



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

[English Translation]

24 December 2018

Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attention: Miss Josephine SO)

Dear Miss SO,

**Follow-up to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Mosquito and rodent control work**

Regarding the captioned subject at the Panel meeting held on 13 November 2018, our response is as follows:

(a) Supervision of contractors

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) currently engages contractors to provide pest control services across the territory through 310 roving teams (with a total workforce of about 1 860). To enhance the supervision of contractors, FEHD has allocated more resources for supervision. A total of 15 Senior Health Inspector posts were created in 2017 and 2018, and 8 Overseer posts and 22 Foreman posts will be created in 2019. If the performance of contractors is found to fail contract requirements during site inspection, FEHD will take actions against the contractors under its sanction system, including the issuance of verbal warnings, written warnings and default notices as well as withholding/deducting monthly payment to contractors.

Unsatisfactory performance of the contractors will affect their future bidding for the Department's outsourced service contracts.

(b) Data on anti-rodent work

FEHD launched the first round of the two-month Anti-rodent Operation in designated target areas in April 2018. During the operation, FEHD collected 630 dead rodents, trapped 476 rodents and destroyed 343 rat holes. A breakdown of the figures by districts is at **Annex 1**.

The second round of the two-month Anti-rodent Operation in designated target areas was conducted in October 2018. During the operation, FEHD collected 1 006 dead rodents, trapped 829 rodents and destroyed 460 rat holes. A breakdown of the figures by districts is at **Annex 2**.

The numbers of dead rodents cleared, rodents caught, rat holes destroyed and warnings issued by FEHD in 2016 and 2017 are set out in **Annex 3**.

(c) Assessment of new technologies

The details of FEHD's tests of new technologies in pest control are set out in **Annex 4**.

(d) Legal regulation

Rodent control devices currently adopted by FEHD include poisons, spring-back traps, cage traps, etc. which are all regulated by the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) and the Wild Animals Protection (Approval of Hunting Appliances) Notice (Cap. 170). FEHD proactively conducts studies and tests on rodent control methods, and if the new technologies for rodent control involve the use of the above stated rodent control methods or devices, FEHD will assess whether these rodent control methods or devices are suitable for use in Hong Kong in consultation with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.

(e) Way forward for rodent control work

At present, there is no international standard indicator for rodent infestation. Given the complex environment of Hong Kong, it may not be possible to set a rodent disinfestation target. However, FEHD has made reference to overseas practices and the actual situation of Hong Kong in devising the Rodent Infestation Survey. The Department will make an overall assessment of the effectiveness of rodent control efforts taking into account the survey results, the inspections conducted by frontline staff, complaint figures and the feedback from the local community and the public.

Furthermore, FEHD is inviting experts from the World Health Organization to Hong Kong to advise on rodent prevention and control work. The Department is also exploring the possibility of inviting other overseas experts to Hong Kong.

To combat the rodent problem in public housing estates, the Housing Department (HD), in collaboration with FEHD, is planning an anti-rodent operation in designated target housing estates on a trial basis. The operation aims at co-ordinating the anti-rodent efforts of HD, Link and FEHD and carrying out rodent prevention and control work through the adoption of multi-pronged strategies, including stepping up cleansing operations, rodent disinfestation and enforcement action. Having regard to the effectiveness of the trial scheme and the experiences accumulated, HD may extend this mode of operation to other public housing estates. FEHD will continue to provide technical support to HD for pest control in public housing estates.

Yours sincerely,

[Signed]

(Gilford LAW)
for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c.: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
Director of Housing

**First round of Anti-rodent Operation
in designated target areas
(from 23 April 2018 to 22 June 2018)**

District	Number of dead rodents cleared	Number of live rodents caught	Number of rat holes destroyed
Central and Western	25	5	2
Wanchai	22	11	5
Eastern	20	27	13
Southern	42	0	1
Islands	26	7	22
Yau Tsim	19	0	9
Mong Kok	7	11	4
Sham Shui Po	213	174	188
Kowloon City	31	29	4
Wong Tai Sin	18	16	23
Kwun Tong	49	27	3
Kwai Tsing	4	40	6
Tsuen Wan	15	2	15
Tuen Mun	11	18	1
Yuen Long	39	52	4
Northern	19	14	5
Tai Po	18	26	12
Shatin	36	0	26
Sai Kung	16	17	0
Total	630	476	343

**Second round of Anti-rodent Operation
in designated target areas
(From 8 October 2018 to 7 December 2018)**

District	Number of dead rodents cleared	Number of live rodents caught	Number of rat holes destroyed
Central and Western	20	2	2
Wanchai	8	30	7
Eastern	8	23	4
Southern	11	9	2
Islands	6	5	3
Yau Tsim	0	0	20
Mong Kok	7	19	10
Sham Shui Po	576	341	219
Kowloon City	48	141	36
Wong Tai Sin	69	26	0
Kwun Tong	55	9	6
Kwai Tsing	19	10	10
Tsuen Wan	38	53	45
Tuen Mun	27	50	16
Yuen Long	42	40	12
Northern	4	12	19
Tai Po	33	33	20
Shatin	27	21	26
Sai Kung	8	5	3
Total	1 006	829	460

Anti-rodent work of FEHD in 2016 and 2017

Year	Number of dead rodents cleared	Number of live rodents caught	Number of rat holes destroyed	Number of warnings issued
2016	23 977	13 192	8 413	4 762
2017	26 334	14 704	7 958	5 398

Tests of new technologies in pest control by FEHD

Technology/ Product	Test period	Test method and result
New mosquito trapping device (using female mosquitoes as carrier for distributing growth regulator)	October 2018 to June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct laboratory and site tests to study whether the mosquito trapping device can attract female mosquitoes to lay eggs, its influence on mosquito larvae, and whether the female mosquitoes can carry the growth regulator or growth hormone to other water bodies to affect those mosquito larvae.
	July 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the test results are satisfactory, the new mosquito trapping device will be recommended to relevant government departments for trial use.
Automatic rodent trapping device (driven by pressurized gas) A24	November 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted preliminary tests at laboratory – no rodents activated the device.
	November 2018 to February 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct preliminary tests at municipal services buildings – recorded images of video cameras show that no rodents activated the device. Conduct further tests at municipal services buildings in different locations and tests on the effectiveness of different lures.

Technology/ Product	Test period	Test method and result
Non-poisonous bait (for use in Rodent Infestation Survey)	November 2018 to April 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct preliminary tests at laboratory on the attractiveness of the bait to rodents. • If the bait is found to be more effective than the baits currently used through preliminary tests, site tests will be conducted in the rodent infestation surveyed areas to collect more data for comparison with the baits currently used.
Ovitrap new design	November 2018 to July 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make reference to the experiences of foreign countries and carry out feasibility study. • Improve the design and conduct preliminary tests on the actual operation of the device and its capability to collect adult mosquitoes for virus test.
	August 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the design is feasible as confirmed upon preliminary testing, site tests will be conducted in the surveyed areas where ovitraps are placed.
Video analytics – night-vision camera	February 2019 to May 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct tests in two areas, including municipal services buildings and rear lanes. • The tests mainly assess the performance of such camera in indoor and outdoor settings and how it can facilitate rodent control work.
	September 2019 to March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the preliminary test results are satisfactory, the tests of the camera will be extended to other places to assess its overall effectiveness in rodent control.

Technology/ Product	Test period	Test method and result
Video analytics – thermal detection	March 2019 to June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop related artificial intelligence technology.
	June 2019 to September 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct site tests, examine the effectiveness and make improvements on the technology.
	Early 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the preliminary test results are satisfactory, the tests of the technology will be extended to other places to assess its overall effectiveness in rodent control.