

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)301

(Question Serial No. 5314)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

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 combatting illegal deposit of refuse, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. the number of complaints received against illegal deposit of refuse, with a breakdown by district in each of the past 3 years;
2. the number of prosecutions instituted against illegal deposit of refuse in each of the past 3 years, as well as the maximum and minimum penalties imposed;
3. the amount of illegally deposited refuse cleared in urban area and the expenditure involved;
4. the expenditure and manpower for combatting illegal deposit of refuse in each of the past 3 years, as well as the number of inspections;
5. the blackspots currently installed with closed circuit television systems for monitoring purpose, and the number of offenders successfully prosecuted; and
6. the measures in place against illegal deposit of refuse.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 56)

Reply:

1. The number of complaints received regarding street cleansing in 2015, 2016 and 2017 was 49 650, 63 785 and 66 046 respectively. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not keep a separate breakdown on cases of illegal deposit of refuse on streets.
2. In accordance with the Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation (Cap. 132 BK) (the Regulation), any person deposits litter on street or public place will be prosecuted. The offender is liable to a fine up to \$25,000 and imprisonment for 6

months. The same offence may also be caught under Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570), which empowers an enforcement officer to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) currently at \$1,500. In the past 3 years (from 2015 to 2017), the Department issued 31 070, 34 221 and 39 239 FPNs, and 210, 278 and 224 summonses respectively. The maximum and minimum penalties imposed under the Regulation were \$5,000 and \$200 respectively.

3. The Department does not keep statistics on the amount of illegally deposited refuse cleared in urban area or the expenditure involved.
4. The Department does not keep separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower as well as the number of inspections for combatting illegal deposit of refuse.
5. The Department launched a six-month pilot scheme on installation of Internet Protocol (IP) cameras (the Pilot Scheme) from late December 2016 to late June 2017, under which IP cameras were installed at 6 illegal refuse dumping blackspots in Central and Western, Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long districts to step up surveillance on illegal dumping of refuse and to assist in the planning of more effective law enforcement actions. Up to 28 February 2018, a total of 80 summons had been laid of which 73 cases were convicted. In addition, 5 FPNs were issued. Given the encouraging result of the Pilot Scheme, the Department will extend the scheme to other districts progressively, with plans to install about 40 IP cameras in the territory in the second quarter of 2018.
6. To combat illegal dumping of refuse, installation of IP cameras aside, the Department has set up 6 dedicated enforcement teams (DETs), primarily to step up enforcement action against various public cleanliness offences since mid-2017. Up to January 2018, DETs have issued about 2 100 FPNs, 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 and convey health messages, distribute leaflets and warning notices to arouse public awareness of maintaining street cleanliness and the proper way for disposal of refuse. In addition, the Department has, with the consent of respective District Councils, extended the opening hours of some targeted refuse collection points with additional manpower provided to cater for the local demand for refuse disposal at midnight or in the early morning. This arrangement has brought about appreciable improvements.

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