

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)353

(Question Serial No. 5028)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide in tabular form information on the following in respect of the years from 2012-13 to 2016-17:

1. the number of Workman II (WM II) in the Department, the types of services provided and the number of WM II engaged in each type of services;
2. the year-on-year percentage change of the number of WM II;
3. the reason(s) for the year-on-year decrease in the number of WM II, if any, as well as the reason(s) for not filling the vacancies concerned; and
4. whether the Department has set a target for the minimum manpower requirement of WM II; if yes, whether the Department's target for WM II is met; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 546)

Reply:

The number of Workman II (WM II) in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), the types of services provided and the number of WM II engaged in each type of services as well as the year-on-year percentage change are tabulated as follows –

Types of Services provided by WM II	Number of WM II				
	2012-13 (as at 31.3.2013)	2013-14 (as at 31.3.2014)	2014-15 (as at 31.3.2015)	2015-16 (as at 31.3.2016)	2016-17 (as at 28.2.2017)
Public Cleansing	2 101	2 096	2 021	2 093	2 007
Pest Control in public place	424	406	398	412	391
Other services (e.g. removal/disposal of dead bodies, cemeteries/crematoria related services, support services to food safety, slaughterhouses, depots and markets etc.)	381	388	381	386	375
Total (Year-on-year % change)	2 906	2 890 (-0.6%)	2 800 (-3.1%)	2 891 (+3.3%)	2 773 (-4.1%)

While the Department has not set a minimum manpower requirement for WM II for each type of services, we consider it appropriate to maintain a core workforce of about 3 000 civil servant WM II currently. Recruitment exercises are conducted from time to time to fill vacancies arising from natural wastage, with one currently in progress. The strength of WM II has remained steady throughout the years and the number of WM II in 2017-18 is expected to remain at a similar level as in previous years.

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