

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)022**

**(Question Serial No. 0806)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Rodent infestation is one of the serious environmental hygiene problems in the Hong Kong community. In this connection,

1. please set out (a) the number of poison treatments of rodent infestation and the number of rodent trappings in private residential buildings; (b) the number of dead rodents collected, the number of live rodents caught and the number of rat holes filled; (c) the number of rodent infestation complaints received, the number of rodent control surveys conducted and their results; and (d) the Rodent Infestation Rate recorded in the 18 districts in the territory, in the past 3 years.
2. please provide the details of pest control work, including: (a) the total expenditure; (b) the civil service staffing and staff cost; and (c) the total number of outsourced workers, in the past 3 years and in the coming year.
3. how many anti-rodent operations were conducted in designated target areas in the past 3 years and how effective was each operation?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1a-c. The number of poison treatments of rodent infestation conducted in building blocks, the number of rodent trappings used, the number of dead rodents collected, the number of live rodents caught, the number of rat holes filled and the number of rodent infestation complaints received by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Number of poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks	98 322	100 101	109 685

<b>Item</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Number of rodent trappings	68 490	81 830	86 164
Number of dead rodents collected	30 259	31 988	33 336
Number of live rodents caught	23 727	28 872	33 846
Number of rat holes filled	12 963	12 347	17 840
Number of rodent infestation complaints received	11 329	10 331	11 102

1d. The Rodent Infestation Rates of the 18 districts are tabulated as follows:

<b>District</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Central and Western	1.6%	2.2%	2.2%
Eastern	3.2%	7.4%	4.2%
Southern	2.2%	3.0%	2.1%
Wan Chai	11.7%	1.8%	5.5%
Kowloon City	6.2%	4.4%	3.8%
Kwun Tong	9.1%	4.5%	0.0%
Wong Tai Sin	4.9%	1.2%	4.9%
Sham Shui Po	5.3%	2.4%	5.2%
Yau Tsim Mong	6.0% (Yau Tsim)	7.4% (Yau Tsim)	8.7% (Yau Tsim)
	3.0% (Mong Kok)	3.0% (Mong Kok)	3.4% (Mong Kok)
Sha Tin	3.4%	6.0%	1.5%
Tai Po	4.5%	6.4%	3.6%
North	1.6%	2.5%	2.2%
Kwai Tsing	4.6%	3.2%	2.5%
Tsuen Wan	5.2%	5.6%	4.6%
Tuen Mun	1.7%	2.0%	2.2%
Yuen Long	4.8%	3.0%	2.3%
Sai Kung	2.3%	1.5%	3.7%
Islands	5.3%	1.4%	0.5%
Whole territory	4.2%	3.6%	3.1%

2. The information sought is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Overall expenditure on pest control services<sup>Note 1</sup> (\$ million)</b>	<b>Government staff expenditure for pest control work (\$ million)</b>
2019-20	663	268
2020-21	726	273
2021-22 (Revised estimate)	731	275
2022-23 (Estimated expenditure)	751	277

Note 1: The overall expenditure on pest control services includes government staff expenditure, expenditure on service contracts in the year and other day-to-day operating expenses in this regard.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Civil service staffing for pest control work</b>	<b>Total number of staff employed by pest control service contractors</b>
2019	727	1 968
2020	740	2 178
2021	745	2 232
2022	745	2 208

3. In the past 3 years, the Department launched 8-week anti-rodent operations in designated target areas across the territory twice a year. The relevant statistics of the major measures, including elimination of food sources and hiding places of rodents as well as blocking their passages, are as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Number of poison treatments of rodent infestation	16 637	15 808	15 678
Number of rodent trappings	38 274	34 982	48 955
Number of rat holes filled	799	443	856
Number of dead rodents collected	1 817	1 226	1 407
Number of live rodents caught	1 573	1 121	1 700

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