

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)082**

**(Question Serial No. 2088)**

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:

In Programme (2), it is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to take stringent enforcement actions against unlicensed food premises and food premises which pose immediate health hazards or with illegal extension of food business areas. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- 1) the number and nature of cases of irregularities detected, the types of premises involved, the districts concerned, as well as the number of prosecutions instituted in each of the past 3 years (2021-22 to 2023-24); and
- 2) the number of repeated offenders among the persons prosecuted in the non-compliant cases in each of the past 3 years (2021-22 to 2023-24)?

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

- 1) The number of prosecutions instituted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for operating unlicensed food business and the number of prosecutions for illegal extension of food business areas and obstruction in public places in the past 3 years are provided at Annexes I to II respectively. No closure order against food premises posing immediate health hazards was made during the period. The Department does not keep a breakdown of the numbers of prosecutions instituted for illegal extension of food business areas/ obstruction in public places by type of premises.
- 2) The numbers of cases of repeated contraventions (i.e. cases in which the persons prosecuted had previously committed the same offences) among the prosecutions instituted in the past 3 years (2021 to 2023) were 3 849, 3 313 and 3 589 respectively.

**Number of prosecutions for operating unlicensed food business (by district)**

<b>District</b>	<b>Year</b>		
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Central and Western	138	170	210
Wan Chai	149	155	200
Eastern	268	159	229
Southern	190	57	66
Islands	23	12	20
Yau Tsim	222	182	209
Mong Kok	317	191	130
Sham Shui Po	219	293	241
Kowloon City	186	136	204
Wong Tai Sin	218	190	223
Kwun Tong	384	344	243
Kwai Tsing	334	304	234
Tsuen Wan	231	239	229
Tuen Mun	256	187	173
Yuen Long	482	306	233
North	187	200	216
Tai Po	181	121	121
Sha Tin	398	378	227
Sai Kung	215	151	153
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 598</b>	<b>3 775</b>	<b>3 561</b>

**Number of prosecutions for operating unlicensed food business in 2021**  
**(by type of premises\*)**

<b>District</b> \ <b>Type of premises</b>	<b>Restaurant</b>	<b>Food Factory<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>Factory Canteen</b>	<b>Siu Mei and Lo Mei Shop</b>	<b>Fresh Provision Shop</b>	<b>Cold Store</b>
Central and Western	79	38	0	0	21	0
Wan Chai	103	36	0	1	9	0
Eastern	83	78	0	12	95	0
Southern	73	85	0	0	32	0
Islands	15	8	0	0	0	0
Yau Tsim	161	46	0	1	14	0
Mong Kok	159	98	0	6	54	0
Sham Shui Po	78	83	0	14	44	0
Kowloon City	68	62	0	8	48	0
Wong Tai Sin	80	60	0	14	64	0
Kwun Tong	174	125	0	23	62	0
Kwai Tsing	93	153	3	12	73	0
Tsuen Wan	81	86	0	2	62	0
Tuen Mun	77	101	0	20	58	0
Yuen Long	201	153	0	17	108	3
North	73	54	1	8	42	9
Tai Po	39	51	0	13	78	0
Sha Tin	138	131	1	26	102	0
Sai Kung	71	91	0	40	13	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 846</b>	<b>1 539</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>12</b>

\*Note: The types of premises against which prosecutions were instituted for operating unlicensed food business in the past 3 years are tabulated.

<sup>^</sup>Note: Food factory includes bakery.

**Number of prosecutions for operating unlicensed food business in 2022**  
**(by type of premises\*)**

<b>District</b> \ <b>Type of premises</b>	<b>Restaurant</b>	<b>Food Factory<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>Factory Canteen</b>	<b>Siu Mei and Lo Mei Shop</b>	<b>Fresh Provision Shop</b>	<b>Cold Store</b>
Central and Western	106	57	0	0	7	0
Wan Chai	107	24	0	4	20	0
Eastern	50	50	0	10	49	0
Southern	26	23	0	2	6	0
Islands	8	4	0	0	0	0
Yau Tsim	127	49	0	1	5	0
Mong Kok	77	70	0	11	33	0
Sham Shui Po	108	95	0	12	78	0
Kowloon City	72	44	0	1	19	0
Wong Tai Sin	87	64	0	12	27	0
Kwun Tong	184	87	0	27	46	0
Kwai Tsing	56	143	1	25	75	4
Tsuen Wan	56	89	0	0	91	3
Tuen Mun	75	53	1	10	48	0
Yuen Long	86	108	0	20	91	1
North	58	47	4	8	77	6
Tai Po	37	23	0	4	57	0
Sha Tin	101	127	0	14	135	1
Sai Kung	51	51	0	17	32	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 472</b>	<b>1 208</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>15</b>

\*Note: The types of premises against which prosecutions were instituted for operating unlicensed food business in the past 3 years are tabulated.

<sup>^</sup>Note: Food factory includes bakery.

**Number of prosecutions for operating unlicensed food business in 2023**  
**(by type of premises\*)**

<b>District \ Type of premises</b>	<b>Restaurant</b>	<b>Food Factory<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>Factory Canteen</b>	<b>Siu Mei and Lo Mei Shop</b>	<b>Fresh Provision Shop</b>	<b>Cold Store</b>
Central and Western	98	107	0	0	5	0
Wan Chai	132	34	0	7	27	0
Eastern	49	54	1	7	118	0
Southern	22	25	0	10	9	0
Islands	7	10	1	1	1	0
Yau Tsim	158	50	0	0	1	0
Mong Kok	68	43	1	4	14	0
Sham Shui Po	134	53	0	3	51	0
Kowloon City	95	67	0	2	40	0
Wong Tai Sin	117	36	0	23	44	3
Kwun Tong	143	73	0	14	13	0
Kwai Tsing	39	106	0	24	61	4
Tsuen Wan	92	70	0	7	54	6
Tuen Mun	67	59	1	9	37	0
Yuen Long	146	43	0	5	37	2
North	90	23	0	4	98	1
Tai Po	42	35	0	2	42	0
Sha Tin	81	42	0	3	99	2
Sai Kung	37	47	0	16	53	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 617</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>18</b>

\*Note: The types of premises against which prosecutions were instituted for operating unlicensed food business in the past 3 years are tabulated.

<sup>^</sup>Note: Food factory includes bakery.

**Number of prosecutions instituted for illegal extension of food business areas /  
obstruction in public places<sup>#</sup>**

<b>Year</b>			
<b>District</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Central and Western	24	15	16
Wan Chai	63	71	43
Eastern	129	90	81
Southern	27	25	4
Islands	26	27	35
Yau Tsim	73	73	319
Mong Kok	156	139	99
Sham Shui Po	187	159	221
Kowloon City	28	50	45
Wong Tai Sin	92	72	76
Kwun Tong	82	53	35
Kwai Tsing	39	84	93
Tsuen Wan	163	167	423
Tuen Mun	298	418	301
Yuen Long	243	198	210
North	42	47	91
Tai Po	82	89	86
Sha Tin	50	81	70
Sai Kung	107	126	106
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 911</b>	<b>1 984</b>	<b>2 354</b>

#Note: The Department does not keep a breakdown by type of premises involved.

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