

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

FHB(FE)033

Head: 49 Food and Environmental
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0143

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 7 572 in 2009 to 7 123 in 2010, and the estimated number for 2011 is only 7 250.

- (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.

District	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
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 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 2009, additional surveys were carried out for improving the environmental hygiene conditions in connection with the outbreak of human swine influenza and strengthening of rodent control work. The number of surveys conducted in 2009 was therefore higher than that in an average year and the number for 2010 returned to a normal level. The increase in the estimate for 2011 is due to the expansion of the coverage of the dengue vector surveillance programme.
- (b) The required figures are as follows -

District	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Central & Western	1.5%	7.5%	5.7%	4.7%	0.5%
Eastern	1.8%	3.2%	4.4%	8.1%	2.3%
Southern	4.2%	6.0%	4.0%	6.5%	0.5%
Wan Chai	5.2%	8.5%	8.1%	1.6%	4.5%
Islands	7.3%	6.6%	7.9%	9.3%	0.5%
Kowloon City	2.6%	3.6%	4.2%	5.0%	0.9%
Kwun Tong	5.6%	5.3%	5.3%	12.4%	3.1%
Wong Tai Sin	1.6%	3.0%	6.9%	7.5%	2.4%
Sham Shui Po	1.2%	3.9%	6.5%	7.8%	2.0%
Mong Kok	1.7%	4.7%	6.8%	2.0%	1.3%
Yau Tsim	4.3%	3.0%	5.7%	5.4%	2.3%
Sai Kung	2.0%	9.0%	8.4%	5.4%	0.9%
Sha Tin	2.8%	0.5%	5.5%	5.5%	1.3%
Tai Po	0.5%	3.9%	11.0%	1.8%	0.0%
North	3.9%	5.9%	6.5%	7.2%	0.9%
Kwai Tsing	1.2%	1.7%	4.9%	3.1%	1.5%
Tsuen Wan	3.3%	5.9%	13.3%	5.1%	2.1%
Tuen Mun	3.6%	5.4%	1.7%	8.3%	1.3%
Yuen Long	4.4%	5.3%	5.3%	6.6%	1.8%
Rodent Infestation Rate	2.9%	4.8%	6.3%	6.1%	1.5%

- (c) The Food and Environmental Hygiene 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 the rodent control services in 2011-12 is \$149.5 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011