

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)088

(Question Serial No. 0425)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Donald NG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the expenditure and effectiveness of public market management, please advise the Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the expenditure on enhancing cleansing services in the past 3 years?
- (b) How many enforcement actions were taken against extension of business outside the stalls in the past 3 years?
- (c) How many reports regarding failure of public facilities in markets were received in the past 3 years? What is the current mechanism for reporting such failures? What is the average time taken from receipt of a report to completion of repair? What is the longest time taken?
- (d) How would the Government evaluate the effectiveness of the work to develop clean public markets by improving their management?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

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	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (Revised estimate)
Overall expenditure (\$ billion)	1.091	1.178	1.138

The overall cleansing services in FEHD public markets are provided by outsourced contractors. They shall provide the required services, including services to enhance market cleanliness, according to the terms and requirements of the contracts. FEHD does not keep a separate 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
2023	966	634	91
2024	627	585	149
2025	846	567	208

- (c) FEHD is implementing various measures, including combating non-compliance and enhancing facilities, to further improve the environment of public markets.

In addition to routine inspections, FEHD arranges surprise inspections and enforcement actions where necessary to ensure that market stall tenants (including stall tenants of cooked food markets) are in compliance with the tenancy terms and legal requirements during operation. 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 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. The second phase commenced in April 2025. The targets included continuing to combat unauthorised obstruction of passageways as in the first phase, and stepping up enforcement actions against non-compliance acts such as soiling of market area by stall tenants during operation, and the malpractice of storing commodities/articles on top of stalls that poses a fire risk.

Meanwhile, FEHD is working with the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) to expedite enhancement projects for toilets in public markets and cooked food markets. The target is to complete the refurbishment works for 44 toilets in 2026-27. Currently, 18 projects have been completed, and the remaining 26 projects are expected to be completed gradually within this year. Furthermore, FEHD will continue to enhance the cleansing work in markets by requiring contractors to increase the frequency of cleansing (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 free of obstruction, and the overall environment has become cleaner.

- (d) From time to time, FEHD has to commission the relevant departments to carry out improvement or repair works to public market facilities. The nature, type of facilities involved and complexity of these works vary. Some may require professional assessment and detailed planning during the process, and may take longer time to complete. FEHD does not keep a separate breakdown of the time taken for all the works. For minor repair items, such as defective water pipes, malfunction of flushing systems, and faulty lighting devices etc., FEHD will submit repair requests to ArchSD and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) through a system. Based on the data recorded in the system, the average time taken to complete minor repairs to public facilities in public markets handled by the said departments in the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Year	ArchSD		EMSD	
	Number of minor repairs to public facilities in public market ^{Note}	Average completion time	Number of minor repairs to public facilities in public market ^{Note}	Average completion time
2023	4 025	2.4 days	2 465	2.0 days
2024	10 572	2.7 days	6 301	2.7 days
2025	9 782	2.3 days	6 151	2.7 days

Note: Repair works completed on the same day is counted as being completed in 1 day.

According to system records, there is 1 non-urgent minor repair case which took about 80 days. That case involved working at height and it took time to order repair materials. Therefore, the repair took longer to complete than a typical case did.

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