

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)315

(Question Serial No. 4259)

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:

With regard to environmental hygiene and related services, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the Department's estimated expenditure and manpower resources for the provision of cleansing services in 2017-18 (including the expenditure on various cleansing services as well as the number of contractors, in-house staff and contractor staff), with a breakdown by type of services; and the changes in expenditure and manpower over the past 3 years; and
- (b) given that the hygiene problem in Hong Kong has become increasingly serious in recent years, whether the Department has explored ways to eliminate the potential hygiene hazards, such as allocating additional resources, recruiting more staff, enhancing training for frontline cleansing workers, increasing the frequency of street sweeping by cleansing workers and mechanical street sweepers, as well as placing more litter containers on streets and increasing the frequency of refuse collection per day.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 32)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) The estimated expenditure of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in providing public cleansing services in 2017-18 is \$2,691 million. A total of 10 480 staff are involved in providing these services, including 2 990 in-house staff and 7 490 staff employed by 14 contractors. Comparing the expenditure on a year-on-year basis, there is an increase of about 5.4% in 2015-16, 8.8% in 2016-17 and 5.9% in 2017-18 respectively. In terms of headcount, the level of manpower provision on a year-on-year basis is maintained at a similar level during this period.

- (b) The Department will continue to work with the respective District Councils to closely monitor the cleanliness and hygiene condition of the hygiene blackspots, enhance public education and publicity and step up law enforcement actions, as necessary. In 2017-18, the Department will deploy additional resources to enhance street washing, central road divider cleansing, evening and midnight street sweeping, pest control, and public education and publicity; implement a pilot scheme on installation of Internet Protocol cameras at hygiene blackspots; and increase manpower in the management of public cleansing contracts and law enforcement.

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