

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)176

(Question Serial No. 2213)

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:

On the enforcement of environmental hygiene legislation over the past 5 years, please advise this Committee on:

- (a) the number of prosecution against littering in each year;
- (b) the number of prosecution against spitting in each year; and
- (c) the number of full-time staff of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for the enforcement of the legislation, with a breakdown by rank.

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

- (a)&(b) Under 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 of up to \$25,000 and imprisonment for 6 months. Any person spits on street or public place will also be prosecuted. The offender is liable to a fine of up to \$10,000. The same offences 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. Enforcement statistics relevant to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in the past 5 years are provided at Annex I.
- (c) A list showing the number of authorised public officers of the Department to issue FPNs, with a breakdown by rank, is set out at Annex II.

- End -

**Statistics of Enforcement Actions Taken against
Littering and Spitting Offences in the past 5 years**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. of FPNs issued for littering offences	28 818	31 070	34 221	39 239	43 360
No. of FPNs issued for spitting offences	2 149	2 365	2 555	2 406	2 568
No. of summonses issued for littering offences	139	210	278	224	206
No. of summonses issued for spitting offences	2	3	3	5	5

List of Authorised Public Officers to issue FPNs

Rank	Number of Authorised Public Officers
Senior Superintendent of Environmental Health	15
Superintendent of Environmental Health	26
Chief Health Inspector	58
Senior Health Inspector	199
Health Inspector I/II	813
Senior Overseer	19
Overseer	172
Senior Foreman	409
Foreman	658
Principal Hawker Control Officer	20
Chief Hawker Control Officer	48
Senior Hawker Control Officer	231
Hawker Control Officer	324
Assistant Hawker Control Officer	1 633
Total	4 625