



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]

14 May 2020

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 Control Work**

Regarding the captioned issue arising from the Panel meeting held on 21 April 2020, our response is set out below.

- (a) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) sets out in the contracts the performance requirements and standards that must be met by its outsourced service contractors. Minimum requirements on manpower, work shift and frequency of services are also stipulated in the contracts according to operational needs. Furthermore, in conducting FEHD's tender exercise for outsourced service contracts, tenders are evaluated according to the "standard

marking scheme” as required by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau. Under the marking scheme, the technical scores and price scores each carry a weighting of 50%. Two of the assessment criteria for technical score, namely “the record of compliance with employment requirements” and “the record of past performance in the provision of services for FEHD”, take into account the performance of tenderers in the execution of service contracts in the past. Therefore, the performance of tenderers in the past may affect their chances of success in bidding for contracts.

FEHD staff will check whether the contractors have complied with the contract terms in the delivery of services in accordance with the operational manual for management of contracts. The work performance of contractors is also monitored through site inspections, surprise checks and examination of work records. In the event of any irregularities, defaults or non-compliance with contract provisions in the delivery of services, FEHD will take follow-up actions. In 2017, 2018 and 2019, FEHD issued 52, 104 and 223 default notices with deduction in monthly payments to 9, 8 and 8 pest control service contractors respectively.

To enhance the monitoring of cleansing and pest control services, FEHD has incorporated new clauses concerning the On-board Electronic Vehicle Monitoring System (OEVMS) into its pest control and street cleansing service contracts since October 2019 and May 2020 respectively. Each vehicle for the provision of pest control and street cleansing services is required to be monitored with the aid of an OEVMS. All operational data are collected by data collection devices and uploaded by electronic vehicle monitoring devices through wireless telecommunication networks to the Fleet Management Computer System (FMCS) for data analysis. FEHD can access FMCS from Fleet Management Website to enhance management of pest control and street cleansing services.

- (b) The expenditure incurred by FEHD for procuring 1 300 new mosquito traps was around \$670 000. The distribution of these mosquito traps is tabulated in the **Annex**. The locations of such traps may be adjusted according to the actual circumstances.

Around 1 400 new mosquito traps are placed in the venues managed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the Education Bureau, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, the Hospital Authority, the Housing Department and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

- (c) Starting from April 2020, the FEHD has placed new gravidtraps to replace the existing ovitraps for dengue vector surveillance. Approximately 5 000 gravidtraps are placed in the territory and the locations of these gravidtraps are the same as those of the ovitraps previously placed. Around 1 800 gravidtraps are placed at 33 ports, while the remaining approximately 3 200 gravidtraps are placed at 57 locations in the community, mainly covering densely populated areas (including residential premises<sup>1</sup>, schools, parks, hospitals, etc.) with reference to the recommendations of the World Health Organization. Areas where local dengue fever cases have emerged are also covered.

- (d) The Pest Control Steering Committee (PCSC) led by the Food and Health Bureau is responsible for formulating policies on pest control, promoting inter-departmental co-ordination and regularly reviewing the effectiveness of the pest control work carried out by bureaux and departments. PCSC has set three targets for pest control work, namely enhancement of prevention, co-ordination and surveillance.

Consolidating past experiences, PCSC is of the view that early prevention is the most effective approach to mosquito control. The Government will commence and strengthen targeted operations to prevent mosquito breeding before the rainy season. Once the rainy season arrives, all departments will be mobilised to conduct regular fogging operations to eliminate adult mosquitoes. The Government will also enhance collaboration with the local communities to avoid mosquito proliferation in the rainy season. Under the coordination of PCSC, the departments have been allocated additional resources to enhance pest control work. They have also included standard pest control terms in new cleansing

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<sup>1</sup> Of the 555 gravidtraps placed in the public housing estates, eight are placed in Tak Long Estate and five in Kai Ching Estate.

service contracts to closely monitor the performance of their pest control service contractors and ensure that the contractors will provide appropriate and effective pest control services. If the performance of the relevant contractors is unsatisfactory, such performance may be reflected in the assessment reports of the contractors or the management companies. The departments may also take follow-up actions, including the issue of verbal warnings, written warnings and default notices. Such performance record may affect the tenderers' future bidding for the outsourced service contracts.

At the district level, an inter-departmental communication platform has been set up by the front-line staff of FEHD and other departments for monthly coordination of specific mosquito control work and joint site inspections, provision of technical support and review of the effectiveness of mosquito control work. FEHD also provides professional training for the government departments. Last year, training and talks on mosquito prevention and control were organised for over 400 staff of other departments to enhance their awareness about pest control. FEHD has also organised pest control training courses for front-line staff, middle and senior management of the relevant departments to enhance the effectiveness of their routine pest control work and their competence in monitoring the performance of service contractors. In addition, FEHD invited an expert from the World Health Organization in February 2019 to hold a thematic talk for about 100 staff from various government departments.

- (e) If any article or thing is found to cause obstruction to street cleansing work, FEHD may cause to be served upon the owner of such article, or, where the owner cannot be found or ascertained, cause to be attached to such article, a notice requiring the owner to remove the same within a period of four hours after the notice is so served or attached, and to prevent the recurrence of such obstruction by the article during such period, as may be specified in the notice. In case of non-compliance, FEHD will remove the article concerned. Besides, relevant government departments have been collaborating fully in taking enforcement actions under their purview to tackle

street management problems including illegal extension of business by shops and street obstruction by goods.

Yours sincerely,

[ Signed ]

(Gilford LAW)

for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c.: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

## Distribution of FEHD's new mosquito traps

District/Group	Number of new mosquito traps
Central and Western	40
Wan Chai	70
Eastern	50
Southern	50
Islands	80
Yau Tsim	50
Mong Kok	60
Sham Shui Po	40
Kowloon City	100
Wong Tai Sin	50
Kwun Tong	50
Kwai Tsing	60
Tsuen Wan	60
Tuen Mun	80
Yuen Long	80
North	60
Tai Po	40
Sha Tin	50
Sai Kung	60
Cemeteries and Crematoria Section	170
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 300</b>