

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)049

(Question Serial No. 2468)

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:

Regarding the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots launched across the territory, please advise this Committee of:

- (1) the total number of complaints against illegal deposit of refuse received in each district since the implementation of the programme;
- (2) the number of prosecutions instituted by the Government against the act of illegal deposit of refuse upon the amendment of the Fixed Penalty Ordinance;
- (3) whether the problem of illegal deposit of refuse has been improved, and whether the relevant key performance indicator (KPI) set by the Government has been met since the implementation of the programme and the associated measures;
- (4) the current total number of closed circuit television (CCTV) systems in place for monitoring hygiene blackspots; the proportion of the number of successful prosecutions made by tracing the relevant footages in the total number of prosecutions; and
- (5) further to the above question, whether more CCTV systems will be installed in the coming year to combat illegal deposit of refuse; if yes, the targets and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

- (1) Since the launch of the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots in August 2022, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has received a total of 6 215 complaints against illegal deposit of refuse in various districts across the territory.
- (2) The amended Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570) (the Ordinance) came into effect on 22 October 2023. Under the Ordinance, the levels of fixed penalties for depositing of litter or waste, and illegal disposal of construction waste or a large amount of other waste in public places are raised to \$3,000 and \$6,000 respectively. According to records, a total of 7 211 fixed penalty notices (FPNs) and 14 summonses were issued for the above offences from 22 October 2023 to 31 January 2024.

- (3) In 2023, the Department conducted over 20 000 special cleansing operations in 244 hygiene blackspots (including those with the problem of illegal deposit of refuse) under its purview. More than 90% of the blackspots were removed, meeting the indicator of removing at least 75% of environmental hygiene blackspots by end-2023 as set in the 2022 Policy Address.
- (4) and (5) At present, about 440 illegal refuse deposit blackspots in various districts across the territory have been installed with Internet Protocol (IP) cameras for the Department to institute prosecutions or plan more effective enforcement actions through analyses of the information obtained from the video footages. In 2023, 4 623 FPNs and 886 summonses were issued to offenders based on the information from the video footages of the IP cameras. While more than 50% (467) of the cases were successfully convicted, some of the cases are still pending the court's hearing. In 2024-25, the estimated expenditure for the installation and operation of IP cameras is about \$8 million. The Department will continue to review the situation of illegal refuse deposit blackspots in various districts and deploy resources effectively to tackle the issue having regard to the actual needs and circumstances.

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