

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)141

(Question Serial No. 2540)

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 Diane WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What work has been taken forward by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to enhance community environmental hygiene (such as cleansing places with confirmed cases) since 2019 in the light of the COVID-19 epidemic? Have additional manpower and expenditure been incurred for the work? If yes, what were the specific figures for each of the past 2 financial years?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

The main efforts of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department under the COVID-19 epidemic include:

- (a) cleansing and disinfecting the residences of confirmed patients as well as enhancing the sweeping and washing of public places in the vicinity, and providing daily household refuse collection service for home confinees (households of confinees) upon request during their quarantine period;
- (b) carrying out inspections of and enforcement against catering premises as well as the scheduled premises and facilities under the purview of the Department pursuant to the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599) and its subsidiary legislation;
- (c) providing refuse collection, street washing and toilet cleansing services in public places within specified "restricted areas", and liaising with stakeholders;
- (d) strengthening street cleansing and refuse collection services in public places, which include enhanced cleansing of locations where littering and other public cleanliness offences are prevalent, pest control in public places, as well as inspections and enforcement against cleanliness offences;

- (e) stepping up cleansing, disinfection and pest control services for facilities under the Department's management, which include public markets, cooked food centres, hawker bazaars, public toilets and refuse collection points; and
- (f) commissioning a contractor to provide COVID-19 testing service for those working in catering premises, markets, Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse and cold stores as well as hawkers.

In the past 2 financial years, the Department deployed in-house resources and resources of its service contractors based on operational needs for anti-epidemic efforts against COVID-19. The additional manpower and expenditure incurred were absorbed by the overall financial provision for the Department and the Anti-epidemic Fund.

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