

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

**FHB(FE)076**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1712

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the indicator for “pest control surveys conducted”, the actual number of surveys conducted dropped from 8 385 in 2008 to 7 572 in 2009, and a further drop to 7 100 has been estimated for 2010.

- (a) Please advise on the reasons for the continuing decline in numbers, and whether this is related to a cutback in expenditure or manpower.
- (b) Please provide in the table below the rodent infestation rates for the whole territory and for each of the 19 districts over the past five years (i.e. from 2005 to 2009).

District	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Central & Western					
Eastern					
Southern					
Wan Chai					
Islands					
Kowloon City					
Kwun Tong					
Wong Tai Sin					
Sham Shui Po					
Mong Kok					
Yau Tsim					
Sai Kung					
Sha Tin					
Tai Po					
North					
Kwai Tsing					
Tsuen Wan					
Tuen Mun					
Yuen Long					
Territory-wide					

- (c) Please provide in the table below a breakdown of relevant figures for the whole territory and for each of the 19 districts over the past three years.

District	2007			2008			2009		
	No. of dead rodents collected	No. of live rodents collected	No. of rat holes destroyed	No. of dead rodents collected	No. of live rodents collected	No. of rat holes destroyed	No. of dead rodents collected	No. of live rodents collected	No. of rat holes destroyed
Central & Western									
Eastern									
Southern									
Wan Chai									
Islands									
Kowloon City									
Kwun Tong									
Wong Tai Sin									
Sham Shui Po									
Mong Kok									
Yau Tsim									
Sai Kung									
Sha Tin									
Tai Po									
North									
Kwai Tsing									
Tsuen Wan									
Tuen Mun									
Yuen Long									
Territory-wide									

- (d) Please advise on the Department's anti-rodent measures in place, details of the measures and the amount of expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) In 2008, additional surveys were conducted due to ad hoc requirements for the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events. In 2009, additional surveys were also

carried out for improving the environmental hygiene conditions in connection with the outbreak of human swine influenza and strengthening of rodent control work. As the numbers of surveys conducted in 2008 and 2009 were higher than an average year, the estimate for 2010 is adjusted to bring it back to a normal level.

(b) The required figures are as follows -

District	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Central & Western	4.7%	1.5%	7.5%	5.7%	4.7%
Eastern	1.5%	1.8%	3.2%	4.4%	8.1%
Southern	3.1%	4.2%	6.0%	4.0%	6.5%
Wan Chai	6.0%	5.2%	8.5%	8.1%	1.6%
Islands	2.7%	7.3%	6.6%	7.9%	9.3%
Kowloon City	3.1%	2.6%	3.6%	4.2%	5.0%
Kwun Tong	4.4%	5.6%	5.3%	5.3%	12.4%
Wong Tai Sin	3.1%	1.6%	3.0%	6.9%	7.5%
Sham Shui Po	4.3%	1.2%	3.9%	6.5%	7.8%
Mong Kok	9.0%	1.7%	4.7%	6.8%	2.0%
Yau Tsim	6.6%	4.3%	3.0%	5.7%	5.4%
Sai Kung	4.1%	2.0%	9.0%	8.4%	5.4%
Sha Tin	3.6%	2.8%	0.5%	5.5%	5.5%
Tai Po	4.6%	0.5%	3.9%	11.0%	1.8%
North	5.3%	3.9%	5.9%	6.5%	7.2%
Kwai Tsing	4.7%	1.2%	1.7%	4.9%	3.1%
Tsuen Wan	5.6%	3.3%	5.9%	13.3%	5.1%
Tuen Mun	3.2%	3.6%	5.4%	1.7%	8.3%
Yuen Long	3.0%	4.4%	5.3%	5.3%	6.6%
<b>Rodent Infestation Rate</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>

(c) The required figures are as follows -

District	2007			2008			2009		
	No. of dead rodents collected	No. of live rodents collected	No. of rat holes destroyed	No. of dead rodents collected	No. of live rodents collected	No. of rat holes destroyed	No. of dead rodents collected	No. of live rodents collected	No. of rat holes destroyed
Central & Western	2 800	193	322	2 340	202	276	1 682	531	249
Eastern	2 425	459	221	2 254	665	200	2 476	318	172
Southern	979	97	182	850	118	140	534	333	74
Wan Chai	405	47	382	597	137	580	1 108	824	833
Islands	1 077	107	554	1 197	136	426	1 031	244	664
Kowloon City	430	26	563	467	83	359	1 201	219	280
Kwun Tong	1 905	0	284	2 103	29	400	1 922	87	306
Wong Tai Sin	998	51	306	789	107	222	998	188	94
Sham Shui Po	2 358	37	716	2 252	71	835	1 587	89	1 060
Mong Kok	1 903	22	383	2 579	151	319	1 724	630	336
Yau Tsim	1 227	11	80	1 670	31	248	1 121	189	248
Sai Kung	892	409	831	1 072	547	788	1 989	305	826
Sha Tin	277	26	480	546	128	535	554	350	498
Tai Po	605	4	845	850	66	663	690	152	1 068
North	923	139	626	898	290	471	1 059	613	465
Kwai Tsing	922	16	289	909	52	552	870	99	285

Tsuen Wan	559	16	350	740	434	228	915	1 049	114
Tuen Mun	879	95	238	1 233	482	349	1 408	409	1 135
Yuen Long	3 181	101	262	2 094	169	432	2 166	199	611
Total	24 745	1 856	7 914	25 440	3 898	8 023	25 035	6 828	9 318

- (d) The Department adopts an integrated rodent control approach, consisting of improvement to environmental conditions, application of poisonous baits and setting of traps. This approach is in line with the recommendations of the World Health Organization and practices adopted by other major cities.

The estimated direct expenditure involved in rodent control services in 2010-11 is \$137 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters W H CHEUK

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 15.3.2010