

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)079

(Question Serial No. 1951)

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 Diane WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to combatting illegal deposit of refuse over the territory, please advise this Committee of:

1. the number of complaints received against illegal deposit of refuse, with a breakdown by district in each of the past 3 years;
2. 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;
3. the top 10 locations of illegal deposit of refuse in the 18 districts over the territory;
4. the blackspots currently installed with closed-circuit television (CCTV) for monitoring purpose, and the number of offenders successfully prosecuted;
5. further to the above question, the installation cost of each CCTV; and
6. the new measures in place against illegal deposit of refuse.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 62)

Reply:

1. The numbers of complaints about street cleansing received in 2018, 2019 and 2020 were 62 834, 69 423 and 54 516 respectively. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not keep a separate breakdown on cases of illegal deposit of refuse on streets.
2. Under the Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation (Cap. 132 BK), any person depositing litter on street or public place will be prosecuted. The offender is liable on conviction to a fine of up to \$25,000 and imprisonment for 6 months. The same offences 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. In 2018, 2019 and 2020, the Department issued 43 360, 41 911 and 41 737 FPNs, and 206, 145 and 181 summonses respectively. The maximum and minimum penalties imposed were \$3,000 and \$100 respectively.

- 3.&4. So far, Internet Protocol (IP) cameras have been installed at about 240 illegal refuse deposit spots across the territory. For the installation locations of IP cameras in various districts, please visit the Department's website. The Department has not listed such locations in any order of priority.
(www.fehd.gov.hk/english/pleasant_environment/cleansing/list_of_ipcam.pdf)
In 2020-21 (as at 28 February), the Department issued 1 821 summonses to owners of the vehicles used for illegal deposits of refuse based on the footage captured.
5. The estimated expenditure for the scheme on installation of IP cameras in 2021-22 is about \$16 million, which includes the costs of services related to the installation, operation, maintenance and repair of the IP cameras. The Department does not keep a separate breakdown on the installation cost of individual IP camera.
6. To combat illegal deposit of refuse, installation of IP cameras aside, the Department has set up 35 dedicated enforcement teams (DETs), primarily to step up enforcement action against various public cleanliness offences since mid-2017. Up to 28 February 2021, DETs have issued some 36 000 FPNs, and the hygiene condition of some 570 illegal dumping blackspots was markedly improved. The Department will set up 5 additional DETs in the second quarter of 2021 to strengthen law enforcement, and also convey health messages, distribute leaflets and warning notices to arouse public awareness of maintaining street cleanliness and the proper way for disposal of refuse. In addition, the Department has, with the consent of respective District Councils, extended the opening hours of some targeted refuse collection points with additional manpower provided to meet local demand at midnight or in the early morning. This arrangement has brought about noticeable improvements in the hygiene condition of the locations concerned.

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