

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1814)

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 Environment and Ecology

Question:

With regard to pest control, please advise this Committee of the following:

- i) Under the estimated expenditure for 2023-24, what are the specific initiatives for rodent control? What are the expenditure and staffing involved?
- ii) It is mentioned as a key performance measure in paragraph 4 of the Brief Description of the Programme that the target for reducing the number of priority rodent blackspots is 50%. According to the current statistics of the Government, how many priority rodent blackspots are there in the territory and what are their locations?
- iii) What are the details of new rodent control technologies and tools used by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference: 4)

Reply:

- i) In order to effectively deal with the rodent infestation problem, a cross-sectional, interdisciplinary and public participation approach, as well as the joint efforts of all concerned departments, are required. To further enhance the effectiveness of rodent control, the Environment and Ecology Bureau launched the Cross-sectoral Territory-wide Anti-rodent Action (the Action) on 28 December 2022 to encourage different sectors in the community (including the pest control trade, property management companies, operators of market and hawker stalls, the catering industry as well as the construction industry) and members of the public to collaborate with the Government in anti-rodent work and enhance public awareness of rodent control.

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) takes a proactive role in the Action. Apart from continuing to step up the routine rodent control work, FEHD also studies and tries out new rodent prevention and control strategies to enhance the effectiveness of its anti-rodent work, and keeps on providing support and advice on

rodent control to the relevant departments and industries. Specifically, the rodent prevention and control measures to be adopted by FEHD in 2023-24 include:

- (a) continuing with the night rodent operations in all districts to enhance the effectiveness in capturing rodents;
- (b) continuing to use new technologies, tools and baits, including wider application of T-shaped bait boxes at suitable locations, piloting the use of alcohol rodent trapping device in more public markets and refuse collection points and introducing glue traps to some public markets and indoor facilities with more serious rodent infestation, as additional rodent control methods;
- (c) engaging 3 contractors to carry out a three-month project to assess the rodent infestation, draw up anti-rodent strategies and carry out anti-rodent work in Shek Tong Tsui Market in Central and Western District, Shui Wo Street Market in Kwun Tong and Heung Che Street Market in Tsuen Wan respectively, with a goal to bring in the latest and most effective anti-rodent strategies and methods;
- (d) extending the current trial scheme in phases after review to allow more food premises to place large-size waste containers in rear lanes and requiring such premises to strengthen rodent control, so as to improve the environmental hygiene and tackle the rodent problem in rear lanes;
- (e) stepping up public education and publicity and reminding the public of the importance of rodent control, including organising the School Cleaning Video Production Competition in collaboration with the Education Bureau to further enhance students' awareness of environmental cleanliness and strengthen their understanding of rodent control;
- (f) continuing to arrange health talks for building managers of private buildings, persons-in-charge of food premises, operators of market and hawker stalls, etc. to provide them with information and technical advice on rodent prevention and control; and
- (g) exploring ways to improve the existing methodology of rodent surveillance and conducting trials on the use of thermal imaging cameras with artificial intelligence function for detecting rodent activities at individual survey locations. The aim is to assess the feasibility of formulating a more representative new Rodent Infestation Rate (RIR) to progressively replace the existing RIR, so as to better reflect the rodent infestation situation of the survey locations and facilitate the planning of anti-rodent operations at blackspots.

In addition, strategic anti-rodent operations are being conducted against over 100 priority rodent blackspots. More resources are deployed to improve the rodent infestation situations in these areas in a comprehensive and sustainable manner, striving to achieve the indicator set in the 2022 Policy Address, that is, to reduce the number of priority rodent blackspots at least by half by end-2023.

745 in-house staff and 2 175 staff engaged by the contractors provide pest control services, including rodent and mosquito control services. In 2023-24, the total estimated expenditure on pest control services is \$797 million.

- ii) There are 108 priority rodent blackspots over the territory, including rodent blackspots released by the District Matters Co-ordination Task Force and those identified by FEHD based on the number of complaints received, views from the local community and observation of staff during routine inspections, etc. The relevant information is provided at **Annex 1**.
- iii) The new methods and technologies tried out by FEHD in the past 3 years (2020-21 to 2022-23), their effectiveness and the expenditure involved are provided at **Annex 2**.

Priority Rodent Blackspots

| District | Location |
|---------------------|---|
| Central and Western | Rear lane of 2-10 Second Street |
| | Side lane of 352-366 Des Voeux Road West |
| | Rear lane of 370-392 Des Voeux Road West |
| | Rear lane of 22-44 Whitty Street |
| | Rear lane of 10-20 Whitty Street |
| Wan Chai | Rear lane of 54-68 Electric Road |
| | Rear lane of 74-92 Electric Road and rear lane of 2-20 Tsing Fung Street |
| | Rear lane of 68 Hing Fat Street |
| | Rear lane of 1-23 Tsing Fung Street |
| | Rear lane of 26-28 Yat Sin Street, Wan Chai |
| | 3 Lau Sin Street and Lau Sin Street Temporary Sitting-out Area, Wan Chai |
| | Refuse collection point at Mercury Street |
| Eastern | Rear lane of 188-210 Shau Kei Wan Road |
| | Rear lane of 212-232 Shau Kei Wan Road |
| | Rear lane of 240-262 Shau Kei Wan Road |
| Southern | Rear lane of 1-23 Tung Sing Road |
| | Rear lane of 12-26 Wu Pak Street |
| | 96-118 Ap Lei Chau Main Street and side lane of 102 Ap Lei Chau Main Street |
| Islands | Rear lane between 60 and 62 Pak She Street |
| | Rear lane between 21 and 23 Chung Hing Street |
| | Refuse collection point near the public toilet at Yung Shue Wan Main Street |
| | Slope between 3 and 4 Yung Shue Wan Main Street |
| Yau Tsim Mong | Rear lane of 8-88 Wai Ching Street |
| | Rear lane of 501-589 Canton Road |
| | Rear lane of 29-39F Battery Street |
| | Rear lane of 11-27 Battery Street |
| | Rear lane of 139-171 Tung Choi Street |
| | Rear lane of 56-86 Tung Choi Street |
| | Rear lane of 100-102 Fa Yuen Street |
| | Rear lane of 26-60 Sai Yeung Choi Street South |
| | Rear lane of 26-50 Tung Choi Street |
| | Rear lane of 60-72 Fa Yuen Street |
| Sham Shui Po | Rear lane of 253-277 Shun Ning Road |
| | Rear lane of 277A-283 Shun Ning Road |
| | Rear lane of 323-431 Shun Ning Road |
| | Rear lane of 237-255 Castle Peak Road |
| | Rear lane of 261-303 Castle Peak Road |
| | Rear lane of 305-339 Castle Peak Road |
| | Rear lane of 131-165 Un Chau Street |
| | 186-220 Apliu Street |

| District | Location |
|-----------------|--|
| | 253-275 Tai Nan Street |
| | 362-396 Lai Chi Kok Road |
| Kowloon City | Rear lane of 2-44 Pau Chung Street |
| | Rear lane of 56-68 Kowloon City Road |
| | Rear lane of 34-56 Kowloon City Road |
| | Rear lane of 10-32 Kowloon City Road |
| | Side lane of 2-4 Mok Cheong Street |
| | 28-50 Tam Kung Road |
| | 46-82 Pau Chung Street |
| | 356-432 Ma Tau Wai Road |
| | 70-72 Kai Tak Road |
| | 62-68A Kai Tak Road |
| Wong Tai Sin | Rear lane of 50-98 Tseuk Luk Street |
| | Rear lane of 26-52 Yan Oi Street |
| | Rear lane of 63-89 Shung Ling Street |
| | Rear lane of 9 Ning Yuen Street |
| | Rear lane of 1-35 Kam Wing Street |
| | Tai Shing Street Market |
| Kwun Tong | Rear lane of 15-43 Tung Ming Street |
| | Rear lane of 9-27 Yee On Street (Yau Lee Building) |
| | Side lane of 7 and 9 Yee On Street |
| | Rear lane of 305-351 Ngau Tau Kok Road |
| | Public places in the vicinity of Wan Hon Street/Hip Wo Street Rest Garden (Wan Hon Street and Hip Wo Street) |
| | Public places in the vicinity of Kai Yip Estate (Kai Lok Street and Wang Chiu Road) |
| | Public places in the vicinity of On Tai Estate (On Yan Street and On Sau Road) |
| | 70 Hong Ning Road as well as 2 and 4 Shung Yan Street |
| Kwai Tsing | Side lane of 35-43 Texaco Road (Tak Tai Building) |
| | Rear lane of 5-17 Tai Ha Street |
| | Tak Tai Path, Kwai Chung |
| | Ping Lai Path, Kwai Chung |
| | Ping Fu Path, Kwai Chung |
| Tsuen Wan | Rear lane of 8-24 Lo Tak Court |
| | Rear lane of 24-38 Hau Tei Square |
| | Rear lane of 25-33 Chung On Street |
| | Rear lane of 55-89 Chuen Lung Street and rear lane of 237-253 Sha Tsui Road |
| | Rear lane of 74-86 Chung On Street and rear lane of 271-289 Sha Tsui Road |
| | Refuse collection point at Sham Tseng |
| | Rear lanes of 53, 54, 55 and 63, 62, 61, 60 Sham Tseng Village |
| | Yi Pei Square, Sam Pei Square and Chuen Lung Street |
| Tuen Mun | Rear lane of 16-40, Yan Ching Street |
| | Rear lane of 7 Kai Fat Path |
| | Rear lane of 3 and 49 Kai Man Path |

| District | Location |
|-----------------|---|
| | Rear lane of 1-11 San Tsing Street |
| Yuen Long | Rear lane of 81-91 Yuen Long On Ning Road (between Man Yip Building and Shung Tak Building) |
| | Rear lane of 18-36 Fook Tak Street (from On Ding Lau to Hung Wan Building) |
| | Rear lane of 41-75 Castle Peak Road - Yuen Long, Yuen Long |
| | Rear lane of 98-124 Castle Peak Road - Yuen Long, Yuen Long (between BOC Yuen Long Commercial Centre and Tung Yik Building) |
| | Rear lane of 2-36 Tai Pei Tau Path |
| | Public places in the vicinity of Tai Kiu Market, Yuen Long |
| | 11 Tai Tong Road to 34 Fau Tsoi Street |
| | 59A-59B Yuen Long On Ning Road |
| | 8-42 Kau Yuk Road |
| North | Rear lane of 1-27 San Cheung Street |
| | Rear lane of 2-24 San Hong Street |
| | Rear lane of 2-28 San Lok Street |
| | Rear lane of 87-119 San Fung Avenue |
| Tai Po | Rear lane of 1-51 Fu Shin Street |
| | Rear lane of 2-74 Fu Shin Street |
| Sha Tin | Rear lane near the refuse collection point at Fu Kin Street |
| | Pavement between Hin King Street and the public car park at Fu Kin Street |
| | Rear lane of House No. 150 and 157, Ha Keng Hau Village |
| | Keng Hau Lane |
| | Rear lane of House No. 143 and 150, Sheung Keng Hau Village |
| | Rear lane of House No. 52A and 81, Sheung Keng Hau Village |
| Sai Kung | Rear lane of 50-76 Po Tung Road |
| | Rear lane of 22-32 Man Nin Street |
| | Rear lane of 14-28 Wan King Path |
| | Rear lane of 23E Tak Lung Back Street |

**New methods/technologies used by FEHD for rodent control
and the expenditure involved**

| Rodent control method/technology | Effectiveness | Expenditure | | |
|---|---|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 |
| New design snap trap | The new design snap trap was tested in 5 districts and 6 markets between January and June 2020. Test results showed that it was effective in catching rodents. FEHD has introduced the use of the new design snap trap in its regular anti-rodent work. | About \$3,000 | No breakdown is available | No breakdown is available |
| Thermal imaging camera surveillance system | FEHD conducted trials on thermal imaging cameras with artificial intelligence analytical function in 2020 and found it effective in facilitating objective assessment of rodent infestation situation. The equipment is widely employed currently. | About \$3.96 million | About \$2.39 million | About \$3.89 million |
| Placing poisonous baits in a T-shaped bait box | The bait box was tested between October and November 2020. Test results showed that the T-shaped bait box was more effective than ordinary rectangular bait boxes in attracting rodents to enter and consume the baits. The | About \$20,000 | - | About \$580,000 |

| Rodent control method/technology | Effectiveness | Expenditure | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------|---------|-----------------|
| | | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 |
| | equipment is widely employed currently. | | | |
| Alcohol rodent trapping device | FEHD has conducted trials progressively on alcohol rodent trapping devices in public markets and refuse collection points since October 2022. The initial results are positive. FEHD will consider the introduction of alcohol rodent trapping devices in other suitable places under its management. | - | - | About \$380,000 |
| Glue trap | FEHD has tried out the application of glue traps in public markets with more serious rodent infestation as an additional measure for rodent disinfestation since November 2022. The initial results are positive. Further trials of the equipment are being conducted in 11 markets. | - | - | About \$630,000 |

- End -