

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 1222)

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:

With the implementation of the waste charging scheme in August 2024, it is anticipated that the problem of littering will become increasingly serious. As the installation of closed circuit television (CCTV) systems at refuse blackspots helps monitor littering, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will allocate resources to explore and apply new technology and automation to enhance environmental hygiene services. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the number of additional CCTV surveillance systems to be provided for the implementation of the waste charging scheme and the details of the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department spares no effort in combating illegal dumping and maintaining environmental hygiene. With a view to enhancing enforcement efficiency, resources are deployed flexibly according to actual circumstances and enforcement actions are taken in a multi-pronged approach, which includes arranging dedicated teams in plain clothes to take enforcement actions and installing Internet Protocol (IP) cameras at illegal refuse deposit blackspots so that prosecutions can be instituted or more effective enforcement actions can be planned through analysis of the information from the video footages. The Department has installed IP cameras at about 440 illegal refuse deposit blackspots across the territory and the estimated expenditure in 2024-25 is about \$8 million. The Department will continue to review the situation of illegal refuse deposit blackspots in various districts, including the problem of refuse disposal that may arise from the implementation of waste charging, and will deploy resources effectively to tackle the issue having regard to the actual needs and circumstances.

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