

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)146

(Question Serial No. 0958)

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:

A number of residents in Wan Chai District have relayed to me that the anti-rodent operations conducted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department mainly focus on public markets, municipal services buildings, hawker bazaars, typhoon shelters and rear lanes, while the serious rodent infestation in the densely-populated commercial/residential areas in Causeway Bay, including Paterson Street, Lee Garden Road, Kingston Street and Kai Chiu Road, seems to have been neglected. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) What are the staffing and expenditure involved in the pest control work in Wan Chai District?
- (2) Please set out the number of rodent control surveys conducted, the number of poison treatments of rodent infestation, the number of rodent trappings, the number of dead rodents collected and the number of live rodents caught in Wan Chai District in the past 2 financial years.
- (3) Has the Department assessed the rodent infestation rates in the above places? If yes, what are the details? What follow-up actions will be taken in the new financial year? If no, will the problem be assessed and followed up as soon as possible?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

- (1) In 2022, about 60 in-house staff and 75 staff engaged by outsourced service contractors were tasked with pest control work by the Wan Chai District Environmental Hygiene Office of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. In 2022-23, the overall revised estimated expenditure of the Department on pest control services was \$796 million. The Department does not keep a separate breakdown of the expenditure on pest control services for an individual District Environmental Hygiene Office.

- (2) The number of pest control surveys conducted, the number of poison treatments of rodent infestation conducted in building blocks, the number of rodent trappings used, the number of dead rodents collected and the number of live rodents caught by the Department in Wan Chai District in the past 2 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Wan Chai District				
	Number of pest control surveys	Number of poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks	Number of rodent trappings	Number of dead rodents collected	Number of live rodents caught
2021	170	13 056	4 045	1 532	2 920
2022	473	12 864	4 066	1 402	2 915

- (3) The Rodent Infestation Rate (RIR) recorded in Wan Chai District in 2022 was 2.7%. The survey location of the Rodent Infestation Survey (RIS) in Wan Chai District is Lockhart Road, covering mainly the rear lanes between Canal Road West and Fenwick Street as well as those between Johnston Road and Gloucester Road. Although the Department does not conduct RIS in Paterson Street, Lee Garden Road, Kingston Street and Kai Chiu Road at present, these areas are covered by both territory-wide and district anti-rodent operations in a regular manner. The Department will review the coverage of the RIS every year and make timely adjustments having regard to urban development and the views of the local community. Noting the limitations of the RIR currently in use, the Department is 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 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.

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