. The amount of fines ranged from \$500 to \$2,500. The number of complaints referred to the Buildings Department and Water Supplies Department for follow up action is 487 and 377 respectively. In 370 cases, the source of seepage could not be identified. Information on the average processing time for complaint cases not referred to other departments is not available.

For the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the direct expenditure incurred by the Joint Office in 2005-06 and 2006-07 was \$3.1 million and \$14.8 million respectively. The estimated direct expenditure for 2007-08 is about \$17 million. The estimated expenditure for 2008-09 will be similar to that of 2007-08 and will be provided for from within the existing allocation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters W H CHEUK

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 20.3.2008

Number of Complaint cases received by the Joint Office

District	Date of set up of the Joint Office	No. of complaint cases received			
		2005	2006	2007	
Sham Shui Po	31.12.2004	1380	1298	1512	
Eastern	1.2.2006	-	2311	2229	
Kowloon City	1.3.2006	-	2048	1974	
Wanchai	1.4.2006	-	826	857	
Kwun Tong		-	1048	1250	
Mong Kok		-	957	996	
Central/Western	1.7.2006	-	448	803	
Southern		-	281	662	
Islands		-	50	115	
Yau Tsim		-	590	810	
Wong Tai Sin		-	275	585	
Kwai Tsing		-	344	687	
Tsuen Wan		-	543	1033	
Tuen Mun		-	597	1135	
Yuen Long		-	186	404	
North		-	196	391	
Tai Po		-	186	476	
Sha Tin		-	503	1144	
Sai Kung		-	144	344	
Total		1380	12831	17407	