

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)113

(Question Serial No. 0227)

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:

The work of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department involves providing efficient and effective public cleansing services, including street cleansing. Please advise this Committee of:

1. the respective manpower and expenditures involved in street sweeping and street washing in various districts across the territory in each of the past 3 years;
2. whether guidelines and requirements have been formulated for the specific operation of street washing; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons; and
3. whether the frequency of street washing will be reduced in response to weather changes such as on days after raining, so as to reduce government expenditure; if no, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

1. The overall expenditures of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department on street cleansing services (including the expenditures on street sweeping and street washing services) in 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 were about \$4.2664 billion, \$4.2304 billion and \$4.3458 billion (revised estimate) respectively. The numbers of cleansing workers provided by the Department and its contractors for street cleansing services in 2022, 2023 and 2024 were about 9 660, 9 760 and 9 790 respectively. The Department does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure and number of workers involved in street sweeping and street cleansing.
- 2&3. In general, street washing services in public places are provided by in-house staff of the Department or street cleansing contractors. The Department has drawn up specific operational guidelines for the services concerned.

For in-house staff, guidelines have been provided, setting out the main duties of the staff, the planning of street washing routes and work programmes, and the requirement for submission of daily work reports. As for street cleansing contractors, service requirements are incorporated in the tender documents. The contractors have to provide services in accordance with the relevant requirements and work programmes.

Supervisory staff of the Department will monitor the performance of in-house staff and contractors according to the established mechanism to ensure that the required standards are met.

Amid inclement weather, district management staff of the Department will suspend street washing services under the established mechanism and deploy the street washing teams to carry out other tasks so as to ensure optimal utilisation of resources.

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