

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****FHB(FE)256****(Question Serial No. 5852)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not Specified

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 258 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 127):

Please provide in tabular form information on the following in respect of the years from 2010-11 to 2014-15:

1. the number of Workman II (WM II) in the Department, the types of services provided and the number of WM II engaged in each type of services;
2. the year-on-year percentage change;
3. the reason(s) for the decrease in the number of WM II, if any, as well as the reasons for not replenishing the manpower; and
4. whether the Department has set a minimum manpower requirement for WM II for each type of services and whether the relevant requirement is met; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

The number of WM II in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), the types of services provided and the number of WM II engaged in each type of services as well as the year-on-year percentage change are tabulated as follows -

Types of Services provided by WMII	Number of WM II			
	2010-11 (as at 31.3.2011)	2011-12 (as at 31.3.2012)	2012-13 (as at 31.3.2013)	2013-14 (as at 28.2.2014)
Public Cleansing	2 129	2 113	2 101	2 096
Pest Control in public place	425	426	424	419
Other services (e.g. removal/disposal of dead bodies, cemeteries/crematoria related services, support services to food safety, slaughterhouses, depots and markets etc.)	371	370	381	388
Total (Year-on-year % change)	2 925	2 909 (-0.5%)	2 906 (-0.1%)	2 903 (-0.1%)

While the Department has not set a minimum manpower requirement for WM II for each type of services, we consider it appropriate to maintain a core workforce of about 3 000 civil servant WM II currently. Recruitment exercises are conducted from time to time to fill vacancies arising from natural wastage. The strength of WM II has remained steady throughout the years and the number of WM II in 2014-15 is expected to remain at similar level as in previous years.