

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)065

(Question Serial No. 1967)

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 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is responsible for the clearance of illegal refuse deposit blackspots. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- (a) the data on the cameras installed at the illegal waste deposit blackspots by the Department in each of the past 3 years: (i) the number and cost of newly-procured cameras; (ii) the number of cameras in each of the District Council districts; (iii) the numbers of cameras newly installed and replaced in the year; and (iv) the cost and personnel required for the maintenance of existing cameras;
- (b) the work of the Department to combat illegal waste deposit in each of the past 3 years, in terms of (i) the number of monitoring personnel required for viewing, handling and keeping the footage of non-compliance cases; (ii) the number of inspections conducted at the blackspots by staff of the Department; (iii) the number of prosecution cases; (iv) the average time taken to process each non-compliance case; (v) the cost of combating illegal waste deposit cases; (vi) the conclusions of the cases; and (vii) the number of cases of repeated contraventions; and
- (c) the estimated expenditure and manpower allocated to public education and publicity work for combating illegal waste deposit in 2026-27.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

- (a)&(b) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department installs Internet Protocol (IP) cameras at illegal refuse deposit blackspots through service contracts to combat illegal refuse deposit. In accordance with the contract terms, contractors are required to install, maintain and dismantle the IP cameras, conduct artificial intelligence image analyses of the footage to identify the acts of illegal refuse deposit, and submit reports to the Department. The Department has not procured any IP cameras, and the expenditure on the maintenance of IP cameras is included in the expenditure on IP camera service contracts. In the past 3 years, the number of locations where IP cameras were installed, the number of locations where IP cameras were newly set up, the overall expenditure on IP camera service contracts, and the number of the Department's personnel responsible for the daily handling

of IP camera footage, with a breakdown by District Council district, are provided in **Annex**.

In the past 3 years (from 2023 to 2025), the Department initiated 1 399, 3 032, and 3 029 prosecutions respectively to combat illegal waste deposit. Over 90% of the cases had secured convictions, while some cases are pending court proceedings. During these 3 years, the numbers of prosecutions involving repeat offenders were 569, 1 507, and 1 051 respectively. Combating illegal waste deposit is part of the Department's routine duties. It does not keep a breakdown of the number of inspections conducted at the blackspots by its staff, the time taken to process each prosecution case or the expenditure involved.

- (c) The Department is committed to carrying out public education and publicity to remind the public through various channels to refrain from unlawful depositing of waste and to always maintain environmental hygiene. The publicity and education work concerned is part of the Department's routine duties. It does not keep a breakdown of the resources involved in the publicity and education work about illegal waste deposit.

Table 1: Number of locations where IP cameras are installed, with a breakdown by District Council district

District	2023	2024	2025
Central & Western	18	18	22
Wan Chai	18	18	19
Eastern	17	19	19
Southern	14	14	17
Islands	2	3	7
Yau Tsim Mong	33	40	41
Sham Shui Po	25	27	27
Kowloon City	24	25	27
Wong Tai Sin	13	13	14
Kwun Tong	11	11	13
Kwai Tsing	19	20	22
Tsuen Wan	17	19	21
Tuen Mun	40	40	41
Yuen Long	92	95	139
North	27	32	32
Tai Po	24	25	26
Sha Tin	17	18	20
Sai Kung	32	33	33
Total	443	470	540

Table 2: Information on IP cameras

Year	2023	2024	2025
Number of locations where IP cameras were newly installed	38	27	70
Expenditure on service contracts	About \$10.1 million	About \$7.8 million	About \$8.7 million
Number of the Department's personnel responsible for handling IP camera footage ^{Note}	About 80	About 80	About 80

Note: The daily duties of relevant personnel of the Department include managing public cleansing services, handling IP camera footage for verification of contents, initiating prosecutions, and formulating strategies against illegal refuse deposit.

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