

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)157

(Question Serial No. 3498)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

With regard to the enforcement against shop front extension (SFE), please advise this Committee of:

- (a) the respective numbers of prosecutions initiated and fixed penalty notices issued by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department against SFE in the past 3 years;
- (b) the number of complaints against SFE received by the Department in each of the past 3 years;
- (c) the average numbers of inspections and enforcement actions against SFE blackspots in each month during the past year; and
- (d) the expenditures and staff establishments of the Hawkers Sections and Cleansing Sections of the Department.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 69)

Reply:

- (a) The respective numbers of prosecutions initiated and fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) against shop front extension (SFE) in the past 3 years (2021-2023) are tabulated as follows:

	2021	2022	2023
Number of prosecutions ^{Note}	3 705	5 800	3 070
Number of FPNs	14 766	15 788	7 713

Note: Including prosecutions with summonses served and arrests instituted.

- (b) The numbers of complaints against SFE received by FEHD in the past 3 years (2021 to 2023) were 23 510, 24 201 and 18 649 respectively.
- (c) In 2023, FEHD and the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) mounted over 1 610 joint enforcement operations against SFE blackspots in various districts across the territory. 2 524 FPNs and 519 summonses were issued to shops for obstruction of public places,

unlicensed hawking and cleanliness offences; about 1 035 tonnes of abandoned articles were removed and about 1 389 kilograms of goods were seized. 34 persons in connection with the shops were arrested for alleged unlicensed hawking and obstruction in public places, and about 2 005 kilograms of their goods were confiscated. The Police also issued 407 warning notices requiring owners to remove their goods or articles within a certain deadline, 91 of which were not observed. FEHD subsequently removed about 18.5 tonnes of the goods or articles involved. FEHD does not maintain a breakdown of the number of inspections against SFE blackspots.

- (d) The revised estimates of the overall expenditures and staff establishments of the Hawkers Sections and Cleansing Sections of FEHD in the 2023-24 financial year are as follows:

Hawkers Sections		Cleansing Sections	
Overall expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment Note 1	Overall expenditure (\$ million)	Staff establishment Note 2
1,281	2 572	5,177	3 165

Note 1: Including staff from the Health Inspector and Hawker Control Officer grades as well as Workmen I and II

Note 2: Including staff from the Health Inspector, Foreman and Ganger grades as well as Workmen I and II

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