

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

FHB(FE)148

Question Serial No.

3224

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:

- (a) It is common that smoke or fire is seen coming from the ashtrays on the top of the existing public litter containers, emitting pungent smoke and possibly toxic chemical substances and constituting a major source of air pollution. There are views that this kind of pollutants from ashtrays located mainly in pedestrian walkways and on streets are no less harmful than the pollutants from vehicle emissions. In this connection, please advise whether the Department has examined the impacts of this kind of pollution on public health; if yes, please give the details. Please also advise whether the Department will take any improvement and monitoring measures, including improving the design of litter containers, jointly with the Environmental Protection Department to solve the aforesaid problem; and
- (b) please advise on the expenditure incurred in the past for improving the design of public litter containers and replacement of the containers with newly designed ones.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kenneth

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department implements a number of measures to address public concerns about smoke emission from ashtrays on top of litter containers (LCs). They include adjusting the cleaning and emptying frequency of LCs, adding water to ashtrays of LCs, providing stand-alone cigarette butt containers at locations where numerous smokers are expected, and improving the design of the ashtrays to minimise smoke emission.
- (b) There is no separate breakdown for the expenditure in this area of work. The provision of LCs with a new design has been absorbed by the replacement programme of LCs due to normal wear and tear. It does not involve additional expenditure.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013