



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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Fax No.: 2136 3282

19 November 2013

Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Mr Jove CHAN)
[Fax: 2185 7845]

Dear Mr Chan,

**LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Follow-up to Special Meeting on 11 June 2013**

Rodent Prevention and Control Measures

At the captioned meeting, Panel members sought information on the following :

- (a) the “black spots” of rodent infestation in respective districts and the control measures taken by the Administration; and
- (b) the installation of gratings at all underground drainage outlets in the vicinity of markets and fresh food outlets to prevent rodents from coming out from the drainage pipes.

I write to provide the information.

(a) "Black spots" of rodent infestation and control measures taken

Given the high adaptability and reproductive rate of rodents, the state of rodent infestation in individual districts may vary over time with changes in circumstances such as the state of environmental hygiene conditions and the level of public participation in rodent prevention and control work. The concept of "black spots" is therefore not considered entirely appropriate. Nor do we wish to bring down public alertness in districts which are not labeled as "black spots".

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") closely monitors the rodent infestation rate¹ ("RIR") in different areas in the territory and adjusts its rodent control measures accordingly. In districts with relatively high RIRs, apart from organising anti-rodent campaigns, FEHD will take dedicated rodent prevention and control measures. These measures include poisoning and trapping of rodents and destroying rat holes in related areas, strengthening street cleansing, encouraging active participation of the public in anti-rodent work, and strengthening publicity and education programmes.

(b) Installation of gratings at all underground drainage outlets in the vicinity of markets and fresh food outlets

FEHD has reviewed the effectiveness of installing gully inlet traps ("GITs") (otherwise known as "gratings") at underground drainage outlets. It is found that installation of GITs at the said areas would have considerable drawbacks in so far as cleansing and mosquito control operations are concerned. For example, GITs would cause obstructions to FEHD's daily cleansing work. As such, FEHD has no further plans to install GITs.

Yours sincerely,



(Vinci CHAN)

for Secretary for Food and Health

¹ Rodent Infestation Rate = $\frac{\text{Number of baits bitten by rodent}}{\text{Total number of baits collected from the selected areas}} \times 100\%$

c.c.: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
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