

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)131

(Question Serial No. 0990)

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:

With regard to the prevention and control of rodents, please advise this Committee of:

1. the civil service staffing and the total number of outsourced workers involved in pest control work, the overall expenditure on pest control services, the government staff cost for pest control work and the total value of the pest control service contracts in each of the past 3 years;
2. the number of poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks and other public places, the number of rodent trappings, the number of dead rodents collected, the number of live rodents caught, the number of rat holes filled, the number of rodent control surveys conducted and the number of rodent infestation complaints received in each of the past 3 years, with a breakdown by District Council district; and
3. the new rodent control methods and technologies trialled by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in the past year, their effectiveness and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon YANG Wing-kit (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

1. In the past 3 years, the manpower and expenditure involved in pest control work, including rodent and mosquito prevention and control, of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department are as follows:

Year	Civil service staffing		Total number of staff employed by pest control service contractors
	Planning and implementation of pest control work in districts	Vector surveillance, technical support and advisory work	
2023	745	109	1 860 ^{Note}
2024	745	109	1 573
2025	745	109	1 166

Note: Excluding positions created under the Anti-epidemic Fund.

Year	Overall expenditure on pest control services ^{Note} (\$ million)	Government staff costs for pest control work (\$ million)	Expenditure on pest control service contracts (\$ million)
2023-24	795	292	424
2024-25	846	307	450
2025-26 (Revised estimate)	811	301	424
2026-27 (Estimate)	754	290	377

Note: The overall expenditure on pest control services includes the expenditure on government staff, service contracts and other day-to-day operating expenses.

2. The relevant figures in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by District Council district, are provided in **Annex 1**.
3. The rodent control technologies and tools adopted by the Department in the past year, their effectiveness and the expenditure involved are provided in **Annex 2**.

District	2023						
	Number of poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks and other public places	Number of rodent trappings	Number of dead rodents collected	Number of live rodents caught	Number of rat holes filled	Number of rodent surveys	Number of rodent infestation complaints received
Central and Western	4 713	5 935	1 370	2 261	172	84	640
Eastern	12 872	4 554	905	4 004	82	17	729
Southern	3 693	1 260	546	1 268	677	29	138
Wan Chai	14 084	6 166	1 231	4 402	598	20	705
Kowloon City	8 177	5 249	3 811	3 458	173	22	872
Kwun Tong	6 708	5 814	1 293	4 277	88	57	319
Wong Tai Sin	2 976	3 661	4 031	4 592	150	19	283
Sham Shui Po	821	6 384	3 926	6 133	6 568	85	1 151
Yau Tsim Mong	5 419	15 613	6 230	9 342	6 972	57	1 946
Sha Tin	4 622	3 562	917	2 598	741	54	501
Tai Po	14 103	1 307	2 322	1 465	765	12	319
North	3 840	3 223	527	2 414	35	53	245
Kwai Tsing	1 188	4 964	1 173	2 052	406	47	624
Tsuen Wan	2 881	6 975	557	2 491	201	41	429
Tuen Mun	7 717	2 541	2 501	4 521	191	53	588
Yuen Long	9 687	11 322	1 960	4 843	387	52	966
Sai Kung	11 910	2 263	592	1 087	73	18	423
Islands	816	2 611	604	2 136	206	19	197
Whole territory	116 227	93 404	34 496	63 344	18 485	739*	11 075

* Only surveys conducted under the Rodent Infestation Survey (RIS) and the Rat-flea Survey are listed. Other rodent surveys (1 220 in number) are not included in the breakdown.

District	2024						
	Number of poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks and other public places	Number of rodent trappings	Number of dead rodents collected	Number of live rodents caught	Number of rat holes filled	Number of rodent surveys	Number of rodent infestation complaints received
Central and Western	4 917	9 197	1 338	4 268	365	12	642
Eastern	12 250	7 845	714	5 819	111	12	1 016
Southern	3 883	2 104	440	1 562	1 152	46	167
Wan Chai	16 956	9 448	1 290	6 360	533	13	605
Kowloon City	7 739	8 131	4 213	5 356	49	12	900
Kwun Tong	6 708	5 844	1 166	5 016	72	46	323
Wong Tai Sin	2 976	4 922	4 304	6 566	293	45	610
Sham Shui Po	820	7 850	3 818	8 530	3 684	11	892
Yau Tsim Mong	6 064	19 176	6 128	14 550	7 376	22	1 677
Sha Tin	4 866	3 335	731	4 111	846	45	368
Tai Po	16 704	1 410	2 167	2 025	800	66	412
North	3 840	3 998	380	3 209	15	65	339
Kwai Tsing	1 242	9 856	1 245	3 917	403	45	405
Tsuen Wan	2 880	7 533	550	3 290	146	45	267
Tuen Mun	6 893	2 534	2 055	4 934	231	46	607
Yuen Long	9 750	12 107	1 639	5 528	405	47	944
Sai Kung	12 188	2 911	532	1 571	68	13	386
Islands	1 068	4 917	539	3 017	200	12	200
Whole territory	121 744	123 118	33 249	89 629	16 749	603 [#]	10 760

Only surveys conducted under the Rodent Activity Survey (RAS) and the Rat-flea Survey are listed. Other rodent surveys (1 143 in number) are not included in the breakdown.

District	2025						
	Number of poisonous baiting points inspected and/or serviced Note 1	Number of rodent trap nights Note 2	Number of dead rodents collected	Number of live rodents caught	Number of rat holes filled	Number of rodent surveys	Number of rodent infestation complaints received
Central and Western	200 978	113 650	1 292	6 188	485	37	740
Eastern	189 248	203 361	695	8 568	392	38	1 003
Southern	49 951	58 538	433	1 723	2 181	31	139
Wan Chai	246 766	199 723	1 466	7 553	515	9	666
Kowloon City	228 478	186 755	3 397	9 832	304	37	891
Kwun Tong	204 446	151 302	1 080	7 142	80	8	304
Wong Tai Sin	195 683	193 583	3 858	8 301	504	45	430
Sham Shui Po	275 282	276 967	3 813	14 290	3 659	36	767
Yau Tsim Mong	415 058	431 455	4 411	20 215	8 153	72	1 433
Sha Tin	167 829	124 649	459	6 666	1 412	14	498
Tai Po	118 001	47 480	1 448	2 713	798	41	348
North	118 046	72 630	194	4 819	106	41	394
Kwai Tsing	174 702	146 238	882	5 001	528	12	274
Tsuen Wan	164 237	189 555	656	7 088	151	40	253
Tuen Mun	139 739	128 547	1 378	5 797	171	13	547
Yuen Long	193 803	90 392	1 546	8 233	469	46	740
Sai Kung	143 561	58 158	592	1 513	65	15	560
Islands	136 433	136 054	499	3 441	278	13	276
Whole territory	3 362 241	2 809 037	28 099	129 083	20 251	548^	10 263

Note 1: From 2025 onwards, the indicator “poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks and other public places” was replaced by the new indicator “no. of poisonous baiting points inspected and/or serviced”. By counting the number of poisonous baiting points inspected or serviced, the new indicator better reflects the actual work done and resources deployed by the Department.

Note 2: From 2025 onwards, the indicator “no. of rodent trappings” was replaced by the new indicator “no. of rodent trap nights”. By counting the number of rodent traps laid multiplied by the number of nights that the trap has been laid, the new indicator better reflects the actual work done and resources deployed by the Department.

^ Only surveys conducted under the RAS and the Rat-flea Survey are listed. Other rodent surveys (1 070 in number) are not included in the breakdown.

**Technologies and tools for rodent control,
their effectiveness and the expenditure involved**

Rodent control technology and tool	Effectiveness	Expenditure in 2025-26 (Revised Estimate)
Thermal imaging camera surveillance system	The Department has fully adopted thermal imaging cameras for conducting the RAS as a replacement for the RIS from 2024 onwards to enhance rodent surveillance in districts and deploy more effective anti-rodent actions at locations where the rodent problem is more serious.	About \$5.77 million
Placing poisonous baits in a T-shaped bait box	The bait box was tested in the fourth quarter of 2020. Test results showed that the T-shaped bait box was more effective than ordinary rectangular bait boxes in attracting rodents to enter and consume the baits. The equipment has been widely employed.	About \$130,000
Alcohol rodent trapping device	The Department has conducted trials progressively on alcohol rodent trapping devices in public markets and refuse collection points since October 2022. The results are positive. The equipment will be used in suitable places as necessary.	About \$640,000

The Department will continue to keep track of the new rodent control technologies and tools in the market and introduce them for use at locations with higher rodent activities when appropriate.

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