

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

FHB(FE)004

Question Serial No.

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

0027

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

The recurrent expenditure per tonne of refuse collected increased by \$24 from \$162 in 2007 to \$186 in 2008, representing an actual increase of nearly 15%. The estimated expenditure for 2009 will further increase by \$6 per tonne. What are the reasons for the increase? Are there any studies on measures to control costs in the long term?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

Waste collection service is provided by both in-house staff and contractors. The increase in recurrent expenditure is mainly attributable to civil service pay adjustments in the last two years, rising service contract prices and decrease in tonnage of refuse collected.

For service delivered by in-house staff, the department monitors changes in the refuse yield, reviews service demand and adjusts resource requirements to ensure cost-effectiveness.

Service delivered by contractors are procured by contract through open competitive bidding. Since there are sufficient service providers in the market, and the service requirements including the amount of refuse to be collected are

information available to all tenderers, the contract price should fairly reflect the market price for the service.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ W H CHEUK

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 12.3.2009