

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)428**

**(Question Serial No. 3400)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified  
Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health  
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please give the reason(s) for the rising trend of the number of pest control surveys conducted, as well as the details and effectiveness of the relevant work in 2018. As it is estimated that the number will continue to increase in 2019-20, please also advise whether sufficient resources have been earmarked with relevant measures drawn up, including the deployment of manpower and allocation of resources; if yes, please give details of the work, manpower and estimated expenditure in this respect; if no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (LegCo internal reference no.: 73)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has been carrying out an increasing number of pest control surveys amid its efforts to strengthen vector surveillance to safeguard public health. In 2017 and 2018, there were 9 244 and 10 116 such surveys respectively. The increase was mainly attributed to (a) the strengthening of dengue vector surveillance in the community, whereby the number of survey locations has increased from 52 to 57 and the frequency of the surveillance from 1 week per month to 2 weeks per month since July 2018; and (b) the strengthening of dengue vector surveillance in ports, whereby the frequency of the surveillance has increased from 2 weeks per month to a weekly basis since July 2018. A total of 14 staff have been deployed for the implementation of the strengthened measures.

In 2019-20, the dengue vector surveillance programme will be further enhanced. The number of locations covered by the surveys will increase from 57 to 61. Rodent infestation surveys will also be enhanced by raising the number of survey locations from 41 to 50. Besides, dengue vector surveillance for port areas and rodent infestation survey have been extended to the 2 new ports (viz. the Express Rail Link Terminus and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge crossing facilities) since late 2018, and will be further extended to the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Control Point upon its operation expected in late 2019. Moreover, surveys in response to vector-borne diseases will be strengthened by shortening the time required for investigation. A total of 9 additional staff will be deployed for

implementing the strengthened measures. The revised estimated expenditure in 2018-19 and the estimated expenditure in 2019-20 in this respect is \$43.0 million and \$49.7 million respectively.

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