

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)333

(Question Serial No. 4472)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide in tabular form information on the following in respect of the years from 2011-12 to 2015-16:

1. the number of Workman II (WM II) in the Department, the types of services provided and the number of WM II engaged in each type of services;
2. the year-on-year percentage change;
3. the reason(s) for the decrease in the number of WM II, if any, as well as the reasons for not replenishing the manpower; and
4. whether the Department has set a minimum manpower requirement for WM II for each type of services and whether the relevant requirement is met; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 148)

Reply:

The number of Workman II (WM II) in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), the types of services provided and the number of WM II engaged in each type of services as well as the year-on-year percentage change are tabulated as follows –

Types of Services provided by WM II	Number of WM II				
	2011-12 (as at 31.3.2012)	2012-13 (as at 31.3.2013)	2013-14 (as at 31.3.2014)	2014-15 (as at 31.3.2015)	2015-16 (as at 29.2.2016)
Public Cleansing	2 113	2 101	2 096	2 021	2 081
Pest Control in public places	426	424	406	398	407
Other services (e.g. removal/disposal of dead bodies, cemeteries/crematoria related services, support services to food safety, slaughterhouses, depots and markets etc.)	370	381	388	381	388
Total (Year-on-year % change)	2 909	2 906 (-0.1%)	2 890 (-0.6%)	2 800 (-3.1%)	2 876 (+2.7%)

While the Department has not set a minimum manpower requirement for WM II for each type of services, we consider it appropriate to maintain a core workforce of about 3 000 civil servant WM II currently. Recruitment exercises are conducted from time to time to fill vacancies arising from natural wastage. The strength of WM II has remained steady throughout the years and the number of WM II in 2016-17 is expected to remain at a similar level as in previous years.

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