

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)153**

**(Question Serial No. 1199)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health  
(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 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has earlier announced that the overall Rodent Infestation Rate in 2016 was 4%. This is not only slightly higher than the rate in 2015 (3%), but also the highest rate since 2010. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. the resources allocated by the Department for the prevention and control of rodents and other pests in the past three years;
2. whether the Department has assessed the effectiveness of the rodent and pest control measures; if yes, the findings of the assessment; if not, the reason(s); and
3. whether the Department has considered making reference to the rodent and pest control methods recommended by the World Health Organisation and adopted by other cities, and allocating additional resources to organise territory-wide anti-rodent publicity activities; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (Member Question No. 49)

Reply:

1. The actual expenditure on rodent control work for 2014-15 and 2015-16 was \$156.2 million and \$160.9 million respectively. The revised estimate for 2016-17 is \$164.8 million. The actual expenditure on other pest control work (including fly, cockroach, wasp/wild bee, biting midge, etc.) for 2014-15 and 2015-16 was \$62.0 million and \$62.8 million respectively. The revised estimate for 2016-17 is \$69.3 million.
2. The Rodent Infestation Rate (RIR) in 2014, 2015 and 2016 was 3.2%, 3.0% and 4.0% respectively. At such a level, the RIR suggests that the rodent problem in public areas remains generally under control. The RIR is not the only factor that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) considers when assessing the actual situation of rodent infestation in a district. In addition to the RIR, frontline staff of the Department also take into account the trails left by rodents, complaint

figures and the views of the local community and the public in identifying problematic locations for rodent prevention and control actions.

3. The Department will continue to keep in view the methods of disease vector surveillance recommended by the World Health Organisation and adopted by other cities. We keep an open mind on adopting or trying out methods that are suitable for use in local circumstances for further improving the effectiveness of our rodent infestation survey. The Department will also continue to enhance rodent control work and launch district-specific rodent control measures in districts with a higher RIR, including publicity and educational programmes to promote greater community involvement in rodent control and prevention, in addition to the deployment of “Ah Tak” as Keep Clean Ambassador and its regular pest control work and annual territory-wide publicity campaigns.

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