

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)160****(Question Serial No. 3790)**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:

Regarding the work to develop clean public markets by improving the hygiene of these markets and cooked food centres through, inter alia, enhancing cleansing services and stepping up enforcement against shopfront extension, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the expenditure on enhancing cleansing services in the past 3 years?
- (b) What is the number of enforcement actions taken against shopfront extension in the past 3 years?
- (c) How would the Government comment on the effectiveness of the work to develop clean public markets by improving the hygiene of these markets and cooked food centres?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 80)Reply:

- (a) The overall expenditure of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) on public markets in the past 3 financial years is tabulated below:

Financial year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Overall expenditure (\$ billion)	1.080	1.091	1.136 (Revised estimate)

FEHD has deployed existing resources to improve the cleansing services in public markets. It does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure.

- (b) The number of enforcement actions taken against unauthorised obstruction of passageways in public markets in the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Year	Number of prosecutions	Number of verbal warnings	Number of warning letters
2022	1 123	593	110
2023	966	634	91
2024	627	585	149

- (c) Since the third quarter of 2023, FEHD has stepped up the enforcement actions against unauthorised obstruction of passageways by public market stall tenants in phases. The first phase of work focused on handling serious non-compliance cases, including occupation of the adjacent stall which is vacant or the common areas in the market which are far away from the tenant's own stall, obstruction to the normal use of barrier-free facilities and other public facilities, and cases which undermine fire safety. Thus far, the obstruction of passageways in markets has been improved substantially. FEHD will continue to combat obstruction of market passageways, and plans to step up the enforcement actions in a progressive manner against non-compliance acts such as soiling of market area by stall tenants, and the malpractice of storing commodities on top of stalls that poses a fire risk.

Moreover, FEHD is working with the Architectural Services Department to expedite the toilet enhancement projects in public markets or cooked food markets. It will also continue to enhance the cleansing work in markets by requiring the contractors to increase the cleansing frequency (including clearing the refuse and stagnant water in passageways) and step up the cleansing of market toilets.

The enforcement actions and other enhancement measures have borne fruits, and non-compliance cases have significantly reduced. The passageways in markets are again free of obstruction, and the overall environment has become cleaner.

- End -