

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)250

(Question Serial No. 3659)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

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:

With regard to combatting illegal deposit of refuse, please advise this Committee on:

- a. the number of complaints received against illegal deposit of refuse, with a breakdown by district in each of the past 3 years;
- b. the number of prosecutions instituted against illegal deposit of refuse in each of the past 3 years, as well as the maximum and minimum penalties imposed;
- c. the amount of illegally deposited refuse cleared in urban area and the expenditure involved;
- d. the expenditure and manpower for combatting illegal deposit of refuse in each of the past 3 years, as well as the number of inspections;
- e. the number of closed circuit television systems currently installed at blackspots for monitoring purpose, and the number of offenders successfully prosecuted; and
- f. the measures in place against illegal deposit of refuse.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 184)

Reply:

- a. The numbers of complaints about street cleansing received in 2017, 2018 and 2019 were 66 046, 62 834 and 69 423 respectively. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not keep a separate breakdown on cases of illegal deposit of refuse on streets.
- b. Under the Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation (Cap. 132 BK), any person depositing litter in a street or public place will be prosecuted and liable on conviction to a fine of up to \$25,000 and to imprisonment for 6 months. The same offence 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 Department issued 39 239, 43 360 and 41 911 FPNs as well as 224, 206 and 145 summonses in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively. The maximum and minimum penalties imposed were \$4,500 and \$200 respectively.

- c. The Department does not keep statistics on the amount of illegally deposited refuse cleared in urban area.
- d. Combatting illegal deposit of refuse is part of the normal duties of enforcement officers of the Department. The Department does not keep a separate breakdown of the expenditure and manpower as well as the number of inspections in this respect.
- e. The Department has so far installed Internet Protocol (IP) cameras at over 150 illegal refuse deposit spots across the territory. In 2019-20 (as at 29 February), the Department issued 559 summonses to owners of the vehicles used for illegal deposit of refuse based on the footage captured.
- f. Apart from installing IP cameras to combat illegal deposit of refuse, since mid-2017, the Department has set up 31 dedicated enforcement teams (DETs), primarily to step up enforcement action against various public cleanliness offences. Up to February 2020, DETs have issued some 18 000 FPNs, and the hygiene condition of some 400 illegal refuse deposit blackspots has been markedly improved. This year, the Department will set up 5 additional DETs to strengthen law enforcement, convey environmental hygiene messages and distribute leaflets and warning notices to arouse public awareness of maintaining street cleanliness and proper disposal of refuse. In consultation with respective District Councils, the Department has extended the opening hours of some targeted refuse collection points with additional manpower to meet local demand at midnight or in the early morning. This arrangement has brought about noticeable improvements in the hygiene condition.

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