

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)237**

**(Question Serial No. 2050)**

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 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Buildings Department (BD) set up a Joint Office (JO) in 2006 to handle reports on water seepage in buildings. In this connection, please provide this Committee with:

1. a breakdown by District Council district of the following in the past year: the numbers of complaints and reported cases on water seepage received by JO, the number of reported cases handled by JO as classified by handling results (including the respective numbers of cases in which the source of water seepage could not be confirmed and investigation was terminated), the number of entry warrants granted by the court, the respective number of cases in which the persons concerned were prosecuted and convicted (to be set out one by one by the legislation involved), and the average and longest handling time for those cases the handling of which was completed;
2. the respective number of personnel deployed by BD and FEHD to station in JO. Will additional manpower and resources be allocated to JO in the coming financial year? If yes, the details;
3. the locations selected, the commissioning dates, the number of personnel to be deployed and the estimated expenditure, in respect of the 4 regional joint offices planned to be set up by JO; and
4. the method of testing currently adopted in Stage III water seepage investigation by contract consultants commissioned by the Government and the average cost of conducting tests for each case.

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

1. For water seepage cases received in 2018, the average and longest time for completing investigation is 49 and 355 calendar days respectively. The information sought is provided at Annex I and II.
- 2&3. The staff establishment and estimated expenditure of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Buildings Department (BD) in connection with the operation of the Joint Office (JO) in 2018-19 and 2019-20 are provided as follows –

	2018-19	2019-20
<b>FEHD</b>		
Number of investigation and coordinating staff	227	237
Staff costs and departmental expenses (\$ million)	109.2 (revised estimate)	130.6 (estimate)
<b>BD</b>		
Number of professional and technical staff	76	82
Staff costs and departmental expenses (\$ million)	42.2 (revised estimate)	50.8 (estimate)
Expenditure for engaging outsourced consultants (\$ million)	36.0 (revised estimate)	52.8 (estimate)

The four regional offices of JO are planned to be set up in the second half of 2019. The Hong Kong regional office and the New Territories West regional office will be located in Southern District and Tsuen Wan District respectively. Suitable office accommodations are being identified for the regional offices in Kowloon and the New Territories East respectively.

4. Conventional testing methods such as ponding and water spray test for floor slab and reversible pressure test for water supply pipes as well as technological testing methods (i.e. infrared thermography and microwave tomography) in pilot districts are conducted by outsourced consultants engaged by JO for Stage III investigation of water seepage. The cost for conducting tests for an ordinary domestic flat with one kitchen and one toilet with technological testing methods is generally around \$9,000, excluding the overall staffing and operating expenditure of FEHD and BD at the JO.

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**Water Seepage Cases in 2018**

<b>District</b>	<b>Total number of cases</b>	<b>No. of cases screened out<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>No. of cases with seepage ceased during investigation</b>	<b>No. of cases without identified source of seepage</b>	<b>No. of cases with identified source of seepage</b>	<b>No. of cases with investigation work completed<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>No. of entry warrant granted by Court</b>
			<b>(a)</b>	<b>(b)</b>	<b>(c)</b>	<b>(d) = (a)+(b)+(c)</b>	
Central and Western	1 381	836	176	101	197	474	1
Wan Chai	1 396	680	450	157	165	772	3
Eastern	4 507	2 089	640	412	659	1 711	20
Southern	1 216	431	145	89	268	502	1
Islands	201	115	4	11	32	47	1
Yau Tsim	1 521	553	103	48	273	424	1
Mong Kok	1 734	1 139	198	72	282	552	3
Sham Shui Po	2 100	579	300	99	267	666	2
Kowloon City	3 271	1 073	382	359	589	1 330	1
Wong Tai Sin	1 601	180	256	48	286	590	4
Kwun Tong	2 933	938	198	382	455	1 035	1
Kwai Tsing	2 300	892	598	191	565	1 354	8
Tsuen Wan	2 230	773	207	297	416	920	1
Tuen Mun	2 828	1 291	256	180	358	794	1
Yuen Long	831	326	109	59	87	255	0
North	745	708	145	30	101	276	0
Tai Po	1 410	805	91	62	129	282	0
Sha Tin	2 997	676	389	384	476	1 249	0
Sai Kung	1 426	487	110	183	124	417	3
Others <sup>(3)</sup>	56	Not Applicable					
<b>Total</b>	<b>36 684</b>	<b>14 571</b>	<b>4 757</b>	<b>3 164</b>	<b>5 729</b>	<b>13 650</b>	<b>51</b>

Note (1) : These include unjustified cases and withdrawn cases.

Note (2) : The figures do not necessarily correspond to the number of reports received in the same year.

Note (3) : The figures refer to general enquiries about policy matters or complaints on water seepage investigation procedure.

**Prosecution and Conviction Statistics for 2018**

<b>Legislative provision contravened</b>	<b>Number of prosecutions</b>	<b>Number of convictions<sup>(1)</sup></b>
Section 127(3), Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132)	79	99
Section 127(7) , Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132)	3	6

Note (1) : Inclusive of some cases prosecuted before 2018.