

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)160

(Question Serial No. 1532)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 13):

Regarding the collection of household waste and management of public cleansing facilities under this programme, please advise this Committee on the following:

- 1) the annual expenditure on outsourcing the collection service for three-colour waste separation bins (three-colour bins) managed by the Department, the information on individual contractors hired and the respective numbers of three-colour bins they handled in 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively;
- 2) the whereabouts of the materials collected by the contractors, the quantities of materials (in kilograms) eventually recycled with a breakdown by type (i.e. paper, metals and plastics) and the quantities of materials (in kilograms) ended up being disposed of in landfills in 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively;
- 3) the estimated expenditure to be involved in outsourcing the collection service for three-colour bins managed by the Department in 2014-15; and
- 4) whether there is any plan to invite tenders for provision of collection service for three-colour bins in 2014-15; if yes, the details.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- 1) The current two-year contract for the provision of recyclables collection service commenced on 1 August 2012 with a total contract value of about \$12.7 million. The contract has been awarded to On Kee Metal Company. The contractor is required to provide collection service for some 3 380 sets of recyclables collection bins collecting waste paper, metal and plastics. These bins are placed in public places including streets, refuse collection points, public markets, bus termini, schools and venues managed by other government departments.

2) The quantity of recyclables collected by the contractor in 2012 and 2013 is given below -

Calendar Year	Paper (kilograms)	Metal (kilograms)	Plastic materials (kilograms)
2012	525 000	15 000	165 000
2013	519 000	17 000	175 000

Under the contract, the contractor should not dispose of the recyclables collected in any landfills or any other waste disposal facilities without the prior written consent of the Government. The contractor is required to deliver all recyclables collected to recyclers approved by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), whose names must appear on the list of recyclers published on the Environmental Protection Department (EPD)'s website.

3)&4) The existing contract will expire after 31 July 2014. Since the Department is at present inviting bids for provision of the collection service in the next two years through open tender, the estimated expenditure of the contract cannot be revealed at this stage.

The Department has introduced the following new tender terms in the new contracts for the purpose of improving the monitoring and control of the contractors' performance –

- (a) the existing contract covering the entire territory will be split into four regional contracts so as to introduce more competition and facilitate better monitoring of the performance of the contractors;
- (b) to facilitate public monitoring of the contractors' work, the contractors are required to use transparent plastic bags for collection of recyclables, and the bags should be printed with the words "used for collecting recyclable materials"; whereas notices showing "FEHD contractors providing collection service for recyclable materials" should be displayed on both sides of the body of their collection vehicles;
- (c) the contractors are required to nominate up to two local recyclers to receive and recycle plastic recyclables when submitting their bids for the contracts. Each recycler nominated shall have independent capability and experience to properly process plastic recyclables at a designated recycling site. EPD will visit the designated recycling sites to check if the nominated recyclers meet the minimum requirements. The bid will not be considered further if both nominated recyclers fail to meet the minimum requirements; and
- (d) the Department may direct the contractors to change their recyclers if their performance is not satisfactory.