

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)166

(Question Serial No. 0669)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The newly revised Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance came into effect on 24 September 2016. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has indicated that it will take joint enforcement actions with other departments mainly against shop front extensions (SFEs) not involving illegal hawking activities. Please advise on the number of joint enforcement actions taken in various districts since the implementation of the new legislation, as well as the number of frontline Foreman grade staff of the Cleansing Sections involved. With regard to the enforcement work against SFEs, please also advise whether the Department will review staffing arrangement on a regular basis and provide additional manpower for the work as appropriate.

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping (Member Question No. 49)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) took part in 73 joint enforcement operations with other relevant departments to combat shop front extensions (SFEs) not involving illegal hawking activities upon commencement of the new fixed penalty regime on 24 September 2016 and up to end December 2016. On average, 2 frontline Foreman grade staff of the Cleansing Sections of the Department were involved in each operation.

In 2015-16, the Department set up 3 task force teams to combat SFEs at blackspots by creating 39 civil service posts. In 2016-17, the Department set up 2 additional task force teams with the creation of 26 civil service posts, to further strengthen enforcement against SFEs across the territory, including the issue of fixed penalty notices under the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570). The Department will review the staffing arrangement for enforcement against SFEs from time to time and seek additional resources in accordance with the established mechanism when required.