

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-FHB(FE)07**

**(Question Serial No. S0066)**

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:

In its written reply to Question Serial No. 2288, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department mentioned about the pilot scheme on installation of Internet Protocol (IP) cameras at hygiene blackspots. Please advise on the following:

- 1) details of the pilot scheme and the estimated expenditure;
- 2) the criteria for selecting hygiene blackspots for implementing the pilot scheme;
- 3) the objective(s) of the pilot scheme;
- 4) whether follow-up actions will be taken for the footage captured by the IP cameras; and
- 5) whether privacy issues are involved regarding the images captured by the cameras; if yes, the measures to protect privacy.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia

Reply:

The installation of Internet Protocol (IP) cameras aims to strengthen the monitoring of illegal deposits of refuse and facilitate the planning of more effective enforcement actions. As the relevant measure involves privacy and other legal and implementation considerations, we consider that the more prudent approach is to start on a trial basis before full implementation. Under the 6-month Pilot Scheme launched in late December 2016, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has installed IP cameras at a total of 6 illegal dumping blackspots in Central and Western, Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long districts. The estimated expenditure of the Pilot Scheme is about \$1.23 million.

The Department identified the aforesaid 3 districts on the basis of the environmental hygiene conditions of refuse dumping blackspots, the number of complaints received in the past, and the views of the district councils concerned. The specific locations for installation of IP cameras were selected with primary regard to technical feasibility.

The Department has implemented the Pilot Scheme in accordance with the “Guidance on CCTV Surveillance Practices” issued by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data. For instance, notices are posted within the areas covered by the IP cameras to inform the public that IP cameras are in operation. In addition, the Department has formulated clear operational guidelines and required staff to strictly comply with them. All footage recorded would be kept in safe custody. The disclosure of the footage captured is restricted to the extent necessary for legal action to be taken. Should no prosecution be instituted against the offences within 6 months, the footage so captured will be deleted.

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