

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)133

(Question Serial No. 0892)

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:

1. In 2022, 113 083 poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks were conducted, and 78 148 rodent trappings were used. Please advise this Committee of the overall statistics on the number of rodents killed or caught in the year.
2. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has been criticised for using almost \$10,000 to catch a rodent. Have statistics been compiled on the average cost for handling a rodent in 2022?
3. Please set out the numbers of prosecutions instituted, fixed penalty notices issued and warnings given in all enforcement actions related to environmental hygiene (including unlicensed and unhygienic food premises, street cleansing, hawkers and shop front extensions, etc.) in 2022.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. In 2022, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department collected 31 810 dead rodents and caught 45 422 live rodents.
2. In 2022-23, the overall revised estimated expenditure of the Department on pest control in public places and facilities under its purview was \$796 million. The expenditure covered not only rodent prevention and control but also the prevention and control work of mosquitoes and other arthropod pests with public health importance. Besides, the Department's work on rodent prevention and control is not limited to "rodent disinfection" only. Such work also includes measures to prevent rodent breeding (such as filling of rodent holes, installation of rodent guards, removal of rubbish and junk, etc.), daily inspections, law enforcement, technical support for different departments/organisations, publicity and education, as well as follow-ups to complaints. Therefore, it is difficult to calculate the average cost of catching or collecting a rodent.

3. The numbers of law enforcement actions taken against irregularities related to environmental hygiene (including unlicensed and unhygienic food premises, street fouling, pest infestation, unlicensed hawking, shop front extensions, etc.) in 2022 are tabulated as follows:

Number of prosecutions	Number of fixed penalty notices	Number of verbal warnings	Number of warning letters
17 026	62 300	30 973	299

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