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Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

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**raised by Finance Committee Members**  
**in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12**  
**Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health (Food)**

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<a href="#">FHB(FE)139</a>	1134	WONG Kwok-hing	22	N/A
<a href="#">FHB(FE)140</a>	1135	WONG Kwok-hing	22	N/A
<a href="#">FHB(FE)141</a>	3187	TAM Wai-ho, Samson	22	N/A
<a href="#">FHB(FE)142</a>	1133	WONG Kwok-hing	22	N/A
<a href="#">FHB(FE)143</a>	3235	TAM Wai-ho, Samson	139	N/A
<a href="#">FHB(FE)144</a>	3681	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	139	(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety
<a href="#">FHB(FE)145</a>	3682	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	139	(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety
<a href="#">FHB(FE)146</a>	3683	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)147</a>	3684	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)148</a>	3672	CHAN Hak-kan	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)149</a>	3673	CHAN Hak-kan	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene

<a href="#">FHB(FE)150</a>	3813	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	139	(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety
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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)001**

Question Serial No.

0071

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of liquor licence applications received and appeals lodged, the average time taken for processing an application and listing an appeal for hearing, the success rate of appeals, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved in handling these applications and appeals in 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

Year	2008	2009	2010
Number of applications for liquor licence (including club liquor licence)	856	874	956
Average time taken for processing an application	41 days	38 days	37 days
Number of appeals lodged with Municipal Services Appeals Board (MSAB)	7	14	13
Average time taken for listing an appeal for hearing	85 days	67 days	41 days
Success rate of appeals (i.e. appeals allowed by MSAB)	14%	50%	23%

In the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, there are 39 staff, including contract staff, in three licensing offices handling liquor and club liquor licence applications and appeals as part of their licensing-related duties. There is no separate breakdown of the expenditure involved in the handling of liquor licence applications and appeals.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 15.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)002**

Question Serial No.

0072

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the average time taken for processing a restaurant licence application and a provisional restaurant licence application, and the manpower and expenditure involved in 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The average processing time for issuing a full restaurant licence was 168 working days in both 2008 and 2009, and 166 working days in 2010, while that for issuing a provisional restaurant licence was 45 working days in 2008, and 42 working days in both 2009 and 2010. Restaurant licence applications are handled by a total of 115 staff in three licensing offices as part of their licensing-related duties. There is no separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved in handling restaurant licence applications.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)003**

Question Serial No.

0073

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please set out in tabular form the number of applications by restaurant licensees for outside seating accommodation and the average time taken for processing an application in 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively. Please also list the respective number of applications rejected, appeals lodged and applications withdrawn in each of the above three years.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

Year	2008	2009	2010
Number of applications for outside seating accommodation	71	88	73
Average time taken for processing an application	16 months	11 months	17 months*
Number of applications approved	7	23	32
Number of applications rejected	19	31	17
Number of applications withdrawn/abandoned	45	34	18
Number of appeals lodged	0	0	0

(\*Note: Time for processing an application for approval of outside seating accommodation depends on the time spent by the applicant in complying with relevant licensing requirements and settling objections raised by the public or other departments concerned and relevant land issues, if any, which varies from case to case.)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 18.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)004**

Question Serial No.

0074

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of applications for revision of layout plans submitted by restaurant licensees and the number of approved applications in 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2008, 2009 and 2010, there were 728, 569 and 639 applications respectively for alteration to the approved layout of licensed restaurants. The corresponding numbers of approvals were 650, 749<sup>Note</sup> and 520.

(Note: Alteration applications received in one year may be carried forward and completed in subsequent year(s). The fact that more approval cases were recorded for 2009 than the applications received in the same year is because the number of applications approved in 2009 included the number of applications received in and before 2009.)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 17.3.2011



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)005**

Question Serial No.

0075

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of applications for transfer of restaurant licences, the average time taken for processing an application as well as the number of applications withdrawn in 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2008, 2009 and 2010, there were 609, 701 and 766 applications respectively for transfer of restaurant licences, of which 15, 5 and 17 cases were withdrawn respectively. The average time for processing the applications in 2008, 2009 and 2010 was 45, 44 and 40 working days respectively.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)006**

Question Serial No.

0076

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What is the number of appeal cases against the suspension of food business licences in 2010, and how many cases were allowed? Of the appeal cases against licence suspension, what is the average period of suspension? What is the longest and shortest period of licence suspension?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2010, there were 19 appeal cases against food business licence suspension, of which 17 cases were heard and two withdrawn. Of the cases heard, the Licensing Appeals Board shortened the suspension period in two cases, upheld the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's suspension decision in 11 and has yet to rule on the remaining four cases. The average suspension period after appeal was eight days. The longest period was 14 days and the shortest was four.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 17.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)007**

Question Serial No.

0077

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please set out in tabular form the number of fixed pitch hawkers and vacant pitches, as well as the vacancy rate of fixed pitches in each of the 18 districts in 2009 and 2010.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The information sought is provided at Annex.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 18.3.2011

**On-street Hawker Fixed Pitches – Occupied and Vacant Pitches  
(other than Cooked Food Hawkers)**

District	2009 (as at December 31)			2010 (as at December 31)		
	No. of Occupied Pitches	No. of Vacant Pitches*	Vacancy Rate	No. of Occupied Pitches	No. of Vacant Pitches*	Vacancy Rate
	(a)	(b)	((b)/(a)+(b))	(a)	(b)	((b)/(a)+(b))
Central/Western	665	89	12%	675	0	0%
Eastern	486	62	11%	477	0	0%
Southern	34	6	15%	34	0	0%
Wan Chai	480	25	5%	474	0	0%
Islands	1	0	0%	1	0	0%
Yau Tsim	946	0	0%	934	0	0%
Mong Kok	1 656	18	1%	1 665	8	0.5%
Sham Shui Po	1 019	376	27%	1 127	0	0%
Kowloon City	122	105	46%	184	25	12%
Wong Tai Sin	25	18	42%	22	0	0%
Kwun Tong	95	0	0%	90	0	0%
Kwai Tsing	18	0	0%	17	0	0%
Tsuen Wan	25	0	0%	22	6	21%
Tuen Mun	8	0	0%	8	0	0%
Yuen Long	24	0	0%	21	2	9%
North	8	0	0%	8	0	0%
Tai Po	11	0	0%	11	0	0%
Sha Tin	3	0	0%	3	0	0%
Sai Kung	3	0	0%	3	0	0%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5 629</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>5 776</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0.7%</b>

Remarks: \*The figures have excluded fixed pitches frozen for purposes such as anticipated resite commitments and planned deletion.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)008**

Question Serial No.

0078

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of Mainland processing plants supplying chilled pork to Hong Kong, the total quantity of import, the average import price of chilled pork and the number of inspection conducted to the Mainland chilled pork processing plants in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2008 to 2010).

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2008 – 2010, the number of Mainland processing plants approved for supplying chilled pork to Hong Kong was four. The quantities of Mainland chilled pork imported into Hong Kong were about 13 600 tonnes, 15 500 tonnes and 18 300 tonnes respectively.

According to the Census and Statistics Department, the average import prices of Mainland chilled pork from Mainland in 2008 – 2010 are \$13.0, \$12.6 and \$13.2 per catty respectively.

The numbers of inspection to the Mainland chilled pork processing plants in 2008 – 2010 were three, five and four respectively.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 9.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)009**

Question Serial No.

0079

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please list in tabular form the number of live poultry stalls in operation in each of the public markets under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in 2009 and 2010 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The information sought is provided at Annex.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 9.3.2011

**Number of live poultry stalls in operation in public markets  
under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department**

Serial No.	Name of Market	Number of live poultry stalls	
		2009	2010
1.	Aberdeen Market	1	1
2.	Bowrington Road Market	1	1
3.	Causeway Bay Market	2	2
4.	Chai Wan Market	2	2
5.	Fa Yuen Street Market	1	1
6.	Heung Che Street Market	1	1
7.	Hung Hom Market	2	2
8.	Java Road Market	3	3
9.	Kowloon City Market	2	2
10.	Kwun Chung Market	1	2 *
11.	Lai Wan Market	1	1
12.	Lockhart Road Market	3	3
13.	Luen Wo Hui Market	2	2
14.	Mong Kok Market	1	0 *
15.	Ngau Chi Wan Market	1	1
16.	Ngau Tau Kok Market	3	3
17.	North Kwai Chung Market	1	1
18.	Pei Ho Street Market	5	5
19.	Po On Road Market	3	3
20.	Quarry Bay Market	1	1
21.	San Hui Market	2	2
22.	Sha Tin Market	2	2
23.	Shek Wu Hui Market	2	2
24.	Sheung Fung Street Market	1	1

Serial No.	Name of Market	Number of live poultry stalls	
		2009	2010
25.	Sheung Wan Market	7	7
26.	Shui Wo Street Market	1	1
27.	Tai Kiu Market	2	2
28.	Tai Kok Tsui Market	1	1
29.	Tai Po Hui Market	5	5
30.	Tai Shing Street Market	2	2
31.	Tai Wai Market	2	2
32.	Tang Lung Chau Market	1	1
33.	To Kwa Wan Market	1	1
34.	Tsuen Wan Market	3	3
35.	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	4	4
36.	Tung Yick Market	3	3
37.	Wing Fong Street Market	1	1
38.	Yan Oi Market	2	2
39.	Yau Ma Tei Market	2	2
40.	Yeung Uk Road Market	5	5
<b>Total :</b>		<b>86</b>	<b>86</b>

Remark: \*Mong Kok Market was closed on 1 March 2010. The live poultry stall in the market has been resited to Kwun Chung Market to continue business.



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)010**

Question Serial No.

1242

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please give a breakdown by farm types of the number of Mainland farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong and the number of inspections conducted to these farms in 2009 and 2010 respectively. Please advise on the estimated number of inspections to be conducted in 2011, as well as the expenditure and manpower required for 2010-11 (actual) and 2011-12 (estimated).

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The type and number of registered Mainland farms exporting live food animals to Hong Kong in 2009 and 2010 are tabulated as follows-

	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Goat Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms
No. of Registered Farms in 2009	91	296	77	5	61
No. of Registered Farms in 2010	89	298	75	5	60

In 2009 and 2010, a total of 52 and 53 Mainland farms were inspected respectively. Fifty farm inspections are planned for 2011. The breakdown of farms inspected in 2009 and 2010 by type is tabulated as follows-

	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms
No. of Inspections in 2009	35	9	-	8
No. of Inspections in 2010	41	8	3	1

Farm inspections are carried out by inspection teams comprising veterinary officers, field officers and research officers. The estimated expenditure on farm inspections in 2010-11 and 2011-12 is about \$6 million and \$6.4 million respectively.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 11.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)011**

Question Serial No.

1243

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under the registration system for Mainland fresh water fish farms for supply to Hong Kong, please advise on the number of fish farms inspected / to be inspected and inspection visits made / to be made, as well as the expenditure and manpower required in the past three years (i.e. from 2008 to 2010) and in 2011 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety inspected 22, 12 and 18 Mainland fish farms in 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively, and plan to inspect 16 farms in 2011. The inspection will be carried out by an inspection team comprising veterinary officers, field officers and a research officer. The inspections in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 cost \$0.4 million, \$0.5 million and \$0.6 million respectively. The estimated expenditure for 2011-12 is about \$0.7 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)012**

Question Serial No.

1246

Head: 48 Government Laboratory      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:                    (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer:      Government Chemist

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What was the expenditure of the Food Safety Laboratory in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11? What is the current staff establishment? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower in 2011-12?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The expenditure of the Food Safety Laboratory (FSL) under the Government Laboratory was \$36 million for 2008-09 and \$23 million for 2009-10. The projected expenditure for 2010-11 is \$25 million. The current staff establishment of the FSL consists of 30 professional and technical officers. The estimated expenditure for 2011-12 is \$34 million with no change in staff establishment.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      Dr LAU CHAU MING

Post Title                      Government Chemist

Date                              21.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)013**

Question Serial No.

1247

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the financial provision and manpower involved or to be involved in conducting food surveillance by the Centre for Food Safety over the past three years (i.e. in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11) and in 2011-12 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The expenditures on food surveillance in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are \$45.2 million (Actual), \$48.7 million (Actual) and \$51.7 million (Revised Estimate) respectively, and a financial provision of \$52.7 million has been earmarked for 2011-12.

The manpower establishment of the Centre for Food Safety in carrying out the above work in 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 is 96, 99, 102 and 102 respectively.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 9.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)014**

Question Serial No.

1252

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the stalls in public markets (excluding cooked food markets) under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, please provide data on the following as at 31 December 2009 and 31 December 2010:

1. number of stalls let out;
2. number of vacant stalls;
3. total number of stalls;
4. vacancy rate;
5. highest stall rental;
6. lowest stall rental;
7. average stall rental; and
8. median rent.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The data sought are as follows -

	<u>As at 31 December 2009</u>	<u>As at 31 December 2010</u>
1. Number of stalls let out :	11 693	11 821
2. Number of vacant stalls :	2 582	2 274
	(including 814 stalls frozen)#	(including 1 062 stalls frozen)#
3. Total number of stalls :	14 275	14 095
4. Vacancy rate :	18.09%	16.13%
5. Highest stall rental :	\$64,295	\$65,350
6. Lowest stall rental :	\$10.34	\$10.34
7. Average stall rental :	\$2,561.53	\$2,819.28
8. Median rent :	\$1,728	\$1,810

# In those markets which will be closed shortly, and those which will undergo stall consolidation or improvement works, vacant stalls are frozen for letting out.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 15.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)015**

Question Serial No.

1253

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of improvement works projects carried out / to be carried out to enhance the competitiveness of public markets and the expenditure involved / to be involved in each of the past three years and in 2011.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The number of market improvement projects completed in the past three years and the expenditure involved are set out as follows –

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of projects</b>	<b>Estimated total cost (\$million)</b>
2008-09	4	52.13
2009-10	6	161.78
2010-11	3	5.30

For 2011-12, four market improvement projects will be carried out, involving an estimated total cost of \$27.88 million. These market improvement works include mainly upgrading of drainage, lighting, ventilation and fire services provisions, provision of barrier free access and refurbishment of toilets.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 8.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)016**

Question Serial No.

1254

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The number of licensed itinerant hawkers decreased from 535 in 2009 to 522 in 2010 and will further decrease to 520 in 2011. What are the reasons for the decrease? Please advise on the number of Itinerant (Frozen Confectionery) Hawker Licences involved, the number of licensed itinerant hawkers reduced due to natural attrition, and the number of newly-issued licences involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The change in the number of Itinerant Hawker Licences (IHLs) from 535 in 2009 to 522 in 2010 is attributed to natural attrition and IHLs surrendered under the Voluntary Surrender Scheme. The estimate of 520 in 2011 takes into account the same factors, offset by increase due to re-issuance of Itinerant (Frozen Confectionery) Hawker Licences (IHLs(FC)).

The statistical information sought is provided below:

	2009	2010	2011 (projected)
Number of IHLs(FC) reduced due to natural attrition	1	4	4
Number of newly-issued IHLs(FC) in the year	24	24	13
Total number of IHLs(FC) as at the year end	51	71	80

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)017**

Question Serial No.

1255

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the preparation for implementation of the Food Safety Bill, please provide details, including the financial provision required and manpower arrangement.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) has a detailed preparatory plan to ensure the successful implementation of the Food Safety Bill (the Bill).

CFS has already set up an office and is developing a computer system to handle the registration of food importers and food distributors under the Bill. To facilitate the registration process, CFS is consulting the trade on a set of guidelines on registration. CFS has already completed consultation with the trade on the record keeping requirement under the Bill and is finalizing a Code of Practice on the duration of keeping records for different types of food. In response to possible enquiries on the Bill, CFS will set up a hotline and a dedicated webpage to provide the necessary information about the Bill.

Upon the enactment of the Bill, CFS will launch an extensive publicity campaign to promote public awareness of the Bill's requirements. The campaign will include briefing sessions to be staged in 18 districts to explain the requirements of the Bill. Food traders such as primary producers, public market tenants and wholesale market tenants, will be particularly targeted at these sessions. Apart from this, the campaign will encompass advertisements in newspapers, magazines and on public transport, television and radio announcements in the public interest, roving exhibitions in shopping arcades and public markets as well as pamphlets, booklets and souvenirs.

In 2011-12, about \$3 million has been allocated to employ ten contract staff and six civil servants to prepare for the implementation of the Bill.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 18.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)018**

Question Serial No.

1268

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the improvement to be made to the on-line Application Tracking Facility (ATF) for licence applicants to monitor the progress of their applications in 2011-12. Please provide details on the estimated expenditure and manpower required, the estimated usage rate of the enhanced ATF, the schedule of implementation, etc.

In addition, please advise on the usage rate of the ATF in respect of food business-related licences in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2008 to 2010).

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

We are considering extending the ATF in 2011-12 to other trade licences and resources, if required, will be sought according to established mechanism.

In 2008, 2009 and 2010, 49%, 59% and 58% respectively of the applicants for food business-related licences / their authorised persons made use of the on-line ATF system to monitor the progress of their applications. The on-line ATF for liquor and club liquor licence applications was rolled out on 1 August 2010 and 31% of the applicants or their authorised persons made use of the system up to end-December 2010.

We will also continue to use existing resources to promote the awareness and usage of the ATF within the sector through regular seminars organised by the Department.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 18.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)019**

Question Serial No.

1269

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What is the usage rate of the online licence services for applications for liquor licences since the introduction of the Liquor Licence Processing System on 1 August 2010? Please advise on the expenditure involved in the development and operation of the System. Will additional resources be provided in the future to extend the online licence application services to food business licence and other relevant endorsement applications?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

From 1.8.2010 to 31.12.2010, 52 online applications for liquor and club liquor licences were made through the Liquor Licence Processing System. The non-recurrent expenditure involved in the development of the System is about \$7.7 million and the estimated recurrent cost incurred for the operation of the System is \$1.4 million per annum.

We are developing a platform for online application for food business licences and other relevant endorsements. Resources, if required, will be sought according to established mechanism.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 10.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)020**

Head: 48 Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1369

Programme: (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to paragraph 3 of the Brief Description under this programme, what is the respective number of food samples tested for regulatory compliance in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2008 to 2010) and the anticipated number for 2011?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The number of food tests (with the corresponding number of food samples in bracket) for regulatory compliance purposes conducted by the Government Laboratory for the years 2008, 2009, 2010 and the estimated number for 2011 are as follows:

2008 (actual)	2009 (actual)	2010 (actual)	2011 (estimated)
127 006 tests (29 321 samples)	175 761 tests (29 294 samples)	209 214 (tests) (30 640 samples)	175 000 tests (30 000 samples)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Dr LAU CHAU MING

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 21.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)021**

Question Serial No.

1367

Head: 48 Government Laboratory      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With respect to the outsourcing of some of the routine food testing work to the commercial sector under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2011-12, please provide the following information:

- (a) the scope of food testing and the number of samples outsourced in the past three years (ie. 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11) and the expected to be outsourced in 2011-2012, as well as the respective ratio of outsourcing.
- (b) the expenditure incurred in the past three years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2010-11) and the estimated expenditure to be incurred in 2011-12 for the outsourcing of food testing.
- (c) Apart from new outsourced items, the cost of testing after outsourcing of the routine testing items in the past three years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2010-11) and the estimated cost of testing after outsourcing in 2011-2012.
- (d) the manpower and expenditure involved for supervising and spot-checking the outsourcing work in the past three years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2010-11) and the estimated manpower and expenditure for such purposes in 2011-12.
- (e) the resources and manpower released from the outsourcing exercise in 2010-11 and the re-deployment arrangement of such resources and manpower.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

(a) The required information is as follows:

	Number of food tests (number of samples involved)	Outsourced Food Tests/ Government Laboratory's Routine Food Testing Work	Scope of outsourcing
2008-09 (actual)	22 000 (2 900 samples)	15 %	sulphur dioxide, preservatives, pesticides residues
2009-10 (actual)	79 000 (7 400 samples)	50%	sulphur dioxide, preservatives, trace metals, pesticide residues

2010-11 (estimated)	107 000 (12 000 samples)	70%	preservatives, sulphur dioxide, boric acid, propionic acid, nitrate and nitrite, colouring matter, trace metals, pesticide residues, veterinary drugs residues, other food contaminants
2011-12 (estimated)	115 000 (12 800 samples)	70%	preservatives, sulphur dioxide, boric acid, propionic acid, nitrate and nitrite, colouring matter, trace metals, pesticide residues, veterinary drugs residues, other food contaminants

(b) The required information is as follows:

	Expenditure on Outsourcing
2008-09 (actual)	\$ 1.5 million
2009-10 (actual)	\$ 7 million
2010-11 (projected)	\$ 9 million
2011-12 (estimated)	\$ 12 million

- (c) The testing cost per sample varies considerably, depending on the test parameter involved and hence the degree of complexity. The average percentage reduction in testing cost per sample was about 30 % since the commencement of the outsourcing exercise in 2008-09 due to competition among private laboratories.
- (d) The Outsourcing Management Section was established in 2009-10 to perform outsourcing related activities including contract management and monitoring the performance of the contract laboratories. The Section consists of seven professional and technical staff with an annual expenditure of \$4.1 million.
- (e) The resources released from the outsourcing exercise are deployed to develop new test methods in relation to residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs in food, to cope with new testing work arising from amendments to food legislation such as newly permitted preservatives and to perform other duties including tests for urgent food incidents, enhancing the testing capability of the local laboratories and management of outsourcing activities.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Dr LAU CHAU MING

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 21.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)022**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

0105

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

A total of 13 781 and 10 837 stray animals were caught in 2009 and 2010 respectively. Please set out the numbers of dogs and cats caught, the number of euthanised animals and the estimated number of animals to be euthanised in 2011-12.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The numbers of stray animals caught, given up by owners, received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)'s Animal Management Centres through other channels (such as through seizure) as well as the number of such animals rehomed and euthanised in 2009 and 2010 are at **Annex**.

If health conditions permit, stray dogs and cats caught by AFCD will usually stay at an AFCD Animal Management Centre for at least four days, pending possible retrieval by their owners. Unclaimed dogs and cats will be passed to animal welfare organisations collaborating with AFCD for re-homing if they are found to be healthy and of an acceptable temperament. Only animals which are assessed to be unsuitable for re-homing due to health or temperament reasons, or could not be re-homed by animal welfare organisations will be euthanised.

AFCD has recently strengthened collaboration with and support to animal welfare organisations in re-homing animals, including inviting more organisations to partner with AFCD and providing free de-sexing services for dogs and cats to be re-homed through its partners. It is expected that there would be a modest increase in the number of successful re-homed cases and hence a corresponding decrease in the number of animals to be euthanised in 2011.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ ALAN WONG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15 March 2011

**Annex**

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Animals Caught</b>			<b>Animals Given Up by Owners</b>			<b>Animals Received by AMCs Through Other Channels</b>			<b>Animals Rehomed</b>			<b>Animals Euthanised</b>		
	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others
2009	7,850	4,570	1,361	2,990	190	427	1,175	150	40	650	90	18	9,085	3,497	1,161
2010	6,519	3,907	411	2,345	204	68	1,689	204	31	789	119	32	7,420	3,047	482



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)023**

Question Serial No.

0177

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

What is the provision, including compensation to be paid to affected fishermen, earmarked for the implementation of the ban on trawling in Hong Kong waters? Please provide details of the criteria for the compensation.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

To assist the fishermen affected by the trawl ban in Hong Kong waters, the Government proposes to provide ex-gratia allowances and introduce a voluntary vessel buy-out scheme for the affected trawler owners, and to offer one-off grants to local deckhands employed by the trawler owners who surrender their vessels. We are discussing with the trawler fishermen and other stakeholders to gather their views on the implementation details. We will present the finalised proposals with detailed arrangements including financial implications to the Legislative Council in the second quarter of 2011.

The eligibility criteria for the proposed ex-gratia allowance, voluntary buy-out of trawler vessels and one-off grants for local deckhands are at Annex.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

**Proposed Ex-gratia Allowance, Voluntary Buying out  
of Trawler Vessels, and One-off Grants**

**Eligibility Criteria for Applicants**

**(A) Ex-gratia Allowance (EGA)**

The eligibility criteria are to be determined by an inter-departmental working group (IWG) established before the commencement of the registration for applying for EGA. Only applicants who can meet the criteria are eligible for the EGA. The criteria should include the following:

- (a) the applicant must be the owner of a trawler vessel which is used for fishing only and not engaged in other commercial activities as at 13 October 2010, and at the time of application is still the owner of that trawler;
- (b) the applicant must be the holder of a valid certificate of ownership and operating licence of a Class III vessel issued by the Marine Department (MD) under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certification and Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 548D) in respect of the trawler vessel on or before 13 October 2010; or has obtained an approval-in-principle letter for construction of a Class III vessel issued by the MD on or before 13 October 2010, and submit a document proving that the vessel under construction is a trawler vessel;
- (c) the trawler vessel in the application must wholly or partly fish within Hong Kong waters;
- (d) the applicant must provide the trawler vessel and fishing gear for inspection during registration;
- (e) the particulars of qualified coxswain and engineer operator of the vessel must be provided for registration; and
- (f) other criteria as determined by the IWG.

**(B) Voluntary Buying out of Trawlers**

The applicant must be eligible for the EGA in (A) above.

**(C) One-off Grants for Local Deckhands**

- (a) the applicant must be a local deckhand and must, at the time of application, provide evidence proving that he/she has already been employed to work as at 13 October 2010 on the trawler vessel joining the above-mentioned Scheme, and has remained working on the trawler vessel until the owner of the trawler vessel has submitted an application for the Scheme;
- (b) the applicant must make a declaration on his/her employment status to support his claim in his/her employment on the trawler vessel;

- (c) the applicant must submit a declaration by his/her employer confirming his/her employment record; and
- (d) the applicant should as far as practicable provide relevant documentary evidence (e.g. Mandatory Provident Fund records, employment contracts, salary payment records, etc.) to support his claim in his/her employment on the trawler vessel.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)024**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

0178

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

How many pig farms and chicken farms are still in operation and please specify their sizes? What is the licensed rearing capacity of each farm?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The numbers of pig and chicken farms currently in operation are 43 and 30 respectively. The licensed area and licensed rearing capacity of each farm are shown in the attached table.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 10 March 2011

**Table : Area and rearing capacity of licensed livestock farms****Pig farm****Chicken farm**

	Licensed Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed Capacity (Nos.)
1	691.19	500
2	1,611.16	950
3	2,407.85	2,000
4	4,953.09	4,000
5	557.91	800
6	1,280.91	600
7	4,248.04	3,000
8	388.79	350
9	706.90	1,000
10	1,142.90	600
11	5,085.70	1,500
12	3,130.14	1,500
13	938.49	850
14	1,864.27	600
15	2,594.17	2,000
16	3,914.32	3,000
17	2,640.33	2,600
18	2,601.06	2,000
19	2,146.27	1,600
20	384.65	300
21	2,006.52	1,000
22	1,725.58	1,900
23	838.59	1,500
24	1,709.24	1,500
25	1,612.44	1,000
26	2,960.03	3,500
27	1,327.53	1,000
28	2,100.65	2,000
29	3,699.22	1,800
30	6,345.66	6,000
31	4,524.78	2,600
32	3,458.94	2,500
33	1,374.87	1,200
34	1,239.02	1,500
35	2,860.03	1,500
36	556.96	250
37	1,392.30	1,990
38	626.82	450
39	1,923.26	1,500
40	7,108.62	4,000
41	4,106.13	3,000
42	3,205.77	2,000
43	1,180.97	1,200
<b>Total :</b>	<b>101,172.07</b>	<b>74,640</b>

	Licensed Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed Capacity (Nos.)
1	433.41	10,000
2	708.10	18,000
3	2,597.37	50,000
4	387.23	10,000
5	648.36	20,000
6	723.86	19,900
7	974.59	20,000
8	569.30	25,000
9	682.16	19,000
10	2,648.58	35,000
11	775.26	20,000
12	1,336.34	39,000
13	2,004.75	41,000
14	4,518.98	48,000
15	4,604.03	102,000
16	3,226.20	108,000
17	948.17	18,000
18	2,623.25	70,000
19	2,944.67	62,800
20	1,568.95	38,500
21	758.15	26,000
22	9,091.32	162,300
23	4,831.83	80,000
24	1,563.39	48,000
25	1,137.70	48,000
26	873.34	27,000
27	1,610.01	26,000
28	1,655.73	36,000
29	1,250.84	42,000
30	1,067.54	31,000
<b>Total :</b>	<b>58,763.41</b>	<b>1,300,500</b>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)025**

Question Serial No.

0179

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide information on the following in respect of the production bases exporting food to Hong Kong:

- (a) set out in a table the number of Mainland production bases approved for exporting food to Hong Kong by province and by the type of food exported, such as vegetables, fruits, live pigs, live cattle, live chickens, freshwater fish, etc.; and
- (b) the number of inspections conducted by the Department to the above production bases in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2008 to 2010).

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung Kan

Reply:

- (a) According to the State General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), the number of registered Mainland farms exporting live food animals, fish, vegetables and fruits to Hong Kong in 2010 by type and location is tabulated as follows-

Province or cities	No. of registered farms for each food type							
	Poultry	Pig	Cattle	Goat	Live Aquatic Animals (except fish)	Fish*	Vegetable	Fruit
Guangdong(廣東)	66	91	4		3	76	145	181
Shenzhen(深圳)	9	6				1	6	1
Zhuhai(珠海)	12	6		1		6	1	5
Anhui(安徽)		1	1		14			2
Beijing(北京)			5				6	16
Chongqing(重慶)		1					1	4
Fujian(福建)		3					11	225
Gansu(甘肅)			5				9	123
Guangxi(廣西)		11		2			2	113

Province or cities	No. of registered farms for each food type							
	Poultry	Pig	Cattle	Goat	Live Aquatic Animals (except fish)	Fish*	Vegetable	Fruit
Guizhou(貴州)			1				3	1
Hainan(海南)	2	3					27	51
Hebei(河北)			13				29	237
Heilongjiang(黑龍江)			2					6
Henan(河南)		36	5				14	23
Hubei(湖北)		33	5		8	6	8	38
Hunan(湖南)		61	1	1	4	4	70	64
Jiangsu(江蘇)					18		25	
Jiangxi(江西)		21	1		1	9	15	35
Jilin(吉林)			1					1
Liaoning(遼寧)					3		4	271
Neimongol(內蒙古)			14				10	
Ningxia(寧夏)							11	9
Shaanxi(陝西)			8					635
Shandong(山東)			3				61	675
Shanxi(山西)		2	5				2	37
Shanghai(上海)		8					13	2
Sichuan(四川)							2	48
Tianjin(天津)			1				7	
Xinjiang(新疆)								584
Yunnan(雲南)				1			55	99
Zhejiang(浙江)		15			9		18	116
<b>Total no. of registered farms</b>	89	298	75	5	60	102	555	3 602

\* According to AQSIQ's registered farm list, freshwater fish farms and seawater fish farms are grouped under fish farms and there is no further breakdown in the number between these two types of farms.

(b) A total of 89, 84 and 91 Mainland farms were inspected in 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively. The breakdown of farms inspected by type is tabulated as follows-

	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Live Aquatic Animal Farms (except fish farms)	Fish Farms (freshwater/seawater)	Vegetable Farms	Orchards
No. of Inspections in 2008	39	7	-	4	21 / 1	17	-
No. of Inspections in 2009	35	9	-	8	9 / 3	20	-
No. of Inspections in 2010	41	8	3	1	14 / 4	16	4

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 15.3.2011



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)026**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

0180

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Regarding animal and plant regulation:

- please provide the respective numbers of stray animals caught over the past two years (2009-10 and 2010-11) by species.
- please list the respective methods employed by the Government to handle stray animals over the past two years (2009-10 and 2010-11) by species. What was the expenditure involved?
- how many animals without quarantine were found imported illegally for sale over the past two years (2009-10 and 2010-11) respectively?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

- The numbers of stray animals, by types, caught by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), in 2009 and 2010 are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Dog</b>	<b>Cat</b>	<b>Others</b>
2009	7 850	4 570	1 361
2010	6 519	3 907	411

- If health conditions permit, stray dogs and cats caught by AFCD will usually stay at an AFCD Animal Management Centre for at least four days, pending possible retrieval by their owners. Unclaimed dogs and cats will be passed to animal welfare organisations collaborating with AFCD for re-homing if they are found to be healthy and of an acceptable temperament. Only animals which are assessed to be unsuitable for re-homing due to health or temperament reasons, or could not be re-homed by animal welfare organisations will be euthanised.

Stray cattle caught by AFCD will also be kept in an AFCD Animal Management Centre and the public will be notified by gazette. If the cattle are not claimed by their owners within seven days of notice, arrangements will be made for the cattle to be sold or euthanised.

The expenditure involved in handling stray animals at the Animal Management Centres is as follows :

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
2009-10	\$1.8 million
2010-11	\$1.6 million

- (c) The numbers of illegally imported animals, including those not meeting the quarantine requirements, seized by AFCD in 2009 and 2010 are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Number of animals seized	1 765	1 518

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 16 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)027**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

1271

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

How many stray animals were caught in the past three years (2008-10)? How many of them were re-homed eventually? Please provide the numbers by species.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The numbers of stray animals caught and re-homed through collaborating animal welfare organisations by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, by types, in the past three years is as follows:

Year	Number caught			Number re-homed		
	Dog	Cat	Others	Dog	Cat	Others
2008	8 375	4 642	709	720	180	12
2009	7 850	4 570	1 361	650	90	18
2010	6 519	3 907	411	789	119	32

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)028**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

1272

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Please provide information on the numbers of licensed premises and establishments where animals were kept for trading purposes over the past three years (2008-10). How many inspections were carried out and how many irregularities were found during the period? Please give a detailed breakdown of the cases by nature.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The numbers of licensed animal trading premises over the past three years (2008-2010) are as follows:

Year	Number of Licensed Premises
2008	433
2009	418
2010	426

The numbers of inspections carried out and cases of prosecutions over the past three years are as follows:

Year	Number of Inspections	No. of Prosecutions	
		Trading without licence	Breaching licence condition
2008	4 999	5	22
2009	7 523	3	4
2010	4 456	13	5

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **ALAN WONG** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **10 March 2011** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)029**

Question Serial No.

1368

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Please provide the annual quantities of fresh vegetables consumed by Hong Kong people over the past 3 years (from 2008 to 2010). What were the annual percentages of vegetables marketed through the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) to the total vegetable sales in Hong Kong in the same period? What are the estimated total quantities consumed by Hong Kong people and the percentage of vegetables marketed through VMO to the total sales in Hong Kong for 2011?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The annual consumption of fresh vegetables from 2008 to 2010, and the corresponding quantity and percentage marketed through the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) in the same period, are tabulated below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total consumption (tonne)</b>	<b>Throughput in VMO (tonne)</b>	<b>VMO throughput over total consumption (%)</b>
2008	654 858	176 796	27%
2009	657 892	172 764	26%
2010	651 557	156 495	24%

We expect the total consumption of vegetables in 2011 to be around 650 000 tonnes with 151 000 tonnes (23%) to be marketed through VMO.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)030**

Question Serial No.

0112

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The recurrent expenditure per tonne of refuse collected decreased from \$200 in 2009 to \$197 in 2010, and the estimated expenditure for 2011 will further reduce to \$193. Please advise on the reasons for the decrease in the recurrent expenditure year by year.

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

The decrease in recurrent expenditure per tonne of refuse collected in 2009-10 and 2010-11 is mainly due to an increase in tonnage of refuse collected compared with the preceding years and contracting out of waste collection service.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 17.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)031**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0113

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide information on applications for Places of Public Entertainment Licence in the table below:

Number of Applications for Places of Public Entertainment Licence			
Year	Category of Cinemas / Theatres	Urban Area	New Territories
2009	Not more than 500 persons		
	Between 501 and 1 000 persons		
	Between 1 001 and 1 500 persons		
	Over 1 500 persons		
2010	Not more than 500 persons		
	Between 501 and 1 000 persons		
	Between 1 001 and 1 500 persons		
	Over 1 500 persons		

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

Number of Applications for Places of Public Entertainment Licence			
Year	Category of Cinemas / Theatres	Urban Area	New Territories
2009	Not more than 500 persons	2	0
	Between 501 and 1 000 persons	1	1
	Between 1 001 and 1 500 persons	1	0
	Over 1 500 persons	0	0
2010	Not more than 500 persons	0	0
	Between 501 and 1 000 persons	1	0
	Between 1 001 and 1 500 persons	0	0
	Over 1 500 persons	0	0

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 15.3.2011



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)032**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0142

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the indicator for "number of trappings", the actual number of trappings significantly increased from 26 872 in 2009 to 45 036 in 2010, and the estimated number for 2011 is 45 000. Please advise on:

- (a) the reasons for the increase in the number of trappings;
- (b) the expenditure involved; and
- (c) whether additional manpower will be provided in order to meet the higher target; if yes, the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) To further improve the effectiveness of rodent control work, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department intensified the use of rodent control measures in 2010.
- (b) The direct expenditure on rodent control work in 2010-11 is about \$134.2 million.
- (c) No additional manpower is required for achieving the target.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 15.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)033**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0143

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the indicator for "pest control surveys conducted", the actual number of surveys conducted dropped from 7 572 in 2009 to 7 123 in 2010, and the estimated number for 2011 is only 7 250.

- (a) Please advise on the reasons for the continuing decline in numbers, and whether this is related to a cutback in expenditure or manpower.
- (b) Please provide in the table below the rodent infestation rates for the whole territory and for each of the 19 districts over the past five years.

District	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Central & Western					
Eastern					
Southern					
Wan Chai					
Islands					
Kowloon City					
Kwun Tong					
Wong Tai Sin					
Sham Shui Po					
Mong Kok					
Yau Tsim					
Sai Kung					
Sha Tin					
Tai Po					
North					
Kwai Tsing					
Tsuen Wan					
Tuen Mun					
Yuen Long					
Territory-wide					

- (c) Please advise on the Department's anti-rodent measures in place, details of the measures and the amount of expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) In 2009, additional surveys were carried out for improving the environmental hygiene conditions in connection with the outbreak of human swine influenza and strengthening of rodent control work. The number of surveys conducted in 2009 was therefore higher than that in an average year and the number for 2010 returned to a normal level. The increase in the estimate for 2011 is due to the expansion of the coverage of the dengue vector surveillance programme.
- (b) The required figures are as follows -

District	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Central & Western	1.5%	7.5%	5.7%	4.7%	0.5%
Eastern	1.8%	3.2%	4.4%	8.1%	2.3%
Southern	4.2%	6.0%	4.0%	6.5%	0.5%
Wan Chai	5.2%	8.5%	8.1%	1.6%	4.5%
Islands	7.3%	6.6%	7.9%	9.3%	0.5%
Kowloon City	2.6%	3.6%	4.2%	5.0%	0.9%
Kwun Tong	5.6%	5.3%	5.3%	12.4%	3.1%
Wong Tai Sin	1.6%	3.0%	6.9%	7.5%	2.4%
Sham Shui Po	1.2%	3.9%	6.5%	7.8%	2.0%
Mong Kok	1.7%	4.7%	6.8%	2.0%	1.3%
Yau Tsim	4.3%	3.0%	5.7%	5.4%	2.3%
Sai Kung	2.0%	9.0%	8.4%	5.4%	0.9%
Sha Tin	2.8%	0.5%	5.5%	5.5%	1.3%
Tai Po	0.5%	3.9%	11.0%	1.8%	0.0%
North	3.9%	5.9%	6.5%	7.2%	0.9%
Kwai Tsing	1.2%	1.7%	4.9%	3.1%	1.5%
Tsuen Wan	3.3%	5.9%	13.3%	5.1%	2.1%
Tuen Mun	3.6%	5.4%	1.7%	8.3%	1.3%
Yuen Long	4.4%	5.3%	5.3%	6.6%	1.8%
<b>Rodent Infestation Rate</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>

- (c) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department adopts an integrated rodent control approach, consisting of improvement to environmental conditions, application of poisonous baits and setting of traps. This approach is in line with the recommendations of the World Health Organization and practices adopted by other major cities.

The estimated direct expenditure involved in the rodent control services in 2011-12 is \$149.5 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ CLEMENT LEUNG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 16.3.2011 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)034**

Question Serial No.

0144

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the indicator for "mosquito breeding places eliminated", the number of breeding places eliminated dropped from 76 526 in 2009 (Actual) to 55 225 in 2010 (Actual), and will further drop to 55 000 in 2011 (Estimate). Please advise on:

- (a) the reasons for the decline in numbers;
- (b) the expenditure involved and whether there is a reduction in expenditure; and
- (c) whether there will be a cutback in manpower; if yes, the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The drop in the number of mosquito breeding places eliminated in 2010 reflects the general decline in the number of mosquito breeding places in the territory. This is attributed to the efforts of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in enhancing community education and publicity since 1 April 2009 to raise public awareness of mosquito control.
- (b) The direct expenditure on mosquito control work in 2010-11 is about \$201.7 million and it represents a slight increase on the expenditure of \$196.6 million in 2009-10.
- (c) There will be no reduction in manpower in 2010-11.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 11.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)035**

Question Serial No.

0145

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is stated that the Department will “conduct a public consultation exercise on strengthening the regulation of veterinary drug residues in food”. In this connection, please advise on:

- (a) the details of the consultation exercise;
- (b) the aims of conducting the public consultation exercise; and
- (c) the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:-

- (a) To better protect public health, it is necessary to strengthen the regulation of veterinary drug residues in food. It is therefore proposed to revise the current regulatory framework for veterinary drug residues in food by expanding its scope of coverage to bring it in line with international standard. The Centre for Food Safety plans to conduct a public consultation exercise (the exercise) on this issue in late 2011 with details being worked out.
- (b) The exercise aims to collect views of the public and stakeholders before the Government finalizes the proposal on the revised regulatory framework.
- (c) The exercise is undertaken by existing staff and incurs no additional expenditure.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 9.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)036**

Question Serial No.

0146

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is stated that the Department will "take forward plans and projects to provide more crematorium and columbarium facilities". Please provide information on the following:

- (a) the details of the plans and an estimate of the services to be provided;
- (b) whether sites for developing new crematoria and columbaria have been identified; if yes, the details of the sites; and
- (c) the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

(a) & (c) The Wo Hop Shek Crematorium is being reprovisioned at an estimated cost of \$686.3 million for constructing six cremators and other ancillary facilities. Works has commenced since July 2009 for completion in end 2011 / early 2012. The Cape Collinson Crematorium will also be reprovisioned at an estimated cost of \$696.3 million to provide for ten new cremators and other ancillary facilities. Works has commenced since June 2010 for completion in two phases in 2012 and late 2014 respectively. With the completion of these two reprovisioning projects, the number of scheduled cremation sessions per annum will be increased by 31.3% from 40 200 in 2010 to 52 800.

In addition, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is constructing a new public columbarium with about 41 000 niches and a Garden of Remembrance in the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery, at an estimated cost of \$629.5 million, for completion in mid 2012.

(b) FEHD is upgrading public cremators by phases to increase their handling capacity. To increase the supply of public niches, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and, in 2010, released 17 potential sites across 12 districts for building public columbarium facilities. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on these sites and will continue to identify suitable sites in the remaining six districts. The relevant District Council will be consulted before sites are confirmed for development.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)037**

Question Serial No.

0147

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the work in “managing and maintaining public markets”, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the details of the work involved, and the measures to be taken to improve the management and maintenance of public markets so as to enhance the quality of service;
- (b) the estimated expenditure involved; and
- (c) the respective occupancy and vacancy rates of all public markets in the territory over the past five years.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) In 2011-12, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will carry out various measures to improve the management and maintenance of public markets. In addition to regular and daily cleansing to maintain general cleanliness of markets, FEHD will carry out improvement works in four markets, conduct promotional activities to attract patronage, let out vacant stalls at reduced upset auction price and introduce more service stalls (as appropriate) to enhance the occupancy rates of public markets.
- (b) The estimated expenditure on management and maintenance of public markets for 2011-12 is \$552.4 million.

(c) The information sought is provided as follows:

	<u>Occupancy Rate (%)</u>	<u>Vacancy Rate (%)</u>
End 2006	77	23
End 2007	76	24
End 2008	77	23
End 2009	82	18
End 2010	84	16

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG  
Director of  
Post Title Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Date 16.3.2011



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)038**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0156

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is stated that the Department will “follow up on the outcome of the review of hawker licensing policy”. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the details of the follow-up action to be taken;
- (b) the estimated expenditure involved; and
- (c) the annual expenditure and number of licences involved each year since the implementation of the Voluntary Surrender Scheme in 2002 by using the table below.

Year	Expenditure involved in the Voluntary Surrender Scheme	Number of “Dai Pai Tong” licences voluntarily surrendered	Total number of “Dai Pai Tong” licences	Number of Itinerant Hawker Licences voluntarily surrendered	Total number of Itinerant Hawker Licences
2002					
2003					
2004					
2005					
2006					
2007					
2008					
2009					
2010					

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

- (a) Details of follow up actions on the outcome of the review of hawker licensing policy are as follows:

- (i) The review concluded that a total of 61 new Itinerant (Frozen Confectionery) Hawker Licences should be issued. As at 31 December 2010, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) had issued 48 new licences. FEHD aims to issue the remainder in 2011.
  - (ii) As at 31 December 2010, 654 vacant pitches in the back row had been taken up by adjacent fixed pitch hawkers in the front row. After consultation with the relevant District Councils (DCs), a total of 218 vacant fixed hawker pitches have been made available for application by eligible registered assistants of licensed hawkers and members of the public. As at 31 December 2010, 215 such pitches had been allocated. FEHD aims to allocate the remaining pitches in 2011.
  - (iii) With the support of the relevant DC, FEHD relaxed the restrictions on the transfer of licence in respect of 10 Fixed Pitch (Cooked Food / Light Refreshment) Hawker Licences (commonly known as Dai Pai Tongs) in Central & Western District by expanding it to include “immediate family members” in addition to the spouse of the licensee and on the setting of two tables and eight stools for each Dai Pai Tong. FEHD also coordinated the efforts of various government departments and a utility company to upgrade the environmental hygiene conditions of those Dai Pai Tongs. Improvement works included laying of underground drainage, repaving of pavement / road surface, provision of gas supply, installation of metal hoods and grease filters over cooking stoves.
- (b) The expenditure incurred in following up on the outcome of the review have been absorbed by various government departments. Cost breakdown is not available.
- (c) The information sought is provided at Annex.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 17.3.2011

## Annex

Year	Expenditure involved in the Voluntary Surrender Scheme	Number of “Dai Pai Tong” licences voluntarily surrendered (see note (i))	Total number of “Dai Pai Tong” licences	Number of Itinerant Hawker Licences voluntarily surrendered	Total number of Itinerant Hawker Licences
2002	\$0	0	161	0	1006
2003	\$3,960,000	5	153	138	858
2004	\$2,370,000	13	135	62	787
2005	\$1,620,000	8	119	47	726
2006	\$1,470,000	5	113	48	673
2007	\$1,890,000	6	107	71	600
2008	\$810,000	N/A	105	47	546
2009	\$480,000	N/A	104 <sup>Note (ii)</sup>	30	535
2010	\$690,000	N/A	105	28	522

Note:

- (i) Voluntary Surrender Scheme for Fixed Pitch (Cooked Food/Light Refreshment) Hawker Licences was effective for five years from 1 December 2002 to 30 November 2007.
- (ii) There was a cancellation of one licence due to the death of a licensee in 2009 but the licence was succeeded by the spouse of the deceased licensee in the following year.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)039**

Question Serial No.

0157

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is stated that the Department will “continue to strengthen health promotional activities on nutrition labelling”. In this connection, please advise on:

- (a) the details of the promotional activities;
- (b) the estimated expenditure involved;
- (c) the ways to assess the effectiveness of the activities; and whether there is any indicator to evaluate the effectiveness of the activities, and if yes, the details; and
- (d) the number of inspections conducted and non-compliance cases detected since the implementation of the nutrition labelling legislation.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

- (a) Since the passage of the Regulation on nutrition labelling (the Regulation) by the Legislative Council in mid-2008, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) has launched a three-year Publicity and Education Campaign (the Campaign) on promoting nutrition labelling, to be implemented in three phases :
  - (1) to raise public awareness in Phase I (June 2008 – July 2009);
  - (2) to enhance understanding in Phase II (August 2009 – June 2010); and
  - (3) to motivate behavioural changes in Phase III (July 2010 – June 2011).

With the commencement of the Regulation on 1 July 2010, the Campaign has entered Phase III, which encourages the public to make reference to nutrition labels when buying prepackaged food and make healthier food choices. Prior to 1 July 2010, CFS had stepped up publicity to remind the public of the commencement of the Regulation. Since early June 2010, CFS had released new television and radio announcements in the public interest (API), briefed radio programmes and put up posters on public transport and in public housing estates. The Controller/CFS met with the media in June 2010 to brief them on the preparatory work in the run up to the commencement of the Regulation. A Food Safety Day was held on 28 June to focus the attention of the public on the impending commencement of the Regulation. The Regulation commenced smoothly on 1 July 2010.

To disseminate the message more widely, CFS has secured the support of food retailers to display posters, distribute pamphlets and broadcast APIs on nutrition labelling. CFS has organized four seminars for frontline staff of retailers. To date, some 700 staff of retailers (mainly from major retail chains) attended the seminars. Three seminars with an attendance of some 200 consumers were also held. In addition, 16 district-based roving exhibitions, coupled with talks at various community centres, were attended by around 3 800 participants.

In parallel, CFS has strengthened its co-operation with the education sector in promoting the use of nutrition labelling information. In collaboration with the Education Bureau, CFS has launched the Nutrition Labelling Promotion Award Scheme entitled "Live it, Use it" in around 500 secondary schools in the 2010-11 school year. The Scheme aims to encourage students to organise activities to promote nutrition labelling. CFS has assigned dedicated staff to conduct workshops from November 2010 to provide participants with information on nutrition labelling. As at the end of February 2011, a total of about 200 students from 22 secondary schools have enrolled. An award ceremony is scheduled for early July 2011. CFS also co-organised with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department a series of activities to promote nutrition labelling including seminars, book display and exhibition in late November 2010. Web-based platforms are also used to promote nutrition labelling to the younger generation.

Since 14 March 2011, CFS has started broadcasting short television programmes consisting of 10 episodes on using nutrition labelling information to achieve a healthy diet in daily life. CFS is also developing a free mobile phone application programme to facilitate consumers in comparing nutrition values of prepackaged food expressed in per serving or per 100g/ml format. The mobile phone application programme will be available in the second quarter of 2011.

To sustain the efforts, CFS plans to launch a two-year enhancement programme after the completion of the Campaign.

- (b) The above promotion work is undertaken by existing staff and the expenditure cannot be separately identified.
- (c) The CFS evaluates the Campaign by means of two large-scale surveys. The first one was conducted at an early stage of the Campaign in mid-2008, called the "Survey on Public Knowledge, Attitude and Practice regarding Food Safety and Nutrition Labelling". The findings were released through a press conference. The CFS will conduct the second survey in the second half of 2011 to evaluate the effectiveness of the Campaign. The effectiveness of the Campaign will be evaluated using quantifiable indicators such as the number of visits to web sites and the number of participants in publicity and education activities.
- (d) From 1 July 2010 to 11 March 2011, CFS had checked 14 818 prepackaged food products sold at 1 975 retail premises and detected 102 non-compliant products.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ CLEMENT LEUNG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18.3.2011 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)040**

Question Serial No.

0166

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please set out in tabular form the following information:

- (a) the names of air-conditioned public markets;
- (b) the air-conditioning expenses of individual air-conditioned public markets over the past year; and
- (c) the air-conditioning power consumption of individual air-conditioned public markets over the past year.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

Information sought is set out in the table at Annex.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 15.3.2011

Estimated recurrent air-conditioning expenses and power consumption of air-conditioned public markets in 2010-11

No.	Name of Market	Air-conditioning Expenses	Kilowatt Hour
		\$'000	'000
1.	Aldrich Bay Market cum Cooked Food Centre	1,449	1 030
2.	Ap Lei Chau Market cum Cooked Food Centre	1,442	923
3.	Bowrington Road Market Cooked Food Centre	1,112	710
4.	Centre Street Market cum Cooked Food Centre	747	486
5.	Chai Wan Market cum Cooked Food Centre	2,542	1 841
6.	Hung Hom Market Cooked Food Centre	637	466
7.	Java Road Market Cooked Food Centre	1,307	923
8.	Lei Yue Mun Market	383	252
9.	Lockhart Road Market Cooked Food Centre	1,513	1 171
10.	Luen Wo Hui Market cum Cooked Food Centre	5,437	4 088
11.	Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	509	453
12.	Pei Ho Street Market Cooked Food Centre	942	717
13.	Peng Chau Market	446	294
14.	Queen Street Cooked Food Market	621	488
15.	Sai Wan Ho Market Cooked Food Centre	779	596
16.	Sai Ying Pun Market	1,791	1 242
17.	San Hui Market	3,619	2 641
18.	Sha Tin Market	1,303	944
19.	Shek Wu Hui Market cum Cooked Food Centre	4,986	3 821
20.	Sheung Wan Market Cooked Food Centre	2,436	1 899
21.	Smithfield Market Cooked Food Centre	1,376	1 065
22.	Tai Kiu Market	1,784	1 511
23.	Tai Kok Tsui Market cum Cooked Food Centre	5,647	4 152
24.	Tai Po Hui Market cum Cooked Food Centre	2,308	1 703
25.	Tai Shing Street Market Cooked Food Centre	628	504
26.	To Kwa Wan Market Cooked Food Centre	131	51
27.	Tsing Yi Market	1,417	944
28.	Wan Chai Market	923	550
29.	Wong Nai Chung Market Cooked Food Centre	290	222
30.	Yan Oi Market	907	658
31.	Yee On Street Market	544	357
32.	Yue Wan Market cum Cooked Food Centre	5,301	3 836
	Total	55,257	40 538

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)041**

Question Serial No.

0167

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

There is no mention of the work to improve the trading environment of public markets under the Brief Description. In this connection, please advise on:

- (a) the provision earmarked for improving the trading environment of public markets; and
- (b) the measures to be taken to improve the trading environment of public markets.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows :

- (a) A total of \$33.3 million has been earmarked in 2011-12 for improving the trading environment of public markets.
- (b) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will implement the following measures to improve the trading environment of public markets –
  - 1. To carry out improvement works in four markets, including upgrading of fire services facilities, installation of barrier free access facilities, improvement of lighting, ventilation and drainage systems and refurbishment of toilets. The estimated cost is \$27.88 million.
  - 2. To continue to identify suitable vacant market stalls for conversion into service trade stalls, bakery stalls and light refreshment stalls. No additional resources are required.
  - 3. To continue to conduct market promotion activities, especially during traditional festival periods. The estimated cost is \$4 million.
  - 4. To install eye-catching signboards/lightboxes listing out the stall in cooked food centres. The estimated cost is \$1.42 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

**CLEMENT LEUNG**

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date \_\_\_\_\_

16.3.2011



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)042**

Question Serial No.

0168

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please set out in tabular form information on the following:

- (a) the number of public markets with an occupancy rate of less than 50% at present; and
- (b) the staffing cost of each of these markets.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

- (a) As at 31 December 2010, there were seven public markets with an occupancy rate of less than 50%, two of which were pending closure, another two were undergoing consolidation from two storeys into one and the remaining three were undergoing improvement works.
- (b) As staff resources for public markets are allocated on a district basis, there is no cost breakdown by individual markets.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 15.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)043**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0181

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The estimated tonnage of refuse to be collected in 2011 is more or less the same as the actual figure in 2010. However, the recurrent expenditure per tonne of refuse collected will decrease by 2% from \$197 in 2010 (Actual) to \$193 in 2011 (Estimate). Please advise on the area(s) of expenditure to be reduced, and the major expenditure items covered by the recurrent expenditure at present.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The decrease in recurrent expenditure per tonne of refuse collected in 2010-11 is mainly due to an increase in tonnage of refuse collected from 2009-10 to 2010-11 and contracting out of waste collection service.

The recurrent expenditure in waste collection service includes personal emoluments, departmental expenses and administrative support costs.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 17.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)044**

Question Serial No.

0182

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the cremation and burial facilities, please provide information on the following:

- (a) for the various cremation and burial facilities, including public cemeteries, crematoria and columbaria, under the management of the Department, the annual handling capacity of each crematorium as well as the number of bodies (including cremated ashes) that can be deposited at each public cemetery and columbarium and the actual deposit figures; and
- (b) the total number of in-house staff engaged and expenditure involved in the management of the above facilities at present; whether subsidies have been provided for these services over the past three years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2010-11); if yes, the amount of subsidy provided each year.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a)(i) The number of planned cremation sessions from 1.1.2011 to 31.12.2011 for each crematorium is:

Crematorium	No. of Cremation Sessions
Cape Collinson	15 346
Diamond Hill	10 176
Kwai Chung	6 996
Fu Shan	5 724
Cheung Chau	1 908
Wo Hop Shek (Note 1)	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>40 150</b>

Note 1: Closed since June 2009 for re-provisioning work. Staff are re-deployed to work in other crematoria to provide additional sessions.

- (a)(ii) The total number of burial spaces at each public cemetery and the actual occupancy figures as at 31.12.2010 were:

Cemetery	No. of Burial Space		Total
	Occupied	Unoccupied	
Wo Hop Shek	6 519	2 839	9 358
Sandy Ridge	3 055	1 955	5 010
Cheung Chau	631	629	1 260
Tai O	101	319	420
Lai Chi Yuen	146	130	276
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 452</b>	<b>5 872</b>	<b>16 324</b>

- (a)(iii) The total number of niches for cremated ashes at each public columbarium and the actual occupancy figures as at 31.12.2010 were:

Columbarium	No. of Niches		Total
	Occupied	Unoccupied	
Diamond Hill	61 648	163	61 811
Cape Collinson	61 558	57	61 615
Wo Hop Shek	22 272	18	22 290
Fu Shan	9 619	6	9 625
Kwai Chung	9 269	7	9 276
Cheung Chau	1 979	356	2 335
Lamma	54	436	490
Peng Chau	263	227	490
<b>Total</b>	<b>166 662</b>	<b>1 270</b>	<b>167 932</b>

- (b) The total number of in-house staff, including contract staff, engaged in the management of the above facilities is 187. The expenditure involved in the management of the above facilities and the revenue collected for the same in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 were:

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
	HK\$ million (Actual)	HK\$ million (Actual)	HK\$ million (Estimate)
Revenue collected	63.1	125.5 (Note 2)	66.9
Expenditure	162.3	173.2	177
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>47.7</b>	<b>110.1</b>

Note 2 : The significant increase of revenue collected was due to the sale of new niches at Diamond Hill Columbarium.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ CLEMENT LEUNG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 16.3.2011 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)045**

Question Serial No.

0183

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide information on the following items under this programme:

- (a) the number of in-house staff, contractors and contractor staff engaged in the provision of public cleansing services under this programme, including street cleansing and household waste collection, and management of public cleansing facilities such as public toilets and refuse collection points; and
- (b) the expenditure on outsourcing of the aforesaid public cleansing services in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2010-11).

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

- (a) As at 1 March 2011, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department engaged 3 161 in-house staff, 17 contractors and 7 378 contractor staff in the provision of public cleansing services.
- (b) The expenditure on outsourcing of the aforesaid public cleansing services in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 is \$622 million, \$708 million and \$727 million (revised estimate) respectively.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 17.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)046**

Question Serial No.

0184

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the provision of pest control services, please advise on:

- (a) the overall expenditure on pest control services at present, the establishment of in-house staff responsible for providing these services and the staffing cost involved; and
- (b) the number of contractors and contractor staff engaged in the provision of pest control services and the expenditure on outsourcing of these services.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

- (a) The direct expenditure on pest control services in 2010-11 is \$383.1 million. As at 1 March 2011, the establishment of in-house staff responsible for providing these services is 775 and total staff cost is about \$160 million.
- (b) Five two-year contracts commencing 1 April 2009 have been awarded to two contractors at a total cost of \$385.8 million for the provision of pest control services. The total number of contractor staff is 1 503.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 17.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)047**

Question Serial No.

0185

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the hygiene blackspots, please advise on:

- (a) the number of complaints received in respect of hygiene blackspots in the past two years (i.e. from 2009-10 to 2010-11);
- (b) the number of hygiene blackspots identified by the Department in 2010-11; the respective number of blackspots in public places and those in private premises which have been tackled with the assistance of the Department; the total number of these blackspots tackled and the expenditure involved; and
- (c) the plans for dealing with hygiene blackspots in the coming year (i.e. in 2011-12) and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

(a) and (b): Following the outbreak of Human Swine Influenza in May 2009, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), in consultation with District Councils, had identified 105 hygiene blackspots in the territory for enhanced clean-up operations and they were all located in public places. These blackspots had been eradicated by the end of February 2010. The number of complaints received in respect of these locations in 2009 and 2010 were 6 920 and 7 500 respectively. In addition, the Department provided one-off cleansing service to 5 008 old tenement buildings without management bodies. The expenditure for the enhanced services was about \$38.2 million.

(c): The Department will continue to upkeep the cleanliness and hygiene condition of these locations by utilizing the existing resources. The Department's estimated expenditure on public cleansing services in 2011-12 is \$1,819 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 14.3.2011



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)048**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0186

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

How many food production farms and food processing plants outside Hong Kong were inspected by the Department in 2010-11? What were the major regions / places for inspections?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

In 2010, a total of 91 registered food production farms (including farms which export live food animals, live aquatic products, fish, vegetables and fruits to Hong Kong) and 45 food processing plants in the Mainland were inspected. Another six farms and ten processing plants in Australia, Netherlands and Norway were also inspected.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)049**

Question Serial No.

0187

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

At present, what are the staff establishment and expenditure involved in the inspection of food production farms and food processing plants outside Hong Kong? Is there any target number set on the locations to be inspected in the coming year (i.e. in 2011-12)?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

An inspection team comprising three veterinary officers, eight field officers and one research officer is responsible for the inspection of food animal farms and fish farms outside Hong Kong. \$6.4 million has been earmarked for the work in 2011-12.

The inspection of vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong is carried out by a research officer while an inspection team comprising five health inspectorate officers is responsible for inspecting food processing plants outside Hong Kong. As these officers are also tasked with other duties, the resources for inspection of vegetable farms, orchards and food processing plants cannot be separately identified.

In 2011, we plan to inspect 50 food animal farms, 16 fish farms, 20 vegetable farms and 38 processing plants outside Hong Kong.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)050**

Question Serial No.

0188

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to private swimming pools, please advise on:

- (a) the number of new private swimming pool licences and the total number of private swimming pool licences issued over the past three years (i.e. from 2008 to 2010); and
- (b) the frequency of inspections conducted to each of these private swimming pools on average, the number of cases of irregularities concerning water quality, number of lifeguards and other issues found in private swimming pools as well as the number of prosecutions instituted over the past three years (i.e. from 2008 to 2010).

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

- (a) In 2008, 2009 and 2010, the number of private swimming pools licences newly issued by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) was 26, 40 and 33 respectively. In 2008, 2009 and 2010, the total number of private swimming pool licences issued was 1 000, 1 036 and 1 065 respectively.
- (b) Private swimming pools are inspected monthly from April to October or during such other periods as the pools remain open for use. Between 2008 and 2010, there were two cases of unsatisfactory water quality, one case of inadequate provision of lifeguards and three cases of effecting alteration of premises without permission. The Department took out five prosecutions and issued one warning letter.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)051**

Question Serial No.

0189

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please list, by public market and cooked food market, the improvement works and promotional activities to be carried out in the coming year (i.e. in 2011-12), and advise on the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

In 2011-12, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will carry out general improvement works in four markets, namely, Hung Shui Kiu Temporary Market, On Ching Road Flower Market, Tai Wai Market and Sham Tseng Temporary Market, at an estimated cost of \$27.88 million. The works mainly include upgrading of fire services facilities, provision of barrier free access, improvement of ventilation, drainage and lighting systems and refurbishment of toilets.

Promotional activities to be carried out in 2011-12 include festive celebration activities, roving exhibitions and thematic workshops, distribution of multi-language booklets introducing common food items, goods and service trades, as well as publication of quarterly newsletters to provide updated market information and promotional activities. The estimated cost is \$4 million.

Eye-catching signboards/lightboxes listing out stalls in cooked food centres will be installed. The estimated cost is \$1.42 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)052**

Question Serial No.

0211

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the indicator for "raids by Hawker Control Teams", the number of raids will increase from 119 929 in 2009 (Actual) to 123 900 in 2011 (Estimate). Please advise on:

- (a) the reasons for the increase;
- (b) the estimated expenditure involved; and
- (c) whether additional manpower will be required to meet the higher target; if yes, the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

- (a) The estimated increase in the number of raids in 2011 is projected on the basis of the past trend of hawker raids, which is in turn determined by the number of complaints against illegal hawking activities and other relevant factors.
- (b) and (c) As the increased raids will be undertaken by existing staff, increase in manpower and other resources will not be necessary.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)053**

Question Serial No.

0213

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to public markets, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the expenditure on subsidising public market management over the past three years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2010-11);
- (b) the number of vacant stalls in public markets and the vacancy rate at present; the average and longest vacancy period; the total rental receivable (in terms of open market rental) from all vacant stalls last year (i.e. in 2010-11) as compared with the expenditure on subsidising public market management;
- (c) the number of in-house staff involved in the management of public markets; and
- (d) whether contractors are engaged in the various aspects of market management; if yes, the number of contractors engaged, the types of services they provide and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

- (a) For 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department recorded deficits of \$171.9 million, \$213.0 million and \$156.3 million respectively in market management.
- (b) As at 31 December 2010, 2 314 stalls out of a total of 14 581 stalls in public markets were vacant due to various reasons including stalls frozen for market improvement works, pending market closure or being set aside for resiting purpose. The gross vacancy rate was 15.9%. Information on the average and longest period of vacancy of such stalls and the related rental estimate is not readily available.
- (c) As at 31 December 2010, 260 in-house staff were involved in market management.
- (d) As at 31 December 2010, a total of 16 contractors were engaged in market management, including market cleansing, pest control and security guard services. The total annual expenditure involved is about \$133 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)054**

Question Serial No.

0228

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

It is mentioned in the Budget that in the face of surging food prices, the Administration will continue to diversify the sources of our food imports. In this connection,

- (a) has the Department put in place any specific measures for the above pledge? If yes, what are the details, manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons? and
- (b) apart from guaranteeing local supply, has the Department studied or made any plans to develop local wholesale fish markets into a regional trading centre so as to give a boost to local tourism and catering industry? If yes, what are the details and what is the provision earmarked? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

- (a) The Government is committed to ensuring safe and stable supply of food for the general public. As a highly open economy, Hong Kong adheres to the principle of free trade in food import. Food from all over the world, as long as they are fit for human consumption, can be imported and distributed in Hong Kong according to market demand, thus promoting diversity in local food choices and maintaining price stability to cater for customers with different purchasing powers. The Food and Health Bureau encourages the trade to explore new food supply and food traders are suggested to source for alternatives e.g. chilled and frozen meat as an alternative to fresh meat. In this respect, Mainland chilled pork has been imported into Hong Kong since 2006, with a total import volume of about 18 300 tonnes in 2010, representing an increase by 17% as compared with that in 2009. Chilled beef from the Mainland also entered the Hong Kong market in December 2010 and the public response was positive. The Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) and Fish Marketing Organization (FMO), statutory organisations under the purview of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), keep a close watch on the wholesale activities of vegetables and fish in Hong Kong. Both the VMO and FMO will continue to liaise with traders to encourage them to diversify their import source. As the above work is undertaken by existing staff as part of their regular duties, the expenditure cannot be separately identified.

- (b) The wholesale fish markets in Hong Kong are established and operated by the FMO to provide efficient and orderly wholesale marketing services to local fishermen and fish traders. They were not originally designed and built as scenic spots for tourists. If there is any proposal to develop any of these markets into a regional trading centre with a view to giving a boost to local tourism and catering industry, it can only proceed with improved visitor facilities and without affecting the existing market operation. Based on these premises, the AFCD is prepared to examine the feasibility of such proposals jointly with the FMO and other relevant departments.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)055**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

0338

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Please set out the numbers of stray dogs and cats caught over the past two years and the numbers of which being re-homed or euthanised, what are the estimated corresponding numbers of the coming year?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply :

The numbers of stray animals caught, given up by owners, received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)'s Animal Management Centres (AMCs) through other channels (such as through seizure) as well as the number of such animals rehomed and euthanised in 2009 and 2010 are at **Annex**.

If health conditions permit, stray dogs and cats caught by AFCD will usually stay at an AFCD Animal Management Centre for at least four days, pending possible retrieval by their owners. Unclaimed dogs and cats will be passed to animal welfare organisations collaborating with AFCD for re-homing if they are found to be healthy and of an acceptable temperament. Only animals which are assessed to be unsuitable for re-homing due to health or temperament reasons, or could not be re-homed by animal welfare organisations will be euthanised.

AFCD has recently strengthened collaboration with and support to animal welfare organisations in re-homing animals, including inviting more organisations to partner with AFCD and providing free de-sexing services for dogs and cats to be re-homed through its partners. It is expected that there would be a modest increase in the number of successful re-homed cases and hence a corresponding decrease in the number of animals to be euthanised in 2011.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ ALAN WONG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15 March 2011 \_\_\_\_\_

**Annex**

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Animals Caught</b>			<b>Animals Given Up by Owners</b>			<b>Animals Received by AMCs Through Other Channels</b>			<b>Animals Rehomed</b>			<b>Animals Euthanised</b>		
	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others
2009	7,850	4,570	1,361	2,990	190	427	1,175	150	40	650	90	18	9,085	3,497	1,161
2010	6,519	3,907	411	2,345	204	68	1,689	204	31	789	119	32	7,420	3,047	482

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)056**

Question Serial No.

1536

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Why do the annual subventions to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) remain \$608,000 from 2009-10 to 2011-12 onwards? What are the criteria for determining the amount? Will the Administration increase the subventions having taken into account the factor of inflation?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has been in collaboration with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to implement various animal welfare programmes including stray dog control, animal rescue and educational activities. For planning purpose, the estimated funding support to be given to SPCA for 2011-12 is based on the actual expenditure for these activities provided by SPCA in 2010-11. The exact amount to be given will be worked out taking into account the budget to be submitted by SPCA.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ ALAN WONG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17 March 2011 \_\_\_\_\_

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)057**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

1537

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

How many resources are earmarked for the application of other animal welfare organisations for the implementation of programmes or activities?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

In 2011-12, \$608,000 has been earmarked for providing funding support to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to implement various ongoing animal welfare programmes including stray dog control, animal rescue and educational activities. Besides, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue its efforts in strengthening support and assistance to animal welfare organisations in carrying out animal welfare and related activities. For example, AFCD has recently introduced new measures to facilitate animal welfare organisations in re-homing animals in partnership with AFCD by providing free de-sexing services for dogs and cats to be re-homed through them. The Department will also seek to engage or collaborate with more animal welfare organisations in implementing education and publicity activities.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 14 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)058**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

1532

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

What were the expenditure of various animal management centres run by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department under the above subhead? Please list out the relevant operational expenses from 2008-09 to 2010-11 respectively.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department operates four animal management centres (AMC) which are located in the North New Territories (NTN), South New Territories (NTS), Kowloon (K) and Hong Kong Island (HK) respectively. Their expenditure from 2008-09 to 2010-11 are as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>AMC/NTN</b>	<b>AMC/NTS</b>	<b>AMC/K</b>	<b>AMC/HK</b>
2008-09	\$14.41 million	\$9.78 million	\$12.35 million	\$9.78 million
2009-10	\$14.78 million	\$10.03 million	\$12.67 million	\$10.03 million
2010-11	\$15.87 million	\$10.77 million	\$13.60 million	\$10.77 million

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 14 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)059**

Question Serial No.

1533

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Please provide in table form the numbers and types of animals received by various animal management centres over the past three years (namely 2008, 2009 and 2010) as well as the numbers of cases in which the animals were euthanised or treated otherwise during their stay in those centres? What was the expenditure involved in euthanasia of animals?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The numbers of stray animals caught, given up by owners, received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's Animal Management Centres (AMCs) through other channels (such as through seizure) as well as the numbers of such animals rehomed and euthanised in the past three years are at **Annex**. The expenditure involved in euthanasia of animals in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are as follows:

Year	Expenditure Involved
2008-09	\$1.5 million
2009-10	\$1.5 million
2010-11	\$1.3 million

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

**Annex**

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Animals Caught</b>			<b>Animals Given Up by Owners</b>			<b>Animals Received by AMCs Through Other Channels</b>			<b>Animals Rehomed</b>			<b>Animals Euthanised</b>		
	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others
2008	8,375	4,642	709	3,370	370	185	1,480	228	193	720	180	12	10,240	3,923	825
2009	7,850	4,570	1,361	2,990	190	427	1,175	150	40	650	90	18	9,085	3,497	1,161
2010	6,519	3,907	411	2,345	204	68	1,689	204	31	789	119	32	7,420	3,047	482

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)060**

Question Serial No.

1534

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2011-12, it is indicated that the Administration will tighten the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale in pet shops through implementing the revised conditions of the Animal Trader Licence. How is the progress in this regard? Has the Administration considered expanding the scope of work to tighten the control on the sources of other animals as well?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The additional licensing conditions for animal traders were introduced in February 2010 to tighten the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale. Since then, the Agriculture, Conservation and Fisheries Department (AFCD) has stepped up efforts both in publicising the new arrangements and the inspection of licensed pet shops to ensure their compliance with these additional licensing conditions. The trade has been able to cope with the new arrangements with no major difficulties. The Department is now analysing the data on the sources of dogs offered for sale in pet shops collected over the past year with a view to reviewing the effectiveness of the additional licensing conditions.

The AFCD reviews the licensing conditions for different types of animal traders from time to time in light of the prevailing situation and actual needs. For example, to prevent avian influenza, the AFCD amended the licensing conditions for bird traders in June 2007 to stipulate that all birds sold by animal traders had to come from approved sources.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 10 March 2011



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)061**

Question Serial No.

1535

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

It is stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2011-12 that “measures for stray animals management” will be strengthened. In this connection, how many resources and manpower are earmarked for implementing the “Trap-Neuter-Return Programme” for dogs at the district level? Please provide the details.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue to assist the relevant animal welfare organisations in devising the implementation details of the Trap-Neuter-Return pilot scheme for dogs, including the management and legal liability issues as well as selection of suitable sites for the pilot scheme. The Department will also conduct local consultation in partnership with these organisations and provide technical support and assistance to them in implementing, monitoring and evaluating the success or otherwise of the trial scheme. A total of three staff and \$1.7 million will be allocated for this task in 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)062**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

0246

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

The estimated provision for the new financial year under the said Programme is increased by 6.8%. The Administration explained that it is mostly used for implementing a special training programme for trawler fishermen. Please specify if outside training institutions are engaged or staff of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department are deployed for implementing the training programme. Please also provide details of the staff costs involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

\$4 million of the increased provision under Programme 1 is intended for the special training programmes for trawler fishermen, which will be implemented through engaging non-government training institutions with the relevant knowledge and experience in providing such programmes.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)063**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0320

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Trees in landscaped areas along roadside are under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. At present, what are the manpower and expenditure involved in removing the rubbish dumped in areas around these trees as well as in roadside planters?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is responsible for providing refuse collection service and street cleansing service (collectively referred to as environmental hygiene service) to public places, including roadside planters. The Department and its contractors have a total workforce of about 10 200 in providing such environmental hygiene services and the estimated expenditure in 2011-12 is \$1,819 million. The Department does not have a breakdown on the number of workers engaged in and expenditure on removing rubbish in roadside planters as this is part of the environmental hygiene service.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 14.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)064**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

0407

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

What is the existing staffing involved in the inspection of premises and establishments where animals are kept for exhibition or trading purposes? As there is an increase in recent years in the number of pet shops, please advise whether more staff will be deployed to discharge duties in this regard.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

While the number of pet shops has remained stable in recent years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) introduced additional licensing conditions for animal traders in February 2010 to tighten the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale. Since then, AFCD has stepped up efforts both in publicising the new arrangements and the inspection of licensed pet shops to ensure their compliance with these conditions. Where necessary, enforcement action will be taken against illegal animal trading activities or breach of licensing conditions. To ensure effective implementation of the new measures, the Department has deployed additional staff resources in this connection. A total of 23 staff are involved in the inspection of animal trading and exhibition premises as well as the related enforcement and publicity activities.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)065**

Question Serial No.

0447

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Please inform the Committee of the following:

- (a) out of the number of "stray animals caught" mentioned in "Indicators", how many were euthanised and how many were re-homed over the past three years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11)?
- (b) regarding the catching of stray animals, what were the actual expenditure for 2009-10, the revised expenditure for 2010-11, and the estimated expenditure for 2011-12?
- (c) in 2011-12, what is the estimated cost of each euthanasia procedure?
- (d) at present, animal welfare organisations can apply for funding from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to launch projects in promotion of animal welfare. When did AFCD start this initiative and how much provision is earmarked each year? Over the past three years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11), which organisations had applied for funding and what were their projects about? How much funding did they apply for and how did AFCD assess the effectiveness of these projects?
- (e) AFCD has provided subsidies to the public to neuter their pets and has introduced outsourced free neutering service for re-homed animals (mainly cats and dogs) through its partner organisations in animal welfare. With adequate provision earmarked for this service, when will it take place? What is AFCD's annual provision allocated to this service? and
- (f) over the past three years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11), how many re-homed animals were neutered?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) The numbers of stray animals caught, given up by owners, received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)'s Animal Management Centres (AMCs) through other channels (such as through seizure) as well as the numbers of such animals rehomed and euthanised in the past three years are at **Annex**.
- (b) The expenditure involved in the catching of stray animals for 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12 are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure involved</b>
2009-10	\$20.6 million (actual)
2010-11	\$21.3 million (revised estimate)
2011-12	\$21.3 million (estimated)

- (c) The estimated cost of each euthanasia procedure in 2011-12 is \$137.
- (d) At present, AFCD provides funding support to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to implement various animal welfare programmes including stray dog control, animal rescue and educational activities. For planning purpose, the estimated funding support to be given to SPCA for 2011-12 is based on the actual expenditure for these activities provided by SPCA in 2010-11, which is \$608,000. SPCA had applied for the same amount of funding for 2008-09 and 2009-10. It is required to submit annual reports on the progress, results and financial accounts on the programmes. Other animal welfare organisations can also apply for funding for the implementation of animal welfare programmes. AFCD will consider each application on its merits.
- (e) AFCD is collaborating with 12 animal welfare organisations on re-homing of stray animals. In order to promote neutering of animals and strengthen support to these organisations, AFCD has introduced the new free de-sexing programme for these animals in February 2011. \$1 million has been earmarked for this programme in 2011-12.
- (f) All stray dogs and cats rehomed through those animal welfare organisations collaborating with AFCD are required to be neutered when they are adopted.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

**Annex**

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Animals Caught</b>			<b>Animals Given Up by Owners</b>			<b>Animals Received by AMCs Through Other Channels</b>			<b>Animals Rehomed</b>			<b>Animals Euthanised</b>		
	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others
2008	8,375	4,642	709	3,370	370	185	1,480	228	193	720	180	12	10,240	3,923	825
2009	7,850	4,570	1,361	2,990	190	427	1,175	150	40	650	90	18	9,085	3,497	1,161
2010	6,519	3,907	411	2,345	204	68	1,689	204	31	789	119	32	7,420	3,047	482

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)066**

Question Serial No.

0360

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

How much manpower is deployed by the Department to assist in organic cultivation and its sales promotion? In this connection, what kind of work was implemented by the Department last year? Please also provide the respective figures of the Department's expenditure last year and the estimated expenditure this year on the promotion of organic cultivation.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply :

The manpower deployed and the expenditure incurred in the promotion of organic farming and marketing of local organic produce in 2010-11 are 16 staff and \$6.8 million respectively. Similar level of manpower and expenditure will be required in 2011-12. Relevant work in 2010-11 includes technical support and assistance to local farmers under the on-going Organic Farming Support Service Scheme, joint effort with the Vegetable Marketing Organization and the Federation of Vegetable Marketing Cooperative Societies in promoting the production and marketing of local organic produce, and rendering support to the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre for the promotion of organic education and certification.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)067**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

1823

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

In Programme 3, it is indicated that the Administration will tighten the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale in pet shops through implementing the revised conditions of the Animal Trader Licence in 2011. Please inform the Committee the policy details, the implementation timetable, and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The additional licensing conditions for animal traders were introduced in February 2010 to tighten the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale. Since then, the Agriculture, Conservation and Fisheries Department (AFCD) has stepped up efforts both in publicising the new arrangements and the inspection of licensed pet shops to ensure their compliance with these additional licensing conditions. Where necessary, enforcement actions will be taken against illegal animal trading activities or breach of licensing conditions. The trade has been able to cope with the new arrangements with no major difficulties.

In 2011-12, the Department will continue with the above-mentioned strengthened efforts to tighten the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale in pet shops and the regulation and enforcement on the trading of other pet animals. \$6.3 million has been earmarked for this activity in 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ ALAN WONG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15 March 2011 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)068**

Question Serial No.

0454

Head: 48 Government Laboratory      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:                    (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer:      Government Chemist

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With respect to outsourcing routine food testing work to the commercial sector, what is the number of qualified laboratories that did the food testing work pursuant to the outsourcing in each of the past two years (i.e. 2009-10 and 2010-11)?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

In 2009-10 and 2010-11, the Government Laboratory (GL) outsourced 79 000 tests and 107 000 tests respectively to three and four local private laboratories. In order to qualify to undertake outsourcing contracts from GL, private laboratories must obtain accreditation from the Hong Kong Accreditation Service in the test parameters concerned and maintain the accredited status throughout the contract period.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      Dr LAU CHAU MING

Post Title                      Government Chemist

Date                              21.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)069**

Question Serial No.

0511

Head: 48 Government Laboratory      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:                    (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer:      Government Chemist

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

As described under Programme (1) of Head 48 – Government Laboratory, the Government Chemist discharges statutory functions as referee analyst under various ordinances and regulations. The work involves the analysis of food products for regulatory compliance; the examination of western and Chinese medicines for registration and quality control.

- a. In view of the upsurge of tests performed for urgent samples relating to food incidents from 356 in 2009 to 1 479 in 2010, an increase of 315%, has the Administration made any analysis on the reasons for this phenomenon and earmarked funding in the estimates this year to meet such increase?
- b. In March 2010, the Po Chai Pills Capsule Form manufactured by Li Chung Shing Tong, found to have contained carcinogenic western drugs and prescription anti-obesity drugs, were indefinitely banned by the Department of Health (DH). As a matter of fact, the manufacturer already discovered early in January that the Po Chai Pills Capsule Form contained western drugs; it started recalling the products from the market but did not inform the DH. In early March, a recall of the products was ordered in Singapore but still no notification was given by the manufacturer to the DH. It was not until irregularities had been found through tests by the Government Laboratory that the Po Chai Pills were banned. At present, what mechanisms are there for the Administration to conduct random testing of drugs in the market? What are the reasons for the significant reduction of tests performed on Chinese medicines from last year's 95 890 to this year's 78 800?
- c. Please set out the proportion of tests outsourced to commercial testing laboratories to the total number of tests performed in the past three years.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kin-por

Reply:

- a. The increase in the number of urgent tests in 2010 was mainly due to food incidents such as media reports on pesticide residues in some vegetables and the alleged use of non-permitted preservatives in a brand of instant noodle.

The Government Laboratory will continue to accord priority to urgent tests relating to such incidents to ensure food safety in Hong Kong. Funding for such purpose will be absorbed by the Government Laboratory within the existing resources.

- b. DH carries out surveillance action on drugs available in the market on a regular basis for the detection of chemical hazards in drugs, which also includes proprietary Chinese medicines. A risk-based approach advocated by the international authorities is adopted. Samples may be taken at the import, manufacturing, wholesale or retail level for testing. The surge in number of tests from the original estimate of 72 000 tests in 2010 was mainly due to *ad-hoc* requests involving western drugs

contamination found in proprietary Chinese medicines available in Hong Kong. The 78 800 tests estimated for 2011 is based on the service demand of the client departments.

c. The required information is as follows:

	No. of Outsourced Tests	% of Routine Testing Work
2008-09 (actual)	22 000	15%
2009-10 (actual)	79 000	50%
2010-11 (estimated)	107 000	70%

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Dr LAU CHAU MING

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 21.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)070**

Question Serial No.

1649

Head: 48 Government Laboratory      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:            (1) Statutory Testing  
                                 (3) Forensic Science Services

Controlling Officer:    Government Chemist

Director of Bureau:    Secretary for Food and Health  
                                 Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2011-12, the Government Laboratory will increase 21 non-directorate posts. What are the justifications for such an increase? What is the actual expenditure involved? Please also provide a breakdown for the 21 posts including their ranks and salaries, and the distribution of the posts.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

In 2011-12, it is expected that there will be a net increase of 21 non-directorate posts in Government Laboratory to strengthen the analytical and scientific support for various initiatives of the Government, such as the introduction of mandatory Good Manufacturing Practice for manufacturing of proprietary Chinese medicines in Hong Kong; enforcement of the Toys and Children's Products Safety Ordinance; the Urinalysis Programme in screening and monitoring the drug-abuse behavior of persons under custody, rehabilitation or probation; and combating drug driving. The projected salary expenditure involved is \$8.626 million for 2011-12.

The breakdown of these posts by ranks and salaries are as follows –

Rank	Number of posts	Monthly Salaries
Senior Chemist	1	\$77,375 - \$89,140
Chemist	5	\$36,945 - \$74,675
Science Laboratory Technician I	4	\$29,400 - \$38,685
Science Laboratory Technician II	10	\$14,065 - \$28,065
Laboratory Attendant	1	\$11,645 - \$14,065

Eight posts will be created under the Analytical and Advisory Services Division and 13 posts under Forensic Science Division of the Government Laboratory.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Dr LAU CHAU MING

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 21.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)071**

Head: 139 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):  
Food and Health Bureau  
(Food Branch)

Question Serial No.

0446

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding consultancy studies (if any) commissioned by the Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) and its departments for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies, please provide information in the following format.

- (a) Using the table below, please provide information on studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated between 2008-09 and 2010-11:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning / in progress / completed)	Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels. If no, why?

- (b) Are there any projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies in 2011-12? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning / in progress / completed)	For the projects that are expected to be completed in 2011-12, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?

- (c) What are the criteria for considering the award of consultancy projects to the research institutions concerned?

Asked by: Hon.HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

- (a) Please refer to Annex A.  
(b) Please refer to Annex B.

- (c) Consultancy proposals are evaluated in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Stores and Procurement Regulations. Tenderers are requested to submit a technical proposal and a fee proposal separately for our assessment. In general, technical proposals submitted by potential consultants will be assessed according to the firm's experience in conducting consultancy studies and expertise in the subject area, the firm's understanding of the study requirements, the study approach and methodology, related knowledge and experience, as well as the composition of the proposed consultancy team. The combined score of the technical and fee proposals will form the basis of awarding the consultancy project to the selected tenderer.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Marion LAI \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18.3.2011 \_\_\_\_\_



**Studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated  
between 2008-09 and 2010-11**

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning / in progress / completed)	Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels, If no, why?
Accredited Certification International Limited	Tender *	<p>Baseline Survey on Public Knowledge, Attitude and Practice regarding Food Safety and Nutrition Labelling</p> <p>The objective of the Survey is to gauge opinion and assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of the general public regarding food safety and nutrition labelling.</p>	0.385 million	May 2008	Completed	The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) has made reference to the survey findings when planning education programmes and activities on food safety and nutrition labelling.	Yes. The results of the Survey have been released to the public through a press conference and the executive summary of the survey report has been uploaded onto the CFS website.
MOV Data Collection Centre Limited	Tender *	<p>Provision of Utilization Survey on Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) Public Toilets</p> <p>The survey aimed to collect the usage rate and occupancy durations of toilet cubicles and to assess the queuing situation in designated public toilets.</p>	0.588 million	Aug 2008	Completed	FEHD drew reference to the findings and recommendations of the survey to improve toilet services.	No. The survey findings were for internal use.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning / in progress / completed)	Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels, If no, why?
Cimigo Limited	Tender *	<p>Provision of Customer Satisfaction Survey on FEHD Street Cleansing Services in 2008</p> <p>The survey aimed to collect and analyze the public's views on street cleansing facilities and services provided by the FEHD and to identify areas for improvement.</p>	0.588 million	Sept 2008	Completed	FEHD drew reference to the findings and recommendations of the survey to improve street cleansing services.	No. The survey findings were for internal use.
PriceWaterHouseCoopers	Tender*	<p>Business Impact Assessment (BIA) on the Food Safety Bill</p> <p>The objective of the BIA is to assess the costs incurred by the food trade, in particular, the small and medium enterprises, in complying with the proposed Food Safety Bill (the Bill)</p> <p>In the report, the Consultant has reviewed comparable overseas food safety legislation and covered the views of some 50 food traders or associations gauged through face-to face interviews on the proposed registration scheme and the record</p>	1.29 million	Feb 2009	Completed.	We have addressed the concerns raised in the report by making appropriate changes to the Bill. We have dropped the requirement for traders to source food only from registered food importers or distributors. We have also stipulated in the Bill that only those traders whose principal business is in food distribution would be required to register. We have set out in the Bill the criteria for refusal and revocation of registration. Finally, we have	Yes. Consultation results and the Executive Summary of the BIA were – i) released through the websites of GovHK and Food and Health Bureau; and ii) discussed in the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 9 February 2010 (vide LC Paper No. CB(2)884/09-10(03))

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning / in progress / completed)	Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels, If no, why?
		keeping requirements under the Bill.				provided in the Bill that the retention period of records be linked with the shelf life of the food and included a statutory defence for food retailers who unintentionally sell food to another trader without maintaining proper transaction records.	
GHK	Tender *	Provision of Consultancy Service for the Commercial Viability Study of a Poultry Slaughtering Centre - to conduct a consultancy study to advise on the commercial viability of a poultry slaughtering centre.	1.43 million	June 2009	Completed.	Taking into account the outcome of the study, and in view of the relatively low and stable risk of avian influenza, the Administration announced in June 2010 its decision to shelve the development of a poultry slaughtering centre in Hong Kong at this stage.	Yes. The outcome of the study was covered in a paper issued to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council in June 2010.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning / in progress / completed)	Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels, If no, why?
MVA Hong Kong Ltd.	Tender *	<p>Market Survey on the Number of Prepackaged Food Products and Their Compliance Rate to the Mandatory Labelling Requirements.</p> <p>(i) to estimate the total number of prepackaged food products in Hong Kong before and after the commencement of the nutrition labelling regulation and the percentage change in food availability over this period; and</p> <p>(ii) to estimate the total number of proportion of prepackaged food products in Hong Kong that comply or not comply with the mandatory nutrition labelling requirements before the commencement of the nutrition labelling regulations.</p> <p>The whole study includes 3 market surveys on nutrition labelling of prepackaged food products from 2009-2011.</p>	0.858 million	Sept 2009	In progress; to be completed by the end of 2011	Not applicable as the study is still in progress	The results of the first and second survey have been reported to the Legislative Council.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning / in progress / completed)	Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels, If no, why?
Consumer Search	Tender *	<p>Survey for Assessment on Impact of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme on New-to-market Prepackaged Food Products in the Food Expo 2010</p> <p>The objective of the Survey is to assess the impact brought by the Nutrition Labelling Scheme on new-to market Prepackaged Food Products introduced via the Food Expo. The result of the Survey in 2010 will serve as a baseline for comparison of a similar study to be done in 2011.</p>	0.139 million	Aug 2010	In progress	Not applicable as we need to conduct another Survey in 2011 for comparison with the result of the Survey in 2010 before we can assess the impact.	No, the result of the comparison is not yet available.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning / in progress / completed)	Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels, If no, why?
GHK	Tender *	<p>Service for Gauging the Public Perception over and Assessing the Need for Regulating the Production and Sale of Organic Food</p> <p>(i) to gauge the level of understanding of organic food by both the trade and the public; to analyse the problems besetting the emerging trend of increasing consumption of organic food in Hong Kong; and</p> <p>(ii) to make recommendation on whether the production and sale of organic food should be regulated, as well as how to enhance consumer education and information over organic food.</p>	1.36 million	March 2011	In progress.	The study is still on-going.	The study is still on-going.

\* By invitation of quotations.

## Projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies in 2011-12

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start Date	Progress of study (under planning / in progress / completed)	For the projects that are expected to be completed in 2011-12, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Consultancy not yet awarded	Tender *	<p>Second Survey on Public Knowledge, Attitude and Practice regarding Nutrition Labelling</p> <p>The objective of the Survey is to gauge opinion and assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of the general public regarding nutrition labelling.</p>	0.5 million	Aug 2011	Under planning	Yes, we will upload the executive summary of the Survey report onto the CFS website.
Consultancy not yet awarded	Tender *	<p>Survey for Assessment on Impact of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme on New-to-market Prepackaged Food Products in the Food Expo 2011</p> <p>The objective of the Survey is to assess the impact brought by Nutrition Labelling scheme on new-to market Prepackaged Food Products introduced via the Food Expo by comparing with the result of a similar Survey conducted in 2010.</p>	0.14 million	Aug 2011	Under planning	Yes, we will upload the findings of the Survey onto the CFS website.

\* By invitation of quotations.





**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)073**

Question Serial No.

0455

Head: 139–Government                      Subhead (No. & title):  
Secretariat: Food and Health  
Bureau (Food Branch)

Programme:                      (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Financial Secretary mentioned in paragraph 42 of the Budget Speech that “(the Government) will continue to diversify the sources of our food imports”. In this connection, please advise on the following:

- (a) the specific work in this respect;
- (b) the approximate government expenditure involved;
- (c) the responsible departments, number of officers involved and their ranks; and
- (d) methods of co-operation between the Government and private food suppliers.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

(a) & (d)

Our policy objective is to ensure that the food market and food trade are highly open and competitive. Diversified food sources and food types will help maintain an adequate and stable food supply. To this end, the Administration strives to improve market transparency and enhance market efficiency.

We facilitate import of food from all over the world by firstly setting clear hygiene and safety standards commensurate with international benchmark, and secondly maintaining an open and competitive market. Food can be imported and distributed in Hong Kong according to market demand as long as they are fit for consumption. These have resulted in diverse food choice for the public and stable price to cater for customers with different purchasing power.

Due to the close proximity with the Mainland, the majority of our fresh food comes from the Mainland. To maintain a stable supply, we have all along been liaising closely with the relevant Mainland authorities and also the import agents, and monitoring carefully the supply of food, especially livestock from the Mainland to Hong Kong.

We encourage the trade to explore new food supply and build up a network of food suppliers from different places. We also suggest food traders to source for alternatives e.g. chilled and frozen meat as an alternative to fresh meat. In this respect, Mainland chilled pork has been imported into Hong Kong since 2006, with a total import volume of about 18 300 tonnes in 2010, representing an increase by 17% as compared with that in 2009. Chilled beef from the Mainland also entered the Hong Kong market in December 2010 and the

public response has been positive. The Vegetable Marketing Organisation and Fish Marketing Organisation, statutory organisations under the purview of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), keep a close watch on the wholesale activities of vegetables and fish in Hong Kong, and will continue to liaise with traders to encourage them to diversify their import source.

(b) & (c)

The work mentioned above is undertaken by existing staff as part of their regular duties and the expenditure cannot be separately identified.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Marion LAI

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Food and Health (Food)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)074**

Question Serial No.

1811

Head: 139 Government                      Subhead (No. & title):  
Secretariat: Food and  
Health Bureau (Food  
Branch)

Programme:                      (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In 2011-12, the Food Branch will continue with the work of formulating a Food Safety Bill with a view to implementing new food safety control measures. In this connection, will the Administration give a detailed account of the measures against carcinogenic substances in food under the Bill. At present, only through the news reports of the Consumer Council's random food safety tests can the public in general learn of any updated information on carcinogenic substances in food. In this connection, please set out in detail the measures taken by the Administration against the problem of carcinogenic substances in food and the relevant financial commitments in the past three years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2010-11).

Asked by: Hon. IP LAU Suk-yee, Regina

Reply:

The Food Safety Bill (the Bill) was introduced into the Legislative Council in June 2010 to establish a food tracing mechanism to enable the Government to identify the source of problem food more effectively and take prompt action. The Bill seeks to achieve the objective by providing for the following –

- (a) a registration scheme for food importers and distributors;
- (b) a requirement for food traders to maintain proper transaction records; and
- (c) power for the authorities to make orders to prohibit the import and supply of problem food and order the recall of such food. The Legislative Council passed the Public Health and Municipal Services (Amendment) Ordinance 2009 on this in April 2009 ahead of introduction of the Food Safety Bill to address the food safety problem at the time.

In case of a food incident involving carcinogenic or other harmful substances, the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (DFEH) can trace the source and distribution of the problem food through the records maintained by food traders as required by the Bill. With the registration scheme under the Bill, DFEH will also be able to identify and contact a more defined group of food importers and food distributors dealing with the same food type as the problem food. These would enable DFEH to assess more precisely the scale of the incident and the movement of the problem food, as well as the follow up action required, and to make the necessary public announcement. If DFEH has reasonable grounds to believe that public health is at risk, he can make orders to prohibit the import and supply of problem food or order a food recall.

The registration and record keeping requirements under the Bill would complement the regular food surveillance and risk assessment work of the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) to ensure a multi-pronged and integrated approach on food safety.

The CFS conducts regular food surveillance according to its Food Surveillance Programme which covers, inter alia, carcinogenic substances. Samples are collected at import, wholesale and retail levels for microbiological and chemical testing. For unsatisfactory samples, the CFS takes effective risk management actions to control risks and minimise exposure to such products on the part of the public. These actions include issuing warning letters to the concerned vendors/ manufacturers, tracing the source and distribution, requiring the concerned traders to stop sale, recall and dispose of the problem food and taking follow-up samples. Prosecution will be taken against cases with sufficient evidence.

The CFS also conducts regular risk assessment studies on substances regarded as carcinogenic or probably carcinogenic to humans arising from dietary exposure. Some of these studies are conducted jointly with the Consumer Council. Results of the studies are disseminated to the trade and public through a wide range of channels. Apart from announcing results, the CFS also advises consumers on ways to minimise health risks posed by problem food.

The expenditure on CFS' overall food surveillance in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are \$45.2 million (Actual), \$48.7 million (Actual) and \$51.7 million (Revised Estimate) respectively. The expenditure on testing for carcinogenic substances cannot be separately identified as it is grouped together with testing for other harmful substances.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Mrs Marion LAI _____
Post Title	_____ Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) _____
Date	_____ 16.3.2011 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)075**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0453

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the mosquito breeding places eliminated, the numbers for 2010 (actual) and 2011 (estimated) are both lower than that for 2009 (actual). What are the reasons for the decrease?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

The actual and estimated drop in the number of mosquito breeding places eliminated in 2010 and 2011 reflects the general decline in the number of mosquito breeding places in the territory. This is attributed to the efforts of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in enhancing community education and publicity since 1 April 2009 to raise public awareness of mosquito control.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 11.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)076**

Question Serial No.

0489

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide information on the following in respect of 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively:

- (a) the establishment changes as well as the actual and estimated expenditure of the Hawker Control Teams;
- (b) the average actual and estimated expenditure of the raids by the Hawker Control Teams; and
- (c) the average actual and estimated expenditure of the joint operations against illegal hawking with other departments.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

- (a) The establishment of Hawker Control Teams is 2 204 and is the same from 2009-10 to 2011-12. The expenditure position is as follows:

2009-10 Actual : \$775.0 million  
2010-11 Estimate : \$774.1 million  
2011-12 Estimate : \$784.6 million

- (b) and (c) Cost breakdown of the expenditure on hawker control by individual raids conducted by the Hawker Control Teams or by joint operations with other departments is not available.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011



Reply Serial No.

**FHB(FE)078**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO**

**INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

0714

Head : 703 – Buildings

Subhead : 3017NB Provision of a columbarium  
and garden of remembrance at  
Kiu Tau Road, Wo Hop Shek

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question : The Administration indicates that the approved project estimate for the “provision of a columbarium and garden of remembrance at Kiu Tau Road, Wo Hop Shek” is \$629.5 million, but the actual expenditure to 31 March 2010 was \$976,000 and the estimated expenditure for 2011-12 is \$180 million only. What is the schedule of expenditure for the remainder of over \$448.5 million? How can the works be expedited to address the serious shortage of columbaria in Hong Kong as soon as possible?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick



Reply :

The construction of a new public columbarium and garden of remembrance at Kiu Tau Road, Wo Hop Shek was commenced in late 2009 and is scheduled to complete in mid 2012. The revised estimate for 2010-11 is \$55 million. The estimated expenditure of \$180 million for 2011-12 is mainly for the construction of the superstructure. The remaining estimated expenditure of \$393.5 million will be incurred in 2012-13 and beyond on finishing works of the columbarium building and ancillary facilities, procurement of furniture and equipment and settlement of final account. We will continue to closely monitor the project progress and explore the possibility of expediting the works.

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs MARIGOLD LAU

Post Title

Director of Architectural Services

Date

16 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)079**

Question Serial No.

0564

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the following:

- (a) the number of enforcement actions taken against unlicensed and unhygienic premises in each of the past three years (i.e. in 2008, 2009 and 2010);
- (b) the number of environmental nuisances relating to dripping air-conditioners and water seepage abated over the past three years (i.e. in 2008, 2009 and 2010); for recurring nuisances, whether they are counted on a report-by-report basis or a premises-by-premises basis; and
- (c) for elimination of environmental hygiene blackspots, the total number of blackspots in the territory at present, their exact locations and the number of blackspots cleared in 2010.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

- (a) In 2008, 2009 and 2010, the number of prosecutions taken against unlicensed premises was 2 079, 2 394 and 2 702 respectively, and the number of prosecutions taken against unhygienic premises was 569, 528 and 459 respectively.
- (b) For dripping air-conditioners, the number of Nuisance Notices (NNs) issued in 2008, 2009 and 2010 for abatement of environmental nuisance was 299, 517 and 490 respectively. Apart from the issue of NNs, nuisances could have been abated upon our verbal advice given to occupiers/owners of the premises. There are no statistics kept on the number of nuisances abated after issue of verbal advice.

For water seepage, the number of NNs issued under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) by the Joint Office (JO) in 2008, 2009 and 2010 for abatement of environmental nuisances was 2 101, 3 581 and 3 379 respectively; and the number of repair notices issued under the Waterworks Ordinance (Cap. 102) by the Water Supplies Department for abatement of waste of water supply during the same periods was 49, 72 and 92 respectively.

For recurring cases of dripping air-conditioner and water seepage complaints, they are counted on a report-by-report basis.

- (c) Following the outbreak of Human Swine Influenza in May 2009, the Department, in consultation with District Councils, had identified 105 hygiene blackspots in the territory for enhanced clean-up operations. These blackspots had been eradicated by the end of February 2010. A list of these blackspots is at Annex.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 17.3.2011

**List of 105 environmental hygiene blackspots**

<b>Hong Kong and Islands</b>		
1	Rear lane of 33 Graham Street and 22 Peel Street	Central & Western
2	Rear lane at 73-76 Connaught Road West	Central & Western
3	Rear lane between 288 Queen's Road West and 55-61 First Street	Central & Western
4	Rear lane at 17-19 Wellington Street and Chuk On Lane	Central & Western
5	Rear lane of 134, 136 and 138 Jervois Street	Central & Western
6	Rear lane of 39-55 Cadogan Street	Central & Western
7	Rear lane of Sai Wan New Apartments, 177-185 Belcher's Street	Central & Western
8	Chun Yeung Street (between Tong Shui Road and North Point Road), and Java Road (between Tong Shui Road and North Point Road)	Eastern
9	Electric Road (between Oil Street and Power Street) and adjacent rear lanes and Kam Ping Street and adjacent rear lanes	Eastern
10	Shing On Street (between Shaukeiwan Road and Yiu Hing Road) and Sai Wan Ho Street (between Hoi An Street and Tai Ning Street) and adjacent rear lanes	Eastern
11	Kam Wa Street (Shau Kei Wan Main Street East and Aldrich Street) and Mong Lung Street and Tai Tak Street and adjacent rear lanes	Eastern
12	Siu Sai Wan Road (Harmony Garden) and Fu Yee Road (Cheerful Garden)	Eastern
13	Vacant area near 1 Tai San Street	Islands
14	Lane at rear of Pak She Praya Road between Pak She Fourth Lane and Pak She Sixth Lane	Islands
15	Back lane at 1-15 Wing Hing Street	Islands
16	Rear lane of 1-23 Tung Shing Road	Southern
17	Rear lane of 12-26 Wu Pak Street	Southern
18	Rear Lane of 53-81 Shek Pai Wan Road	Southern
19	Rear Lane and Side Lane 181-185 of Aberdeen Main Road	Southern

20	Lane at rear of Tai Wong Street East and Swatow Street	Wanchai
21	Lane at rear of Burrows Street (Ming Fung Building)	Wanchai
22	Lane at rear of Yee Wo Street and Jardine's Bazaar	Wanchai
23	Lane at rear of Jaffe Road and Lockhart Road (between Fleming Road and O'Brien Road)	Wanchai
24	Lane at rear of Jaffe Road and Lockhart Road (between Canal Road and Marsh Road)	Wanchai
<b>Kowloon</b>		
25	Area bounded by Tokwawan Road, Lok Shan Road, Yuk Yat Street and Kwei Chow Street	Kowloon City
26	Area bounded by Bailey Street, Sung On Street, Ngan Hon Street, Tokwawan Road and Ma Tau Wai Road	Kowloon City
27	Area bounded by Mok Cheong Street, Ma Tau Chung Road, Ma Tau Wai Road, Ma Hang Chung Road, Pau Chung Street, San Shan Road and Pak Tai Street	Kowloon City
28	Area bounded by Whampoa Street, Bulkeley Street, Chatham Road North and Winslow Street	Kowloon City
29	Area bounded by Junction Road, Nga Tsin Wai Road, Tak Ku Ling Road and Carpenter Road	Kowloon City
30	Shui Wo Street and the vicinity	Kwun Tong
31	Yue Man Square and the vicinity	Kwun Tong
32	Ngau Tau Kok Road, On Wah Street, Ngau Tau Kok Market and the vicinity	Kwun Tong
33	Tsun Yip Street, Tsun Yip Lane and the vicinity	Kwun Tong
34	Ting On Street, Ting Fu Street, Tai Yip Street and the vicinity	Kwun Tong
35	Rear lane of Wai Yip Street between How Ming Street and Hoi Yuen Road	Kwun Tong
36	Lane at rear of 7-39 Fa Yuen Street	Mong Kok
37	Lane at rear and side of 165-203 Sai Yee Street	Mong Kok
38	Lane at rear of Tai Shing Building and Tai Chuen Building, Cosmopolitan Estate, Tai Kok Tsui	Mong Kok

39	Lane at rear and side of 78-80 Fuk Tsuen Street	Mong Kok
40	Lane at rear of 33 Mong Kok Road	Mong Kok
41	Lane at rear and at side of 132-158 Sai Yeung Choi Street South	Mong Kok
42	Lane at rear and at side of 61-91 Sai Yee Street	Mong Kok
43	Lane at rear of 1061-1103 Canton Road and 1-3 Argyle Street	Mong Kok
44	Lane at side of 30 Ka Tsin Street	Mong Kok
45	Area bounded by Tai Po Road, Yen Chow Street, Cheung Sha Wan Road and Nam Cheong Street	Sham Shui Po
46	Area bounded by Cheung Sha Wan Road, Nam Cheong Street, Lai Chi Kok Road and Yen Chow Street	Sham Shui Po
47	Area bounded by Lai Chi Kok Road, Yen Chow Street, Tung Chau Street and Nam Cheong Street	Sham Shui Po
48	Area bounded by Po On Road, Wing Lung Street, Un Chau Street and Hing Wah Street	Sham Shui Po
49	Tai Shing Street, Tseuk Luk Street, Yin Hing Street, Foo Yuen Street, Kam Wing Street, Yan Oi Street, Hong Keung Street, Yi Lun Street, Shung Ling Street and Ning Yuen Street	Wong Tai Sin
50	Sheung Fung Street, Fei Fung Street, Ming Fung Street, Tsui Fung Street, Lung Fung Street, Ngan Fung Street, Wan Fung Street and Kam Fung Street	Wong Tai Sin
51	Lung Chi Path, Fu Chi Path, Kwai Chi Path, Kam Chi Path and Wah Chi Path	Wong Tai Sin
52	Yuk Wah Street, Yuk Wah Crescent, Tsz Wah Lane, Fong Wah Lane and Koon Wah Lane	Wong Tai Sin
53	Rear lane of 33C-45 Portland Street	Yau Tsim
54	Rear lane of 3-5 Tung Fong Street	Yau Tsim
55	Rear lane between Hau Fook Street and Granville Road	Yau Tsim
56	Rear lane of Granville Circuit	Yau Tsim
57	Rear lane of 77-107 Parkes Street	Yau Tsim
58	Rear lane of 2-32 Parkes Street	Yau Tsim
59	Rear lane of Woosung Street between Jordan Road to Nanking Street	Yau Tsim

60	Rear lane of 123-149 Temple Street	Yau Tsim
61	Rear lane of 222 – 250 Reclamation Street	Yau Tsim
<b>New Territories</b>		
62	Rear lane of Lai Fong Street	Kwai Tsing
63	Rear lane of Shing Fong Street	Kwai Tsing
64	Rear lane of Kwong Fai Circuit	Kwai Tsing
65	Rear lane of Tai Ha Street	Kwai Tsing
66	Rear lane of Shek Yam Road	Kwai Tsing
67	Chung Mei Lo Uk Village	Kwai Tsing
68	Public area in the vicinity of Shek Wu Hui Farmers' Produce Retailing Point	North
69	Lane between San Fung Avenue and San Fat Street	North
70	Public area behind Luen Cheong Street Public Toilet	North
71	Path between San Hong Street and Royal Jubilee	North
72	Lane between Siu Yat Building and Kam Po Court, King Man Street	Sai Kung
73	Nin Chun Street	Sai Kung
74	Tong Ming Street (public pavement in front of Beverly Garden)	Sai Kung
75	Lane between 50-76 Po Tung Road and 2-28 Yi Chun Street	Sai Kung
76	Public carpark at Chun Cheong Street	Sai Kung
77	Chik Fai Street and Mei Tin Road	Sha Tin
78	Tai Wai Road and lanes in the vicinity	Sha Tin
79	Sha Tin Centre Street including the vicinity of Sha Tin Market	Sha Tin
80	Yi Shing Square and Kong Pui Street	Sha Tin
81	On Yuen Street and On Chun Street (Fok On Garden to Marbella)	Sha Tin
82	Four Lanes and rear lanes	Tai Po
83	Kwong Fuk Road and rear lanes	Tai Po

84	Kwong Fuk Square Carpark	Tai Po
85	Tai Wo Public Transport Interchange	Tai Po
86	Open spaces between Tai Yuen Estate and Jade Plaza (including On Chee Road Bus Terminus)	Tai Po
87	Rear lane of 101-123 Chuen Lung Street and Yi Pei Square	Tsuen Wan
88	Rear lane of 105-139 Sha Tsui Road and Tso Kung Square	Tsuen Wan
89	Rear lane of 27-59 Tsuen Wan Market Street	Tsuen Wan
90	Rear lane of 16-64 Heung Wo Street and 19-47 Tai Pa Street	Tsuen Wan
91	Rear lane of 94-122 Chung On Street (Sam Pei Square)	Tsuen Wan
92	Rear lane of Nos.44-64 Ho Pui Street & Nos.55-77 Yeung Uk Road	Tsuen Wan
93	Rear lane of Cheong Hei Bldg., No 105-111 Hoi Pa Street	Tsuen Wan
94	Kai Man Path	Tuen Mun
95	Vicinity of San Hui Market	Tuen Mun
96	Vicinity of Tsing Ho Square	Tuen Mun
97	Leung Tak Street	Tuen Mun
98	Tsing Yeung Circuit	Tuen Mun
99	Lane at rear of and aside 19-37 Fuk Ting Street between Man Wah Building and Kit Man House	Yuen Long
100	Lane at rear of Wing Light Building at 68-76 Yuen Long Castle Peak Road between Tai Tong Road and Yat San Street	Yuen Long
101	Lane at rear of Yee On Building at 51-73 Fau Tsoi Street between Tai Tong Road and Hop Choi Street	Yuen Long
102	Lane at rear of Kuen Yick Building at 138-160 Yuen Long On Ning Road	Yuen Long
103	Lane at rear of 47-79 Yuen Long On Ning Road between Sau Fu Street and Tung Lok Street	Yuen Long
104	Lane at rear of Yuen Long Trade Centre(near Fook Hong Street)	Yuen Long
105	Lane between No. 33-71, Sau Fu Street, Yuen Long (between Holly Building and Yuen Fat House)	Yuen Long



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)080**

Question Serial No.

0738

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to dog excreta collection bins and dog latrines, please provide information on the following:

- a) a breakdown by District Council district of the number of dog excreta collection bins and dog latrines in various districts over the past three years (i.e. from 2008 to 2010); and
- b) the number of complaints received in respect of fouling of streets by dog faeces or urine and prosecutions taken over the past three years (i.e. from 2008 to 2010).

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The numbers of dog excreta collection bins and dog latrines provided in individual District Council districts in the past three years are at Annex.
- (b) The number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued against fouling of street by dog faeces in 2008, 2009 and 2010 were 31, 40 and 28 respectively. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not have a breakdown on the number of complaints against fouling of streets by dog faeces.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

**Number of Dog Excreta Collection Bins and Dog Latrines Provided in 18 Districts  
from 2008 to 2010**

District	Number of dog latrines			Number of dog excreta collection bins		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Central & Western	58	59	58	98	211	210
Wanchai	28	28	28	59	117	128
Eastern	23	23	21	97	97	128
Southern	44	44	39	124	126	127
Islands	52	52	54	58	58	66
Yau Tsim Mong	28	28	28	61	66	72
Shum Shui Po	14	14	14	47	47	47
Kowloon City	49	49	41	34	34	34
Wong Tai Sin	7	7	7	21	21	21
Kwun Tong	11	11	9	35	37	44
Kwai Tsing	5	5	5	25	21	21
Tsuen Wan	12	12	12	31	57	69
Tuen Mun	29	40	33	27	65	65
Yuen Long	10	15	16	29	34	44
North	5	5	5	42	44	44
Tai Po	31	31	29	53	59	85
Sha Tin	31	31	31	82	82	86
Sai Kung	58	62	61	121	154	169
<b>Total</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>1 044</b>	<b>1 330</b>	<b>1 460</b>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)081**

Question Serial No.

2025

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to street cleansing, please provide information on the following:

- a) a breakdown by District Council district of the number of complaints received in respect of street washing over the past three years (i.e. from 2008 to 2010);
- b) a breakdown by District Council district of the number of streets with cleansing services provided by the contractors over the past three years (i.e. from 2008 to 2010);
- c) the total financial commitment for engaging contractors for provision of street cleansing services; and
- d) the number of warning letters issued to cleansing services contractors for breaches of contract terms over the past three years (i.e. from 2008 to 2010), the number of cases where penalties were imposed and the amount of deduction in contract payment.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The numbers of complaints against unhygienic conditions in public places were 31 122, 35 450 and 32 275 in 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not have a breakdown on the number of complaints against street washing service in the past three years.
- (b) The Department outsourced 66.7%, 70.6% and 74.6% of street cleansing services in 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively and the percentage of outsourcing broken down by districts in the past three years is at Annex. The Department does not have a breakdown of the number of streets covered by outsourced cleansing services.
- (c) The direct expenditure incurred by the 22 street cleansing service contracts covering 18 District Council districts is about \$1,120 million.
- (d) Depending on the seriousness of the breaches, the Department will either issue verbal warnings, warning letters or default notices to street cleansing service contractors. The numbers of warning

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of warning letters issued</b>	<b>No. of default notices issued</b>	<b>Total amount deducted due to issue of default notices (HK\$ million)</b>
2008	149	442	1.08
2009	228	521	1.02
2010	241	787	1.15

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

**Annex**

<b>District</b>	<b>Percentage of Street Cleansing Services Outsourced (%)</b>		
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Central & Western	86.1	88.5	89.2
Wanchai	68.8	74.0	79.1
Eastern	72.3	72.5	78.5
Southern	84.5	85.1	85.1
Islands	36.6	48.9	47.1
Yau Tsim Mong	70.5	70.5	79.5
Shum Shui Po	82.0	89.8	89.9
Kowloon City	72.9	81.2	82.5
Wong Tai Sin	66.7	66.7	72.6
Kwun Tong	73.5	74.6	74.6
Kwai Tsing	69.2	69.2	69.2
Tsuen Wan	49.2	67.6	67.6
Tuen Mun	47.9	58.4	58.2
Yuen Long	55.3	55.3	68.1
North	67.6	73.5	73.5
Tai Po	66.5	66.7	71.6
Sha Tin	62.2	62.6	69.9
Sai Kung	65.8	67.5	74.4
<b>Overall %</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>70.6</b>	<b>74.6</b>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)082**

Question Serial No.

2026

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide the number of complaints received in respect of environmental hygiene problems caused by recyclable collection bins / cages over the past three years (i.e. from 2008 to 2010).

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) provides about 1 890 recyclable collection bins in public places and does not have a breakdown on the number of complaints against environmental hygiene problems caused by recyclable collection bins. The Department does not provide metal cages for recycling purposes.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ CLEMENT LEUNG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 16.3.2011 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)083**

Question Serial No.

2032

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The quality of public cleansing services is a matter of major public concern. The total expenditure under Programme (2) in 2011-2012 will be increased by 3.7%. It is noted however there will be a net decrease of 14 posts. Besides, this year's estimate should have included expenditure required to meet increase in contract value as a result of the implementation of the Minimum Wage Ordinance in May 2011. I am concerned about the quality of cleansing services provided and its development. Please advise:

- (a) on the expenditure on cleansing services for 2011-2012, the percentage it accounts for in the expenses under Programme (2) and the actual amount of change as compared with that in 2010-2011;
- (b) on the number of contractor cleaners engaged in cleansing services, and the change in number as compared with that of 2010-2011;
- (c) on the number of Workman II (WM II) engaged in cleansing services, the change in the number of WM II since 2008-2009 and the estimated change in the number of WM II over the next 4 years (i.e. from 2012 to 2016) based on the medium range forecast; and
- (d) the figures provided by the Department indicated that in 2008 the ratio of outsourced workers to inhouse WM II was 65:35. Will there be any change in this ratio in 2011-2012, and over the next 4 years based on the medium range forecast? If yes, what is the change?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

- (a) In 2011-12, the estimated expenditure on public cleansing services is \$1,819 million which is about 76% of the total expenditure under this programme, representing an increase of about \$42.4 million from that of 2010-11.
- (b) It is estimated that about 6 635 workers will be employed by contractors for providing public cleansing services in 2011-12 as compared with 6 520 in 2010-11, representing an estimated increase of 115 contractor cleaners.

- (c) It is estimated that as at 1 April 2011, the number of Workman II (WM II) performing cleansing duties would be 2 151 as compared with 2 479 as at 1 April 2008, representing an estimated decrease of 328 WM II. The deployment of and need for WM II in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is under constant review and its requirement in the next four years will be considered having regard to the result of the reviews.
- (d) The existing mode of service by engaging both departmental WM II and employees of service contractors has been working effectively. There is no target ratio for contracting out and the Department will keep the existing mode of service delivery under constant review.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG  
Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Date 17.3.2011



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)084**

Head: 139 Government Secretariat:      Subhead (No. & title):  
Food and Health Bureau  
(Food Branch)

Question Serial No.

2436

Programme:                    (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What specific plans are in place for the Food and Health Bureau to enhance the regulation of private columbaria in 2011-12? What is the schedule for implementation of respective measures?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

During the public consultation on the review of columbarium policy conducted by the Food and Health Bureau from July to September 2010, the public supported a licensing scheme to enhance regulation of private columbaria, but expressed divergent views over the scope and level of regulation under the licensing scheme and arrangements for pre-existing private columbaria. In order to work out an appropriate level of regulation, the Government needs to balance the views of various stakeholders. We will be reporting back to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on some preliminary proposals to strengthen regulation of private columbaria in April 2011.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      Mrs Marion LAI

Post Title      Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date      11.3.2011



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)086**

Question Serial No.

2434

Head: 139 – Government                      Subhead (No. & title):  
Secretariat : Food and Health  
Bureau (Food Branch)

Programme:                      (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Is there any specific plan regarding our collaboration with the Mainland authorities to explore the application of information technology to enhance the traceability of food in 2011-12? What is the budget involved?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

In 2011-12, the Food and Health Bureau and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will continue the pilot programme with the Mainland authorities to apply Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology on traceability of live pigs imported from Guangdong. The entire programme will be evaluated upon the completion of further testing.

The estimated expenditure on the above programme to be incurred by FEHD is \$1.65 million for 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters                      Mrs Marion LAI

Post Title                      Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date                      10.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)087**

Question Serial No.

2435

Head: 139 Government Secretariat:      Subhead (No. & title):  
Food and Health Bureau  
(Food Branch)

Programme:                      (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What are the specific plans for promoting the sustainable development of local agriculture in 2011-12? What is the budget involved? And what are the specific details for promoting organic farming?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

The Government promotes the sustainable development of local agricultural industry through (a) providing infrastructural support, technical assistance, credit facilities and vocational training to farmers; (b) conducting adaptive and technical studies and introducing modern technology and practices to local farmers to facilitate their efficient production and improve the quality of their products; and (c) planning and implementing effective management activities and services. The Food and Health Bureau is responsible for formulating policies and overseeing the continual promotion of the sustainable development of the local agricultural industry. Relevant measures are implemented by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD).

In 2011-12, the AFCD will continue to promote the sustainable development of local agricultural industry through the above-mentioned activities. Major plans include promotion of organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production, introduction of new and improved crop varieties for farming as well as implementation of the Accredited Farm Scheme with a view to assisting farmers to raise the quality of their products and to capture high-value market niches.

To promote organic farming, the AFCD will continue to provide technical support and assistance to local farmers under the on-going Organic Farming Support Service Scheme, to join hands with the Vegetable Marketing Organisation and the Federation of Vegetable Marketing Cooperative Societies in promoting the production and marketing of local organic produce, and to support the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre in their promotion of organic education and certification.

In 2011-12, the AFCD has allocated \$27.8 million for the promotion of the sustainable development of local agricultural industry.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>Mrs Marion LAI</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)</u>
Date	<u>10.3.2011</u>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)088**

Question Serial No.

2438

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What are the specific plans for prevention of avian influenza in 2011-12? Subsequent to the substantial decrease in the number of blood samples taken from poultry for testing in 2009, an increase is noted in the numbers taken/to be taken for the two consecutive years of 2010 and 2011. Please advise on the reasons for the increase, and whether this reflects an increase in the risk of avian influenza. Please also advise on the financial provision earmarked for the work.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

Regarding the control of imported live poultry, the measures taken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to prevent the outbreak of avian influenza in Hong Kong include: inspection of poultry farms and liaison with the Mainland authorities to ensure compliance with the requirements of animal health, quarantine and farm conditions; inspection of every consignment of imported poultry including verification of animal health certificates; and collection of blood samples and cloacal swabs for laboratory testing of avian influenza H5 at the import level. At the retail level, FEHD has implemented various measures including enforcement of no overnight stocking of live poultry at retail outlet, comprehensive surveillance by engaging a local university to take environmental swabs for analysis, and regular checks on retail outlets to ensure compliance with the relevant licensing conditions or tenancy requirements.

According to the Administration's scientific assessment conducted in late 2009/early 2010, the risk of avian influenza to Hong Kong associated with the live poultry trade has been significantly reduced in recent years. To strengthen our surveillance programme on avian influenza, the Administration implemented a basket of enhanced surveillance and control measures at all levels of the live poultry supply chain in 2010. At the import control level, the number of blood samples collected and tested per consignment was increased by 10% since May 2010. The full-year impact of such increase will be reflected in 2011.

The direct expenditure on surveillance over avian influenza in imported live poultry is about \$6.8 million for 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ CLEMENT LEUNG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 16.3.2011 \_\_\_\_\_

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)089**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2439

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In 2011-12, what are the plans to ensure that chilled poultry does not carry the avian influenza virus so as to safeguard food safety?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

Chilled poultry imported from the Mainland into Hong Kong must come from registered farms and processing plants. Each consignment of chilled poultry has to be accompanied by an official health certificate confirming that the products were derived from poultry free from avian influenza viruses. Furthermore, all chilled poultry have to be individually packaged and with no offal attached. In 2011-12, the above requirements will remain in place. The Department will also continue to conduct inspections of the registered farms and processing plants in the Mainland.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)090**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2440

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the reasons why the number of trappings in 2010 is 67% higher than that in 2009, the number of rodents trapped in 2010, and the three districts with the highest number of trappings in 2010.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

To further improve the effectiveness of rodent control work, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department intensified the rodent control measures in 2010, including rodent trappings. The number of rodents trapped in 2010 is 11 746.

The three districts with the highest number of rodent trappings in 2010 are Kowloon City, Central & Western and Yau Tsim Mong.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)091**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2441

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What are the reasons for not providing an indicator in the Estimates 2011-12 for conducting inspections of Mainland farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong? What are the specific plans in this regard?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

A target on "conducting inspections of farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong (no. of farms)" is included under Programme (1) Food Safety and Public Health of Head 49 – Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. 50 farm inspections are planned for 2011.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ CLEMENT LEUNG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 16.3.2011 \_\_\_\_\_



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)092**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2442

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In 2011-12, what are the plans by the Department to ensure vegetables imported to Hong Kong are safe for consumption? What is the estimated proportion of vehicles carrying imported vegetables to be inspected at Man Kam To? What is the estimated number of vegetable samples to be taken for testing?

Asked by: Hon. Tam Yiu-chung

Reply:

To ensure food safety, the Centre for Food Safety will continue to inspect Mainland vegetable farms and inbound food-carrying vehicles at the checkpoints, including vegetables trucks at Man Kam To Boundary Control Point. In 2011, we plan to inspect about 28 000 vegetable vehicles, which is about 30% of the vegetable vehicles passing through Man Kam To Boundary Control Point, and take about 13 000 vegetable samples for pesticide residues analysis.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)093**

Question Serial No.

2454

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What is the total number of workers employed by the contractors for refuse collection in 2010? What is the expenditure for refuse collection in 2010-11? Why is the estimated recurrent expenditure per tonne of refuse collected further reduced in 2011? Has the Government assessed the additional staff cost required following the implementation of statutory minimum wage?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) The total number of contractor staff for providing refuse collection service in 2010 was about 260.
- (b) The estimated expenditure for refuse collection service in 2010-11 is \$455 million.
- (c) The decrease in recurrent expenditure per tonne of refuse collection in 2010-11 is mainly due to an increase in tonnage of refuse collected and contracting out of refuse collection service.
- (d) The legislative intent of introducing a statutory minimum wage ( “SMW” ) is to protect elementary workers from being paid excessively low wages for the work they do. Upon implementation of the SMW, non-skilled workers employed by government service contractors will be protected under the SMW legislation as other employees.

Since May 2004, the Government has implemented a mandatory requirement on wage rates. The requirement is to ensure that the level of the wages provided to non-skilled workers by government service contractors who rely heavily on the deployment of these workers is not lower than the average wage rates for the same job categories in the market. The Government is now taking due consideration of the effect of the SMW on this arrangement.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 17.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)094**

Question Serial No.

2455

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In 2010, the number of prosecutions taken against unlicensed food premises further increased by 17%. What are the reasons for the rise? Will additional resources be required to strengthen the work in this respect?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

The increase in the number of prosecutions against unlicensed food premises in 2010 was mainly due to more cases of business commencing operation before the grant of licence. We will continue to take stringent enforcement actions against unlicensed food premises within existing resources.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 18.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)095**

Question Serial No.

2456

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the plans by the Department for the provision of more crematorium and columbarium facilities during 2011-12. What are the arrangements for the projects concerned during 2011-12?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

In 2011-12, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to upgrade public cremators by phases to increase their handling capacity. Works for reprovisioning the Wo Hop Shek Crematorium with six cremators and other ancillary facilities has commenced since July 2009 for completion in end 2011 / early 2012. Works for reprovisioning the Cape Collinson Crematorium to provide for ten new cremators and other ancillary facilities has commenced since June 2010 for completion in two phases in 2012 and late 2014 respectively. With the completion of these two reprovisioning projects, the number of scheduled cremation sessions per annum will be increased by 31.3% from 40 200 in 2010 to 52 800.

Besides, the construction of a new public columbarium with about 41 000 niches and a Garden of Remembrance in the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery is underway for completion in mid 2012. To increase the supply of public niches, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and, in 2010, released 17 potential sites across 12 districts for building public columbarium facilities. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on these sites and will continue to identify suitable sites in the remaining six districts. The relevant District Council will be consulted before sites are confirmed for development.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)096**

Question Serial No.

2457

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What is the Department's estimated expenditure on cleansing services for 2011-12? How is it compared to that in the previous year? What is the proportion of the services to be contracted out? What is the number of workers to be employed by the cleansing contractors in 2011-12?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

In 2011-12, the Department's estimated expenditure on public cleansing services is \$1,819.0 million, compared to \$1,776.6 million (revised estimate) in 2010-11. In manpower terms, about 75% of street cleansing services is being provided by contractors. It is estimated that about 6 635 workers will be employed by contractors for providing public cleansing services in 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 17.3.2011



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)098**

Question Serial No.

2486

Head: 139 Government Secretariat:      Subhead (No. & title):  
Food and Health Bureau  
(Food Branch)

Programme:                      (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The estimated financial provision for 2011-12 is \$24.2 million, representing an increase of 44.9% over the revised estimate of \$16.7 million for 2010-11. This is mainly due to the increased provision for planning and development of columbarium and crematorium facilities.

- (a) What are the details? What is the percentage of expenditure involved?
- (b) Is it related to the regulation of private columbaria? If yes, what is the percentage of expenditure involved?
- (c) Does the Administration have any plan to regulate the private columbaria by means of licensing? If yes, what are the details? What is the timetable? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

(a) Among the increased provision of \$7.5 million (44.9%) in the 2011-12 estimate for Programme (3): Environmental Hygiene as compared with the 2010-11 revised estimate, \$4.2 million is for the commissioning of an engineering feasibility study for development of columbarium, crematorium and other related facilities at Sandy Ridge Cemetery.

(b) & (c) During the public consultation on the review of columbarium policy conducted by the Food and Health Bureau from July to September 2010, the public supported a licensing scheme to enhance regulation of private columbaria, but expressed divergent views over the scope and level of regulation under the licensing scheme and arrangements for pre-existing private columbaria. In order to work out an appropriate level of regulation, the Government needs to balance the views of various stakeholders. We will be reporting back to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on some preliminary proposals to strengthen regulation of private columbaria in April 2011. Expenditure arising from these early stage studies would be absorbed within our existing resources.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Marion LAI \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15.3.2011 \_\_\_\_\_



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)099**

Question Serial No.

2487

Head: 139 Government Secretariat:      Subhead (No. & title):  
Food and Health Bureau  
(Food Branch)

Programme:                    (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Concerning the measures to “promote the scattering of cremated human ashes at sea or in Gardens of Remembrance”, will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) what are the relevant details; and how will the Administration promote such practice?
- (b) what is the estimated expenditure?
- (c) what are the means currently made available by the Administration to members of the public for handling bodies of the deceased? Please set out respectively in table form the numbers of cases under each of these means and the expenditures involved in the past five years.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) To encourage public acceptance of more environmentally friendly and sustainable means of handling cremated human ashes, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will continue to promote scattering of ashes in designated Hong Kong waters or in Gardens of Remembrance (GoRs) through the provision of ferry service to facilitate the public to scatter ashes at sea, streamlining application procedures, distributing publicity materials, production and uploading of publicity videos on FEHD’s website and the introduction of internet memorial service.
- (b) The estimated cost for the above-mentioned measures in 2011-12 is \$1.2 million.
- (c) FEHD provides coffin burial and cremation services. Cremated ashes can be deposited in niches of public columbaria managed by FEHD, or be scattered in designated Hong Kong waters or in GoRs. The numbers of cases handled by FEHD in the past five years are –

Year	Coffin Burial	Cremation	Depositing Ashes in Public Columbaria	Scattering of Ashes in Designated Hong Kong waters	Scattering of Ashes in GoRs
2006	1 366	32 215	2 660	0	58
2007	1 376	34 427	2 982	160	175
2008	1 395	36 410	477	243	383
2009	1 302	36 486	13 359 <sup>Note</sup>	279	650
2010	1 377	38 006	6 407	804	1 171

Note: The significant increase in the number of cases of depositing ashes in public columbaria in 2009 was due to the allocation of niches at the newly completed Kwai Chung Columbarium and Diamond Hill Columbarium in that year.

We do not have the breakdown of expenses for each category of service.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Marion LAI

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 11.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)100**

Question Serial No.

2749

**Head:** 139 Government Secretariat : **Subhead (No. & title):**  
Food and Health Bureau (Food  
Branch)

**Programme:**

**Controlling Officer:** Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

**Director of Bureau:** Secretary for Food and Health

**Question:**

In regard to the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement) and growing co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland in recent years, please provide relevant information on Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in which the Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) and departments under its purview are or have been involved.

a) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes from 2008-09 to 2010-11, please provide information in the following format:

Project/ programme title	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement	Expenditure involved	Name of Mainland department/ organisation involved	Progress (%) completed, start date, anticipated completion date)	Have the details, objective, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If yes, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

b) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in 2011-12, please provide information in the following format:

Project/ programme title	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement	Expenditure involved	Name of Mainland department/ organisation involved	Progress (%) completed, start date, anticipated completion date)	Will the details, objective, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology be released to the public? If yes, through which channels and what will be the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

c) Apart from the projects or programmes listed above, are there any other modes of cross-boundary co-operation? If yes, what are they? What were the manpower and expenditure involved in the past 3 years, and how much financial and manpower resources are earmarked in the 2011-12 Estimates?

**Asked by:** Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

The required information is provided as follows :

a)

<b>Project/ programme title</b>	<b>Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement</b>	<b>Expenditur e involved</b>	<b>Name of the Mainland department/ organisation involved</b>	<b>Progress (% completed, start date, anticipated completion date)</b>	<b>Have the details, objective, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If yes, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?</b>
<p>Technical exchange with relevant organisations in Mainland on regulatory requirements in the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment: Requirements for Nutrition Labelling and Nutrition Claim) Regulation 2008</p>	<p>From mid 2008 to late 2009, four briefing sessions were held in Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Dongguan and Wuhan on the laboratory test requirements and the new regulatory requirements. The objective was to brief officials from State General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) and Entry-exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau (CIQ) of different provinces as well as food manufacturers in Mainland China on the new Nutrition Labelling Scheme for pre-packaged food in Hong Kong.</p> <p>Some of the briefing sessions were organised under the Framework Agreement.</p>	<p>\$16,000</p>	<p>AQSIQ</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>No, as the project was only part of the preparatory work to ensure the smooth implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme.</p>

<p>Liaison officer system with the Mainland authorities on inspection and quarantine</p>	<p>To establish a liaison officer system to enhance communication and co-ordination on food and agricultural products safety so that timely notification of related problems could be provided to the other side. Proactive action will be taken to tackle issues on inspection and quarantine of food and agricultural products.</p> <p>It is one of the cooperation areas in relation to food safety under the the Framework Agreement</p>	<p>Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has deployed existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.</p>	<p>Guangdong, Shenzhen and Zhuhai CIQs</p>	<p>The liaison officer system was established in November 2009 and the work related is on-going.</p>	<p>The communication mechanism with the Mainland on food safety matter is publicised on the Centre for Food Safety (CFS)'s webpage. The related costs were absorbed within existing resources and could not be separately identified.</p>
<p>Inspection of the registered Mainland food production farms</p>	<p>To inspect registered food production farms in the Mainland as part of the control regime to ensure the safety of food and agricultural products supplied to Hong Kong.</p> <p>It is one of the cooperation areas under the Framework Agreement to enhance inspection quarantine and supervision at source.</p>	<p>\$6.00 million for inspection of food animal and fish farms. Other inspections were absorbed within existing resources.</p>	<p>AQSIQ and local CIQs</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The inspection programme is publicised on the CFS's webpage. The related costs were absorbed within existing resources and could not be separately identified.</p>

<p>Liaison with the Mainland authorities on the proposed registration and listing systems for cultured marine fish, shellfish and related aquatic products supplied to Hong Kong</p>	<p>To discuss the proposed registration and listing systems for cultured marine fish, shellfish and related aquatic products supplied to Hong Kong to further ensure food safety.</p> <p>It is one of the cooperation areas under the Framework Agreement to enhance inspection quarantine and supervision at source.</p>	<p>FEHD has deployed existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.</p>	<p>AQSIQ and local CIQs</p>	<p>Two meetings have been held.</p>	<p>Yes. The work was reported at the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 18 June 2010. The related costs were absorbed within existing resources and could not be separately identified.</p>
<p>Pilot study on Radiofrequency Identification</p>	<p>To explore the feasibility of applying information technology to enhance traceability of Mainland food and food animals supplied to Hong Kong.</p> <p>It is one of the cooperation areas under the Framework Agreement to enhance inspection quarantine and supervision at source.</p>	<p>\$2.45 million</p>	<p>Guangdong CIQ</p>	<p>The fourth trial on handheld readers has been completed.</p>	<p>No. The study is still ongoing and the fifth trial will start soon.</p>

<p>An inter-laboratory comparison on food safety - Heavy metals in crustacean seafood proficiency testing (PT) programme</p>	<p>The programme enhanced the food testing capability of the participating laboratories, including those from Hong Kong and Guangdong. It was a PT programme for the quantitative measurement of total arsenic, cadmium, and lead in crustacean seafood sample.</p> <p>It is one of the initiatives to strengthen communication and exchanges in respect of laboratory test and analysis technology under the Framework Agreement.</p>	<p>\$0.3 million.</p>	<p>This programme was conducted in collaboration with Guangdong CIQ.</p>	<p>The programme was completed in Oct 2010.</p>	<p>A total of 68 laboratories from 19 economies participated in the programme. Results of the programme have been posted on the website of Government Laboratory (GL). The related costs were absorbed within existing resources and could not separately identified.</p>
<p>Inspection and quarantine works related to the Equestrian Events of the 2010 Asian Games</p>	<p>To provide expert advice and assistance to the relevant Mainland authorities in a range of matters relating to the organisation of the 2010 Asian Games Equestrian Events.</p> <p>It was a general cooperation project and was not related to Framework Agreement.</p>	<p>AFCD has deployed existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative</p>	<p>Guangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee (GAGOC)</p> <p>AQSIQ</p> <p>Guangdong CIQ</p> <p>Shenzhen CIQ</p> <p>Guangzhou Agriculture Bureau</p>	<p>The 2010 Asian Games Equestrian Events were successfully staged in the Equine Disease Free Zone in Conghua, Guangdong from 14 to 24 November 2010 .</p>	<p>Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)'s involvement in the 2010 Asian Games Equestrian Events was reported in the AFCD Annual Report 2010. The related publicity costs were absorbed within existing resources and could not separately identified.</p>

<p>Co-operation Agreement between Guangdong and Hong Kong on Quality Agricultural Products</p>	<p>To establish an information exchange platform on the production, quality and marketing of agricultural produce.</p> <p>To set up exchange and training of workers, technical researchers and management personnel for quality agricultural products, and to establish a mechanism for technical exchange and co-operation on the production of quality agricultural products, as well as to explore the organisation of relevant technical exchange activities.</p> <p>It was a general cooperation and exchange project and not related to Framework Agreement.</p>	<p>AFCD has deployed existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.</p>	<p>Department of Agriculture of Guangdong Province</p>	<p>Fresh food supply and price figures are uploaded to AFCD's homepage AFCD is liaising with the Department of Agriculture of Guangdong Province to follow up on the establishment of a co-operative mechanism</p>	<p>The text of the agreement was uploaded to the internet. A press release on the signing of the agreement has been issued. The related publicity costs were absorbed within existing resources and could not separately identified.</p>
<p>Joint enforcement against illegal fishing</p>	<p>Joint operation with the Marine Police and the Mainland fisheries authority to combat illegal fishing in Hong Kong and mainland waters.</p> <p>It is one of the initiatives under the Chapter of Ecology Construction and Environmental Protection of the Framework Agreement.</p>	<p>Combating illegal fishing is a day-to-day activity of the AFCD and resources involved in the cooperation initiative could not be separated from the general recurrent expenditure.</p>	<p>Guangdong Fishery Administration General Brigade</p>	<p>Annually since 2009-10</p>	<p>No. Combating illegal fishing is a day-to-day activity of the AFCD and no special publicity has been arranged.</p>



Fishermen training	To organise training courses for fishermen in collaboration with the Guangdong side during the fishing moratorium.  It is one of the initiatives under the Chapter of Ecology Construction and Environmental Protection of the Framework Agreement.	Fishermen training is a continuous effort of AFCD and resources involved in the project could not be separated from the general recurrent expenditure.	Guangdong Provincial Administration of Ocean and Fisheries	A training course was organised in 2010 – 2011	The training programme was publicised in fishermen community. The related publicity costs were absorbed within existing resources and could not be separately identified.
Preparation of the List of Harmful Microalgae Species for harmful algae monitoring	To facilitate technical communication between AFCD and Guangdong officials in relation to harmful algae monitoring.  It is one of the initiatives under the Chapter of Ecology Construction and Environmental Protection of the Framework Agreement.	Harmful algae monitoring is a day to day activity of AFCD and resources arising from the initiative could not be separated from the general recurrent expenditure.	Guangdong Provincial Administration of Ocean and Fisheries	Ongoing project	No. Monitoring of harmful algae is a day to day activity of AFCD and no special publicity has been arranged.

b)

<b>Project/ programme title</b>	<b>Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement</b>	<b>Expenditure involved</b>	<b>Name of the Mainland department/ organisation involved</b>	<b>Progress (% completed, start date, anticipated completion date)</b>	<b>Have the details, objective, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If yes, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?</b>
Briefing sessions on the Food Safety Bill (the Bill)	We will conduct sessions in selected cities in the Mainland with food exporting to Hong Kong to brief the relevant parties on the	FEHD will deploy existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.	AQSIQ, Ministry of Commerce	Planned to be held in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2011 if the Food Safety Bill is passed by the Legislative Council in time.	The relevant item was made public in the Administration's press release on "16th Working Meeting of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference held in

	<p>requirements of the Bill.</p> <p>It is one of the initiatives to strengthen communication and exchanges by assisting the Mainland authorities and trade in understanding Hong Kong's statutory requirements.</p>				Guangzhou" on 28 February 2011. The related publicity costs were absorbed within existing resources and could not be separately identified.
Inspection of the registered Mainland food production farms	<p>To inspect registered food production farms in the Mainland as part of the control regime to ensure the safety of food and agricultural products supplied to Hong Kong.</p> <p>It is one of the cooperation areas under the Framework Agreement to enhance inspection quarantine and supervision at source.</p>	\$6.40 million for inspection of food animal farms and fish farms. Other inspections were absorbed within existing manpower and resources.	AQSIQ, local CIQs	Ongoing	The inspection programme is publicised on CFS's webpage. The related costs are absorbed within existing resources and could not be separately identified.
Liaison with the Mainland authorities on the proposed registration and listing systems for cultured marine fish, shellfish and related aquatic products supplied to Hong Kong	<p>To discuss the proposed registration and listing systems for cultured marine fish, shellfish and related aquatic products supplied to Hong Kong to further ensure food safety.</p> <p>It is one of the cooperation areas under the Framework Agreement to enhance inspection quarantine and supervision at source.</p>	FEHD will deploy existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.	AQSIQ, local CIQs	Ongoing	We will consider appropriate publicity in due course.

Pilot study on Radiofrequency Identification	To explore the feasibility of applying information technology to enhance traceability of Mainland food and food animals supplied to Hong Kong.	\$1.65 million	Guangdong CIQ	A passageway reader system will be tested in the latest trial. Evaluation of the entire radiofrequency identification system will be conducted afterwards.	Results will be announced upon completion of trial.
Technical forum(s) / seminar(s) on the areas of laboratory testing of food	<p>Forum(s) /seminar(s) will be organised to enhance technical exchanges between Guangdong and Hong Kong on laboratory testing of food to enhance food safety.</p> <p>The programme is related to the initiatives for co-operation on food safety under the Framework Agreement.</p>	It is estimated that the cost is about \$0.1 – 0.3M per forum/ seminar.	Guangdong CIQ	We will touch base with the Guangdong authorities on the work plan for 2011-12	The forum material will be publicised on websites.

<p>To enhance the cooperation in equine inspection and quarantine and to provide expert assistance in monitoring the inspection and quarantine work of the epidemic-free zone in Guangzhou and the biosecurity highway passage</p>	<p>AFCD will liaise with the Government authorities in the Mainland to formulate quarantine, import and export requirements, including participating at various expert meetings, providing training to officers from the Mainland authorities, providing professional advice in preparing the operational guidelines, health protocols and biosecurity requirements for the horses of concern.</p> <p>It is one of the initiatives under the cross-boundary infrastructure facilities and custom supervision of the 2011 Work Plan of the Framework Agreement.</p>	<p>AFCD will deploy existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative</p>	<p>AQSIQ MoA Guangdong CIQ Guangzhou Agriculture Bureau</p>	<p>The project is anticipated to start in 2011.</p>	<p>The project has been reported in the media.</p>
<p>Joint enforcement against illegal fishing</p>	<p>Joint operation with the Marine Police and the Mainland fisheries authority to combat illegal fishing in Hong Kong and mainland waters.</p> <p>It is one of the initiatives under the Chapter of Ecology Construction and Environmental Protection of the Framework Agreement.</p>	<p>Combating illegal fishing is a day-to-day activity of the AFCD and resources involved in the project could not be separated from the general recurrent expenditure.</p>	<p>Guangdong Fishery Administrati on General Brigade</p>	<p>A joint operation will be organised in 2011-12</p>	<p>No. Combating illegal fishing is a day-to-day activity of the AFCD. and no special publicity will be arranged.</p>

Fishermen training	To organise training courses for fishermen in collaboration with the Guangdong side during the fishing moratorium.  It is one of the initiatives under the Chapter of Ecology Construction and Environmental Protection of the Framework Agreement.	Fishermen training is a continuous effort of AFCD and resources involved in the project could not be separated from the general recurrent expenditure.	Guangdong Provincial Administration of Ocean and Fisheries	It will be launched in 2011 - 2012	The training programme is publicised in fishermen community. The related publicity costs will be absorbed within existing resources and cannot be separately identified.
Preparation of the List of Harmful Microalgae Species for harmful algae monitoring	To facilitate technical communication between AFCD and Guangdong officials in relation to harmful algae monitoring.  It is one of the initiatives under the Chapter of Ecology Construction and Environmental Protection of the Framework Agreement.	Harmful algae monitoring is a day to day activity of AFCD and resources in the initiative could not be separated from the general recurrent expenditure.	Guangdong Provincial Administration of Ocean and Fisheries	Ongoing project	No. Monitoring of harmful algae is a day to day activity of AFCD and no special publicity will be arranged.

c) No. The cross-boundary co-operations with Guangdong have been listed in (a) and (b) above.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Mrs Marion LAI

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Date 17.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)101**

Question Serial No.

2971

Head: 139 Government Secretariat:      Subhead (No. & title):  
Food and Health Bureau  
(Food Branch)

Programme:                    (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please state the progress of the Food and Health Bureau in implementing measures to increase the supply of public columbarium and crematorium facilities, the detailed plan for the Bureau to promote the scattering of cremated human ashes at sea or in Gardens of Remembrance this year as well as the resources involved.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

The Administration is upgrading public cremators by phases to increase their handling capacity. The Wo Hop Shek Crematorium is being reprovisioned at an estimated cost of \$686.3 million for constructing six cremators and other ancillary facilities. The project is scheduled for completion in end 2011 / early 2012. The reprovisioning of the Cape Collinson Crematorium to provide for ten new cremators and other ancillary facilities, at an estimated cost of \$696.3 million, is also underway for completion in two phases in 2012 and late 2014 respectively. With the completion of these two reprovisioning projects, the number of scheduled cremation sessions per annum will be increased by 31.3% from 40 200 in 2010 to 52 800.

Besides, the construction of a new public columbarium with about 41 000 niches and a Garden of Remembrance in the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery, at an estimated cost of \$629.5 million, is underway for completion in mid 2012. To increase the supply of public niches, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and, in 2010, released 17 potential sites across 12 districts for building public columbarium facilities. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on these sites and will continue to identify suitable sites in the remaining six districts. The relevant District Council will be consulted before sites are confirmed for development.

To encourage public acceptance of more environmentally friendly and sustainable means of handling cremated human ashes, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will continue to promote scattering of ashes in designated Hong Kong waters or in Gardens of Remembrance through the provision of ferry service to facilitate the public to scatter ashes at sea, streamlining application procedures, distributing publicity materials, production and uploading of publicity videos on FEHD's website and the introduction of internet memorial service. The estimated cost in this regard in 2011-12 is \$1.2 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Marion LAI

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)102**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

2507

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, please provide the following information:

	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09
Number of NCSC staff	( )	( )	( )	( )
Details of the positions held by NCSC staff				
Expenditure on salaries for NCSC staff	( )	( )	( )	( )
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff				
• \$30,001 or above	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,000 or below	( )	( )	( )	( )
• number of staff with monthly salary below \$5,824	( )	( )	( )	( )
• number of staff with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	( )	( )	( )	( )
Length of service of NCSC staff				
• 5 years or longer	( )	( )	( )	( )
• 3 - 5 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
• 1 - 3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
• less than 1 year	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff converted to civil servants	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff who failed to convert to civil servants	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the Department	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of NCSC staff costs in the total departmental staff costs	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff with paid meal break	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff without paid meal break	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff working 5 days a week	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff working 6 days a week	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*



Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

	2011-12	2010-11 (as at 31.12.2010)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.2010)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.2009)
Number of NCSC staff		388 (-24%)	512 (-19%)	634
Details of the positions held by NCSC staff		NCSC staff mainly undertake cleansing and market management duties, handle water seepage complaints and provide support services in cemeteries and offices.		
Expenditure on salaries for NCSC staff		\$69.9 million (-27%)	\$96 million (-18%)	\$117.4 million
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff	Note 1			
• \$30,001 or above		5 (+25%)	4 (+33%)	3
• \$16,001 - \$30,000		59 (-16%)	70 (+4%)	67
• \$8,001 - \$16,000		319 (-27%)	436 (-22%)	562
• \$6,501 - \$8,000		5 (+150%)	2 (±0%)	2
• \$5,001 - \$6,500		0	0	0
• \$5,000 or below		0	0	0
• number of staff with monthly salary below \$5,824		0	0	0
• number of staff with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	0	0	0	
Length of service of NCSC staff	Note 1			
• 5 years or longer		93 (-53%)	197 (-9%)	216
• 3 – 5 years		51 (-7%)	55 (-57%)	129
• 1 – 3 years		144 (+8%)	133 (-28%)	184
• less than 1 year	100 (-21%)	127 (+21%)	105	
Number of NCSC staff converted to civil servants		Note 2		

	2011-12	2010-11 (as at 31.12.2010)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.2010)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.2009)
Number of NCSC staff who failed to convert to civil servants		Note 2		
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the Department		3% (-1%)	4% (-2%)	6%
Percentage of NCSC staff costs in the total departmental staff costs		4% (±0%)	4% (-1%)	5%
Number of NCSC staff with paid meal break Number of NCSC staff without paid meal break (Note 3)		} 388	} 512	} 634
Number of NCSC staff working 5 days a week Number of NCSC staff working 6 days a week		229 159	Note 4	

*Figures in ( ) denotes year-on-year changes*

Note 1: Figures for 2011-12 are not available as the number of NCSC staff varies over time in light of the changing service and operational needs.

Note 2: Relevant information is not available.

Note 3: NCSC staff are mostly monthly paid. For 2008-09 (as at 31.3.2009), 2009-10 (as at 31.3.2010) and 2010-11 (as at 31.12.2010), there were 149, 65 and 49 NCSC staff whose hours of work, as specified in the offer letters, include meal break. The corresponding figures whereby meal breaks are excluded are 485, 447 and 339 respectively.

Note 4: FEHD does not keep detailed records of such information.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 18.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)103**

Question Serial No.

2791

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is estimated that there will be 11 127 non-directorate posts and 15 directorate posts in the Department in 2011-12. Please provide information on the following:

- (a) a breakdown by rank of the establishment and strength of the Department in 2010-11;
- (b) a breakdown by rank of the number of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff employed by the Department in 2010-11; and
- (c) the Department's total expenditure on NCSC staff, employment agency workers and outsourced services in 2010-11 and 2011-12 (estimated) respectively.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

- (a) As at 1.3.2011, the establishment and strength of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) were 11 142 and 9 881 respectively.

These posts and staff cover different departmental grades and ranks (including Hawker Control Officer, Pest Control Assistant and Pest Control Officer, etc.) as well as the general and common grades (including Accounting Officer, Administrative Officer, Artisan, Chemist, Clerical Assistant, Clerical Officer, Computer Operator, Confidential Assistant, Executive Officer, Field Assistant, Field Officer, Foreman, Ganger, Health Inspector, Information Officer, Laboratory Attendant, Management Services Officer, Medical and Health Officer, Motor Driver, Office Assistant, Official Languages Officer, Personal Secretary, Registered Nurse, Science Laboratory Technician, Scientific Officer (Medical), Special Driver, Supplies Assistant, Supplies Officer, Supplies Supervisor, Transport Services Officer, Treasury Accountant, Veterinary Officer, Workman I, Workman II and Works Supervisor, etc.).

- (b) As at 31.12.2010, there were 388 non-civil service contract staff in FEHD. They mainly undertake market management duties, handle water seepage complaints and provide support services in cemeteries and offices.

- (c) In 2010-11 (as at 28.2.2011), total expenditure on NCSC staff, employment of agency workers and outsourced services are \$75.2 million, \$7.9 million and \$1,016.6 million respectively. Expenditure for 2011-12 is not yet available.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 18.3.2011



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)105**

Question Serial No.

3094

Head: 139 Government Secretariat:      Subhead (No. & title):  
Food and Health Bureau  
(Food Branch)

Programme:                    (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The financial provision for environmental hygiene will increase by 44.9% in 2011-12. Please advise on –

- (d) the expenditure items involved in the increase of financial provision for this Programme and the expenditure details of these items;
- (e) the respective number of columbarium and crematorium facilities planned to be increased by the Administration in 2011-12.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

- (a) The increase of \$7.5 million (44.9%) in the 2011-12 estimate for Programme (3): Environmental Hygiene as compared with the 2010-11 revised estimate is mainly attributable to the commissioning of an engineering feasibility study for development of columbarium, crematorium and other related facilities at Sandy Ridge Cemetery (\$4.2 million) and contingency funding for meeting unexpected expenditure for environmental hygiene-related projects / work.
- (b) The Administration is upgrading public cremators by phases to increase their handling capacity. Works for reprovisioning the Wo Hop Shek Crematorium with six cremators and other ancillary facilities has commenced since July 2009 for completion in end 2011 / early 2012. Works for reprovisioning the Cape Collinson Crematorium with ten cremators and other ancillary facilities has commenced since June 2010 for completion in two phases in 2012 and late 2014 respectively. With the completion of these two reprovisioning projects, the number of scheduled cremation sessions per annum will be increased by 31.3% from 40 200 in 2010 to 52 800.

Besides, the construction of a new public columbarium with about 41 000 niches and a Garden of Remembrance in the Wo Hope Shek Cemetery is underway for completion in mid 2012. To increase the supply of public niches, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and, in 2010, released 17 potential sites across 12 districts for building public columbarium facilities. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on these sites and will continue to identify suitable sites in the remaining six districts. The relevant District Council will be consulted before sites are confirmed for development.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Marion LAI

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 11.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)106**

Question Serial No.

1058

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) How many rodent infestation complaints have been received over the past year?
- (b) It is stated by the Department that a total of 45 036 rodent trappings were conducted in 2010. Please advise on the number of rodents trapped and provide the respective figures for each of the 18 districts in the territory.
- (c) Are there any exchanges of experience and best practice between members of the in-house rodent control teams and rodent control experts in the Mainland and overseas over the past year?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The number of complaints against rodent infestation in 2010 is 7 371.
- (b) The numbers of rodents trapped in the 18 districts in 2010 are as follows –

<b>District</b>	<b>No. of rodent trapped</b>
Central & Western	815
Eastern	475
Southern	200
Wanchai	1 215
Islands	332
Kowloon City	485
Kwun Tong	175
Wong Tai Sin	405



Sham Shui Po	344
Yau Tsim Mong	2 964
Sai Kung	171
Sha Tin	764
Tai Po	416
North	486
Kwai Tsing	238
Tsuen Wan	728
Tuen Mun	565
Yuen Long	968
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 746</b>

(c) Last year, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department had exchanged experience in rodent control with authorities and experts in the Mainland and overseas.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)107**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

2981

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

On engaging "agency workers", please provide the following information:

	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09
Number of contracts engaging employment agencies (EAs)	( )	( )	( )	( )
Contract sum paid to each EA	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total amount of commission paid to each EA	( )	( )	( )	( )
Length of contract for each EA	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of agency workers	( )	( )	( )	( )
Details of the positions held by agency workers				
Monthly salary range of agency workers	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$30,001 or above	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,000 or below	( )	( )	( )	( )
• number of workers with salary below \$5,824	( )	( )	( )	( )
• number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	( )	( )	( )	( )
Length of service of agency workers				
• 5 years or longer	( )	( )	( )	( )
• 3 - 5 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
• 1 - 3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
• less than 1 year	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of agency workers in the total number of staff in the Department	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of amount paid to EAs in the total departmental staff cost	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers with paid meal break	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers without paid meal break	( )	( )	( )	( )

	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09
Number of workers working 5 days a week	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers working 6 days a week	( )	( )	( )	( )

Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

	2011-12	2010-11 (as at 30.9.2010)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.2010)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.2009)
Number of contracts engaging employment agencies (EAs)	Note 1	36 (-5%)	38 (+3%)	37
Contract sum paid to each EA		\$112,000 to \$2 million	\$19,000 to \$2 million	\$38,000 to \$1.5 million
Total amount of commission paid to each EA		Note 2		
Length of contract for each EA		3 to 18 months	3 to 18 months	1 to 12 months
Number of agency workers		73 (±0%)	73 (-3%)	75
Details of the positions held by agency workers		Agency workers mainly undertake general office support duties.		
Monthly salary range of agency workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$30,001 or above</li> <li>• \$16,001 - \$30,000</li> <li>• \$8,001 - \$16,000</li> <li>• \$6,501 - \$8,000</li> <li>• \$5,001 - \$6,500</li> <li>• \$5000 or below</li> <li>• number of workers with salary below \$5,824</li> <li>• number of workers with salary between \$5,824 - \$6,500</li> </ul>		Note 3		
Length of service of agency workers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 years or longer</li> <li>• 3 – 5 years</li> <li>• 1 – 3 years</li> <li>• less than 1 year</li> </ul>		Note 4		
Percentage of agency workers in the total number of staff in the Department (Note 5)		0.6% (±0%)	0.6% (-0.1%)	0.7%

	2011-12	2010-11 (as at 30.9.2010)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.2010)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.2009)
Percentage of amount paid to EAs in the total departmental staff cost		0.4% (-0.3%)	0.7% (+0.5%)	0.2%
Number of worker with paid meal break Number of worker without paid meal break		Note 6		
Number of workers working 5 days a week Number of workers working 6 days a week		46 27	Note 7	

( ) denotes year-on-year change

The above excludes the procurement of services for supply of T-contract staff providing information technology service under a term contract centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

Note 1: Figures for 2011-12 are not available as the number of agency workers varies over time in the light of changing service and operational needs.

Note 2: Commission is not included in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's (FEHD) service contracts entered into with employment agencies.

Note 3: The contracts FEHD enters into with employment agencies specify the service fee charged by the latter in providing agency workers.

As a measure to protect non-skilled workers, the Administration promulgated a mandatory requirement on wage rates for government service contracts in May 2004. Under this requirement, service providers are required to offer monthly wages to non-skilled workers which are no less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited. This requirement applies to service contracts in respect of supply of non-skilled agency workers.

For agency workers (other than non-skilled workers), since April 2010 the employment agencies must specify that their agency workers (other than non-skilled agency workers) must pay wages no less than the average monthly wage of miscellaneous non-production workers in all selected industries published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited. Nevertheless, the wage levels were agreed upon between the agency workers (other than non-skilled workers) and their employment agencies when they enter into employment contracts; the department does not keep detailed records of the actual wage level of agency workers. Hence we are unable to provide the information requested.

Note 4: FEHD does not keep information on the years of service of agency workers. As long as the contract requirements are complied with, the employment agencies may arrange any qualified staff to provide the services.

Note 5: The percentage of agency workers as compared with total staff is for a specific date only and is not representative of the situation for the financial year concerned.

Note 6: FHED does not keep information on the number of agency workers with/without meal break.

Note 7: FEHD does not keep detailed records of such information.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 18.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)108**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

2982

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

On engaging "outsourced workers", please provide the following information:

	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09
Number of outsourced service contracts	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers	( )	( )	( )	( )
Length of contract for each outsourced service provider	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	( )	( )	( )	( )
Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology)				
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers				
• \$30,001 or above	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,000 or below	( )	( )	( )	( )
• number of workers with salary below \$5,824	( )	( )	( )	( )
• number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	( )	( )	( )	( )
Length of service of outsourced workers				
• 5 years or longer	( )	( )	( )	( )
• 3 - 5 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
• 1 - 3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
• less than 1 year	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of outsourced workers in the total number of staff in the Department	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers in the total departmental staff cost	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers with paid meal break	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers without paid meal break	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers working 5 days a week	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers working 6 days a week	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

	2011-12	2010-11 (as at 1.3.2011)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.2010)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.2009)
Number of outsourced service contracts	Note 1	127 (-3.8%)	132 (-1.5%)	134
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers		\$1,207.8 million (2010-11 revised estimate) (+1.2%)	\$1,193.1 million (2009-10 actual) (+11.7%)	\$1,068.0 million (2008-09 actual)
Length of contract for each outsourced service provider	Table			
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers		11 574 (-0.9%)	11 674 (+18.8%)	9 823
Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology)	Outsourced workers mainly undertake work relating to various types of services including cleansing, public toilet management, pest control, security etc.			
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers				
• \$30,001 or above		0	0	0
• \$16,001 - \$30,000		0	0	0
• \$8,001 - \$16,000		1 044 (-3.2%)	1 078 (+244.4%)	313
• \$6,501 - \$8,000		1 648 (-0.8%)	1 662 (+9.6%)	1 516
• \$5,001 - \$6,500		8 882 (-0.6%)	8 934 (+19.9%)	7 453
• \$5,000 or below		0	0 (-100%)	541
• number of workers with salary below \$5,824		8 807 (-0.01%)	8 808 (+22.7%)	7 180
• number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500		75 (-40.5%)	126 (-84.5%)	814
Length of service of outsourced workers		Note 2		
• 5 years or longer				

	2011-12	2010-11 (as at 1.3.2011)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.2010)	2008-09 (as at 31.3.2009)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 - 5 years</li> <li>• 1 - 3 years</li> <li>• less than 1 year</li> </ul>				
Percentage of outsourced workers in the total number of staff in the Department		100.5% (+0.4%)	100.1% (+20.0%)	83.4%
Percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers in the total departmental staff cost		48.9% (+0.6%)	48.6% (+11.2%)	43.7%
Number of workers with paid meal break Number of workers without paid meal break		Note 3		
Number of workers working 5 days a week Number of workers working 6 days a week		Note 4		

( ) denote year-on-year change

Table Length of service contracts

Length	2010-11 (No. as at 1.3.2011)	2009-10 (No. as at 31.3.2010)	2008-09 (No. as at 31.3.2009)
Below 1 year	1	0	2
1 year	2	6	2
2 years	109	110	113
3 years	1	1	2
5 years	14	14	14
6 years	0	1	1

Note 1: Figures for 2011-12 are not available as the number of service contracts varies over time in light of the changing service and operational needs.

Note 2: FEHD does not keep information on the length of service of outsourced workers. As long as the contract requirements are complied with, the contractor may arrange any qualified staff to provide the services.

Note 3: FEHD does not keep information on the number of outsourced workers with/without paid meal break.

Note 4: FEHD does not keep information on the number of days a worker works in a week.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 17.3.2011



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)109**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Question Serial No.

3034

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The work of the Department involves managing cremation and burial facilities, including public cemeteries, crematoria and columbaria. Please advise on the details of the work and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

The work of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department regarding the management of cremation and burial facilities includes maintaining the venues of public cemeteries, crematoria and columbaria in a clean, hygienic and tidy condition, interment of the deceased, exhumation of human remains, cremation of the deceased / human remains, depositing of human ashes in niches and assisting in the scattering of ashes at Gardens of Remembrance.

The estimated expenditure involved in the management and maintenance of the above facilities in 2011-12 is \$201.1 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)110**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Question Serial No.

3035

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is stated that the Department will "take forward plans and projects to provide more crematorium and columbarium facilities". Please advise on the details of the plans and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

The Administration is upgrading public cremators by phases to increase their handling capacity. The Wo Hop Shek Crematorium is being reprovisioned at an estimated cost of \$686.3 million for constructing six cremators and other ancillary facilities. The project is scheduled for completion in end 2011 / early 2012. The reprovisioning of the Cape Collinson Crematorium to provide for ten new cremators and other ancillary facilities, at an estimated cost of \$696.3 million, is also underway for completion in two phases in 2012 and late 2014 respectively. With the completion of these two reprovisioning projects, the number of scheduled cremation sessions per annum will be increased by 31.3% from 40 200 in 2010 to 52 800.

Besides, the construction of a new public columbarium with about 41 000 niches and a Garden of Remembrance in the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery, at an estimated cost of \$629.5 million, is underway for completion in mid 2012. To increase the supply of public niches, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and, in 2010, released 17 potential sites across 12 districts for building public columbarium facilities. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on these sites and will continue to identify potential sites in the remaining six districts. The relevant District Council will be consulted before sites are confirmed for development.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ CLEMENT LEUNG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 16.3.2011 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)111**

Question Serial No.

3036

Head: 139 Government Secretariat:      Subhead (No. & title):  
Food and Health Bureau  
(Food Branch)

Programme:                    (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Faced with the presence of a large number of private columbaria not in compliance with the statutory requirements, what measures will the Administration take to tackle the problem? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

What is the estimated expenditure incurred by the Department in 2011-12 inspecting these columbaria?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

All trades in Hong Kong including private columbaria should comply with the statutory town planning, buildings and fire requirements as well as lease conditions and other administrative requirements. Relevant Government departments take enforcement action against unauthorised aspects of private columbaria according to the power within their jurisdiction as appropriate. Under the existing mechanism, there are established channels and procedures for private columbaria to apply to the departments concerned for regularisation (e.g. applying for the relevant planning permission and / or lease modification). The Development Bureau also published information on private columbaria that are known to the Government in December 2010 to enhance consumer protection. Expenditure on such work is absorbed by the relevant bureaux and departments within their existing resources.

During the public consultation on the review of columbarium policy conducted by the Food and Health Bureau from July to September 2010, the public supported a licensing scheme to enhance regulation of private columbaria, but expressed divergent views over the scope and level of regulation under the licensing scheme and arrangements for pre-existing private columbaria. In order to work out an appropriate level of regulation, the Government needs to balance the views of various stakeholders. We will be reporting back to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on some preliminary proposals to strengthen regulation of private columbaria in April 2011. Expenditure arising from these early stage studies would be absorbed within our existing resources.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Marion LAI

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)112**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational  
Expenses

Question Serial No.

3055

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) It is stated that the work of the Department involves managing licensed hawker pitches, hawker permitted places and hawker bazaars as well as taking enforcement actions. Please advise on the details of the above various areas of work and their respective estimated expenditure.
- (b) Regarding the bootblack hawkers in Central, has the Department continued to follow up on their cases after granting licences to them? If yes, please provide the details. If not, please give the reasons.
- (c) The bootblack hawkers in Central are often required to move their pitches to facilitate the construction works at nearby buildings. Has the Department provided assistance to them in this respect? If yes, please provide the details.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:-

- (a) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's (FEHD) hawker control staff regularly inspect and patrol licensed hawker pitches, hawker permitted places and hawker bazaars to ensure that they are operating in an orderly manner. The work also involves handling public complaints and enforcement against obstruction and illegal hawking. Since such work is part of FEHD's overall control of hawking and related activities, the breakdown of the expenditure involved is not available.
- (b) Since fixed pitch hawker licences were issued to eight bootblack hawkers in Central in December 2009, we have conducted regular inspections of the licensed hawker pitches to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation and licensing conditions by the licensees.
- (c) To facilitate the Drainage Services Department in carrying out underground drainage works, four licensed bootblack hawkers at Theatre Lane in Central are being temporarily relocated to other suitable locations in the same street. The FEHD will arrange for these hawkers to return to their original trading locations after completion of the drainage works.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)113**

Question Serial No.

3099

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please set out in tabular form the number of public market traders who have surrendered their hawker licences and moved into public markets to continue their business under the then concessionary arrangements.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

As at 31 December 2010, there were 12 267 market stall tenancies in public markets. The information sought is provided as follows:

1.	Number of market stall tenancies let out through the Itinerant Hawker Licences Voluntary Surrender Scheme	:	238
2.	Number of market stall tenancies let out through restricted auctions [See Note]	:	5 205
3.	Number of market stall tenancies let out through open auctions	:	6 824
	Total	:	<u>12 267</u>

Note : Restricted auctions of market stalls with concessionary upset prices are held for various reasons, e.g.

- (i) relocation of on-street hawkers into temporary or permanent public markets;
- (ii) relocation of tenants/hawkers due to decommissioning of markets/hawker bazaars into permanent public markets; and
- (iii) relocation of tenants within the same market due to improvement works.

We do not have information on the number of stall tenants who were former licensed hawkers.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)114**

Question Serial No.

1166

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Officers of the Department have been authorised to issue fixed penalty notices to people smoking in prohibited areas under their purviews since September 2009. For the actions taken against smoking offences by the Department, please advise on the following in respective of 2009 and 2010:

- (a) the number of complaints received;
- (b) the number of proactive inspections conducted;
- (c) the number of inspections conducted jointly with Tobacco Control Office; and
- (d) the number of prosecutions instituted.

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
(a) No. of complaints received	17	44
(b) No. of proactive inspections conducted	376	1187
(c) No. of inspections conducted jointly with Tobacco Control Office	5	6
(d) No. of prosecutions instituted (i.e. No. of Fixed Penalty Notices issued)	19	33

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 18.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)115**

Question Serial No.

3180

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the estimates of expenditure of Information Technology Management Units (ITMUs) in government departments:

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure in 2011-12? What is the rate of change as compared with the actual expenditure in 2010-11? What is(are) the reason(s) for the above rate of change in expenditure?
- (b) What specific projects are included in the Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12? Which of them are on-going projects and new projects? What are the number of staff, the costs and the implementation timetable of each project? Of the staff involved for each project, how many of them are civil servants, non-civil service contract staff and staff of outsourced service providers?
- (c) Has the Administration earmarked any provision for the promotion of e-engagement as well as opening up of public sector information? If so, what are the specific contents (including project names, details, manpower and costs involved, and implementation timetable)? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) and will the Administration consider carrying out such measures in the future?
- (d) What are the permanent establishment, existing number of staff and vacancies of ITMUs? Will there be any increase in manpower in the coming year? If so, what is the estimated number of additional posts and the ranks involved? Are these posts permanent in nature? Will candidates for these posts be appointed on civil service terms of appointment? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) for that?
- (e) Has the effectiveness of ITMUs been reviewed comprehensively? If so, what are the results of the review and the specific improvement measures involved? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) and will such review be carried out in the future?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply:

- (a) The estimated expenditure for the Information Technology Management Unit (ITMU) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in 2010-11 stands at \$63.81 million. The estimated expenditure for 2011-12 remains the same at \$63.81 million.



(b) The major on-going projects in 2011-12 are listed below:

Project	No. of staff required in 2011-12			Estimated expenditure in 2011-12 (\$M)
	Civil service Staff	Non-civil service contract staff	Staff of outsourced service provider	
Support of Business Applications and Operations	0	5	55	33.28
Support of IT Infrastructure and Facilities	9	2	6	24.27
Support of Business Strategy and Information Management	2	3	2	6.26

In addition, new projects in 2011-12 funded under the Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 - Computerisation Subhead A007GX are listed below:

Project	No. of staff required in 2011-12			Estimated expenditure in 2011-12 (\$M)	Implementation schedule
	Civil service staff	Non-civil service contract staff	Staff of outsourced service provider		
Project 1 – Lotus Notes/Domino Electronic Mail System Upgrade	0	0	1	4.96	April 2012
Project 2 – Food Import Control System	0	0	1	5.61	July 2011
Project 3 – Revamping of Market Stall Rental System	0	0	4	4.19	October 2011

(c) FEHD will consider the feasibility of introducing measures related to e-engagement or the opening up of public sector information.

(d) The permanent establishment, existing strength and vacancies in FEHD are as follows:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Establishment</b>	<b>Strength</b>	<b>Vacancy</b>
Analyst/Programmer	2	2	0
Computer Operator	9	9	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>

(e) Under the existing governance mechanism, we have established the Information Technology Steering Committee to review the manpower resources as well as the development plan for the ITMU of the FEHD every year. We also conduct regular surveys to gauge the quality of services provided by the ITMU of the FEHD to assure its effectiveness and enhance the services.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 18.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)116**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Question Serial No.

3197

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the project on "Preservation of Hong Kong Food Culture: Dai Pai Tongs in Central", please provide an estimate of the resources and funding to be allocated, and details and progress of the project.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

The improvement works carried out for ten Dai Pai Tongs in Central have already been completed. Therefore, no resources will be required in 2011-12. The works included laying of underground drainage, repaving of pavement / road surface, provision of gas supply, installation of metal hoods and grease filters over cooking stoves.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)117**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Question Serial No.

3198

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In 2011-12, will the Department continue to allocate resources to the project on "Preservation of Hong Kong Food Culture: Dai Pai Tong in Central"? If yes, please advise on the estimated expenditure involved. If not, please give the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

The improvement works carried out by the Government for the Dai Pai Tong in Central have already been completed. No resources will be required in 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)118**

Question Serial No.

1174

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

It is mentioned that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will “implement the recommendations of the Committee on Sustainable Fisheries to regulate fishing activities including banning trawling in Hong Kong waters, with the aim of conserving and restoring marine resources.” In this connection,

- (a) what are the details of “banning trawling in Hong Kong waters”? Please advise the implementation timetable.
- (b) what is the estimated expenditure involved?
- (c) will the Administration reach a consensus with the trade before implementing the measures?
- (d) will the Administration compensate those in the trade who are affected by the measures? If yes, please give details. What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

With the aim of conserving and restoring marine resources and promoting the sustainable development of the local fisheries industry, the Government is pursuing the policy initiative of introducing a trawl ban in Hong Kong waters through legislation. To assist the fishermen affected by the trawl ban, the Government proposes to provide them with ex-gratia allowances and introduce a voluntary vessel buy-out scheme for the affected trawler owners, and to offer one-off grants to local deckhands employed by the trawler owners who surrender their vessels. We are discussing with the trawler fishermen and other stakeholders to gather their views on the implementation details. We will present the finalised proposals with detailed arrangements including financial implications to the Legislative Council in the second quarter of 2011. Subject to the legislative progress and funding from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, we envisage that the trawl ban will take effect from the end of 2012 at the earliest.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)119**

Question Serial No.

1175

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Regarding the matter of “strengthening measures for stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare”,

- (a) what are the details of the measures?
- (b) what is the estimated expenditure involved?
- (c) please provide the numbers of stray cattle in various districts over the past five years. While the problem of stray cattle in the New Territories and on outlying islands remained unresolved over the years, will the Administration cope with this problem in 2011-12? If yes, what are the details and estimated expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) In 2011-12, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will strengthen its efforts in stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare through a number of new and enhanced measures. These include (a) implementation of an enhanced education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (b) drawing up code of practices for the proper keeping of pets and other animals; (c) stepping up enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant animal laws; (d) strengthening collaboration with and support to animal welfare organisations in re-homing of animals, including inviting more organisations to partner with AFCD and providing free de-sexing services for dogs and cats to be re-homed through its partners as well as assisting interested animal welfare organisations to apply for funds under the Sir Robert Ho Tung Fund for animal welfare and related activities; (e) assisting the relevant animal welfare organisations in devising the implementation details of the Trap-Neuter-Return pilot scheme for dogs, and providing technical support and assistance to them in implementing, monitoring and evaluating the success of the trial scheme upon its commencement; and (f) devising a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle population in consultation with relevant animal welfare organisations and local communities. Besides, AFCD will continue to explore further enhanced measures for stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare.
- (b) The implementation of the above-mentioned new and enhanced measures will be supported by an additional provision of \$7.6 million in 2011-12 as well as through re-deployment of existing resources.

- (c) According to a survey conducted by AFCD in 2008, there were around 1 000 stray cattle in the rural areas of Hong Kong and their distribution is shown below:

	<b>Estimated Number of Stray Cattle (Head) in 2008</b>				
	<b>Lantau Island</b>	<b>Sai Kung</b>	<b>Northeast New Territories</b>	<b>Northwest New Territories</b>	<b>Total</b>
Brown Cattle	200	190	250	260	900
Buffalo	80	0	0	50	130
Total	280	190	250	310	1 030

In order to minimise the nuisance and danger potentially caused by stray cattle to the public while at the same time safeguarding the cattle's welfare, AFCD is devising a long term, multi-pronged strategy for the proper management of stray cattle population in consultation with various stakeholders. In addition, AFCD is collaborating with the Society for the Prevention of Animal Cruelty and other interested animal welfare organisations to implement a Trap-Neuter-Return pilot scheme for stray cattle on Lantau Island with a view to exploring the feasibility or otherwise of this method in managing and controlling the growth of stray cattle population there. A total of \$2 million will be allocated for this task in 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)120**

Question Serial No.

3511

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

- (a) What were the total expenditure involved in catching stray animals in the three financial years of 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11?
- (b) Please provide by species (e.g. cats, dogs, wild pigs etc) and in table form the numbers of stray animals caught and handed over to the Department, and the numbers of animals eventually euthanised and re-homed.
- (c) In the three financial years of 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, how many days would the Department keep the stray animals caught before they were euthanised and what was the average daily expenditure required for each animal?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

- (a) The expenditure involved in the catching of stray animals for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
2008-09	\$19.9 million
2009-10	\$20.6 million
2010-11	\$21.3 million

- (b) The numbers of stray animals caught, given up by owners, received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)'s Animal Management Centres (AMCs) through other channels (such as through seizure) as well as the numbers of such animals rehomed and euthanised in the past three years are at **Annex**.



- (c) In the three financial years of 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, the numbers of days that AFCD would keep the stray animals caught before they were euthanised and the average daily expenditure required for each animal are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Average number of days kept</b>	<b>Average daily expenditure for each animal</b>
2008-09	6.7	\$98
2009-10	6.6	\$113
2010-11	7.5	\$129

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

**Annex**

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Animals Caught</b>			<b>Animals Given Up by Owners</b>			<b>Animals Received by AMCs Through Other Channels</b>			<b>Animals Rehomed</b>			<b>Animals Euthanised</b>		
	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others
2008	8,375	4,642	709	3,370	370	185	1,480	228	193	720	180	12	10,240	3,923	825
2009	7,850	4,570	1,361	2,990	190	427	1,175	150	40	650	90	18	9,085	3,497	1,161
2010	6,519	3,907	411	2,345	204	68	1,689	204	31	789	119	32	7,420	3,047	482

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)121**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

3512

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

In the three financial years of 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, what were the total expenditure involved in euthanasia of animals, and what were the average expenditure for euthanising each dog and cat?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The expenditure involved in euthanasia of animals in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure involved</b>	<b>Average cost for euthanising each animal</b>
2008-09	\$1.5 million	\$98
2009-10	\$1.5 million	\$102
2010-11	\$1.3 million	\$137

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)122**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

3513

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

What are the respective total expenditure involved in providing inoculation and de-sexing services for dogs and cats? What are the average expenditure for performing each inoculation and de-sexing treatment?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

In 2011-12, \$2.4 million and \$1 million have been earmarked for providing rabies vaccine inoculation and de-sexing services for dogs and cats respectively. The average expenditure for performing each inoculation and de-sexing each animal is about \$41 and \$1,000 respectively.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ ALAN WONG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17 March 2011 \_\_\_\_\_

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)123**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

3654

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

In 2010, what was the Department's expenditure on catching stray animals and euthanising them? How many animals were involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

The numbers of stray animals caught, given up by owners, received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's Animal Management Centres (AMCs) through other channels (such as through seizure) as well as the numbers of such animals euthanised in 2010 are at **Annex**.

In 2010-11, the expenditure on euthanising animals is \$1.3 million and that on catching stray animals is \$21.3 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

2010

<b>Animals Caught</b>			<b>Animals Given Up by Owners</b>			<b>Animals Received by AMCs Through Other Channels</b>			<b>Animals Euthanised</b>		
Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others
6,519	3,907	411	2,345	204	68	1,689	204	31	7,420	3,047	482

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)124**

Question Serial No.

3655

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

In 2010, how many complaints regarding dog poisoning did the Department receive? What resources were spent on processing the complaints? What was the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

In 2010, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department received about 20 000 complaints and reports requiring follow-up actions, of which only three cases involved suspected dog poisoning. A total of 17 staff (including 1 Senior Veterinary Officer, 4 Veterinary Officers, 4 Field Officers I and 8 Field Officers II) were deployed to handle these complaints and reports as well as other duties relating to animal management and animal welfare. There is no separate cost breakdown for handling dog poisoning-related work.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ ALAN WONG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17 March 2011 \_\_\_\_\_

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)125**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

3662

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

The Department has pledged to look into the implementation of a "trap-neuter-vaccinate-return" programme. What is the estimated cost per stray dog under this programme? Please give a breakdown of the expenditure items.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue to assist the relevant animal welfare organisations in devising the implementation details of the Trap-Neuter-Return pilot scheme for dogs, including management and legal liability issues as well as selection of suitable sites for the pilot scheme. The Department will also conduct local consultation in partnership with these organisations and provide technical support and assistance to them in implementing, monitoring and evaluating the success or otherwise of the trial scheme. \$1.7 million will be allocated for this task in 2011-12. As the pilot scheme is still at the planning stage, we do not have information on the estimated cost per stray dog to be handled under this scheme.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)126**

Question Serial No.

3663

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

- (a) Please advise the respective total expenditure for the past three financial years, i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, on the "trap-neuter-return" programme for cats.
- (b) Regarding animals caught and handed to the Department, will more resources be allocated in 2011-12 to keep them for a longer period of time so that they will have more chances to be re-homed and live a longer life?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides annual funding support to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to implement various animal welfare programmes, including the Cat Colony Care Programme (CCCP). According to SPCA, an amount of \$200,000 has been used to support the CCCP over the past three years in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.
- (b) AFCD is collaborating with 12 animal welfare organisations (AWOs) on re-homing of stray animals. Animals assessed to be suitable for re-homing will be taken care of by staff of the Animal Management Centres until they are transferred to the relevant AWOs. These animals will then be kept by AWOs until being adopted.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)127**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

3664

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

It is mentioned that the Department will strengthen enforcement of import control of animals in 2011-12. Please advise the details and the provision earmarked.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has earmarked \$5.1 million in 2011-12 to strengthen import control of animals. The Department will expand the Quarantine Detector Dog Unit by recruiting and training up three more dogs and the same number of staff as handlers to bring the total number to eight dogs and eight handlers, thus enabling the Department to carry out more operations against illegal import of animals at various boundary control points for land and sea transport as well as the Hong Kong International Airport. In addition, the Department will continue its publicity effort in advising the public not to import animals illegally.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)128**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

3665

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

The Department will introduce a new code of practice for pig farming in 2011-12. Please provide the details and the estimated expenditure in this regard.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The Code of Practice for Pig Farming (CoP) will be implemented by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) as general guidelines for pig farm operation. It covers husbandry and farm management, stock and visitor movement control, disease monitoring and control, waste treatment and hygiene. AFCD will provide farmers with advice on how to avoid and minimize food safety hazards posed by drug and pesticide residues, mycotoxins as well as environmental contaminants, etc. This, coupled with continued provision of appropriate education and training by AFCD, should enable pig farmers to comply with the requirements in CoP.

There will not be any additional expenditure as this task will form part of AFCD's ongoing efforts to promote good farm management and husbandry practices.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ ALAN WONG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15 March 2011 \_\_\_\_\_

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)129**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

3858

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

In 2011-12, the Department will tighten the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale in pet shops through implementing the revised conditions of the Animal Trader Licence. Please provide the details and the estimated expenditure in this regard. Does it include the regulation and enforcement on the trading of dogs, cats, rabbits etc?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The additional licensing conditions for animal traders were introduced in February 2010 to tighten the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale. Since then, the Agriculture, Conservation and Fisheries Department has stepped up efforts both in publicising the new arrangements and the inspection of licensed pet shops to ensure their compliance with these additional licensing conditions. Where necessary, enforcement actions will be taken against illegal animal trading activities or breach of licensing conditions. The trade has been able to cope with the new arrangements with no major difficulties.

In 2011-12, the Department will continue with the above-mentioned strengthened efforts to tighten the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale in pet shops and the regulation and enforcement on the trading of other pet animals. \$6.3 million has been earmarked for this activity in 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)130**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

3859

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

In 2011-12, the Department will strengthen measures for stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare. Please provide the details and the estimated expenditure in this regard.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

In 2011-12, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will strengthen its efforts in stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare through a number of new and enhanced measures. These include (a) implementation of an enhanced education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (b) drawing up code of practices for the proper keeping of pets and other animals; (c) stepping up enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant animal laws; (d) strengthening collaboration with and support to animal welfare organisations in re-homing of animals, including inviting more organisations to partner with AFCD and providing free de-sexing services for dogs and cats to be re-homed through its partners as well as assisting interested animal welfare organisations to apply for funds under the Sir Robert Ho Tung Fund for animal welfare and related activities; (e) assisting the relevant animal welfare organisations in devising the implementation details of the Trap-Neuter-Return pilot scheme for dogs, and providing technical support and assistance to them in implementing, monitoring and evaluating the success of the trial scheme upon its commencement; and (f) devising a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle population in consultation with relevant animal welfare organisations and local communities. Besides, AFCD will continue to explore further enhanced measures for stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare. The implementation of these new and enhanced measures will be supported by an additional provision of \$7.6 million in 2011-12 as well as through re-deployment of existing resources.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)131**

Question Serial No.

3670

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please give details of the projects to be taken forward to “provide more columbarium facilities” in the next three years, including the locations of the projects, the number of niches to be provided and the completion dates of the projects.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

The construction of a new public columbarium with about 41 000 niches and a Garden of Remembrance in the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery is underway for completion in mid 2012.

To increase the supply of public niches, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and, in 2010, released 17 potential sites across 12 districts for building public columbarium facilities. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on these sites and will continue to identify suitable sites in the remaining six districts. The relevant District Council will be consulted before sites are confirmed for development.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)132**

Question Serial No.

3671

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Please set out in tabular form the number of unallocated niches at columbaria under the management of the Department and their distribution by location.
- (b) Discounting applicants having special preferences for particular locations, what is the current average waiting time for a niche applicant? What is the longest waiting time among the niche applications?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- (a) The information sought is provided as follows:

<b>Public Columbarium</b>	<b>Number of niches available for re-allocation (as at 31.12.2010)</b>
Diamond Hill	163
Cape Collinson	57
Wo Hop Shek	18
Kwai Chung	7
Fu Shan	6
Cheung Chau	5
Lamma	5
Peng Chau	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>263</b>

- (b) In 2010, the average waiting time for a re-used niche is about 30 months. The longest waiting time is about 55 months.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**FHB(FE)133**

Question Serial No.

3685

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under this programme, a significant increase is noted in the numbers of blood samples taken / to be taken from poultry for testing of avian influenza H5 antibodies for two consecutive years (i.e. in 2010-11 and 2011-12). Does the Department have sufficient manpower to cope with the work? If not, will additional resources and manpower be provided for the testing in this respect? If yes, please provide the details. If not, please give the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

To strengthen our surveillance programme on avian influenza, the Administration implemented a basket of enhanced surveillance and control measures at all levels of the live poultry supply chain in 2010. At the import control level, the number of blood samples collected and tested per consignment was increased by 10% since May 2010. The full-year impact of such increase will be reflected in 2011. The additional work will be absorbed within existing manpower and resources.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)134**

Question Serial No.

3686

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under this programme, a significant increase is noted in the numbers of samples taken / to be taken from food animals for testing of veterinary drug residues for two consecutive years. Does the Department have sufficient manpower to cope with the work? If not, will additional resources and manpower be provided for the testing in this respect? If yes, please provide the details. If not, please give the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The increase of 2.6% in the number of samples taken from food animals for testing of veterinary drug residues from 2009 to 2010 was due to an increase of 2.2% in import of food animals during the same period. The Department has sufficient manpower and resources to cope with the additional work.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)135**

Question Serial No.

3687

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under this programme, the Department will continue to strengthen health promotional activities on nutrition labelling. In this connection, please advise on the progress and details of the activities, the manpower involved and the estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

Since the passage of the Regulation on nutrition labelling (the Regulation) by the Legislative Council in mid-2008, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) has launched a three-year Publicity and Education Campaign (the Campaign) on promoting nutrition labelling, to be implemented in three phases :

- (1) to raise public awareness in Phase I (June 2008 – July 2009);
- (2) to enhance understanding in Phase II (August 2009 – June 2010); and
- (3) to motivate behavioural changes in Phase III (July 2010 – June 2011).

With the commencement of the Regulation on 1 July 2010, the Campaign has entered Phase III, which encourages the public to make reference to nutrition labels when buying prepackaged food and make healthier food choices. Prior to 1 July 2010, CFS had stepped up publicity to remind the public of the commencement of the Regulation. Since early June 2010, CFS had released new television and radio announcements in the public interest (API), briefed radio programmes and put up posters on public transport and in public housing estates. The Controller/CFS met with the media in June 2010 to brief them on the preparatory work in the run up to the commencement of the Regulation. A Food Safety Day was held on 28 June to focus the attention of the public on the impending commencement of the Regulation. The Regulation commenced smoothly on 1 July 2010.

To disseminate the message more widely, CFS has secured the support of food retailers to display posters, distribute pamphlets and broadcast APIs on nutrition labelling. CFS has organized four seminars for frontline staff of retailers. To date, some 700 staff of retailers (mainly from major retail chains) attended the seminars. Three seminars with an attendance of some 200 consumers were also held. In addition, 16 district-based roving exhibitions, coupled with talks at various community centres, were attended by around 3 800 participants.

In parallel, CFS has strengthened its co-operation with the education sector in promoting the use of nutrition labelling information. In collaboration with the Education Bureau, CFS has launched the Nutrition Labelling Promotion Award Scheme entitled "Live it, Use it" in around 500 secondary schools in the 2010-11 school year. The Scheme aims to encourage students to organise activities to promote nutrition labelling.

CFS has assigned dedicated staff to conduct workshops from November 2010 to provide participants with information on nutrition labelling. As at the end of February 2011, a total of about 200 students from 22 secondary schools have enrolled. An award ceremony is scheduled for early July 2011. CFS also co-organised with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department a series of activities to promote nutrition labelling including seminars, book display and exhibition in late November 2010. Web-based platforms are also used to promote nutrition labelling to the younger generation.

Since 14 March 2011, CFS has started broadcasting short television programmes consisting of 10 episodes on using nutrition labelling information to achieve a healthy diet in daily life. CFS is also developing a free mobile phone application programme to facilitate consumers in comparing nutrition values of prepackaged food expressed in per serving or per 100g/ml format. The mobile phone application programme will be available in the second quarter of 2011.

To sustain the efforts, CFS plans to launch a two-year enhancement programme after the completion of the Campaign.

The above promotion work is undertaken by existing staff and the expenditure cannot be separately identified.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 18.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)136**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

3688

Programme: (4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under this programme, the Department will commence promotional activities on the Food Safety Bill upon enactment. In this connection, please advise on the progress and details of the activities, the manpower involved and the estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

Upon the enactment of the Food Safety Bill (the Bill), the Centre for Food Safety will launch publicity activities to promote public awareness of the requirements under the Bill. Such activities include briefing sessions, consultation forums or workshops for food traders; advertisements in newspapers, magazines and on public transport, production of television and radio announcements in the public interest; roving exhibitions in shopping arcades and public markets as well as delivery of pamphlets, booklets and souvenirs.

The total cost for the publicity work is about \$2.6 million. The manpower and the expenditure involved will be absorbed within existing resources.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)137**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

3689

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under this programme, there will be an increase of 14 posts in the Department in 2011-12. Please advise on the nature, ranks, salaries and duties of the posts concerned.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The posts to be created are in the Health Inspector grade and administration support grades. The total annual salary amounts to \$5 million. The main duties of these posts are to perform food safety regulatory duties.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 17.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)138**

Question Serial No.

3876

Head: 139 Government  
Secretariat: Food and  
Health Bureau (Food  
Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Paragraph 42 of the Budget Speech points out that “in the face of surging food prices, we will continue to diversify the sources of our food imports”. How could the Administration diversify the sources of our food imports and maintain a sustainable food supply to Hong Kong? In the face of surging food prices, does the Administration have any means to monitor and control prices so as to minimise the adverse impact of food inflation on people’s livelihood. If yes, what are the details and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply:

Our policy objective is to ensure that the food market and food trade are highly open and competitive. Diversified food sources and food types will help maintain an adequate and stable food supply. To this end, the Administration strives to improve market transparency and enhance market efficiency.

We facilitate import of food from all over the world by firstly setting clear hygiene and safety standards commensurate with international benchmark, and secondly maintaining an open and competitive market. Food can be imported and distributed in Hong Kong according to market demand as long as they are fit for consumption. These have resulted in diverse food choice for the public and stable price to cater for customers with different purchasing power.

Due to the close proximity with the Mainland, the majority of our fresh food comes from the Mainland. To maintain a stable supply, we have all along been liaising closely with the relevant Mainland authorities and also the import agents, and monitoring carefully the supply of food, especially livestock from the Mainland to Hong Kong.

We encourage the trade to explore new food supply and build up a network of food suppliers from different places. We also suggest food traders to source for alternatives e.g. chilled and frozen meat as an alternative to fresh meat. In this respect, Mainland chilled pork has been imported into Hong Kong since 2006, with a total import volume of about 18 300 tonnes in 2010, representing an increase by 17% as compared with that in 2009. Chilled beef from the Mainland also entered the Hong Kong market in December 2010 and the public response has been positive. The Vegetable Marketing Organisation and Fish Marketing Organisation, statutory organisations under the purview of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), keep a close watch on the wholesale activities of vegetables and fish in Hong Kong, and will continue to liaise with traders to encourage them to diversify their import source.

To enhance market transparency, supply information and wholesale prices of major fresh food items (e.g. pigs, cattle, fish and vegetables) are uploaded onto AFCD's website and broadcast through the Radio Television Hong Kong on a daily basis.

The work mentioned above is undertaken by existing staff as part of their regular duties and the expenditure cannot be separately identified.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Marion LAI

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Food and Health (Food)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)139**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead : 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

1134

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

On engaging agency workers, please provide the following information:

	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09
Number of contracts of engaging employment agencies	( )	( )	( )	( )
Contract sum paid to each employment agency	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total amount of commission paid to each employment agency	( )	( )	( )	( )
Length of contract for each employment agency	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of agency workers	( )	( )	( )	( )
Details of the positions held by agency workers				
Monthly salary range of agency workers				
• \$30,001 or above	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,000 or below	( )	( )	( )	( )
• number of workers with salary below \$5,824	( )	( )	( )	( )
• number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	( )	( )	( )	( )
Length of service of agency workers				
• 5 years or longer	( )	( )	( )	( )
• 3 - 5 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
• 1 - 3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
• less than 1 year	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of agency workers in the total number of staff in the department	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of amount paid to employment agencies in the total departmental staff cost	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers with paid meal break	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers without paid meal break	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers on five-day week	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers on six-day week	( )	( )	( )	( )

( ) denotes percentage of increase or decrease per year

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing



Reply :

Details of the information are as follows:

	2011-12	2010-11 (as at 28 February 2011)	2009-10	2008-09
Number of contracts of engaging employment agencies	(Note 1)	5 (+400%)	1	1
Contract sum paid to each employment agency		\$0.3 to \$0.4 million (-63% to -73%)	\$1.1 million	\$1.1 million
Total amount of commission paid to each employment agency		(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)
Length of contract for each employment agency		9 to 12 months	12 months	12 months
Number of agency workers		14 (+17%)	12	12
Details of the positions held by agency workers	(Note 1)	The workers mainly provide general clerical services.		
Monthly salary range of agency workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$30,001 or above</li> <li>• \$16,001 - \$30,000</li> <li>• \$8,001 - \$16,000</li> <li>• \$6,501 - \$8,000</li> <li>• \$5,001 - \$6,500</li> <li>• \$5,000 or below</li> <li>• number of workers with salary below \$5,824</li> <li>• number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500</li> </ul>	(Note 2)	(Note 2)	(Note 3)	
Length of service of agency workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 years or longer</li> <li>• 3 - 5 years</li> <li>• 1 - 3 years</li> <li>• less than 1 year</li> </ul>	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)
Percentage of agency workers in the total number of staff in the department	(Note 1)	1%	1%	1%
Percentage of amount paid to employment agencies in the total departmental staff cost	(Note 1)	0.3% (+50%)	0.2%	0.2%
Number of workers with paid meal break Number of workers without paid meal break	(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)
Number of workers on five-day week Number of workers on six-day week	(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)

( ) denotes percentage of increase or decrease per year

- Note 1: Statistics for 2011-12 are not available as the requirements vary from time to time in the light of changing service and operational needs.
- Note 2: While the exact wages of workers are not specified in the contract, contractors are required to pay their employees a wage not less than the latest wage level of similar industries published in the Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time the quotation is invited.
- Note 3: Relevant information is not specified in the contract and hence not available.
- Note 4: Under the contract, agencies may arrange any of their employees who meet the basic requirements specified in the contract to perform the required service. They may also arrange replacement workers during the contract period. Hence, the relevant information is not available.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 16 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)140**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead : 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

1135

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

On engaging "outsourced workers", please provide the following information:

	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09
Number of outsourced service contracts	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers	( )	( )	( )	( )
Length of contract for each outsourced service provider	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	( )	( )	( )	( )
Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleaning, information technology etc)				
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers				
• \$30,001 or above	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,000 or below	( )	( )	( )	( )
• number of workers with salary below \$5,824	( )	( )	( )	( )
• number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	( )	( )	( )	( )
Length of service of outsourced workers				
• 5 years or longer	( )	( )	( )	( )
• 3 - 5 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
• 1 - 3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
• less than 1 year	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of outsourced workers in the total number of staff in the department	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers in the total departmental staff cost	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers with paid meal break	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers without paid meal break	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers on five-day week	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers on six-day week	( )	( )	( )	( )

( ) denotes percentage of increase or decrease per year

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Details of the information are as follows:

	2011-12	2010-11 (as at 28 February 2011)	2009-10	2008-09
Number of outsourced service contracts	(Note 1)	17 (-26%)	23 (-28%)	32
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers		\$13.3 million (-39.8%)	\$22.1 million (-46%)	\$41.3 million
Length of contract for each outsourced service provider		12 to 24 months	12 to 24 months	12 to 24 months
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers		202 (+3%)	196 (-15%)	231
Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleaning, information technology etc)	(Note 1)	The workers are mainly deployed to carry out cleaning and security services.		
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$30,001 or above</li> <li>• \$16,001 - \$30,000</li> <li>• \$8,001 - \$16,000</li> <li>• \$6,501 - \$8,000</li> <li>• \$5,001 - \$6,500</li> <li>• \$5,000 or below</li> <li>• number of workers with salary below \$5,824</li> <li>• number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500</li> </ul>	(Note 2)	(Note 2)	(Note 2)	(Note 2)
Length of service of outsourced workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 years or longer</li> <li>• 3 - 5 years</li> <li>• 1 - 3 years</li> <li>• less than 1 year</li> </ul>	(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)
Percentage of outsourced workers in the total number of staff in the department	(Note 1)	11%	11% (-15%)	13%
Percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers in the total departmental staff cost	(Note 1)	2.3% (-43%)	4% (-43%)	7%
Number of workers with paid meal break Number of workers without paid meal break	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)
Number of workers on five-day week Number of workers on six-day week	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)

( ) denotes percentage of increase or decrease per year

- Note 1: Statistics for 2011-12 are not available as the requirements vary from time to time in the light of changing service and operational needs.
- Note 2: While the exact wages of workers are not specified in the contract, contractors are required to pay their employees a wage not less than the latest wage level of similar industries published in the Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time the quotation is invited.
- Note 3: Under the contract, contractors may arrange any of their employees who meet the basic requirements specified in the contract to perform the required service. They may also arrange replacement workers during the contract period. Hence, the relevant information is not available.
- Note 4: Relevant information is not specified in the contract and hence not available.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 16 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)141**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead : 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

3187

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Regarding the estimates of expenditure of the Information Technology Management Division of the Department:

- a. what is the estimated expenditure for 2011-12? What is the percentage change compared with the actual expenditure for 2010-11? What account for this percentage change in expenditure?
- b. what specific initiatives are involved in the estimates of expenditure for 2011-12? Which of them are ongoing and new initiatives respectively? What are the staff number, cost and implementation timetable of each initiative? Among the staff involved, how many of them are civil servants, non-civil service contract staff and staff of outsourced services respectively?
- c. whether funds have been reserved for promoting electronic civic participation and public sector information access? If yes, what are the specific details, including the titles and particulars of the initiatives, the manpower and cost involved, and the implementation timetable? If not, what are the reasons and will consideration be given to introducing the initiatives in the future?
- d. what are the permanent establishment and the number of existing staff and vacancies of the Information Technology Management Division? Is manpower expected to increase in the coming year? If yes, how many additional posts will be created? What ranks will be involved? Will they be permanent posts? Will they be appointed on civil service terms? If there will be no increase in manpower, what are the reasons?
- e. has there been any comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the Information Technology Management Division? If yes, what are the results and the specific improvement measures involved? If not, what are the reasons and will a review be conducted in the future?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply :

- a. In 2011-12, a total of \$11.9 million has been earmarked for the Information Technology Management Unit (ITMU) in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), representing an increase of 2.6% over the revised estimate for 2010-11 to cater for increased maintenance costs.
- b. The earmarked expenditure covers initiatives including planning, coordination and monitoring of the provision of information systems services, and maintenance of information systems and system infrastructure. These are all on-going initiatives supported by the ITMU which consists of three civil service posts.

- c. In 2011-12, \$0.3 million will be allocated for maintaining and enhancing AFCD's websites to promote public sector information access. This is an on-going initiative which will be carried out throughout the year.
- d. Currently, there are three civil service posts in ITMU including one Senior Systems Manager, one Systems Manager and one Analyst Programmer (I), all of which have been filled. The manpower will be increased to four staff by adding one Analyst Programmer (II) civil service post in 2011-12 to strengthen the management of user relationship for the purpose of planning and implementing the replacement and enhancement of computer systems.
- e. AFCD has completed a review on its information technology plan in 2010-11. The review indicated that there is a need to increase the manpower of ITMU in order to strengthen the management of user relationship for the purpose of planning and implementing the replacement and enhancement of computer systems. As stated in part (d) above, a new post will be added to cater for such need in 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)142**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead : 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

1133

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Regarding the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, please provide information in the following format:

	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09
Number of NCSC staff	( )	( )	( )	( )
Particulars of NCSC staff posts				
Expenditure on the salaries of NCSC staff	( )	( )	( )	( )
Distribution of monthly salary level of NCSC staff				
• \$30,001 or above	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,000 or below	( )	( )	( )	( )
• Number of staff with monthly salary lower than \$5,824	( )	( )	( )	( )
• Number of staff with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	( )	( )	( )	( )
Length of employment of NCSC staff				
• 5 years or above	( )	( )	( )	( )
• 3 – 5 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
• 1 – 3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
• less than 1 year	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff successfully turning into civil servants	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff failing to turn into civil servants	( )	( )	( )	( )
NCSC staff as a percentage of the total number of staff in the department	( )	( )	( )	( )
Staff costs on NCSC staff as a percentage of the total staff costs in the department	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff with remunerated meal break	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff without remunerated meal break	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff working 5 days a week	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff working 6 days a week	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*



Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Details of the information are as follows:

	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09
Number of NCSC staff	(Note 1)	304 (-5%)	321 (-13%)	370
Particulars of NCSC staff posts	In this department, NCSC positions can broadly be categorised into four groups according to their job nature, namely professional support, technical support, administrative support and other services.			
Expenditure on the salaries of NCSC staff	(Note 1)	\$43,328,734 (-0.5%)	\$43,560,000 (-19%)	\$53,565,582
Distribution of monthly salary level of NCSC staff	(Note 1)			
• \$30,001 or above		5 (+25%)	4 (-50%)	8
• \$16,001 - \$30,000		21 (+50%)	14 (-44%)	25
• \$8,001 - \$16,000		172 (+7%)	161 (-13%)	186
• \$6,501 - \$8,000		-	-	-
• \$5,001 - \$6,500		106 (-25%)	142 (-6%)	151
• \$5,000 or below		-	-	-
• Number of staff with monthly salary lower than \$5,824		-	-	-
• Number of staff with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500		106 (-25%)	142 (-6%)	151
Length of employment of NCSC staff	(Note 1)			
• 5 years or above		162 (-27%)	221 (-6%)	235
• 3 – 5 years		17 (-39%)	28 (+17%)	24
• 1 – 3 years		38 (+65%)	23 (-70%)	76
• less than 1 year		87 (+78%)	49 (+40%)	35
Number of NCSC staff successfully turning into civil servants	(Note 1)	47 (+24%) (Note 2)	38 (+6%) (Note 2)	36 (Note 2)
Number of NCSC staff failing to turn into civil servants	(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)
NCSC staff as a percentage of the total number of staff in the department	(Note 1)	17% (-1%)	18% (-3%)	21%
Staff costs on NCSC staff as a percentage of the total staff costs in the department	(Note 1)	8% (-)	8% (-2%)	10%
Number of NCSC staff with remunerated meal break	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)
Number of NCSC staff without remunerated meal break	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)
Number of NCSC staff working 5 days a week	(Note 1)	304 (-5%)	321 (-13%)	370
Number of NCSC staff working 6 days a week	-	-	-	-

(Note 1) - Statistics for 2011-12 are not yet available as the number of NCSC staff varies from time to time in the light of changing service and operational needs.

(Note 2) - The statistics reflect the number of NCSC staff who have successfully been admitted to civil service posts of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) only.

(Note 3) - Information is not available.

(Note 4) - NCSC staff in AFCD are remunerated on a monthly-rated package which includes pay, meal breaks, annual leave, etc. as set out in the terms of employment.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011



Reply:

- (a) The estimated 2011-12 expenditure for the Information Technology Management Unit (ITMU) of the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) is about \$6.6 million, which is comparable with the actual expenditure in 2010-11. The ITMU of FHB serves both the Food Branch and the Health Branch and the expenditure incurred cannot be separately identified.
- (b) The major on-going projects / activities in 2011-12 are listed below :

Description	Staffing requirement in 2011-12 (no. of staff)			Estimated expenditure in 2011-12 (\$M)	Implementation schedule
	Civil servant	Non-civil service contract staff	Agency staff		
Implementation and provision of general support to business applications, IT infrastructure and facilities	2 (Note 1)	1 (Note 1)	1 (Note 1)	6.6	2011-12

In addition, an on-going project approved in 2010-11 funded under the Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 - Computerisation Subhead A007GX is listed below :

Description	Staffing requirement in 2011-12 (man-month)			Estimated expenditure in 2011-12 (\$M)	Implementation schedule
	Civil servant	Non-civil service contract staff	Agency / Outsourcing staff		
Migration of IT systems and facilities to the new offices at the Tamar Central Government Office	- (Note 2)	- (Note 2)	- (Note 2)	2.9	September 2011

Note (1): The work will be undertaken by ITMU's existing staff.

(2): The estimated expenditure of the project for 2011-12 is about \$2.9 million, including the expenses of \$0.6 million for outsourcing implementation services. The project also requires 16.5 man-months of additional staff effort which will be absorbed within the existing manpower and resources of the ITMU.

- (c) It is the Administration's policy to facilitate public access to information to enable better understanding of the Administration's policies and operations. Information related to FHB's policy purview has been provided in the home page of the FHB for public access. We have not earmarked funds in 2011-12 for supporting specific effort in promoting initiatives related to e-engagement and opening up of public sector information. We will continue to explore improvement opportunities in opening up the information and review the need for e-engagement initiatives.
- (d) The permanent establishment, existing strength and vacancies of the ITMU of the FHB are as follows :

Grade	Establishment	Strength	Vacancy
Systems Manager	1	1	0
Analyst Programmer	1	1	0
Total	2	2	0

There is no change in the staffing for the year 2011-12. We will review the staff resource of the ITMU regularly having regard to the business plans, IT management needs and schedule.



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)144**

Question Serial No.

3681

Head: 139 Government Secretariat:      Subhead (No. & title):  
Food and Health Bureau  
(Food Branch)

Programme:                      (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In respect of the preparation for the commencement of the Food Safety Bill, please advise us of the progress, work details, manpower involved and estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, JP

Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) has a detailed preparatory plan to ensure the successful implementation of the Food Safety Bill (the Bill).

CFS has already set up an office and is developing a computer system to handle the registration of food importers and food distributors under the Bill. To facilitate the registration process, CFS is consulting the trade on a set of guidelines on registration. CFS has already completed consultation with the trade on the record keeping requirement under the Bill and is finalising a Code of Practice on the duration of keeping records for different types of food. In response to possible enquiries on the Bill, CFS will set up a hotline and a dedicated webpage to provide the necessary information about the Bill.

Upon the enactment of the Bill, CFS will launch an extensive publicity campaign to promote public awareness of the Bill's requirements. The campaign will include briefing sessions to be staged in 18 districts to explain the requirements of the Bill. Food traders such as primary producers, public market tenants and wholesale market tenants, will be particularly targeted at these sessions. Apart from this, the campaign will encompass advertisements in newspapers, magazines and on public transport, television and radio announcements of public interest, roving exhibitions in shopping arcades and public markets as well as pamphlets, booklets and souvenirs.

In 2011-12, about \$3 million has been allocated to employ ten contract staff and six civil servants to prepare for the implementation of the Bill.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      Mrs Marion LAI

Post Title      Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date      16.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)145**

Question Serial No.

3682

Head: 139 Government Secretariat:      Subhead (No. & title):  
Food and Health Bureau  
(Food Branch)

Programme:                      (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

On continuing to collaborate with the Mainland authorities to explore the feasibility of applying information technology to enhance the traceability of food, what is the progress of Administration's work in 2010 and what are the latest findings? Will new information technology system be introduced again? What does the Administration expect the manpower and resources needed to be?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

In 2010, the Food and Health Bureau and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) continued a pilot programme with the Mainland authorities to apply Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology on traceability of live pigs imported from Guangdong. The entire programme will be evaluated upon the completion of further testing. The operation team in FEHD consists of 1 Field Officer I, 1.5 Field Officer II and 6 agency staff. The estimated expenditure on this operation is \$1.65 million for 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      Mrs Marion LAI

Post Title      Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date      10.3.2011





**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)147**

Head: 139 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational  
Food and Health Bureau Expenses  
(Food Branch)

Question Serial No.

3684

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under this programme, the increase of \$7.5 million in provision for 2011-12, as compared with the 2010-11 revised estimate, is mainly used for planning and development of columbarium and crematorium facilities. Please inform the Committee of the details of the plan.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

Among the increased provision of \$7.5 million in the 2011-12 estimate for Programme (3): Environmental Hygiene as compared with the 2010-11 revised estimate, \$4.2 million is for commissioning an engineering feasibility study for development of columbarium, crematorium and other related facilities at Sandy Ridge Cemetery.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Marion LAI

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 11.3.2011



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)149**

Question Serial No.

3673

Head: 139 Government Secretariat:      Subhead (No. & title):  
Food and Health Bureau  
(Food Branch)

Programme:                      (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In the Review of Columbarium Policy Public Consultation Document issued last year, the Administration proposed to provide columbarium facilities on a number of sites such as the sites near On Hing Lane, Shek Mun, Shatin, Wo Hop Shek Cemetery, etc. What are the latest developments in this respect? At present, how many sites are available for developing into columbarium facilities? When is the related works expected to commence? How is the consultation with District Councils and local people going?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

To increase the supply of public niches, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme. The Administration released in July 2010 in the consultation document on review of columbarium the first batch of 12 potential sites in seven districts, and in December 2010 the second batch of five more potential sites in five districts for building public columbarium facilities. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on these sites and will continue to identify suitable sites in the remaining six districts. The relevant District Council will be consulted before sites are confirmed for development.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      Mrs Marion LAI

Post Title      Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date      15.3.2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)150**

Question Serial No.

3813

Head: 139 Government                      Subhead (No. & title):  
Secretariat: Food and  
Health Bureau (Food  
Branch)

Programme:                      (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer:      Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) A lot of mothers in Hong Kong have complained about the strain of buying milk powder. Milk powder of many popular brands is always out of stock for long periods, particularly in the New Territories. In this connection, what measures does the Food and Health Bureau have to ensure the normal supply of milk powder of various brands, so as to prevent babies in Hong Kong from suffering from "food shortage"?
- (b) Many members of the public have remarked that private hospitals have made focused efforts to promote milk powder of one or two particular brands. As too many people buy milk powder of these brands, such products are frequently out of stock. In this regard, has the Administration required private hospitals to provide a spectrum of milk powder brands for choice by mothers, so as to avoid focusing too much on a certain brand?
- (c) Some milk powder suppliers have indicated that they have increased the supply significantly, but their products are still found out of stock. On the other hand, many milk powder products have been taken to the Mainland by itinerant couriers for sale at high prices. Will the Administration consider adopting any measures to tackle this problem?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply:

- (a) The Government cares about babies' health and pays particular attention to the safety and supply of milk powder. Since the reports of possible shortage of infant formula, we have been proactively liaising closely with milk powder suppliers, the Hong Kong General Chamber of Pharmacy and major retailers. All milk powder suppliers have assured us that they see it as their primary role to meet the needs of local babies first. They have also confirmed that they had sufficient stock, and that they would increase supply to cope with the growing market demand. They have widely publicised their stock situation through the media and used different channels (e.g. short messaging service) to communicate with Hong Kong parents to help the latter to secure supply of milk powder.

Moreover, the major suppliers have also set up free membership systems through which they provide delivery service to their Hong Kong customers. Their hotline service advises members of the retail outlets with stocks, and assists parents in placing orders for milk powder.

Retailers have also been closely monitoring the sale situation. Some retail outlets have set sale quota for certain brands of milk powder in order to prevent bulk purchase. Those retail outlets in areas

near the boundary and along the East Rail Line have proactively approached the suppliers to discuss arrangements for increasing supply to expedite replenishment so as to meet the demand of the market.

According to our assessment and the information obtained from the trade, the overall supply of infant formula in the market has stabilised. The occasional reported shortage of particular brands at certain outlets was mainly due to a sudden surge in demand at those localities at certain times. We will continue to monitor the situation.

- (b) Under the Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes Registration Ordinance (Cap 165), the Director of Health registers private hospitals subject to conditions relating to accommodation, staffing and equipment. A “Code of Practice for Private Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes” (the Code) is issued to set out the standards of good practice. The Code requires establishments catering for neonates to have written policies and procedure to support breast feeding. There is no specific requirement on the variety of infant formula that private hospitals should provide.
- (c) We believe that the measures mentioned in our reply to part (a) will help stabilise the supply of milk powder. We will continue to keep the market condition in view.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Marion LAI \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Food and Health (Food) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15.3.2011 \_\_\_\_\_