

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)123****(Question Serial No. 0493)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Ms Irene YOUNG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department caught a total of around 63 300 live rodents in its anti-rodent operations in 2023, which is about 40% more than the 45 400 live rodents caught in 2022. If both live and dead rodents are considered, about 97 800 rodents were caught in 2023, which is about 30% more than the 77 200 rodents caught in 2022. It is mentioned in the Programme that the Department will continue to implement and trial new measures to enhance the effectiveness of its rodent control work. In this connection,

1. please set out the expenditure on government staff, outsourced service contracts and other day-to-day operations for pest control services in each of the past 3 years as well as the estimated expenditure for 2024-25; and
2. has the Department assessed the effectiveness of the anti-rodent expenditure on the elimination of rodent infestation in the past 2 years?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)Reply:

1. The expenditure involved in pest control work, including rodent and mosquito prevention and control, of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is as follows:

Year	Overall expenditure on pest control services^{Note 1} (\$ million)	Government staff costs for pest control work (\$ million)	Expenditure on pest control service contracts (\$ million)
2021-22	762	275	413
2022-23	786	286	457
2023-24 (Revised estimate)	808	291	439
2024-25 (Estimate)	875	297	503

Note 1: The overall expenditure on pest control services includes the expenditure on government staff, service contracts in the year and other day-to-day operating expenses.

2. The Department has put in place a series of targeted rodent prevention and control measures in the past 2 years (2022 to 2023) and the results are positive. In 2022 and 2023, a total of around 108 800 live rodents were caught, an increase of 70% from that (around 62 700) in the preceding two-year period (2020 and 2021).

Strategic anti-rodent operations were conducted at a total of 108 priority rodent blackspots in all districts in 2023 and around 60% of them (70 in total) were eliminated, achieving the key performance indicator of reducing the number of priority rodent blackspots at least by half as set in the 2022 Policy Address.

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