

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)078**

**(Question Serial No. 1372)**

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 Government implemented the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots in mid-August 2022.

1. Please set out the expenditure and staff establishment involved since the implementation of the Programme. What are the number of hygiene blackspots that have seen their conditions improved (i.e. have been removed from the list) and the number of those that have yet to meet the improvement standards in each district?
2. What specific improvement measures, target timetables and follow-up mechanisms are in place at the present stage to tackle the said hygiene blackspots where improvements have yet to be completed?
3. Please set out the total number of complaints against environmental hygiene problems received in each district since the launch of the Programme. How many of these complaints are classified as cases “requiring action” and cases “not requiring follow-up action” respectively?
4. As the Programme has been implemented for some time, will the Government consider reviewing its effectiveness and launch a new round of programme to tackle hygiene blackspots? If yes, what are the details and estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. In support of the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department utilises existing resources to improve the environmental hygiene of the spots concerned through a multi-pronged approach, which does not incur additional expenditure or manpower.

As at February 2026, the number of blackspots under the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots had been reduced from 738 to 66. A total of 672 blackspots were removed from the list.

2. Of the existing 66 blackspots, 45 are under the purview of the Department. Appropriate measures, including increasing the frequency of refuse clearance and rear lane washing,

strengthening inspections and monitoring, providing refuse collection facilities, and stepping up efforts in law enforcement and public education, have been taken according to the nature of the hygiene problems. With these multi-pronged measures in place, the conditions of various blackspots have been improved. The Department will continue to enhance its efforts to sustain the improvements.

3. Upon receiving complaints about environmental hygiene, the Department will handle and follow up on them in accordance with established procedures. Therefore, all complaints are cases “requiring action”. From the launch of the Programme till February 2026, the number of complaints against environmental hygiene problems received in each district is as follows:

<b>District</b>	<b>Number of complaints against environmental hygiene problems received</b>
Central & Western	35 520
Wan Chai	33 392
Eastern	38 677
Southern	12 563
Yau Tsim Mong	66 202
Sham Shui Po	43 025
Kowloon City	33 983
Wong Tai Sin	17 430
Kwun Tong	33 082
Tsuen Wan	22 457
Tuen Mun	29 471
Yuen Long	55 565
North	23 405
Tai Po	23 502
Sai Kung	25 955
Sha Tin	28 909
Kwai Tsing	20 808
Islands	12 296
<b>Total</b>	<b>556 242</b>

4. Since the commencement of the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots, the conditions of most blackspots have been improved with the concerted efforts and active facilitation of various government departments. The average number of comments collected monthly via the thematic webpage has decreased from over 240 in the first 3 months at the start of the Programme to about 15 in the latest 3 months. Such a decrease could help demonstrate that there is public recognition for the improved conditions of hygiene blackspots. To nurture a new culture of keeping the environment clean and protecting the cityscape in Hong Kong, the Programme will continue to run.

The Government's work on tackling hygiene blackspots is implemented by deploying resources within relevant departments. Since the personnel responsible for the relevant work are not only responsible for a single task, it would be difficult to separately calculate the expenditure and staffing involved in the work. As for the thematic webpage of the Programme, its estimated daily maintenance cost for each financial year is about \$260,000.

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