

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)024**

**(Question Serial No. 0187)**

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 (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is stated that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will try out dedicated contracts to enhance public toilet cleansing. Please advise on the difference between the approach of dedicated contracts and the current practice, the expected benefits and assessment indicators, as well as the impact on the Department's expenditure.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

At present, the public toilet cleansing service of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is generally included in its street cleansing services contracts and undertaken by street cleansing contractors serving respective contract areas. A new approach of dedicated contracts will be tried out in one of the districts upon renewal of its street cleansing services contract in the fourth quarter of 2022. Public toilet management service will be taken out from the current street cleansing services contract and procured separately under a dedicated contract. Provisions requiring toilet attendants to have undergone relevant vocational training with recognised qualifications will be added to the new contract with a view to upgrading service standard.

The approach of dedicated contracts for providing public toilet cleansing service will attract small and medium enterprises with expertise in toilet cleaning and management but insufficient capital to undertake the whole street cleansing services contract to join the service. The introduction of new players will promote competition and inspire public toilet service with new ideas. Thus, higher contract management efficiency can be achieved and more accurate management data can be obtained for further service enhancement. As preparation work is still underway, specific expenditure is not yet available. It is expected that there will only be minimal impact on the overall expenditure of the Department.

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