

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)047**

**(Question Serial No. 2997)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health  
(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:

There is a net decrease of 38 posts under Programme (1) and a net decrease of 60 posts under Programme (2) in 2024-25. Please set out the reason(s) for the significant reduction of posts, the posts to be deleted and the savings in total expenditure achieved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

In order to maintain the sustainability of our public finances, the Government has strictly controlled the civil service establishment since 2021-22. The Government will continue to implement this initiative, and maintain the target of zero-growth in the civil service establishment in 2024-25, with the aim of containing the establishment at a level not exceeding that as at end-March 2021. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has enhanced effectiveness and efficiency through re-prioritisation, internal redeployment and streamlining of work processes, so that various new policies and initiatives of the Government can be taken forward. In addition, there are time-limited posts deleted every year upon expiry of the duration for which the posts are created or upon completion of the jobs concerned. Posts which no longer have operational needs would also be deleted by the Department after review of the departmental civil service establishment.

In 2024-25, the Department plans to create 21 posts and delete 119 posts under Programmes (1) and (2), resulting in a net decrease of 98 posts. The information on the 119 posts planned to be deleted is as follows:

Grade	Number of posts to be deleted	Total annual salary involved
Health Inspector	22	\$48.4 million
Executive Officer	10	
Clerical Officer	4	

Grade	Number of posts to be deleted	Total annual salary involved
Analyst/Programmer	3	
Workman II	80	
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	

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