

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members  
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13**

**Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health  
Session No.: 18**

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">FHB(FE)001</a>	0182	CHAN Tanya	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)002</a>	0580	CHAN Tanya	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)003</a>	1418	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	139	-
<a href="#">FHB(FE)004</a>	1444	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	139	-
<a href="#">FHB(FE)005</a>	2782	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)006</a>	1265	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	139	(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety
<a href="#">FHB(FE)007</a>	1266	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)008</a>	3002	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	139	(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety
<a href="#">FHB(FE)009</a>	0794	LI Wah-ming, Fred	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)010</a>	2957	WONG Kwok-hing	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)011</a>	2473	WONG Yuk-man	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)012</a>	2474	WONG Yuk-man	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)013</a>	0100	CHAN Hak-kan	22	-
<a href="#">FHB(FE)014</a>	0101	CHAN Hak-kan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)015</a>	0102	CHAN Hak-kan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)016</a>	0103	CHAN Hak-kan	22	-
<a href="#">FHB(FE)017</a>	3164	CHAN Tanya	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)018</a>	3166	CHAN Tanya	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">FHB(FE)019</a>	3275	CHAN Tanya	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)020</a>	3277	CHAN Tanya	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)021</a>	1352	CHAN Wai-yip, Albert	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)022</a>	0198	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)023</a>	0223	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)024</a>	0288	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)025</a>	0291	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)026</a>	1399	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)027</a>	1049	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)028</a>	2554	LAU Sau-shing, Patrick	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)029</a>	0268	LAU Wong-fat	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)030</a>	0270	LAU Wong-fat	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)031</a>	0271	LAU Wong-fat	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)032</a>	2182	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">FHB(FE)033</a>	2183	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)034</a>	2184	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)035</a>	2970	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)036</a>	2971	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)037</a>	2972	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)038</a>	2973	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)039</a>	2974	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)040</a>	2975	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)041</a>	2976	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)042</a>	2977	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)043</a>	2978	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)044</a>	2979	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)045</a>	2980	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)046</a>	2981	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)047</a>	0033	LI Wah-ming, Fred	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)048</a>	0034	LI Wah-ming, Fred	22	-

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">FHB(FE)049</a>	0365	LI Wah-ming, Fred	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)050</a>	0366	LI Wah-ming, Fred	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)051</a>	0367	LI Wah-ming, Fred	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)052</a>	0368	LI Wah-ming, Fred	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)053</a>	0369	LI Wah-ming, Fred	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)054</a>	0642	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)055</a>	0458	WONG Kwok-hing	22	-
<a href="#">FHB(FE)056</a>	0483	WONG Kwok-hing	22	-
<a href="#">FHB(FE)057</a>	0508	WONG Kwok-hing	22	-
<a href="#">FHB(FE)058</a>	2956	WONG Kwok-hing	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)059</a>	0973	WONG Yung-kan	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)060</a>	1483	WONG Yung-kan	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)061</a>	1484	WONG Yung-kan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)062</a>	1812	WONG Yung-kan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)063</a>	1813	WONG Yung-kan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">FHB(FE)064</a>	1908	WONG Yung-kan	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)065</a>	1909	WONG Yung-kan	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)066</a>	1910	WONG Yung-kan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)067</a>	1911	WONG Yung-kan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)068</a>	0196	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	48	(1) Statutory Testing
<a href="#">FHB(FE)069</a>	0197	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	48	(1) Statutory Testing
<a href="#">FHB(FE)070</a>	0200	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	48	(1) Statutory Testing
<a href="#">FHB(FE)071</a>	0792	LI Wah-ming, Fred	48	(1) Statutory Testing
<a href="#">FHB(FE)072</a>	0793	LI Wah-ming, Fred	48	(1) Statutory Testing
<a href="#">FHB(FE)073</a>	0180	CHAN Tanya	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)074</a>	0181	CHAN Tanya	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)075</a>	0579	CHAN Tanya	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)076</a>	0184	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)077</a>	0185	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)078</a>	0186	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)079</a>	0187	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)080</a>	0188	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)081</a>	0189	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)082</a>	0190	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)083</a>	0191	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)084</a>	0192	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)085</a>	0193	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">FHB(FE)086</a>	0194	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)087</a>	0195	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)088</a>	0199	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)089</a>	0201	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)090</a>	0221	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)091</a>	0222	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)092</a>	1402	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)093</a>	1675	FANG Kang, Vincent	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)094</a>	1676	FANG Kang, Vincent	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)095</a>	0043	IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)096</a>	0044	IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)097</a>	1056	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)098</a>	1057	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)099</a>	1267	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)100</a>	1268	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)101</a>	1269	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)102</a>	1270	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)103</a>	2998	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)104</a>	2999	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)105</a>	3000	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)106</a>	3001	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)107</a>	1334	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)108</a>	1886	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">FHB(FE)109</a>	2344	LI Fung-ying	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)110</a>	2345	LI Fung-ying	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)111</a>	2346	LI Fung-ying	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)112</a>	0791	LI Wah-ming, Fred	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)113</a>	1058	LI Wah-ming, Fred	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)114</a>	1059	LI Wah-ming, Fred	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)115</a>	0629	PAN Pey-chyou	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)116</a>	0630	PAN Pey-chyou	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)117</a>	1526	TSE Wai-chun, Paul	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)118</a>	0467	WONG Kwok-hing	49	-
<a href="#">FHB(FE)119</a>	0492	WONG Kwok-hing	49	-
<a href="#">FHB(FE)120</a>	2938	WONG Kwok-hing	49	-
<a href="#">FHB(FE)121</a>	2958	WONG Kwok-hing	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)122</a>	2959	WONG Kwok-hing	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)123</a>	2960	WONG Kwok-hing	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)124</a>	2961	WONG Kwok-hing	49	(4) Public Education and Community Involvement
<a href="#">FHB(FE)125</a>	0960	WONG Yuk-man	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)126</a>	1482	WONG Yung-kan	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)127</a>	2608	WONG Yung-kan	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)128</a>	2609	WONG Yung-kan	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)129</a>	2610	WONG Yung-kan	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)130</a>	2611	WONG Yung-kan	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)131</a>	2612	WONG Yung-kan	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">FHB(FE)132</a>	2613	WONG Yung-kan	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)133</a>	2614	WONG Yung-kan	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)134</a>	2615	WONG Yung-kan	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health (4) Public Education and Community Involvement
<a href="#">FHB(FE)135</a>	2616	WONG Yung-kan	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)136</a>	2617	WONG Yung-kan	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)137</a>	2618	WONG Yung-kan	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)138</a>	2619	WONG Yung-kan	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)139</a>	2620	WONG Yung-kan	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)140</a>	2621	WONG Yung-kan	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)141</a>	2622	WONG Yung-kan	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)142</a>	2623	WONG Yung-kan	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)143</a>	1993	LAU Sau-shing, Patrick	703	-
<a href="#">FHB(FE)144</a>	3508	CHAN Tanya	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services



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

**FHB(FE)001**

Question Serial No.

0182

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:

- 1) It is stated that the Administration will “follow up on the review of columbarium policy and formulate appropriate measures, including a framework for the licensing scheme, to enhance the regulation of private columbaria”. Please advise on the details and progress of the work and the estimated expenditure involved.
- 2) At present, many unauthorised private columbaria are still promoting columbarium niches and selling them to the public through various means of advertisement. There is still a lack of understanding of the regulatory policies on private columbaria among many members of the public. Will more resources be allocated to combat the advertising of unauthorised private columbaria and enhance relevant public education to prevent more people from buying niches from unauthorised columbaria? If yes, what are the details and estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?
- 3) Please advise on the expenditure involved in combating unauthorised columbaria over the past three years, i.e. 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12. What are the details?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

Arising from the strong public support for a licensing scheme for private columbaria, the Administration has worked out a regulatory framework and launched a three-month public consultation on the proposed licensing scheme for private columbaria since 13 December 2011. The Administration will carefully analyse the views and comments received before finalising the legislative proposals. As it is anticipated that this will be a complicated piece of legislation, the Administration will strive to introduce the Bill into the Legislative Council in the fourth quarter of 2013. The policy and legislation preparatory work would be absorbed within the Food and Health Bureau's existing resources.

On enhancing consumer protection, the Development Bureau (DEVB) published in December 2010 relevant land / lease (user restrictions) and town planning information on private columbaria made known to the Lands Department and / or Planning Department, and which the departments had reasons to believe are operating as columbaria. The information has been uploaded to the website of DEVB and will be updated on a quarterly basis, with the latest update made on 30 December 2011. Through the publication of the Information on Private Columbaria, members of the public learn that the columbaria in Part A are compliant with the user restrictions in the land leases and town planning requirements and are not illegally occupying Government land, while the columbaria in Part B are either pending checking for compliance with or have been confirmed not compliant with the relevant requirements for inclusion in Part A. This helps the public make informed choices when purchasing niches. In addition, the Administration has strengthened consumer education, through channels such as Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs), on the risks to be borne in mind when choosing niches from private columbaria. The Administration has also worked with the Consumer Council on other public education fronts. In April 2010, the Consumer Council published a

topic report on private columbaria in its monthly magazine CHOICE, covering a detailed guide to the two-step checkout for consumers' reference. In January 2011, the Consumer Council further published in CHOICE useful tips for purchasing private columbarium niches. Expenditure on such work is absorbed by the relevant bureaux and departments within their existing resources.

All trades in Hong Kong, including private columbaria, should comply with the statutory town planning, buildings and fire safety requirements as well as lease conditions and other administrative requirements. The relevant Government departments have been handling the matters, enquiries and complaints relating to private columbaria and taking enforcement action against private columbaria found in breach of the relevant legislation and Government requirements in accordance with their respective mandate and relevant legislation and administrative measures. There are established channels and procedures for private columbaria to apply to the departments or organisations concerned for regularisation of their operation (e.g. applying for the relevant planning permission and / or lease modification, etc). Expenditure on such work is absorbed by the relevant bureaux and departments within their existing resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ Mrs Marion LAI _____
Post Title	_____ Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) _____
Date	_____ 22.2.2012 _____

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

**FHB(FE)002**

Question Serial No.

0580

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 Bureau said it would “continue to implement measures to increase the supply of public columbarium and crematorium facilities and to promote the scattering of cremated human ashes at sea or in Gardens of Remembrance.” Please advise on the details and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

On public crematorium facilities, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is upgrading the 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 mid 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 mid 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 2011 to 52 800.

On public columbarium facilities, the construction of a new public columbarium with 43 710 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. FEHD is also constructing 1 540 new niches in the Diamond Hill Columbarium at an estimated cost of \$0.76 million, and will construct 990 new niches in the Cheung Chau Cemetery at an estimated cost of \$10.76 million in 2013. The construction works in Diamond Hill Columbarium will be completed in early 2012 whereas the construction works in Cheung Chau Cemetery will be completed in late 2013. To increase the supply of public niches, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and has identified 24 potential sites in 18 districts in Hong Kong for columbarium development. The above-mentioned sites in the Diamond Hill Columbarium and Cheung Chau Cemetery are two of the 24 potential sites. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on the remaining sites and will consult the relevant District Councils before the sites are confirmed for columbarium development.

In 2012-13, FEHD will continue to promote alternative means of ash disposal, including the provision of free ferry service for scattering cremated human ashes at sea, publishing publicity materials and maintaining an internet memorial service, at an estimated cost of \$1.54 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 22.2.2012 \_\_\_\_\_

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

**FHB(FE)003**

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

Question Serial No.

1418

Programme:

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the 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 2009-10 and 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)	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 2012-13? 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 2012-13, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 2.3.2012

**Studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated  
between 2009-10 and 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)	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*	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.	1.430 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.
MVA Hong Kong Ltd.	Tender *	Market Survey on the Number of Prepackaged Food Products and Their Rate of Compliance with the Mandatory Labelling Requirements 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 ii) to estimate the total number and proportion of prepackaged food products in Hong Kong that comply or not comply with the mandatory nutrition labelling requirements	0.858 million	Sept. 2009	In progress; to be completed in early 2012	The study is still on-going.	The results of the first and second survey have been reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 13 April 2010 (vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1225/09-10(01)).

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?
		<p>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>					
Consumer Search	Tender *	<p>Surveys for Assessment on Impact of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme on New-to-Market Prepackaged Food Products in the Food Expo 2010 and 2011</p> <p>The objective of the Surveys 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 serves as a baseline for comparison of a similar study done in 2011.</p>	<p>0.139 million</p> <p>0.148 million</p>	<p>Aug. 2010</p> <p>Aug. 2011</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>With the completion of the second survey in 2011, we are analysing the relevant findings.</p>	<p>No, the result of the comparison is not yet available but the commissioning of the surveys has been reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 12 July 2011 (vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2305/10-11(02)).</p>
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</p>	1.359 million	March 2011	In progress.	<p>The study is still on-going. Preliminary findings from consumer and industry stakeholder surveys under the study were covered in a paper on organic food for the Legislative Council Panel on Food</p>	The study is still on-going.



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?
		<p>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>				Safety and Environmental Hygiene in January 2012.	
Ecosystems Ltd	Tender*	<p>Service for studying the population size and distributions of feral cattle and water buffalo for long term strategic planning.</p> <p>The study will carry out population estimation and basic ecology surveys of feral cattle and buffalo in Hong Kong in order to provide the Agriculture, Fisheries, and Conservation Department (AFCD) with a better mapping of their population density and understanding of their habitat and ecology for more effective management of cattle and buffalo.</p>	0.660 million	Sept. 2011	In progress	The study is still on-going.	The study is still on-going.

<b>Name of consultant</b>	<b>Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))</b>	<b>Title, content and objectives of project</b>	<b>Consultancy fee (\$)</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>Progress of study (under planning / in progress / completed)</b>	<b>Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)</b>	<b>If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels. If no, why?</b>
Consumer Search	Tender *	Second Survey on Public Knowledge, Attitude and Practice regarding Nutrition Labelling  The objective of the Survey is to gauge opinion and assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of the general public regarding nutrition labelling.	0.678 million	Feb. 2012	In progress	The study is still on-going.	The study is still on-going
GHK	Tender*	Study on the roles and functions of wholesale markets in Hong Kong as well as the location of five wholesale markets from the perspective of land use and food safety.	1.288 million	Feb. 2012	In progress	The study is still on-going.	The study is still on-going.

\*By invitation of quotation

## Projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies in 2012-13

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 2012-13, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Tendering process is on-going	Tender*	Service for assessment of the effectiveness of the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) trial scheme for stray dogs.  The project includes an initial population estimation and basic ecology surveys of stray dogs in selected sites, and data analysis and periodic reports on the change of number, distribution and ecology of stray dogs in the selected sites for a period of 3 years.	Around 1.000 million	Within 2012	Tendering process is on-going	The study has yet to commence.
-	Tender *	There is general public support for a licensing scheme to enhance the regulation of private columbaria. For this purpose, the Administration launched a public consultation on the proposed licensing scheme on 13 December 2011, lasting for about three and a half months till 30 March 2012. The Administration will carefully analyse the views and comments received before finalising the legislative proposals. To better assess the impact of the proposed licensing scheme on the business community, the Administration plans to conduct a business impact assessment in this regard in the second half of 2012.	1.430 million	Second half of 2012	Under planning	The study has yet to commence.

\*By invitation of quotation

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

**FHB(FE)004**

Head: 139 Government Secretariat :  
Food and Health Bureau (Food  
Branch)

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1444

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 Cooperation (the Framework Agreement) and growing cooperation 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 2009-10 to 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)	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 2012-13, 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 2012-13 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>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>
Technical exchange with relevant organisations on the Mainland on regulatory requirements of the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment: Requirements for Nutrition Labelling and Nutrition Claim) Regulation 2008	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 Bureaux (CIQ) of different provinces as well as food manufacturers on the Mainland on the new Nutrition Labelling Scheme for pre-packaged food in Hong Kong.  Some of the briefing sessions were organised under the Framework Agreement.	\$16,000	AQSIQ	Completed	The LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene was informed of the briefing sessions at its meeting on 22 June 2009 via LC Paper No. CB(2)1917/08-09(01).

<p>Liaison officer system with the Mainland authorities on inspection and quarantine</p>	<p>To establish a liaison officer system to enhance communication about 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 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 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 on 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>The actual expenditure for inspection of food animal farms and fish farms on the Mainland and overseas for 2009-10 and 2010-11 were \$5.0 million and \$6.0 million respectively. The estimated expenditure for 2011-12 is \$6.6 million. Inspections on other farms were absorbed within existing resources.</p>	<p>AQSIQ and local CIQs</p>	<p>On-going</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>Three 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 8 June 2010. The related costs were absorbed within existing resources and could not be separately identified.</p>
<p>Pilot study on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)</p>	<p>To explore the feasibility of applying information technology to enhance the traceability of Mainland food and food animals supplied to Hong Kong from the Mainland.</p> <p>It is one of the cooperation areas under the Framework Agreement to enhance inspection, quarantine and supervision at source.</p>	<p>\$2.71 million in total for the period from 2009-10 to 2011-12</p>	<p>Guangdong CIQ</p>	<p>The fifth trial on the passageway reader has been completed.</p>	<p>Progress was reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 20 October 2011. Other possible application of RFID technology in helping to ensure safety of food imported into Hong Kong will be studied.</p>

<p>Briefing sessions on the Food Safety Ordinance (the Ordinance)</p>	<p>Briefing sessions were conducted in Beijing and Guangdong in June 2011 to assist Mainland authorities and traders in understanding the new requirements of the Ordinance.</p> <p>It is one of the cooperation areas under the Framework Agreement to enhance communication in relation to food safety information.</p>	<p>FEHD has deployed existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.</p>	<p>AQSIQ, Ministry of Commerce</p>	<p>Completed in June 2011</p>	<p>The plan to conduct briefing sessions was made public in the Administration's press release on "16th Working Meeting of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference held in Guangzhou" on 28 February 2011. The related publicity costs were absorbed within existing resources and could not be separately identified.</p>
<p>Inspection and quarantine work 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>This cooperation project is not under the Framework Agreement.</p>	<p>Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (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>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 be separately identified.</p>



<p>Cooperation 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 cooperation on the production of quality agricultural products, as well as to explore the organisation of relevant technical exchange activities.</p> <p>This cooperation and exchange project is not under the 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 the 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 be 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>AFCD has deployed existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.</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 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.	AFCD has deployed existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.	Guangdong Provincial Administration of Ocean and Fisheries	Training courses were organised in 2010 – 2011 and 2011 – 2012.	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	On-going project	No. Monitoring of harmful algae is a day-to-day activity of AFCD and no special publicity has been arranged.
Training on aquatic animal disease diagnosis	To enhance technical exchange on aquatic animal disease diagnosis.	\$40,000	Shenzhen CIQ	Completed	No special publicity has been arranged as it was an internal staff training programme.

<p>Inter-laboratory comparison programmes on food safety -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy metals in crustacean seafood proficiency testing (PT) programme</li> <li>• Aflatoxin B1 in peanut oil PT programme</li> </ul>	<p>The programmes enhanced the food testing capability of the participating laboratories, including those from Hong Kong and Guangdong.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A PT programme for the quantitative measurement of total arsenic, cadmium, and lead in crustacean seafood sample.</li> <li>• A PT programme for the quantitative measurement of aflatoxin B1 in peanut oil sample.</li> </ul> <p>It is one of the initiatives to strengthen communication and exchanges in respect of laboratory analysis technology under the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/ Guangdong Co-operation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$0.3 million</li> <li>• \$0.1 million</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This programme was conducted in collaboration with Guangdong CIQ.</li> <li>• This programme was conducted in collaboration with Guangdong Inspection and Quarantine Technology Centre, Guangdong CIQ.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The programme was completed in Oct 2010.</li> <li>• The programme was completed in Jan 2012.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of 68 laboratories from 19 economies participated in the programme.</li> <li>• A total of 14 laboratories from 6 economies participated in the programme.</li> </ul> <p>Results of both the programmes have been posted on the website of the Government Laboratory. The related costs were absorbed within existing resources and could not be separately identified.</p>
---	---	--	---	--	---

b)

Project/ programme title	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement	Expenditure involved	Name of the 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?
Inspection of the registered Mainland food production farms	<p>To inspect registered food production farms on 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>The estimated expenditure for inspection of food animal farms and fish farms on the Mainland and overseas is \$7.1 million. Other inspections were absorbed within existing manpower and resources.</p>	AQSIQ, local CIQs	On-going	<p>The inspection programme is publicised on CFS's webpage. The related costs are absorbed within existing resources and can not be separately identified.</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>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 will deploy existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.</p>	AQSIQ, local CIQs	On-going	<p>We will consider appropriate publicity in due course.</p>

<p>Pilot study on RFID</p>	<p>To explore the feasibility of applying information technology to enhance the 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>\$1.83 million</p>	<p>Guangdong CIQ</p>	<p>Further trial and evaluation will be conducted.</p>	<p>Results will be announced upon completion of trials.</p>
<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 on the Mainland to formulate quarantine, import and export requirements, including participating at various expert meetings, providing training and 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 Work Plan of the Framework Agreement.</p>	<p>About \$1.5 million</p>	<p>AQSIQ MoA Guangdong CIQ Guangzhou Agriculture Bureau</p>	<p>The project is anticipated to start in 2012 – 13.</p>	<p>The project has been reported in the media.</p>

Joint enforcement against illegal fishing	<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>	AFCD has deployed existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.	Guangdong Fishery Administration on General Brigade	A joint operation will be organised in 2012 – 2013	No. Combating illegal fishing is a day-to-day activity of AFCD and no special publicity will be arranged.
Fishermen training	<p>To organise training courses for fishermen in collaboration with the Guangdong side during the fishing moratorium.</p> <p>It is one of the initiatives under the Chapter of Ecology Construction and Environmental Protection of the Framework Agreement.</p>	AFCD has deployed existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.	Guangdong Provincial Administration of Ocean and Fisheries	It will be launched in – 2012 – 2013	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	<p>To facilitate technical communication between AFCD and Guangdong officials in relation to harmful algae monitoring.</p> <p>It is one of the initiatives under the Chapter of Ecology Construction and Environmental Protection of the Framework Agreement.</p>	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	On-going project	No. Monitoring of harmful algae is a day-to-day activity of AFCD and no special publicity will be arranged.
Technical forum(s) / seminar(s) on the areas of	Forum(s) /seminar(s) will be organised to enhance technical	It is estimated that the cost is about	Guangdong CIQ	At the moment, there is no scheduled forum(s)/	The forum material will be publicised on government websites.

laboratory testing of food	<p>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>	\$0.1 – 0.3million per forum/ seminar.		seminar(s)	
----------------------------	--	--	--	------------	--

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 1.3.2012

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

**FHB(FE)005**

Question Serial No.

2782

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:

During 2012-2013, the Administration will continue to implement measures to increase the supply of public columbarium and crematorium facilities and to promote the scattering of cremated human ashes at sea or in Gardens of Remembrance. In this connection, please inform this committee of the latest progress of the work and the work plan and estimated expenditure for 2012-13.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

On public crematorium facilities, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is upgrading the 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 mid 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 mid 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 2011 to 52 800.

On public columbarium facilities, the construction of a new public columbarium with 43 710 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. FEHD is also constructing 1 540 new niches in the Diamond Hill Columbarium at an estimated cost of \$0.76 million, and will construct 990 new niches in the Cheung Chau Cemetery at an estimated cost of \$10.76 million in 2013. The construction works in Diamond Hill Columbarium will be completed in early 2012 whereas the construction works in Cheung Chau Cemetery will be completed in late 2013. To increase the supply of public niches, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and has identified 24 potential sites in 18 districts in Hong Kong for columbarium development. The above-mentioned sites in the Diamond Hill Columbarium and Cheung Chau Cemetery are two of the 24 potential sites. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on the remaining sites and will consult the relevant District Councils before the sites are confirmed for columbarium development.

In 2012-13, FEHD will continue to promote alternative means of ash disposal, including the provision of free ferry service for scattering cremated human ashes at sea, publishing publicity materials and maintaining an internet memorial service, at an estimated cost of \$1.54 million.



Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 24.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)006**

Question Serial No.

1265

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 work in 2011 and what are the latest findings? Will new information technology system be further introduced? What are the estimated manpower and resources required?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

In 2011, tests on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) hand-held readers and passageway readers were conducted. The hand-held readers showed higher accuracy on stationary pigs though with less efficiency in terms of time and manpower entailed, while the performance of passageway readers was affected by the unsteady movements and walking speed of pigs. Other possible application of RFID technology in helping to ensure safety of food imported into Hong Kong will be studied.

The estimated expenditure to be incurred by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is \$1.83 million in 2012-13.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 27.2.2012



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

**FHB(FE)008**

Question Serial No.

3002

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 of the Administration to continue to promote the sustainable development of local agriculture and organic farming? What is the amount of government expenditure involved? How will the Administration co-operate with the local farmers? What is the timetable of implementation?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The Government promotes the sustainable development of the 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 2012-13, the AFCD will continue to promote the sustainable development of the 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 Organization 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 2012-13, the AFCD has earmarked \$30 million for the promotion of the sustainable development of the local agricultural industry including organic farming.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Mrs Marion LAI

Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

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

Date 17.2.2012

**Session 18 FHB(FE)**





the impact of the proposed licensing scheme on the business community, the Administration plans to conduct a business impact assessment in the second half of 2012.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 29.2.2012 \_\_\_\_\_

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

**FHB(FE)011**

Question Serial No.

2473

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:

What are the estimated provision and manpower involved in increasing the supply of columbarium and crematorium facilities and enhance the regulation of private columbaria in 2012-13? Will the Administration consider using the current population profile of Hong Kong as the basis to set the target for increasing the supply of columbarium for the coming 5 years?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

The Administration has been making reference to the population profile of Hong Kong when planning for crematorium and columbarium facilities. On public crematorium facilities, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is upgrading the cremators by phases to increase their handling capacity. The Wo Hop Shek Crematorium is being reprovioned at an estimated cost of \$686.3 million for constructing six cremators and other ancillary facilities. The project is scheduled for completion in mid 2012. The reprovioning 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 mid 2012 and late 2014 respectively. With the completion of these two reprovioning projects, the number of scheduled cremation sessions per annum will be increased by 31.3% from 40 200 in 2011 to 52 800.

On public columbarium facilities, the construction of a new public columbarium with 43 710 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. FEHD is also constructing 1 540 new niches in the Diamond Hill Columbarium at an estimated cost of \$0.76 million, and will construct 990 new niches in the Cheung Chau Cemetery at an estimated cost of \$10.76 million in 2013. The construction works in Diamond Hill Columbarium and Cheung Chau Cemetery will be completed in early 2012 and late 2013 respectively. To increase the supply of public niches, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and has identified 24 potential sites in 18 districts in Hong Kong for columbarium development. The above-mentioned sites in the Diamond Hill Columbarium and Cheung Chau Cemetery are two of the 24 potential sites. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on the remaining sites and will consult relevant District Councils before the sites are confirmed for columbarium development.

Current projections are that, together with the supply of the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries, there will be over 120 000 new niches in the coming five years (i.e. 2012 to 2016) to meet the overall public demand. Thereafter, subject to the support of District Councils for key projects such as the proposed columbaria in Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun and Sandy Ridge, North District, the supply of new niches will cumulatively increase to hundreds of thousands in the medium to long term (i.e. 2017 to 2031).







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

**FHB(FE)013**

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead: 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

0100

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the subventions provided by AFCD, please advise on the following:

- (a) Why does the subvention to the Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) increase from the actual provision of \$608,000 in 2010-11 to the revised provision (2011-12) and the estimate (2012-13) of \$1 million? What are the criteria for determining the amount?
- (b) There is a new item of "Animal welfare organisations" under Subventions and the amount involved is \$1 million. What are the details of application eligibility, funding mechanism and the number of applications available?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has collaborated with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to implement various animal welfare and management programmes, including stray animal control, de-sexing and animal rescue activities. The increase in the amount of subvention in 2011-12 and 2012-13 is for the implementation of new and enhanced collaborative programmes for dealing with animal cruelty cases, stray cattle management, provision of clinical care for sick and injured animals associated with prosecution cases, and training and educational activities related to the promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management. The amount of subvention was based on the estimated expenditure required for the implementation of the above programmes agreed between AFCD and SPCA.
- (b) AFCD collaborates with a number of animal welfare organisations (AWOs), including SPCA, to promote animal welfare and proper animal management in Hong Kong. AWOs can apply for government funding to facilitate implementation of the related programmes, including animal rehoming, promotion of neutering of pets as well as general education and publicity activities. AFCD has earmarked \$1 million per year in both 2011-12 and 2012-13 for this purpose. The invitation for applications for 2011-12 started in September 2011 and AFCD is now processing the five applications from AWOs which were received in December 2011. Each application will be considered on its own merits.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)014**

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Question Serial No.

0101

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 tightening of the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale in pet shops, please advise on the following:

- (a) What is the number of licensed premises and establishments where animals were kept for trading purposes in the past 3 years (2009-11)? How many inspections were carried out by Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and how many irregularities were found during the period? Please give a detailed breakdown of the cases by nature.
- (b) apart from targeting pet shops, has AFCD earmarked resources and manpower to strengthen the monitoring of private breeders? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- (a) The number of licensed animal trading premises in the past three years (2009-2011) is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of Licensed Premises
2009	418
2010	426
2011	458

The number of inspections carried out and cases of prosecutions in the past three years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of Inspections	Number of Prosecutions	
		Trading without licence	Breaching licence condition
2009	7 523	3	4
2010	4 456	13	5
2011	4 730	13	2

- (b) Apart from tightening the control on the source of dogs offered for sale in pet shops, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has also strengthened effort in monitoring relevant websites, advertisements on magazines and newspapers etc., with a view to identifying illegal animal trading cases, including those involved in breeding animals for sale in a commercial manner. Follow up investigations and enforcement actions will be carried out where necessary. \$2 million (which includes resources for four officers on the establishment) has been earmarked for the purpose in 2012-13.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 28 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION****FHB(FE)015**

Question Serial No.

0102

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation DepartmentSubhead:Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and ConservationDirector of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the strengthening of stray animals management, please advise on the following:

- (a) the expenditure on catching stray animals and the number and species of animals caught in the past 3 years (2009-10 to 2011-12).
- (b) how many complaints and reports regarding animal poisoning (stray animals and animals with an owner) were received in the past 3 years (2009-10 to 2011-12)? What were the animal species involved?
- (c) how many resources and manpower are earmarked for implementing the "Trap-Neuter-Return" Scheme at the district level in 2012-13? How is the progress of the Scheme? What is the estimated number of stray dogs involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kanReply:

- (a) The actual expenditure on catching stray animals in 2009-10 and 2010-11 was \$20.6 million and \$21.3 million respectively. The estimated expenditure for 2011-12 is \$22.0 million.

The number and species of stray animals caught are as follows:

Calendar Year	Stray Animals Caught		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2009	7 850	4 570	1 361
2010	6 519	3 907	411
2011	5 800	3 557	331

\* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

- (b) The number of complaints and reports regarding animal poisoning received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the types of animal involved are as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of complaints/reports	Type of Animal
2009	0	-
2010	3	Dog
2011	1	Dog

- (c) AFCD, in collaboration with relevant animal welfare organisations, has already identified three potential sites in Yuen Long, Sai Kung and Lamma Island respectively for implementing the “Trap-Neuter-Return” (TNR) trial scheme. AFCD and the relevant animal welfare organisations are now consulting the local community on the trial scheme, and will proceed to seek support from the respective District Councils. An independent consultant will be engaged to conduct a baseline survey on the number of stray dogs involved at the TNR sites. If the trial is implemented, AFCD will commission an independent consultancy study to assess the effectiveness of the trial scheme in reducing the stray dog population. In 2012-13, an additional provision of \$1.9 million will be allocated for the TNR trial scheme. Details of the estimated expenditure are as follows:

<b>Items</b>	<b>Amount (for a 3-year trial) (\$ million)</b>
Independent Consultancy Study	2.0
Additional Staffing (including one Veterinary Officer and three Animal Health Inspectors to monitor the implementation of the trial scheme)	3.5
Other Operational and Administrative Expenses	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.8</b>

If the trial is launched, we will closely monitor its implementation and evaluate its effectiveness whilst keeping relevant stakeholders posted of any developments.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION****FHB(FE)016**Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation DepartmentSubhead: 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

0103

Programme:Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and ConservationDirector of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Under the above subhead, please provide in table form the following information of various animal management centres for the past 3 years (2009-10 to 2011-12):

- operational expenses;
- manpower (the number of qualified veterinarians in the professional grade and the total number);
- the numbers and types of stray and abandoned animals received; and
- the numbers and types of animals re-homed.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kanReply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department provides animal management services to the public through four animal management centres (AMCs) which are located in the New Territories North (NTN), New Territories South (NTS), Kowloon (K) and Hong Kong Island (HK) respectively. The information required in relation to the operation of the AMCs in the past three years is as follows:

- Operational Expenditure (\$ million)

Financial Year	AMC/NTN	AMC/NTS	AMC/K	AMC/HK
2009-10	14.78	10.03	12.67	10.03
2010-11	15.87	10.77	13.60	10.77
2011-12	17.82	12.09	15.27	12.09

- Manpower

Financial Year	AMC/NTN		AMC/NTS		AMC/K		AMC/HK	
	Professional	Total	Professional	Total	Professional	Total	Professional	Total
2009-10	1	48	1	32	1	38	1	35
2010-11	1	51	1	33	1	42	1	37
2011-12	1	55	1	36	1	44	1	39



(c) and (d) Animals Received and Rehomed

Calendar Year	Stray Animals Caught			Animals Given Up by Owners			Animals Received through other Channels			Animals Rehomed		
	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
2010	6 519	3 907	411	2 345	204	68	1 689	204	31	789	119	32
2011	5 800	3 557	331	2 403	244	107	1 445	267	956	852	205	87

\* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 21 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)017**

Question Serial No.

3164

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 details regarding the work of stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare this year. What is the progress of implementing the "Trap-Neuter-Return" Scheme and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

In 2011-12, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has implemented various programmes to manage animals and promote animal welfare, covering the following areas: (a) education and publicity; (b) regulation of animal trading, boarding and exhibition premises and establishments; (c) management of stray and pet animals; (d) prevention and control of outbreaks of rabies and other animal diseases; (e) promotion of animal welfare; and (f) prevention of and enforcement against animal cruelty.

Apart from on-going activities under these programmes, AFCD has been pursuing various enhanced measures to manage animals and promote animal welfare during the year. These include (a) implementing a strengthened education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (b) devising codes of practices for the proper trading and keeping of pets and other animals; (c) stepping up enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant animal laws; (d) improving the handling of animal cruelty reports or complaints through the recently established Animal Welfare Task Group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; (e) strengthening collaboration with and provision of technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations in re-homing of animals and conducting activities relating to animal welfare and management; (f) providing technical support and assistance to the relevant animal welfare organisations in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the "Trap-Neuter-Return" (TNR) trial scheme for dogs; and (g) setting up a dedicated cattle team to implement a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle population in collaboration with relevant animal welfare organisations and local communities.

AFCD, in collaboration with relevant animal welfare organisations, has already identified three potential sites in Yuen Long, Sai Kung and Lamma Island respectively for implementing the TNR trial scheme. AFCD and the relevant animal welfare organisations are now consulting the local community on the trial scheme, and will proceed to seek support from the respective District Councils. An independent consultant will be engaged to conduct a baseline survey on the number of stray dogs involved at the TNR sites. If the trial is implemented, AFCD will commission an independent consultancy study to assess the effectiveness of the trial scheme in reducing the stray dog population. In 2012-13, an additional provision of \$1.9 million will be allocated for the TNR trial scheme. Details of the estimated expenditure are as follows:

	<b>Items</b>	<b>Amount (for a 3-year trial) (\$ million)</b>
A	Independent Consultancy Study	2.0
B	Additional Staffing (including one Veterinary Officer and three Animal Health Inspectors to monitor the implementation of the trial scheme)	3.5
C	Other Operational and Administrative Expenses	0.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5.8</b>

If the trial is launched, we will closely monitor its implementation and evaluate its effectiveness whilst keeping relevant stakeholders posted of any developments.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)018**

Question Serial No.

3166

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:

What were the prosecution figures on illegal sale of animals last year? Will the Department strengthen its manpower in combating online sale of animals by unlicensed pet shops? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

In 2011, officers of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) carried out 4 730 inspections of premises and establishments where animals are kept for trading or exhibition purpose, with a view to ensuring that holders of the licences/permits comply with the licensing/permit conditions. There were a total of 15 prosecution cases in 2011, including 13 cases involving trading without licence and two other cases relating to breach of licensing conditions.

Apart from tightening the control on the source of dogs offered for sale in pet shops by introducing additional conditions in the animal trading licence in 2010, we have also strengthened efforts in monitoring relevant websites as well as advertisements on magazines and newspapers, etc., with a view to identifying illegal animal trading cases, including those pertaining to breeding of animals for sale in a commercial manner. Follow up investigation and enforcement actions would be carried out where necessary. \$2 million (which includes resources for four officers on the establishment) has been earmarked for the purpose in 2012-13.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)019**

Question Serial No.

3275

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 2012-13, an estimated subvention of \$1 million will be granted to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong), which is the total amount of subventions to be granted by the Department to all other animal welfare organisations. What are the criteria for determining the subvention amount and beneficiary organisations? As the granting of subventions is lopsided and focused on one organisation, will this hinder the multi-development of animal welfare work and marginalise other organisations?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) collaborates with animal welfare organisations (AWOs) with a view to promoting animal welfare and management in Hong Kong.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is a well-established non-profit making organisation that has been providing animal care and welfare services in Hong Kong for a long period of time. Over the years, it has developed a relatively large scope of services and accumulated valuable experience. To achieve the common goal of promoting animal welfare in Hong Kong, AFCD has been collaborating with and providing subvention to SPCA to implement various animal welfare and management programmes. The annual subvention to SPCA was \$1 million in 2011-12 and the same is earmarked for 2012-13. The subvention is to support SPCA to implement stray animal control, de-sexing and animal rescue activities, as well as new and enhanced collaborative programmes for dealing with animal cruelty cases, stray cattle management, provision of clinical care for sick and injured animals associated with prosecution cases, and training and educational activities related to the promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management. The amount of subvention was based on the estimated annual expenditure required for the implementation of these programmes agreed between AFCD and SPCA.

Apart from SPCA, AFCD also provides funding support to AWOs which have entered into partnership with AFCD to implement programmes relating to the promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management, such as animal rehoming, promotion of the neutering of pets as well as general education and publicity activities. AFCD has earmarked \$1 million per year in both 2011-12 and 2012-13 for this purpose.

We will continue our effort in strengthening collaboration with AWOs by inviting more AWOs to partner with AFCD and providing suitable technical and financial support to them with a view to further promoting and safeguarding animal welfare in Hong Kong.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

**Session 18 FHB(FE)**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION****FHB(FE)020**Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation DepartmentSubhead:

Question Serial No.

3277

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and ConservationDirector of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

The Department has planned to increase 20 posts in 2012-13, which is 4% higher than the previous year. Please advise on the duties and ranks of the new posts.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN TanyaReply:

Details of the 20 posts are as follows:

Grade/rank of post	Number of post	Annual staff cost	Services to be provided/improved
<b>I. Animal control</b>			
Field Officer I	4	\$4.1 million	◆ To set up inoculation and animal inspection facilities and provide the related services at the new Cathay Pacific Air Cargo Terminal at the Hong Kong International Airport.
Field Officer II	8		
Field Assistant	<u>4</u>		
	<u>16</u>		
<b>II. Veterinary Surgeons Board</b>			
Senior Executive Officer	1	\$1.2 million	◆ To enhance the secretariat support to the Veterinary Surgeons Board.
Executive Officer II	<u>1</u>		
	<u>2</u>		
<b>III. Animal welfare</b>			
Field Officer II	1	\$0.4 million	◆ To enhance management of stray animal population and combat animal cruelty cases in order to raise the standard of animal welfare.
Field Assistant	<u>1</u>		
	<u>2</u>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$5.7 million</b>	

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONGPost Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and ConservationDate: 29 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)021**

Question Serial No.

1352

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 Programme 1 that the Department will increase provision for special training programme for trawler fishermen. What are the amount of provision and details of the training programme?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

As approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in June 2011, \$12.8 million has been earmarked for the special training programme for trawler fishermen, of which \$4 million has been used in providing training programme in 2011-12 and the remaining \$8.8 million will be used in 2012-13. The special training programme will be implemented through engaging non-governmental training institutions with the relevant knowledge and experience. The programme aims to assist trawler fishermen to switch to sustainable fisheries operations including training on marine-based guided tours and aquaculture operations.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 27 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)022**

Question Serial No.

0198

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 (2009 to 2011). What were the annual percentages of vegetables marketed through the Vegetable Marketing Organization in the total vegetable sales in Hong Kong during the same period? What are the estimated figures of the same for 2012?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The annual consumption of fresh vegetables from 2009 to 2011, 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>
2009	657 892	172 764	26%
2010	651 557	156 495	24%
2011	721 741	153 274	21%

We expect the total consumption of vegetables in 2012 to be around 700 000 tonnes with 151 000 tonnes (22%) to be marketed through VMO.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 21 February 2012



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION****FHB(FE)023**Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation DepartmentSubhead:

Question Serial No.

0223

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets  
(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks  
(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and ConservationDirector of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health  
Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

There will be an increase of 31 non-directorate posts in 2012-13. Please provide in table form the grades, duties and the annual expenditure on emoluments of the posts. What services will be improved with the creation of these posts?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, TommyReply:

Details of the 31 non-directorate posts are as follows:

Grade/rank of post	Number of posts	Annual staff cost	Services to be provided/improved
<b>I. Animal control</b>			
Field Officer I	4	\$4.1 million	◆ To set up inoculation and animal inspection facilities and provide the related services at the new Cathay Pacific Air Cargo Terminal at the Hong Kong International Airport.
Field Officer II	8		
Field Assistant	<u>4</u>		
	<u>16</u>		
<b>II. Veterinary Surgeons Board</b>			
Senior Executive Officer	1	\$1.2 million	◆ To enhance the secretariat support to the Veterinary Surgeons Board.
Executive Officer II	<u>1</u>		
	<u>2</u>		
<b>III. Food safety</b>			
Field Officer I	1	\$1.0 million	◆ To conduct radiation test with the Food Contamination Monitoring System and perform data analysis. To enhance food safety of local crop produce through inspection of local vegetable farms and provision of training workshops for local farmers.
Field Officer II	1		
Senior Field Assistant	1		
Fisheries Technical Officer II	1		
Field Assistant	2		
Workman I	<u>(3)*</u>		
	<u>3</u>		

\* Number of posts to be deleted to offset part of the created posts.

Grade/rank of post	Number of posts	Annual staff cost	Services to be provided/improved
<b>IV. Animal welfare</b>			
Field Officer II Field Assistant	1 <u>1</u> <u>2</u>	\$0.4 million	◆ To enhance management of stray animal population and combat animal cruelty cases in order to raise the standard of animal welfare.
<b>V. Trawl ban</b>			
Fisheries Officer Fisheries Supervisor I Fisheries Supervisor II	1 1 <u>1</u> <u>3</u>	\$1.1 million	◆ To enforce the trawl ban, administer the one-off assistance scheme, and implement a suite of fisheries management measures in Hong Kong waters.
<b>VI. Biodiversity conservation</b>			
Forestry Officer Field Officer II	1 <u>4</u> <u>5</u>	\$1.3 million	◆ To prepare and implement the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan.
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>\$9.1 million</b>	

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 21 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)024**

Question Serial No.

0288

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 total of 10 837 and 9 688 stray animals were caught in 2010 and 2011 respectively. Please set out the numbers of dogs and cats caught and the number of caught animals that were eventually euthanised. What is the estimated number of animals that will be eventually euthanised in 2012-13?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

The number of stray animals caught, given up by owners, and those received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)'s Animal Management Centres (AMCs) through other channels (such as seizure) as well as the number of such animals rehomed and euthanised in 2010 and 2011 are at **Annex**.

If health conditions permit, stray dogs and cats caught by AFCD will usually stay at AFCD AMCs for at least four days, pending possible retrieval by their owners. Unclaimed dogs and cats will be passed to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) 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 which cannot be re-homed by AWOs, will be euthanised.

AFCD has been strengthening collaboration with and support to AWOs in re-homing animals, including inviting more organisations to partner with AFCD and providing free de-sexing services for dogs and cats rehomed through its partners. There are currently 13 AWOs partnering with AFCD in providing animal rehoming services. Through our joint efforts, we have increased the number of animals rehomed and decreased the number of animals euthanised in 2011. We expect the trend to continue in 2012.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 28 February 2012

**Annex**

Calendar Year	Stray Animals Caught			Animals Given Up by Owners			Animals Received through other Channels			Animals Rehomed			Animals Euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2010	6 519	3 907	411	2 345	204	68	1 689	204	31	789	119	32	7 420	3 047	482
2011	5 800	3 557	331	2 403	244	107	1 445	267	956	852	205	87	6 561	2 422	649

\* including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), pigs/cattle, poultry/birds etc.

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

**FHB(FE)025**

Question Serial No.

0291

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 advise on the details of the "additional provision for enhanced animal management programmes" in 2012-13.

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

In 2012-13, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue its effort in pursuing various enhanced measures to manage animals and promote animal welfare. These include (a) implementing a strengthened education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (b) devising codes of practices for the proper trading and keeping of pets and other animals; (c) stepping up enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant animal laws; (d) improving the handling of animal cruelty reports or complaints through the recently established Animal Welfare Task Group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; (e) strengthening collaboration with and provision of technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations in re-homing of animals and conducting activities relating to animal welfare and management; (f) providing technical support and assistance to the relevant animal welfare organisations in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the "Trap-Neuter-Return" trial scheme for dogs; and (g) setting up a dedicated cattle team to implement a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle population in collaboration with relevant animal welfare organisations and local communities. Besides, AFCD will continue to explore further enhanced measures for animal management and promotion of animal welfare.

An additional provision of \$4.9 million, including resources for two time-limited posts, namely one Field Officer II and one Field Assistant, will be allocated for the implementation of the above enhanced measures in 2012-13.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)026**

Question Serial No.

1399

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:

On "rental market stall space occupied" under Government fresh food wholesale markets, the occupancy rates were 89.8% and 90.2% in 2010 and 2011 respectively. The estimated occupancy rate is 90.2% in 2012. Please explain why the vacancy rates have remained around 10% for consecutive years, and advise on the losses incurred due to the vacancy.

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

For the control of avian flu, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has repossessed 63 stalls in the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market (CSWTWPM) after the launch of the Voluntary Surrender Scheme and Buyout Scheme for the live poultry trade in 2005 and 2008 respectively. To tie in with the Government's policy to maintain the status quo on the number of live poultry wholesalers, AFCD has stopped leasing out the vacant stalls at CSWTWPM since July 2005. Some of the egg stalls in the two government wholesale food markets have remained vacant as there is a trend for retailers to directly import eggs, thus relying less on wholesalers' service. The total amount of rental forgone arising from the vacant stalls in CSWTWPM and the two wholesale food markets in 2011 were about \$4.6 million and \$3.4 million respectively.

To increase the utilisation of market stalls, AFCD has put some vacant stalls into alternative uses and allowed some stalls to engage in the wholesaling of ancillary food products. AFCD will continue to follow up actively with the relevant government departments to put the vacant stalls into gainful use. However, these measures will not apply to the vacant stalls in CSWTWPM in light of the need for control of avian influenza risk.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)027**

Question Serial No.

1049

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:

On assisting farmers to capture market niches by providing technical advice on organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production, please inform the Committee of the details of the work and the resources and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

The manpower deployed and the expenditure incurred in providing technical advice on organic cultivation and intensive green house production in 2011-12 are tabulated below:

	<b>Organic cultivation</b>	<b>Intensive green house production</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number of staff deployed	16	11	27
Expenditure (\$ million)	7.1	4.4	11.5

A similar level of manpower and expenditure will be required in 2012-13.

Relevant work in the area includes evaluation of organic cultivation and green house production systems and methods, screening and selection of suitable crops, setting up and operation of demonstration units, conducting technical seminars and workshops for farmers, and paying advisory visits to local farms.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 22 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)028**

Question Serial No.

2554

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:

Provision for 2012-13 is \$1,201.9 million (550.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2011-12. This is mainly due to the increase in non-recurrent expenditure for the one-off assistance package to fishermen affected by the trawl ban, and additional provision for special training programme for trawler fishermen. Will the Administration give an account of how the assistance is distributed and how many will benefit from it? In addition, how will the Administration use the provision for the training programme? Is there a timetable for the programme?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply:

The one-off assistance package approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in June 2011 includes ex-gratia allowance to affected trawler owners, voluntary buyout of affected inshore trawlers and one-off assistance to affected local deckhands employed by the affected inshore trawler owners who voluntarily surrender their vessels under the buyout scheme or dispose of their vessels through other means. An interdepartmental working group was set up in August 2011 to handle all matters relating to applications received under the one-off assistance scheme. We anticipate that about 1 100 trawler vessel owners and 1 000 local deckhands would be affected by the trawl ban and be eligible for the assistance.

A special training programme for trawler fishermen will be implemented through engaging non-governmental training institutions with the relevant knowledge and experience. The programme aims to assist trawler fishermen to switch to sustainable fisheries operations and will be rolled out before the implementation of the trawl ban on 31 December 2012.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 27 February 2012



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

**FHB(FE)029**

Question Serial No.

0268

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:

Additional provision will be earmarked for special training programme for trawler fishermen in the coming year. What is the expenditure involved? Will the training programme be outsourced?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

\$12.8 million has been earmarked for the special training programmes for trawler fishermen. Of this, \$4 million was spent in 2011-12 and the remaining \$8.8 million will be used in 2012-13. The programmes aim to assist trawler fishermen to switch to sustainable fisheries operations. In 2012-13, the special training programmes will include marine-based guided tours and aquaculture operations and will be implemented through engaging non-governmental training institutions with the relevant knowledge and experience.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 27 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)030**

Question Serial No.

0270

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 work on safeguarding animal welfare, what are the expenditure and the number of staff on the establishment involved for the coming year? Are there any plans to strengthen public education in this regard?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been strengthening its effort in promoting animal welfare in recent years. In 2012-13, eight officers on the establishment and \$9.4 million will be deployed to implement a number of new and enhanced measures in collaboration with the animal welfare sector to safeguard and promote animal welfare in Hong Kong.

A dedicated team in AFCD has been tasked to devise and implement an enhanced education and publicity programme to promote responsible pet ownership through various channels including announcements on TV and radio, advertisements on public transportation, magazines and websites, different kinds of promotional events, etc. We have also enhanced educational activities focusing on school children with a view to cultivating the appropriate attitude towards animal welfare in young people. AFCD will regularly review and revise the programme as necessary in order to ensure its maximum effectiveness and impact.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)031**

Question Serial No.

0271

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:

What is the existing manpower for the inspection of premises and establishments where animals are kept for exhibition or trading purposes? What is the total number of such premises and establishments?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

A total of 23 officers in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) are involved in the inspection of animal trading and exhibition premises and establishments as well as the related enforcement and publicity activities, with a view to ensuring that holders of the licences/permits comply with the licensing/permit conditions.

In 2011, the numbers of Animal Trading Licence, Exhibition Licence and Temporary Exhibition Permit issued by AFCD are as follows:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Animal Trading Licence</b>	<b>Exhibition Licence</b>	<b>Temporary Exhibition Permit</b>
2011	458	50	21

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 28 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)032**

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Question Serial No.

2182

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 by species (e.g. cats, dogs, wild pigs etc) and in table form the number of stray animals caught and handed over to the Department, and the number of animals eventually euthanised, re-homed and returned to original owners.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The number and species of stray animals caught and received (given up by owners, received through other channels) by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, and the number of animals reclaimed by owners, rehomed and euthanised in 2011 are listed as follows:

Stray Animals Caught			Animals Given Up by Owners			Animals Received through other Channels		
Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
5 800	3 557	331	2 403	244	107	1 445	267	956
Animals Reclaimed by Owners			Animals Rehomed			Animals Euthanised		
Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
1 517	738	474	852	205	87	6 561	2 422	649

\* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), pigs/cattle, poultry/birds etc.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 28 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION****FHB(FE)033**

Question Serial No.

2183

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation DepartmentSubhead:Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and ConservationDirector of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

The Department has pledged to implement a "trap-neuter-vaccinate-return" programme. When will the consultation with District Councils be completed and when is the programme expected to start officially? 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, AlanReply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), in collaboration with relevant animal welfare organisations, has already identified three potential sites in Yuen Long, Sai Kung and Lamma Island respectively for implementing the "Trap-Neuter-Return" (TNR) trial scheme. AFCD and the relevant animal welfare organisations are now consulting the local community on the trial scheme, and will proceed to seek support from the respective District Councils. An independent consultant will be engaged to conduct a baseline survey on the number of stray dogs involved at the TNR sites. If the trial is implemented, AFCD will commission an independent consultancy study to assess the effectiveness of the trial scheme in reducing the stray dog population.

In 2012-13, an additional provision of \$1.9 million will be allocated for the TNR trial scheme. Details of the estimated expenditure are as follows:

	Items	Amount (for a 3-year trial) (\$ million)
A	Independent Consultancy Study	2.0
B	Additional Staffing (including one Veterinary Officer and three Animal Health Inspectors to monitor the implementation of the trial scheme)	3.5
C	Other Operational and Administrative Expenses	0.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5.8</b>

If the trial is launched, we will closely monitor its implementation and evaluate its effectiveness whilst keeping relevant stakeholders posted of any developments.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONGPost Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and ConservationDate: 1 March 2012**Session 18 FHB(FE)**

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

**FHB(FE)034**

Question Serial No.

2184

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 animals caught and handed to the Department, will more resources be allocated in 2012-13 to (a) keep them for a longer period of time; (b) set up re-homing centres under the Department; and (c) take other measures, so that they will have more chances to be re-homed and live a longer life?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

Stray animals caught, given up by owners, and those received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) through other channels (such as seizure) usually stay at AFCD Animal Management Centres (AMCs) for at least four days pending retrieval by their owners, if health conditions permit. Unclaimed animals will be passed to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) partnered with AFCD for rehoming if they are found to be healthy and of an acceptable temperament. In the past few years, AFCD has been strengthening collaboration with and support to these AWOs in rehoming animals through (a) inviting more AWOs to partner with AFCD in providing re-homing services; (b) providing free de-sexing services for animals; (c) providing funding support to these AWOs to implement programmes relating to the promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management, including animal rehoming; and (d) organising educational and publicity events jointly with AWOs to promote adoption of animals. As a result, the number of animals re-homed has increased from 758 in 2009 to 1 144 in 2011. Also, the average number of days an animal stayed in AMCs increased from 6.6 days in 2009-10 to 7.6 days in 2011-12. We consider it more appropriate to continue our efforts in promoting rehoming of animals through strengthening collaboration with AWOs rather than setting up animal re-homing centres under AFCD.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)035**

Question Serial No.

2970

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:

What is the total expenditure involved in catching stray animals for the 3 financial years of 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The actual expenditure on catching stray animals in 2009-10 and 2010-11 was \$20.6 million and \$21.3 million respectively. The estimated expenditure for 2011-12 is \$22.0 million.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 22 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)036**

Question Serial No.

2971

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:

What is the total expenditure involved in euthanasia of animals for the 3 financial years of 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The actual expenditure involved in the euthanasia of animals in 2009-10 and 2010-11 was \$1.5 million and \$1.3 million respectively. The estimated expenditure in 2011-12 is \$1.3 million.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012



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

**FHB(FE)037**

Question Serial No.

2972

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 the 3 financial years of 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, how many days would the Department keep the stray animals caught before they were euthanised, and what was the average expenditure for euthanising each dog or cat?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

Stray dogs and cats caught by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will usually stay at AFCD Animal Management Centres for at least four days pending retrieval by their owners, if health conditions permit. 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 cannot be rehomed by animal welfare organisations, will be euthanised.

In 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, the average number of days that a stray animal was kept in an AFCD facility before they were reclaimed, re-homed or euthanised, and the unit cost for euthanasia are as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Average Number of Days in AFCD Facilities</b>	<b>Unit Euthanasia Cost</b>
2009-10	6.6	\$102
2010-11	7.5	\$137
2011-12	7.6	\$138

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)038**

Question Serial No.

2973

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:

How is the re-homing of animals going in the 12 re-homing centres? How many animals has each organisation received from AFCD? How many of these animals have been re-homed successfully?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has entered into partnership with 13 animal welfare organisations (AWOs) to provide animal rehoming service to members of the public. These partners will select from AFCD's available animal list those they will be able to arrange re-homing. The breakdown by AWO and animal type is set out in **Annex**.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 28 February 2012

**Number of Animals Received from AFCD by AWOs for Rehoming**

	<b>Animal Welfare Organisation</b>	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Cats</b>	<b>Others*</b>	<b>Total</b>
1.	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	650	0	0	650
2.	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	101	147	15	263
3.	Society for Abandoned Animals	33	36	0	69
4.	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	57	4	0	61
5.	Hong Kong AlleyCat Watch	0	18	0	18
6.	Other AWOs <sup>#</sup>	11	0	72	83
	<b>Total</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>1 144</b>

\* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs, rats), reptiles and birds.

# These AWOs include Asian and Hong Kong Dachshund Society, Dr Rabbit, Lamma Animal Welfare Centre, Protection of Animals Lantau South, Sai Kung Stray Friends, Hong Kong Rabbit Society, Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation and Hong Kong Rescue Puppies.

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

**FHB(FE)039**

Question Serial No.

2974

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:

What is the respective total expenditure involved in providing inoculation and de-sexing services for dogs and cats? What are the average costs of each inoculation and de-sexing treatment?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

In 2012-13, \$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 inoculating and de-sexing one animal is about \$39 and \$500 respectively. The significant decrease in the average expenditure for providing de-sexing service for one animal from \$1,000 in 2011-12 to \$500 in 2012-13 is due to a lower price tender received in the recent tender exercise.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 28 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)040**

Question Serial No.

2975

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:

What was the total expenditure on the "trap-neuter-vaccinate-return" programme for cats for the 3 financial years of 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The Cat Colony Care Programme (CCCP) is run by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). Every year, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides subvention to SPCA to implement various animal welfare programmes. In 2009-10 and 2010-11, AFCD provided SPCA with an annual subvention of \$608,000, of which \$200,000 was used to support CCCP. Following a review jointly conducted by AFCD and SPCA, the profile mix of the animal welfare programmes to be supported by the subvention in 2011-12 has been revised. While no more subvention on CCCP would be given, new and enhanced collaborative programmes for dealing with animal cruelty cases, stray cattle management, provision of clinical care for sick and injured animals associated with prosecution cases, and training and educational activities related to the promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management were included. The amount of subvention to SPCA in 2011-12 has been increased to \$1 million as a result.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 1 March 2012

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

**FHB(FE)041**

Question Serial No.

2976

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:

What are the details of strengthening enforcement of import control of animals by the Department in 2012-13?  
What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

In 2012-13, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to strengthen its efforts to prevent illegal import of animals into Hong Kong. With the expansion of the Quarantine Detector Dog Unit to eight dogs and eight handlers in 2011-12, AFCD can carry out more operations against illegal import of animals at various boundary control points as well as at the Hong Kong International Airport. Additional staff and provisions will also be provided for setting up AFCD inoculation and animal inspection facilities at the new air cargo terminal, scheduled for commencing operation in early 2013, for providing animal import control services. In addition, AFCD will step up the collation of intelligence regarding smuggling of animals, and will continue with education and publicity effort to raise the awareness of the general public on animal import and quarantine requirements. \$6.7 million has been earmarked to strengthen import control of animals in 2012-13.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 28 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)042**

Question Serial No.

2977

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 2012-13, the Department will monitor the implementation of the code of practice for pig farming. What are 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) is 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. In 2012-13, AFCD will continue to provide technical support and advice to farmers during routine farm inspection. Training and workshops will be organised to assist 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: 21 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)043**

Question Serial No.

2978

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 2012-13, 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. What are the details and the estimated expenditure in this regard?

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, Fisheries and Conservation Department has stepped up effort both in publishing the new arrangements and the inspection of licensed pet shops to ensure their compliance. Enforcement actions would be taken against illegal animal trading activities or breach of licensing conditions where appropriate. \$4.9 million has been earmarked for this activity in 2012-13 to continue with the above-mentioned strengthened efforts to tighten the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale in pet shops.

In addition, we have been monitoring the latest development of the trade and are reviewing if enhanced measures are required to address suspected illegal selling of animals by private breeders, especially those on the Internet. We have also strengthened effort in monitoring relevant websites as well as advertisements on magazines and newspapers, etc., with a view to identifying illegal animal trading cases, including those pertaining to breeding of animals for sale in a commercial manner. Follow up investigation and enforcement actions will be carried out where necessary. \$2 million (which includes resources for four officers on the establishment) has been earmarked for the purpose in 2012-13.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012



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

**FHB(FE)044**

Question Serial No.

2979

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 2012-13, the Department will strengthen measures for stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare. What are the details and the estimated expenditure in this regard?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

In 2012-13, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue its effort in pursuing various enhanced measures to manage animals and promote animal welfare. These include (a) implementing a strengthened education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (b) devising codes of practices for the proper trading and keeping of pets and other animals; (c) stepping up enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant animal laws; (d) improving the handling of animal cruelty reports or complaints through the recently established Animal Welfare Task Group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; (e) strengthening collaboration with and provision of technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations in re-homing of animals and conducting activities relating to animal welfare and management; (f) providing technical support and assistance to the relevant animal welfare organisations in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the "Trap-Neuter-Return" trial scheme for dogs; and (g) setting up a dedicated cattle team to implement a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle population in collaboration with relevant animal welfare organisations and local communities. Besides, AFCD will continue to explore further enhanced measures for animal management and promotion of animal welfare.

An additional provision of \$4.9 million, including resources for two time-limited posts, namely one Field Officer II and one Field Assistant, will be allocated for the implementation of the above enhanced measures in 2012-13.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

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

<b>FHB(FE)045</b>
-------------------

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Question Serial No.

2980
------

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 increase 20 posts in 2012-13. What are their functions?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

Details of the 20 posts are as follows:

Grade/rank of post	Number of post	Annual staff cost	Services to be provided/improved
<b>I. Animal control</b>			
Field Officer I	4	align="center">\$4.1 million	◆ To set up inoculation and animal inspection facilities and provide the related services at the new Cathay Pacific Air Cargo Terminal at the Hong Kong International Airport.
Field Officer II	8		
Field Assistant	<u>4</u>		
	<u>16</u>		
<b>II. Veterinary Surgeons Board</b>			
Senior Executive Officer	1	align="center">\$1.2 million	◆ To enhance the secretariat support to the Veterinary Surgeons Board.
Executive Officer II	<u>1</u> <u>2</u>		
<b>III. Animal welfare</b>			
Field Officer II	1	align="center">\$0.4 million	◆ To enhance management of stray animal population and combat animal cruelty cases in order to raise the standard of animal welfare.
Field Assistant	<u>1</u> <u>2</u>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$5.7 million</b>	

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

<b>Session 18 FHB(FE)</b>
---------------------------

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

**FHB(FE)046**

Question Serial No.

2981

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:

As estimated by the Department, an annual provision of \$1 million was and will be given to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) and animal welfare organisations respectively in 2011-12 and 2012-13. What are the objectives of the provision? Has the Department put in place a mechanism to review whether the funding is used effectively?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been in collaboration with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to implement various animal welfare and management programmes. The annual subvention of \$1 million for SPCA in 2011-12 and 2012-13 is to support SPCA to implement stray animal control, de-sexing and animal rescue activities, as well as new and enhanced collaborative programmes for dealing with animal cruelty cases, stray cattle management, provision of clinical care for sick and injured animals associated with prosecution cases, and training and educational activities related to the promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management.

Apart from SPCA, AFCD also collaborates with other animal welfare organisations (AWOs) to promote animal welfare in Hong Kong. AWOs which have entered into partnership with AFCD for programmes to promote animal welfare and manage animals may apply for government funding to facilitate implementation of the related programmes such as animal rehoming, promotion of the neutering of pets as well as general education and publicity activities. AFCD has earmarked \$1 million per year in both 2011-12 and 2012-13 for this purpose.

The amount of funding for each AWO would be based on the estimated expenditure required for the implementation of the programmes agreed between AFCD and the AWO concerned. In order to ensure the proper and effective use of funding, AWOs receiving funding from the government must submit interim and final reports as well as accounting documents for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)047**

Question Serial No.

0033

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:

Regarding "requests for assistance handled" in 2010 and 2011 as set out in the Indicator "Government fresh food wholesale markets", what were the types of assistance requested?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

The types of assistance requested include maintenance and repair works, general leasing and rental payment matters, dispute mediation and advice to tenants on how to comply with the Wholesale Market Administrative Rules which govern aspects such as public order, traffic control and market cleanliness, etc.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 21 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)048**

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead: 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

0034

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) In 2011-12 and 2012-13, an annual subvention of \$1 million was and will be given to animal welfare organisations. Please give a list of the animal welfare organisations and the amount of annual subvention.
- (b) Is it necessary for the subvented animal welfare organisations to submit financial reports and details of project implementation to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department so that the Department can effectively monitor the use of the subvention? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides funding support to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) which have entered into partnership with AFCD to implement programmes relating to the promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management, such as animal rehoming, promoting the neutering of pets and education and publicity activities. AFCD has earmarked \$1 million per year in both 2011-12 and 2012-13 for this purpose. The invitation for applications for 2011-12 started in September 2011 and AFCD is now processing the five applications from AWOs which were received in December 2011. Each application will be considered on its own merits.
- (b) AWOs receiving funding support from the government must submit interim and final reports as well as accounting documents to show the progress, results and related expenses against the approved items for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)049**

Question Serial No.

0365

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 management of stray animals, please provide the following information:

- (a) On "stray animals caught", please give the respective figures of those that were euthanised and rehomed over the past 3 years.
- (b) On the catching of stray animals, what were the actual expenditure for 2010-11, the revised expenditure for 2011-12, and the estimated expenditure for 2012-13?
- (c) In 2012-13, what is the estimated cost of each euthanasia procedure?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

- (a) The number of stray animals caught, given up by owners, and those received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's Animal Management Centres (AMCs) through other channels (such as seizure), as well as the number of such animals rehomed and euthanised in the past three years are at **Annex**.
- (b) The actual expenditure on catching stray animals in 2010-11 was \$21.3 million. The estimated expenditure for 2011-12 and 2012-13 is \$22.0 million and \$22.8 million respectively.
- (c) The estimated cost of each euthanasia procedure in 2012-13 is \$138.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

**Annex**

Calendar Year	Stray Animals Caught			Animals Given Up by Owners			Animals Received through other Channels			Animals Rehomed			Animals Euthanised		
	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
2011	5 800	3 557	331	2 403	244	107	1 445	267	956	852	205	87	6 561	2 422	649

\* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

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

**FHB(FE)050**

Question Serial No.

0366

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 2012-13" that measures for stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare will be strengthened. What are the details?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

In 2012-13, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue its effort in pursuing various enhanced measures to manage animals and promote animal welfare. These include (a) implementing a strengthened education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (b) devising codes of practices for the proper trading and keeping of pets and other animals; (c) stepping up enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant animal laws; (d) improving the handling of animal cruelty reports or complaints through the recently established Animal Welfare Task Group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; (e) strengthening collaboration with and provision of technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations in re-homing of animals and conducting activities relating to animal welfare and management; (f) providing technical support and assistance to the relevant animal welfare organisations in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the "Trap-Neuter-Return" trial scheme for dogs; and (g) setting up a dedicated cattle team to implement a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle population in collaboration with relevant animal welfare organisations and local communities. Besides, AFCD will continue to explore further enhanced measures for animal management and promotion of animal welfare.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 28 February 2012



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

**FHB(FE)051**

Question Serial No.

0367

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 2012-13" that the enforcement of import control of animals will be strengthened. Please list the numbers of illegally imported cats, dogs, birds and other animals intercepted in 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

The numbers of illegally imported animals intercepted and seized by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in 2010 and 2011 are as follows:

Calendar Year	Cats	Dogs	Birds	Other Animals*	Total
2010	3	24	7	1 484	1 518
2011	5	14	1 088	1 254	2 361

\* Including turtles, snakes, lizards, rabbits, hedgehogs, squirrels and rats.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 21 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)052**

Question Serial No.

0368

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 2012-13" that the revised conditions of the Animal Trader Licence will be implemented. Please list the numbers of prosecutions made in 2010-11 and 2011-12 against pet shops for selling dogs from unknown sources. How many were prosecuted successfully? What are the penalties in general?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

Details of the prosecutions made in 2010 and 2011 against pet shops for selling dogs from unknown sources are listed as follows:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of Prosecutions Made</b>	<b>Number of Successful Prosecutions</b>	<b>Fine (\$)</b>
2010	2	2	1,000 and 1,500
2011	1	1	2,000

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 21 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)053**

Question Serial No.

0369

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 by the Administration that there will be an additional provision for enhanced animal management programmes. What was the revised estimate for the original animal management programmes for 2011-12? What is the expenditure estimated for 2012-13 with such additional provision? It is also stated by the Administration that there will be an increase of posts in this connection. Please list the number of posts increased due to the enhanced animal management programmes and the post titles.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

The revised estimate for the original animal management programmes for 2011-12 is \$76.3 million. These programmes cover the following areas: (a) education and publicity; (b) regulation of animal trading, boarding and exhibition premises and establishments; (c) management of stray and pet animals; (d) prevention and control of outbreaks of rabies and other animal diseases; (e) promotion of animal welfare; and (f) prevention of and enforcement against animal cruelty.

Apart from on-going activities under these programmes, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been pursuing various enhanced measures to manage animals and promote animal welfare. These include (a) implementing a strengthened education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (b) devising codes of practices for the proper trading and keeping of pets and other animals; (c) stepping up enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant animal laws; (d) improving the handling of animal cruelty reports or complaints through the recently established Animal Welfare Task Group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; (e) strengthening collaboration with and provision of technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations in rehoming of animals and conducting activities relating to animal welfare and management; (f) providing technical support and assistance to the relevant animal welfare organisations in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the "Trap-Neuter-Return" trial scheme for dogs; and (g) setting up a dedicated cattle team to implement a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle population in collaboration with relevant animal welfare organisations and local communities. Besides, AFCD will continue to explore further enhanced measures for animal management and promotion of animal welfare.

In 2012-13, an additional provision of \$4.9 million, including resources for two time-limited posts, namely one Field Officer II and one Field Assistant, will be allocated for the implementation of the above enhanced measures.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

**Session 18 FHB(FE)**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION****FHB(FE)054**

Question Serial No.

0642

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation DepartmentSubhead:Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets  
(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks  
(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and ConservationDirector of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health  
Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has stated that the number of non-directorate posts would be increased by 31 to 2 032 posts as at 31 March 2013. Please inform this Committee of the nature of work, ranks and salaries of these posts.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, AbrahamReply:

Details of the 31 non-directorate posts are as follows:

Grade/rank of post	Number of posts	Annual staff cost	Services to be provided/improved
<b>I. Animal control</b>			
Field Officer I	4	\$4.1 million	◆ To set up inoculation and animal inspection facilities and provide the related services at the new Cathay Pacific Air Cargo Terminal at the Hong Kong International Airport.
Field Officer II	8		
Field Assistant	<u>4</u> <u>16</u>		
<b>II. Veterinary Surgeons Board</b>			
Senior Executive Officer	1	\$1.2 million	◆ To enhance the secretariat support to the Veterinary Surgeons Board.
Executive Officer II	<u>1</u> <u>2</u>		
<b>III. Food safety</b>			
Field Officer I	1	\$1.0 million	◆ To conduct radiation test with the Food Contamination Monitoring System and perform data analysis. To enhance food safety of local crop produce through inspection of local vegetable farms and provision of training workshops for local farmers.
Field Officer II	1		
Senior Field Assistant	1		
Fisheries Technical Officer II	1		
Field Assistant	2		
Workman I	<u>(3)*</u> <u>3</u>		

\* Number of posts to be deleted to offset part of the created posts.

Grade/rank of post	Number of posts	Annual staff cost	Services to be provided/improved
<b>IV. Animal welfare</b>			
Field Officer II Field Assistant	1 <u>1</u> <u>2</u>	\$0.4 million	◆ To enhance management of stray animal population and combat animal cruelty cases in order to raise the standard of animal welfare.
<b>V. Trawl ban</b>			
Fisheries Officer Fisheries Supervisor I Fisheries Supervisor II	1 1 <u>1</u> <u>3</u>	\$1.1 million	◆ To enforce the trawl ban, administer the one-off assistance scheme, and implement a suite of fisheries management measures in Hong Kong waters.
<b>VI. Biodiversity conservation</b>			
Forestry Officer Field Officer II	1 <u>4</u> <u>5</u>	\$1.3 million	◆ To prepare and implement the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan.
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>\$9.1 million</b>	

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 21 February 2012

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

<b>FHB(FE)055</b>
-------------------

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead: 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

0458
------

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 the following information:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of NCSC staff	( )	( )	( )
Breakdown of posts taken up by NCSC staff			
Salary expenditure for NCSC staff	( )	( )	( )
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff			
• \$30,001 or above	( )	( )	( )
• \$16,001 to \$30,000	( )	( )	( )
• \$8,001 to \$16,000	( )	( )	( )
• \$6,501 to \$8,000	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,001 to \$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 above	( )	( )	( )
• 3 to 5 years	( )	( )	( )
• 1 to 3 years	( )	( )	( )
• less than 1 year	( )	( )	( )
Number of staff converted to civil servants	( )	( )	( )
Number of staff failed to be converted to civil servants	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the Department	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of payment for NCSC staff in the total staff costs of the Department	( )	( )	( )
Number of staff with paid meal break	( )	( )	( )
Number of staff without paid meal break	( )	( )	( )
Number of staff on five-day week	( )	( )	( )
Number of staff on six-day week	( )	( )	( )

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

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Details of the information are as follows:

	2012-13	2011-12 (as at 31 December 2011)	2010-11 (as at 31 December 2010)
Number of NCSC staff	(Note 1)	294 (-3%)	304
Breakdown of posts taken up by NCSC staff	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.		
Salary expenditure for NCSC staff	(Note 1)	\$47,312,227 (+9%)	\$43,328,734
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff			
• \$30,001 or above		23 (+360%)	5
• \$16,001 to \$30,000		17 (-19%)	21
• \$8,001 to \$16,000		254 (+48%)	172
• \$6,501 to \$8,000		-	-
• \$5,001 to \$6,500	(Note 1)	-	106
• \$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		-	106
Length of service of NCSC staff			
• 5 years or above		124 (-23%)	162
• 3 to 5 years	(Note 1)	9 (-47%)	17
• 1 to 3 years		74 (+95%)	38
• less than 1 year		87	87
Number of staff converted to civil servants	(Note 1)	21 (-55%) (Note 2)	47 (Note 2)
Number of staff failed to be converted to civil servants	(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the Department	(Note 1)	16% (-6%)	17%
Percentage of payment for NCSC staff in the total staff costs of the Department	(Note 1)	8%	8%
Number of staff with paid meal break	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)
Number of staff without paid meal break	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)
Number of staff on five-day week	(Note 1)	294 (-3%)	304
Number of staff on six-day week	-	-	-

Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes

- Note 1: Statistics for 2012-13 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 NCSC staff who have successfully applied for 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: 28 February 2012



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

**FHB(FE)056**

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead: 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

0483

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the employment of “agency workers”, please provide the following information:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
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	( )	( )	( )
Breakdown of posts taken up by agency workers			
Monthly salary range of agency workers			
• \$30,001 or above	( )	( )	( )
• \$16,001 to \$30,000	( )	( )	( )
• \$8,001 to \$16,000	( )	( )	( )
• \$6,501 to \$8,000	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,001 to \$6,500	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,000 or below	( )	( )	( )
• Number of workers with monthly salary below \$5,824	( )	( )	( )
• Number of workers with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	( )	( )	( )
Length of service of agency workers			
• 5 years or above	( )	( )	( )
• 3 to 5 years	( )	( )	( )
• 1 to 3 years	( )	( )	( )
• less than 1 year	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of agency workers in the total number of staff in the Department	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of payment for employment agencies in the total staff costs of the Department	( )	( )	( )
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	( )	( )	( )

Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Details of the information are as follows:

	2012-13	2011-12 (as at 10 February 2012)	2010-11 (as at 28 February 2011)
Number of contracts of engaging employment agencies	(Note 1)	8 (+60%)	5
Contract sum paid to each employment agency		\$0.04 to \$0.5 million (-23% on average )	\$0.3 to \$0.4 million
Total amount of commission paid to each employment agency		(Note 2)	(Note 2)
Length of contract for each employment agency		8 to 9 months	9 to 12 months
Number of agency workers		42 (+200%)	14
Breakdown of posts taken up by agency workers		The workers mainly provide general and / or clerical support services.	
Monthly salary range of agency workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$30,001 or above</li> <li>• \$16,001 to \$30,000</li> <li>• \$8,001 to \$16,000</li> <li>• \$6,501 to \$8,000</li> <li>• \$5,001 to \$6,500</li> <li>• \$5,000 or below</li> <li>• Number of workers with monthly salary below \$5,824</li> <li>• Number of workers with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500</li> </ul>	(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 4)
Length of service of agency workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 years or above</li> <li>• 3 to 5 years</li> <li>• 1 to 3 years</li> <li>• less than 1 year</li> </ul>	(Note 5)	(Note 5)	(Note 5)
Percentage of agency workers in the total number of staff in the Department	(Note 1)	2% (+100%)	1%
Percentage of payment for employment agencies in the total staff costs of the Department		0.3%	0.3%
Number of workers with paid meal break Number of workers without paid meal break	(Note 2)	(Note 2)	(Note 2)
Number of workers on five-day week Number of workers on six-day week			

Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes

- Note 1: Statistics for 2012-13 are not yet available as the requirements vary from time to time in the light of changing service and operational needs.
- Note 2: Relevant information is not specified in the contract and hence not available.
- Note 3: With the implementation of statutory minimum wage (SMW) on 1 May 2011, contractors are required to pay their employees at not less than the SMW rate plus one paid rest day for every period of seven days or the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as published in the Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics for December 2010, whichever is higher. The exact wages of workers vary, depending on the numbers of working days and working hours of the workers specified in the contracts.
- Note 4: While the exact wages of workers were not specified in the contract, contractors were 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 was invited.
- Note 5: 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: 28 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)057**

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead: 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

0508

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the employment of "outsourced workers", please provide the following information:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
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	( )	( )	( )
Breakdown of posts taken up 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 to \$30,000	( )	( )	( )
• \$8,001 to \$16,000	( )	( )	( )
• \$6,501 to \$8,000	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,001 to \$6,500	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,000 or below	( )	( )	( )
• Number of workers with monthly salary below \$5,824	( )	( )	( )
• Number of workers with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	( )	( )	( )
Length of service of outsourced workers			
• 5 years or above	( )	( )	( )
• 3 to 5 years	( )	( )	( )
• 1 to 3 years	( )	( )	( )
• less than 1 year	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of outsourced workers in the total number of staff in the Department	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of payment for outsourced service providers in the total staff costs of the Department	( )	( )	( )
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	( )	( )	( )

Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Details of the information are as follows:

	2012-13	2011-12 (as at 10 February 2012)	2010-11 (as at 28 February 2011)
Number of outsourced service contracts	(Note 1)	28 (+65%)	17
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers		\$18.3 million (+38%)	\$13.3 million
Length of contract for each outsourced service provider		6 to 36 months	12 to 24 months
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers		235 (+16%)	202
Breakdown of posts taken up by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology)		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 to \$30,000</li> <li>• \$8,001 to \$16,000</li> <li>• \$6,501 to \$8,000</li> <li>• \$5,001 to \$6,500</li> <li>• \$5,000 or below</li> <li>• Number of workers with monthly salary below \$5,824</li> <li>• Number of workers with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500</li> </ul>	(Note 2)	(Note 2)	(Note 3)
Length of service of outsourced workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 years or above</li> <li>• 3 to 5 years</li> <li>• 1 to 3 years</li> <li>• less than 1 year</li> </ul>	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)
Percentage of outsourced workers in the total number of staff in the Department	(Note 1)	11%	11%
Percentage of payment for outsourced service providers in the total staff costs of the Department		2.9% (+26%)	2.3%
Number of workers with paid meal break Number of workers without paid meal break	(Note 5)	(Note 5)	(Note 5)
Number of workers on five-day week Number of workers on six-day week			

Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes

- Note 1: Statistics for 2012-13 are not yet available as the requirements vary from time to time in the light of changing service and operational needs.
- Note 2: With the implementation of statutory minimum wage (SMW) on 1 May 2011, contractors are required to pay their employees at not less than the SMW rate plus one paid rest day for every period of seven days or the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as published in the Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics for December 2010, whichever is higher. The exact wages of workers vary, depending on the numbers of working days and working hours of the workers specified in the contracts.
- Note 3: While the exact wages of workers were not specified in the contract, contractors were 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 was invited.
- Note 4: 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 5: 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: 28 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)058**

Question Serial No.

2956

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:

On “strengthening measures for stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare”, please advise on the following:

- (a) What are the details of the measures?
- (b) What is the estimated expenditure involved?
- (c) Please set out the numbers of stray cattle in various districts in the past 5 years.
- (d) The Administration has mentioned that it would look into the implementation of the “Trap-Neuter-Return” Pilot Scheme on Lantau Island in order to manage and control the growth in the number of stray cattle there. In this regard, what is the progress of the Scheme? What is the actual expenditure involved? Has the Administration formulated any indicators for measuring the effectiveness of the Scheme? If yes, what are the indicators and actual outcome? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) In 2012-13, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue its effort in pursuing various enhanced measures to manage animals and promote animal welfare. These include (a) implementing a strengthened education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (b) devising codes of practices for the proper trading and keeping of pets and other animals; (c) stepping up enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant animal laws; (d) improving the handling of animal cruelty reports or complaints through the recently established Animal Welfare Task Group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; (e) strengthening collaboration with and provision of technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations in re-homing of animals and conducting activities relating to animal welfare and management; (f) providing technical support and assistance to the relevant animal welfare organisations in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the “Trap-Neuter-Return” (TNR) trial scheme for dogs; and (g) setting up a dedicated cattle team to implement a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle population in collaboration with relevant animal welfare organisations and local communities. Besides, AFCD will continue to explore further enhanced measures for animal management and promotion of animal welfare.
- (b) An additional provision of \$4.9 million, including resources for two time-limited posts, namely one Field Officer II and one Field Assistant, will be allocated for the implementation of the above enhanced measures in 2012-13.

- (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 in the table below. In order to obtain more updated and comprehensive data on the number and distribution of stray cattle in Hong Kong, AFCD has recently commissioned a consultant to conduct a territory-wide population survey of stray cattle. The survey findings will facilitate the Department in devising suitable measures for better managing the stray cattle population in Hong Kong.

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

- (d) AFCD has been collaborating with the Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and other interested animal welfare organisations to implement a “Trap-Neuter-Relocation” pilot programme for stray cattle in Lantau and Sai Kung with a view to controlling the growth of the stray cattle population there in the long run. This will help minimise the nuisance and potential danger to the public while at the same time safeguarding the welfare of the cattle. In 2011, a total of 37 cattle/buffalo, including 14 from Lantau Island, were neutered and released to suitable locations. We will closely monitor the effectiveness of the pilot programme and make necessary adjustment to the programme where appropriate. A total of \$3.1 million will be allocated in 2012-13 for managing stray cattle in Hong Kong.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012



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

**FHB(FE)059**

Question Serial No.

0973

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 Administration's plan in terms of technical support, standard certification and sales promotion for organic farming in 2012? How much manpower is deployed and what is estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The manpower deployed and the estimated expenditure involved in promoting organic farming in 2011-12 are 16 staff and \$7.1 million respectively. A similar level of manpower and expenditure will be required in 2012-13. Relevant work planned for 2012 includes continued provision of technical assistance to local farmers under the 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: 22 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)060**

Question Serial No.

1483

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 Administration plans to ban trawling in Hong Kong waters completely starting 31 December 2012. Please advise the Committee on:

- (a) the progress in processing the related assistance, including all ex-gratia allowances, one-off grants for local deckhands, and registrations for voluntary buy-out of trawlers;
- (b) the estimated provision and manpower involved in the preparation for the trawl ban in Hong Kong waters and related matters (including grants to affected fishermen)?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

- (a) Following the approval from the Finance Committee in June 2011 for the creation of a new commitment for the one-off assistance package to trawler vessel owners, local deckhands and fish collector owners affected by the trawl ban and other related measures, an interdepartmental working group (IWG) was set up in August 2011 to handle all matters relating to applications received under the one-off assistance scheme. The IWG briefed affected fishermen in major homeports on the scheme in November 2011, and has started receiving applications for ex-gratia allowance from owners of trawlers and inspecting trawlers in relation to the applications since December 2011. Over 1 000 applications have been received by the end of the application period on 29 February 2012.
- (b) \$1,199.7 million and 17 staff comprising one Fisheries Management Officer, ten Field Inspectors, two Field Assistants, one Executive Manager, two Executive Assistants and one Clerical Supervisor have been earmarked in 2012-13 for implementing the trawl ban and related measures.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)061**

Question Serial No.

1484

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 set out the numbers of pig farms and chicken farms currently in operation, as well as their sizes and distribution. 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, licensed rearing capacity and distribution 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: 28 February 2012

**Table: Area, rearing capacity and distribution of licensed livestock farms**

**Pig Farm**

	<b>Licensed Area (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Licensed Capacity (Nos.)</b>	<b>District</b>
1	691.19	500	North
2	1 611.16	950	North
3	2 407.85	2 000	North
4	4 953.09	4 000	North
5	557.91	800	North
6	1 280.91	600	North
7	4 248.04	3 000	Yuen Long
8	388.79	350	Sai Kung
9	706.90	1 000	Yuen Long
10	1 142.90	600	Yuen Long
11	5 085.70	1 500	Yuen Long
12	3 130.14	1 500	Yuen Long
13	938.49	850	Yuen Long
14	1 864.27	600	Yuen Long
15	2 594.17	2 000	Yuen Long
16	3 914.32	3 000	Yuen Long
17	2 640.33	2 600	Yuen Long
18	2 601.06	2 000	Yuen Long
19	2 146.27	1 600	Yuen Long
20	384.65	300	Yuen Long
21	2 006.52	1 000	Yuen Long
22	1 725.58	1 900	Yuen Long
23	838.59	1 500	Yuen Long
24	1 709.24	1 500	Yuen Long

	<b>Licensed Area (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Licensed Capacity (Nos.)</b>	<b>District</b>
25	1 612.44	1 000	Yuen Long
26	2 960.03	3 500	Yuen Long
27	1 327.53	1 000	Yuen Long
28	2 100.65	2 000	Yuen Long
29	3 699.22	1 800	Yuen Long
30	6 345.66	6 000	Yuen Long
31	4 524.78	2 600	Yuen Long
32	3 458.94	2 500	Yuen Long
33	1 374.87	1 200	Yuen Long
34	1 239.02	1 500	North
35	2 860.03	1 500	Yuen Long
36	556.96	250	North
37	1 392.30	1 990	Yuen Long
38	626.82	450	Yuen Long
39	1 923.26	1 500	Yuen Long
40	7 108.62	4 000	Yuen Long
41	4 106.13	3 000	Yuen Long
42	3 205.77	2 000	Yuen Long
43	1 180.97	1 200	Yuen Long
<b>Total:</b>	<b>101 172.07</b>	<b>74 640</b>	

**Chicken Farm**

	<b>Licensed Area (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Licensed Capacity (Nos.)</b>	<b>District</b>
1	433.41	10 000	Tuen Mun
2	708.10	18 000	North
3	2 597.37	50 000	Yuen Long
4	387.23	10 000	Yuen Long
5	648.36	20 000	Yuen Long
6	723.86	19 900	Yuen Long
7	974.59	20 000	Yuen Long
8	569.30	25 000	Yuen Long
9	682.16	19 000	Yuen Long
10	2632.84	35 000	Yuen Long
11	775.26	20 000	Yuen Long
12	1 336.34	39 000	Yuen Long
13	2 004.75	41 000	Yuen Long
14	4 518.98	48 000	North
15	4 604.03	102 000	Yuen Long
16	3 226.20	108 000	Yuen Long
17	948.17	18 000	Yuen Long
18	2 623.25	70 000	Yuen Long
19	2 944.67	62 800	Yuen Long
20	1 568.95	38 500	North
21	682.62	26 000	Yuen Long
22	9 091.32	162 300	Yuen Long
23	4 831.83	80 000	Yuen Long
24	1 563.39	48 000	Yuen Long

	<b>Licensed Area (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Licensed Capacity (Nos.)</b>	<b>District</b>
25	1 137.70	48 000	Yuen Long
26	873.34	27 000	North
27	1 610.01	26 000	Yuen Long
28	1 655.73	36 000	Yuen Long
29	1 250.84	42 000	Yuen Long
30	1 067.54	31 000	Yuen Long
<b>Total:</b>	<b>58 672.14</b>	<b>1 300 500</b>	

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

**FHB(FE)062**

Question Serial No.

1812

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 matters on stray animals, please provide the following information:

- (a) Please set out the respective number of stray animals caught in the past 3 years (i.e. 2009-10 to 2011-12) by species and the methods employed by the Government to handle stray animals; and
- (b) Please set out the details of the enhanced animal management programmes. What is the estimated decrease in the number of stray animals after implementing the programmes?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

- (a) The number and species of stray animals caught by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in 2009, 2010 and 2011 are as follows:

Calendar Year	Stray Animals Caught		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2009	7 850	4 570	1 361
2010	6 519	3 907	411
2011	5 800	3 557	331

\* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

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 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 cannot be re-homed by animal welfare organisations, will be euthanised.

Stray cattle caught by AFCD will also be kept in AFCD animal holding facilities and the public will be notified by gazette. If the cattle are not claimed by their owners within seven days of notice, suitable arrangements will be made for the cattle, including releasing to a suitable location if the cattle is healthy and of an acceptable temperament, or disposal by euthanasia if the animal is considered not suitable for release on health or other considerations. In addition, AFCD has introduced a "Trap-Neuter-Relocation" pilot programme for stray cattle in Lantau and Sai Kung and commissioned a

territory-wide population survey of stray cattle with a view to better managing the stray cattle population in the long run. A new dedicated cattle team has recently been established to implement the new stray cattle management strategy and to respond to related complaints in a timely manner.

- (b) In 2012-13, AFCD will continue its effort in pursuing various enhanced measures to manage animals and promote animal welfare. These include (a) implementing a strengthened education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (b) devising codes of practices for the proper trading and keeping of pets and other animals; (c) stepping up enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant animal laws; (d) improving the handling of animal cruelty reports or complaints through the recently established Animal Welfare Task Group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; (e) strengthening collaboration with and provision of technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations in re-homing of animals and conducting activities relating to animal welfare and management; (f) providing technical support and assistance to the relevant animal welfare organisations in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the “Trap-Neuter-Return” trial scheme for dogs; and (g) setting up a dedicated cattle team to implement a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle population in collaboration with relevant animal welfare organisations and local communities. Besides, AFCD will continue to explore further enhanced measures for animal management and promotion of animal welfare.

An additional provision of \$4.9 million, including resources for two time-limited posts, namely one Field Officer II and one Field Assistant, will be allocated for the implementation of the above enhanced measures in 2012-13.

As a result of the concerted effort of AFCD and animal welfare organisations, there has been a modest decrease in the number of stray animals caught in the last few years. We expect this trend to continue following the implementation of the above measures.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)063**

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Question Serial No.

1813

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 number and species of animals without quarantine that were imported illegally for sale in the past 2 years (i.e. 2010-11 and 2011-12). How were these animals imported?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The number of illegally imported animals seized by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in 2010 and 2011 is as follows:

Calendar Year	Dogs		Cats		Birds		Other Animals*		Total	
	Airport	Boundary Control Points	Airport	Boundary Control Points	Airport	Boundary Control Points	Airport	Boundary Control Points	Airport	Boundary Control Points
2010	1	23	0	3	1	6	1 465	19	1 467	51
2011	3	11	0	5	0	1 088	1 231	23	1 234	1 127

\* Including turtles, snakes, lizards, rabbits, hedgehogs, squirrels and rats.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 28 February 2012



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

**FHB(FE)064**

Question Serial No.

1908

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 financial position of the Fisheries Development Loan Fund under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in 2011 and what is the current balance? How many applications did the Fund receive in 2011? How many loans were granted? Please give an account of the loan amount, interest, purpose of loan, and terms of loan involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

As at end 2011, the Fisheries Development Loan Fund had 24 outstanding loans involving a total of \$73.9 million issued and an amount of \$8.7 million to be repaid by borrowers, and an amount of \$279.1 million was available for application. No applications for new loans were received in 2011.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 28 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)065**

Question Serial No.

1909

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 financial position of the Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund under the Fish Marketing Organization in 2011 and what is the current balance? How many applications did the Fund receive in 2011? How many loans were granted? Please give an account of the loan amount, interest, purpose of loan, and terms of loan involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

As at end 2011, the Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund (FMOLF) had 779 outstanding loans involving a total of \$89.6 million issued and an amount of \$67.9 million to be repaid by borrowers, and an amount of \$75.1 million was available for application.

In 2011, the loan fund received 665 applications, of which 664 applications with a total loan amount of \$74.0 million were approved. Among the approved cases, 659 loans amounting to \$73.1 million were issued under the Fishing Moratorium Loan Scheme of FMOLF to assist affected fishermen to tide over the fishing moratorium and to prepare for resumption of fishing after the moratorium. The interest rate for such loans was 2% per annum. The remaining five loans, amounting to \$0.9 million, were issued as general loan under FMOLF to fishermen for the repair or replacement of fishing vessel, gear and equipment, and the interest rate was 2.83% per annum.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)066**

Question Serial No.

1910

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 work of dead bird carcasses processing, please provide the following information:

- (a) the number of reports received in each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2009-10 to 2011-12) regarding the discovery of dead bird carcasses; and
- (b) the respective number of dead bird carcasses collected by the Department and samples of such carcasses tested in each of the past 3 years, as well as the results of such tests.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

- (a) The number of reports received regarding the discovery of bird carcasses for the past 3 years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of reports received
2009	15 503
2010	9 141
2011	10 617

- (b) The number of bird carcasses collected and tested, and the test results for the past 3 years are as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of bird carcasses collected	Number of bird carcasses tested	Number of carcasses tested positive of H5N1
2009	13 933	8 673	17
2010	8 467	5 248	2
2011	9 804	5 508	10

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 28 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)067**

Question Serial No.

1911

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 2012-13, what are the Administration's estimated provision and manpower for the publicity and prevention of avian flu?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The estimated expenditure in 2012-13 for the monitoring, prevention and control of avian influenza as well as related publicity work is \$38 million. A total of 43 officers in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department are involved in this area of work.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 29 February 2012

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

**FHB(FE)068**

Question Serial No.

0196

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 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12? What is the current staff establishment? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower in 2012-13?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-Yan, Tommy

Reply:

The expenditure of the Food Safety Laboratory (FSL) under the Government Laboratory was \$23 million for 2009-10 and \$25 million for 2010-11. The estimated expenditure for 2011-12 is \$29 million. The current staff establishment of the FSL consists of 30 professional and technical officers. The estimated expenditure for 2012-13 is \$33 million with no change in staff establishment.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters: Dr LAU Chau-ming

Post Title: Government Chemist

Date: 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)069**

Question Serial No.

0197

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, please provide the following information:

- (a) the scope of food testing and the number of samples outsourced in the past two years (i.e. 2009-10 to 2010-11) and the expected to be outsourced in 2011-2012 and 2012-13, as well as the respective ratio of outsourcing for these years.
- (b) the expenditure incurred in the past two years (i.e. 2009-10 to 2010-11) and the estimated expenditure to be incurred in 2011-12 and 2012-13 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 two years (i.e. 2009-10 to 2010-11) and the estimated cost of testing after outsourcing in 2011-2012 and 2012-13.
- (d) the manpower and expenditure involved for supervising and spot-checking the outsourcing work in 2010-11 and the estimated manpower and expenditure for such purposes in 2011-12.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

- (a) The actual number of samples outsourced in 2009-10 and 2010-11 was 7 400 and 12 000 respectively. Estimated number for 2011-12 and 2012-13 is 12 800 and 13 000 respectively. The required information is provided in the table below:

	<b>Number of food tests (number of samples involved)</b>	<b>Outsourced Food Tests/ Government Laboratory's Routine Food Testing Work</b>	<b>Scope of outsourcing</b>
2009-10	79 000 (7 400 samples)	50%	sulphur dioxide, preservatives, trace metals, pesticide residues

	<b>Number of food tests (number of samples involved)</b>	<b>Outsourced Food Tests/ Government Laboratory's Routine Food Testing Work</b>	<b>Scope of outsourcing</b>
2010-11	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	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
2012-13	119 000 (13 000 samples)	70%	preservatives, sulphur dioxide, boric acid, propionic acid, nitrate and nitrite, colouring matter, trace metals, pesticide residues, veterinary drugs residues, other food contaminants

- (b) The actual expenditure on outsourcing of food testing involved in 2009-10 and 2010-11 was \$7 million and \$9 million respectively. Estimated expenditure for 2011-12 and 2012-13 is \$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 annual expenditure of \$4.1 million for 2010-11 and an estimated expenditure of \$4.4 million for 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Dr LAU Chau-ming

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)070**

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

Question Serial No.

0200

Programme: (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What is the respective number of food samples tested for regulatory compliance in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2009 to 2011) and the anticipated number for 2012?

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 2009, 2010 and 2011 and the estimated number for 2012 are as follows:

2009	2010	2011	2012
175 761 tests (29 294 samples)	209 214 tests (30 640 samples)	191 697 tests (30 053 samples)	175 000 tests (30 000 samples)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Dr LAU Chau-ming

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Government Chemist

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 1.3.2012



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

**FHB(FE)071**

Question Serial No.

0792

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 is the number of private testing laboratories that undertook / will undertake outsourced food testing work in 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

In 2011-12, four local private laboratories were granted contracts for outsourced food testing work. In 2012-13, the Government Laboratory will continue to conduct tender exercises to invite interested private testing laboratories to bid the outsourcing contracts for food testing work.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      Dr LAU Chau-ming

Post Title                      Government Chemist

Date                              29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)072**

Question Serial No.

0793

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 regards the outsourcing of food testing work to private testing laboratories, what is the total expenditure to be involved in 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

The estimated expenditure on outsourcing of food testing to be involved in 2011-12 and 2012-13 is \$12 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      Dr LAU Chau-ming

Post Title                      Government Chemist

Date                              1.3.2012

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

**FHB(FE)073**

Question Serial No.

0180

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 location of public columbarium facilities under construction and planning, the number of niches to be provided, the construction costs, the work progress, the estimated completion dates and the service operators.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

Details about the public columbarium facilities under construction are set out as follows:

<b>Location</b>	<b>No. of Niches to be Provided</b>	<b>Estimated Cost (\$ million)</b>	<b>Work Progress/ Estimated Completion Date</b>	<b>Service Operator</b>
Wo Hop Shek Cemetery*	43 710	629.5	On schedule for completion in mid 2012	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Diamond Hill Columbarium	1 540	0.76	On schedule for completion in early 2012	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Cheung Chau Cemetery	990	10.76	Construction works will commence in early 2013 for completion by the end of 2013	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

\*A Garden of Remembrance will also be constructed under the project.

To increase the supply of public niches, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and has identified 24 potential sites in 18 districts in Hong Kong for columbarium development. The above-mentioned sites in the Diamond Hill Columbarium and Cheung Chau Cemetery are two of the 24 potential sites. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on

the remaining sites and will consult the relevant District Councils before the sites are confirmed for development.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)074**

Question Serial No.

0181

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:

For the various cremation and burial facilities, including public cemeteries, crematoria and columbaria, under the management of the Department, please set out in tabular form the annual handling capacity of each crematorium as well as the number of allocated and unallocated burial spaces / niches at each public cemetery and columbarium, and the respective number of applicants on the waiting list for the above facilities at present.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

(a) The number of cremation sessions provided by each crematorium in 2011 was:

<b>Name of Crematorium</b>	<b>No. of Cremation Sessions Provided in 2011</b>
Cape Collinson	14 514
Diamond Hill	9 048
Kwai Chung	8 193
Fu Shan	7 090
Cheung Chau	2 086
Wo Hop Shek (Note 1)	0
<b>Total :</b>	<b>40 931</b>

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

(b) The number of allocated and unallocated burial spaces at each public cemetery as at 31.12.2011 were as follows:

Name of Cemetery	No. of coffin burial spaces			No. of urn burial spaces		
	Allocated	Unallocated	Total	Allocated	Unallocated	Total
Wo Hop Shek	6 267	3 091	9 358	83 068	40 669	123 737
Sandy Ridge	2 919	2 091	5 010	31 836	6 063	37 899
Cheung Chau	617	643	1 260	12 066	1 396	13 462
Tai O	100	320	420	94	180	274
Lai Chi Yuen	142	134	276	214	118	332
Diamond Hill Urn Cemetery	-	-	-	52 778	-	52 778
<b>Total:</b>	<b>10 045</b>	<b>6 279</b>	<b>16 324</b>	<b>180 056</b>	<b>48 426</b>	<b>228 482</b>

There is no waiting list as unallocated burial spaces are still available.

- (c) The total number of niches, the number of niches for re-allocation, the number of unallocated niches, and the number of applicants on the waiting list for re-allocated niches as at 31.12.2011 were:

<b>Name of Columbaria</b>	<b>Total no. of niches</b>	<b>No. of niches for re-allocation</b>	<b>No. of unallocated niches</b>	<b>No. of applicants on the waiting list for re-allocated niches</b>
Cape Collinson	61 615	19	-	3 425
Diamond Hill	61 811	18	-	7 823
Wo Hop Shek	22 290	12	-	2 226
Fu Shan	9 625	6	-	773
Kwai Chung	9 276	10	-	3 039
Cheung Chau	2 335	3	172	-
Lamma	490	5	424	-
Peng Chau	490	2	194	-
<b>Total:</b>	<b>167 932</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>790</b>	

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)075**

Question Serial No.

0579

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 advise on the details of the plans / projects and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

On public crematorium facilities, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is upgrading the 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 mid 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 mid 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 2011 to 52 800.

On public columbarium facilities, the construction of a new public columbarium with 43 710 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. The Department is also constructing 1 540 new niches in the Diamond Hill Columbarium at an estimated cost of \$0.76 million, and will construct 990 new niches in the Cheung Chau Cemetery at an estimated cost of \$10.76 million in 2013. The construction works in Diamond Hill Columbarium will be completed in early 2012 whereas the construction works in Cheung Chau Cemetery will be completed in late 2013. To increase the supply of public niches, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and has identified 24 potential sites in 18 districts in Hong Kong for columbarium development. The above-mentioned sites in the Diamond Hill Columbarium and Cheung Chau Cemetery are two of the 24 potential sites. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on the remaining sites and will consult the relevant District Councils before the sites are confirmed for development.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 29.2.2012

**Session 18 FHB(FE)**



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

**FHB(FE)076**

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:

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, as well as the success rate of appeals in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

Year	2009	2010	2011
Number of applications for issue of new liquor licence (including club liquor licence)	874	956	930
Average time taken for processing an application	38 days	37 days	33 days
Number of appeals lodged with Municipal Services Appeals Board (MSAB)	14	13	14
Average time taken for listing an appeal for hearing	67 days	41 days	62 days
Success rate of appeals (i.e. appeals allowed by MSAB)	50%	23%	38%

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)077**

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:

Please advise on the average time taken for processing a restaurant licence application and a provisional restaurant licence application in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2009 to 2011, the average processing time for issuing a full restaurant licence was 168, 166 and 167 working days respectively, while that for issuing a provisional restaurant licence was 42 working days in both 2009 and 2010, and 57<sup>Note</sup> working days in 2011.

(Note : Since 2011, the Buildings Department has implemented a Minor Works Control System in food business licence applications whereby applicants are required to submit copies of minor works certificates to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department before provisional restaurant licences are issued. The additional requirement has resulted in longer processing time.)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)078**

Question Serial No.

0186

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 2009, 2010 and 2011 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	2009	2010	2011
Number of applications for outside seating accommodation	88	73	76
Average time taken for processing an application <sup>Note</sup>	11 months	17 months	14 months
Number of applications approved	23	32	23
Number of applications rejected	31	17	19
Number of applications withdrawn/abandoned	34	18	41
Number of appeals lodged	0	0	0

(Note: The processing time for an application is contingent upon the time spent by the applicant in complying with the relevant licensing requirements, settling objections raised by the public or other departments concerned and addressing 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 29.2.2012

**Session 18 FHB(FE)**

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

**FHB(FE)079**

Question Serial No.

0187

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 applications approved in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively. Please also advise on the manpower and expenditure required for processing these applications.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2009, 2010 and 2011, there were 569, 639 and 795 applications respectively for alteration to the approved layout of licensed restaurants. The corresponding number of approvals was 749<sup>Note</sup>, 520 and 629. Applications for alteration to the approved layout of licensed restaurants are handled by the three licensing offices and 19 district environmental hygiene offices as part of their licensing-related duties. There is no separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved in handling such applications.

(Note: Alteration applications received in one year may be carried forward with the processing 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 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)080**

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:

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 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2009, 2010 and 2011, there were 701, 766 and 618 applications respectively for transfer of restaurant licences, of which 5, 17 and 5 were withdrawn respectively. The average time for processing the applications in 2009, 2010 and 2011 was 44, 40 and 41 working days respectively.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)081**

Question Serial No.

0189

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 appeal cases against food business licence suspension in 2011, and the number of cases allowed. Of the appeal cases against licence suspension, what was the average, longest and shortest period of suspension?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2011, there were 35 appeal cases against food business licence suspension, of which 30 cases were heard, three withdrawn and two cases are pending hearing. Of the cases heard, the licence of eight cases were suspended by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) for 14 days and 22 cases for seven days. The Licensing Appeals Board (LIAB) upheld the Department's suspension decision in 20 cases, shortened the suspension period in five cases, and has yet to rule on the remaining five cases. For the 25 cases with ruling made by LIAB, the average suspension period after appeal was eight days, with the longest period being 14 days and the shortest three.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 1.3.2012

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

**FHB(FE)082**

Question Serial No.

0190

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, 2010 and 2011 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 1.3.2012

**Vacancy Rate of On-street Hawker Fixed Pitches  
(other than Cooked Food Hawkers)**

District	2009 (as at 31.12.2009)			2010 (as at 31.12.2010)			2011 (as at 31.12.2011)		
	No. of Occupied Fixed Pitches	No. of Vacant Pitches*	Vacancy Rate	No. of Occupied Fixed Pitches	No. of Vacant Pitches*	Vacancy Rate	No. of Occupied Fixed Pitches	No. of Vacant Pitches*	Vacancy Rate
	(a)	(b)	((b)/(a)+(b))	(a)	(b)	((b)/(a)+(b))	(a)	(b)	((b)/(a)+(b))
Central & Western	665	89	12%	675	0	0%	664	0	0%
Eastern	486	62	11%	477	0	0%	470	0	0%
Southern	34	6	15%	34	0	0%	34	0	0%
Wan Chai	480	25	5%	474	0	0%	472	0	0%
Islands	1	0	0%	1	0	0%	1	0	0%
Yau Tsim Mong	2 602	18	0.7%	2 599	8	0.3%	2 563	0	0%
Sham Shui Po	1 019	376	27%	1 127	0	0%	1 111	0	0%
Kowloon City	122	105	46%	184	25	12%	132	0	0%
Wong Tai Sin	25	18	42%	22	0	0%	20	0	0%
Kwun Tong	95	0	0%	90	0	0%	85	0	0%
Kwai Tsing	18	0	0%	17	0	0%	16	0	0%
Tsuen Wan	25	0	0%	22	6	21%	21	0	0%
Tuen Mum	8	0	0%	8	0	0%	8	0	0%
Yuen Long	24	0	0%	21	2	9%	19	0	0%
North	8	0	0%	8	0	0%	8	0	0%
Tai Po	11	0	0%	11	0	0%	8	0	0%
Sha Tin	3	0	0%	3	0	0%	3	0	0%
Sai Kung	3	0	0%	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>	<b>5 638</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

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



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

**FHB(FE)083**

Question Serial No.

0191

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 2009 to 2011).

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2009 – 2011, the number of Mainland processing plants approved for supplying chilled pork to Hong Kong was four, four and five respectively. The quantity of Mainland chilled pork imported into Hong Kong was about 15 500 tonnes, 18 300 tonnes and 16 600 tonnes respectively.

According to the Census and Statistics Department, the average import price of Mainland chilled pork in 2009 – 2011 was \$12.6, \$13.2 and \$13.5 per catty respectively.

The number of inspections to Mainland chilled pork processing plants in 2009 – 2011 was five, four and five respectively.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)084**

Question Serial No.

0192

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 live poultry stalls in operation in each of the public markets under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in 2010 and 2011 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 29.2.2012

Serial No.	Name of Market	Number of live poultry stalls as at	
		end-2010	end-2011
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	2	2
11.	Lai Wan Market	1	1
12.	Lockhart Road Market	3	3
13.	Luen Wo Hui Market	2	2
14.	Ngau Chi Wan Market	1	1
15.	Ngau Tau Kok Market	3	3
16.	North Kwai Chung Market	1	1
17.	Pei Ho Street Market	5	5
18.	Po On Road Market	3	3
19.	Quarry Bay Market	1	1
20.	San Hui Market	2	2
21.	Sha Tin Market	2	2
22.	Shek Wu Hui Market	2	2
23.	Sheung Fung Street Market	1	1
24.	Sheung Wan Market	7	7

25.	Shui Wo Street Market	1	1
26.	Tai Kiu Market	2	2
27.	Tai Kok Tsui Market	1	1
28.	Tai Po Hui Market	5	5
29.	Tai Shing Street Market	2	2
30.	Tai Wai Market	2	2
31.	Tang Lung Chau Market	1	1
32.	To Kwa Wan Market	1	1
33.	Tsuen Wan Market	3	3
34.	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	4	4
35.	Tung Yick Market	3	3
36.	Wing Fong Street Market	1	1
37.	Yan Oi Market	2	2
38.	Yau Ma Tei Market	2	2
39.	Yeung Uk Road Market	5	5
	Total:	86	86

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

**FHB(FE)085**

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

Question Serial No.

0193

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 list by farm types the number of Mainland farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong and the number of inspections conducted to these farms in 2010 and 2011 respectively. Please advise on the estimated number of inspections to be conducted in 2012, as well as the expenditure and manpower required for 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The type and number of registered Mainland farms exporting live food animals to Hong Kong in 2010 and 2011 are tabulated as follows-

	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Goat Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms
No. of Registered Farms in 2010	89	298	75	5	60
No. of Registered Farms in 2011	63	244	34	2	61

In 2010 and 2011, a total of 53 and 52 Mainland farms were inspected respectively. For 2012, 50 farm inspections are planned. The breakdown of farms inspected in 2010 and 2011 by type is tabulated as follows-

	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms
No. of Inspections in 2010	41	8	3	1
No. of Inspections in 2011	31	12	5	4

Farm inspections are carried out by inspection teams comprising veterinary officers, field officers and research officers. The actual expenditure on Mainland and overseas farm inspections in 2010-11 was \$6.0 million while the estimated expenditure in 2011-12 is about \$6.6 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)086**

Question Serial No.

0194

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 each of the past three years (i.e. from 2009 to 2011) and in 2012 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety has an inspection team comprising three veterinary officers, eight field officers and one research officer, which is responsible for the inspection of food animal farms and fish farms outside Hong Kong. The team inspected 12, 18 and 18 Mainland fish farms in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively, and plans to inspect 18 farms in 2012. The inspections of fish farms in 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 cost \$0.5 million, \$0.6 million and \$0.6 million respectively. The estimated expenditure for 2012-13 is about \$0.6 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)087**

Question Serial No.

0195

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 usage rate of the on-line Licence Application Tracking Facility (ATF) in respect of food business licences in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2009 to 2011), and the usage rate of the on-line licence services for applications for liquor licences since the introduction of the Liquor Licence Processing System on 1 August 2010.

Please also advise on the estimated system development and operation costs required for extending the on-line licence application services to food business licence or other relevant endorsement applications, and the time frame for extending the services.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2009, 2010 and 2011, 59%, 58% and 51% respectively of the applicants for food business-related licences / their authorised persons made use of the on-line Application Tracking Facility (ATF) system to monitor the progress of their applications. In 2010 and 2011, 31% and 30% respectively of liquor and club liquor licence applicants or their authorised persons made use of on-line services on the Liquor Licence Processing System. We are in the process of extending the on-line licence application services to food business licences, which will be rolled out in early 2013 tentatively. The system development work is taken up by the in-house IT Division of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. There is no breakdown on the expenditure involved.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012



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

**FHB(FE)088**

Question Serial No.

0199

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 in conducting food surveillance by the Centre for Food Safety in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2009-10 to 2011-12) and the estimated provision and manpower required for 2012-13.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The actual expenditure on food surveillance in 2009-10 and 2010-11 was \$48.7 million and \$51.4 million respectively. Estimated expenditure for 2011-12 and 2012-13 is \$54.4 million and \$56.1 million respectively.

The manpower establishment of the Centre for Food Safety in carrying out the above work in 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 was 99, 102 and 110 respectively, and the estimated manpower provision for 2012-13 is 115.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)089**

Question Serial No.

0201

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 2010 and 31 December 2011:

- (a) number of stalls let out;
- (b) number of vacant stalls;
- (c) total number of stalls;
- (d) vacancy rate;
- (e) highest stall rental;
- (f) lowest stall rental;
- (g) average stall rental; and
- (h) median rent.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The data sought are as follows –

		<u>Position as at</u>	
		<u>31.12.2010</u>	<u>31.12.2011</u>
1.	Number of stalls let out	11 821	12 212
2.	Number of vacant stalls	2 274 (including 1 062 stalls frozen)#	1 754 (including 871 stalls frozen)#
3.	Total number of stalls	14 095	13 966
4.	Vacancy rate	16.13%	12.56%
5.	Highest monthly stall rental	\$65,350	\$65,350
6.	Lowest monthly stall rental	\$10.34	\$10.34
7.	Average monthly stall rental	\$2,819.28	\$2,791.86
8.	Median monthly rent	\$1,810	\$1,800

# In those markets which will be closed shortly, and those which will undergo stall consolidation or improvement works, vacant stalls are frozen so that they would not be let out.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

**Session 18 FHB(FE)**

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

**FHB(FE)090**

Question Serial No.

0221

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 enhancing law enforcement at hawker areas with fixed pitches to ensure compliance and to contain obstruction and fire safety risk in 2012-13, please provide details, including the specific measures to be taken, the manpower arrangement and the expenditure required.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In the wake of the fire at the hawker stalls at Fa Yuen Street on 30 November last year, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has strengthened law enforcement actions against non-compliance with the relevant legislation and licensing conditions in all hawker areas with a large number of hawker stalls. Such actions are targeted at the following irregularities to reduce fire risks posed by hawker stalls:

- (1) stall canopies made of or covered with combustible materials;
- (2) overnight storage of goods outside the approved stall areas;
- (3) obstruction of passageways; and
- (4) stall subletting.

The Department will deploy its existing staff to undertake enhanced enforcement actions.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)091**

Question Serial No.

0222

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 enhancing the viability of public markets by improving management, upgrading facilities, providing a more flexible mix of trade, and carrying out promotional activities in 2012-13, please provide details, including the specific measures to be taken, the manpower arrangement and the expenditure required. Please also advise on whether specific markets will be given priority in implementing these measures and the timetable for taking forward these measures.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2012-13, in addition to regular and daily management of markets, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will carry out improvement works in five markets, namely, Hung Shui Kiu Temporary Market, On Ching Road Flower Market, Tai Wai Market, Tsuen King Circuit Market and Cheung Chau Market. The estimated cost of these improvement works is \$32.08 million. The works include upgrading of fire services facilities, provision of barrier free access, improvement of ventilation, drainage and lighting systems, and refurbishment of toilets. The improvement works for Hung Shui Kiu Temporary Market, On Ching Road Flower Market and Tsuen King Circuit Market are tentatively scheduled for completion by early 2013, and those for Tai Wai Market and Cheung Chau Market are under planning.

At the same time, as an on-going initiative, the Department will continue to conduct promotional activities to attract patronage in its public markets. These include festive celebration activities, thematic exhibitions and workshops, display of multi-language recipes as well as publication of booklets and quarterly newsletters to provide updated market information. The estimated cost of these promotional activities is \$4 million.

The Department will continue to let out vacant stalls at reduced upset auction prices and introduce more service trade stalls to enhance the occupancy rates of public markets.

The above measures will be undertaken by existing staff. No additional manpower and resources will be required.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Name in block letters Clement LEUNG  
Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Date 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)092**

Question Serial No.

1402

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 reasons why the estimated expenditure per tonne of refuse collected in 2012 is higher than that in 2011, and whether there are any plans in 2012-13 to enhance recycling and recovery so as to reduce the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) Waste collection service is provided by both in-house and contractor staff. The increase in recurrent expenditure per tonne of refuse collected from \$198 in 2010-11 to an estimate of \$208 in 2011-12 is mainly due to the increase in service contract prices and reduction in volume of refuse collected.
- (b) In 2012-13, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will continue to support the Waste Reduction Framework Plan (1998-2007) and the Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014) of the Environmental Protection Department in reducing and recycling domestic waste generated and in enhancing public awareness of the need to preserve the environment. The Department will continue to closely monitor and review the collection frequencies and the number of recyclable collection points set up in public places.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 1.3.2012

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

**FHB(FE)093**

Question Serial No.

1675

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) In respect of the work on “ensuring pre-packaged food for sale is properly labelled”, please advise on the quantities of imported and locally produced pre-packaged food products, methods of label checking of such products, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved for 2011-12.
- (b) Regarding the indicator for labels checked by the Department, the actual number for the current year is 55 180. Please advise on the types of food products subjected to label checking in the same year. Please also advise on the types and quantities of food products in non-compliant cases of labelling in the previous year.
- (c) Please advise on the details of the Department’s effort to “continue to strengthen the promotional activities on nutrition labelling”, and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply:

- (a) According to the surveys conducted by an independent consultant commissioned by the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) from October 2009 to January 2010 and in March 2010, it was estimated that there were a total of 73 000 prepackaged food products, including both imported and locally produced ones, in the market that would be regulated by the Nutrition Labelling Scheme.

All prepackaged foods in Hong Kong must comply with the general food labelling<sup>1</sup> and nutrition labelling requirements<sup>2</sup> as laid down in the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (Cap. 132W). CFS conducts visual inspection and chemical analysis to ascertain whether the labels comply with the relevant requirements. A team of 12 persons consisting of health inspectors and supporting staff is responsible for inspections and enforcement actions in respect of the relevant labelling requirements in 2011-12. The total annual salary of the 12 posts for 2011-12 is about \$ 5.24 million.

- (b) In 2011, 55 180 prepackaged food products were checked. They included bakery and cereal products (6 282), snacks (6 494), dairy products (6 297), drinks (6 444), aquatic products (5 910), meat products (6 095), prepackaged fruits and vegetables (5 891), sauces (6 265) and others (5 502).

<sup>1</sup> In terms of general food labelling, prepackaged foods are required to be legibly marked or labelled with the following information in either English or Chinese language or in both languages, namely: (i) name of food, (ii) list of ingredients including allergen declaration, (iii) indication of “best before” or “use by” date, (iv) statement of special condition for storage or instructions for use, (v) name and address of manufacturer or packer, and (vi) count, weight or volume.

<sup>2</sup> In terms of nutrition labelling, the Nutrition Labelling Scheme requires all prepackaged foods to label the content of energy plus seven nutrients, namely: (i) protein, (ii) carbohydrates, (iii) total fat, (iv) saturated fat, (v) trans fat, (vi) sodium and (vii) sugars, as well as any nutrient for which a claim is made, and regulates nutrition claims.

In 2010, there were 162 non-compliant cases (including 66 cases in breach of the general labelling and 96 cases in breach of the nutrition labelling requirements) covering food items consisting of sauces (15), drinks (16), snacks (36), bakery and cereal products (19) and others (76).

(c) Since the passage of the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment: Requirements for Nutrition Labelling and Nutrition Claim) Regulation 2008 by the Legislative Council in mid-2008, CFS had launched a three-year Publicity and Education Campaign on promoting nutrition labelling, 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).

To sustain the efforts, CFS has launched another two-year enhanced education and publicity programme on nutrition labelling since July 2011. CFS will continue to work with the education sector and community organisations in promoting the use of nutrition information on the labels among the general public and students through the following programmes -

- (i) during the academic year 2010/11, CFS and the Education Bureau jointly organised the “Live it, Use it” Nutrition Labelling Promotion Award Scheme (the Award Scheme). Under the Award Scheme, a total of 35 teams from 21 secondary schools involving 256 students took part in various creative activities. An award presentation ceremony cum Food Safety Day was held in July 2011. The Award Scheme for the academic year 2011/12 has started since September 2011; and
- (ii) building on the model of the Award Scheme, another scheme targeting at users of community organisations service, namely the “Live it, Use it” Nutrition Labelling Fun Shopping Award Scheme, supported by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, has been launched since December 2011.

To promote the wider application of the nutrition information in our daily life, CFS has also launched a mobile application “Nutrition Calculator” (“NuCal”) in October 2011. With “NuCal”, one can set up a personal database on food items for recording nutrition information of their favourite prepackaged food items. The estimated level of nutrient intake can be worked out by inputting the amount of food consumed. Users may then compare it with the upper limit of the daily intake and make necessary adjustments as appropriate. As at 15 February 2012, “NuCal” had recorded about 28 000 downloads.

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

1.3.2012  
\_\_\_\_\_



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

**FHB(FE)094**

Question Serial No.

1676

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:

- (a) In 2011-12, a total of 120 738 raids were conducted by Hawker Control Teams (HCT) of the Department. Please advise on the ten locations with the highest number of HCT operations, the number of prosecutions initiated, as well as the amount of fines imposed in the past year.
- (b) The Department plans to “enhance law enforcement at hawker areas with fixed pitches” in 2012-13. In this connection, please advise on the details of such plans, the target locations and the estimated number of inspections.

Asked by: Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

- (a) Raiding operations are planned by Hawker Control Teams (HCT) having regard to the prevailing situation in the districts. The frequency of raids and actual locations where enforcement actions are taken would vary from time to time. In 2011, 35 280 prosecutions were instituted by HCT and the level of fines imposed by the court ranged from \$100 to \$4,000.
- (b) In the wake of the fire at the hawker stalls at Fa Yuen Street on 30 November last year, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has strengthened law enforcement actions against non-compliance with the relevant legislation and licensing conditions in hawker areas with a large number of hawker stalls. Such actions are targeted at the following irregularities to reduce fire risks posed by hawker stalls:
  - (1) stall canopies made of or covered with combustible materials;
  - (2) overnight storage of commodities outside the approved stall areas;
  - (3) obstruction of passageways; and
  - (4) stall subletting.

Hawker areas with a large number of hawker stalls are mainly located in Eastern, Central and Western, Wanchai, Yau Tsim Mong, Sham Shui Po and Kowloon City Districts. They are subject to inspection by HCT at least once daily. A list of locations of these hawker stalls is at Annex.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 1.3.2012

Location	District
Chun Yeung Street	Eastern
Marble Street	
Kam Wa Street	
Tai Tak Street	
Mong Lung Street	
Pottinger Street	Central and Western
Graham Street	
Gage Street	
Li Yuen Street East	
Li Yuen Street West	
Peel Street	
Wing Kut Street	
Upper Lascar Row	
Man Wa Lane	
Gresson Street	Wan Chai
Cross Street	
Tai Yuen Street	
Jardine's Crescent	
Reclamation Street	Yau Tsim Mong
Pak Hoi Street	
Saigon Street	
Bowring Street	
Temple Street	
Canton Road (Between Dundas Street and Pitt Street)	
Canton Road (Between Mong Kok Road and Dundas Street)	
Tung Choi Street	

Location	District
Fife Street	
Yin Chong Street	
Ki Lung Street (Between Boundary Street and Portland Street)	
Poplar Street	
Fa Yuen Street	
Nelson Street	
Wing Lung Street	Sham Shui Po
Fat Tseung Street	
Cheung Fat Street	
Fuk Wa Street	
Fuk Wing Street	
Pei Ho Street	
Apliu Street	
Ki Lung Street (Between Nam Cheong Street and Boundary Street)	
Tai Nan Street	
Kweilin Street	
Pau Chung Street	Kowloon City

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

**FHB(FE)095**

Question Serial No.

0043

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 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue the laboratory analysis of the first Total Diet Study in Hong Kong to assess the risks of various food hazards in 2012-13. It has been recently reported that hamburger steak available in some fast food shops was suspected to have been treated with ammonia solution during food processing. In this connection, will the above laboratory analysis cover hamburger steak to safeguard public health effectively? If yes, in what ways will the laboratory results be released?

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

Reply:

Ammonia solution (also known as ammonium hydroxide) is a food additive which can be used as an acidity regulator. The Joint Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations / World Health Organization Expert Committee on Food Additives has previously evaluated the safety of ammonium hydroxide, and concluded that its normal use in food under conditions of good manufacturing practice does not pose a hazard to health.

Total Diet Study (TDS) has been recognised internationally as the most cost effective way to estimate dietary exposures to food chemicals or nutrients for a range of population groups and to assess the health risks of specific chemicals or nutrients. The Study covers more than 130 substances, including persistent organic pollutants, pesticide residues, metallic contaminants, processing contaminants and mycotoxins. Among the food samples taken for the first TDS, 12 samples of hamburger have been included. The whole study will be completed in 2014 and report findings will be released in phases.

As part of the daily routine to ensure food safety, the Centre for Food Safety assesses the impact of different food incidents identified through the food incident surveillance mechanism. Investigation and follow up actions are carried out when appropriate to ensure that food sold is fit for human consumption and comply with safety standards.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 29.2.2012

**Session 18 FHB(FE)**

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

**FHB(FE)096**

Question Serial No.

0044

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:

It is stated by the Department that the actual number of hawker blackspots in 2010 and 2011 was 45 and the estimated number for 2012 will remain at 45. Please inform this Committee of:

- (a) the specific definition of hawker blackspots;
- (b) the reason(s) why the number of hawker blackspots remains unchanged for many years; and
- (c) the specific measures taken by the Department to eliminate hawker blackspots in the past two years.

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

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) & (b) Hawker blackspots are locations where unlicensed hawkers congregate. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) conducts quarterly surveys to identify and update hawker blackspots. Whether a certain location is classified as a hawker blackspot depends on the number of unlicensed hawkers trading at the location at any one time of the day during the surveys.
- (c) The Department has adopted the strategies of mobile patrol and raiding to deter unlicensed hawking. Hawker Control Team (HCT) staff regularly patrol blackspots to disrupt illegal hawking activities and to prevent unlicensed hawkers from taking root at these locations. If these hawkers persist in trading and do not disperse, arrest action would follow. HCT staff also mount raiding operations at blackspots to arrest unlicensed hawkers and seize their goods and equipment to increase deterrent effect.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)097**

Question Serial No.

1056

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 Department will continue to convert designated aqua privies into flushing toilets by phases in 2012-13. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the latest progress of the work as well as the work plan and estimated expenditure for 2012-13.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has been implementing a programme to convert designated aqua privies into flushing toilets by phases since early 2005, at a total estimated cost of \$996.4 million. The conversion of 319 aqua privies has been completed. A total of about 450 aqua privies is expected to be converted into flushing toilets by the end of 2013 when the entire programme is completed.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 1.3.2012

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

**FHB(FE)098**

Question Serial No.

1057

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 2012-13, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will take forward plans and projects to provide more crematorium and columbarium facilities. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the details of the plans and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

On public crematorium facilities, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is upgrading the 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 mid 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 mid 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 2011 to 52 800.

On public columbarium facilities, the construction of a new public columbarium with 43 710 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. The Department is also constructing 1 540 new niches in the Diamond Hill Columbarium at an estimated cost of \$0.76 million, and will construct 990 new niches in the Cheung Chau Cemetery at an estimated cost of \$10.76 million in 2013. The construction works in Diamond Hill Columbarium will be completed in early 2012 whereas the construction works in Cheung Chau Cemetery will be completed in late 2013. To increase the supply of public niches, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and has identified 24 potential sites in 18 districts in Hong Kong for columbarium development. The above-mentioned sites in the Diamond Hill Columbarium and Cheung Chau Cemetery are two of the 24 potential sites. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on the remaining sites and will consult the relevant District Councils before the sites are confirmed for development.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 29.2.2012

**Session 18 FHB(FE)**



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

**FHB(FE)099**

Question Serial No.

1267

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, the Department will continue the laboratory analysis of the first Total Diet Study in Hong Kong to assess the risks of various food hazards. In this connection, please advise on the progress and details of the analysis, as well as the manpower and estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The first Hong Kong Total Diet Study (TDS) was commenced in March 2010 and will be completed in 2014. The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) has commissioned the Chinese University of Hong Kong to carry out the fieldwork of the TDS which includes taking samples and preparing the food samples. The contract value is about \$1.24 million. The fieldwork was completed in February 2011.

Laboratory analysis is performed on over 130 substances, including persistent organic pollutants, pesticide residues, metallic contaminants, processing contaminants and mycotoxins. The laboratory analysis is undertaken by existing staff of CFS and the Government Laboratory. While the whole study will be completed in 2014, study findings will be released in phases. The first report on Dioxins and Dioxin-like Polychlorinated Biphenyls and the second report on Inorganic Arsenic were released to the public in December 2011 and February 2012 respectively.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)100**

Question Serial No.

1268

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, the Department will assist the Food and Health Bureau to prepare legislation to extend the existing import control regime for meat and poultry to cover poultry eggs. In this connection, please advise on the timetable and details of the work, as well as the manpower and estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

At present, the import of meat and poultry is regulated under the Imported Game, Meat and Poultry Regulations (Cap.132AK) and the Import and Export Ordinance (Cap.60). Under Cap. 132AK, no person shall import meat or poultry without an official health certificate which certifies that the meat or poultry concerned is fit for human consumption, or otherwise a prior written permission from a health officer of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will be required. In addition, an import licence is required for importing meat or poultry under Cap. 60.

The Administration intends to extend the current import control regime for meat and poultry to cover poultry eggs in view of the avian influenza health threat posed by eggs from infected poultry. To achieve this policy objective, we are preparing the proposed Food Safety (Importation) Regulation, the Import and Export (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2012 and other consequential amendments (the proposed Regulations), and will table them in the Legislative Council when ready. To allow sufficient time for traders to prepare for the new requirements under the proposed Regulations, it is proposed that a six-month grace period should be allowed. Apart from providing expert advice and support to the drafting of the proposed Regulations, the Department is also preparing an implementation plan and liaising with overseas regulatory authorities and local trade on the proposed new regulatory arrangement. If the proposed Regulations are enacted, the Department will arrange sufficient publicity on the proposed Regulations prior to their commencement. The workload is absorbed by existing staff.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 1.3.2012

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

**FHB(FE)101**

Question Serial No.

1269

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, there will be an increase of 69 posts in the Department in 2012-13. Please inform this Committee of 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 grades of Agricultural Officer, Chemist, Fisheries Officer, Health Inspector, Laboratory Attendant, Science Laboratory Technician and administration support. The total annual salary amounts to \$22 million in 2012-13. The main duties of these posts are to perform food safety regulatory work.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **Clement LEUNG**

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **29.2.2012**

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

**FHB(FE)102**

Question Serial No.

1270

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:

Under this programme, there will be a net decrease of 69 posts in the Department in 2012-13. Please inform this Committee of the reason(s) for the change in the number of posts and whether this will have any impact on the work of the Department.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The posts to be deleted are Workman II grade posts. All are vacant posts with no operational need for retention. The deletion of these 69 posts will not affect the operation of the Department.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **Clement LEUNG**

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **29.2.2012**

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

**FHB(FE)103**

Question Serial No.

2998

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:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13, the Department will enhance law enforcement at hawker areas with fixed pitches to ensure compliance and to contain obstruction and fire safety risk. In this connection, when will the Department formulate a set of clear and coherent guidelines to facilitate better understanding and compliance by traders?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

In the wake of the fire at the hawker stalls at Fa Yuen Street on 30 November last year, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has strengthened law enforcement actions against non-compliance with the relevant legislation and licensing conditions in hawker areas with a large number of hawker stalls. Such actions are targeted at the following irregularities to reduce fire risks posed by hawker stalls:

- (i) stall canopies made of or covered with combustible materials;
- (ii) overnight storage of goods outside the approved stall areas;
- (iii) obstruction of passageways; and
- (iv) stall subletting.

The stall hawkers are obliged to comply with the law and licensing conditions. The primary objectives of the Department's enforcement actions are to ensure environmental hygiene and to reduce fire safety risks. The Department maintains regular dialogue with hawker associations and stall hawkers to address their concerns.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 1.3.2012

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

**FHB(FE)104**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2999

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 each of these markets over the past year; and
- (c) the air-conditioning power consumption of each of these markets over the past year.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The 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 29.2.2012

Annex

Estimated recurrent air-conditioning expenses and power consumption of air-conditioned public markets in 2011-12

No.	Name of Market	Air-conditioning Expenses	Kilowatt Hour
		\$'000	'000
1.	Aldrich Bay Market cum Cooked Food Centre	1,495	901
2.	Ap Lei Chau Market cum Cooked Food Centre	1,491	807
3.	Bowrington Road Market Cooked Food Centre	1,146	620
4.	Centre Street Market cum Cooked Food Centre	772	425
5.	Chai Wan Market cum Cooked Food Centre	2,622	1 610
6.	Hung Hom Market Cooked Food Centre	657	522
7.	Java Road Market Cooked Food Centre	1,349	807
8.	Lei Yue Mun Market	396	283
9.	Lockhart Road Market Cooked Food Centre	1,559	1 024
10.	Luen Wo Hui Market cum Cooked Food Centre	5,613	4 579
11.	Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	524	508
12.	Pei Ho Street Market Cooked Food Centre	972	804
13.	Peng Chau Market	330	269
14.	Queen Street Cooked Food Market	639	426
15.	Sai Wan Ho Market Cooked Food Centre	803	521
16.	Sai Ying Pun Market	1,849	1 086
17.	San Hui Market	3,735	2 959
18.	Sha Tin Market	1,346	1 058
19.	Shek Wu Hui Market cum Cooked Food Centre	5,142	4 281
20.	Sheung Wan Market Cooked Food Centre	2,510	1 660
21.	Smithfield Market Cooked Food Centre	1,418	931
22.	Tai Kiu Market	1,838	1 692
23.	Tai Kok Tsui Market cum Cooked Food Centre	2,371	2 062
24.	Tai Po Hui Market cum Cooked Food Centre	5,710	4 383
25.	Tai Shing Street Market Cooked Food Centre	782	677
26.	To Kwa Wan Market Cooked Food Centre	136	58
27.	Tsing Yi Market	1,466	1 058
28.	Wan Chai Market	955	481
29.	Wong Nai Chung Market Cooked Food Centre	298	194
30.	Yan Oi Market	937	736
31.	Yee On Street Market	562	400
32.	Yue Wan Market cum Cooked Food Centre	5,466	3 353
	Total	56,889	41 175

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

**FHB(FE)105**

Question Serial No.

3000

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 \$36.08 million has been earmarked in 2012-13 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 five 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 \$32.08 million.
  - 2. To continue to identify suitable vacant market stalls for conversion into service trade, bakery 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.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 29.2.2012



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

**FHB(FE)106**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

3001

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 staff resources and expenditure involved for each of these markets.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) As at 31 December 2011, there were five public markets with an occupancy rate of less than 50%, one of which was pending closure, one was undergoing consolidation from two storeys into one, another one was reserved for resiting of hawkers and the remaining two 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 \_\_\_\_\_ **29.2.2012**

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

**FHB(FE)107**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1334

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 2012-13 will be increased by 8.4%. It is noted however that there will be a net decrease of 69 posts. The Department indicated (in its reply to the question I raised last year) that the requirement for Workman II (WM II) in the next four years would be considered having regard to the reviews of the deployment of and need for WM II. Yet, the number of WM II has been on the decrease. From 2008 to 2010, the number of WM II reduced by 328 whereas the percentage of outsourced street cleansing services increased from 66.7% to 74.6%. Please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the number of WM II posts included in the net decrease of posts in 2012-13;
- (b) the percentage of outsourced street cleansing services in each of the past five years by using the table below as there has been an increasing trend in the percentage; and

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Expenditure on public cleansing services					
Percentage of change (%)					
Total value of outsourced service contracts					
Percentage of change (%)					
Percentage of outsourced cleansing services (%)					
Number of WM II					

- (c) given the number of WM II has been on the decrease, whether a minimum manpower requirement for WM II has been set so that the Government will have sufficient manpower to cope with major public health incidents and crises; if yes, the minimum manpower requirement; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

- (a) The 69 posts to be deleted are Workman II (WM II) grade posts. All are vacant posts with no operational need for retention.
- (b) The percentages of outsourced cleansing services are as follows:

		2008-09 (as at 31.3.2009)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.2010)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.2011)	2011-12 (as at 31.12.2011)	2012-13
Expenditure on public cleansing services <sup>Note 1</sup>		\$1,693.9 million	\$1,702.9 million	\$1,770.4 million	\$1,840.1 million (estimate)	\$1,945.9 million (estimate)
Percentage of change (%)		+14.1%	+0.5%	+4.0%	+3.9%	+5.7%
Total value of outsourced service contracts <sup>Note 1</sup> (public cleansing services)		\$1,560.8 million	\$1,770.3 million	\$1,759.8 million	\$2,011.7 million	Note 2
Percentage of change (%)		+12.6%	+13.4%	-0.6%	+14.3%	
Percentage of outsourced cleansing services (%)	Street cleansing	67%	71%	75%	76%	
	Waste collection	69%	72%	72%	74%	
	Mechanical gully emptying	70%	80%	81%	81%	
	Others <sup>Note 3</sup>	100%	100%	100%	100%	
Number of WM II (public cleansing services)		2 346	2 136	2 129	2 110	

Note 1: Expenditure on public cleansing services refers to the money spent on public cleansing services provided by departmental staff and contractors for that year, whereas total value of outsourced service contracts refers to the total value of public cleansing services contracts for the whole contract periods (normally five years for waste collection services contracts, and two years for street cleansing or other services contracts).

Note 2: Figures for 2012-13 are not yet available.

Note 3: Other outsourced public cleansing services include animal carcass collection services, cleansing and waste removal services for special sites / areas, desludging and mid-night conservancy services, mechanical street sweeping services, portable toilet services and recyclable collection services.

- (c) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department considers that currently it is appropriate to maintain about 3 000 WM II to meet departmental operational needs.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 1.3.2012

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

**FHB(FE)108**

Question Serial No.

1886

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) In the past year, what was the number of prosecutions taken by officers of the Department in respect of littering, spitting or fouling of street by faeces or urine? How many of these prosecutions were taken against tourists? What was the number of tourists from the Mainland (excluding Taiwan) involved?
- (b) Among the tourists who had been prosecuted, how many of them failed to comply with the law and left Hong Kong without paying the fine? Regarding these default cases, will actions be taken to recover the outstanding fines?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) In 2011, the number of \$1,500 Fixed Penalty Notices (Notices) issued by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) against littering and spitting in public places were 30 468 and 2 986 respectively. The number of prosecutions taken against obeying the call of nature in public places in 2011 was six. The Department does not have the breakdown on the above enforcement figures taken against tourists.
- (b) The Department does not have breakdown of cases involving tourists. If an offender with no local address fails to settle the payment of a Notice within the prescribed 21 days from the date of issue of the Notice, the Department will issue a demand notice to him/her through the correspondence address in his/her home place to recover the payment.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 1.3.2012

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

**FHB(FE)109**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2344

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 inform this Committee of:

- (a) the number of reported cases regarding food unfit for human consumption, as well as the number of warnings issued and prosecutions instituted in each of the past three years (i.e. in 2009, 2010 and 2011); and
- (b) the number of complaints received regarding the labelling of genetically modified food, nutrition information and prepackaged food over the past three years.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) conducts a Food Surveillance Programme to ascertain whether foods for sale in Hong Kong are fit for human consumption, having regard to the legal requirements on food safety under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) and its subsidiary legislation. Samples are collected at import, wholesale and retail levels for microbiological and chemical testing. Every year, CFS takes about 65 000 samples for testing, with the satisfaction rate being over 99% in the last three years. Apart from the Food Surveillance Programme, CFS also investigates food complaints received. The number of food complaints and cases established as caused by foods which are found to be unfit for human consumption as well as the number of warnings issued and prosecutions instituted over the past three years is as follows -

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
No. of food complaints	4 227	3 737	4 265
No. of cases established as caused by food unfit for human consumption	1	3	1
No. of warnings issued on sale of food unfit for human consumption	0	0	0
No. of prosecutions made on sale of food unfit for human consumption	1	3	1

- (b) The Department had not received any complaints against labelling of genetically modified food over the past three years.

The Department had received the following number of complaints against labelling of prepackaged foods (general food labelling and nutrition labelling) as laid down in the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (Cap. 132W) over the past three years -

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
General Food Labelling <sup>Note 1</sup>	225	146	175
Nutrition Labelling <sup>Note 2</sup>	2	30	33

Note 1 : In terms of general food labelling, prepackaged foods are required to be legibly marked or labelled with the following information in either English or Chinese language or in both languages, namely:(i) name of food, (ii) list of ingredients including allergen declaration, (iii) indication of “best before” or “use by” date, (iv) statement of special condition for storage or instructions for use, (v) name and address of manufacturer or packer, and (vi) count, weight or volume.

Note 2 : In terms of nutrition labelling, the Nutrition Labelling Scheme requires all prepackaged foods to label the content of energy plus seven nutrients, namely: (i) protein, (ii) carbohydrates, (iii) total fat, (iv) saturated fat, (v) trans fat, (vi) sodium and (vii) sugars, as well as any nutrient for which a claim is made, and regulates nutrition claims.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 1.3.2012

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

**FHB(FE)110**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2345

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 a breakdown by District Council district of the number of complaints relating to dripping air-conditioners, water seepage and environmental hygiene blackspots received over the past three years (i.e. in 2009, 2010 and 2011).

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

The breakdown of the number of complaints received on dripping air-conditioners and water seepage by district in 2009, 2010 and 2011 is at Annexes A and B respectively. As regards environmental hygiene blackspots, following the outbreak of Human Swine Influenza in May 2009, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, in consultation with District Councils, had identified 105 environmental hygiene blackspots in the territory for enhanced clean-up operations and they were all eradicated in February 2010. The number of complaints received on street cleanliness in 2009, 2010 and 2011 is at Annex C.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012



**Number of Complaints received on Dripping Air-Conditioners in 2009, 2010 and 2011**

<b>District</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Central & Western	1 199	1 492	1 390
Eastern	2 421	2 279	2 207
Southern	867	659	798
Wanchai	1 100	1 063	1 046
Islands	159	169	143
Kowloon City	1 306	1 406	1 343
Kwun Tong	1 260	1 380	1 341
Wong Tai Sin	478	642	516
Sham Shui Po	930	994	894
Yau Tsim Mong	1 952	2 216	2 126
Sai Kung	456	411	470
Sha Tin	1 094	1 249	1 148
Tai Po	421	473	365
North	527	541	513
Kwai Tsing	506	617	631
Tsuen Wan	1 358	1 031	922
Tuen Mun	982	1023	963
Yuen Long	694	863	670
Total	17 710	18 508	17 486

**Number of Complaints received on Water Seepage in 2009, 2010 and 2011**

<b>District</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Central & Western	1 014	1 338	1 177
Eastern	2 761	3 169	2 948
Southern	905	1 132	958
Wanchai	874	908	835
Islands	103	121	94
Kowloon City	2 637	3 116	2 380
Kwun Tong	1 494	1 675	1 867
Wong Tai Sin	763	980	894
Sham Shui Po	1 640	1 826	1 516
Yau Tsim Mong	2 298	2 441	2 354
Sai Kung	518	695	757
Sha Tin	1 509	2 003	1 796
Tai Po	626	752	648
North	564	663	517
Kwai Tsing	930	1 188	1 370
Tsuen Wan	1 093	1 330	1 234
Tuen Mun	1 531	1 767	1 703
Yuen Long	509	613	612
Total	21 769	25 717	23 660

**Number of Complaints received on Street Cleanliness in 2009, 2010 and 2011**

<b>District</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Central & Western	3 380	3 536	3 912
Eastern	2 646	2 208	2 326
Southern	1 080	832	974
Wanchai	3 105	2 554	2 665
Islands	466	501	634
Kowloon City	2 408	2 439	2 336
Kwun Tong	1 622	1 419	1 458
Wong Tai Sin	953	897	930
Sham Shui Po	2 423	2 051	2 421
Yau Tsim Mong	4 438	3 365	4 026
Sai Kung	1 762	1 228	1 467
Sha Tin	628	638	785
Tai Po	1 866	1 807	1 656
North	1 101	1 246	1 261
Kwai Tsing	1 618	1 469	1 692
Tsuen Wan	1 517	1 752	1 630
Tuen Mun	1 311	1 444	1 524
Yuen Long	3 126	2 889	2 968
Total	35 450	32 275	34 665

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

**FHB(FE)111**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2346

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 Department has put in place the Access Co-ordinator and Access Officer Scheme as from 1 April 2011 to enhance barrier-free access to venues / buildings under its management. Regarding the venues / buildings under the management of the Department such as public markets and toilets, please advise this Committee on the effectiveness of the Scheme and the improvement measures taken.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

With effect from April 2011, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has designated an Access Co-ordinator to facilitate co-ordination of accessibility issues within the Department. Moreover, an Access Officer has also been appointed for each venue / facility to handle accessibility issues at the venue.

Major duties of the Access Officer include, amongst others, conducting regular audit checks; taking timely follow-up action as required to ensure the provision of suitable barrier-free facilities and avoid undue alterations or obstructions to the barrier-free access; offering assistance to persons with disabilities to facilitate their access to the venue and using the services and facilities therein; making recommendations on improvements of barrier-free access; providing assistance to persons with disabilities at the venue; and handling public enquiries and complaints regarding accessibility issues for the venue.

Since April 2011, the Department has promulgated the contact information of the Access Co-ordinator and Access Officers of respective venues / buildings, including public markets and toilets, under our management in our departmental website and venues. Training has been arranged for staff to enhance their awareness of accessibility issues. In addition, a retrofitting programme covering about 720 premises and facilities, including public markets, cooked food centres, cemeteries, columbaria, toilets, offices, etc. is in place to improve barrier-free accessibility. The retrofitting works covers provision of / improvement to accessible toilets, accessible lifts, access routes, tactile signs/guide paths, visual fire alarm systems, assistive listening systems, international symbols of accessibility, etc.

With the implementation of this Scheme, we have enhanced the day-to-day management of barrier-free facilities in our venues, collaborated with the works departments in the retrofitting programme and raised the awareness of venue staff in facilitating access by persons with disabilities to the venues and use of the services and facilities therein.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 1.3.2012

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

**FHB(FE)112**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0791

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) With regard to abating environmental nuisances relating to dripping air-conditioners and water seepage and at environmental hygiene blackspots, how many complaints were received in 2010 and 2011 respectively?
- (b) In handling these complaints, what are the criteria adopted in determining whether a nuisance has been successfully "abated"? and
- (c) What was the total number of environmental hygiene blackspots in 2011? Please give the exact location of these blackspots.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) For dripping air-conditioners, the number of complaints received by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in 2010 and 2011 was 18 508 and 17 486 respectively. For water seepage, the number of complaints received in 2010 and 2011 was 25 717 and 23 660 respectively. As regards environmental hygiene blackspots, following the outbreak of Human Swine Influenza in May 2009, the Department, in consultation with District Councils (DCs), had identified 105 environmental hygiene blackspots in the territory for enhanced clean-up operations and they were all eradicated in February 2010. The number of complaints received on street cleanliness in 2010 and 2011 was 32 275 and 34 665 respectively.
- (b) For dripping air-conditioners, the nuisance is considered as successfully "abated" if dripping water from an air-conditioner has been properly collected and drained away in such a manner as not to cause any nuisance to the public. For water seepage complaints, the nuisance is considered as successfully "abated" if defects leading to seepage have been rectified and the moisture content measured at seepage areas is less than 35%. As for environmental hygiene blackspots, the enhanced clean-up operations for such blackspots were completed in February 2010 after all the DCs agreed that the hygiene condition of the blackspots had significantly improved.

(c) The Department did not identify any environmental hygiene blackspot in 2011.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Name in block letters Clement LEUNG  
Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Date 1.3.2012

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

**FHB(FE)113**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1058

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 set out the details of the 69 posts to be increased in 2012-13, including the grade(s) and number of staff involved.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

Of the 69 posts to be increased in 2012-13, 45 are in the grades of Agricultural Officer, Chemist, Fisheries Officer, Health Inspector, Laboratory Attendant and Science Laboratory Technician. The remaining 24 posts are in the administrative support grades.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 29.2.2012



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

**FHB(FE)114**

Question Serial No.

1059

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 the details of the 69 posts to be reduced in 2012-13, including the grade(s) and number of staff involved.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

The 69 posts to be reduced are Workman II grade posts. All are vacant posts with no operational need for retention.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)115**

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

Question Serial No.

0629

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The indicator for “samples taken from food animals for testing of veterinary drug residues” dropped from 54 291 in 2010 (Actual) to 52 595 in 2011 (Actual). Please advise on:

- (a) the reason(s) for the decrease in number, and whether this is related to a cutback in expenditure or manpower; if yes, the expenditure involved; and
- (b) whether the Department has considered the impact of lowering the indicator for “samples taken from food animals for testing of veterinary drug residues” on food safety, given that reports by the Centre for Food Safety indicated of the approximately 14 000 food samples it tested in the past year, five were found to be unsatisfactory, and one of which being a roasted duck sample from a supermarket was detected with residues of a prohibited veterinary drug, Chloramphenicol.

Asked by: Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) The drop in the number of samples taken from food animals for testing of veterinary drug residues in 2011 was due to a decrease in the number of live pigs slaughtered. There was no reduction in expenditure or manpower for taking such samples.
- (b) The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department adopts the World Health Organization's “from farm to table” strategy to ensure food safety in Hong Kong. Control at source includes allowing only the supply of food produced by approved farms/processing plants with audit inspections, and the requirements of health certificates for certain food animals and food products. At downstream stages of the food supply chain, CFS operates a Food Surveillance Programme to collect samples at import, wholesale and retail levels for microbiological, chemical (including veterinary drug residues in food) and radiological tests.

In line with the above strategy, CFS estimates that it will take 52 500 samples from food animals for testing of veterinary drug residues in 2012 which is comparable to 52 595 of 2011. Under the Food Surveillance Programme, CFS will take 65 000 food samples for testing in 2012, which is also comparable to 64 638 of 2011. Of the 65 000 food samples, 3 800 will be tested for veterinary drug residues, as compared with 3 771 of 2011.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)116**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0630

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The indicators for “poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks” and “number of trappings” increased from 46 015 and 45 036 in 2010 (Actual) to 52 520 and 50 781 in 2011 (Actual) respectively.

- (a) Please advise on the reason(s) for the increase in numbers, and whether this reflects the worsening of the rodent infestation problem.
- (b) Please provide in the table below the rodent infestation rates for each of the 19 districts and for the whole territory over the past five years.

District	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
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 these measures and the expenditure involved.
- (d) As these two services are provided by the staff of the Department and the staff of the contractors it engaged, please advise on the proportion of the services undertaken by in-house staff and contractors' workers, and their respective manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) To further improve the effectiveness of rodent control work, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) intensified the rodent control measures in 2011, including poison treatments and rodent trappings. Hence, there was an increase in both numbers in 2011 over 2010.
- (b) The required figures are as follows -

District	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Central & Western	7.5%	5.7%	4.7%	0.5%	0.5%
Eastern	3.2%	4.4%	8.1%	2.3%	0.6%
Southern	6.0%	4.0%	6.5%	0.5%	1.6%
Wan Chai	8.5%	8.1%	1.6%	4.5%	1.8%
Islands	6.6%	7.9%	9.3%	0.5%	0.0%
Kowloon City	3.6%	4.2%	5.0%	0.9%	1.4%
Kwun Tong	5.3%	5.3%	12.4%	3.1%	3.1%
Wong Tai Sin	3.0%	6.9%	7.5%	2.4%	1.5%
Sham Shui Po	3.9%	6.5%	7.8%	2.0%	3.2%
Mong Kok	4.7%	6.8%	2.0%	1.3%	2.9%
Yau Tsim	3.0%	5.7%	5.4%	2.3%	1.8%
Sai Kung	9.0%	8.4%	5.4%	0.9%	1.8%
Sha Tin	0.5%	5.5%	5.5%	1.3%	1.7%
Tai Po	3.9%	11.0%	1.8%	0.0%	0.9%
North	5.9%	6.5%	7.2%	0.9%	0.6%
Kwai Tsing	1.7%	4.9%	3.1%	1.5%	2.6%
Tsuen Wan	5.9%	13.3%	5.1%	2.1%	2.6%
Tuen Mun	5.4%	1.7%	8.3%	1.3%	0.8%
Yuen Long	5.3%	5.3%	6.6%	1.8%	3.0%
Territory-wide	4.8%	6.3%	6.1%	1.5%	1.7%

- (c) The Department adopts an integrated rodent control approach. The measures include improvement to environmental conditions, application of poisonous bait and setting of traps. The estimated expenditure involved in rodent control services in 2011-12 is \$135.7 million.

- (d) There is no separate breakdown on the proportion of poison treatment and rodent trapping services undertaken by in-house staff and contractors' workers, or their respective manpower or expenditure involved.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)117**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1526

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 member of the hotel industry with many years of experience of dog walking complained to me in a half-joking tone that the paws of his/her dog were much dirtier after walking along the roadside in downtown areas than after walking in areas with less traffic flow, reflecting the seriousness of the problem of pollutants and dust particles on the surface of streets/roads in the urban areas.

What are the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's estimated manpower and resources for street cleansing in the urban areas in the coming financial year?

In response to the above comments, will the Department revise the proportion of expenditure on street cleansing in various districts? What is the percentage of change in the manpower and resources as compared with those in the past three financial years?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chun, Paul

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department)'s estimated expenditure on street cleansing service for 2012-13 is \$1,532.1 million and the manpower involved (including contractors' staff) is about 9 710. The Department does not have the breakdown on the above estimated expenditure and manpower provision for urban areas.
- (b) The resources for street cleansing service are deployed in accordance with requirements of individual districts and will be adjusted as necessary. Comparing the expenditure/estimated expenditure in the past three financial years on a year-on-year basis, there is an increase of about 1.1% in 2010-11, 7.3% in 2011-12 and 8.8% in 2012-13 respectively. The level of manpower provision on a year-on-year basis is more or less the same during this period.

.Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 1.3.2012

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

**FHB(FE)118**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

0467

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:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of NCSC staff	( )	( )	( )
Distribution of posts taken up 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 a monthly salary below \$5,824	( )	( )	( )
• number of staff with a 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 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 breaks	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff without paid meal breaks	( )	( )	( )
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-

	2012-13	2011-12 (as at 31.12.2011)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.2011)
Number of NCSC staff	Note 1	355 (-5%)	373
Distribution of posts taken up by NCSC staff		NCSC staff mainly undertake market management duties, handle water seepage complaints and provide support services in cemeteries and offices.	
Expenditure on salaries for NCSC staff		\$48.9 million (Note 2)	\$81 million (Note 2)
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff			
<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 staff with a monthly salary below \$5,824</li> <li>• number of staff with a monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500</li> </ul>		8 (+60%) 78 (+37%) 269 (-12%) 0 (-100%) 0 0 0 0 0	5  57 307 4 0 0 0 0
Length of service of NCSC staff			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 years or longer</li> <li>• 3 - 5 years</li> <li>• 1 - 3 years</li> </ul>		88 (-8%) 27 (-50%) 93	96 54 164

	2012-13	2011-12 (as at 31.12.2011)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.2011)
• less than 1 year		(-43%) 147 (+149%)	59
Number of NCSC staff converted to civil servants		Note 3	
Number of NCSC staff failed to convert to civil servants		Note 3	
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the Department		3% (±0%)	3%
Percentage of NCSC staff costs in the total departmental staff costs		2% (-1%)	3%
Number of NCSC staff with paid meal breaks		44 (-8%)	48
Number of NCSC staff without paid meal breaks		311 (-4%)	325
Number of NCSC staff working 5 days a week		205 (-6%)	218
Number of NCSC staff working 6 days a week		150 (-3%)	155

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

Note 1: Figures for 2012-13 are not yet available as the number of NCSC staff varies over time in light of the changing service and operational needs.

Note 2: The expenditure for 2011-12 covers 9 months while that for 2010-11 covers the entire 12 months.

Note 3: Relevant information is not available.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)119**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

0492

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:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
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	( )	( )	( )
Distribution of posts taken up 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 a monthly salary below \$5,824	( )	( )	( )
• number of workers with a monthly 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 agency workers with paid meal breaks	( )	( )	( )
Number of agency workers without paid meal breaks	( )	( )	( )

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of agency workers working 5 days a week	( )	( )	( )
Number of agency 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-

	2012-13	2011-12 (as at 30.9.2011)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.2011)
Number of contracts engaging employment agencies (EAs)	Note 1	18 (-22%)	23
Contract sum paid to each EA		\$84,000 to \$438,000	\$59,000 to \$1 million
Total amount of commission paid to each EA		Note 2	
Length of contract for each EA		0.6 to 9 months	2.5 to 18 months
Number of agency workers		37 (±0%)	37
Distribution of posts taken up 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>• \$5,000 or below</li> <li>• number of workers with a monthly salary below \$5,824</li> <li>• number of workers with a monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$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		0.3% (±0%)	0.3%

	2012-13	2011-12 (as at 30.9.2011)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.2011)
(Note 5)			
Percentage of amount paid to EAs in the total departmental staff cost		0.1% (-0.2%)	0.3%
Number of agency workers with paid meal breaks		Note 6	
Number of agency workers without paid meal breaks			
Number of agency workers working 5 days a week		37 (+48%)	25
Number of agency workers working 6 days a week		0 (-100%)	12

( ) 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 2012-13 are not yet 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 (the Department)'s service contracts entered into with employment agencies.

Note 3: The wage levels were agreed upon between the agency workers and their employment agencies when they entered 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: The Department 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 the specific date only and is not representative of the situation for the financial year concerned.

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 1.3.2012

**Session 18 FHB(FE)**

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

**FHB(FE)120**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

2938

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:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
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	( )	( )	( )
Distribution of posts taken up 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 a monthly salary below \$5,824	( )	( )	( )
• number of workers with a monthly 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 outsourced workers with paid meal breaks	( )	( )	( )
Number of outsourced workers without paid meal breaks	( )	( )	( )
Number of outsourced workers working 5 days a week	( )	( )	( )
Number of outsourced 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-

	2012-13	2011-12 (as at 31.12.2011)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.2011)
Number of outsourced service contracts	Note 1	129 (+1.6%)	127 (-3.8%)
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers		\$1,339.6 million (estimate) (+9.6%)	\$1,222.1 million (actual) (+2.4%)
Length of contract for each outsourced service provider		Please see Table below	
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers		11 593 (+0.2%)	11 574 (-0.9%)
Distribution of posts taken up 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			
<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 a monthly salary below \$5,824</li> <li>• number of workers with a monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500</li> </ul>			
		0	0
		0	0
		798 (-23.6%)	1 044 (-3.2%)
		10 795 (+555.0%)	1 648 (-0.8%)
		0 (-100%)	8 882 (-0.6%)
		0	0
		0 (-100%)	8 807 (-0.01%)
		0 (-100%)	75 (-40.5%)

	2012-13	2011-12 (as at 31.12.2011)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.2011)
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 2		
Percentage of outsourced workers in the total number of staff in the Department	Note 1	100.7% (+0.3%)	100.4% (+0.3%)
Percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers in the total departmental staff cost		50.4% (+0.6%)	49.8% (+1.2%)
Number of outsourced workers with paid meal break Number of outsourced workers without paid meal break	Note 3		
Number of outsourced workers working 5 days a week Number of outsourced workers working 6 days a week	Note 4		

( ) denote year-on-year change



Table Length of service contracts

Length	2011-12 (No. as at 31.12.2011)	2010-11 (No. as at 31.3.2011)
Below 1 year	1	1
1 year	1	2
2 years	111	109
3 years	1	1
5 years	15	14

Note 1: Figures for 2012-13 are not yet available.

Note 2: The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) 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: The Department does not keep information on the number of outsourced workers with/without paid meal break.

Note 4: The Department does not keep information on the number of days an outsourced worker works in a week.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 1.3.2012

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

**FHB(FE)121**

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

Question Serial No.

2958

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The indicator for "food complaints handled" increased from 3 737 in 2010 (Actual) to 4 265 in 2011 (Actual). Please advise on:

- (a) the reason(s) for the increase in number;
- (b) whether the complaints were categorised; if yes, the number of complaints in each category for the past three years;
- (c) the expenditure involved in increasing the indicator; and
- (d) whether additional manpower will be deployed to achieve the enhanced indicator of 4 200 in 2012 (Estimate); if yes, the expenditure to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The increase in the number of food complaints in 2011 was attributed to the occurrence of a number of food incidents in 2011, including the contamination of German eggs by dioxin in January; radiation contamination of imported food from Japan due to the Fukushima Nuclear Plant incident in March; plasticiser contamination in Taiwanese food in May and reports of faked egg/faked beef in January/May.
- (b) The number of food complaints handled by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department from 2009 to 2011 with breakdown by nature is provided as follows -

<b>Nature of Complaints</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Unwholesome food	2 115	2 059	2 152
Foreign substances in food	1 127	1 018	1 017
Chemicals in food	558	393	647
Labelling issues	227	176	208
Fake/counterfeit food	160	53	167
Others	40	38	74
Total number of cases	4 227	3 737	4 265

(c) and (d)

As the estimated number of food complaints in 2012 is similar to the number of food complaints in 2011, the manpower and expenditure provided for handling food complaints will remain the same.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)122**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2959

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 Department's plan to "enhance law enforcement at hawker areas with fixed pitches to ensure compliance and to contain obstruction and fire safety risk", please advise on:

- (a) the estimated expenditure involved and whether additional manpower will be required;
- (b) the details of such plans; and
- (c) whether the Department has taken into account the potential impact of enhanced enforcement on the operation of the stalls and the livelihood of the stall owners, and whether the Department will strike a balance between ensuring public safety and protecting the livelihood of the stall owners so as to avoid being too stringent in taking enforcement actions.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

- (a) The enhanced law enforcement actions are undertaken through existing staff resources.
- (b) In the wake of the fire at the hawker stalls at Fa Yuen Street on 30 November last year, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has strengthened law enforcement actions against non-compliance with the relevant legislation and licensing conditions in hawker areas with a large number of hawker stalls. Such actions are targeted at the following irregularities to reduce fire risks posed by hawker stalls:
  - (1) stall canopies made of or covered with combustible materials;
  - (2) overnight storage of goods outside the approved stall areas;
  - (3) obstruction of passageways; and
  - (4) stall sub-letting.

- (c) The stall hawkers are obliged to comply with the law and licensing conditions. The primary objectives of the Department's enforcement actions are to ensure environmental hygiene and to reduce fire safety risks. The Department maintains regular dialogue with hawker associations and stall hawkers to address their concerns.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 1.3.2012

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

**FHB(FE)123**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2960

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:

- (a) the details of the plans and the services to be provided;
- (b) the estimated expenditure involved;
- (c) with regard to the reprovisioning of Wo Hop Shek Crematorium, the reprovisioning of Cape Collinson Crematorium as well as the construction of a new public columbarium and a Garden of Remembrance in the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery, the work progress of these projects and the time when the new facilities will come into service; and
- (d) the progress of consultation with relevant District Councils on the sites for building public columbarium facilities and whether the sites for developing new crematoria and columbaria have been confirmed; if yes, the details of the sites.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

- (a) to (c) On public crematorium facilities, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is upgrading the 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 mid 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 mid 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 2011 to 52 800.

On public columbarium facilities, the construction of a new public columbarium with 43 710 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. The Department is also constructing 1 540 new niches in the Diamond Hill Columbarium at an estimated cost of \$0.76 million, and will construct 990 new niches in the Cheung Chau Cemetery at an estimated cost of \$10.76 million in 2013. The construction works in Diamond Hill Columbarium will be completed in

early 2012 whereas the construction works in Cheung Chau Cemetery will be completed in late 2013.

- (d) On public crematorium facilities, with the completion of the two reprovisioning projects as mentioned in the answer to questions (a) to (c) above, we expect the cremation capacity will sufficiently meet the cremation demand up to the early 2020s. On public columbarium facilities, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and has identified 24 potential sites in 18 districts in Hong Kong for columbarium development. The above-mentioned sites in the Diamond Hill Columbarium and Cheung Chau Cemetery are two of the 24 potential sites. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on the remaining sites and will consult the relevant District Councils before the sites are confirmed for development.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 1.3.2012

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

**FHB(FE)124**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2961

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 the promotional activities on nutrition labelling”. Please provide information on the following:

- (a) the plans to enhance the promotional and education activities on nutrition labelling, the details of such plans and the estimated expenditure to be involved;
- (b) the ways to assess the effectiveness of the promotional activities on nutrition labelling; whether indicators will be set to evaluate the effectiveness of the activities; if yes, the details of the indicators;
- (c) the numbers of inspections conducted and non-compliant cases detected since the implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme; and
- (d) the Department's response to the comments made by the Director of Audit in his report published at the end of 2011 criticising the Centre for Food Safety for failing to perform its work effectively in the regulatory control over the existing Nutrition Labelling Scheme and that its performance in various areas such as accuracy and legibility of nutrition labels, nutrition and health claims, etc., was less than satisfactory and needed to be improved, and the measures to step up the regulatory control of nutrition labelling.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) Since the passage of the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment: Requirements for Nutrition Labelling and Nutrition Claim) Regulation 2008 (the Regulation) by the Legislative Council in mid-2008, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) had launched a three-year Publicity and Education Campaign (the Campaign) on promoting nutrition labelling, 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).

To sustain the efforts, CFS has launched another two-year enhanced education and publicity programme on nutrition labelling since July 2011. CFS will continue to work with the education sector



and community organizations in promoting the use of nutrition information on the labels among the general public and students through the following programmes -

- (i) during the academic year 2010/11, CFS and the Education Bureau jointly organised the “Live it, Use it” Nutrition Labelling Promotion Award Scheme (the Award Scheme). Under the Award Scheme, a total of 35 teams from 21 secondary schools involving 256 students took part in various creative activities. An award presentation ceremony cum Food Safety Day was held in July 2011. The Award Scheme for the academic year 2011/12 has started since September 2011; and
- (ii) building on the model of the Award Scheme, another scheme targeting at users of community organizations service, namely the “Live it, Use it” Nutrition Labelling Fun Shopping Award Scheme, supported by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, has been launched since December 2011.

To promote the wider application of the nutrition information in our daily life, CFS has also launched a mobile application “Nutrition Calculator” (“NuCal”) in October 2011. With “NuCal”, one can set up a personal database on food items for recording nutrition information of their favourite prepackaged food items. The estimated level of nutrient intake can be worked out by inputting the amount of food consumed. Users may then compare it with the upper limit of the daily intake and make necessary adjustments as appropriate. As at 15 February 2012, “NuCal” had recorded about 28 000 downloads.

The above promotion work is undertaken by existing staff and the expenditure cannot be separately identified.

- (b) CFS evaluates the Campaign by means of two large-scale surveys. The first one was conducted 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 second survey will be conducted in 2012 to evaluate the effectiveness of the Campaign, through using quantifiable indicators such as the number of visits to websites and the number of participants in publicity and education activities.
- (c) As at 17 February 2012, CFS had checked 18 921 prepackaged food products since the commencement of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme (the Scheme) on 1 July 2010, with 180 found to be non-compliant. The overall compliance rate is 99.05%. A detailed breakdown of the 180 cases is as follows -

Nature of non-compliance	No. of cases for the period of 1.7.2010 - 17.2.2012
No nutrition label or incomplete 1+7 core nutrients label	68
Inappropriate nutrition label format	7
Inappropriate nutrient claim	18

Inappropriate language	17
Involved more than one type of irregularity	9
Discrepancy on declared nutrient value confirmed after our chemical analysis	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>

- (d) CFS welcomes the Audit Report and would proceed to implement the recommendations therein as follows –
- (i) surveillance and enforcement : CFS has initially targeted at chain supermarkets to maximize the portion of the population to be benefited from the Scheme, hence enhancing public health. In view of the high compliance rate of chained supermarkets, CFS has adjusted its enforcement strategy by focusing on small retail outlets since 1 April 2011.
  - (ii) legibility of nutrition labels : In December 2011, CFS issued a draft “Trade Guidelines on Preparation of Legible Food Label” for consultation which ended on 31 January 2012. CFS is now consolidating the comments received and will finalise the guidelines by April 2012.
  - (iii) Regulation of health claims: The Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) and its subsidiary legislation have safeguarded the safety of foods in general and in particular, protected consumers from being misled by false labelling or advertisement. Our efforts have been further enhanced with the commencement of the Scheme. The Scheme enables consumers to make healthy food choices, encourages food manufacturers to provide food products that are conducive to public health and meet sound nutrition principles, and regulates misleading or deceptive nutrition information labels and claims. The Undesirable Medical Advertisements (Amendment) Ordinance (UMA(A)O) provides that health food products carrying medical claims but not registered under the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance (Cap. 138) or the Chinese Medicine Ordinance (CMO) (Cap. 549) must carry an additional disclaimer indicating so. The UMA(A)O will be brought into operation on 1 June 2012.
  - (iv) Non-compliant cases identified in the Audit Report: CFS is taking follow up actions on suspected non-compliant cases identified in the Audit Report, upon receipt of the detailed information from the Audit. Enforcement actions will be taken under section 61 of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap.132) if any person is found to use or display a food label which falsely describes the food or is calculated to mislead as to its nature, substance or quality.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)125**

Question Serial No.

0960

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 in-house staff, contractors and contractor staff engaged in the provision of public cleansing services under this programme.

What was the Department's expenditure on the aforesaid services for 2011-12?

What is the Department's estimated expenditure on the aforesaid services for 2012-13?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

As at 31 January 2012, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department engaged 3 090 in-house staff, 18 contractors and 7 406 contractor staff in the provision of public cleansing services.

The estimated expenditure on the aforesaid services for 2011-12 and 2012-13 is \$1,840.1 million and \$1,945.9 million respectively.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)126**

Question Serial No.

1482

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 arrangements for supply of food to Hong Kong:

- (a) the number of Mainland production farms approved for exporting food to Hong Kong, with a breakdown 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 farms and whether any production farms were disqualified from exporting food to Hong Kong in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2009-10 to 2011-12); if yes, the reasons for disqualification.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung Kan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (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 2011 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 <sup>#</sup>
Guangdong(廣東)	43	90	3		4	60	158	181
Shenzhen(深圳)	6	3					6	1
Zhuhai(珠海)	12	6				5	1	5
Anhui(安徽)			1		14			2
Beijing(北京)			5				4	16
Chongqing(重慶)		1					1	4

Province or cities	No. of registered farms for each food type							
	Poultry	Pig	Cattle	Goat	Live Aquatic Animals (except fish)	Fish*	Vegetable	Fruit <sup>#</sup>
Fujian(福建)		1					11	225
Gansu(甘肅)			2				9	123
Guangxi(廣西)		10		1			2	113
Guizhou(貴州)			1				3	1
Hainan(海南)	2	1					15	51
Hebei(河北)			4				22	237
Heilongjiang(黑龍江)			1					6
Henan(河南)		22	1				14	23
Hubei(湖北)		31	1		8	7	10	38
Hunan(湖南)		40	1		4	3	50	64
Jiangsu(江蘇)					18		25	
Jiangxi(江西)		22	1		1	7	15	35
Jilin(吉林)			1					1
Liaoning(遼寧)					3	2	5	271
Neimongol(內蒙古)			5				1	
Ningxia(寧夏)							17	9
Qinghai(青海)			1					
Shaanxi(陝西)			2					635
Shandong(山東)							62	675
Shanxi(山西)			3				2	37
Shanghai(上海)		7					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)		10			9		18	116
<b>Total no. of registered farms</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>3 602</b>

\* 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 of these two types of farms.

# According to AQSIQ's website, orchards and processing plants registered with AQSIQ are eligible to export their fruits to the world (including Hong Kong).

(b) A total of 84, 91 and 90 inspections to registered Mainland farms were conducted in 2009, 2010 and 2011 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 2009	35	9	-	8	9 / 3	20	-
No. of Inspections in 2010	41	8	3	1	14 / 4	16	4
No. of Inspections in 2011	31	12	5	4	15 / 3	20	-

AQSIQ is the authority for approving and disqualifying registered Mainland farms.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)127**

Question Serial No.

2608

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:

- (a) the expenditure and manpower involved in handling the work of the Liquor Licensing Board in 2012-13;
- (b) the number of existing liquor licences in the territory, the location of liquor-licensed premises and the types of premises (residential, commercial or composite commercial / residential buildings) in which they are located; and
- (c) the total number of liquor licence applications received in the past three years; among them, the number of applications granted and refused, the number of appeals lodged and the success rate of appeals.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) In the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, there are 35 staff, including contract staff, in three licensing offices handling liquor and club liquor licence applications and appeals as part of their licensing-related duties. Besides, four staff are deployed for providing secretariat service to the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB). There is no separate breakdown of the expenditure involved in the handling of liquor licence applications and appeals.

- (b) The numbers of existing liquor licences in the territory by districts are provided in the table below. There is no separate breakdown on the types of buildings in which the licensed premises are located.

District	No. of Liquor Licences (as at end-2011)		Total
	Liquor Licences	Club Liquor Licences	
Central and Western	662	82	744
Wanchai	776	131	907
Eastern	308	15	323
Southern	110	26	136
Islands	201	18	219
Yau Tsim Mong	1 411	110	1 521
Sham Shui Po	190	9	199
Kowloon City	320	22	342
Wong Tai Sin	129	2	131
Kwun Tong	208	10	218
Kwai Tsing	96	3	99
Tsuen Wan	190	13	203
Tuen Mun	143	7	150
Yuen Long	189	11	200
North	76	7	83
Tai Po	105	4	109
Shatin	186	10	196
Sai Kung	168	8	176
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 468</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>5 956</b>



(c) Statistics on the applications for liquor licence are provided as follows –

Year	2009	2010	2011
Number of applications for issue of new liquor licence (including club liquor licence)	874	956	930
Number of liquor licences (including club liquor licences) approved by LLB <sup>Note</sup>	793	918	812
Number of applications refused by LLB <sup>Note</sup>	16	17	23
Number of appeals lodged with Municipal Services Appeals Board (MSAB)	14	13	14
Success rate of appeals (i.e. appeals allowed by MSAB)	50%	23%	38%

(Note: Applications for liquor licence received in one year may be carried forward with the processing completed in the subsequent year.)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)128**

Question Serial No.

2609

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:

- (a) the total number of complaints received concerning liquor-licensed premises in the past three years (i.e. in 2009, 2010 and 2011), the districts in which these premises were located, the type and nature of the complaints and their investigation results;
- (b) the number of inspections to liquor-licensed premises in the past three years and the districts for inspection;
- (c) the number of non-compliance cases involving liquor-licensed premises (including contravention of the ordinance governing liquor licences or commission of other offences) in the past three years and the nature of these cases; and
- (d) the number of liquor licences revoked in the past three years and the reasons for revocation.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) handles environmental hygiene related complaints against licensed food premises, including those issued with liquor licences, whereas the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) handles complaints on non-compliance with liquor licensing conditions. In 2009, 2010 and 2011, the number of complaints investigated and found substantiated by the Department concerning food premises which were also issued with liquor-licences was 962, 1 122 and 1 259 respectively, and the breakdown is at Annex. Statistics on complaints received by the Police against liquor-licensed premises are not readily available.
- (b) The Department inspects food premises, including those issued with liquor licences, once every 4, 10 and 20 weeks according to their risk types under the "Risk-based Inspection System" whereas clubs with catering facilities, including those holding club liquor licences, are inspected once every 10 weeks. In 2010 and 2011, the Police conducted over 18 000 inspections annually to liquor-licensed premises. There are no available statistics for 2009.
- (c) In 2010 and 2011, the number of prosecutions instituted by the Police against liquor-licensed premises for non-compliance of licensing conditions was 97 and 243 respectively. There are no available statistics for 2009.
- (d) The number of liquor licences (including club liquor licences) revoked in 2009, 2010 and 2011 with breakdown by reasons is provided in the table below.

Reasons for revocation of liquor licence	Number of liquor licence revoked		
	2009	2010	2011
Cessation of business	15	16	19
Licensee leaving without transferring the licence	0	4	1
Death of licensee	0	0	1
Breach of licensing condition	5	7	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

**Number of Substantiated Complaints concerning Liquor-Licensed Premises  
in 2009, 2010 and 2011**

District	Environmental Hygiene			Obstruction		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Central and Western	1	3	7	3	0	10
Eastern	3	3	3	36	23	19
Southern	4	5	3	3	1	3
Wan Chai	65	39	52	4	3	2
Islands	2	2	3	17	10	12
Yau Tsim Mong	73	84	63	144	165	181
Sham Shui Po	46	42	49	34	70	24
Kowloon City	2	2	4	15	16	23
Wong Tai Sin	43	24	27	48	61	59
Kwun Tong	39	35	32	19	33	30
Tsuen Wan	3	5	5	48	50	62
Kwai Tsing	15	15	24	8	10	6
North	1	0	0	6	5	17
Tai Po	0	0	0	72	110	113
Sai Kung	2	0	0	5	2	16
Sha Tin	42	37	39	58	121	210
Tuen Mun	0	0	0	19	11	18
Yuen Long	51	87	93	31	48	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>855</b>

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

**FHB(FE)129**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2610

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 control work, the number of mosquito breeding places eliminated dropped substantially from 55 225 in 2010 (Actual) to only 47 039 in 2011 (Actual), and the number for 2012 (Estimate) will be 47 000. Please advise this Committee on:

- (a) the Department's expenditure and manpower involved in the anti-mosquito work in 2012-13; and
- (b) the new mosquito control plans by the Department.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) The estimated expenditure involved in mosquito control work in 2012-13 is \$206.1 million. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) and its contractors have a total workforce of about 2 260 in providing pest control services.
- (b) The Department will continue to adopt an integrated approach in the prevention and control of mosquitoes. Under this approach, the Department implements a dengue vector surveillance programme to monitor the distribution of *Aedes albopictus* at selected areas, evaluate the effectiveness of mosquito prevention and control work carried out by various parties, and provide surveillance information to the public and for making timely adjustments to its mosquito control strategies and measures. Moreover, the Department organises annual anti-mosquito campaigns on a territory-wide basis to heighten public awareness of the potential risk of mosquito-borne diseases, encourage community participation and promote concerted efforts of government departments concerned in anti-mosquito work.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 1.3.2012

**Session 18 FHB(FE)**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION****FHB(FE)130**

Question Serial No.

2611

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 samples taken from various Fresh Food Wholesale Markets for testing in each of the past three years (i.e. in 2009, 2010 and 2011), with a breakdown by food type and market, as well as the number of samples with testing results exceeding the safety levels.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The number of food samples taken from North District Temporary Wholesale Market for Agricultural Products, Cheung Sha Wan and Western Wholesale Food Markets in 2009 to 2011 are as follows -

Wholesale Food Market	Food category	Number of food samples taken		
		2009	2010	2011
North District Temporary Wholesale Market for Agricultural Products	vegetable	35	7	9
Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market	vegetable	839	860	1 032
	poultry egg	51	131	116
	aquatic product	17	26	18
Western Wholesale Food Market	vegetable	415	433	941
	fruit	1 339	1 205	1 208
	poultry egg	37	89	116
	aquatic product	26	20	20
Total		2 759	2 771	3 460

In each of the above-mentioned three years, there was one sample each from Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market and Western Wholesale Food Market found not meeting safety standards. Samples taken at North District Temporary Wholesale Market for Agricultural Products were all satisfactory.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)131**

Question Serial No.

2612

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:

- (a) the number of rodent infestation complaints received in the past three years, with a breakdown by district;
- (b) the total number of rodents trapped in 2011 as 50 781 trappings were conducted;
- (c) the Department's expenditure and manpower involved in rodent disinfestation work in 2012-13; and
- (d) the Department's special measures to tackle rodent blackspots with higher infestation rates.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) The required figures are as follows -

District	Year		
	2009	2010	2011
Central & Western	607	605	585
Eastern	472	505	453
Southern	144	163	140
Wan Chai	392	372	373
Islands	105	222	137
Kowloon City	540	610	492
Kwun Tong	250	306	242
Wong Tai Sin	147	199	144
Sham Shui Po	577	577	510
Yau Tsim Mong	957	971	858
Sai Kung	318	425	380
Sha Tin	309	261	248
Tai Po	280	322	267
North	197	179	169



District	Year		
	2009	2010	2011
Kwai Tsing	160	221	203
Tsuen Wan	593	414	555
Tuen Mun	402	507	480
Yuen Long	613	512	397
Territory-wide	7 063	7 371	6 633

- (b) The number of rodents trapped in 2011 is 10 163.
- (c) The estimated expenditure involved in rodent control work in 2012-13 is \$138.6 million. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) and its contractors have a total workforce of about 2 260 in providing pest control services.
- (d) The Department will continue to enhance anti-rodent control work and launch district-specific publicity and educational programmes to promote greater community involvement in rodent control and prevention, in addition to its regular pest control work and annual territory-wide publicity campaigns.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 1.3.2012

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

**FHB(FE)132**

Question Serial No.

2613

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:

- (a) the number and location of hygiene blackspots in various districts as identified by the Department in 2009, 2010 and 2011;
- (b) the expenditure and manpower involved in tackling the hygiene blackspots in 2011-12;
- (c) whether special measures such as installing closed-circuit televisions or taking blitz prosecution actions will be introduced to deal with locations which have been repeatedly identified as hygiene blackspots; and
- (d) the Department's estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the provision of cleansing services in 2012-13, with a breakdown by type of services.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) 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 eradicated in February 2010. A list of these blackspots is at Annex. The Department did not identify any hygiene blackspot in 2011.
- (b) In 2011-12, the Department has continued to upkeep the cleanliness and hygiene condition of these hygiene blackspots by utilising existing resources. The estimated expenditure on street cleansing service for 2012-13 is \$1,532.1 million, but the Department does not have breakdown of expenditure and manpower involved in tackling the hygiene blackspots.
- (c) The Department will continue to closely monitor the cleanliness and hygiene condition of these hygiene blackspots, and step up clean-up operation and enforcement action as necessary.

- (d) The Department provides two types of public cleansing services, namely waste collection service and street cleansing service. The estimated expenditure on waste collection service and street cleansing service in 2012-13 are \$413.8 million and \$1,532.1 million respectively, and the manpower involved (including contractors' staff) are about 780 and 9 710 respectively.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 1.3.2012

**List of environmental hygiene blackspots as at May 2009**

<b>Hong Kong and Islands</b>	
Central and Western	Rear lane of 33 Graham Street and 22 Peel Street
Central and Western	Rear lane at 73-76 Connaught Road West
Central and Western	Rear lane between 288 Queen's Road West and 55-61 First Street
Central and Western	Rear lane at 17-19 Wellington Street and Chuk On Lane
Central and Western	Rear lane of 134, 136 and 138 Jervois Street
Central and Western	Rear lane of 39-55 Cadogan Street
Central and Western	Rear lane of Sai Wan New Apartments, 177-185 Belcher's Street
Eastern	Chun Yeung Street (between Tong Shui Road and North Point Road), and Java Road (between Tong Shui Road and North Point Road)
Eastern	Electric Road (between Oil Street and Power Street) and adjacent rear lanes, and Kam Ping Street and adjacent rear lanes
Eastern	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	Kam Wa Street (between Shau Kei Wan Main Street East and Aldrich Street), Mong Lung Street and Tai Tak Street and adjacent rear lanes
Eastern	Siu Sai Wan Road (Harmony Garden) and Fu Yee Road (Cheerful Garden)
Southern	Rear lane of 1-23 Tung Shing Road
Southern	Rear lane of 12-26 Wu Pak Street
Southern	Rear Lane of 53-81 Shek Pai Wan Road
Southern	Rear Lane and Side Lane 181-185 of Aberdeen Main Road

Wan Chai	Lane at rear of Tai Wong Street East and Swatow Street
Wan Chai	Lane at rear of Burrows Street (Ming Fung Building)
Wan Chai	Lane at rear of Yee Wo Street and Jardine's Bazaar
Wan Chai	Lane at rear of Jaffe Road and Lockhart Road (between Fleming Road and O'Brien Road)
Wan Chai	Lane at rear of Jaffe Road and Lockhart Road (between Canal Road and Marsh Road)
Islands	Vacant area near 1 Tai San Street
Islands	Lane at rear of Pak She Praya Road between Pak She Fourth Lane and Pak She Sixth Lane
Islands	Back lane at 1-15 Wing Hing Street
<b>Kowloon</b>	
Kowloon City	Area bounded by Tokwawan Road, Lok Shan Road, Yuk Yat Street and Kwei Chow Street
Kowloon City	Area bounded by Bailey Street, Sung On Street, Ngan Hon Street, Tokwawan Road and Ma Tau Wai Road
Kowloon City	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	Area bounded by Whampoa Street, Bulkeley Street, Chatham Road North and Winslow Street
Kowloon City	Area bounded by Junction Road, Nga Tsin Wai Road, Tak Ku Ling Road and Carpenter Road
Kwun Tong	Shui Wo Street and the vicinity
Kwun Tong	Yue Man Square and the vicinity
Kwun Tong	Ngau Tau Kok Road, On Wah Street, Ngau Tau Kok Market and the vicinity
Kwun Tong	Tsun Yip Street, Tsun Yip Lane and the vicinity
Kwun Tong	Ting On Street, Ting Fu Street, Tai Yip Street and the vicinity

Kwun Tong	Rear lane of Wai Yip Street between How Ming Street and Hoi Yuen Road
Sham Shui Po	Area bounded by Tai Po Road, Yen Chow Street, Cheung Sha Wan Road and Nam Cheong Street
Sham Shui Po	Area bounded by Cheung Sha Wan Road, Nam Cheong Street, Lai Chi Kok Road and Yen Chow Street
Sham Shui Po	Area bounded by Lai Chi Kok Road, Yen Chow Street, Tung Chau Street and Nam Cheong Street
Sham Shui Po	Area bounded by Po On Road, Wing Lung Street, Un Chau Street and Hing Wah Street
Mong Kok	Lane at rear of 7-39 Fa Yuen Street
Mong Kok	Lane at rear and side of 165-203 Sai Yee Street
Mong Kok	Lane at rear of Tai Shing Building and Tai Chuen Building, Cosmopolitan Estate
Mong Kok	Lane at rear and side of 78-80 Fuk Tsuen Street
Mong Kok	Lane at rear of 33 Mong Kok Road
Mong Kok	Lane at rear and at side of 132-158 Sai Yeung Choi Street South
Mong Kok	Lane at rear and at side of 61-91 Sai Yee Street
Mong Kok	Lane at rear of 1061-1103 Canton Road and 1-3 Argyle Street
Mong Kok	Lane at side of 30 Ka Shin Street
Yau Tsim	Rear lane of 33C-45 Portland Street
Yau Tsim	Rear lane of 3-5 Tung Fong Street
Yau Tsim	Rear lane between Hau Fook Street and Granville Road
Yau Tsim	Rear lane of Granville Circuit
Yau Tsim	Rear lane of 77-107 Parkes Street
Yau Tsim	Rear lane of 2-32 Parkes Street
Yau Tsim	Rear lane of Woosung Street between Jordan Road to Nanking Street
Yau Tsim	Rear lane of 123-149 Temple Street

Yau Tsim	Rear lane of 222 – 250 Reclamation Street
Wong Tai Sin	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	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	Lung Chi Path, Fu Chi Path, Kwai Chi Path, Kam Chi Path and Wah Chi Path
Wong Tai Sin	Yuk Wah Street, Yuk Wah Crescent, Tsz Wah Lane, Fong Wah Lane and Koon Wah Lane
<b>New Territories</b>	
Kwai Tsing	Rear lane of Lai Fong Street
Kwai Tsing	Rear lane of Shing Fong Street
Kwai Tsing	Rear lane of Kwong Fai Circuit
Kwai Tsing	Rear lane of Tai Ha Street
Kwai Tsing	Rear lane of Shek Yam Road
Kwai Tsing	Chung Mei Lo Uk Village
North	Public area in the vicinity of Shek Wu Hui Farmers' Produce Retailing Point
North	Lane between San Fung Avenue and San Fat Street
North	Public area behind Luen Cheong Street Public Toilet
North	Path between San Hong Street and Royal Jubilee
Sai Kung	Lane between Siu Yat Building and Kam Po Court, King Man Street
Sai Kung	Nin Chun Street
Sai Kung	Tong Ming Street (public pavement in front of Beverly Garden)
Sai Kung	Lane between 50-76 Po Tung Road and 2-28 Yi Chun Street

Sai Kung	Public carpark at Chun Cheong Street
Sha Tin	Chik Fai Street and Mei Tin Road
Sha Tin	Tai Wai Road and lanes in the vicinity
Sha Tin	Sha Tin Centre Street including the vicinity of Sha Tin Market
Sha Tin	Yi Shing Square and Kong Pui Street
Sha Tin	On Yuen Street and On Chun Street (Fok On Garden to Marbella)
Tai Po	Four Lanes and rear lanes
Tai Po	Kwong Fuk Road and rear lanes
Tai Po	Kwong Fuk Square Carpark
Tai Po	Tai Wo Public Transport Interchange
Tai Po	Open spaces between Tai Yuen Estate and Jade Plaza (including On Chee Road Bus Terminus)
Tsuen Wan	Rear lane of 101-123 Chuen Lung Street and Yi Pei Square
Tsuen Wan	Rear lane of 105-139 Sha Tsui Road and Tso Kung Square
Tsuen Wan	Rear lane of 27-59 Tsuen Wan Market Street
Tsuen Wan	Rear lane of 16-64 Heung Wo Street and 19-47 Tai Pa Street
Tsuen Wan	Rear lane of 94-122 Chung On Street (Sam Pei Square)
Tsuen Wan	Rear lane of Nos.44-64 Ho Pui Street & Nos.55-77 Yeung Uk Road
Tsuen Wan	Rear lane of Cheong Hei Bldg., No 105-111 Hoi Pa Street
Tuen Mun	Kai Man Path
Tuen Mun	Vicinity of San Hui Market
Tuen Mun	Vicinity of Tsing Ho Square
Tuen Mun	Leung Tak Street
Tuen Mun	Tsing Yeung Circuit



Yuen Long	Lane at rear of and aside 19-37 Fuk Ting Street between Man Wah Building and Kit Man House
Yuen Long	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	Lane at rear of Yee On Building at 51-73 Fau Tsoi Street between Tai Tong Road and Hop Choi Street
Yuen Long	Lane at rear of Kuen Yick Building at 138-160 Yuen Long On Ning Road
Yuen Long	Lane at rear of 47-79 Yuen Long On Ning Road between Sau Fu Street and Tung Lok Street
Yuen Long	Lane at rear of Yuen Long Trade Centre(near Fook Hong Street)
Yuen Long	Lane between No. 33-71, Sau Fu Street, Yuen Long (between Holly Building and Yuen Fat House)

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

**FHB(FE)133**

Question Serial No.

2614

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) Please advise on the financial provision and manpower involved or to be involved in conducting food surveillance by the Centre for Food Safety in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively.
- (b) Please also advise on the total number of food samples collected for testing in various projects under the Food Surveillance Programme of 2011 (including routine food surveillance, targeted food surveillance projects and seasonal food surveillance projects) and the satisfactory rates.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The actual expenditure on food surveillance in 2009-10 and 2010-11 was \$48.7 million and \$51.4 million respectively. The estimated expenditure for 2011-12 and 2012-13 is \$54.4 million and \$56.1 million respectively.

The manpower establishment of the Centre for Food Safety in carrying out the above work in 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 was 99, 102 and 110 respectively, and the estimated manpower provision for 2012-13 is 115.

- (b) In 2011, the number of food samples tested under routine food surveillance, targeted food surveillance and seasonal food surveillance was 60 600, 3 000 and 1 300 respectively. The overall satisfactory rate is 99.7 per cent.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

**Session 18 FHB(FE)**

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

**FHB(FE)134**

Question Serial No.

2615

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

Programme:            (1) Food Safety and Public Health  
                                 (4) Public and Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide information on the following:

- (a) the estimated expenditure and manpower to be involved for promotional activities, inspection and enforcement in respect of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme in 2012-13;
- (b) the number of enquiries received relating to the Nutrition Labelling Scheme since its implementation; and
- (c) the number of inspections conducted, and the number and nature of non-compliant cases detected since the implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) All prepackaged foods in Hong Kong must comply with the general food labelling and nutrition labelling requirements as laid down in the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) Regulations (Cap. 132W). In terms of general food labelling, prepackaged foods are required to be legibly marked or labelled with the following information in either English or Chinese language or in both languages, viz, (i) name of food, (ii) list of ingredients including allergen declaration, (iii) “best before” or “use by” date, (iv) statement of special condition for storage or instructions for use, (v) name and address of manufacturer or packer and (vi) count, weight or volume. In terms of nutrition labelling requirements, the Nutrition Labelling Scheme requires all prepackaged foods to label the content of energy plus seven nutrients, viz, (i) protein, (ii) carbohydrates, (iii) total fat, (iv) saturated fat, (v) trans fat, (vi) sodium and (vii) sugars, as well as any nutrient for which a nutrition claim is made, and regulates nutrition claims.

The estimated manpower provision for inspection and enforcement of the general food labelling and nutrition labelling requirements in 2012-13 is 12. The expenditures and manpower on inspection and enforcement of nutrition labelling requirements cannot be separately identified. The expenditure and manpower for promoting the Nutrition Labelling Scheme in 2012-13 will be absorbed within the existing resources for promotion of food safety in general and cannot be separately identified.

- (b) As at 17 February 2012, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) had received 1 939 enquires related to the Nutrition Labelling Scheme since its commencement on 1 July 2010.
- (c) As at 17 February 2012, CFS had checked 18 921 prepackaged food products since the commencement of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme on 1 July 2010, with 180 found to be non-compliant. The overall compliance rate is 99.05%. A detailed breakdown of the 180 cases is as follows –

Nature of non-compliance	No. of cases for the period of 1.7.2010 - 17.2.2012
No nutrition label or incomplete 1+7 core nutrients label	68
Inappropriate nutrition label format	7
Inappropriate nutrient claim	18
Inappropriate language	17
Involved more than one type of irregularity	9
Discrepancy on declared nutrient value confirmed after chemical analysis	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)135**

Question Serial No.

2616

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 food production farms and food processing plants outside Hong Kong were inspected by the Department in 2011? What were the major regions / places for inspections?
- (b) What are the estimated staff establishment and expenditure to be involved in the inspection of food production farms and food processing plants outside Hong Kong in 2012-13?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) In 2011, a total of 90 registered food production farms (including farms which export live food animals, live aquatic products, fish, vegetables and fruits to Hong Kong) and 41 food processing plants in the Mainland were inspected. Another 11 farms and 10 processing plants in Mexico, Germany and Sweden were also inspected.
- (b) 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. \$7.1 million has been earmarked for the work in 2012-13.

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 2012, we plan to inspect 50 food animal farms, 18 fish farms, 20 vegetable farms and 41 processing plants outside Hong Kong.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

**Session 18 FHB(FE)**

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

**FHB(FE)136**

Question Serial No.

2617

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 2012-13, and advise on the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

In 2012-13, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will carry out improvement works in five markets, namely, Hung Shui Kiu Temporary Market, On Ching Road Flower Market, Tai Wai Market, Tsuen King Circuit Market and Cheung Chau Market. The estimated cost of these improvement works is \$32.08 million. The works 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 public markets in 2012-13 include festive celebration activities, thematic exhibitions and workshops, display of multi-language recipes as well as publication of booklets and quarterly newsletters to provide updated market information. The estimated cost of these promotional activities is \$4 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)137**

Question Serial No.

2618

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:

- (a) the expenditure on subsidising public market management from 2009-10 to 2011-12;
- (b) the number of vacant stalls in public markets and the vacancy rate as at 31 March 2011; 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 2011) 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) the number of contractors engaged, the manpower they deploy, the types of services they provide and the expenditure involved in the various aspects of market management.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) For 2009-10 and 2010-11, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department recorded deficits of \$213.0 million and \$158.0 million respectively in market management. The deficit in market management for 2011-12 is estimated to be \$181.2 million.
- (b) As at 31 December 2011, 1 792 stalls out of a total of 14 452 stalls in public markets were vacant due to various reasons including stalls being frozen for market improvement works or pending market closure, or stalls being set aside for resiting purpose. The gross vacancy rate was 12.4%. 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 2011, 253 in-house staff were involved in market management.
- (d) As at 31 December 2011, a total of 15 contractors and about 1 500 contractors' staff were engaged in market management, including market cleansing, pest control and security guard services. The estimated total expenditure involved for 2011-12 is about \$183 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)138**

Question Serial No.

2619

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 inspections conducted by the Department in respect of illegal sale of chilled meat (including sale of chilled meat and chilled poultry without permission or sale of chilled meat as fresh meat) in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively, as well as the number of illegal cases detected and the penalty imposed.

Asked by: Hon. Wong Yung-kan

Reply:

Licensed food premises selling chilled meat/poultry are inspected once every four, ten and 20 weeks according to their risk types under the "Risk-based Inspection System" whereas stalls in public markets with permission to sell chilled meat/poultry are inspected once every eight weeks. In addition, there are inspections to follow up on complaints. Actions will be taken if any irregularities are found during such inspections. There are no separate statistics on inspections concerning illegal sale of chilled meat/poultry.

In 2009, 2010 and 2011, nine, five and 18 prosecutions were taken respectively against licensed food premises and stalls in public markets for selling chilled meat/poultry without permission and the penalties imposed for each case ranged from \$500 to \$10,000, with an average of \$3,800. As regards cases concerning selling chilled/frozen meat/poultry as fresh meat/poultry, there were one cancellation of licence of food premises and two terminations of tenancy agreement of market stall in 2009, one cancellation of licence of food premises in 2010 and two terminations of tenancy agreement of market stall in 2011.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012



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

**FHB(FE)139**

Question Serial No.

2620

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:

- (a) the number of warnings issued and prosecutions instituted against illegal hawking of unlicensed hawkers, the locations involved as well as the nature of these cases in 2011; and
- (b) whether new measures will be put in place or additional manpower or resources be allocated to step up raids at unlicensed hawker blackspots.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

- (a) In 2011, the number of prosecutions instituted against illegal hawking activities, including street obstruction, illegal hawking and sale of cooked food / restricted food, was 28 576. Further detailed breakdown is not readily available. There are no statistics on warnings issued.
- (b) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to adopt the strategies of mobile patrol and raiding to deter unlicensed hawking with its existing manpower resources. Hawker Control Team (HCT) staff regularly patrol blackspots to disrupt illegal hawking activities and to prevent unlicensed hawkers from taking root at these locations. If these hawkers persist in trading and do not disperse, arrest action would follow. HCT staff also mount raiding operations at blackspots to arrest unlicensed hawkers and seize their goods and equipment to increase the deterrent effect.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 1.3.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION****FHB(FE)140**

Question Serial No.

2621

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, it is mentioned the number of food complaints handled by the Department in 2011 was 4 265, which was higher than the corresponding figure of 3 737 in 2010. Please advise on the following:

- (a) the type and nature of food complaints handled in the past three years (i.e. in 2009, 2010 and 2011), as well as the examination results and outcomes of these complaints;
- (b) whether the Department has assessed the reason(s) for the significant increase in the number of food complaints; and
- (c) in view of the rising number of food complaints, whether additional manpower and resources will be deployed or special measures be taken to handle the complaints.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The number of food complaints handled by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department from 2009 to 2011 with breakdown by nature and follow up actions is provided in the following table -

<b>Nature of Complaints</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Unwholesome food	2 115	2 059	2152
Foreign substances in food	1 127	1 018	1 017
Chemicals in food	558	393	647
Labelling issues	227	176	208
Fake/counterfeit food	160	53	167
Others	40	38	74
<b>Total number of cases</b>	<b>4 227</b>	<b>3 737</b>	<b>4 265</b>
<b>Number of warnings issued</b>	<b>1 027</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>774</b>
<b>Number of prosecutions taken out</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>132</b>

- (b) The increase in the number of food complaints in 2011 from 2010 was attributed to the occurrence of a number of food incidents in 2011, including the contamination of German eggs by dioxin in January; radiation contamination of imported food from Japan due to the Fukushima Nuclear Plant incident in March; plasticiser contamination in Taiwanese food in May and reports of faked egg/faked beef in January/May.
- (c) As the estimated number of food complaints in 2012 is similar to the number of food complaints in 2011, the manpower and resources provided for handling food complaints will remain the same.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

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

**FHB(FE)141**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2622

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health  
(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Regarding the inspections conducted to food premises by the Department in the past three years (i.e. in 2009, 2010 and 2011), please advise on the number and nature of cases of irregularities found, the types of premises involved, as well as the number of warnings issued and prosecutions instituted.
- (b) Regarding the food poisoning incidents happened in Hong Kong in the past three years, please advise on the number, nature and causes of these incidents, the seasons when they took place, the conditions of the affected persons and the pertinence to food premises and the food business (i.e. food poisoning arising from dining out or home cooking).

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) All licensed food premises are subject to regular inspection. In 2009, 2010 and 2011, the number of prosecutions instituted against licensed food premises was 4 295, 4 117 and 4 207 respectively, and the breakdown by nature of irregularities is at Annex. There are no separate statistics on the types of premises involved and the number of warnings issued.
- (b) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department received 343, 279 and 290 referrals of food poisoning outbreaks related to food premises and vendors from the Department of Health in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively. More referrals were received from July to September and bacteria was the most common causative agent. Improper food handling and inadequate cooking were commonly identified at investigation and most affected persons had mild gastrointestinal symptoms.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 1.3.2012

**Breakdown of Prosecutions instituted against Licensed Food Premises  
in 2009, 2010 and 2011**

Nature of Irregularities	No. of Prosecutions		
	2009	2010	2011
Dirty food premises / presence of vermins	28	15	14
Dirty equipment and utensils	13	9	17
Food not protected from risk of contamination	4	6	5
Sub-standard fish tank water	3	3	4
Improper storage of open food	212	180	179
Use of open space for scullery / food preparation / storage of food utensils	144	134	132
Dirty food room / improper repair of food room	88	64	66
Dirty toilet	2	1	2
Alteration of premises or fittings	31	15	16
Alteration to the approved layout of the premises	146	148	145
Sale of restricted food without permission	21	7	27
Operating other types of unlicensed food business	105	115	46
Extension of food business beyond licensed area	795	783	1 058
Obstruction of public places	2 655	2 622	2 473
Other irregularities such as smoking in food room, sale of fresh and frozen meat at the same premises, sale of unfit food for human consumption, sale of food which was not of the substance or quality demanded by the consumer, fresh meat containing preservative, food containing non-permitted colouring matter, etc.	48	15	23
Total	4 295	4 117	4 207

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

**FHB(FE)142**

Question Serial No.

2623

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:

Under this programme, it is stated that the Department will take forward plans and projects to provide more crematorium and columbarium facilities in 2012-13. Please give a brief description of the specific plans and projects to be taken forward, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

On public crematorium facilities, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is upgrading the cremators by phases to increase their handling capacity. The Wo Hop Shek Crematorium is being reprovioned at an estimated cost of \$686.3 million for constructing six cremators and other ancillary facilities. The project is scheduled for completion in mid 2012. The reprovioning 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 mid 2012 and late 2014 respectively. With the completion of these two reprovioning projects, the number of scheduled cremation sessions per annum will be increased by 31.3% from 40 200 in 2011 to 52 800.

On public columbarium facilities, the construction of a new public columbarium with 43 710 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. The Department is also constructing 1 540 new niches in the Diamond Hill Columbarium at an estimated cost of \$0.76 million, and will construct 990 new niches in the Cheung Chau Cemetery at an estimated cost of \$10.76 million in 2013. The construction works in Diamond Hill Columbarium will be completed in early 2012 whereas the construction works in Cheung Chau Cemetery will be completed in late 2013. To increase the supply of public niches, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and has identified 24 potential sites in 18 districts in Hong Kong for columbarium development. The above-mentioned sites in the Diamond Hill Columbarium and Cheung Chau Cemetery are two of the 24 potential sites. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on the remaining sites and will consult the relevant District Councils before the sites are confirmed for development. There is no separate breakdown of the manpower involved in taking forward plans and projects to provide more crematorium and columbarium facilities.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 1.3.2012

**Session 18 FHB(FE)**

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13

**FHB(FE)143**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO**

**INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

1993

Head : 703 – Buildings

Subhead : 3049FS Extension of Man Kam To food inspection facilities

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question : According to the Administration, the approved estimate for the extension of Man Kam To food inspection facilities is \$176.1 million and the actual expenditure as at 31 March 2011 is \$28.697 million. Yet the estimated expenditure for 2012-13 is only \$42 million. What is the timetable for drawing down the remaining provision of \$25 million or so? How can the works be expedited?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply : The construction of the Extension of Man Kam To food inspection facilities was commenced in July 2010 and is scheduled to complete in December 2012. The approved project estimate is \$176.1 million and the actual expenditure as at 31 March 2011 was \$28.697 million. The estimated expenditure for 2011-12 is \$80 million. The estimate of \$42 million for 2012-13 is mainly for the construction of the steel roof and finishing works. The remaining estimated expenditure of \$25.403 million will be incurred in 2013-14 and beyond for the procurement of furniture and equipment, and settlement of final account. We will closely monitor the project progress and ensure the works are completed on time.

Signature :

Name in block letters :

K K LEUNG

Post Title : Director of Architectural Services

Date : 22 February 2012

**Session 18 FHB(FE)**

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

**FHB(FE)144**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

3508

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 public columbaria as well as the supply and availability of and demand for niches in various District Council districts.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

District	Name of Columbaria	Total no. of niches	No. of niches for re-allocation	No. of unallocated niches	No. of applicants on the waiting list for re-allocated niches
Eastern	Cape Collinson	61 615	19	-	3 425
Wong Tai Sin	Diamond Hill	61 811	18	-	7 823
North	Wo Hop Shek	22 290	12	-	2 226
Sha Tin	Fu Shan	9 625	6	-	773
Kwai Tsing	Kwai Chung	9 276	10	-	3 039
Islands	Cheung Chau	2 335	3	172	-
	Lamma	490	5	424	-
	Peng Chau	490	2	194	-
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>167 932</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>790</b>	

Besides, the construction of a new public columbarium with 43 710 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 has identified 24 potential sites in 18 districts in Hong Kong for columbarium development. The Food



and Environmental Hygiene Department will complete 1 540 new niches in the Diamond Hill Columbarium in early 2012, and 990 new niches in the Cheung Chau Cemetery in late 2013. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on the remaining sites and will consult the relevant District Councils before the sites are confirmed for development.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 1.3.2012