

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)122

(Question Serial No. 1896)

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:

In the light of the situation of novel coronavirus epidemic, it is imperative that the hygienic gear of cleansing workers be proper and sufficient to avoid infection in handling refuse and cleansing public toilets and streets. The estimated expenditure for the relevant services increases by about \$1,000 million this year, does it cover the purchase of face masks, gloves, goggles and protective clothing? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons? Will the Department consider regularising the expenditure for equipment and supplies of frontline cleansing workers for prevention and control of infectious diseases, including legionella bacteria and avian infectious virus?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department attaches great importance to the safety and occupational safety and health arrangements of staff (including in-house cleansing workers and those employed by outsourced contractors). The Department and public cleansing service contractors conduct risk assessment on various working environment settings and take appropriate precautionary measures, which include providing employees with adequate and suitable protective gear and safety training. 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 a separate breakdown on the expenditure in this respect.

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