

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)126****(Question Serial No. 1345)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Donald NG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

With regard to dripping air-conditioners, please advise this Committee of:

1. the staff establishment, the actual number of staff employed and the expenditure involved for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to handle cases of dripping air-conditioners in each of the past 3 years; and
2. the number of complaints received, the number of Nuisance Notices issued and the number of prosecutions and convictions instituted by the Department in each of the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon YANG Wing-kit (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)Reply:

1. 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 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, as well as to take law enforcement actions targeting buildings where the problem of dripping air-conditioners is serious. The number of contract staff and the salary expenditure for the teams are as follows:

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (Revised estimate)
Number of contract staff	29	29	39
Salary expenditure (\$ million)	12.25	10.07 ^{Note 1}	11.01 ^{Note 1}

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

2. The information sought is provided as follows:

	2022	2023	2024
Number of complaints received	25 889	31 135	34 742
Number of Nuisance Notices issued ^{Note 2}	2 702	3 032	6 636
Number of prosecutions instituted ^{Note 3}	67	86	53
Number of convictions ^{Note 4}	48	61	96

Note 2: If the source of air-conditioner dripping is identified, a Nuisance Notice will be issued to require the responsible person to abate the nuisance within a specified period.

Note 3: Prosecution will be instituted if a Nuisance Notice goes unheeded.

Note 4: Including certain cases against which prosecution was instituted before that year.

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