

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)083**

**(Question Serial No. 1989)**

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:

Given that the Department will step up enforcement and prosecution actions for street cleansing, collection and clearance work, please advise this Committee of:

1. the numbers of prosecutions initiated and fixed penalties notices (FPNs) issued against illegal street occupation or obstruction caused by accumulation of junk in the past year;
2. the numbers of inspections and related enforcement actions (including initiating prosecutions and issuing FPNs) at obstruction blackspots in the past year; and
3. whether key performance indicators will be set for reviewing the effectiveness of the work; if yes, the details; if no, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

1. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) initiated 5 800 prosecutions and issued 15 788 fixed penalty notices (FPNs) against shop front extensions (SFEs) in 2022.
2. The District Matters Co-ordination Task Force led by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration launched the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots in August 2022. The aim is to tackle over 600 hygiene blackspots over the territory, 29 of which involve illegal occupation or obstruction of streets by goods and miscellaneous articles. Since October 2022, FEHD and the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) have progressively mounted vigorous joint operations of enforcement against SFEs in various districts. Between October and December 2022, over 380 joint operations were mounted by FEHD and the Police to enforce against SFE blackspots in various districts across the territory. 1 480 FPNs and 235 summonses were issued to shops for obstruction of public places, unlicensed hawking and cleanliness offences; 389 tonnes of abandoned articles were removed and 2 552 kilograms of goods were seized. 18 persons in connection with the shops were arrested for alleged unlicensed hawking

and causing obstruction in public places, and 858 kilograms of their goods were confiscated. The Police also issued 201 warning notices requiring owners to remove their goods or articles within a certain deadline, 74 of which were not observed. FEHD subsequently removed about 7 380 kilograms of the goods or articles involved.

3. Last year, the Task Force announced under the Programme over 600 hygiene blackspots in various districts, 29 of which involved illegal occupation or obstruction of streets by goods and miscellaneous articles. Performance indicators were set in the 2022 Policy Address, which included the removal of at least 75% of the above blackspots by the end of 2023.

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