

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)117

(Question Serial No. 0591)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the indicator for pest control surveys conducted, please advise on the reason(s) for the increase in the number for two successive years, as well as the details and effectiveness of the work concerned in 2015. As it is estimated that the number will continue to increase in the current year, please also advise whether sufficient resources have been earmarked with relevant measures drawn up, including the deployment of manpower and allocation of resources; if yes, please give details of the work, the manpower and the estimated expenditure in this respect; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long (Member Question No. 45)

Reply:

In 2014 and 2015, 7 702 and 8 043 pest control surveys were conducted respectively. The increase was mainly attributable to (i) the increase in the number of investigations relating to vector-borne diseases; (ii) the strengthening of dengue vector surveillance in the community, whereby the number of locations covered by the survey is increased from 44 to 52, and the frequency of the surveillance in port areas from once per month to once every fortnight (other than the Airport which is as before subject to surveillance on a weekly basis); and (iii) the extension of the Japanese encephalitis vector surveillance to cover Tuen Mun, North, Sai Kung, Kwai Tsing, Southern and Sham Shui Po districts in addition to Yuen Long district. A total of six Non-Civil Service Contract staff have been employed for implementation of the strengthened measures. It is anticipated that the enhanced vector surveillance programmes would continue in 2016 with the addition of three civil service staff. The revised estimated expenditure in 2015-16 and estimated expenditure in 2016-17 in this respect is \$33.4 million and \$34.3 million respectively.

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