

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)071

(Question Serial No. 1845)

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 Environment and Ecology

Question:

In the Estimates, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has set an indicator for mosquito breeding places eliminated. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the number of mosquito breeding places eliminated by the Department in each of the past 3 years (by District Council district);
2. the complaint figures of mosquito and biting midge infestation in different districts in the past 3 years (by District Council district);
3. the total frequency of Area Gravidtrap Index exceeding 20% for two months or more in each of the past 3 years;
4. the number of mosquito trapping devices set up by the Department in each of the past 3 years, the number of new mosquito trapping devices among them, as well as the costs of production or procurement for both types of devices;
5. the number of biting midge trapping devices set up by the Department in each of the past 3 years, and the cost of production or procurement for each device; and
6. the number of Pest Control Inspection Teams set up by the Department in the past 3 years and the total expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1. The number of mosquito breeding places eliminated by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in each of the past 3 years (by District Council district) is provided at **Annex 1**.
2. The numbers of complaints on mosquito and biting midge infestation received by FEHD in the past 3 years (by District Council district) are provided at **Annex 2**.

3. The frequency of Area Gravidtrap Index for *Aedes albopictus* (AGI) exceeding 20% for two months or more is tabulated as follows:

	2020	2021	2022
Frequency of AGI exceeding 20% for two months or more	5	5	11

4. FEHD has fully adopted the use of new mosquito trapping devices (MTDs) for mosquito control since 2020. The numbers of new MTDs procured by FEHD in the past 3 years are 1 000, 700 and 700 respectively. The procurement price of each new device is around HK\$150. Besides, the pest control service contractors will use new MTDs to provide mosquito control services under the relevant contracts.
5. Biting midges are not important vectors of human diseases. FEHD has neither conducted regular biting midge surveillance nor set up biting midge trapping devices. The infestation of biting midges is seasonal and localised. Biting midge activities usually occur in scrubby areas with lots of decaying vegetation in the humid and warmer months each year. Generally, FEHD will monitor the infestation of biting midges in public places through channels such as regular inspection by frontline staff and handling of complaints. When necessary, FEHD will enhance its environmental control work, such as clearing refuse, fallen leaves and other choking matter in sand-traps and surface drainage channels, to reduce the breeding grounds of biting midges. Routine anti-mosquito work including fogging and environmental improvement measures also help in the control of biting midges. In addition, FEHD will provide other relevant departments (e.g. Leisure and Cultural Services Department) with technical advice on measures against biting midges in venues under their management.
6. The number of Pest Control Inspection Teams under FEHD was maintained at 4 in the past 3 years. FEHD does not keep a breakdown of the expenditure for the teams.

Number of mosquito breeding places eliminated by FEHD

District	2020	2021	2022
Central and Western	2 123	2 083	2 068
Wan Chai	1 831	3 418	5 342
Eastern	1 646	1 680	1 695
Southern	1 494	1 633	1 893
Islands	4 654	4 690	4 776
Yau Tsim Mong	2 160	2 658	2 850
Sham Shui Po	2 943	3 015	2 718
Kowloon City	2 661	2 460	2 781
Wong Tai Sin	1 497	1 211	856
Kwun Tong	1 014	1 216	787
Kwai Tsing	2 430	3 029	2 473
Tsuen Wan	4 024	3 765	3 468
Tuen Mun	2 276	2 260	2 415
Yuen Long	11 193	10 542	11 180
North	5 283	5 010	4 457
Tai Po	3 793	3 911	3 822
Sha Tin	9 912	10 355	10 098
Sai Kung	8 837	9 076	8 573
Whole territory	69 771	72 012	72 252

Numbers of complaints on mosquito and biting midge infestation received by FEHD

District	2020		2021		2022	
	Mosquito infestation	Biting midge infestation	Mosquito infestation	Biting midge infestation	Mosquito infestation	Biting midge infestation
Central and Western	312	4	311	4	231	1
Wan Chai	239	1	282	1	233	8
Eastern	231	0	311	1	236	2
Southern	127	0	198	0	103	1
Islands	359	1	325	0	269	0
Yau Tsim Mong	279	1	330	12	235	11
Sham Shui Po	340	0	175	0	153	0
Kowloon City	269	0	233	1	108	0
Wong Tai Sin	88	7	89	2	64	2
Kwun Tong	142	0	150	0	132	2
Kwai Tsing	194	8	293	0	412	0
Tsuen Wan	158	9	251	6	191	12
Tuen Mun	314	2	367	12	263	3
Yuen Long	686	0	993	6	867	0
North	311	17	369	2	248	5
Tai Po	478	0	353	2	396	0
Sha Tin	371	2	331	21	288	14
Sai Kung	527	4	495	19	391	3
Whole territory	5 425	56	5 856	89	4 820	64

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