

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)107**

**(Question Serial No. 0066)**

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:

From 2025 onwards, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has replaced the indicator “no. of rodent trappings” with the indicator “no. of rodent trap nights”. The new indicator is calculated by multiplying the number of rodent traps laid by the number of nights that the trap has been laid. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) The “no. of rodent trap nights” in 2025 increased around 18% over that in 2024. What was the effectiveness of capturing rodents by rodent traps in different districts?
- 2) The Department will continue to conduct Rodent Activity Survey in 2026-27 and formulate targeted rodent control strategy based on the survey results. What are the details of the survey, the indicator for the effectiveness of rodent control, and the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Chun, Jonathan (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

- 1) The number of live rodents caught by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in 2025 was 129 083, showing an increase of around 44% over that in the corresponding period in 2024 (89 629) and an enhancement in the effectiveness of anti-rodent work. The numbers of live rodents caught by the Department in 2024 and 2025, with a breakdown by District Council district, are provided in **Annex**.
- 2) From 2024 onwards, the Department has fully adopted thermal imaging cameras with artificial intelligence technology for conducting the Rodent Activity Survey (RAS) as a replacement for the Rodent Infestation Survey. The RAS is conducted in all districts across the territory once every 6 months. Artificial intelligence is used in the survey to help analyse the thermal images and identify the presence of rodents. Based on the analysis results, the Department will enumerate a Rodent Absence Rate (RAR) for the district. The RAR is a useful indicator that enables the Department to effectively deploy resources and implement targeted rodent prevention and control measures according to the RAS results.

For the first half of 2025, a total of 49 locations have an RAR below 80%, indicating that rodent activities were more active. More than 80% (41) of these locations saw improvement for the second half of the year, with 30 of them achieving an RAR of over 90%. This reflects the fruitful results of the new strategy. As for the second half of 2025, the number of survey locations with an RAR below 80% was 44, a decrease of approximately 45% and 10% as compared to those of the second half of 2024 (80 locations) and the first half of 2025 (49 locations) respectively, indicating the effectiveness of the targeted rodent control strategies and measures adopted by the Department after analysing the RARs. Furthermore, in 2025, the Department conducted strategic anti-rodent operations at a total of 93 priority rodent blackspots in all districts across the territory and eliminated around 72% of the priority rodent blackspots (67 in total), achieving the target of reducing the number of blackspots by 60% by the end of the year.

To conduct the RAS in 2026-27, the Department will continue to engage outsourced contractors for installing and operating thermal imaging cameras as well as using artificial intelligence to help analyse the thermal images captured. The estimated expenditure in this regard is \$5.77 million. The Department will also continue to conduct strategic anti-rodent operations at priority rodent blackspots in all districts across the territory, with a view to achieving the target of reducing the number of blackspots by 60% by the end of 2026.

**Number of live rodents caught (with a breakdown by District Council district)**

District	Year	
	2024	2025
Central and Western	4 268	6 188
Eastern	5 819	8 568
Southern	1 562	1 723
Wan Chai	6 360	7 553
Kowloon City	5 356	9 832
Kwun Tong	5 016	7 142
Wong Tai Sin	6 566	8 301
Sham Shui Po	8 530	14 290
Yau Tsim Mong	14 550	20 215
Sha Tin	4 111	6 666
Tai Po	2 025	2 713
North	3 209	4 819
Kwai Tsing	3 917	5 001
Tsuen Wan	3 290	7 088
Tuen Mun	4 934	5 797
Yuen Long	5 528	8 233
Sai Kung	1 571	1 513
Islands	3 017	3 441
Whole territory	89 629	129 083

- End -