

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)269

(Question Serial No. 4224)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
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:

I have from time to time received complaints from the public against commercial tenants who repeatedly discarded a large amount of refuse on streets or in front of closed shops during late-night hours or holidays, affecting pedestrians or other tenants. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the number of complaints received by the District Environmental Hygiene Offices (DEHOs) against accumulation of refuse on streets or illegal deposit of large amount of refuse, the number of enforcement actions taken by the Department, as well as the number of warnings issued and prosecutions instituted, in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by year and DEHO;
- (b) whether the Department will consider deploying additional manpower to carry out inspections and enforcement actions at non-office hours, especially during late-night hours, in areas causing more complaints on illegal deposit of refuse; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s); and
- (c) whether the Department will consider formulating measures to facilitate the public in reporting illegal deposit of waste and producing evidence; if yes, the work plan and the estimated expenditure for 2017-18 in this respect; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 234)

Reply:

- (a) The number of complaints received regarding street cleansing in 2014, 2015 and 2016 was 35 771, 49 650 and 63 785 respectively. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not keep a separate breakdown on cases of accumulation of refuse or illegal deposit of refuse on streets. Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) against littering issued by the Department in the past 3 years are provided in the following table—

District	FPNs issued against littering		
	2014	2015	2016
Central and Western	998	1 102	1 287
Eastern	1 213	1 596	1 774
Southern	619	640	597
Wanchai	1 251	1 517	1 157
Islands	644	507	298
Kowloon City	802	851	912
Kwun Tong	804	588	556
Mong Kok	1 372	1 680	2 299
Shum Shui Po	535	776	1 034
Wong Tai Sin	502	397	459
Yau Tsim	1 487	1 666	1 849
Kwai Tsing	521	511	641
North	587	837	704
Sai Kung	502	513	505
Sha Tin	516	603	692
Tsuen Wan	383	523	675
Tuen Mun	784	652	688
Tai Po	522	670	627
Yuen Long	1 847	2 264	2 872
Cross-district [#]	12 929	13 177	14 595
Total	28 818	31 070	34 221

[#] Dedicated teams were deployed to various districts to issue FPNs.

- (b) Additional resources will be allocated in 2017-18 for deployment of dedicated enforcement teams to take enforcement action at the blackspots of illegal deposit of refuse at different hours to improve the hygiene conditions. Apart from stepping up enforcement action, the Department has, with the consent of respective District Councils, extended the opening hours of some targeted refuse collection points with additional manpower provided to cater for the local demand at midnight or in the early morning. This has brought about improvements to a certain extent.
- (c) The public can readily report cases of illegal deposit of waste to the 1823 Hotline, or the Department through e-mails, fax, phone calls, etc. The existing channels for reporting cases of illegal deposit of waste are considered adequate, convenient and effective.