

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)116

(Question Serial No. 0038)

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:

During 2024-25, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to support the Task Force on District Governance led by the Deputy Chief Secretary to eliminate the remaining environmental hygiene blackspots, strengthen street cleansing, refuse collection and clearance work, as well as step up related enforcement and prosecution. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the number of civil servants, the number of staff of cleansing contractors, and the respective expenditure; and
2. the number of members of the public prosecuted each month since the increase of fixed penalty for public cleanliness from \$1,500 to \$3,000 on 22 October 2023, and how the situation compares with that prior to the increase.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

1. In 2024-25, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will continue to support the Task Force on District Governance led by the Deputy Chief Secretary to eliminate the remaining environmental hygiene blackspots under its purview and enhance the related cleansing services through appropriate deployment of resources and manpower. FEHD does not maintain a breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.
2. The amended Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570) came into effect on 22 October 2023. Under the Ordinance, the level of fixed penalty for depositing of litter or waste, spitting, displaying bills or posters without permission in public places, and fouling of street by dog faeces is raised to \$3,000. According to records, a total of 8 155 fixed penalty notices (FPNs) were issued against the above offences from 22 October 2023 to 31 January 2024, representing a decrease of around 40% as compared with the 13 786 FPNs issued during the same period in the previous year. The number of FPNs issued in each month during the above period is as follows:

Period	Number of FPNs issued	
	2022-23	2023-24
22-31 October	1 069	129
November	4 549	2 509
December	4 340	2 601
January	3 828	2 916
Total	13 786	8 155

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