

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 0641)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) No 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 training of rodent control staff by the Government, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. details of the training for rodent control staff, as well as the expenditure and manpower in this respect, in the past three years;
2. whether the Department has assessed the effectiveness of the training currently provided; if yes, the findings of the assessment; if not, the reason(s); and
3. the expenditure for training rodent control staff in 2016-17 and details of the work plan for the next three years.

Asked by: Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun (Member Question No. 7)

Reply:

1. Rodent control is an integral part of the induction and refresher training courses of the pest control training programme provided to all staff in the health inspectorate and foremen grade staff of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department). The training covers, among other topics, rodent biology, survey and control, and the application and safe use of pesticides. A total of eight departmental staff is involved in the provision of training on pest control as well as other subjects such as market management, street cleansing, etc. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure relating to the training for rodent control staff.
2. Upon completion of the training sessions, attendees are required to evaluate the training programmes and provide feedback to help ensure the programmes' relevance and effectiveness. The Training Section also holds an annual "Liaison Group Meeting" with grade management and district staff, and visits district environmental hygiene offices on a regular basis to solicit the views of staff concerned. The feedback received has been positive.

3. The Department does not keep separate statistics on the expenditure spent on training rodent control staff in 2016-17 as the trainers are also responsible for other training programmes. We will continue to monitor the training needs and adjust the training programmes as and when necessary.

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