

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)169

(Question Serial No. 2154)

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:

As mentioned in paragraph 161 of the Budget Speech, it is estimated that a total expenditure of over \$600 million may be incurred for refurbishing the public toilets of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in the coming 5 years, with a view to improving ventilation and other facilities, as well as enhancing their cleanliness and hygiene, involving about 240 public toilets. In this connection, please advise on:

- (a) the total number of public toilets currently managed by the Government in the territory, with a breakdown by district in tabular form;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted surveys on the usage rate of public toilets in the urban area and made follow-up actions accordingly, e.g. considering increasing the frequency of cleansing and maintenance, constructing additional facilities of the same kind in districts, etc.; and
- (c) whether the Department will consider allocating resources to improve the treatment of cleansing workers of public toilets, e.g. improving their environment for rest, etc.? If yes, what are the details; if no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows —

- (a) Currently, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) manages 799 public toilets, comprising 90 on Hong Kong Island, 62 in Kowloon and 647 in the New Territories and on outlying islands. The breakdown by district is set out at Annex.

- (b) The Department has recently completed a survey on public toilets with relatively high utilisation rates or located at tourist spots, and stepped up monitoring of contractors' performances in cleansing those toilets since September 2018. The Department will gradually extend the survey to other public toilets.

To improve the cleansing conditions of public toilets and to relieve the workload of toilet attendants, the Department has allocated additional resources to procure the services of dedicated deep cleansing teams starting from March 2019 for toilets with a high utilisation rate or located at tourist spots. The Department plans to extend such services to all public toilets when respective street cleansing services contracts are renewed.

The Department will keep under review whether to provide new toilet facilities with regard to the availability of such facilities in the vicinity, technical feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and views of District Councils, etc.

- (c) At present, 264 public toilets managed by the Department are provided with attendant services and 231 of them are provided with attendant rooms. If circumstances permit, the Department will make available attendant rooms when the toilets are refurbished.

- End -

Number of Public Toilets in 18 districts

District	Number of Public Toilets
Central and Western	36
Wan Chai	18
Eastern	13
Southern	23
Yau Tsim Mong	21
Sham Shui Po	10
Kowloon City	15
Wong Tai Sin	6
Kwun Tong	10
Kwai Tsing	19
Tsuen Wan	32
Tuen Mun	47
Yuen Long	183
North	136
Tai Po	72
Sha Tin	30
Sai Kung	60
Islands	68