

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)072

(Question Serial No. 1412)

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:

It is mentioned in the Programme that the work of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department includes abating environmental nuisances relating to dripping air-conditioners and water seepage and cleaning up illegal refuse deposit blackspots. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. How many complaints on environmental nuisances relating to water seepage were received from 2020 to 2022? What were the respective numbers of cases identified as requiring investigation, cases which involved deployment of staff (in-house staff or outsourced workers) to the premises for investigation, and cases with investigation concluded?
2. For the cases with investigation concluded from 2020 to 2022, what were the respective numbers of cases with source of water seepage identified, cases with source of water seepage not identified and investigation terminated, cases with seepage ceased during investigation, Nuisance Notices issued under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap.132), Nuisance Orders issued by the court, as well as cases with prosecution instituted?
3. For the cases with investigation concluded from 2020 to 2022, what were the respective numbers of cases that were referred to the Buildings Department (BD) for follow-up in accordance with the Buildings Ordinance (BO), cases where advisory letters were issued by BD under BO, as well as cases where building repair orders, building investigation orders or drainage repair orders under BO were issued to the owners concerned?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hok-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

- 1&2. Statistics on the handling of water seepage cases in buildings by the Joint Offices for Investigation of Water Seepage Complaints (JO) of the Food and Environmental

Hygiene Department and the Buildings Department (BD) in the past 3 years are as follows:

Number of cases	2020	2021	2022
Cases received	39 166	43 233	39 555
Total number of cases handled ¹	35 397	36 262	38 275
(a) Cases screened out ^{1, 2}	21 345	21 813	24 170
(b) Total number of cases with investigation concluded ¹	14 052	14 449	14 105
(i) Cases with source of water seepage identified	6 746	6 000	5 186
(ii) Cases with source of water seepage not identified and investigation terminated	3 403	4 467	4 384
(iii) Cases with seepage ceased during investigation	3 903	3 982	4 535
Nuisance Notices issued ¹ under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap.132)	5 926	5 281	4 587
Cases with prosecution instituted ^{1, 3}	225	216	146
Nuisance Orders issued by the Court ¹	72	100	60

Note 1: The number of cases does not necessarily correspond to the number of cases received in the same year. Some of them are received before that year.

Note 2: JO has prescribed standards and requirements for the investigation of water seepage in buildings. Some cases will be screened out if the moisture content is below 35%, the seepage originates from the property owned by the complainant, the nature of the case does not involve water seepage in buildings or the complainant has withdrawn the complaint.

Note 3: Including prosecution cases for non-compliance with Nuisance Notices and Nuisance Orders.

3. If the water seepage problem poses a risk to building safety or relates to defective drainage of a building, JO will refer the case to BD, which will take corresponding follow-up actions under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123). JO does not compile statistics on the number of cases referred to BD among the completed cases, and BD does not compile statistics on the number of cases referred by JO which resulted in the issue of advisory letters, building repair orders/investigation orders or drainage repair orders.

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