

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)146**

**(Question Serial No. 3472)**

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:

The Joint Office for Investigation of Water Seepage Complaints (JO) handles, in accordance with the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance, water seepage problems that members of the public are unable to resolve with their neighbours. Amended in August 2025, the Ordinance empowers an officer to institute prosecution against any person who fails to comply with a Notice of Intended Entry without reasonable excuse. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. In each of the past 3 years, what were the respective numbers of Nuisance Notices issued and Nuisance Orders made by the court for water seepage cases in various districts across the territory?
2. How many Notices of Intended Entry were issued by JO in the past 3 years?
3. Further to the above question, how many prosecutions have been instituted due to non-compliance with a Notice of Intended Entry without reasonable excuse since 17 August 2025?
4. From 17 August 2025 till now, how many cases have required the application for a warrant from the court due to non-compliance with a Notice of Intended Entry? How does this compare to the situation before the amendment came into effect?

Asked by: Hon CHIK Kit-ling, Elaine (LegCo internal reference no.: 128)

Reply:

1. The number of Nuisance Notices issued in various districts under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) by the Joint Office (JO), which is set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Buildings Department (BD) for the investigation of water seepage cases in buildings, and Nuisance Orders made by the court in each of the past 3 years are as follows:

District	Nuisance Notices issued under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) <sup>Note</sup>			Nuisance Orders issued by the court <sup>Note</sup>		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Central and Western	119	142	109	0	0	0
Wan Chai	157	131	60	1	1	0
Eastern	831	466	469	7	4	2
Southern	241	257	324	5	1	1
Islands	25	48	37	0	0	0
Yau Tsim	111	126	104	2	1	0
Mong Kok	182	149	130	1	0	0
Sham Shui Po	412	372	330	1	0	2
Kowloon City	602	483	297	2	6	2
Wong Tai Sin	346	228	236	0	0	0
Kwun Tong	616	669	629	3	1	0
Kwai Tsing	333	216	371	1	1	0
Tsuen Wan	321	501	445	14	9	1
Tuen Mun	374	507	519	3	4	3
Yuen Long	87	87	89	3	0	0
North	109	69	32	1	1	0
Tai Po	261	200	145	1	3	0
Sha Tin	573	278	190	8	6	0
Sai Kung	94	129	109	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 794</b>	<b>5 058</b>	<b>4 625</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>11</b>

Note: The number of cases does not necessarily correspond to the number of cases received in the same year. Some of them were received before that year.

2. The number of Notices of Intended Entry issued by JO under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) in each of the past 3 years are as follows:

Number of cases	2023	2024	2025
Notices of Intended Entry issued under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) <sup>Note</sup>	1 438	1 816	1 192

Note: The number of cases does not necessarily correspond to the number of cases received in the same year. Some of them were received before that year.

3. The Public Health and Municipal Services (Amendment) Ordinance 2025 came into effect on 17 August 2025. Amendments in relation to water seepage in buildings include extending the permissible hours of government officers entering premises for investigation of nuisance, and making it an offence to fail to comply with a Notice of Intended Entry without reasonable excuse. Since the Amendment Ordinance has come into effect, among the cases requiring the issue of a Notice of Intended Entry, JO has instituted prosecution in 1 case in which the person concerned, without reasonable excuse, did not allow JO officers to enter the premises within 14 days.

4. In 2025, there were 21 cases<sup>Note</sup> in which JO applied to the court for a Warrant to Effect Entry into Premises in the course of handling water seepage in buildings. These were cases in which Notices of Intended Entry had been issued before the Amendment Ordinance came into effect. In the same year, among cases in which Notices of Intended Entry were required after the Amendment Ordinance has come into effect, JO was required to apply to the court for a Warrant to Effect Entry into Premises in 1 case. JO made the application in January this year, obtained the warrant from the court, and successfully executed it in February this year.

Note: The number of cases does not necessarily correspond to the number of cases received in the same year. Some of them were received before that year.

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