

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

FHB(FE)093

Question Serial No.

2454

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:

What is the total number of workers employed by the contractors for refuse collection in 2010? What is the expenditure for refuse collection in 2010-11? Why is the estimated recurrent expenditure per tonne of refuse collected further reduced in 2011? Has the Government assessed the additional staff cost required following the implementation of statutory minimum wage?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) The total number of contractor staff for providing refuse collection service in 2010 was about 260.
- (b) The estimated expenditure for refuse collection service in 2010-11 is \$455 million.
- (c) The decrease in recurrent expenditure per tonne of refuse collection in 2010-11 is mainly due to an increase in tonnage of refuse collected and contracting out of refuse collection service.
- (d) The legislative intent of introducing a statutory minimum wage (“SMW”) is to protect elementary workers from being paid excessively low wages for the work they do. Upon implementation of the SMW, non-skilled workers employed by government service contractors will be protected under the SMW legislation as other employees.

Since May 2004, the Government has implemented a mandatory requirement on wage rates. The requirement is to ensure that the level of the wages provided to non-skilled workers by government service contractors who rely heavily on the deployment of these workers is not lower than the average wage rates for the same job categories in the market. The Government is now taking due consideration of the effect of the SMW on this arrangement.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ CLEMENT LEUNG _____

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene _____

Date _____ 17.3.2011 _____