

Annex II

Numbers of complaints / referrals received, inspections conducted, warning letters issued, and fixed penalty notices (FPNs) / summonses issued by the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office of the Department of Health (TACO) for smoking and other related offences under the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance (Cap. 371), the Fixed Penalty (Smoking Offences) Ordinance (Cap. 600) and the Import and Export Ordinance (Cap. 60)

		2022	2023	2024
Complaints/referrals received		14 805	20 116	29 205
Inspections conducted		35 281	28 817 ^(note 4)	30 162
Warning letters issued ^(Note 1, 2)		21	10	10
FPNs issued (for smoking offences)		6 296	10 261 ^(note 4)	13 488
Summonses issued	for smoking offences	35	48	64
	for other offences ^(Note 3)	130	657	871

Note

1. In general, the TACO will prosecute smoking offenders without prior warning. The TACO will only consider issuing warning letters if the smoking offenders are found to be persons under 15 years old.
2. During the 3-month grace period from 30 April to 31 July 2022, warning letters were issued to passengers carrying small quantity of alternative smoking products (ASPs). After the grace period, any person who imports any quantity of ASPs will be prosecuted when there is sufficient evidence.
3. Other offences include willful obstruction, failure to produce identity document, displaying smoking product advertisement, ASP related offences, and aiding and abetting another person committing a smoking offence.
4. To effectively mitigate the impact of secondhand smoking on the public and enhance the deterrent effect against illegal smoking, the TACO has flexibly deployed resources and adopted new enforcement strategies since 2023, which included extending the time of surveillance and inspections in no smoking areas, deploying plain-clothes officers to take proactive enforcement actions, stepping up enforcement action in targeting venues (such as bars and food premises) that offer waterpipe

tobacco to customers, as well as prosecuting people inciting, aiding and abetting illegal smoking. The number of prosecutions against illegal smoking has surged due to the new enforcement strategies, reflecting their enhanced effectiveness.