

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)057**

**(Question Serial No. 0648)**

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:

Regarding pest control services,

- I. please set out the number of staff and the expenditure involved in the provision of pest control services by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in the past 3 years.
- II. please set out the details of the service items provided by the pest control service contractors engaged by the Department and the number of staff employed by the contractors in the past 3 years.
- III. does the Department set any specific targets or KPI for outsourced pest control services? Will the Department take into account the effectiveness and overall performance of a contractor (e.g. the number of complaints or warnings received) when considering its contract renewal?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

I.&II. The manpower involved in the pest control work, including rodent and mosquito prevention and control, of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in the past 3 years is provided as follows:

Year	Civil service staffing		Total number of staff employed by pest control service contractors
	Planning and implementation of pest control work in districts	Vector surveillance, technical support and advisory work	
2021	745	109	2 232
2022	745	109	2 199
2023	745	109	2 352

In the past 3 financial years (2021-22 to 2023-24), the overall expenditure of the Department on pest control were \$762 million, \$786 million and \$808 million (revised estimate) respectively.

As stipulated in the outsourced pest control service contracts of the Department, services that the contractors are required to provide include prevention and control of mosquitoes, rodents and other arthropod pests with medical importance, such as eliminating potential mosquito breeding places, conducting fogging operations to eradicate adult mosquitoes at suitable locations, trapping rodents, placing poisonous baits to eradicate rodents, filling rat holes, clearing refuse and junk as well as removing wasp/wild bee nests at the common parts of the buildings which have not engaged property management companies.

- III. The Department is committed to enhancing the management mechanism for outsourced contractors so as to monitor the performance of its contractors, including the pest control service contractors. Pest control service contractors are required to provide services according to the provisions of the contracts. Performance standards of the contractors are clearly stipulated in the contracts. Staff of the Department will monitor the contractors' compliance with the contract provisions in service delivery in accordance with the operational manual for management of contracts and by means of site inspections, surprise checks, examination of job records, etc. In the event of any irregularities, defaults or non-compliance with contract provisions in the delivery of services, the Department will take follow-up actions, including the issuance of verbal warnings, written warnings and default notices coupled with deduction of monthly payments. Such performance records will also have a bearing on the tenderers' future bidding for the Department's outsourced service contracts.

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