

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 145

Question Serial No.

0037

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 154 - Government Secretariat : Subhead : (No. & title) : -  
Environment and Food Bureau

Programme : (1) Food Supply and Food Safety

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) In paragraph 4 of programme (1), the EFB indicates that it will review the latest international trends in dealing with genetically modified foods. What is the expected completion date of the review?
- (b) In paragraph 4 of programme (1), the EFB indicates that it will strengthen the food surveillance programme. What will be the way forward for this programme?
- (c) In paragraph 4 of programme (1), the EFB indicates that it will draft legislation to strengthen control over the use of clenbuterol and other harmful substances in animal feeds. What is the expected completion date of the legislation?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) The review of the latest international trends in dealing with genetically modified food (GMF) is part of the study to determine whether a labelling system for GMF should be established in Hong Kong. We expect to complete the review in the latter half of 2000.
- (b) We aim to strengthen the food surveillance programme by conducting more assessment studies on high risk food items and food items the safety of which is of much concern to the public.

- (c) We plan to introduce the proposed regulation to strengthen control over livestock feeds into the Legislative Council in the next session.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Lily Yam \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary for the Environment and Food \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 16 March 2000 \_\_\_\_\_

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 130

Question Serial No.

0053

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 154 Government Secretariat : Subhead : 002 Allowances  
Environment and Food Bureau

Programme : Food Supply and Food Safety, Environmental Hygiene,  
Environmental Protection and Conservation

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : (a) As shown in the Estimates, there is a 595.7% increase in the expenditure on allowances. What are the reasons for such an increase?

(b) Of the expenditure on allowances, how much is pertinent to standard allowances and how much to non-standard allowances?

(c) Of the expenditure on non-standard allowances, what is the percentage pertaining to overtime allowances?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Wing-chan

Reply : (a) The increase is due to the full year provision for existing staff and staff filling new posts to be created in 2000-01. The Environment and Food Bureau (EFB) was formed on 1 January 2000 following the re-organization of municipal services. The revised estimate for 1999-2000 only represents the provision for three months from 1 January 2000 to 31 March 2000.



Bureau Serial No.

EFB 135

Question Serial No.

0823

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 154 Government Secretariat :  
Environment and Food Bureau

Subhead : (No. & title) : -

Programme : (1) Food Supply and Food Safety

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Regarding Programme (1), what are the contents, estimated expenditure and timetable for the studies on genetically modified food and its labelling system and on the control of health food products?

Asked by : Hon. HO Mun-ka, Michael

Reply :

The study on genetically modified food (GMF) and the feasibility of setting up a labelling system for GMF in Hong Kong will cover the latest international trends in dealing with GMF, the possible costs of compliance and implications for the trade and consumers and the resources required for testing and enforcement. The funding requirement for 2000-01 will be absorbed within existing resources. We aim to come up with proposals for consultation with Members and the public by early 2001.

Regarding the control of health food products, the Health and Welfare Bureau is setting up an interdepartmental task force to study the need to strengthen the regulation of the health claims carried by health food products. The Environment and Food Bureau will participate in this task force. The estimated expenditure for 2000-01 will be absorbed within existing resources. A timetable for the study will be drawn up by the interdepartmental task force.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Lily Yam

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 148

Question Serial No.

0912

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 154 - Government Secretariat : Subhead : (No. & title) : -  
Environment and Food Bureau

Programme : (1) Food Supply and Food Safety

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

The budget allotted to food supply and food safety will increase 314.3% over last year's allotment to \$17.4M.

- (a) What matters or policy considerations occasioned this significant increase?
- (b) Describe the programmes and indicate the budget allotment for each programme described.

Asked by : Hon. Christine LOH

Reply :

- (a) The revised estimate for the food supply and food safety programme in 1999-2000 is \$4.2 million. It represents the provision for three months, from 1 January 2000 when the Environment and Food Bureau was formed to 31 March 2000. The estimate for 2000-01 is \$17.4 million. The increase is due to the full year provision for the programme.
- (b) This programme may broadly be divided into two areas: food safety and local food production. The latter covers matters relating to agriculture and fisheries. The estimate of \$17.4 million is divided between the two areas in almost equal portions.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Lily Yam

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary for the Environment and Food

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 149

Question Serial No.

0913

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 154 - Government Secretariat : Subhead : (No. & title) : -  
Environment and Food Bureau

Programme : (1) Food Supply and Food Safety

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) What budget is available for the preparation work for the implementation of a labelling and monitoring scheme for genetically modified food?
- (b) How extensive will the scheme be?

Asked by : Hon. Christine LOH

Reply :

- (a) In 2000-01, the funding requirement for examining the feasibility of introducing a labelling system for genetically modified foods will be absorbed within existing resources.
- (b) The feasibility study which is still underway will cover the scope of any labelling system to be introduced.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Lily Yam \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary for the Environment and Food \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17 March 2000 \_\_\_\_\_

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 150

Question Serial No.

0914

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 154 Government Secretariat: Subhead: (No. & title): -  
Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (1) Food Supply and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

The pollution of Hong Kong waters has raised concerns regarding the healthfulness of locally caught fish and shellfish.

- (a) What is the budget allocation for fisheries monitoring?
- (b) Does the food surveillance programme monitor local fish and shellfish for the presence of pollutants, and if so, which pollutants does the programme test for and how does the programme operate?
- (c) Please describe how the food surveillance programme notifies the public of its monitoring results.

Asked by: Hon.Christine LOH

Reply:

- (a) This activity is included in the food surveillance programme of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). The programme has a total budget of \$63M.
- (b) FEHD's food surveillance programme monitors the presence of pollutants, including heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants, in local fish and shellfish. Samples of these items are taken from points of sale for testing. If the testing shows that a sample fails to meet the safety standards, FEHD



will take action against the food seller concerned. The data collected are analysed to facilitate risk assessment and management and long-term planning of food safety strategies.

- (c) FEHD will disseminate the findings of the programme to the public through media briefings, press releases, a hotline and the Internet.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Lily Yam \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary for the Environment and Food \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17 March 2000 \_\_\_\_\_

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 151

Question Serial No.

0915

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 154 - Government Secretariat:  
Environment and Food Bureau

Subhead: -

Programme: (1) Food Supply and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a)What is the budget allocation for aquaculture?
- (b)What type of research is the Bureau conducting on aquaculture?
- (c)What percentage of fish consumed in Hong Kong comes from local aquaculture?
- (d)What monitoring is done of local finfish and shellfish aquaculture by the Secretariat, and does that monitoring include testing for the presence of antibiotics, pollutants from local waters and genetic modification of the stocks?

Asked by : The Hon. Christine Loh

Reply :

(a)In the Environment and Food Bureau, aquaculture is included in the programme area Food Supply and Food Safety which has a provision of \$17.4 million in 2000-01. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is provided with funding amounting to \$19.9 million in 2000-01 for implementing measures relating to aquaculture.

(b)Research on aquaculture is undertaken by AFCD. This covers trials on the production of marine fish fry, identification of suitable new fish species, fish disease diagnosis, and control of and improvements to fish feed formula.

(c)About 4% of fish consumed in Hong Kong comes from local aquaculture.



Bureau Serial No.

EBF 152

Question Serial No.

0916

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head                      Head 154 – Government Secretariat :                      Subhead :                      -  
Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (1) Food Supply and Food Safety

Controlling Officer :                      Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) What is the budget allocated for the control of chemicals in livestock feeds and what chemicals does the Bureau currently monitor?
- (b) Does the Bureau set maximum levels of these chemicals to be allowed in livestock feed and test for them?
- (c) Do these chemicals persist in Hong Kong's meat and poultry supplies?
- (d) What additional legislation and/monitoring is the Bureau planning of these chemicals?

Asked by :                      The Hon. Christine Loh

Reply :

- (a) This is covered by the provision of \$17.4 million in 2000-01 under the programme area Food Supply and Food Safety. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) carry out screening and testing of livestock in farms and slaughterhouses for clenbuterol to ensure that carcasses and offals unfit for human consumption would not enter the market. Recurrent provision of \$6.3 million and \$7 million are allocated to AFCD and FEHD respectively in 2000-01 for these activities.

- (b) No unregistered drugs (including clenbuterol) are allowed in livestock feeds. Furthermore, testing of livestock in farms and slaughterhouses and inspection of meat at retail outlets are being conducted to safeguard consumers' health.
- (c) The labelling and testing system implemented by AFCD and FEHD has effectively prevented pigs contaminated with clenbuterol from entering the market. The percentage of unsatisfactory pork samples containing clenbuterol dropped significantly from 12.5% in 1998 to 1.1% in 1999. FEHD also monitors the levels of other chemical residues in meat and poultry. In the past three years, all the meat and poultry samples tested were free of chemical pollutants.
- (d) We plan to introduce new regulations to control the use of chemicals for feeding food animals.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Lily Yam \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary for the Environment

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ and Food \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17 March 2000 \_\_\_\_\_

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 140

Question Serial No.

1009

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head 154 Government Secretariat: Subhead: (No. & title): -  
Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (1) Food Supply and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

- (a) In what ways will the Government disseminate information on the existing food safety system to the community and how will the appropriated funds be allocated?
- (b) Apart from genetically modified food, will the Government conduct any study and review on the composition of other fresh food produce? If yes, how much funding will be allocated for this purpose?

Asked by: Hon. Emily LAU

Reply:

- (a) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will through disseminate information on food safety talks, seminars, exhibitions, education programmes through the media, pamphlets, media briefings, and the Internet. The Department will continue to promote the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) approach amongst the food trade. In 2000-01, the proposed provisions for risk communication and promotion of HACCP are estimated to be \$8.4 million and \$4.8 million respectively. In addition, \$5 million will be allocated for public education and community involvement programmes related to food safety.

- (b) Our priority is to examine the feasibility of introducing a labelling system for genetically modified food. We will assess the need for conducting other studies on the basis of local and international experience.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Lily Yam \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary for the Environment and Food \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17 March 2000 \_\_\_\_\_

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 161

Question Serial No.

1223

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 154 Government Secretariat : Subhead : -  
Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (1) Food Supply and Food Safety

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What will be the amount of resources earmarked by the EFB for the development of agriculture in Hong Kong?

Asked by : The Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

This is covered by the provision of \$17.4 million in 2000-01 under the programme area Food Supply and Food Safety. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is provided with funding amounting to \$33 million in 2000-2001 for facilitating the development of agriculture in Hong Kong.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Lily Yam

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary for the Environment  
and Food

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17 March 2000



Bureau Serial No.

EFB 162

Question Serial No.

1224

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

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

Head 154 Government Secretariat : Subhead : -  
Environment and Food Bureau

Programme: (1) Food Supply and Food Safety

Controlling Officer : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : What will be the amount of resources earmarked by the EFB for strengthening aquaculture research and the related services?

Asked by : The Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

This is covered by the provision of \$17.4 million in 2000-01 under the programme area Food Supply and Food Safety. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is provided with funding amounting to \$3.07 million in 2000-2001 for strengthening aquaculture research and related services.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Lily Yam \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary for the Environment

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ and Food \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17 March 2000 \_\_\_\_\_

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

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

Programme : Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) Under its programme of “Food Safety and Public Health”, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department highlights the introduction and promotion of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) approach. What is the estimated allocation for this area of work in 2000-01? What are the details of the promotion of the HACCP approach?
- (b) As indicated by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the work to be carried out under the Programme of “Food Safety and Public Health” includes conducting risk assessment on food. What is the estimated allocation for this area of work in 2000-01? What kind of food will be covered by risk assessments to be conducted in that financial year?

Asked by : The Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply :

- (a) In 2000-01, a financial provision of \$4.8 million has been earmarked for introducing and promoting HACCP. The Department will organize seminars, workshops and exhibitions on HACCP for the food trades. In addition, we will assist food establishments in developing their HACCP plans.
- (b) In 2000-01, a financial provision of \$2.2 million is proposed for conducting risk assessments on food. Risk assessment studies will be carried out on high risk

food items such as sushi and sashimi and food items the safety of which is much concern to the public e.g. items which are the subjects of recent food incidents, either locally or in overseas countries.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

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Mrs Rita LAU

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Director of Food and  
Environmental Hygiene

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16 March 2000

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Bureau Serial No.

EFB 113

Question Serial No.

0048

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

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

Programme:(1) Food Safety and Public Health  
(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services  
(3) Market Management and Hawker Control  
(4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

In the Estimates of Expenditure for 2000-01, what is the total expenditure of the Environment and Food Bureau and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department on these areas after taking over the functions from the two Municipal Councils? How does it compare with the respective total expenditure of the two former Municipal Councils and Municipal Services Departments in the past two years?

Asked by : The Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Reply :

For the year 2000-01, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has included a provision of \$4,466.5 million for performing the functions under the four programme areas.

It is not possible to provide a direct comparison of FEHD's financial provision for 2000-01 with the expenditure under the Provisional Municipal Councils (PMCs) in the past two years, major reasons being:

- (a) FEHD has taken on new and additional functions and responsibilities;
- (b) as the PMCs were financially autonomous, all expenditure pertaining to areas under their jurisdiction was borne by them. However, with the reorganization of municipal services and the setting up of FEHD, part of such

expenditure is no longer necessary e.g. staff on-costs and part of such expenditure now comes under other Heads of expenditure e.g. building maintenance is now funded under Head 25 (Architectural Services Department);

- (c) for the year 1999-2000, there is only nine months expenditure under the PMCs as the reorganization of municipal services took place on 1 January 2000; and
- (d) the PMCs did not classify expenditure in the same way as FEHD's programme areas. Expenditure was classified under different select committees (14 in Provisional Urban Council (PUC) and 5 in Provisional Regional Council (Pro RC)). It is hence not possible to make a direct comparison.

Notwithstanding the above, expenditure for the PMCs in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 pertaining to food safety and environmental hygiene are provided below for reference:

	1998-99 (Full Year) \$m	April to December 1999 (Nine months) \$m
Expenditure pertaining to food safety and environmental hygiene	4,594	3,672

It should be noted that the above exclude common and administration expenses of the former PMCs which also supported leisure and cultural activities now under Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

It is also considered inappropriate to directly compare the expenditure of the Environment and Food Bureau (EFB) with that of the PMCs. EFB is a newly established policy bureau which deals with different policy areas. For the policy areas of "Food Supply and Food Safety" and "Environmental Hygiene", the proposed provisions for EFB for 2000-01 are \$17.4 million and \$16.1 million respectively. It should be noted that apart from FEHD, there are other departments which work also contributes to these policy areas, e.g. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department."

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Miss Sarah WU

Post Title Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Acting)

Date 18 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 104

Question Serial No.

0049

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

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

Programme: Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

1. In relation to ensuring that pre-packaged food for sale is properly labelled, how much funding is allocated to the initial studies on labelling of genetically modified food?
2. How much funding is allocated to the introduction and promotion of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)?

Asked by : The Hon Christine LOH

Reply :

1. As funding requirement for initial studies on labelling of genetically modified food in 2000-01 will be absorbed within existing resources, no special provision has been allocated.
2. An amount of \$4.8 million is allocated to the introduction and promotion of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP).

Signature

Name in block letters

Mrs Rita LAU

Post Title

Director of Food and  
Environmental Hygiene

Date

March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 006

Question Serial No.

0069

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (1) Agriculture and Fisheries Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please explain your programme for sustainable development of the fishing industry and how much funding is being allocated to it?

Asked by : The Hon Christine LOH

Reply :

We promote the sustainable development of the fishing industry by –

- (a) enhancing fisheries resources and marine habitats through placing artificial reefs,
- (b) enforcing the Fisheries Protection Ordinance, Cap. 171 to prohibit destructive fishing in Hong Kong,
- (c) minimizing the impact of development on fisheries resources through the Environmental Impact Assessment process, and
- (d) enhancing public awareness in fisheries conservation through education and publicity activities.

In addition, we are formulating a comprehensive fisheries management strategy in consultation with the Working Group on Fisheries Management comprising representatives from the fishing industry, green groups and the academics. Fisheries management proposals being considered by the Working Group include setting up a fishing licence system and establishing fisheries protection areas in Tolo Harbour (including Tolo Channel) and Port Shelter, mainly to protect fish spawning and nursery areas.

In addition to the capital funding of some \$80 million allocated for the artificial reefs project and an annual staff cost of \$6.45 million since 1996-97 up to 31.3.2001, recurrent expenditure of about HK\$6.5 million has been provided in 2000-01 for implementation of the other measures.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	17 MARCH 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 007

Question Serial No.

0070

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead: -

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please indicate which are the additional 4 sites identified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest in 1999.

Asked by : The Hon Christine LOH

Reply : The four additional sites identified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest in 1999 are :

1. San Chau, North Lantau

The site covers about 36 hectares of scrubland with the largest known stand of Champion's Rhododendron in Hong Kong. It is one of the rarest native rhododendron species in Hong Kong.

2. Ngong Ping, Lantau

The site covers about 14 hectares of forest with the largest population of Romer's Tree Frog. The frog is rare and endemic to Hong Kong.

3. Tai Ho Stream, Lantau

This five-hectare site covers the Tai Ho Stream and part of the Tai Ho Wan. The stream supports a high diversity of fresh water and brackish-water fish. The mangrove and seagrass in the bay are also of high ecological value.

4. Sham Wan, Lamma Island

The site covers 4 hectares of sandy beach and the adjoining sea area. It is the only nesting site of the highly endangered Green Turtles in Hong Kong.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	15 MARCH 2000



Bureau Serial No.

EFB 008

Question Serial No.

0071

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (3) Government Wholesale Food Markets

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please explain the reason for the estimated reduction of 13% to the financial provision of Government Wholesale Food Markets.

Asked by : The Hon Christine LOH

Reply :

The reduction of 13% (\$10.9 million) to the financial provision of Government Wholesale Food Markets arises mainly from reduced requirement of \$5.0m (5.9%) in capital expenditure and savings of \$5.3m (6.3%) from deletion of 15 posts and redeployment of 20 field staff to fill vacant posts under other Programme Areas under the Enhanced Productivity Programme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	17 MARCH 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 009

Question Serial No.

0072

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead: -

Programme : (4) Animal and Plant Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please indicate how much funding is allocated to the provision of re-homing facilities for stray/unwanted animals.

Asked by : The Hon Christine LOH

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department works with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to re-home unwanted animals. Animals suitable for re-homing are passed to the Society for matching with suitable owners. In 2000-01, the Society is granted a total subvention of \$1,237,000 for its various services including re-homing.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	15 MARCH 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 98

Question Serial No.

0137

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Please compare the expenditure of the former Municipal Services Departments and that of the present Food and Environmental Hygiene Department under this programme. Has the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department achieved any savings in this respect? If so, how much is saved?

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Wing-chan

Reply :

Provision for the Food Safety and Public Health Programme in 2000-01 is \$339.7 million. It is not possible to directly compare this with the expenditure under the Provisional Municipal Councils (PMCs), reasons being:

- (a) the Food Safety and Public Health is a new programme which only came into being on 1 January 2000 after the re-organization of municipal services. Veterinary public health and risk assessment and communication are new and additional functions which were not performed by the former PMCs;
- (b) as the PMCs were financially autonomous, all expenditure pertaining to areas under their jurisdiction was borne by them. However, with the reorganisation of municipal services and the setting up of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), part of such expenditure now comes under other Heads of expenditure e.g. building maintenance is now funded under Head 25 (Architectural Services Department);
- (c) for the year 1999-2000, there was only nine months' expenditure under the PMCs as the reorganization of municipal services took place on 1 January 2000; and
- (d) the PMCs did not classify expenditure in the same way as FEHD's programme areas. Direct comparison cannot therefore be made.

For the reasons stated above, we have no basis to comment whether savings have been achieved or not.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Miss Sarah WU

Post Title Director of Food and  
Environmental Hygiene (Acting)

Date 17 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 99

Question Serial No.

0138

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

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

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please give a breakdown of the recurrent operating costs of the Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse.

Asked by : The Hon CHAN Wing-chan

Reply : Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse is a licensed slaughterhouse operated and maintained by the Ng Fung Hong (NFH). Recurrent operating costs are fully borne by NFH.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Rita LAU

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 13 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 100

Question Serial No.

0139

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

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

Programme: Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) Has the Government earmarked any funds for reforming the licensing system of food premises ? If so, how much is set aside for this purpose ? If not, why ?
- (b) What is the total increase in expenditure on inspection of food premises ? Please give a breakdown of items which require increased funding.

Asked by : The Hon. CHAN Wing-chan

Reply :

- (a) We are reviewing the licensing system for food premises with departments concerned with the aim to simplifying and streamlining the licensing procedures thereby reducing the processing time for licence applications. This will be undertaken by existing staff of FEHD and no additional manpower resources are required for this purpose.
- (b) There is no proposed increase in expenditure on inspection of food premises in 2000/01. The Department will consider ways to improve the inspection system. Any additional financial or staffing implications will be met from within existing resources.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Rita LAU

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

Date 14 March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 003

Question Serial No.

0213

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead: -

Programme : (1) Agriculture and Fisheries Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : It is noted from subhead 609 that the block vote for minor irrigation works in the New Territories has been maintained at \$1,180,000 since 1999 and the vote for next year is kept at the same level. Why doesn't the Government increase the expenditure to speed up improving irrigation works in the New Territories?

Asked by : The Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBS, JP

Reply :

The provisions for minor irrigation works in the New Territories are made on a need basis having regard to the requests by local farmers. In 1999-2000, 3 projects (totalling \$1.17 million) were completed in Yuen Long, Tuen Mun and Tai Po, involving rehabilitation and repair works of existing problematic irrigation facilities. Another 2 projects (totalling \$1.18 million) in Tai Po and Tuen Mun are scheduled for implementation in 2000-01. As there is no backlog of projects awaiting implementation, we consider that the current level of provision is adequate to meet the demand.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 106

Question Serial No.

0371

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

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

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Of the \$0.339b allocated for 2000-01, are any funds earmarked for (a) studies on the labelling of genetically modified food; and (b) studies on the impact of genetically modified food on the food chain? If so, how much is earmarked? If not, are there any other areas that can provide funding for the above studies?

Asked by : The Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply :

- (a) Funding requirement for initial studies on labelling of genetically modified food in 2000-01 will be absorbed within existing resources. No special provision has been allocated.
- (b) We have not earmarked any resources at this stage to investigate the effect of genetically modified food on the food chain.

Signature

Name in block letters

Miss Sarah WU

Post Title

Director of Food and  
Environmental Hygiene (Acting)

Date

March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 001

Question Serial No.

0421

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead: -

Programme : (3) Government Wholesale Food Markets

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : Please account for the reduction of 13% in the financial provision for the programme area of government wholesale food markets for 2000-01.

Asked by : The Hon Bernard CHAN

Reply :

The reduction of 13% (\$10.9 million) to the financial provision of Government Wholesale Food Markets arises mainly from reduced requirement of \$5.0m (5.9%) in capital expenditure and savings of \$5.3m (6.3%) from deletion of 15 posts and redeployment of 20 field staff to fill vacant posts under other Programme Areas under the Enhanced Productivity Programme.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	17 MARCH 2000



Bureau Serial No.

EFB 005

Question Serial No.

0550

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead: -

Programme : (1) Agriculture and Fisheries Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : As pointed out in Brief Description 4, the programme of deployment of artificial reefs in marine parks was successfully completed. Will the government inform this Council whether the programme was implemented by "contracting-out" or completed by staff employed by the government, and of the expenditure involved? Will the government implement similar programmes in the future?

Asked by : The Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

We created 10 posts in 1996 for a period of four and a half years to plan and manage the artificial reefs programme at a recurrent cost of \$6.45 million per year. Actual placement was carried out by contractors. Capital funding of \$80 million has been allocated for the five-year artificial reefs programme (1996-2001). The first phase of the programme was successfully completed in September 1999 in marine parks. The second phase will be implemented in 2001 outside the marine park areas.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	17 MARCH 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 011

Question Serial No.

0551

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead: -

Programme : (1) Agriculture and Fisheries Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : (a) The number of fisheries loans granted by the AFCD in 1999 was 1166. Why does the estimated number of loans only amount to 220 in 2000?  
(b) Has the AFCD reserved any resources to cope with the needs of the fishermen affected by the South Sea Fishing Moratorium in the coming year?

Asked by : The Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

- (a) Of the 1166 fisheries loans issued in 1999, 975 and 19 were one-off special loans made to fishermen who were affected by the fishing moratorium in South China Sea during June-July 1999 and to mariculturists who were affected by the red tide incident during March-April 1998, respectively. The remaining 172 were normal loans to fishermen and fish farmers issued under various loan funds administered by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. We estimate that under normal circumstances, some 220 loans will be issued in 2000.
- (b) No additional resources have been earmarked in relation to the implementation of the fishing moratorium this year.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 012

Question Serial No.

0552

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead: -

Programme : (1) Agriculture and Fisheries Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

- Question :
- (a) Please give a detailed account of the present progress of the Consultancy Study on the Feasibility of Developing an Off-shore Fishing Industry for Hong Kong. When will the study be completed?
  - (b) Please give a detailed account of the present progress of the Consultancy Study on Fisheries and Marine Ecological Criteria for Assessment of Impacts of Development Projects. When will the study be completed?

Asked by : The Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

- (a) We signed the agreement for the Consultancy Study on the Feasibility of Developing an Off-shore Fishing Industry for Hong Kong with the selected consultants in late January 2000. The consultants are now collecting relevant information required for carrying out feasibility assessments. The study is scheduled to be completed in late 2000.
- (b) The consultants conducting the Study on Fisheries and Marine Ecological Criteria for Assessment of Impacts of Development Projects have completed over half of the tasks required under the study. They are now conducting laboratory tests to assess the impacts of various water quality parameters on local fish and marine life. The study is scheduled for completion in early 2001.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	16 MARCH 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 015

Question Serial No.

0557

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead : -

Programme : (4) Animal and Plant Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question : How much resources will the Administration reserve for the study of epidemiology of foot and mouth disease in food animals?

Asked by : The Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has assigned the veterinary team in Castle Peak Veterinary Laboratory to investigate and study the epidemiology of foot-and-mouth disease. The team, headed by a Senior Veterinary Officer specialized in veterinary virology, is supported by both laboratory and field personnel. Some \$200,000 is earmarked for materials and testing reagents required in the investigation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS LESSIE WEI
Post Title	DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION
Date	17 MARCH 2000





Bureau Serial No.

EFB 121

Question Serial No.

1120

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

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

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

In the promotion of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) approach, has the Government worked out any detailed plan? How much resources will be involved?

Asked by: The Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

In 2000-01, a financial provision of \$4.8 million has been earmarked for introducing and promoting HACCP to up to 8% of the food trade. The Department will organize seminars, workshops and exhibitions on HACCP for the trade. In addition, we will assist food establishments in developing their HACCP plans.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Miss Sarah WU

Director of Food and  
Environmental Hygiene (Acting)

March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 122

Question Serial No.

1121

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

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

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

What kind of studies will the Government conduct in the coming year in respect of the risk assessment on food? What are the detailed plans? How much resources will be involved?

Asked by : The Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In 2000-01, risk assessment studies will be conducted on high-risk food items such as sushi and sashimi and food items the safety of which is of much concern to the public, e.g. items which are the subjects of recent food incidents, either locally or in overseas countries. The financial provision is \$2.2 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Miss Sarah WU

Director of Food and  
Environmental Hygiene (Acting)

March 2000



## Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

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

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

With regard to those health foods which do not have Chinese medical herb or Western medicine as their ingredients and which claim to be effective in regulating body functions, beautifying the face and body trimming, has the Government mapped out any major plans to step up inspections so as to ensure that they are safe for consumption and meet the labelling requirements? What is the estimated expenditure for such plans?

Asked by : The Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The so-called "health foods" are classified as food and are subject to the regulation of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132). We monitor their safety and check their labels to ensure compliance with labelling requirements through our regular food surveillance programme. No special provision is allocated for this category of food products.

Signature

Name in block letters

Miss Sarah WU

Post Title

Director of Food and  
Environmental Hygiene (Acting)

Date

March 2000

## Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

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

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

Please provide details of the food consumption survey and laboratory researches on food science and toxicology. How much resources will be involved in these researches?

Asked by: The Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

We intend to collect, through the food consumption survey, data on types and amounts of food intake in order to establish the dietary pattern of the local population. The financial provision is \$1.4 million. The Food Research Laboratory of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will conduct studies and researches on nutritional and chemical contents of commonly consumed food items for risk assessment and communication. The financial provision for the commissioning is \$2.9 million.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs Rita LAU

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
March 2000

**Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01****CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

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

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

- (a) According to the reply to the question I raised in connection with the 1999-2000 Estimate, the Department of Health undertook in 1999-2000 to introduce the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point System (HACCP) to 20% of the food premises by 2002. Will the Department revise this target after taking over the above work? If so, what are the reasons for such revision?
- (b) How many licensees of food premises were the targets of promotion of HACCP by the Department of Health in 1999-2000 and what percentage did they account for against the total number of licensed food premises? What is the expenditure in such area of work in 1999-2000 and the coming year?
- (c) Has the Department assessed whether there is any correlation between the increase in the number of target licensees on the promotion of HACCP and the decrease in the incidents of food poisoning? If not, how will the Department assess the effectiveness of such promotion work?

Asked by : Dr the Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP

Reply :

- (a) We shall maintain the target of introducing HACCP to 20% of the trade by the end of 2002.
- (b) In 1999, 3% (i.e. 600) of licensees of food premises was the target of promotion of HACCP. The estimated expenditure for 1999-2000 is \$3.2 million. A financial provision of \$4.8 million has been earmarked for 2000-01 to extend our coverage to 8% (i.e. 1,600) in 2000 of licensees of food premises.

- (c) Our objective is to introduce and promote the adoption of HACCP by the food trade in the operation of their businesses. At this stage, we evaluate the effectiveness of the programme by assessing the licencees' knowledge and acceptance of HACCP through post-course questionnaires and follow up interviews.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Miss Sarah WU
Post Title	Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Acting)
Date	March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 108

Question Serial No.

1180

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

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

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question :

Please provide the financial and manpower provision for the respective areas of (a) surveillance of imported food; (b) inspection of vegetable and poultry from the Mainland; and (c) pest control.

Asked by : Dr the Hon LEONG Che-hung, JP

Reply :

The financial provision and manpower directly related to the following activities are –

- (a) \$55.4M and 181 staff are provided for surveillance of imported food;
- (b) \$20.6M and 71 staff are provided for inspection of vegetable and poultry from the Mainland; and
- (c) \$166.8M and 926 staff are provided for pest control.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

Miss Sarah WU

Director of Food and  
Environmental Hygiene (Acting)

March 2000

Bureau Serial No.

EFB 120

Question Serial No.

1119

**Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2000-01**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN QUESTION**

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

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for the Environment and Food

Question:

During the past three years, how many inspections have the Government conducted on food labelling of pre-packaged food for sale in supermarkets and direct outlets? How many prosecutions have been instituted? What are the fines on average? How many inspections are expected to carry out in the coming year?

Asked by: The Hon WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

Over the past three years, 16,500 visits were conducted at sales outlets to inspect labels of pre-packaged food. 65 prosecutions were made and the average fine was HK\$5,000. In 2000, we aim to conduct 6,800 visits to inspect labels of pre-packaged food.

Signature

Name in block letters Miss Sarah WU

Post Title Director of Food and  
Environmental Hygiene (Acting)

Date March 2000