

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)123

(Question Serial No. 1068)

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:

The Department is planning to reduce by phases the number of litter containers (LCs) on streets to facilitate the implementation of a waste charging scheme in the future. In this connection, please advise this Committee on:

1. the number of LCs and recyclables collection bins (RBs) in each of the 18 districts in the territory in the past 3 years, and the estimated number of LCs and RBs upon implementation of the waste charging scheme;
2. the number of LCs purchased, the expenditure incurred and the number of LCs disposed of in each of the past 3 years;
3. the number of prosecutions against littering-related behaviour in each of the past 3 years; and
4. the details of and expenditure to be involved in the Government's plan to, apart from reducing the number of public LCs, ensure the deposits of only small refuse into these LCs upon implementation of the waste charging scheme.

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

1. Having regard to the objectives of facilitating waste reduction and resource recovery, the effective implementation of quantity-based municipal solid waste charging, and balancing the need of upholding environmental hygiene and cost-effectiveness in the use of public resources, the Steering Group on the Modification of Recycling and Refuse Collection Facilities in Public Places (the Steering Group) was set up in February 2016 under the chairmanship of the Secretary for the Environment to review the number, distribution and design of litter containers (LCs) and recycling bins (RBs) in public places.

The number of LCs and RBs provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in each of the 18 districts in the territory in the past 3 years is provided as follows –

District	2016		2017		2018	
	LCs	RBs	LCs	RBs	LCs	RBs
Eastern	821	64	795	64	739	64
Wanchai	1 018	99	995	99	925	99
Central & Western	1 228	145	1 037	145	964	145
Southern	535	71	508	71	472	71
Islands	756	130	603	130	561	130
Kowloon City	975	69	843	69	784	69
Kwun Tong	848	46	833	44	775	44
Sham Shui Po	689	57	677	57	630	57
Wong Tai Sin	556	38	546	38	508	38
Yau Tsim Mong	1 229	125	1 108	123	1 030	123
Tai Po	1 031	159	647	159	602	162
North	558	185	451	185	419	185
Yuen Long	1 108	240	997	240	927	240
Tuen Mun	767	102	732	102	681	102
Sai Kung	1 005	201	987	201	918	198
Sha Tin	1 709	104	1 475	104	1 372	104
Kwai Tsing	766	57	752	57	699	57
Tsuen Wan	616	93	605	93	563	93
Total	16 215	1 985	14 591	1 981	13 569	1 981

Based on the recommendation of the Steering Group, FEHD is planning to reduce the number of LCs by 40% to 12 600 and increase the number of RBs by 40% to 2 800 by the end of 2019 making reference to the provision in 2014.

2. The number of LCs purchased in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 was 5 415, 3 920 and 7 253 respectively and the expenditure incurred was about \$3.9 million, \$2.6 million and \$5.0 million in the respective years. FEHD does not keep a breakdown of the number of LCs disposed of in the relevant years.
3. FEHD issued 34 221, 39 239 and 43 360 fixed penalty notices against littering in 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively. The number of summonses issued in 2016, 2017 and 2018 was 278, 224 and 206 respectively.
4. FEHD will continue to enhance publicity and education on the proper use of LCs and RBs placed on streets, and take stringent enforcement actions against offenders for illegal disposal of waste. FEHD does not keep a breakdown of the expenditure incurred.

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