

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)059**

**(Question Serial No. 0283)**

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 (Donald NG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the law enforcement work against dripping air-conditioners,

1. please set out the number of complaints received, the investigation work, the Nuisance Notices issued, as well as the number of prosecutions and convictions in relation to dripping air-conditioners in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by District Council district; and
2. what were the staff establishment, actual manpower and relevant expenditure for handling the related law enforcement work in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. A breakdown of the information by the 18 District Council districts is provided in Annex.
2. Under the staff establishment of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in each of the past 3 years (2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25), 337 Health Inspectors are deployed to 19 District Environmental Hygiene Offices (DEHOs) across the territory. They undertake various environmental hygiene duties, including handling complaints against dripping from air-conditioners. The nuisances caused by dripping air-conditioners happen mainly in summer. To cope with the substantial increase in workload during that period of time, the Department has recruited contract staff and set up dedicated teams since 2017 to step up inspection, advising and education, and has taken law enforcement actions targeting buildings where the problem of dripping air-conditioners is serious. The number of contract staff and the salary costs for the teams are as follows:

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (Revised estimate)
Number of contract staff	29	29	39
Salary costs (\$ million)	12.25	10.07 <sup>Note 1</sup>	11.01 <sup>Note 1</sup>

Note 1: Salary costs decreased since contract posts were vacant on an occasional basis.

Number of complaints received,  
number of verbal warnings, advisory letters and Nuisance Notices issued,  
number of applications for Nuisance Orders made to the court, as well as  
number of prosecutions and convictions instituted in relation to dripping air-conditioners  
by DEHOs in the 18 District Council districts

District	2022						
	Number of complaints received	Number of verbal warnings issued	Number of advisory letters issued	Number of Nuisance Notices issued Note 1	Number of applications for Nuisance Orders made to the court	Number of prosecutions Note 2	Number of convictions Note 3
Central and Western	1 196	0	479	201	1	2	3
Wan Chai	1 289	496	855	231	0	0	1
Eastern	3 062	7	696	202	0	0	3
Southern	1 004	0	0	14	0	0	0
Islands	189	0	22	0	0	0	0
Yau Tsim Mong	2 520	103	249	1 000	0	4	9
Sham Shui Po	1 707	620	847	354	0	56	31
Kowloon City	1 565	742	945	63	0	0	0
Wong Tai Sin	826	0	881	10	0	0	0
Kwun Tong	1 851	787	911	289	0	0	0
Kwai Tsing	810	12	409	32	0	0	0
Tsuen Wan	1 730	877	799	200	0	5	0
Tuen Mun	1 750	84	718	10	0	0	0
Yuen Long	1 820	28	938	48	0	0	0
North	762	65	113	6	0	0	1
Tai Po	663	78	365	9	0	0	0
Sha Tin	2 283	153	1 231	16	0	0	0
Sai Kung	862	6	194	17	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25 889</b>	<b>4 058</b>	<b>10 652</b>	<b>2 702</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>48</b>

Note 1: If the source of air-conditioner dripping is identified, a Nuisance Notice will be issued under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) to require the responsible person to abate the nuisance within a specified period.

Note 2: Prosecution action will be taken if a Nuisance Notice goes unheeded.

Note 3: Including certain cases against which prosecution was instituted before that year.

District	2023						
	Number of complaints received	Number of verbal warnings issued	Number of advisory letters issued	Number of Nuisance Notices issued Note 1	Number of applications for Nuisance Orders made to the court	Number of prosecutions Note 2	Number of convictions Note 3
Central and Western	1 672	0	782	144	0	0	0
Wan Chai	1 577	145	1 001	148	0	0	0
Eastern	3 475	57	810	420	0	4	0
Southern	1 051	384	348	22	0	0	0
Islands	207	28	27	2	0	0	0
Yau Tsim Mong	3 344	255	1 093	1 316	0	15	10
Sham Shui Po	2 091	670	852	296	0	41	40
Kowloon City	2 110	2 237	1 140	86	0	0	1
Wong Tai Sin	1 126	1	443	29	0	0	0
Kwun Tong	2 417	13	90	49	0	0	0
Kwai Tsing	934	1	445	22	0	1	2
Tsuen Wan	1 838	1 099	918	356	0	24	8
Tuen Mun	1 924	0	614	17	0	0	0
Yuen Long	2 186	1	1 448	36	0	0	0
North	1 000	14	186	36	0	0	0
Tai Po	803	187	504	28	0	0	0
Sha Tin	2 474	235	1 110	14	0	1	0
Sai Kung	906	0	230	11	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>31 135</b>	<b>5 327</b>	<b>12 041</b>	<b>3 032</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>61</b>

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Note 3: Including certain cases against which prosecution was instituted before that year.

District	2024						
	Number of complaints received	Number of verbal warnings issued	Number of advisory letters issued	Number of Nuisance Notices issued Note 1	Number of applications for Nuisance Orders made to the court	Number of prosecutions Note 2	Number of convictions Note 3
Central and Western	2 083	0	995	797	0	0	4
Wan Chai	1 797	1	1 045	180	0	0	0
Eastern	3 758	162	1 626	717	0	4	4
Southern	1 074	0	450	54	0	0	0
Islands	305	43	102	5	0	1	1
Yau Tsim Mong	3 663	154	1 215	2 506	0	19	23
Sham Shui Po	2 726	872	1 206	738	0	8	44
Kowloon City	1 853	989	923	104	0	0	0
Wong Tai Sin	1 435	10	260	35	0	0	0
Kwun Tong	2 738	166	498	313	0	0	0
Kwai Tsing	1 027	0	675	27	0	0	0
Tsuen Wan	2 145	836	546	460	0	19	20
Tuen Mun	2 073	0	667	46	0	0	0
Yuen Long	2 503	105	1 110	483	0	0	0
North	1 058	0	263	54	0	0	0
Tai Po	844	238	546	65	0	0	0
Sha Tin	2 704	926	1 508	37	0	1	0
Sai Kung	956	6	509	15	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>34 742</b>	<b>4 508</b>	<b>14 144</b>	<b>6 636</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>96</b>

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Note 2: Prosecution action will be taken if a Nuisance Notice goes unheeded.

Note 3: Including certain cases against which prosecution was instituted before that year.

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