

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)235****(Question Serial No. 5816)**

- 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. 366):

Regarding the complaints about suspected illegal display of banners received in each of the District Council districts, please provide information on the following in respect of each of the past two years:

1. the number of complaints received, cases handled, offences detected, prosecutions initiated and convictions made;
2. the number of illegal banners removed as well as the average removal cost of a banner; and whether the removal cost has been fully recovered from the owners of the banners; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

1. The number of complaints received relating to unauthorised display of posters and banners in 2012 and 2013 is 3 651 and 4 756 respectively. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not keep breakdown of the complaints by the 18 District Council districts. The available figures on enforcement actions are given below –

<b>Year</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
No. of prosecutions taken against unauthorised display of publicity materials in public places	4 492	4 228
No. of \$1,500 Fixed Penalty Notices issued	1 563	1 769

The Department does not keep separate statistics on the number of prosecution cases which have been convicted.

2. The number of unauthorised publicity materials removed in 2012 and 2013 is 3 340 171 and 3 148 500 respectively. The Department recovers the removal cost from the beneficiaries of the publicity materials removed in accordance with section 130 of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance, Cap. 132. The removal cost includes the cost of labour, transport, supervision and departmental charges, and will be apportioned among the beneficiaries of the publicity materials removed during the same operation. The removal cost for each publicity material removed depends largely on the number of publicity materials removed in the operation.