

For information

LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Operation of the Pest Control Section

Purpose

At the Panel Meeting on 11 November 2008, Members expressed concern about newspaper reports on outsourcing of pest control services by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). This paper provides information to address Members' concern.

Mode of Operation of the Pest Control Section

2. Regarding the pest control services, we would like to inform Members that in a bid to strengthen the services of the Pest Control Section in various districts, FEHD has, since 2003, set up pest control roving teams through outsourcing of services to augment the work of some 670 front-line in-house staff working in the district pest control teams. The contractors' roving teams and in-house teams work together to provide comprehensive pest and mosquito control services in the territory. At present, the contractors have employed about 1 400 people who are deployed into a number of roving teams for providing pest control services in 19 districts. This mode of operation has been working well since its implementation.

3. The above service contracts will expire in March 2009. In line with the current practice, the Department will soon conduct a tender exercise, so that both the in-house staff and those employed by contractors can continue to work jointly to provide pest control services to the public.

Structure Review of the Pest Control Section

4. The newspaper reports also mentioned the structure review of the Pest Control Section conducted by the Department. At the same time of providing a range of environmental hygiene services to the public, FEHD is also responsible for ensuring the effective use of human resources and enhancement of service efficiency. Hence, the Department has, from time to time, conducted reviews of the internal structure of various sections / units as and when necessary. We have just completed such a review for the Pest Control

Section. Under this review, the manpower of both the front-line in-house pest control teams of the Pest Control Section of the Department and that of the contractors will remain unchanged. Meanwhile, the in-house professional staff in the advisory section will continue to provide training and technical support to the staff concerned.

5. Members are requested to note the above information.

**Food and Health Bureau
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
November 2008**