

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)084**

**(Question Serial No. 3057)**

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:

The Fixed Penalty Ordinance newly amended by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department came into effect on 22 October 2023 to raise the maximum fixed penalty levels for acts such as littering in public places and shop front extension (SFE). Moreover, the waste charging scheme which will take effect from August this year will involve environmental hygiene and related services under the purview of the Department. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- (1) the number of inspections conducted, the number of fixed penalty tickets issued and the total amount of fixed penalties involved in respect of the Department's operations against acts spoiling the cityscape, such as littering and SFE, since the commencement of the newly amended Fixed Penalty Ordinance; and
- (2) the estimated amount of additional staffing resources to be provided by the Department for handling cleansing services, as well as the enforcement and prosecution work in view of the waste charging scheme to be implemented in August this year.

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

- (1) The amended Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570) (the Ordinance) came into effect on 22 October 2023. From 22 October 2023 to 31 January 2024, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department issued 7 205 fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for littering and 353 FPNs for shop front extension, involving penalties of about \$22 million and \$2.1 million respectively. Conducting inspections on the environmental hygiene of public places is part of the routine duties of the staff of the Department. It does not maintain a breakdown of the number of inspections.
- (2) To cope with the problem of refuse disposal that may arise from the implementation of waste charging, the Department will strengthen refuse collection services and law enforcement through flexible deployment of resources according to actual needs. On refuse collection services, reference can be made to the arrangements for the enhanced version of the year-end clean-up campaign conducted between January and February 2024, during which over 200 additional temporary junk collection points were set up in

various districts. Cleaning as well as refuse and bulky waste collection services at the refuse collection points in all districts were also enhanced. The measure of extending the opening hours of some refuse collection points will be maintained in 2024 to facilitate proper disposal of refuse by the public. Besides, having regard to the actual situations of illegal disposal of domestic waste and refuse in public places near “three-nil” buildings in various districts, the Department will consider providing additional large-size waste containers in the vicinity progressively as an interim measure to assist members of the public in need.

On the enforcement front, the Department will adopt a multi-pronged approach to enhance enforcement efficiency. For instance, dedicated teams in plain clothes are deployed to take enforcement actions; Internet Protocol cameras are installed at illegal refuse deposit blackspots, so as to institute prosecutions or plan more effective enforcement actions through analyses of the information obtained from the video footages. In 2024-25, there will be a total of 272 members in 55 dedicated enforcement teams, an increase of about 5% over 260 members in 52 teams in 2023-24. The dedicated teams will be flexibly deployed to different districts for inspections and enforcement actions. Besides, the foremen in the Cleansing Sections, and Hawker Control Teams will also take enforcement actions against illegal dumping when performing their routine duties.

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