

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)127

(Question Serial No. 1975)

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:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026-27 that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will “strengthen street cleansing, refuse collection and clearance work and step up related enforcement and prosecution”. Please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What were the overall expenditure on public cleansing services, the expenditure on staff remuneration and the expenditure on replacement of on-street litter containers in the past 2 years?
2. What are the numbers of on-street litter containers with and without ashtrays across the territory?
3. What are the criteria for the Department to place on-street litter containers with or without ashtrays?
4. A number of on-street litter containers with ashtrays are placed within no-smoking areas, such as open-air bus stops and public areas that lie within 3 metres from entrances/exits exclusively used for specified premises, which may mislead visitors to believe that “smoking is permitted there”, thereby causing conflicts. Will measures be taken to improve the situation? If yes, what are the details? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok, Kingsley (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

1. The overall expenditure on public cleansing services, the expenditure on staff remuneration and the expenditure on procurement of litter containers incurred by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) from 2024-25 to 2025-26 are set out in Annex.
2. FEHD has provided about 11 000 litter containers, including about 9 000 with ashtrays and about 2 000 without ashtrays, in public places.
- 3.&4. To help keep Hong Kong tidy, an appropriate number of litter containers and cigarette butt containers are placed on streets to facilitate depositing of small refuse and cigarette butts by pedestrians. In no-smoking areas, only litter containers without ashtrays are

placed in accordance with actual needs. To tie in with the implementation of the new phase of tobacco control measures which took effect on 1 January 2026, FEHD has, in response to the recommendation of the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office of the Department of Health, adjusted the locations of more than 500 litter containers and cigarette butt containers placed in the expanded designated no-smoking areas or their nearby public places before the new measures came into effect. Some of the facilities have been relocated, while some have been replaced with litter containers without ashtrays.

Overall expenditure on public cleansing services, expenditure on staff remuneration and expenditure on replacement of on-street litter containers

Year	Overall expenditure (\$ billion)	Expenditure on staff remuneration (\$ billion)	Expenditure on procurement of litter containers (\$ million)
2024-25	5.152	1.504	4.71
2025-26 (Revised estimate)	5.048	1.506	2.88

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