

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-FHB(FE)05

(Question Serial No. S0183)

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.):

Over the past three consecutive years, the number of complaints about feeding of wild birds causing adverse public health effects has increased by more than double (i.e. from 202 cases in 2011 to 280 cases in 2012 and then to 493 cases in 2013). In this connection, please advise whether the Department has stepped up its efforts against the problem and strengthened prosecution action. If yes, please give the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Feeding of wild birds causing dirtiness to public places is an offence under section 4(1) of the Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation, Cap. 132BK, and \$1,500 Fixed Penalty Notices (Notices) may be issued to the offenders under the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness Offences) Ordinance, Cap. 570.

With the increase in the number of complaints in 2013, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has stepped up its enforcement actions against feeding of wild birds causing dirtiness to public places. In 2013, the Department issued 91 Notices and took out 4 prosecutions against persons who caused dirtiness to public places in feeding wild birds. The number of Notices issued in 2013 has increased by about 60%, compared with that in 2012. The Department will continue to implement enhanced measures to prevent environmental hygiene nuisances caused by the conglomeration of wild birds. These include stepping up inspection, cleaning and disinfection with diluted bleach at public places where wild birds gather; reminding the public not to feed wild birds through distribution of leaflet and erection of warning signs at specific locations; and taking stringent enforcement actions against feeding of wild birds causing dirtiness to public places.