

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)146

(Question Serial No. 0517)

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:

Please advise on the reason(s) for the rising trend in the number of pest control surveys conducted for two successive years, as well as the details and effectiveness of the work concerned in 2016. 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: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. 35)

Reply:

In 2015 and 2016, 8 043 and 9 085 pest control surveys were conducted respectively. The increase was mainly attributed to (i) the strengthening of dengue vector surveillance in the community, whereby the number of locations covered by the surveys has been increased from 44 to 52 since October 2015, and the frequency of the surveillance has been increased from once per month to once every fortnight for 2 consecutive months since September 2016 in surveyed areas that fall within 500 meters radius from locations visited by patients of local dengue fever cases during incubation and infectious periods of the disease, as well as areas with Area Ovitrap Index reaching or exceeding 20% for 2 consecutive months; (ii) the increase in the frequency of the surveillance in port areas from once per month to once every fortnight since November 2015, and increase in the number of ports including Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal and Midfield Concourse of the Airport since February 2016; (iii) the increase in the number of surveys relating to biting midges; and (iv) 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 since October 2015. The implementation of the strengthened measures, involving a total of 7 staff, would continue in 2017. The revised estimated expenditure in 2016-17 and the estimated expenditure in 2017-18 in this respect is \$37.1 million and \$38.3 million respectively.