

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)154****(Question Serial No. 3495)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (3) Market Management and Hawker ControlControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Ms Irene YOUNG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

It is stated under the Policy Measures of the Policy Address that the Government will develop clean public markets by improving the hygiene of these markets and cooked food centres through, inter alia, enhancing cleansing services and stepping up enforcement against shopfront extension. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- What is the expenditure on enhancing cleansing services in the past 3 years?
- What is the number of enforcement actions taken against shopfront extension in the past 3 years?
- How would the Government comment on the effectiveness of the work to develop clean public markets by improving the hygiene of these markets and cooked food centres?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 66)Reply:

- The overall expenditure of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) on public markets in the past 3 financial years is tabulated as follows:

Financial year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Overall expenditure (\$ billion)	1.069	1.080	1.052 (Revised estimate)

FEHD has deployed existing resources to improve the cleansing services in public markets. It does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure.

- The number of enforcement actions against unauthorised obstruction of passageways in public markets in the past 3 years is set out at **Annex**.
- FEHD is implementing various measures to further improve the environment of public markets. These include fostering clean public markets and improving the hygiene of markets and cooked food markets. In addition to routine inspections, FEHD arranges surprise inspections and enforcement actions where necessary to ensure that market stall

tenants (including stall tenants of cooked food markets) are in compliance with the tenancy terms and legal requirements during market operations. Since the third quarter of 2023, FEHD has stepped up the enforcement actions against unauthorised obstruction of passageways by public market stall tenants in phases. The first phase of work focused on handling serious cases of irregularities, including occupation of the adjacent stall which is vacant or the common areas in the market which are far away from the tenant's own stall, obstruction to the normal use of barrier-free facilities and other public facilities, and cases which undermine fire safety.

Moreover, FEHD and the Architectural Services Department are expediting the toilet enhancement projects in public markets or cooked food markets. The target is to commence the enhancement projects for 17 and 21 sets of toilets (each set of toilets includes male toilets, female toilets and accessible unisex toilets) in 26 public markets or cooked food markets in 2024-25 and 2025-26 respectively. Furthermore, FEHD has gradually enhanced the cleansing work in various markets since last year, requiring the cleansing contractors of each market to increase the cleansing frequency, including clearing the refuse and stagnant water in passageways, and further stepping up the cleansing of market toilets.

The enforcement actions and other enhancement measures have borne fruits in a gradual manner, and cases of irregularities have significantly reduced. The passageways in markets are again free of obstruction, and the overall environment has become cleaner.

**Number of enforcement actions against unauthorised obstruction of
passageways in public markets in 2021**

Month	Number of prosecutions	Number of verbal warnings	Number of warning letters
January	116	61	2
February	81	54	15
March	108	57	6
April	102	70	4
May	93	66	4
June	124	97	5
July	91	56	12
August	99	41	5
September	167	73	15
October	83	49	5
November	100	36	9
December	95	33	3
Total	1 259	693	85

**Number of enforcement actions against unauthorised obstruction of
passageways in public markets in 2022**

Month	Number of prosecutions	Number of verbal warnings	Number of warning letters
January	102	60	10
February	39	19	3
March	49	32	2
April	109	64	12
May	131	47	7
June	111	38	17
July	105	34	17
August	117	43	7
September	91	81	10
October	95	82	8
November	97	51	6
December	77	42	11
Total	1 123	593	110

**Number of enforcement actions against unauthorised obstruction of
passageways in public markets in 2023**

Month	Number of prosecutions	Number of verbal warnings	Number of warning letters
January	103	72	9
February	75	50	17
March	121	40	10
April	115	45	7
May	84	42	3
June	77	42	5
July	113	37	0
August	51	45	2
September	81	79	8
October	64	66	12
November	42	74	10
December	40	42	8
Total	966	634	91

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