

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)137

(Question Serial No. 0237)

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

Question:

With regard to environmental hygiene and related services, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the Department's estimated expenditure and manpower resources for the provision of cleansing services in 2016-17 (including the expenditure on various cleansing services as well as the number of contractors, in-house staff and contractor staff), with a breakdown by type of services; and the changes in expenditure and manpower over the past three years (i.e. from 2013-14 to 2015-16); and
- (b) given that the hygiene problem in Hong Kong has become increasingly serious in recent years, whether the Department has explored ways to eliminate the potential hygiene hazards, such as allocating additional resources, recruiting more staff, enhancing training for frontline cleansing workers, increasing the frequency of street sweeping by cleansing workers and mechanical street sweepers, as well as placing more litter containers on streets and increasing the frequency of refuse collection per day.

Asked by: Hon Steven HO Chun-yin (Member Question No. 4)

Reply:

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) provides two types of public cleansing services, namely waste collection service and street cleansing service. The estimated expenditure on waste collection service and street cleansing service in 2016-17 is \$561 million and \$1,959 million respectively. A total of 10 540 staff are involved in providing these services, including 2 880 in-house staff and 7 660 staff employed by 12 contractors. Comparing the expenditure on a

year-on-year basis, there is an increase of about 5.3% in 2014-15, 7.2% in 2015-16 and 6.2% in 2016-17 respectively. In terms of headcount, the level of manpower provision on a year-on-year basis is maintained at a similar level during this period.

- (b) The Department will continue to work with the respective District Councils to closely monitor the cleanliness and hygiene conditions of public places, enhance public education and publicity, and step up law enforcement actions, as necessary. In 2016-17, the Department will deploy additional resources to enhance street washing services (by bringing in additional street washing vehicles and high pressure hot water cleaner teams as and when the street cleansing contracts are renewed), launch a new round of publicity campaign on keeping Hong Kong clean, and increase manpower in law enforcement.

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