

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)093**

**(Question Serial No. 1080)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services  
(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:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department plans to enhance cleanliness and rodent control in public markets in 2026-27. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) What are the specific details of the rodent control plans in 2026-27 for key areas such as markets, restaurant clusters and rural areas, including the frequency of prevention and control operations, core strategies, division of responsibilities, as well as resource allocation and preferential support areas under the relevant expenditure?
- (2) What are the enhanced measures for rodent prevention and control under the Market Modernisation Programme? What is the implementation timetable? Will the Department include the achievement rate of rodent proofing measures as a key performance indicator (KPI) for market management?
- (3) In the future, how will the Department strengthen routine inspections and blitz checks against rodent infestation in key areas? Will a long-term mechanism be established to promote a collaborative rodent prevention network with tenants and the community?

Asked by: Hon HUNG Kam-in (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

- (1)&(3) In 2026-27, the overall estimated expenditure of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) on pest control services (including rodent and mosquito prevention and control) is \$754 million. The expenditure covers not only rodent prevention and control but also the prevention and control work of mosquitoes and other arthropod pests with public health importance. FEHD does not maintain a separate breakdown of the expenditure specifically on rodent prevention and control work.

Apart from continuing to step up the routine rodent prevention and control work, FEHD is implementing new rodent prevention and control strategies which are data-driven. By leveraging the data obtained from the Rodent Activity Survey to

monitor the rodent infestation situation in each district (including the areas surrounding wet markets and the rear lanes of restaurant clusters), more targeted actions can be taken to enhance the effectiveness of rodent control work. FEHD will strengthen control measures in places with more active rodent activities and reallocate resources to comprehensively and continuously mitigate the rodent infestation in the relevant locations. Generally, rural areas are not common places for rodent infestation. Specifically, the rodent prevention and control measures adopted by FEHD mainly include:

- (a) fully adopting thermal imaging cameras with artificial intelligence technology to monitor rodent infestation situation and formulating the Rodent Absence Rate (RAR). By analysing the spatial and temporal distribution of rodents shown in the thermal images captured by thermal imaging cameras, a clear picture of rodents' activities and their dispersal routes at such locations can be obtained. Resources are deployed from locations with higher RARs to those with lower RARs, so as to plan and implement rodent prevention and control work accordingly and take more effective anti-rodent actions in blackspots, including strengthening overnight rodent operations;
- (b) taking the initiative to enter private buildings or premises in the vicinity of target locations to investigate the source of rodent infestation. For buildings or premises found to be infested with rodents, FEHD will exercise its statutory power to take actions, including serving "Notice of Elimination of Vermin" on persons responsible for management of the buildings concerned (e.g. incorporated owners and property management companies) or the owners, requesting them to handle the vermin in the common parts of the buildings or in the premises as soon as possible. When necessary, FEHD staff will be deployed to the premises to carry out disinfestation operations. FEHD will also provide health education to food premises near target locations, strengthen street cleansing services and combat illegal refuse dumping in the vicinity;
- (c) continuing to promote the Anti-rodent Charter and organising the Anti-rodent Partner Awards 2026 to commend proactive organisations and groups which promote anti-rodent work, in order to encourage the establishment of long-term anti-rodent mechanisms, raise residents' awareness on maintaining environmental hygiene and create a rodent-free environment together;
- (d) continuing to assist the Environment and Ecology Bureau to implement the Cross-sectoral Territory-wide Anti-rodent Action to encourage different sectors in the community, including property management companies, operators of market and hawker stalls, the catering industry, the construction industry and the pest control trade to strengthen anti-rodent work within their respective sectors, and arranging health talks to provide them with information on rodent prevention and control;
- (e) stepping up collaboration with other government departments in rodent prevention and control; and

- (f) continuing to carry out public education and publicity activities to remind the public to eliminate the 3 survival conditions of rodents, namely food, harbourage and passages (i.e. to eliminate the food sources of rodents and block their potential nesting places or passages as soon as possible), and to take heed of the importance of rodent prevention and control.

In recent years, the number of live rodents caught by FEHD has increased, while the number of locations with active rodent activities has decreased. Meanwhile, the expenditure on pest control services has dropped, reflecting the effectiveness of the relevant strategies. FEHD, together with relevant departments and stakeholders, will continue to take forward and enhance the work mentioned above.

- (2) For projects under the Market Modernisation Programme (MMP) and the hardware design of new public markets, appropriate measures will be implemented according to actual needs and situations to improve the operating environment and hygiene level of the markets, including anti-rodent measures such as fitting steel woven wire cloth at ventilation grids, keeping adequate spacing between vertical pipes and between a pipe and the adjoining wall. Aberdeen Market and Lai Wan Market officially re-opened in May 2023 and March 2024 respectively upon completion of overhaul works under MMP. Apart from the above anti-rodent measures, a separate enclosed storage room with air-conditioning is provided in each of these 2 markets for temporary storage of pig carcasses delivered to the markets in early mornings, so as to prevent any rodent infestation caused by improper storage of carcasses.

However, as the designs of different markets are different, the rodent proofing measures required vary as well. It is difficult for FEHD to set an achievement rate for rodent proofing measures in markets as a key performance indicator for market management.

FEHD consistently conducts strategic anti-rodent operations against rodent blackspots, which include FEHD facilities such as public markets and refuse collection points. FEHD achieved the target of reducing the number of blackspots by 60% in 2025, and will continue to reallocate resources to comprehensively and continuously mitigate the rodent infestation in the remaining blackspots.

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