

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)066

(Question Serial No. 1968)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

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 will formulate targeted rodent control strategy based on the results of Rodent Activity Survey. The Department will also strengthen co-operation with and provide support for other departments and sectors to enhance rodent control. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- (a) the (i) costs of and (ii) manpower deployed by the Department on rodent control work in the past 3 years;
- (b) (i) the number of operations for rodent control conducted by the Department and their average cost, (ii) the average numbers of live rodents caught and dead rodents collected, (iii) the average cost of each rodent control case, and (iv) the cost for procurement of each type of rodent catching tools/devices/equipment and the quantity involved, in the past 3 years;
- (c) the consumption and stock level of each type of rodent catching tools procured by the Department in the past 3 years; and
- (d) the effectiveness and costs of the round-the-clock live rodent collection service provided by the Department in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

- (a)-(c) In the past 3 years (from 2023 to 2025), the manpower and expenditure involved in pest control work, including rodent and mosquito prevention and control, of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department are provided in **Annex 1**. The expenditure covered not only rodent prevention and control but also the prevention and control of mosquitoes and other arthropod pests with public health importance. Besides, the Department's work on rodent prevention and control is not limited to rodent disinfection. Such work also includes anti-rodent measures (such as rodent control surveys, filling of rodent holes, installation of rodent guards, removal of rubbish and junk, etc.), daily inspections, law enforcement, technical support for different departments/organisations, publicity and education, as well as complaint investigation. Therefore, it is difficult to calculate the cost of anti-rodent operations and each rodent control case.

In the past 3 years (from 2023 to 2025), the statistics on the numbers of poison treatments, rodent trappings, rodent holes filled, dead rodents collected and live rodents caught are provided in **Annex 2**.

In the past 3 financial years (from 2023-24 to 2025-26), the quantity of rodent catching tools procured and the expenditure involved are provided in **Annex 3**.

The Department does not maintain a separate breakdown of the consumption and stock level of each type of rodent catching tools.

- (d) To assist the public in handling live rodents caught in their residential premises, the Department provides round-the-clock live rodent collection service. In the past 3 years (from 2023 to 2025), the number of live rodents collected by such service were 196, 195 and 187 respectively. This service is part of the pest control work and the Department does not keep a breakdown of the cost involved.

**Manpower and expenditure involved in pest control work,
including rodent and mosquito prevention and control of the Department**

Year	Civil service staffing		Total number of staff employed by pest control service contractors
	Planning and implementation of pest control work in districts	Vector surveillance, technical support and advisory work	
2023	745	109	1 860 ^{Note}
2024	745	109	1 573
2025	745	109	1 166

Note: Excluding positions created under the Anti-epidemic Fund.

Year	Overall expenditure on pest control services ^{Note} (\$ million)	Government staff costs for pest control work (\$ million)	Expenditure on pest control service contracts (\$ million)
2023-24	795	292	424
2024-25	846	307	450
2025-26 (Revised estimate)	811	301	424
2026-27 (Estimate)	754	290	377

Note: The overall expenditure on pest control services includes the expenditure on government staff, service contracts and other day-to-day operating expenses.

Related Anti-rodent work	Year		
	2023	2024	2025
Number of poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks and other public places ^{Note 1}	116 227	121 744	N.A.
Number of poisonous baiting points inspected and/or serviced ^{Note 1}	N.A.	N.A.	3 362 241
Number of rodent trappings ^{Note 2}	93 404	123 118	N.A.
Number of rodent trap nights ^{Note 2}	N.A.	N.A.	2 809 037
Number of rodent holes filled	18 485	16 749	20 251
Number of dead rodents collected	34 496	33 249	28 099
Number of live rodents caught	63 344	89 629	129 083

Note 1: From 2025 onwards, the indicator “poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks and other public places” was replaced by the new indicator “no. of poisonous baiting points inspected and/or serviced”. By counting the number of poisonous baiting points inspected or serviced, the new indicator better reflects the actual work done and resources deployed by the Department.

Note 2: From 2025 onwards, the indicator “no. of rodent trappings” was replaced by the new indicator “no. of rodent trap nights”. By counting the number of rodent traps laid multiplied by the number of nights that the trap has been laid, the new indicator better reflects the actual work done and resources deployed by the Department.

Rodent catching tool	2023-24		2024-25		2025-26	
	Quantity	Expenditure (\$ million)	Quantity	Expenditure (\$ million)	Quantity	Expenditure (\$ million)
Rodent cage trap	About 4 200	1.02	About 3 800	0.96	About 3 400	0.90
Alcohol rodent trapping device	117	5.78 ^{Note}	326	1.70	190	0.64
Glue trap	402 600	2.00	360 270	2.13	509 220	1.62

Note: The expenditure includes the procurement of alcohol rodent trapping devices and the daily maintenance service provided by outsourced service contractors.

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