

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)286

(Question Serial No. 3571)

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 relation to the clean-up exercise since June, please provide information on the following:

- (a) What was the number of complaints received by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department from June to 24 November 2019 with requests for clean-up of the so-called "Lennon Walls" in the territory? How many clean-ups have been completed by the Department? How many repeated clean-ups have been conducted? What was the number of obstructions encountered in the clean-ups? What were the manpower and expenditure involved?
- (b) What is the number of complaints received by the Department after 24 November 2019 with requests for clean-up of the "Lennon Walls" in the territory? How many clean-ups have been completed by the Department? How many repeated clean-ups have been conducted? What is the number of obstructions encountered in the clean-ups? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?
- (c) What is the additional expenditure incurred by the clean-up of the "Lennon Walls"?
- (d) With the "Lennon Walls" springing up in the community from time to time, will the Government step up efforts and adopt any strategy for the clean-up exercise? Please provide the details.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department closely monitors the display and affixation of bills in various districts. Joint operations are mounted by the Department in collaboration with relevant government departments to clean up bills affixed without permission in public places on government land, while individual departments are responsible for cleaning up the same at venues under their purview. As at 29 February 2020, some 950 joint operations have been conducted at 295 locations across the territory to clean up bills displayed or affixed without permission.

The number of complaints against bills affixed without permission in public places on government land received by the Department and the number of obstructions encountered in our clean-ups between June 2019 and February 2020 are tabulated as follows:

	No. of complaints against bills affixed without permission	No. of joint operations	No. of operations cancelled due to conflicts with the public or safety consideration
June to 24 November 2019	7 644	298	26
25 November 2019 to 29 February 2020	1 955	652	0

The Department does not maintain the information on the number of repeated clean-ups against unauthorised display or affixation of bills and the breakdown of manpower and expenditure involved. Outsourced contractors have been engaged to enhance mid-night cleansing service, including clean-ups of bills displayed or affixed without permission, in 2019-20 (as at February 2020). The additional expenditure involved was about \$4 million.

The Department has reinforced joint operations to progressively clean up bills affixed without permission in public places on government land. The exercise will continue as long as the ground situation permits and it is safe to do so. We will strive for early completion of the exercise.

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