

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)088

(Question Serial No. 1391)

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:

With regard to combatting illegal deposit of refuse, please advise this Committee on:

- i. the number of complaints received against illegal deposit of refuse, with a breakdown by district in each of the past 3 years;
- ii. 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;
- iii. the amount of illegally deposited refuse cleared in urban area and the expenditure involved;
- iv. the expenditure and manpower for combatting illegal deposit of refuse in each of the past 3 years, as well as the number of inspections;
- v. the blackspots currently installed with closed circuit television systems for monitoring purpose, and the number of offenders successfully prosecuted; and
- vi. the measures in place against illegal deposit of refuse.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- i. The number of complaints received regarding street cleansing in 2016, 2017 and 2018 was 63 785, 66 046 and 62 834 respectively. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not keep a separate breakdown on cases of illegal deposit of refuse on streets.

- ii. In accordance with the provision of the Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation (Cap. 132 BK), any person depositing 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 the 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 2016 to 2018), the Department issued 34 221, 39 239 and 43 360 FPNs, and 278, 224 and 206 summonses respectively. The maximum and minimum penalties imposed were \$5,000 and \$200 respectively.
- iii. The Department does not keep statistics on the illegally deposited refuse cleared in urban areas.
- iv. The Department does not keep separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower as well as the number of inspection for combatting illegal deposit of refuse.
- v. Since June 2018, the Department has installed Internet Protocol (IP) cameras at 115 illegal refuse deposit blackspots over the territory to curb such activities. Up to end January 2019, a total of 120 summons cases had been laid against owners of vehicles used for illegal dumping of refuse based on the footage captured, of which 76 cases were convicted. The Department plans to extend the scheme for 2 years and will consult District Councils (DCs) to draw up a prioritised site list for each district for installation of IP cameras. The Department will progressively increase the number of locations for installation of IP cameras to over 300 with consideration given to the locations proposed by DCs.
- vi. To combat illegal deposit of refuse, installation of IP cameras aside, the Department has set up 19 dedicated enforcement teams (DETs), primarily to step up enforcement action against various public cleanliness offences since mid-2017. Up to January 2019, DETs have issued some 8 800 FPNs, and the hygiene condition of some 240 illegal dumping blackspots was markedly improved. The Department will set up additional DETs in 2019-20 to strengthen law enforcement, and also 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 DCs, extended the opening hours of some targeted refuse collection points with additional manpower provided to meet local demand at midnight or in the early morning. This arrangement has brought about noticeable improvements.

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