

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)112

(Question Serial No. 3112)

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:

Please advise on the following:

- (a) In relation to the abusive use of weapons laced with chemical irritants, such as tear gas rounds, water cannon vehicles and pepper sprays, by the Police since June 2019,
- (1) what is the additional frequency made for cleansing streets and public places?
 - (2) what is the additional manpower deployed?
 - (3) what are the additional protective gear and items provided to protect frontline staff and their quantities (the daily quantities per person)?
- (b) In the light of the Wuhan pneumonia outbreak since January 2020,
- (1) what is the additional frequency made for cleansing streets, public toilets and public places?
 - (2) what is the additional manpower deployed?
 - (3) what are the additional protective gear and items provided to protect frontline staff and their quantities (the daily quantities per person)?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is responsible for providing cleansing services for public places. The Department attaches great importance to the safety and occupational safety and health arrangements of staff (including in-house staff and those employed by outsourced contractors). The Department and public cleansing service contractors assess the risks of various working environment settings and take appropriate precautionary measures, which include providing employees with adequate and suitable protective gear and safety training.

- (a) Where the situation permits, the Department will provide street cleansing service as soon as large-scale public order events are concluded. Cleansing contractors will provide services in accordance with staffing requirement under service contracts as far as practicable having regard to the ground situation. In this light, the Department has

engaged outsourced contractors to enhance overnight cleansing service in 2019-20 (as at February), with an additional expenditure of about \$4 million. Cleansing workers will wear protective gear such as face masks, gloves, sleeves, aprons, non-slippery rubber boots, face shields or goggles, coveralls and caps/hats as appropriate. The Department does not keep statistics on the quantities of additional protective gear provided.

- (b) In view of the coronavirus disease 2019 epidemic, the Department has enhanced cleansing and disinfection of facilities under its management. Examples include cleansing and disinfection of public toilets every 2 hours with 1:99 diluted household bleach by toilet attendants on duty to maintain their cleanliness and hygiene, and enhanced street cleansing service for public places (including locations where littering or other public cleanliness offences are prevalent) as appropriate to ensure environmental hygiene. The Department has carried out disinfection for the residences of confirmed patients and enhanced cleansing and disinfection of public places in the vicinity of the buildings with confirmed cases as appropriate. According to operational needs, the Department has deployed in-house resources and those of service contractors to implement anti-epidemic measures. Cleansing workers will wear protective gear such as face masks, gloves, sleeves, aprons, non-slippery rubber boots, face shields or goggles, coveralls and caps/hats as appropriate. The Department does not keep statistics on the quantities of additional protective gear provided.

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