

**Legislative Council
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Improvement of
Environmental Hygiene and Cityscape**

Follow-up on the Meetings of 23 March 2021 and 27 April 2021

Supplementary information requested by Members at the captioned meetings is provided in the ensuing paragraphs.

Issues Relating to “Efforts to Improve Environmental Hygiene and Cityscape”

Enforcement actions and inter-departmental joint operations against shop front extensions

Shop front extension (SFE) is a street management problem which cuts across the purview of a number of government departments. At present, law enforcement against specific situations of street obstruction is generally taken by various enforcement departments (including FEHD, the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police), the Lands Department and the Buildings Department) in accordance with their respective powers and responsibilities. Where a case is more complicated or involves several departments, the District Office concerned will assist in co-ordinating inter-departmental joint operations if necessary.

2. Since the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570) came into operation on 24 September 2016, enforcement officers may issue fixed penalty notices of \$1,500 to offenders causing obstruction as a result of the illegal extension of business by shops. At present, the fixed penalty system is mainly targeted at cases which are straightforward, clear-cut and capable of being easily established, so that problems associated with SFE are tackled in a quicker and more effective manner. Where the case is more serious or complicated (e.g. involving repeated offenders), consideration will be given to issuing summons and/or taking arrest action under section 4A of the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228).

3. FEHD has observed in recent years that some shops have illegally extended their business beyond the confines of shops to carriageways and other public places, or even placed their goods and

miscellaneous articles on pavements, causing obstruction to road users and pedestrians. Targeting such rampant state in the vicinity of Pei Ho Street in Sham Shui Po, FEHD has in recent months revised its enforcement strategy and worked with the Sham Shui Po Police District to mount joint operations under the statutory powers conferred to their respective enforcement officers. In parallel, FEHD and the Police are currently exploring on how to strengthen collaboration, including FEHD taking the lead in the enforcement against obstruction, arranging the removal and seizure of obstructions placed on carriageways or in public places, with a view to effectively solving the problem of obstruction on passageway. The two departments are exploring the feasibility of a new enforcement model under the existing legislative framework, with an aim to launching a trial scheme in two to three districts in the second half of this year. In considering the way forward, we will carefully observe and evaluate the outcome of the trial scheme, and pay close attention to other districts with SFE problems.

Issues Relating to “Measures to Improve Refuse Collection and Street Cleanliness”

Requirements for adoption of technologies in service contracts

4. As mentioned in the discussion paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)746/20-21(03)), FEHD has been proactively deploying technologies for mechanisation and automation of cleansing. After trial runs, FEHD will review the effectiveness of the technologies on the basis of such parameters as data analysis, cost effectiveness and views from stakeholders, and consider extending the application of individual technologies. Subject to their compatibility with existing contracts, technologies that have proven to be effective will be incorporated, according to their uses, into the tender in the form of contractual provisions or a separate contract for territory-wide application. The details and timetable for introduction of relevant technologies by FEHD in recent years are at **Annex 1**.

Issues Relating to “Enhanced Rodent Control Work”

Application of technologies in rodent surveillance and control work

5. The details and timetable for introduction of technologies / methods in rodent surveillance and control work by FEHD in recent years are at **Annex 2**.

Public participation in keeping the city clean

6. Keeping Hong Kong clean is the crux of anti-rodent work. In addition to prevention and control measures targeting locations with serious rodent infestation undertaken by various government departments and enhanced rodent surveillance work, a new dedicated website was launched by the FEHD in January 2021 to promote the message of “Keep Hong Kong Clean, We Can Do It!” to the public. Useful information and recommendations to keep the environment hygienic are provided to encourage public response and participation.

7. FEHD has been disseminating information on personal, household and environmental hygiene through different channels, including broadcast of Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio, display of posters at main public transport facilities such as MTR stations and bus stops, distribution of pamphlets and leaflets, and the use of Facebook and Instagram pages of Keep Clean Ambassador Ah Tak and YouTube. The presence of Ah Tak at public functions is also arranged to appeal to the public to eliminate the three fundamental survival conditions of rodents, namely food, harbourage and passages, and actively participate in anti-rodent efforts. The Department will also organise games and competitions relating to rodent control from time to time, with a view to enhancing the public’s knowledge in rodent prevention and control and encouraging their active adoption of relevant measures.

8. Moreover, the relevant government departments are planning to step up public engagement and education to encourage the public to keep the environment clean and eliminate the food source of rodents, with a view to tackling rodent infestation at source.

Expenses and manpower resources for anti-rodent work

9. In addition to eliminating rodents through trapping and placing poisonous baits, rodent control work undertaken by FEHD also covers a number of different aspects, including inspection of locations with rodent

activities at public places; provision of health education relating to rodent control to relevant personnel; rendering technical advice on rodent prevention and control to various government departments / organisations, and conducting joint inspections to provide on-site recommendations where necessary to assist relevant bodies in stepping up rodent control work; and handling rodent-related complaints, etc. The expenditure and manpower resources deployed by FEHD for its rodent control work between 2019 and 2021 are tabulated below:

Financial Year	Expenditure on rodent control work
2019-20	\$218 million
2020-21 (Revised estimate)	\$242 million
2021-22 (Estimated expenditure)	\$259 million

Year	Total number of FEHD staff	Total number of staff employed by pest control service contractors
2019	727	1 970
2020	740	2 180
2021	744	2 200

Issues Relating to “Improvement of Environmental Hygiene of Public Markets and Public Toilets”

Enforcement actions in public markets

10. Information on enforcement actions taken by FEHD against irregularities in public markets over the past three years is set out at **Annex 3**.

Issues Relating to “Enhancement of Control Work of Mosquito and Biting Midge Infestation”

Enforcement against mosquito breeding

11. The number of prosecutions instituted by FEHD under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) against construction sites and other premises where mosquito breeding was found over the past three years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Construction sites	Other premises	Total
2018	197	9	206
2019	162	11	173
2020	154	4	158

Measures to assist the construction industry in strengthening mosquito prevention and control

12. The Government conducts an inter-departmental anti-mosquito campaign in three phases annually, during which the pest control staff of FEHD will pay special attention to areas in close proximity to residential premises and construction sites, step up inspection, mosquito control actions and publicity efforts, and provide technical advice on prevention of mosquitoes for contractors and workers in construction sites. Besides, FEHD, the Labour Department (LD) and the Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC) jointly compiled two sets of guidelines on mosquito prevention in 2017 for reference by contractors and workers in construction sites respectively.

13. As for education, in addition to its participation in the talks organised by OSHC every year to brief the participants on anti-mosquito messages, FEHD co-organised 16 and 7 “Lunch-time Talks on Mosquito Prevention in Construction Sites” with the Hong Kong Construction Industry Employees General Union in 2018 and 2019 respectively. There were altogether 752 participants. Two talks on “Mosquito Prevention in Construction Sites” were co-organised with the Home Affairs Department for the personnel of the construction industry in 2019. There were a total of 150 participants. On 22 October 2020, a talk on “Mosquito Prevention in Construction Sites – Preventing Dengue Fever” was given at the “Housekeeping at Workplace Work Safety Online Seminar” organised by OSHC and LD with a total of 1 697 participants.

14. In 2017, FEHD distributed educational video discs on mosquito control to the relevant government departments (including various works departments, such as the Architectural Services Department, the Buildings Department and the Civil Engineering and Development Department). FEHD maintains close liaison with various property management associations, and through which arranges talks for property management personnel to enrich their knowledge on mosquito control. Besides, FEHD attends the meetings of the Joint Utilities Policy Group every year to share

the most updated information on pest control, so as to enhance the mosquito prevention and control work at construction sites and properties of the utility companies.

Food and Health Bureau
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
May 2021

Details and Progress of Introducing Technologies for Mechanisation and Automation of Cleansing by FEHD in Recent Years

Technology	Details of Trial / Application	Progress
Street leaf vacuum cleaner	FEHD is planning for the trial run of street leaf vacuum cleaners at suitable locations in the New Territories to reduce manual sweeping and enhance cleansing efficiency.	Subsequent to preliminary assessment, the feasibility of improving relevant equipment is being explored and further trial runs at suitable locations in the New Territories are in the pipeline.
Mini-mechanical sweeper	Mini-mechanical sweepers have been used for street sweeping in designated areas of Tai Po and Yuen Long districts to reduce manual sweeping and enhance cleansing efficiency.	Since July 2020, upon renewal of street cleansing service contracts for Yuen Long and Tai Po districts, contractors have been required to provide mini-mechanical sweepers under contractual provisions. The inclusion of mini-mechanical sweepers as a contractual provision will be considered according to the needs of individual districts upon renewal of street cleansing service contracts.
Mechanical street sweeper	To safeguard the safety of cleansing workers, mechanical street sweepers are used by FEHD's cleansing	Fully adopted. Provisions have been added to relevant street cleansing service contracts under which

Technology	Details of Trial / Application	Progress
	contractors to sweep public roads, flyovers and central dividers.	contractors are required to use mechanical street sweepers to sweep public roads, flyovers and central dividers.
Mini-street washing vehicle (MSWV) and pressure washer surface cleaner (PWSC)	FEHD has introduced MSWVs with PWSCs to reduce manual cleansing and remove stubborn dirt in a short period of time.	Fully adopted. Upon renewal of street cleansing service contracts since July 2018, contractors are required to provide MSWVs with PWSCs and PWSCs under newly added contractual provisions.
Solar-powered compacting refuse bins (SCRBs)	FEHD launched a one-year pilot scheme on the third-generation SCRBs in September 2020. 24 SCRBs have been installed in rural locations of nine districts for trial use to improve environmental hygiene and to enhance pest control.	Its effectiveness is being evaluated.
Solar-powered mobile refuse compactors (SMRCs)	FEHD has been implementing a one-year trial scheme on SMRCs since mid-2020. Four SMRCs have been deployed to Yuen Long and Tsuen Wan districts for trial use with a view to improving environmental hygiene and enhancing pest control.	Its effectiveness is being evaluated and further trial runs at suitable rural locations are in the pipeline.

Technology	Details of Trial / Application	Progress
Low-entry driver cab type refuse collection vehicles (RCVs)	Low-entry driver cab type RCVs have been introduced by FEHD. The low-floor design of the cab makes it more convenient for drivers and cleansing workers to get on and off the vehicles, reduces risk of accidents, improves occupational safety and health, and provides drivers with a wider vision for better safety of both drivers and road users.	Fully adopted. Upon renewal of street cleansing service contracts since May 2019, contractors are required to provide low-entry driver cab type RCVs under newly added contractual provisions.

Details and Progress of Introducing Technologies / Methods in Rodent Surveillance and Control Work by FEHD in Recent Years

Technology / Method	Details of Trial / Application	Progress
Thermal camera monitoring system	FEHD conducted field trials on thermal imaging cameras with artificial intelligence analytical function (thermal camera monitoring system) at a number of locations (including target areas of the anti-rodent operation in designated target areas) in 2020. The trials have shown that the new technology is quite effective in identifying places where rodents frequently visit and the time and pattern of rodent activities, as well as assessing and quantifying anti-rodent work.	FEHD installed the thermal camera monitoring system at selected locations of all target areas during the second round of anti-rodent operation in designated target areas in November 2020. FEHD plans for a wider use of the thermal camera monitoring system at suitable locations in all districts across the territory (including during the anti-rodent operations in designated target areas), with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the operations, and will recommend the technology to other departments.
Using a poisonous bait having flavours of food for rodent disinfection	The bait was tested in the laboratory and public rear lanes in seven districts respectively for its attractiveness to rodents and poisoning efficacy between October 2019 and July 2020. The results have shown that	FEHD will introduce the use of the bait in its regular anti-rodent work. It is expected that the bait will be put into use in the third quarter of 2021.

Technology / Method	Details of Trial / Application	Progress
	the poisonous bait is effective in attracting the consumption of rodents and poisoning them.	
New design snap trap	The snap trap was tested in five districts and six markets respectively between January and June 2020. The results have shown that the new design snap trap is effective in catching rodents.	FEHD will introduce the use of the snap trap in its regular anti-rodent work. It is expected that the snap trap will be put into use in mid-2021.
Placing poisonous baits in a T-shaped bait box	The bait box was tested in Kwun Tong District between October and November 2020. The results have shown that the T-shaped bait box is more effective in attracting rodents to enter and consume the baits than ordinary rectangular bait boxes.	FEHD has introduced the use of the T-shaped bait box in its regular anti-rodent work. The bait box has been put into full use since the second quarter of 2021.
Application of the Geospatial Information Hub (GIH) platform	FEHD will disseminate detailed information at individual survey locations of the Rodent Infestation Survey to various departments through the Government's GIH platform.	It is expected that the platform will be put into use in mid-2021.
Application of Internet of Things (IoT)	FEHD is working with the Electrical and Mechanical Services	The design of the system is underway. It is expected that installation

Technology / Method	Details of Trial / Application	Progress
solutions	Department to launch a pilot scheme in Yeung Uk Road Market, Tsuen Wan to deploy wireless motion sensors, rodent traps, bait boxes, etc. through the application of IoT solutions, so as to step up the monitoring of rodent prevention and control work in markets, and carry out focused improvements and follow-up work.	of the system will commence in mid-2021.

Enforcement Figures of FEHD in Public Markets

Enforcement Action	2018	2019	2020
Number of warning letters issued to tenants on			
● obstruction of fire services installations or passageways	1 740	1 800	1 313
● unauthorised use of stalls for non-designated purpose	555	473	104
● inadequate business hours of stalls	400	163	42
● unauthorised sale of other commodities	70	69	54
● cleanliness of stalls	0	7	5
● other irregularities	98	97	105
Total	2 863	2 609	1 623
Number of prosecutions initiated against tenants for			
● causing obstruction in markets	1 586	1 688	1 194
● unauthorised operation of business or illegal occupation of stalls in markets	71	41	48
● offences relating to food safety and hygiene	35	28	26
● offences relating to cleanliness of stalls	0	4	4
● other offences (including unauthorised posting of posters in public places and unauthorised alteration of electrical fittings in stalls)	5	29	20
Total	1 697	1 790	1 292
Tenants with their stall tenancy agreement terminated due to breach of legislation or tenancy terms	40	59	11