

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)378

(Question Serial No. 4558)

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:

Under this Programme, the work of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department involves public cleansing and street cleansing services. As reflected by quite a few residents, some members of local communities have been feeding wild birds such as pigeons by placing food everywhere, which affects environmental hygiene and the health of wild birds. Please advise this Committee on:

1. the number of complaints received, warnings issued and prosecutions instituted against pigeon feeding by placing food everywhere in each of the 18 districts over the past 5 years; and
2. whether the Department will improve the procedures for handling complaints against bird feeding, deploy additional manpower, lower the prosecution threshold and step up inspection of the blackspots. What are the staff establishment and remuneration expenditure concerned?

Asked by: Hon FAN Kwok-wai, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 103)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows—

1. In accordance with the Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation (Cap. 132 BK), any person depositing litter on street or public place, including dirtying public places while feeding wild birds, will be prosecuted. The offender is liable to a fine of up to \$25,000 and imprisonment for 6 months. 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. The number of complaints received and FPNs issued by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) against these nuisances in the past 4 years is provided at Annex.

2. The Department has put in place a series of enhanced measures to prevent environmental hygiene nuisances caused by the congregation of wild birds. These include stepping up inspection, cleansing and disinfection with diluted bleach solution at public places where wild birds congregate; reminding the public not to feed wild birds through distribution of leaflets and erection of warning signs at target locations; and taking stringent enforcement actions against people dirtying public places while feeding wild birds. The Department has also installed internet protocol cameras and set up dedicated enforcement teams, primarily to step up enforcement actions against various public cleanliness offences, including dirtying public places while feeding wild birds, since mid-2017.

The Department does not have a separate breakdown for the manpower and expenditure for cleansing and enforcement work against dirtying public places while feeding wild birds.

- End -

**Number of complaints received and FPNs issued by the Department against people
dirtying public places while feeding wild birds**

District	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19 (as at 28.2.2019)	
	No. of Complaints	No. of FPNs issued	No. of Complaints	No. of FPNs issued	No. of Complaints	No. of FPNs issued	No. of Complaints	No. of FPNs issued
Central and Western	51	17	41	19	45	26	66	52
Wan Chai	35	9	37	10	61	15	49	41
Eastern	47	8	51	10	53	28	48	36
Southern	17	3	28	6	19	8	11	17
Islands	0	10	2	8	5	7	10	5
Yau Tsim Mong	28	9	30	14	53	8	54	37
Sham Shui Po	29	15	51	33	47	32	50	27
Kowloon City	28	3	12	3	28	7	47	12
Wong Tai Sin	4	3	9	1	11	0	7	17
Kwun Tong	16	0	22	1	20	0	15	5
Kwai Tsing	4	2	6	0	14	0	8	2
Tsuen Wan	3	0	2	0	5	1	4	1
Tuen Mun	4	3	5	1	6	9	7	8
Yuen Long	20	5	21	4	42	11	33	18
North	0	0	0	1	5	2	2	0
Tai Po	14	0	12	1	11	1	19	3
Sha Tin	8	1	20	8	23	21	9	34
Sai Kung	16	3	23	4	30	5	35	8
Total	324	91	372	124	478	181	474	323