

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)211**

**(Question Serial No. 2066)**

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:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018-19 financial year, it is mentioned that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to take forward initiatives to enhance environmental hygiene and strengthen the related enforcement and prosecution work. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. the manpower and expenditure to be involved in enhancing environmental hygiene and strengthening the related enforcement and prosecution work in the new financial year;
2. the manpower and resources to be earmarked in the financial year to address the hygiene problems in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin Districts of Kowloon East where the hygiene problems come along with a large number of commercial buildings and restaurants; whether the Department will consider setting up task force teams to strengthen the inspection and prosecution work in Wong Tai Sin and San Po Kong where the rodent and hygiene problems are so serious that they have been repeatedly reflected by District Councillors; if yes, the estimated expenditure and staff establishment to be involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 11)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. The estimated expenditure of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in providing public cleansing services in 2018-19 is \$3,091 million. A total of 10 800 staff (2 920 in-house staff and 7 880 staff employed by contractors) are involved in providing these services to enhance environmental hygiene and strengthen the enforcement and prosecution work.
2. The Department does not keep separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure for providing public cleansing service to address the hygiene problems in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin (WTS) districts. The Department will continue to launch

district-specific rodent control measures in WTS and other districts, including publicity and educational programmes to promote greater community involvement in rodent control and prevention, anti-rodent operations in targeted areas, etc, in addition to its regular pest control work and annual territory-wide publicity campaigns.

Since mid-2017, the Department has set up 6 dedicated enforcement teams (DETs), primarily to step up enforcement action against various public cleanliness offences. Up to January 2018, DETs have issued about 2 100 fixed penalty notices, and the hygiene condition of some 40 illegal dumping blackspots was markedly improved. The Department will set up additional DETs in 2018-19 to strengthen law enforcement work in relevant respects.

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