

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)150

(Question Serial No. 0104)

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:

With regard to enforcement against littering, please advise this Committee of:

1. the number of fixed penalty notices issued against littering by the enforcement departments in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by age and gender;
2. whether the Department will strengthen the training and support for frontline enforcement officers to practise safe and effective enforcement in view of the Government's proposal of raising the fixed penalty for littering to \$3,000; if yes, the details; if no, the reason(s);
3. whether the Department will clarify the acts and definition of littering in order to avoid members of the public from breaking the law inadvertently; if yes, the details; if no, the reason(s); and
4. whether the Department will introduce multiple penalties, including making it a mandatory requirement for littering offenders to clean public areas and take lessons; if yes, the details; if no, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon YANG Wing-kit (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

1. In the past 3 years, the enforcement departments (including the Hong Kong Police Force, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), the Housing Department and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department) issued 42 348, 46 437 and 42 285 fixed penalty notices (FPNs) respectively against littering. The numbers of cases, with a breakdown by age and gender, are tabulated below:

Year	2020		2021		2022	
Age	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
< 18	90	190	67	150	65	142
18 – 24	1 010	2 647	896	2 574	586	1 898
25 – 34	2 453	7 259	2 258	7 587	1 760	6 281
35 – 44	2 906	7 546	2 959	8 236	2 396	7 159
45 – 54	2 255	6 940	2 318	8 100	2 169	7 478
55 - 64	1 052	5 199	1 061	6 556	1 121	6 742
65 - 74	333	2 051	394	2 743	427	3 338
75 - 84	56	322	63	405	74	579
> 85	11	28	18	52	12	58
Sub-total	10 166	32 182	10 034	36 403	8 610	33 675
Total	42 348		46 437		42 285	

2. As the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570) has been in force for many years, the enforcement officers of FEHD have gained substantial experience in the enforcement work, including the ways to explain the relevant laws to the public, as well as the requirements and procedures for issuing FPNs. FEHD has also drawn up guidelines and provided training for its frontline staff to make them well-prepared for enforcement duties. As far as personal equipment is concerned, FEHD has provided the Hawker Control Teams with digital cameras and video recorders and also upgraded the radio communications system and apparatus to facilitate their collection of evidence and requests for support when necessary. To better protect the safety of Hawker Control Officers, FEHD will equip them with body-worn video cameras progressively according to the actual needs starting from 2023-24.
3. FEHD is committed to raising public awareness of environmental hygiene by enhancing public education and publicity through channels such as Facebook and Instagram pages of “Keep Clean Ambassador Ah Tak”, broadcast of Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio, display of posters at main public transport facilities, such as mass transit railway stations, bus stops, etc., to disseminate the message of keeping Hong Kong clean, including ways to handle refuse properly. The Health Education Exhibition and Resource Centre of FEHD at Kowloon Park in Tsim Sha Tsui organises various activities for the public, schools as well as centres and homes for the elderly, and releases videos and useful information on maintaining environmental hygiene. Its publicity vehicle also makes visits to schools, housing estates and public parks to strengthen outreaching publicity and mobile education.
4. Apart from enforcement actions, the Government also takes proactive efforts in promoting civic education. They complement each other to encourage the public to maintain a tidy, clean and hygienic environment. FEHD will pay close heed to the actual circumstances after raising the fixed penalty, and make timely adjustments to the enforcement and public education strategies and their specific work.

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