

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)115

(Question Serial No. 0224)

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:

The Department is planning to reduce by phases the number of litter containers on streets and switched to using litter containers commonly known as “small mouth” bins last year to facilitate the implementation of a waste charging scheme in the future. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- the number of litter containers in the territory and the reduction rate of litter containers in the past three years (i.e. 2014-2016);
- whether the effectiveness of the litter containers with small openings in waste reduction has been assessed; and
- the measures for preventing the abusive use of litter containers placed on streets and for reducing the volume of waste.

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (Member Question No. 7)

Reply:

Design and management of litter containers contribute to waste management under the policy purview of the Environment Bureau.

The number of litter containers (LCs) placed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) and the reduction rate of such LCs in the past 3 years are provided in the following table:

Year	Number of LCs	Reduction Rate	
		Compared with last year	Aggregate
2014	21 257	Not applicable	Not applicable

2015	18 017	15%	15%
2016	16 215	10%	24%

The purpose of placing LCs in public places is to facilitate pedestrians to deposit street litter. In June 2016, the Department replaced some 800 old LCs in public places (representing about 5% of the total number of LCs placed by the Department) with LCs carrying a smaller opening and affixed with eye-catching notices for trial use. These new LCs are intended to educate the public on the proper use of LCs and remind them not to dispose of household and trade waste in the LCs, with a view to inducing change to their waste disposal behavior. We do not expect that this will have any significant impact on waste reduction. Generally speaking, the street cleanliness has been maintained after the replacement.

The Department will continue to enhance publicity and education on the proper use of LCs to prevent abusive use of LCs placed on streets, and take stringent enforcement actions against offenders for illegal disposal of waste.

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