

Our Ref.: (19) in FEHD CI&PC/32-60/10/1C
Your Ref. CB(4)/PAC/R61

11 December 2013

Clerk to Public Accounts Committee,
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central, Hong Kong.
(Attn.: Ms Mary SO)
[Fax: 2840 0716]

Dear Ms So,

Public Accounts Committee

Consideration of Chapter 2 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 61

Management of roadside skips

I refer to your letter dated 4 December 2013 on the captioned subject, requesting the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to provide response in writing to paragraph 3.5(a) of the captioned Report regarding the reason that FEHD has not taken enforcement action against skip owners in the past 10 years.

According to the inter-departmental agreement in 2004 between Lands Department, Hong Kong Police Force, Transport Department, Highways Department, Home Affairs Department and this department in tackling the problem of roadside skips, FEHD will refer the complaints it receives to the relevant District Lands Office (with a copy to the Police) by fax for follow-up action under the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28). If roadside skips cause obstruction, inconvenience or danger to the public or traffic, the Police may take appropriate action under the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228). If the person using the skip has littered the surrounding area when loading / unloading the waste, FEHD will require the person concerned to clean up the area or take appropriate enforcement action under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132).

Since skips are usually stationed on the ground, waste will unlikely be accumulated underneath them. Our observations in the past suggest that persons using the skips would normally clean up the surrounding area after loading / unloading the waste. Breach of Cap. 132 could not be observed. FEHD would take appropriate enforcement action if there is evidence that the skip owners or users have littered or are responsible for causing environmental hygiene nuisances to the vicinity.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop that crosses itself, followed by a vertical line extending downwards.

(YU Man-fung)

for Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene