



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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[English Translation]

30 December 2019

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,

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
Rodent control work**

Regarding the motions passed at the panel meeting on 10 December 2019, after consulting the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) and Buildings Department (BD), our reply is as follows:

Motion 1

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has enhanced cooperation with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) by inviting various technology companies to explore technologies for tracking rodents' activities in the short and long run with a view to eliminating rodents' harbourage and dispersal routes in a more

effective and targeted approach. FEHD held another meeting with HKSTPC and conducted site visit in December 2019.

FEHD is conducting studies on the use of thermal cameras with artificial intelligence analytical function to monitor the area and extent of rodent activities. Initial trial results have shown that data captured by the cameras can quantify and assess the effectiveness of anti-rodent operations by comparing the rodent population density before and after carrying out anti-rodent work. Moreover, the technologies can be used for identifying rodents' potential entry points, travel routes and areas where rodents visit frequently. Thus, rodenticides and trapping devices can be placed in a more effective manner and more targeted rodent control measures can be implemented. FEHD plans to carry out field trials in Kowloon City in early 2020 with a view to updating and upgrading the quantifying functions of the Rodent Infestation Rate (RIR). When carrying out anti-rodent work in designated target areas in the coming year, FEHD plans to install thermal cameras at some districts for monitoring and analysis so as to quantify and review the effectiveness of the operations in these areas.

On rodent-proofing design in buildings (e.g. minimum distance between pipes, location of flower beds etc.) and rodent prevention and control measures in construction and demolition sites (e.g. implementing rodent disinfection measures timely), BD promulgated a guideline to the registered building professionals and registered contractors in May 2019. ArchSD also promulgated similar guidelines on rodent-proofing design for government works and buildings in June 2019.

## Motion 2

The Government will continue to step up anti-rodent work and implement the measures on a regular basis. After reviewing the work carried out during the territory-wide cleansing campaign, the Government has proposed a series of additional work. It includes carrying out improvement works of different scales in back alleys as necessary, deciding on the priority public rental housing (PRH) estates, installing additional rodent proofing structures at suitable locations in PRH estates, conducting enhanced intensive anti-rodent operations in six public markets, stepping up enforcement work against illegal dumping of refuse, conducting anti-rodent operations in

designated target areas, and using thermal imaging camera to capture rodent activity data for updating and upgrading the RIR quantifying functions.

FEHD has stepped up inspection in areas with higher concentration of aged buildings, private streets, as well as food premises and nearby back alleys. FEHD has carried out special cleaning operations to remove junk and refuse speedily. Enforcement actions have been strengthened to deter illegal dumping. In addition, FEHD has implemented rodent prevention and control work in these areas and maintain environmental hygiene.

### Motion 3

To improve refuse collection service in rural areas, FEHD has conducted a trial use of solar-powered compacting refuse bins (compacting bins) in various districts since 2018. Taking into account the public feedback, FEHD is working on improvements to the compacting bins and conducting further trial. Moreover, FEHD plans to conduct a trial use of solar-powered mobile refuse compactors in Yuen Long in the second quarter of 2020 for more efficient collection and temporary storage of refuse.

In addition, FEHD is now using solar-powered aluminium refuse collection points (RCP) in rural areas on a trial basis, which includes installation of solar panels and sensor-operated openings. Ventilation, lighting and fly-killing facilities will also be installed to improve the hygiene condition of the RCPs. As far as practicable, large household waste collection point will be provided next to the RCP. The trial scheme of solar-powered aluminium RCP has started since mid-2019, if the new design can improve the dumping situation in rural areas and is agreed by residents, consideration will be given to extend its use to other suitable RCPs in rural areas.

FEHD will continue to enhance refuse collection service in rural areas as necessary to maintain environmental hygiene.

### Motion 4

At present, FEHD conducts RIR surveys by setting baits in selected areas. The ratio of the baits bitten will be used to infer the distribution of

rodents in public places. FEHD will increase the number of surveyed areas from 41 at present to 50 in 2020.

The RIR surveys currently conducted by FEHD already cover the area of 23 public markets, 3 markets under the Housing Department and 14 private markets. Targeted rodent prevention and control work has been carried out in public markets regardless whether the locations concerned are within the RIR surveyed areas or not.

Yours sincerely,

[ Signed ]

( Gilford LAW )  
for Secretary for Food and Health

cc.: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Director of Architectural Services  
Director of Buildings