

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)178

(Question Serial No. 3434)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the reason(s) for the rising trend in the number of pest control surveys conducted for two successive years, as well as the details and effectiveness of the work concerned in 2017. As it is estimated that the number will continue to increase in 2018-19, please also advise whether sufficient resources have been earmarked and relevant measures drawn up, including the deployment of manpower and allocation of resources; if yes, please give details of the work, manpower and estimated expenditure in this respect; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 65)

Reply:

In 2016 and 2017, 9 085 and 9 244 pest control surveys were conducted respectively. The increase was mainly attributed to (i) the strengthening of dengue vector surveillance in the community, whereby the frequency of the surveillance has been increased from 1 week per month to 2 weeks per month for 2 consecutive months since September 2016 in surveyed areas that fall within 500-metre radius from locations visited by patients of local dengue fever cases during incubation and infectious periods of the disease, as well as areas with Area Ovitrap Index reaching or exceeding 20% for 2 consecutive months; and (ii) the increase in the number of surveys relating to biting midges as the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has commenced a one-year territory-wide survey since mid-2017 to investigate the distribution and species diversity of blood sucking midges. A total of 2 additional staff have been deployed for the implementation of the strengthened measures.

In 2018-19, the dengue vector surveillance programme would be further enhanced. The number of locations covered by the surveys in the community will be increased from 52 to 57 by mid-2018. The frequency of survey will be increased from 1 week per month to 2 weeks per month all year round. In addition, the frequency of survey in the sea and land ports will be increased from 2 weeks per month to a weekly basis. A total of 14 staff will be employed for the implementation of the strengthened measures. The revised estimated

expenditure in 2017-18 and the estimated expenditure in 2018-19 in this respect is \$38.4 million and \$41.6 million respectively.

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