

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)259****(Question Serial No. 6001)**

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. 132):

In view of the rampant outbreaks of various types of influenza in recent years, members of the public are more concerned about the cleanliness of streets. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is therefore required to step up the cleansing of environmental hygiene blackspots. Yet, there are complaints about the severe shortage of street washing vehicles. This implies that with an increasing number of blackspots, the time allowed for cleansing a blackspot reduces, let alone the non-blackspot areas. The effectiveness of the cleansing work is questionable.

In this connection, please advise on the number and change in number of street washing vehicles in each of the past five years (i.e. from 2009 to 2013); whether procurement of additional street washing vehicles is included in this year's Estimates; whether there is a standard requirement on the number of street washing vehicles; and whether the relevant requirement is met.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

The number of street washing vehicles deployed, including those of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) and its contractors, is given below –

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
No. of street washing vehicles	96	97 (+1)	101 (+4)	101 -	102 (+1)

Most streets are washed from on a need basis to twice weekly depending on actual situations. For specific locations such as hygiene black spots or areas with conglomeration of wild birds, the Department will conduct street washing at a frequency of up to one exercise each day. The Department will maintain the current number of street washing vehicles in 2014-15.