

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the  
Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14**

**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>	2554	CHAN Chi-chuen	139	(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety
<a href="#">FHB(FE)002</a>	2781	CHAN Chi-chuen	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)003</a>	0798	CHAN Han-pan	139	(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety
<a href="#">FHB(FE)004</a>	0043	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)005</a>	0044	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)006</a>	0292	CHEUNG Kwok-che	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)007</a>	0202	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)008</a>	0203	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	139	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)009</a>	3109	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	139	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)010</a>	1180	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	139	(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety
<a href="#">FHB(FE)011</a>	1749	MO Claudia	139	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)012</a>	0677	NG Leung-sing	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)013</a>	2514	POON Siu-ping	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)014</a>	1821	TIEN Puk-sun, Michael	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)015</a>	1836	TIEN Puk-sun, Michael	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)016</a>	1846	TIEN Puk-sun, Michael	139	(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety
<a href="#">FHB(FE)017</a>	0953	WONG Pik-wan, Helena	139	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)018</a>	0967	WONG Pik-wan, Helena	139	(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety
<a href="#">FHB(FE)019</a>	2416	WONG Yuk-man	139	(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety
<a href="#">FHB(FE)020</a>	2784	CHAN Chi-chuen	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)021</a>	2785	CHAN Chi-chuen	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)022</a>	0022	CHAN Hak-kan	22	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)023</a>	0023	CHAN Hak-kan	22	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)024</a>	0024	CHAN Hak-kan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)025</a>	0025	CHAN Hak-kan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)026</a>	0026	CHAN Hak-kan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)027</a>	0880	CHAN Kin-por	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)028</a>	1694	CHAN Wai-yip, Albert	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)029</a>	1695	CHAN Wai-yip, Albert	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)030</a>	1876	CHEUNG Wah-fung,	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
		Christopher		Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)031</a>	0118	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)032</a>	0218	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)033</a>	0219	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)034</a>	0220	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)035</a>	0221	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)036</a>	0418	CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)037</a>	0419	CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)038</a>	2826	FANG Kang, Vincent	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)039</a>	1937	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)040</a>	1938	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)041</a>	1939	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)042</a>	1940	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)043</a>	1941	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)044</a>	1942	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)045</a>	1944	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)046</a>	1946	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)047</a>	1947	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)048</a>	1948	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)049</a>	1952	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)050</a>	1953	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)051</a>	1955	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)052</a>	1957	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)053</a>	1958	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)054</a>	1959	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)055</a>	1960	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)056</a>	1961	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)057</a>	0508	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	22	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)058</a>	3237	KWOK Dennis	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

<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)059</a>	0927	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)060</a>	0928	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)061</a>	0929	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)062</a>	0930	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)063</a>	0931	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)064</a>	0932	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)065</a>	0933	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)066</a>	0934	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)067</a>	0935	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)068</a>	0936	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)069</a>	0945	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)070</a>	0946	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)071</a>	0947	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)072</a>	1789	LEUNG Che-chueng	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)073</a>	1735	MO Claudia	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)074</a>	1743	MO Claudia	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)075</a>	1744	MO Claudia	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)076</a>	1745	MO Claudia	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)077</a>	1746	MO Claudia	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)078</a>	1747	MO Claudia	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)079</a>	1766	MO Claudia	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)080</a>	0674	NG Leung-sing	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)081</a>	1847	TIEN Puk-sun, Michael	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)082</a>	0027	WONG Kwok-hing	22	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)083</a>	0079	WONG Kwok-hing	22	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)084</a>	0080	WONG Kwok-hing	22	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)085</a>	0948	WONG Pik-wan, Helena	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)086</a>	0949	WONG Pik-wan, Helena	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)087</a>	0950	WONG Pik-wan, Helena	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)088</a>	0201	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	48	(1) Statutory Testing
<a href="#">FHB(FE)089</a>	0223	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	48	(1) Statutory Testing
<a href="#">FHB(FE)090</a>	0224	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	48	(1) Statutory Testing
<a href="#">FHB(FE)091</a>	0225	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	48	(1) Statutory Testing
<a href="#">FHB(FE)092</a>	2823	FANG Kang, Vincent	48	(1) Statutory Testing
<a href="#">FHB(FE)093</a>	0525	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	48	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)094</a>	0966	WONG Pik-wan, Helena	48	(1) Statutory Testing
<a href="#">FHB(FE)095</a>	2555	CHAN Chi-chuen	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)096</a>	0189	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)097</a>	0190	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)098</a>	0191	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)099</a>	0192	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)100</a>	0204	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)101</a>	0205	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)102</a>	0206	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)103</a>	0207	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)104</a>	0208	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)105</a>	0209	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)106</a>	0210	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)107</a>	0211	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)108</a>	0212	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)109</a>	0213	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)110</a>	0214	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)111</a>	0215	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)112</a>	0216	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)113</a>	0217	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)114</a>	0222	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)115</a>	0226	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)116</a>	0227	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)117</a>	0420	CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)118</a>	2820	FANG Kang, Vincent	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)119</a>	1945	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)120</a>	1950	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)121</a>	1951	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)122</a>	1954	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)123</a>	1956	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)124</a>	1962	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)125</a>	1964	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)126</a>	1965	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)127</a>	1966	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)128</a>	1967	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)129</a>	1968	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)130</a>	1969	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)131</a>	1970	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)132</a>	1971	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)133</a>	1972	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)134</a>	1973	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)135</a>	1974	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)136</a>	1975	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)137</a>	1976	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)138</a>	1977	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)139</a>	1978	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)140</a>	1979	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)141</a>	1980	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)142</a>	1981	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)143</a>	1982	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)144</a>	1983	HO Chun-yin, Steven	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)145</a>	0523	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	49	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)146</a>	1178	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)147</a>	1179	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	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)148</a>	3224	LEUNG Kenneth	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)149</a>	0110	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)150</a>	1081	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)151</a>	0500	TANG Ka-piu	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)152</a>	0501	TANG Ka-piu	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)153</a>	0502	TANG Ka-piu	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)154</a>	0545	TANG Ka-piu	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)155</a>	1810	TIEN Puk-sun, Michael	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)156</a>	0552	TO Kun-sun, James	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)157</a>	0553	TO Kun-sun, James	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)158</a>	0236	WONG Kwok-hing	49	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)159</a>	0237	WONG Kwok-hing	49	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)160</a>	0238	WONG Kwok-hing	49	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)161</a>	0955	WONG Pik-wan, Helena	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)162</a>	2397	WONG Yuk-man	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)163</a>	2398	WONG Yuk-man	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)164</a>	2399	WONG Yuk-man	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)165</a>	2400	WONG Yuk-man	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)166</a>	0808	CHAN Kam-lam	31	(1) Control and Enforcement
<a href="#">FHB(FE)167</a>	1865	CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher	31	(1) Control and Enforcement
<a href="#">FHB(FE)168</a>	3165	LEE Wai-king, Starry	31	(1) Control and Enforcement
<a href="#">FHB(FE)169</a>	1894	TIEN Pei-chun, James	31	(1) Control and Enforcement
<a href="#">FHB(FE)170</a>	3180	TSE Wai-chun, Paul	31	(1) Control and Enforcement
<a href="#">FHB(FE)171</a>	3347	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	139	(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety
<a href="#">FHB(FE)172</a>	3348	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	139	(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety
<a href="#">FHB(FE)173</a>	3350	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)174</a>	3351	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)175</a>	3436	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)176</a>	4873	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)177</a>	5346	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	139	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)178</a>	4132	CHEUNG Kwok-che	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)179</a>	4952	FAN Kwok-wai, Gary	139	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)180</a>	3696	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	139	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)181</a>	3710	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	139	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)182</a>	3616	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	139	(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety
<a href="#">FHB(FE)183</a>	3617	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	139	(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
				Safety
<a href="#">FHB(FE)184</a>	4253	WONG Kwok-hing	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)185</a>	4254	WONG Kwok-hing	139	(3) Environmental Hygiene
<a href="#">FHB(FE)186</a>	3352	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)187</a>	4197	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)188</a>	5321	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)189</a>	4482	KWOK Ka-ki	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)190</a>	4487	KWOK Ka-ki	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)191</a>	3931	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)192</a>	5446	LEUNG Kwok-hung	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)193</a>	5447	LEUNG Kwok-hung	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)194</a>	5457	LEUNG Kwok-hung	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)195</a>	4297	WONG Kwok-hing	22	
<a href="#">FHB(FE)196</a>	4304	WONG Kwok-hing	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)197</a>	4305	WONG Kwok-hing	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)198</a>	5382	WONG Kwok-hing	22	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)199</a>	5383	WONG Kwok-hing	22	(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
<a href="#">FHB(FE)200</a>	4674	KWOK Wai-keung	48	(1) Statutory Testing
<a href="#">FHB(FE)201</a>	3353	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)202</a>	3432	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)203</a>	3433	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)204</a>	3434	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)205</a>	3435	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)206</a>	3437	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)207</a>	3438	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)208</a>	3439	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)209</a>	3440	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)210</a>	4874	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)211</a>	4875	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)212</a>	4876	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control

<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)213</a>	5324	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)214</a>	5326	CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)215</a>	4133	CHEUNG Kwok-che	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)216</a>	4134	CHEUNG Kwok-che	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)217</a>	4549	CHEUNG Kwok-che	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)218</a>	3494	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)219</a>	3613	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)220</a>	3614	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)221</a>	3615	LEE Kok-long, Joseph	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)222</a>	3926	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)223</a>	3927	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)224</a>	3928	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)225</a>	3929	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)226</a>	3930	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)227</a>	3958	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)228</a>	5352	MOK Charles Peter	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)229</a>	5084	TANG Ka-piu	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)230</a>	4251	WONG Kwok-hing	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)231</a>	4252	WONG Kwok-hing	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
<a href="#">FHB(FE)232</a>	4255	WONG Kwok-hing	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)233</a>	4289	WONG Kwok-hing	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)234</a>	5385	WONG Kwok-hing	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)235</a>	5386	WONG Kwok-hing	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
<a href="#">FHB(FE)236</a>	5387	WONG Kwok-hing	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)237</a>	5388	WONG Kwok-hing	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
<a href="#">FHB(FE)238</a>	5475	CHAN Hak-kan	31	(1) Control and Enforcement
<a href="#">FHB(FE)239</a>	4735	CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth	31	(1) Control and Enforcement
<a href="#">FHB(FE)240</a>	5478	IP Kwok-him	31	(1) Control and Enforcement



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

**FHB(FE)001**

Question Serial No.

2554

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:

Please advise this Committee on the figure of formula products imported to Hong Kong in 2012-13.

Will the Administration reserve any provision for setting up a permanent enquiry centre on supply of formula products to help local parents receive latest news on supply of formula products in advance?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

According to the Census and Statistics Department, 44.4 million kg of powdered formula<sup>1</sup> was imported into Hong Kong in 2012.

The demand and supply of powdered formula is essentially a market behaviour in which the Government would not normally intervene. It is incumbent upon suppliers of formula products to ensure adequate supply to meet market needs and keep consumers abreast of the latest supply situation. The Administration therefore has no plan to set up a permanent enquiry centre on supply of formula products.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health(Food)

Date: 5.4.2013

<sup>1</sup> Such powdered formula is generally as defined according to the Import and Export (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2013.

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

**FHB(FE)002**

Question Serial No.

2781

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What is the estimated overall expenditure involved in enhancing the regulation of private columbaria in 2013-2014?

At present, a considerably large number of private columbaria are still operating not in compliance with the statutory requirements. In this connection, would the Administration step up relevant public education and publicity efforts? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

The work on formulating policy and preparing legislation for enhancing the regulation of private columbaria would be absorbed within existing resources.

For the purpose of providing the public with information on private columbaria which are known to the Government thereby helping consumers to make informed choices when purchasing niches, the Development Bureau (DEVB) has since December 2010 published relevant land/lease (user restrictions) and town planning information on private columbaria known to the Lands Department and/or Planning Department. The information has been uploaded to the website of DEVB and updated on a quarterly basis. In addition, we have strengthened public education, through channels such as Announcements in the Public Interest and the publication of a consumer checklist advising the public to exercise caution when purchasing niches from private columbaria. We have also worked with the Consumer Council. It published a topical report on private columbaria in its monthly magazine CHOICE in 2010 and 2011 respectively with a detailed guide and tips for the easy reference of consumers when purchasing niches from private columbaria. Such public education and publicity efforts will continue, with the associated expenditure absorbed within existing resources.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date: 21.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)003**

Question Serial No.

0798

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:

Support for veterinarians, pet care and relevant district facilities is inadequate against the increasing demand from pet keepers in Hong Kong. Please advise on:

- a) whether the Government will allocate any resources to develop veterinary courses. If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- b) the figures in relation to facilities and expenditure allocated by the Government for pet support in the past three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Han-pan

Reply:

a) A person is qualified to be registered as a veterinary surgeon, if he/she satisfies the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong (VSB) that, amongst other requirements, he/she holds any of the qualifications recognised by the VSB (including the qualifications from about 50 specified universities in the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and Taiwan). The list of recognised qualifications is subject to review as and when appropriate.

At present, a total of over 670 veterinary surgeons have been registered with the VSB. During the past few years, there were some 60 new registrations per year on average. Around 80% of the veterinary surgeons practising in Hong Kong provide companion animal clinical services to meet the demand of the market. According to a survey conducted by the Hong Kong Veterinary Association in 2011, on average around 35 veterinary graduates per year would join the profession in Hong Kong from recognised overseas universities in the coming few years.

The City University of Hong Kong (CityU) submitted to the University Grants Committee (UGC) in December 2012 a revised proposal for establishing a publicly-funded School of Veterinary Medicine (vet school) in Hong Kong. The UGC has set up a Task Force to study CityU's vet school proposal from multiple perspectives, with due regard to the general case for establishment of such provision in Hong Kong. The Task Force will look into options concerning veterinary education and research in higher education in Hong Kong and assess the implications of such options for the consideration of the UGC and the Administration. The Government will take into account all relevant factors, including the outcome of UGC's study, in deciding whether public funds should be deployed to assist in setting up the proposed vet school.

b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) 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 operational expenditure of the AMCs in the past three years is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)			
	AMC/NTN	AMC/NTS	AMC/K	AMC/HK
2010-11	15.87	10.77	13.60	10.77
2011-12	17.82	12.09	15.27	12.09
2012-13	20.70	14.05	17.74	14.05

Specifically, the AMCs provide rabies vaccine inoculation, re-homing and de-sexing services for dogs and cats. The expenditure allocated by AFCD for these services over the past three years is set out as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)		
	Inoculation	Re-homing	De-sexing
2010-11	2.2	0.2	1.0
2011-12	2.4	0.2	1.0
2012-13	2.7	0.3	1.0

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Date: 1.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)004**

Question Serial No.

0043

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

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The judicial proceedings of a judicial review case on the illegal operation of a columbarium will soon come to an end. If the court rules against the operator of the columbarium concerned, the columbarium may be required to cease its operation. On the other hand, a number of similar review cases are undergoing judicial proceedings at present, the outcome of which may in the future affect members of the public who have stored the cremains of their deceased family members in these columbaria. In 2013-14, will the Government formulate initiatives and allocate resources to deal with the impact brought about by the closure of these illegal columbaria? If yes, what are the details of the initiatives and the estimated expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

It is incumbent upon the operator of a columbarium to ensure that the interred cremains are properly handled before the columbarium ceases to operate.

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) provides service for temporary storage of cremains in all its crematoria free of charge in the first two months following cremation. Other than that, cremains may be stored on a temporary basis in the Kwai Chung Crematorium at a monthly fee of \$250. The duration may be extended upon application. Paying respect to the deceased at the temporary storage facilities is not allowed. The Department does not keep a separate breakdown of the expenditure involved in operating these facilities.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Date: 8.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)005**

Question Serial No.

0044

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What is the number of deceased waiting for public columbarium niches, including those in cemeteries managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Board of Management of the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries? Please provide a breakdown by individual cemeteries and types of columbarium niches.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The number of applicants waiting for re-allocated niches in columbaria managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Board of Management of the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries (BMCPC) respectively as at 28.2.2013 is given below –

<b>Columbaria under FEHD</b>	<b>No. of applicants on the waiting list for re-allocated niches</b>	
	Standard / ordinary niche	Large / family niche
Cape Collinson	3 772	449
Cheung Chau	0	0
Diamond Hill	8 981	1 168
Fu Shan	800	172
Kwai Chung	3 950	0
Lamma	0	0
Peng Chau	0	0
Wo Hop Shek	2 819	338

<b>Columbaria under BMCP</b>	<b>No. of applicants on the waiting list for re-allocated niches</b>	
Aberdeen Chinese Permanent Cemetery	445	106
Cape Collinson Chinese Permanent Cemetery	2 967	370
Junk Bay Chinese Permanent Cemetery	3 802	939
Tsuen Wan Chinese Permanent Cemetery	4 658	392

New niches are allocated through computer balloting, rather than by reference to a waiting list.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Date: 8.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)006**

Question Serial No.

0292

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Food and Health Bureau will take forward a scheme for improving the fire safety and operating environment of fixed-pitch hawker areas in 2013-14. Given that it is extremely difficult for many older-aged people with low education and skills in our society to earn a living, would the Bureau please advise whether it will formulate a policy on the issue of more time-limited hawker licences for this group of people to apply so that they can become self-reliant and improve their financial conditions and livelihood. If yes, how to implement? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

The Government reviewed its hawker licensing policy in 2008 and 2009 and consulted the Legislative Council, District Councils, hawker associations and relevant stakeholders. As a result of the review, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department issued a limited number of hawker licences, including licences for vacant fixed hawker pitches and for itinerant (frozen confectionery) hawkers (commonly known as "small ice-cream vendors"). Currently, the Administration has no plan to further issue new hawker licences having regard to the fire-safety, environmental hygiene and general nuisance concerns.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health(Food)

Date: 14.3.2013



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

**FHB(FE)007**

Question Serial No.

0202

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

As regards the follow-up on the public consultation on a review of liquor licensing in 2013-14, please provide the details, including the specific work, timetable, the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

We consulted the public on a review of liquor licensing in late 2011. In the light of the views received, the Administration is finalising the relevant proposals in consultation with the Liquor Licensing Board ("LLB"). The current position is set out below.

To enhance transparency and facilitate compliance, LLB is contemplating to release for public consumption a set of guidelines which encapsulate the factors that the Board would take into account when assessing the merits of individual applications, including those from upstairs bars. We will brief the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene ("FSEH Panel") on the guidelines in the second quarter of 2013 and engage the trade and other stakeholders.

Since November 2012, liquor licence applications are put on the LLB website in parallel with newspaper advertisement made by the applicants as per the prevailing requirement. After the online arrangement has been in use for some time, we will give the applicants the choice of opting either for newspaper or internet advertisement, before full migration to the internet mode. Separately, we are working out with LLB the details of the proposal that would allow licence holders of good track record to have their licences renewed for up to two years, from 12 months at present. Full implementation of the above two proposals require amendments to the Dutiable Commodities (Liquor) Regulations ("DCLR"). We plan to brief the LegCo FSEH Panel on the proposed legislative amendments later this year.

At present, we are developing the operational details of the reserve licensee proposal, with a view to pursuing it on the basis of existing provisions in the DCLR. We will consult LLB on the revised proposal in due course.

The expenditure for placing licence applications on the internet has been absorbed by resources used to run the LLB website. Separate breakdown is not readily available. We will review the resource implications as and when the details of the other proposals have been finalised.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)008**

Question Serial No.

0203

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that all policy bureaux and departments will be required to review their respective fees and charges, and submit plans for their revision for the coming one or two years. They will first deal with fees that have not been revised for years and do not directly affect people's livelihood. In this connection, please list all fee items concerned of the departments under the Food and Health Bureau and their current fee levels in monetary terms and as a percentage of their respective costs. Please state the amount of funds earmarked by the Food and Health Bureau and the relevant departments for the review.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

Information on fees and charges administered by departments under the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) is given below:

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)

The AFCD provides a wide range of regulatory activities in respect of animal, plant and fisheries for the purpose of protecting public health. There are about 80 fee items relating to the following categories of licences and/or services –

- (a) Fees under the Pesticides Regulations (Cap 133A)
- (b) Temporary exhibition permit fee under the Public Health (Animals & Birds) (Exhibitions) Regulations (Cap 139F)
- (c) Riding establishment licence fee under the Public Health (Animals) (Riding Establishment) Regulations (Cap 139J)
- (d) Permit/licence fees under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Regulations (Cap 139A) and the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Licensing of Livestock Keeping) Regulation (Cap 139L)
- (e) Pounds fees under the Pounds Fees Regulations (Cap 168A)
- (f) Examination fees under the Plant (Importation and Pest Control) (Fees) Regulations (Cap 207A)
- (g) Fees under the Plant Varieties Protection Regulation (Cap 490A)
- (h) Examination/testing fees for Veterinary health certificate and Laboratory diagnostic services
- (i) Tractor cultivating service fee for fallow land rehabilitation

The fees are in general below their full cost (with an overall cost recovery rate of about 65%).

### Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD)

The FEHD provides a wide range of services and regulatory activities for the purpose of ensuring environmental hygiene and food safety. There are about 120 fee items relating to the following categories of licences and/or services –

- (a) Food business and trade licences/permits
- (b) Hawker licences and allocation of fixed pitches
- (c) Cemeteries and crematoria services
- (d) Slaughterhouse licences and inspection services
- (e) Liquor licences
- (f) Food safety related services

For food safety related fees and charges, they are near full cost recovery. The rest of the fees are in general below their full cost (with an overall cost recovery rate of about 56%) as the rates of these fees have remained unchanged since 2000.

### Government Laboratory

Nil.

### Department of Health (DH)

The DH provides a wide range of regulatory activities for the purpose of ensuring protection of public health. There are about 220 fee items relating to the following categories of licences and/or services –

- (a) Fees under the Dangerous Drugs Regulations (Cap 134A)
- (b) Fees under the Antibiotics Regulations (Cap 137A)
- (c) Fees under the Pharmacy and Poisons Regulations (Cap 138A)
- (d) Fees under the Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes Registration Ordinance (Cap 165)
- (e) Fees under the Radiation (Control of Radioactive Substances) Regulations (Cap 303A) and the Radiation (Control of Irradiating Apparatus) Regulations (Cap 303B)
- (f) Fees under the Chinese Medicine Practitioners (Fees) Regulation (Cap 549B)
- (g) Fees under the Chinese Medicine (Fees) Regulation (Cap 549E)
- (h) Fees under the Human Reproductive Technology (Fees) Regulation (Cap 561B)
- (i) Fees under the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Cap 599A)
- (j) Fees for Healthcare Professionals (i.e. doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists etc)
- (k) Fee for the issue of Nurse Transcript

The fees are in general below their full cost (with an overall cost recovery rate of about 67%).

There is no separate breakdown for the amount of resources earmarked for the review. The FHB and relevant departments will absorb the necessary expenses from within their existing resources.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

Date: 3.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)009**

Question Serial No.

3109

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the records management work over the past three years (to 2012):

1. Please provide information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform such work. If there is no officer designated for such work, please provide information on the number of officers and the hours of work involved in records management duties, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management;

2. Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

3. Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

4. Please list in the table below information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

Two Assistant Clerical Officers and two Confidential Assistants are designated to carry out records management duties on a full time basis in the Food and Health Bureau (FHB), including both Food Branch (Head 139) and Health Branch (Head 140). The other clerical and secretarial staff in the Bureau will also perform routine records management duties in addition to their own operational duties. At management level, a directorate officer overseeing records management is underpinned by the Departmental Records Manager (at Senior Executive Officer level) and an Assistant Departmental Records Manager (at Executive Officer II level) to coordinate and perform records management work in the FHB. 13 Records Managers not below the rank of Executive Officer II or equivalent are also appointed in FHB to oversee records management matters in their respective units.

2. Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal in the past three years is provided below -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Nil	-	-	-	-

3. Information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention in the past three years is provided below -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Nil	-	-	-	-	-

4. Information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS in the past three years in the Food and Health Bureau (including both Food Branch and Health Branch) is provided below -

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents
Administrative records	1980-2010	1 304 records (82 lm)	Not applicable	2 to 7 years	No

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health(Food)

Date: 4.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)010**

Question Serial No.

1180

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:

Regarding the preparation of legislation to extend the existing import control regime for meat and poultry to cover poultry eggs, please advise on the timetable and details of the work, as well as the manpower and estimated expenditure to be 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 (FEHD) 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 under Cap. 132AK to cover poultry eggs in view of the avian influenza threat posed by eggs from infected poultry. We will table the relevant amendments in the Legislative Council in 2013. To allow sufficient time for traders to prepare for the new requirements, it is proposed that a six-month grace period should be allowed. Apart from drafting the proposed amendments, we have liaised with overseas regulatory authorities and local trade on the proposed amended regulatory arrangement. If the proposed amendments are passed, we will arrange sufficient publicity prior to their commencement. The additional workload will be absorbed within existing resources.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health(Food)

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)011**

Question Serial No.

1749

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Currently, there are different ordinances regulating the cremation services of pets. What are the details of non-compliance cases (to be provided in the following table) in the past 3 years (2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13)?

Date	District where Non-Compliant Crematorium is Found	Act of Non-Compliance	Ordinance Violated	Penalty	Follow-up Action (e.g. ban the crematorium, improve facilities)

Asked by: Hon. MO Claudia

Reply:

The relevant Government departments may, according to their respective mandate, conduct inspections of premises where pet cremation service is provided, for the purpose of checking compliance with the relevant legislation and requirements, including provisions in the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132), the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311), the Fire Services Ordinance (Cap. 95), the Dangerous Goods Ordinance (Cap. 295), the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) and the land lease, etc. The required information is set out below:



	Date	District where Non-Compliant Crematorium is Found	Act of Non-Compliance	Ordinance Violated	Penalty	Follow-up Action (e.g. ban the crematorium, improve facilities)
1	18 March 2010	Kwai Chung	Emitted excessive dark smoke	Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311)	Fine of HK\$4,000	The Environmental Protection Department will continue to keep the pet cremator in question under surveillance.
	2 May 2012		Irregularities on fire resisting construction affecting the fire safety of the building	Buildings (Construction) Regulation 90	Removal order issued	The removal order issued under section 24(1) of the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) was subsequently complied with. No further action is taken by the Buildings Department.
	1 June 2012		Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning Letter issued*	As follow-up inspection by the Lands Department (LandsD) revealed that the breach of lease conditions persisted, the warning letter was registered in the Land Registry on 24 September 2012.
2	17 February 2011	Cheung Sha Wan	Storage of 40 litres Category 5 Class 3 dangerous goods inside a tank which has not been approved by	Regulation 99A of the Dangerous Goods (General) Regulation	Fine of HK\$2,000	Inspections conducted by FSD in June and August 2011 revealed that neither over-storage

			Fire Services Department (FSD)	(Cap. 295B)		of dangerous goods nor any irregularities in relation to the breach of Dangerous Goods Ordinance (Cap. 295) was observed.
	23 July 2012		Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning Letter issued*	As follow-up inspection by LandsD revealed that the breach of lease conditions persisted, the warning letter was registered in the Land Registry on 29 November 2012.
3	24 May 2011	Tuen Mun	Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning Letter issued*	As follow-up inspections by LandsD revealed that the breach of lease conditions persisted, the warning letter was registered in the Land Registry on 24 November 2011.
4	14 December 2011	Sha Tin	Usage of prohibited fuel	Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311)	Fine of HK\$1,000	The cremator was found to be removed in 2012.
5	29 February 2012	Kwai Chung	Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning Letter issued*	As follow-up inspection by LandsD revealed that the breach of lease conditions persisted, the warning letter

						was registered in the Land Registry on 16 April 2012.
6	18 October 2012	Tai Kok Tsui	Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning Letter issued*	Recent inspection has revealed that the premises was vacant. LandsD will keep in view the case.
7	27 November 2012	Kowloon Bay	Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning Letter issued*	As follow-up inspection by LandsD revealed that the breach of lease conditions persisted, the warning letter was registered in the Land Registry on 3 January 2013.
8	19 December 2012	Kwun Tong	Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning Letter issued*	As follow-up inspection by LandsD revealed that the breach of lease conditions persisted, registration of the warning letter in the Land Registry is being arranged.
9	21 February 2013	Kowloon Bay	Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning Letter issued*	Follow-up inspection will be conducted by LandsD to verify whether the breach of lease conditions is rectified.

\* A land lease is a contract. A breach of lease conditions may result in lease enforcement action taken by the LandsD in its capacity as the landlord. It does not involve prosecution.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date: 1.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)012**

Question Serial No.

0677

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the programme for Environmental Hygiene, what are the reasons for the revised estimate for 2012-13 to be 23% lower than the original estimate?

Asked by: Hon. NG Leung-sing

Reply:

The decrease of \$6.2 million (23.0%) in the 2012-13 revised estimate of Programme (3): Environmental Hygiene as compared with the 2012-13 original estimate is mainly due to lower than expected requirements for consultancy needs in 2012-13, as well as the reduced cashflow requirements in 2012-13 for the engineering feasibility study for columbarium development at Sandy Ridge Cemetery and for the business impact assessment on the licensing scheme for private columbaria.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date: 23.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)013**

Question Serial No.

2514

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

a. Please set out the total number of public columbaria in Hong Kong, the number of niches provided in each columbarium and the number of applicants on the current waiting list of each public columbarium.

b. Is the number of niches expected to increase in 2013-2014? If yes, please provide the details (number, location) and give an estimation of the number of people waiting for niches and the waiting time.

Asked by: Hon. POON Siu-ping

Reply:

(a) The information sought is given below:

Name of public columbarium	Total no. of niches	No. of applicants on the waiting list for re-allocated niches (as at 28 February 2013)
Cape Collinson	61 615	4 221
Diamond Hill	63 351	10 149
Wo Hop Shek	66 000	3 157
Fu Shan	9 625	972
Kwai Chung	9 276	3 950
Cheung Chau	2 335	0
Lamma	490	0
Peng Chau	490	0
<b>Total: 8</b>	<b>213 182</b>	<b>22 449</b>



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

**FHB(FE)014**

Question Serial No.

1821

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is now constructing a new columbarium with more than 43 000 public niches and a Garden of Remembrance in the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery. The projects are scheduled for completion in 2012. Regarding the supply of public niches and crematorium facilities, please provide the following information:

What is the current supply of public and private niches in the territory? Please give a breakdown by the 18 District Council districts.

Apart from the construction of new facilities in the Diamond Hill Columbarium and the Cheung Chau Cemetery, which will be completed in 2012 and 2013 respectively and provide a total of 2 500 new niches, what are the details of other sites identified (including the number of new niches) and time schedule for the proposed development of columbarium facilities?

What is the estimated distribution of expenditure for the above items?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

(a) As at 31.12.2012, the number of niches available in public columbaria and columbaria in private cemeteries is given below:

District	Public Columbarium			Niches in Private Cemetery	
	Total no. of niches	No. of re-allocated niches available for allocation	No. of new niches available for allocation	Total no. of niches	No. of niches available for allocation
Eastern	61 615	15	0	104 524	22 461
Wong Tai Sin	63 351	19	980	14 125	89



District	Public Columbarium			Niches in Private Cemetery	
	Total no. of niches	No. of re-allocated niches available for allocation	No. of new niches available for allocation	Total no. of niches	No. of niches available for allocation
North	66 000	1	42 658	574	490
Sha Tin	9 625	3	0	26	12
Kwai Tsing	9 276	0	0	52 901	685
Islands	3 315	6	608	797	614
Southern				52 895	3 120
Central/Western				50	0
Sham Shui Po				28 775	7 332
Sai Kung				87 101	81
Wan Chai				5 702	84
<b>Total</b>	<b>213 182</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>44 246</b>	<b>347 470</b>	<b>34 968</b>

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not keep information on the supply of niches in private columbaria, other than those columbaria in private cemeteries.

The Development Bureau (DevB) has published on its website ([www.devb.gov.hk](http://www.devb.gov.hk)) land/lease (user restrictions) and town planning information on the private columbaria known to the Lands Department and the Planning Department. As at 31.12.2012, there are 31 private columbaria (including columbaria in private cemeteries) and 87 private columbaria on Part A and Part B of DevB's list respectively.

(b) To increase the supply of public niches, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and identified 24 potential sites across the 18 districts for columbarium development. The sites in the Diamond Hill Columbarium and Cheung Chau Cemetery are two of the 24 sites. As regards the other sites, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has consulted the relevant District Councils in 2012 on the construction of 44 000 niches at Wo Hop Shek; 110 000 niches at Tsang Tsui, 20 000 niches at Tsing Tsuen Road and 200 000 niches at Sandy Ridge Cemetery. Construction works in Wo Hop Shek, Tsang Tsui and Tsing Tsuen Road are scheduled to start in 2015 for completion in 2017. The site formation and associated infrastructural works at Sandy Ridge Cemetery are currently the subject of site investigations and detailed design. The columbarium development at Sandy Ridge Cemetery is expected to start in 2019 (after site formation) for completion in 2022. 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.

(c) The estimated cost for conducting site investigation and detailed design of site formation and associated infrastructural works for development of columbarium, crematorium and related facilities at Sandy Ridge Cemetery is \$66.4 million. The estimated cost for developing columbarium facilities at the other three sites is not yet available.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date: 21.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)015**

Question Serial No.

1836

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Starting from 23 January 2010, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has been providing free ferry service to facilitate the public in the scattering of cremated human ashes at sea. In this connection, please set out:

- a) How many burials at sea in this manner were conducted each year since the service has become available?
- b) How much does the above-mentioned service cost? How many persons may take part each time?
- c) What percentage of the annual expenditure of the FEHD has the above-mentioned service accounted for since 2010?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) The number of burials at sea using the ferry services provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is as follows –

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>
2009-10 (starting from 23.1.2010)	79
2010-11	637
2011-12	565
2012-13 (up to 28.2.2013)	659
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 940</b>



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

**FHB(FE)016**

Question Serial No.

1846

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:

Earlier on, the Government announced the setting up of a Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund of \$500 million. In this connection, would the Administration please advise on the details of the following:

- a) the timetable for the setting up of the Fund;
- b) the Fund's mode of operation;
- c) the projected number of staff to be employed for the operation of the Fund;
- d) the projected operational expenditure of the Fund;
- e) the number of members of the Committee; the ratio between Government officials and trade practitioners.

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

In the 2013 Policy Address, the Chief Executive has announced a \$500 million Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (the Fund) to provide for financial assistance for projects and researches conducive to the sustainable development of the fisheries industry.

The assistance may encompass, among other things, projects in monitoring, protecting and enhancing fisheries resources, as well as the promotion of best aquaculture practices and sustainable fisheries operations.

We are now consulting the trade and other stakeholders on the scope of the Fund and its mode of operation before seeking funding approval from the Legislative Council (LegCo). The funding application is expected to reach the Finance Committee in the fourth quarter of 2013. Subject to FC's approval, we plan to start inviting applications in the first half of 2014.

A committee consisting of both non-officials and officials will be set up to advise on the use of the Fund in accordance with the parameters to be endorsed by the Finance Committee.



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

**FHB(FE)017**

Question Serial No.

0953

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

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What is the respective earmarked emolument expenditure for the Secretary, Under Secretary and Political Assistant of the Bureau in 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

For budgetary purposes, the provisions for the salary in respect of the positions of Director of Bureau, Deputy Director of Bureau and Political Assistant to Director of Bureau in the Food and Health Bureau for 2013-14 are \$3.4 million, \$2.2 million and \$1.2 million respectively.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health(Food)

Date: 23.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)018**

Question Serial No.

0967

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:

Please provide the following information:

- a. Regarding the collaboration with the Mainland authorities to explore the feasibility of applying information technology in enhancing the traceability of food, when did the study commence and what is the progress?
- b. Which types of information technology were applied eventually since the commencement of the study? What are the details?
- c. What are the actual, revised and estimated expenses of the study in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-2014?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

a. & b. The study (namely the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) trial programme) commenced in October 2006. It is an on-going collaborative study with the Mainland authorities involving the application of RFID technology in tracking live pigs supplied to Hong Kong from Guangdong.

In 2012, we have agreed with the Mainland authorities to explore further enhancement to the trial programme, including improvement of the hand-held and passageway reader systems, development of an alert system and extending the application of RFID technology to the tracking of live cattle supplied to Hong Kong from Guangdong.

c. The actual expenditure incurred by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in implementing the trial programme in 2011-12 was \$0.79 million. The estimated expenditure in 2012-13 and 2013-14 is \$1.52 million and \$2.30 million respectively.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date: 2.4.2013



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

**FHB(FE)019**

Question Serial No.

2416

Head: 139 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational  
Food and Health Bureau Expenses  
(Food Branch)

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Food and Health Bureau indicates that it will explore the feasibility of applying information technology in enhancing the traceability of food. However, there is a large number of illegal and unregistered food workshops in the Mainland. Has the Bureau explored other means to trace food sources?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

The Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) trial programme is an on-going collaborative study with the Mainland authorities which aimed at applying RFID technique in tracking live pigs supplied to Hong Kong from Guangdong.

The Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612) came into full operation on 1 February 2012. The Ordinance introduces a food tracing mechanism consisting mainly of (a) a registration scheme for food importers and food distributors; and (b) a requirement for food traders to maintain proper transaction records to enhance food traceability. The mechanism enables the Centre for Food Safety to identify the source of food more effectively and take prompt action when dealing with food incidents in order to safeguard public health.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date: 3.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)020**

Question Serial No.

2784

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 AFCD's estimated expenditure on the "Trap-Neuter-Return" policy for 2013-14? Will the Department expand the areas covered by the trial scheme concerned?

What was the number of stray dogs caught in 2011 to 2012? How many of them were finally euthanised?

What was the number of stray cats caught in 2011 to 2012? How many of them were finally euthanised?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

**"Trap-Neuter-Return" for Stray Dogs**

Following the identification of three potential sites in Yuen Long, Sai Kung and Lamma Island respectively for implementing the "Trap-Neuter-Return" (TNR) trial scheme, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), jointly with relevant animal welfare organisations, consulted the local community and the respective District Councils on the trial scheme in 2012 but could not obtain support from them. The Department and the relevant animal welfare organisations have subsequently identified two alternative potential sites in Yuen Long and Cheung Chau and will proceed to consult the local community and the respective District Councils if these two sites are assessed to be suitable. If the trial is implemented, AFCD will commission an independent consultancy study to monitor the changes in the number of stray dogs at the trial sites and assess the effectiveness of the trial scheme in reducing the stray dog population.

In 2013-14, \$1.9 million and four staff (one Veterinary Officer and three Animal Health Inspectors) have been earmarked for work in this area.

### Stray Dogs and Cats

The number of stray dogs and cats caught and euthanised in 2011 and 2012 is as follows:

Calendar Year	Stray Dog		Stray Cat	
	Caught	Euthanised	Caught	Euthanised
2011	5 800	4 259	3 557	2 179
2012	4 722	3 744	3 027	1 761

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)021**

Question Serial No.

2785

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) What will be the expenditure on the regulation of private breeding of animals in the future?
- (b) In 2012 to 2013, what was the number of prosecutions against unauthorised sale of pets?
- (c) Regarding mandatory microchipping for cats, will the Government commence the related work in 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is actively pursuing proposals to better regulate pet trading including breeding of dogs for sale through amending the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations, Cap. 139B and devising relevant codes of practices. As and when the details of the proposals have been finalised, AFCD will assess the expenditure and staff required for their implementation.
- (b) In 2012, there were 6 cases of prosecutions relating to the trading of animals without a licence.
- (c) Following introduction of the proposed measures to better regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale as mentioned in (a) above, AFCD will review the effectiveness of these measures after their implementation and, taking into account the review results, consider whether similar control, including mandatory microchipping requirement, should be extended to cats.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)022**

Question Serial No.

0022

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under the above subhead, please provide in table form the following information of the four animal management centres for the past three years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13):

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

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

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:

(a) Operational Expenditure (\$ million)

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>AMC/NTN</b>	<b>AMC/NTS</b>	<b>AMC/K</b>	<b>AMC/HK</b>
2010-11	15.87	10.77	13.60	10.77
2011-12	17.82	12.09	15.27	12.09
2012-13	20.70	14.05	17.74	14.05

(b) Manpower

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>AMC/NTN</b>		<b>AMC/NTS</b>		<b>AMC/K</b>		<b>AMC/HK</b>	
	Professional	Total	Professional	Total	Professional	Total	Professional	Total
2010-11	1	51	1	33	1	42	1	37
2011-12	1	55	1	36	1	44	1	39
2012-13	1	55	1	36	1	44	1	39

The overall turnover rate of staff in the four AMCs for the past three years is around 8% including two Veterinary Officers who left the service during the period.

(c) and (d): Number of 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*
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
2012	4 722	3 027	260	2 009	248	85	1 131	98	1 276	666	145	89

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

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 3 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)023**

Question Serial No.

0023

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 Administration provides subventions to the Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) (SPCA). From 2012-13 onwards, there has been a new item of "animal welfare organisations" involving \$1 million under Subventions for some animal welfare organisations to apply for. Regarding this, please advise:

- (a) The criteria for determining the amount of subventions to SPCA;
- (b) The percentage share of the subventions provided by the Administration in the operational expenses of SPCA in the past three years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13);
- (c) Whether the subventions provided will increase in view of SPCA's participation in the "Animal Watch Scheme";
- (d) The respective number of applications received, applications approved, applications rejected, the average amount of provision provided for each application, and the theme of the applications (such as publicity and education, adoption, operational expenses of animal welfare organisations) for the new subventions involving \$1 million; and
- (e) Whether the eligibility criteria will be relaxed and subventions increased in 2013-14 with a view to assisting more animal welfare organisations.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

(a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been collaborating with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) (SPCA) to implement various animal welfare and management programmes, including stray animal control, de-sexing and animal rescue activities. Since 2011-12, the subvention to SPCA has been increased 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) The percentage share of the subventions provided by the Administration in the operational expenses of SPCA in 2010-11 and 2011-12 is 0.8% and 1.2% respectively. The projected percentage share for 2012-13, based on 10-month non-audited figure provided by SPCA, is 1.2%.

(c) The “Animal Watch Scheme” set up by the Hong Kong Police Force (the Force) aims at stepping up co-operation among the Force, AFCD, SPCA and other stakeholders in combating crimes of cruelty to animals. Through education and publicity, the Scheme enlists support from the public and stakeholders and helps enhance intelligence gathering and investigation. To support effective implementation of activities under the Scheme and other new and enhanced programmes on the part of SPCA, AFCD has increased the subvention to SPCA from \$608,000 in 2010-11 to \$1 million in 2011-12. For 2012-13 and 2013-14, the same amount i.e. \$1 million per year has been earmarked for this purpose.

(d) In 2012, nine applications were received from animal welfare organisations (AWOs) which have entered into partnership with AFCD for promoting animal welfare and proper animal management in Hong Kong. The types of activities under application include the establishment of a new animal re-homing centre, installation of dog houses and renovation of facilities in existing re-homing centres, provision of de-sexing service to animals including those to be re-homed, as well as organising education and publicity activities to promote re-homing of animals. All the applications have been fully or partly approved. The subvention approved ranged from \$51,000 to \$260,000.

(e) At present, AWOs which have entered into partnership with AFCD are eligible to apply for subvention to facilitate implementation of programmes relating to promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management such as animal re-homing, promotion of neutering of pets as well as general education and publicity activities. Each application will be considered on its own merits. A total of \$2 million has been allocated for the purpose in 2012-13. Of that, \$1 million each is earmarked for SPCA and the other partner AWOs. The same arrangement will be adopted for 2013-14. AFCD will continue to strengthen its collaboration with and support for AWOs.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 9 April 2013



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

**FHB(FE)024**

Question Serial No.

0024

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 strengthening of stray animals management, please advise on:

- (a) The expenditure on catching stray animals and the number and types of animals caught in the past three years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13).
- (b) How many resources and manpower are earmarked for implementing the "Trap-Neuter-Return" Scheme at the district level in 2013-14? What is the progress of the Scheme?
- (c) The expenditure on implementing the Wild Monkey Contraceptive and Neutering Trial Programme in the past three years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13). How many monkeys in total were given contraceptive and neutering treatment during the period? What is the change in the overall number of wild monkeys in Hong Kong? Has provision been earmarked to review the effectiveness of the programme?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- (a) The actual expenditure on management of stray animals including catching operations in 2010-11 and 2011-12 was \$21.3 million and \$22.0 million respectively. The estimated expenditure for 2012-13 is \$25.6 million.

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

Calendar Year	Stray Animals Caught		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2010	6 519	3 907	411
2011	5 800	3 557	331
2012	4 722	3 027	260

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

- (b) Following the identification of three potential sites in Yuen Long, Sai Kung and Lamma Island respectively for implementing the "Trap-Neuter-Return" (TNR) trial scheme for dogs, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), in collaboration with relevant animal welfare organisations, have consulted the local community and the respective District Councils on the trial

scheme in 2012 but could not obtain support from them. AFCD and the relevant animal welfare organisations have subsequently identified two alternative potential sites in Yuen Long and Cheung Chau and will proceed to consult the local community and the respective District Councils if these two sites are assessed to be suitable. If the trial is implemented, AFCD will commission an independent consultancy study to monitor the changes in the number of stray dogs at the trial sites and assess the effectiveness of the trial scheme in reducing the stray dog population. In 2013-14, an additional provision of \$1.9 million and four staff (including one Veterinary Officer and three Animal Health Inspectors) will be allocated for the TNR trial scheme.

(c) The expenditure on implementing the Wild Monkey Contraceptive and Neutering Programme (the Programme), the number of wild monkeys that received contraceptive treatments and the estimated population of wild monkeys in Hong Kong in the past three years is listed in the table below:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
Expenditure (\$ million)	1.18	1.32	1.20
Number of wild monkeys that received contraceptive treatments	500	487	263*
Estimated population	2 160	2 000	2 000

\*Up to February 2013

In 2013-14, \$1.4 million has been earmarked for implementing the Programme including the population surveys of wild monkeys which serve as an important tool for monitoring the effectiveness of the Programme.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)025**

Question Serial No.

0025

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 view of the growing public concerns about animal welfare issues, especially the recent spate of animal cruelty cases, will the Administration advise on:

- (a) The total number of animal poisoning reports received and the types of animals involved in the past three years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13);
- (b) Whether provision has been earmarked for reviewing the effectiveness of the "Animal Watch Scheme" and the amount of provision involved; and
- (c) Whether provision has been earmarked for the study of the setting up of a dedicated enforcement team for investigating cases involving cruelty to animals.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- (a) 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:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of complaints/reports</b>	<b>Type of Animal</b>
2010	3	Dog
2011	1	Dog
2012	2	Dog

- (b) The "Animal Watch Scheme" launched by the Hong Kong Police Force (the Force) in 2011 aims to strengthen co-operation among the Force, AFCD, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and other stakeholders in the investigation of cases involving cruelty to animals. The relevant departments will make use of existing resources to review the effectiveness of the "Animal Watch Scheme" from time to time and consider if other means and improvement measures are necessary for combating crimes of cruelty to animals.

- (c) On law enforcement, the Crime Investigation Teams of various police districts have adequate expertise, experience and professional investigation skills to handle animal cruelty cases. Depending on the distribution of cases and the overall trend, the Force will consider deploying a designated team

to investigate all cruelty to animal cases in the police districts, in addition to their normal duties in connection with criminal investigation.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 3 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)026**

Question Serial No.

0026

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 strengthening the regulation of pet trading, would the Administration 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 three years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13)? How many inspections were carried out by the Administration and how many irregularities were found during the period? What are the details and nature of the cases? What are the numbers and types of illegally imported pets seized during the period?

(b) Apart from targeting pet shops, has the Administration earmarked provision and manpower to crack down on establishments selling animals illegally and sale of animals on the internet?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

(a) The number of licensed animal trading premises in the past three years (2010-2012) is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of Licensed Premises
2010	426
2011	458
2012	436

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

Calendar Year	Number of Inspections	Number of Prosecutions	
		Trading without a licence	Breaching licensing condition
2010	4 456	13	5
2011	4 730	13	2
2012	5 055	6	0

The number and types of illegally imported pets seized in the past three years are as follows:

Calendar Year	Illegally Imported Pets Seized (boundary control points)				
	Dogs	Cats	Poultry / birds	Other animals <sup>#</sup>	Total
2010	24	3	7	1 484	1 518
2011	14	5	1 088	1 254	2 361
2012	8	2	68	336	414

# including reptiles and small mammals

(b) Apart from regulating the trading of animals in licensed premises, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department makes continuous effort in monitoring relevant websites, advertisements on magazines and newspapers, etc., with a view to identifying illegal animal trading cases on the internet or in non-licensed premises. Follow-up investigation including decoy operations and enforcement actions would be carried out where necessary. In 2013-14, \$2.7 million (which includes resources for four officers on the establishment) has been earmarked for this area of work.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 8 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)027**

Question Serial No.

0880

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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:

Under this Programme, the work of the Department involves the inspection of premises and establishments where animals are kept for trading purpose. Regarding premises and establishments where dogs are kept for trading purpose, please advise on the following:

- (a) The number of legal dog breeding facilities, the number of dogs owned by these breeding facilities (with a breakdown by small, medium and large dogs) and the average area of the facilities in the past five years (up to 2012).
- (b) The number of Animal Trader Licences issued by the Department, as well as the number of inspections, the number of prosecutions and the penalties imposed in respect of suspected violations of the licensing conditions and codes of practice under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations in the past five years. How many of these cases involved unlicensed animal breeding facilities?
- (c) Regarding inspection and enforcement work, what are the respective funding and manpower involved?
- (d) Will the Department step up inspection and enforcement work in the coming year (2013)? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kin-por

Reply:

- (a) Information on licensed dog breeding facilities in the past five years is as follows:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of Licensed Dog Breeding Facilities</b>	<b>Range of Keeping Capacity*</b>	<b>Range of Floor Area (square meter)</b>
2008	0	N.A.	N.A.
2009	2	10 - 75	413 - 1 622
2010	2	10 - 75	413 - 1 622
2011	3	10 - 77	413 - 1 622
2012	8	10 - 83	105 - 1 622

\* There are no individual limits set for small, medium and large dogs.

(b) The number of licensed animal trading premises and the number of inspections to these premises in the past five years are as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of Licensed Premises	Number of Inspections
2008	433	4 999
2009	418	7 523
2010	426	4 456
2011	458	4 730
2012	436	5 055

The number of prosecutions and the penalties imposed on convicted cases in the past five years are as follows:

Calendar Year	No. of Prosecutions			
	Trading without a licence	Penalty (Fine)	Breaching licensing condition	Penalty (Fine)
2008	5	\$200 - \$1,000	22	\$300 - \$1,500
2009	3	\$500 - \$1,000	4	\$200 - \$600
2010	13	\$500 - \$2,000	5	\$500 - \$1,500
2011	13*	\$300 - \$2,000	2	\$500 - \$2,000
2012	6	\$800 - \$2,000	0	N/A

\*During the past five years, only one case in 2011 involved unlicensed animal breeding facilities.

(c) The funding and manpower involved in the inspection and enforcement work in 2012-13 are \$10.9 million and 23 staff respectively.

(d) In 2013-14, apart from carrying out regular inspections to the licensed animal trading and dog breeding premises, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue to monitor relevant websites, advertisements on magazines and newspapers, etc., with a view to identifying illegal animal trading cases on the internet or in non-licensed premises, including those pertaining to breeding of animals for commercial purpose. Follow-up investigation including decoy operations and enforcement actions would be carried out when necessary.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 8 April 2013



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

**FHB(FE)028**

Question Serial No.

1694

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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:

Under this Programme, the Administration states that it will “set up the sustainable fisheries development fund to assist fishermen to adopt a sustainable and high value-added operation mode and subsidise relevant programmes and research so as to enhance the overall competitiveness of the industry”. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) When will the above fund be set up? What is the amount involved?
- (2) What are the details of the “sustainable and high value-added operation mode” stated above?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The proposed sustainable fisheries development fund (the Fund) with a capital of \$500 million aims to assist fishermen to adopt a sustainable and high value-added operation mode, and subsidise relevant programmes and research so as to enhance the overall competitiveness of the industry. We are now consulting the trade and other stakeholders on the scope of the Fund and its mode of operation. We plan to seek funding approval of the Finance Committee (FC) in the latter half of 2013. Subject to FC's approval, we plan to start inviting applications in the first half of 2014.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)029**

Question Serial No.

1695

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 the use of pesticides, please inform the Committee of the expenditure and the number of staff involved in the regulation of pesticides in the last year (2012).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

In 2012-13, the expenditure and manpower involved in the regulation of pesticides are \$12.3 million and 24 staff.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 25 March 2013

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

**FHB(FE)030**

Question Serial No.

1876

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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:

Among the Indicators under “the key performance measures in respect of agriculture, fisheries and fresh food wholesale markets”, the actual figures for 2012 are similar to the estimated indicators for 2013, whereas the Estimate for 2013-14 is significantly lower than the 2012-13 Original by 47%. Please inform the Committee of:

1. The reasons for and details of the cut in expenditure;
2. The ways to achieve the performance standards stated in the indicators under the condition where the Estimate has been reduced by nearly half; and
3. The Department's expenditure and staff deployment involved in promoting organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher

Reply:

1. The estimate for 2013-14 is lower than the 2012-13 original estimate by 47% because of a reduction in the projected cash flow requirement under the one-off assistance package for fishermen affected by the trawl ban.
2. The reduction in the projected cash flow requirement referred to above is not expected to make it more or less difficult for the Department to achieve the performance standards in question.
3. The manpower deployed and the expenditure involved in promoting organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production in 2012-13 are tabulated below:

	<b>Organic cultivation</b>	<b>Intensive greenhouse production</b>
Number of staff deployed	16	11
Expenditure (\$ million)	6.7	4.9

In 2013-14, the same level of resources has been earmarked for this area of work.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 8 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)031**

Question Serial No.

0118

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 three years (2010 to 2012). 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 2013?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The annual consumption of fresh vegetables from 2010 to 2012, 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>
2010	651 557	156 495	24%
2011	721 741	153 274	21%
2012	837 819	146 450	17%

In 2013, we forecast a total consumption of about 850 000 tonnes. Out of this, 148 000 tonnes (17%) are expected to be marketed through VMO.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 22 March 2013

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

**FHB(FE)032**

Question Serial No.

0218

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The number of requests for assistance received by government fresh food wholesale markets in 2012 was as high as 23 086, representing an increase of 55% over 2011. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The increase is mainly due to a large number of enquiries received from market tenants during March - May 2012 on matters relating to the year's rental adjustment and the government offer of rental waiver.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 22 March 2013

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

**FHB(FE)033**

Question Serial No.

0219

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 total number, area and rearing capacity of local pig farms and chicken farms respectively in each of the past three years (2010, 2011 and 2012).

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The total number, area and rearing capacity of local pig farms and chicken farms in the past three years are shown in the tables below:

Pig Farm

Year	No. of Pig Farms	Total Area ( m <sup>2</sup> )	Rearing Capacity (Nos.)
2010	43	101 172.07	74 640
2011	43	101 172.07	74 640
2012	43	102 817.73	74 640

Chicken Farm

Year	No. of Chicken Farms	Total Area ( m <sup>2</sup> )	Rearing Capacity (Nos.)
2010	30	58 763.41	1 300 500
2011	30	58 672.14	1 300 500
2012	30	60 172.04	1 300 500

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 8 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)034**

Question Serial No.

0220

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 were the manpower and expenditure involved in promoting the development of the agriculture and fisheries industries over the past three years (i.e. 2010, 2011 and 2012)? What were the respective annual total production values of local crops and livestock within the same period? What were the respective annual numbers of people directly employed by the industries?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The manpower and expenditure involved in promoting the development of the agriculture and fisheries industries over the past three years are as follows:

Financial Year	Manpower (Number of Staff)		Expenditure (\$ million)	
	Agriculture Industry	Fisheries Industry	Agriculture Industry	Fisheries Industry
<b>2010-11</b>	77	67	24.5	41.9
<b>2011-12</b>	76	80	26.0	45.7
<b>2012-13</b>	73	94	31.3	1,037.7 <sup>#</sup>

<sup>#</sup>Including \$984.3 million for the one-off assistance package to fishermen affected by the trawl ban.



The respective annual production value of local crops and livestock within the same period and the number of people directly employed are given below:

Year	Value of Production [Farmers/Workers Employed (Number)]	
	Crops	Livestock *
2010	\$232 million [4 300]	\$369 million [400]
2011	\$241 million [4 200]	\$490 million [400]
2012	\$246 million [4 100]	\$500 million [400]

\*Including pigs and chicken

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 22 March 2013

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

**FHB(FE)035**

Question Serial No.

0221

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 were the manpower and expenditure involved in assisting farmers to capture market niches by providing technical advice on organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production for each of the past three years (i.e. 2010, 2011 and 2012)? Please advise on the number, total area and production of local organic farms in each year during the same period.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The manpower deployed and the expenditure incurred in providing technical advice on organic cultivation and intensive green house production for the past three years are tabulated below:

	Organic cultivation			Intensive green house production		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Number of staff deployed	16	16	16	10	11	11
Expenditure (\$ million)	6.8	7.1	6.7	4.1	4.4	4.9

The number, total area and production of local organic farms for the past three years are provided as follows:

	Number of farms that have joined the Organic Farming Support Service	Total area (ha)	Total average daily production (tonne)
2010-11	158	62.7	4.5
2011-12	186	70.0	5.0
2012-13	212	82.5	5.0

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 22 March 2013

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

**FHB(FE)036**

Question Serial No.

0418

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 the following information:

(a) Regarding the emerging trend of keeping some exotic pets, such as lizards, chameleons, snakes, spiders, tortoises, crocodiles, scorpions, jellyfish etc., by Hong Kong people nowadays, has the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducted any random checks on or taken any enforcement actions against shops selling these exotic pets in the past five years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2012-13)? What are the details?

(b) Will the AFCD plan to control the sale of the said exotic pets in shops or their keeping by the public, for example, will a keeping licence be required or their sale be regulated?

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher

Reply:

(a) Trading of mammals, reptiles and birds, including those imported as exotic pets, are subject to licensing control under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations, Cap. 139B. Any person involved in trading of these animals must obtain an "Animal Trader Licence" from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and must comply with the statutory requirements concerning accommodation, living conditions, provision of food and water, pest control, etc. as stipulated in the Regulations and the licensing conditions. Besides, some species of lizards, chameleons, snakes, spiders and scorpions, and all species of land tortoises and crocodiles are listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Trading and possession for sale of these species are either prohibited or regulated under permits by the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance, Cap. 586.

The Department carries out regular inspection of shops selling exotic pets and takes enforcement actions against those in contravention of the above-mentioned legislation. The number of inspections carried out and the number of prosecution in the past five years are as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of Inspections	Number of Prosecutions / Seizure
2008	1 468	12
2009	3 456	16
2010	2 261	19
2011	2 070	12
2012	2 761	6

(b) In addition to law enforcement actions, AFCD will continue its effort to educate the animal traders and the public on the legal requirements and the proper keeping of exotic pets. As has been set out in (a) above, trading and possession for sale of the said exotic pets are either prohibited or already subject to regulation. At present, AFCD has no plan to regulate the keeping of exotic pets.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)037**

Question Serial No.

0419

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 following information:

- (a) On the development of leisure or eco-agriculture and fisheries industries in Hong Kong, what measures will be taken by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in the coming year?
- (b) Does the AFCD have any plans in the coming year to promote the rehabilitation of abandoned agricultural land in the New Territories or on outlying islands? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher

Reply:

(a) In 2013, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to promote leisure farming through providing technical support to local farmers and enhancing publicity. The technical support provided by AFCD includes the development of suitable crop varieties and the provision of training to farmers on farm administration/management. On publicity, AFCD will continue to publish promotional materials and enrich the content of the interactive webpage on leisure farms for members of the public who are interested in visiting the diverse range of leisure farms in Hong Kong.

AFCD has been providing free training courses on recreational fisheries for fishermen since 2010. About 100 fishermen have participated in these courses so far. In 2010, AFCD launched, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, a pilot scheme in Sai Kung and north-eastern New Territories to help fishermen venture into ecotourism. The scheme provides marine-based guided tours which cover the culture and practices of fisherman communities as well as the ecological and geological features of Hong Kong. Drawing on the positive response to the pilot scheme, AFCD has extended the scheme to Lamma Island in 2011-12 and to the western waters in 2012-13. Over 300 fishermen have received training under the pilot scheme. AFCD will continue to arrange suitable courses on recreational fisheries for fishermen and extend the pilot scheme to other parts of Hong Kong such as Tai O in the coming year. AFCD introduced a scheme in 2002 which allows fish farmers to operate leisure fishing business on their fish rafts subject to compliance with conditions designed to protect the mariculture environment and public safety. So far, 44 licensees in 11 fish culture zones have participated in the scheme. In 2013, AFCD will continue to liaise with mariculturists to promote the development of recreational fishing in a manner sensitive to the need to safeguard the mariculture environment and public safety.

(b) To promote the rehabilitation of abandoned agricultural land, AFCD will continue to implement the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme. Upon identifying such farmland, AFCD will bring the landowner and interested farmer together to work out a tenancy agreement for leasing the land. Over the past five years (2008 to 2012), 14 hectares of farmland have been returned to cultivation. AFCD will continue to promote the scheme in the New Territories and outlying islands in 2013.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 26 March 2013

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

**FHB(FE)038**

Question Serial No.

2826

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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:

- (a) The revised estimate of the Programme for 2012-13 is lower than the original estimate by 14.8%. What are the reasons?
- (b) The estimate for 2013-14 is even lower than the one for 2012-13 by 37.7%. What are the reasons for a further reduction in the provision required?
- (c) "The provision of administrative and technical support to the operation of the Vegetable Marketing Organization and the Fish Marketing Organization" is stated in Brief Description 3. What are the details of the support provided? Please give a breakdown of the expenditure involved.
- (d) Under the Indicators for Agriculture, the actual production of vegetables in both 2011 and 2012 is 16 300 tonnes. The estimated production in 2013 is also 16 300 tonnes. What are the reasons for such a stable agricultural production?
- (e) Regarding the throughput at Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) market, among the vegetables marketed through VMO, what are the amounts produced by local farms and imported from other channels respectively? Are the sales prices announced daily via electronic media by the market the basis of the transaction prices in the market or are they for reference only? Has the Department compared the announced prices with the actual transaction prices in the market, and with the prices of vegetables not marketed through VMO?
- (f) Regarding the throughput at Fish Marketing Organization markets, please set out the actual turnover and transaction prices at the markets under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in 2012 and the change compared with the previous year.
- (g) Regarding the operation of Government fresh food wholesale markets, what are the expenditure on management and the manpower involved in 2013? Please set out the types and quantities of fresh food marketed through the markets in 2012.
- (h) It is learnt that some tenants at wholesale food markets are dealing in non-fresh food at present. Please set out the number of tenants dealing in such goods and the details of their operation, as well as the sales in 2012.
- (i) What is the number of vacant stalls at wholesale food markets at present? What is the percentage change compared with the previous year?

(j) On the item of livestock under Agriculture, the actual production in 2012 was 19 500 tonnes, which is 1 300 tonnes more than the 18 200 tonnes in 2011. Why did the production in 2012 see such a significant increase?

Asked by: Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply:

(a) The 2012-13 revised estimate is lower than the original estimate by 14.8% mainly because of a reduction in projected cash flow requirement under the one-off assistance package to fishermen affected by the trawl ban.

(b) The estimate for 2013-14 is lower than the revised estimate in 2012-13 by 37.7%. The main contributory factor lies with a reduction in the projected cash flow requirement under the one-off assistance package to fishermen affected by the trawl ban.

(c) The Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation is also the Director of Marketing heading the operation of the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) and the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO). In discharging his duties, he is supported by the two Assistant Directors responsible for agricultural and fisheries matters respectively and several senior professional officers and professional officers. The daily operation of both organisations is carried out by their own staff who are not civil servants. The staff cost incurred by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in directing and supervising the operation of the VMO and the FMO are absorbed by the Department. Based on apportionment of costs, the expenditure in 2012-13 attributable to overseeing the operation of the VMO and the FMO is approximately \$1.4 million.

(d) The steady production of vegetable in recent years is attributable to the stable production environment.

(e) About 2 per cent of the total market throughput of the VMO comes from locally produced vegetables. The rest is mostly imported from the Mainland. The wholesale prices quoted by the VMO market through the electronic media reflect the actual prices of the transaction that have taken place in the market. Market management keeps itself abreast of the trend in vegetable wholesale prices, including those of other wholesale markets.

(f) Information on the throughput of the seven FMO wholesale fish markets in 2012, in terms of quantity and price as compared with the previous year, is given below:-

	Aberdeen	Cheung Sha Wan	Kwun Tong	Tai Po	Castle Peak	Shau Kei Wan	Sai Kung
Quantity in 2012 (tonnes)	15 645	19 040	991	399	5 278	1 210	237
Change (%)	-6.1	1.5	-5.6	2.3	-0.4	3.4	-8.8
Price in 2012 (\$/kg)	55.4	57.7	87.9	22.3	31.6	31.7	16.5
Change (%)	22.2	15.6	27.5	-7.5	0.2	28.1	9.7



(g) The projected expenditure for managing government wholesale markets in 2013-14 is \$74.7 million whereas the staff establishment is 63. The type and quantity of fresh food transacted through government wholesale markets in 2012 are tabulated as follows:

	Quantity (Tonnes)
Vegetable	274 456
Fruit	102 482
Egg	69 622
Freshwater Fish	49 599
Poultry	13 038

(h) Some of the fish stalls and meat stalls of the former Central Market were re-provisioned at Western Wholesale Food Market. Currently, there are 37 wholesale stalls for frozen meat and chilled chickens. As the products are not fresh food, we do not survey their market throughput.

(i) The average number of vacant stalls at government wholesale markets in 2012 is 28, which has reduced by 9.7% when compared with the figure in 2011.

(j) The quantity of local livestock production increased to 19 500 tonnes in 2012 mainly because of an increase in pig production as a result of a lesser number of animal disease incidents in the year.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)039**

Question Serial No.

1937

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 Government has reviewed the moratorium on issue of new licences for mariculture operations in fish culture zones with surplus carrying capacity and is laying the ground work for launching a trial scheme to issue limited new licences in certain fish culture zones during the first half of 2013. What are the expenditure and manpower respectively required for laying the ground work? What are the duties of the staff?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department deploys four existing staff to carry out the work as part of their normal duties. There is no breakdown on the expenditure involved. Staff duties relevant to the review and trial scheme include identifying existing fish culture zones with surplus carrying capacity, assessing the technical feasibility and environmental acceptability of issuing new licences, devising management measures required to ensure environmental sustainability, and engaging the trade.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 25 March 2013

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

**FHB(FE)040**

Question Serial No.

1938

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): 700 General non-recurrent

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The AFCD's estimate (2013-14) of the General non-recurrent expenditure under Non-Recurrent expenditure is \$521,842,000, which is \$676,615,000 (56.5%) less than the 2012-13 approved estimate and \$464,291,000 (47.1%) less than the 2012-13 revised estimate. What are the reasons for that? What aspects of expenditure are covered by the AFCD's estimate (2013-14) of the General non-recurrent expenditure under the Operating Account?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The relevant estimate in 2013-14 is lower than the approved and revised estimate in 2012-13 by a significant margin mainly because of the reduction in the projected cash flow requirement for the one-off assistance package to fishermen affected by the trawl ban.

The AFCD's estimate of the General non-recurrent expenditure under the Operating Account in 2013-14 covers the following expenditure items -

General non-recurrent expenditure under Head 700	Estimated Expenditure (\$'000)
Setting up a marine sanctuary in the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau area	800
Artificial reefs project	3,000
Additional cleansing of country park facilities and enhancing hygiene of government wholesale food markets	42
One-off assistance package to trawler vessel owners affected by the trawl ban and other related measures	518,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>521,842</b>

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 3 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)041**

Question Serial No.

1939

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 10 June 2011, the Government proposed to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council to create a new commitment of \$1,726.8 million to implement the "One-off assistance package to trawler vessel owners, local deckhands and fish collector owners affected by the trawl ban and other related measures". The new commitment has been approved and trawling in Hong Kong waters has been banned starting 31 December 2012. Please inform the Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the expenditure and manpower involved in the patrol team set up by the Government for the implementation of the trawl ban in Hong Kong waters and related matters?
- (b) What is the progress of the Inter-departmental Working Group's assessment on whether any bona fide fish collectors and industries related to the trawl ban are really affected by the trawl ban? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?
- (c) What are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the Appeal Board set up in relation to the ex-gratia allowance for the trawl ban? Has the Appeal Board worked out any performance pledges or time frames on the handling of appeal cases? Which sub-item under the commitment will absorb the expenditure involved?
- (d) A contingency of \$90 million is included in the new commitment of \$1,726.8 million created 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". Please set out the amount of the contingency that has been used and the details of its use.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) In 2012-13, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has deployed 15 staff to provide technical support to the Inter-departmental Working Group (IWG) set up for handling matters relating to the one-off assistance package to fishermen affected by the trawl ban. Their work includes conducting related inspections and surveys. The expenditure involved is estimated to be \$4.2 million.
- (b) As has been stated in the relevant Finance Committee paper FCR(2011-12)22, we consider it appropriate to assess if any bona fide fish collectors would be affected by the trawl ban after it has been implemented for a period of time. Now that the trawl ban has come into effect since 31 December 2012, the IWG is collecting relevant data and information as inputs for the assessment.

The work related to the assessment is taken up by the 15 staff mentioned in (a) above, and the expenditure to be involved in the assessment is covered by the \$4.2 million mentioned above.

(c) The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) has earmarked \$0.74 million and \$2.96 million in 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively in support of the work of the Fishermen Claims Appeal Board for Trawl Ban (FCAB) which has been set up to handle appeals lodged by applicants aggrieved by the decisions of the IWG in a fair and impartial manner. The expenditure covers employing one Executive Manager and provision of fees for legal advisers and honoraria for members. Through internal redeployment of resources, FHB has also provided supporting staff to underpin the Executive Manager. The FCAB will go about discharging its responsibility and complete its processing of the appeals within a reasonable time frame.

(d) No expenditure has been incurred under the contingency so far.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 8 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)042**

Question Serial No.

1940

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 policy initiatives will be implemented under the \$500 million “sustainable fisheries development fund” set up by the Government? What are the expenditure and staff deployment involved in the work of the fund?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The proposed setting up of the sustainable fisheries development fund (the Fund) with a capital of \$500 million aims to assist fishermen to adopt a sustainable and high value-added operation mode, and subsidise relevant programmes and research so as to enhance the overall competitiveness of the industry. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is carrying out preparatory work relating to the setting up of the Fund using its existing resources, and will apply for additional resources for administering and operating the Fund in future, if necessary, in accordance with established procedures.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 25 March 2013

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

**FHB(FE)043**

Question Serial No.

1941

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 epidemic prevention for the livestock keeping industry in Hong Kong, please inform the Committee of the following:

- (a) The latest progress of the epidemic prevention work, and the work plan, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in 2013-14;
- (b) The types of pig and bird vaccines introduced and the expenditure involved respectively in the past three years (2010-11 to 2012-13); and
- (c) The total expenditure involved respectively in vaccinating pigs and birds in the past three years (2010-11 to 2012-13). What were the respective average costs? What were the respective numbers of pigs and birds vaccinated?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

(a) In 2013-14, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue its efforts in the prevention and control of outbreaks of animal and zoonotic diseases in local poultry and pig farms through (i) conducting regular inspections to local farms to ensure that the farmers comply with the biosecurity, farm hygiene and other related requirements, including proper vaccination of poultry against avian influenza (AI), and take enforcement actions against non-compliant cases; (ii) providing technical advice and assistance to farmers on proper farm management, prevention and control of animal disease; and (iii) organising education seminars on farm management and disease prevention for local farmers and their workers. The estimated expenditure and manpower involved in this area of work in 2013-14 are \$26 million and 45 staff respectively.

(b) Following an AI outbreak in a local chicken farm in 2008, the Administration set up the Investigation Group on Vaccine Study (IGVS) to examine the continued efficacy or otherwise of the Intervet Nobilis H5N2 vaccine (Intervet vaccine) in use since 2003 and to explore possible alternatives. In late 2010, AFCD, with the endorsement of the IGVS, launched a one-year field trial of the Re-5 H5N1 vaccine (Re-5 vaccine) developed on the Mainland to comprehensively evaluate its efficacy. No adverse effects were found in chickens associated with the use of this vaccine. In addition, results from the challenge studies conducted separately by three research institutions in 2009 to 2010 revealed that the Re-5 vaccine conferred better protection than the Intervet vaccine against challenge viruses tested. Based on the above, the IGVS endorsed in April 2012 the use of the Re-5 vaccine in

local chicken farms as an alternative to the Intervet vaccine. The expenditure involved is absorbed under the comprehensive AI surveillance programme. Meanwhile, a new AI vaccine, namely the Re-6 H5N1 vaccine (Re-6 vaccine) also developed on the Mainland, has been proved to offer even better protection than the Re-5 vaccine to chickens against the prevailing strain of AI virus commonly found in the region. With the endorsement of the IGVS, the Re-6 vaccine, instead of Re-5 vaccine, was introduced into Hong Kong for use in local chicken farms by the New Territories Chicken Breeders Association, after its successful registration with the Department of Health in August 2012 with technical assistance from AFCD. No Government expenditure was incurred.

For local pig farms, AFCD did not introduce any vaccine for use in the past three years.

(c) Apart from the mandatory AI vaccination programme for chickens in local farms, pig or chicken farmers may decide whether any other vaccines should be used for better protection of their farm animals against any particular disease. Commonly used vaccines that are registered in Hong Kong include those against porcine circovirus, Foot and Mouth Disease, Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome, etc. in pigs and those against New Castle Disease, Infectious Tracheitis and Gumboro Disease, etc in poultry. All the vaccines used in local farms are purchased by farmers at their own cost. AFCD does not keep information on the total expenditure and the average costs involved in vaccinating pigs and poultry, and the number of pigs and poultry vaccinated.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013



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

**FHB(FE)044**

Question Serial No.

1942

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 technical support for aquaculture fisheries, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How were the technological development studies conducted and support provided for aquaculture fisheries (e.g. culture trials of fish, promotion of pellet feeds, etc.) in the past three years (2010-11 to 2012-13)? What was the respective expenditure involved?
- (b) What are the details of the project, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in conducting technological development studies and providing support for aquaculture fisheries in 2013-14?
- (c) What were the details of the technology and support provided for oyster culture in the past three years (2010-11 to 2012-13)? What were the respective expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

(a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducts studies and provides support to enhance the productivity and sustainability of the local aquaculture industry. In the past three years, activities on this front include (i) promoting good aquaculture practices to enhance fish farm management and implementing a fish health management programme to help fish farmers prevent, diagnose and contain fish disease to minimise loss. AFCD staff have conducted more than 1 300 farm visits in this respect; (ii) identifying suitable new culture species with good market potential (Jade Perch being one such example) and introducing them to local fish farmers. To promote the culture of Jade Perch, the Department has organised training workshops and provided technical support to local fish farmers in the hatching and rearing of Jade Perch fry; (iii) implementing the Accredited Fish Farm Scheme to enhance competitiveness of the local aquaculture industry. So far, 109 farms have joined the scheme; and (iv) conducting adaptive studies and a pilot fish hatchery scheme to improve fish fry production and rearing techniques. The respective expenditure involved is as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)			
	Good aquaculture practice and fish health management	Identification and promotion of new culture species	Accredited Fish Farm Scheme	Adaptive studies and pilot fish hatchery scheme
<b>2010-11</b>	5.3	1.6	3.1	3.8
<b>2011-12</b>	5.1	2.0	3.0	4.7
<b>2012-13</b>	6.1	2.3	3.6	5.3

(b) The support measures described in (a) above will continue in 2013-14. The provision earmarked for the work is \$17 million involving 22 members of staff.

(c) AFCD promotes good aquaculture practices to enhance the productivity of oyster farming. The expenditure and manpower involved over the past three years are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (Number of staff)</b>
<b>2010-11</b>	0.4	1
<b>2011-12</b>	0.4	1
<b>2012-13</b>	0.5	1

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)045**

Question Serial No.

1944

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 the provision of administrative and technical support to the operation of the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO), please advise the Committee on the following:

(a) Over the past three years (2010-11 to 2012-13), what was the administrative and technical support provided for the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme of the VMO? What were the expenditure and manpower involved?

(b) Over the past three years (2010-11 to 2012-13), what were the expenditure and manpower involved in dealing with applications for the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme? What were the respective numbers of applications? What were the respective numbers of approved and rejected cases? How long did the processing of an application take on average (from receipt of application to notification of the result)?

(c) In 2013-14, will the Department enhance the administrative and technical support for the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme in order to handle the ever-increasing applications? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

(a) The Agriculture Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) promotes the rehabilitation of abandoned agricultural land through the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (the Scheme). AFCD identifies such farmland and brings the landowners and interested farmers together to work out a rental agreement for leasing out the land.

(b) The manpower deployed and expenditure involved in operating the Scheme and relevant statistics on the cases handled over the past three years are tabulated below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Manpower</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Number of Applications</b>	<b>Number of Successful Cases</b>	<b>Area of Farmland Rehabilitated for Cultivation Through the Scheme (ha)</b>
<b>2010</b>	1	0.6	63	20	2.9
<b>2011</b>	1	0.7	62	17	2.8

<b>Year</b>	<b>Manpower</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Number of Applications</b>	<b>Number of Successful Cases</b>	<b>Area of Farmland Rehabilitated for Cultivation Through the Scheme (ha)</b>
<b>2012</b>	1	0.9	38	9	3.4

The average waiting time for successful cases is 3.5 years.

(c) In 2013-14, AFCD will continue to liaise with landowners for leasing out the abandoned farmland and provide farmers with technical advice and services to return the land to active production. The same level of manpower resources and related expenditure as that in 2012-13 will be allocated for the task.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 28 March 2013

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

**FHB(FE)046**

Question Serial No.

1946

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 Government will amend the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B) to strengthen regulation of pet trading. In this regard, please advise on the following:

- (a) The number of prosecutions in the past three years (2010-11 to 2012-13), broken down by the reasons for prosecution;
- (b) The expenditure and manpower involved in enforcing the above regulations in the past three years (2010-11 to 2012-13);
- (c) What is the progress of the study of the amendment? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) The number of prosecutions in the past three years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of Prosecutions	
	Trading without a licence	Breaching licensing condition
2010	13	5
2011	13	2
2012	6	0

- (b) The expenditure and manpower involved in the regulation of animal trading in the past three years are as follows:

Financial Year	Manpower	Expenditure (\$ million)
2010-11	18	5.4
2011-12	23	7.4
2012-13	23	10.9

(c) The Administration conducted a public consultation from October to November 2012 on proposed measures to better regulate pet trading including breeding of dogs for sale. We briefed the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of Legislative Council (the Panel) in November 2012 on our proposals. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has since been actively engaging the stakeholders including the pet trade, animal welfare organisations, kennel clubs, pet owner associations, and the Animal Welfare Advisory Group, with a view to hearing their views on the details of the proposed amendments to the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations, Cap. 139B, and the relevant codes of practices for dog trading and breeding. We will report to the Panel again before finalising the legislative proposals and codes of practices.

As and when the legislative proposals are finalised, AFCD will assess the funding and staff required for their implementation and apply for additional resources, if necessary, in accordance with the established resource bidding procedures.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 8 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)047**

Question Serial No.

1947

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 promoting sustainable development of the agriculture and fisheries industries, please inform this Committee of the following:

(a) What were the details, expenditure and manpower involved in promoting sustainable development of the agriculture and fisheries industries (e.g. the development of eco-tourism, leisure agriculture and fisheries industries and other sustainable fisheries) in the past three years (2010-11 to 2012-13)?

(b) What are the details, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the planning and implementation of activities and services for promoting sustainable development of the agriculture and fisheries industries in 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

(a) In the past 3 years (2010-11 to 2012-13), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been pursuing various programmes and activities to enhance the sustainability of local farming. These include (i) efforts to encourage the development of organic farming through the provision of technical assistance to local farmers under the Organic Farming Support Service Scheme, joint efforts with the Vegetable Marketing Organization and the Federation of Vegetable Marketing Cooperative Societies in promoting the production and marketing of local organic produce, and supporting the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre in its endeavours to educate the public on organic farming and promote the certification of organic products; (ii) assisting farmers to develop new farming techniques such as intensive greenhouse production and controlled environment agriculture and hydroponic technology; (iii) introduction of new and improved crop varieties for local cultivation; (iv) development of brand names for local produces through the Accredited Farm Scheme; (v) assisting the industry to set up weekend farmers' markets and organising large-scale carnivals, such as the annual FarmFest, to help showcase local agricultural and fishery products to the public; and (vi) administering three loan funds to provide loans to farmers for farm development and operation.

AFCD promoted the sustainable development of the fisheries industry in the past three years through (i) implementing the recommendations of the Committee on Sustainable Fisheries to help conserve and restore depleted marine resources, including banning trawling and measures to better regulate fishing activities in Hong Kong waters; (ii) assisting fishermen to switch to sustainable fisheries operations and helping fish farmers to develop sustainable aquaculture through technical

support services and credit facilities, including offering free training on sustainable fisheries and fisheries-related operations, implementing a pilot fish hatchery scheme, and providing loans to fishermen and fish farmers; and (iii) promoting good aquaculture practices and stepping up the monitoring of aquaculture environment and fish health management.

The manpower and expenditure involved in promoting the development of the agriculture and fisheries industries over the past three years are as follows:

Financial Year	Manpower (Number of Staff)		Expenditure (\$ million)	
	Agriculture Industry	Fisheries Industry	Agriculture Industry	Fisheries Industry
2010-11	77	67	24.5	41.9
2011-12	76	80	26.0	45.7
2012-13	73	94	31.3	53.4 <sup>#</sup>

<sup>#</sup> This does not include the estimated expenditure of \$984.3 million in 2012-13 that is disbursed through the one-off assistance package to fishermen affected by the trawl ban

(b) In 2013-14, AFCD will continue with its current programme in promoting sustainable development of the agriculture industry as stated above. The same level of resources as in the case of 2012-13 has been earmarked for this area of work.

Regarding the local fisheries industry, AFCD will continue to roll forward, in 2013-14, the various programmes and activities mentioned in (a) above. In the 2013 Policy Address, the Chief Executive has announced a \$500 million Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund to provide financial assistance for projects and research conducive to the sustainable development of the fisheries industry. We are now consulting the trade and other stakeholders on the scope of the Fund and its mode of operation before seeking funding approval from the Legislative Council. The funding application is expected to reach the Finance Committee in the fourth quarter of 2013.

A provision of \$576 million, including \$518 million for the one-off assistance package to fishermen affected by trawl ban, and 94 staff have been earmarked for promoting sustainable development of the fisheries industries in 2013-14.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 8 April 2013



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

**FHB(FE)048**

Question Serial No.

1948

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 the regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry, please set out:

- (a) The details, respective expenditure and manpower involved in the Government's regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry in the past three years (2010-11 to 2012-13).
- (b) The details, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the Government's regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry in 2013-14.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

(a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides technical services to all crop farmers including florists. The services include technical support in respect of cultivation techniques, control of plant pests and diseases and soil analysis, as well as lending of farm machinery and provision of loans. The resources deployed for providing technical services on crop husbandry and protection in the past three years are tabulated below:

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Number of staff deployed	14	14	14
Expenditure (\$ million)	4.5	5.2	6.3

(b) In 2013-14, AFCD will continue to provide the above-mentioned services to crop farmers and the same level of manpower resources and related expenditure as that in 2012-13 will be allocated for the task.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 28 March 2013

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

**FHB(FE)049**

Question Serial No.

1952

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 the Sustainable Fisheries Development Loan Fund, please provide the following information:

- (a) What is the financial position of the Sustainable Fisheries Development Loan Fund under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in 2012-13 and what is its current balance?
- (b) How many applications did the Fund receive in 2012-13? How many loans were granted? Please give an account of the loan amount, interest, purpose of loan, and terms of loan involved.
- (c) How many applications for the "one-off loans to owners of trawlers and fish collectors affected by the trawl ban" were received respectively from the owners of trawlers and fish collectors in 2012-13? 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. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) As at 28 February 2013, the Fisheries Development Loan Fund (FDLF) has a balance of about \$286 million.
- (b) In 2012-13, FDLF has received ten applications seeking loans totalling \$61.8 million. Five of the applications amounting to \$38.3 million have been approved. The applicants are trawler fishermen who will use the loans to upgrade their vessels for operating outside Hong Kong waters. The interest rate for these loans is 1% per annum. The applicants are required to repay their loans by quarterly instalments. The remaining five applications are under processing.
- (c) As regards the one-off loans that are available to owners of trawlers and fish collectors affected by the trawl ban, FDLF has received nine applications in 2012-13 from owners of trawlers seeking loans totalling \$61.3 million. The loans sought are for upgrading their vessels to operate outside Hong Kong waters or carrying out projects that will reduce fuel consumption or carbon footprint of their operations such as retrofitting the gear box and propellers of their vessels. Of these nine applications, five have been approved and four are being processed. The interest rate of these loans is 1% per annum. The applicants are required to repay their loans by quarterly instalments. No application has been received from owners of fish collectors during the same period.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)050**

Question Serial No.

1953

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 matters on the Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund, please provide the following information:

- (a) What is the financial position of the Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund under the Fish Marketing Organization in 2012-13 and what is its current balance?
- (b) How many applications did the Fund receive in 2012-13? 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. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

(a) As at 31 January 2013, \$89.2 million is available under the Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund (FMOLF).

(b) Under the FMOLF, there are two loan schemes, namely the general loan scheme (for fishermen to repair or replace fishing vessel, gear and equipment); and the Fishing Moratorium Loan Scheme (for fishermen to tide over the fishing moratorium and to prepare for resumption of fishing after the moratorium). In 2012-13, 331 applications for loans amounting to \$63.1 million were received under these two schemes. Of them, 330 applications (involving loans adding up to \$63 million) have been approved. The interest rate of the general loans and the Fishing Moratorium Loans is 2.83% per annum and 1% per annum respectively. Borrowers are required to provide adequate guarantors or collateral and repay their loans by quarterly instalments.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)051**

Question Serial No.

1955

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & Title):

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. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

As of 31 December 2012, the number of licensed pig farms and chicken farms is 43 and 30 respectively. The licensed area, licensed rearing capacity and distribution of these farms are shown in the attached table.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 28 March 2013

**Table: Area, rearing capacity and distribution of licensed livestock farms (as at 31.12.2012)**

**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	3 015.53	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	2 220.09	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	2 614.85	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	3 955.47	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>102 817.73</b>	<b>74 640</b>	

## Chicken Farm

	Licensed Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed Capacity (Nos.)	District
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	2 632.84	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	3 163.24	70 000	Yuen Long
19	2 944.67	62 800	Yuen Long
20	1 568.95	38 500	North
21	1 642.53	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

	Licensed Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Licensed Capacity (Nos.)	District
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>60 172.04</b>	<b>1 300 500</b>	

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

**FHB(FE)052**

Question Serial No.

1957

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 the inspection of animals and plants imported into Hong Kong, please provide the following information:

- (a) Please set out the number and species of non-quarantined animals that were imported illegally for sale in the past three years (2010-11 to 2012-13). How were these animals imported?
- (b) Has the Administration devised any measures to step up its efforts against the illegal import of non-quarantined animals for sale?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

(a) The number of illegally imported animals seized by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in the past three years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Dogs		Cats		Poultry/Birds		Other Animals#		Total
	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	1 518
2011	3	11	0	5	0	1 088	1 231	23	2 361
2012	0	8	0	2	60	8	301	35	414

# including reptiles and small mammals.

(b) In 2013-14, AFCD will continue to strengthen its efforts to prevent illegal importation of animals into Hong Kong. With the expansion of the Quarantine Detector Dog Team, the Department has been carrying 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 have been provided for setting up AFCD inoculation and animal inspection facilities at the new air cargo terminal of the Hong Kong International Airport, which commenced operation in February 2013, for providing animal import control services. In addition, the Department will step up the collection of intelligence from various services in order to combat smuggling of animals. Continuous education

and publicity efforts will also be made to raise the awareness of the general public on the import and quarantine requirements of bringing animals into Hong Kong.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013



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

**FHB(FE)053**

Question Serial No.

1958

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 the development of organic farming, please provide the following information:

(a) What is the Administration's plan in terms of technical support, standard certification and sales promotion for organic farming in 2013-14? How much manpower is deployed and what is the estimated expenditure involved?

(b) Since the local organic food sector remains a niche market, has the Administration studied how to enhance consumer education and information about organic food to let the public understand more about organic food?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

(a) In 2012-13, 16 staff are deployed on promoting organic farming and the marketing of organic produce. The expenditure involved is about \$6.7 million. In 2013-14, a similar level of manpower and expenditure will be required. Relevant work planned for 2013-14 includes continued provision of technical assistance to local farmers under the Organic Farming Support Service Scheme, joint efforts with the Vegetable Marketing Organization and the Federation of Vegetable Marketing Cooperative Societies in promoting the production and marketing of local organic produce, as well as giving support to the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre for the promotion of organic education and certification.

(b) The Food and Health Bureau has commissioned a consultancy study on organic food, the findings of which have been reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene in February 2013. Taking into account the recommendations from the consultant, the Administration will map out appropriate actions for enhancing consumer education on and disseminating information about organic food.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 25 March 2013

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

**FHB(FE)054**

Question Serial No.

1959

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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:

Under this Programme, it is stated that the Department will assist farmers to capture high-value market niches by providing technical advice on organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production. Please provide the following information:

(a) Has the Administration explored any specific measures to promote advanced technology and intensified production in the agriculture and fisheries industries (the industries), including intensive greenhouse production or multi-layered cultivation, so as to enhance efficiency and create new development opportunities for the industries?

(b) Has the Government examined the allocation of more resources to universities, academic organisations and organisations in the industries for conducting studies on improving farming techniques and operating environment of the industries as well as introducing more courses for the training of professionals in the industries, so as to support the development of advanced technology and intensified production in the industries?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

(a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been keeping itself abreast of latest developments and advances in agricultural and aquaculture technology. Where appropriate, AFCD introduces to local farmers modern technology and practices that will facilitate their efficient production and improve the quality of their products. In recent years, AFCD has been actively promoting organic farming and intensive greenhouse production. Apart from initiating studies on vertical farming technology, AFCD has recently introduced the controlled environment hydroponics technology for use in local farming.

(b) The Government has been making full use of the Agricultural Development Fund under the Vegetable Marketing Organization to support agricultural development and training programmes for farmers. The sustainable fisheries development fund to be set up will also provide financial assistance for projects and researches conducive to the sustainable development of the fisheries industry. We will continue to deploy appropriate resources on research and development as the need arises.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 3 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)055**

Question Serial No.

1960

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 by the Department in 2010-11 to 2012-13 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 2010-11 to 2012-13, as well as the results of such tests.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

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

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of reports received</b>
2010	9 141
2011	10 617
2012	17 844

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

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of bird carcasses collected</b>	<b>Number of bird carcasses tested</b>	<b>Number of carcasses tested positive to H5N1</b>
2010	8 467	5 248	2
2011	9 804	5 508	10
2012	15 486	8 097	22

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)056**

Question Serial No.

1961

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 2013-14, what are the details, estimated provision and manpower for the publicity and prevention of avian flu?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

In 2013-14, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to implement a comprehensive preventive and surveillance programme to reduce the risk of avian influenza (AI) outbreaks in Hong Kong. The programme includes (a) close surveillance of poultry in local farms and wholesale poultry market, pet birds, wild birds and the environment to enable early detection of AI viruses and prevention of AI outbreaks; (b) conducting regular inspections to local farms to ensure that the farmers comply with the biosecurity, farm hygiene and other related requirements, including proper vaccination of chickens against AI, and taking enforcement actions against non-compliant cases; (c) carrying out enforcement operations to combat illegal keeping of backyard poultry; (d) keeping the local, regional and global AI situation under monitoring, thereby providing an informed basis for the Government to regularly review the AI risk in Hong Kong with a view to ensuring that the AI prevention and control measures remain effective and appropriate in present-day circumstances; and (e) organising various education and publicity activities related to AI such as education seminars on farm management and disease prevention for local farmers and their workers.

The estimated expenditure in 2013-14 for the monitoring, prevention and control of AI as well as related publicity work is \$39.6 million. A total of 45 officers in AFCD are involved in this area of work.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 3 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)057**

Question Serial No.

0508

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the departmental records management work over the past three years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13):

1. Please provide information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform such work. If there is no officer designated for such work, please provide information on the number of officers and the hours of work involved in records management duties, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management;

2. Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

3. Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

4. Please list in the table below information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

1. A total of 11 staff in the Department, including 2 Clerical Officers, 2 Assistant Clerical Officers, 5 Clerical Assistants and 2 Confidential Assistants, are deployed full time to carry out records management work. To ensure proper management of departmental records, the Department has assigned the Departmental Secretary (at the rank of Chief Executive Officer) as the Departmental Records Manager and 9 officers from various grades and ranks as Assistant Departmental Records Managers. They oversee the establishment, implementation and documentation of departmental records management practices and procedures according to the relevant guidelines and instructions of the Government Records Service and the departmental records management policy, in addition to performing other duties.

2. Information on closed programme and administrative records to be transferred to Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal is provided in the table below:

<b>Category of records</b>	<b>Years covered by the records</b>	<b>Number and linear metres of records (lm)</b>	<b>Retention period approved by GRS</b>	<b>Are they confidential documents</b>
Programme files	1960 – 2006	305 files (19.54 lm)	2 - 12 years	No
Programme files	1977 – 1986	153 files (1.04 lm)	15 years	Yes
Administrative files	1961 – 2003	7 files (0.28 lm)	2 - 5 years	No
Total		465 files (20.86 lm)		

3. Information on programme and administrative records that have been transferred to GRS for retention is provided in the table below:

<b>Category of records</b>	<b>Years covered by the records</b>	<b>Number and linear metres of records (lm)</b>	<b>Years that the records were transferred to GRS</b>	<b>Retention period approved by GRS</b>	<b>Are they confidential documents</b>
Programme files	1953 – 1973	2 files (0.1 lm)	2011	7 years	No
Programme files	1973 – 2006	1 959 files (33 lm)	2011-12	45 years – permanent retention	Yes
Total		1 961 files (33.1 lm)			

4. Information on records authorised for destruction by GRS is provided in the table below:

<b>Category of records</b>	<b>Years covered by the records</b>	<b>Number and linear metres of records (lm)</b>	<b>Years that the records were transferred to GRS</b>	<b>Retention period approved by GRS</b>	<b>Are they confidential documents</b>
Programme files	1951 – 2004	4 173 files (405.24 lm)	-	3 - 15 years	No
Programme files	1996 - 2004	2 298 files (0.47 lm)	-	5 years	Yes
Administrative files	1973 – 2003	30 files (1.2 lm)	-	Retain until obsolete*	No
Administrative files	1973 – 2003	118 files (4.68 lm)	-	2 - 4 years	No
Total		6 619 files (411.59 lm)			

\*Until the expiry of relevant licences and permits.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 8 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)058**

Question Serial No.

3237

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14, the Administration has mentioned "setting up the sustainable fisheries development fund to assist fishermen to adopt a sustainable and high value-added operation mode and subsidise relevant programmes and research so as to enhance the overall competitiveness of the industry". Please inform the Committee of the amount of provision earmarked for the fund. When will the fund be operative? How many people will be benefited?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Dennis

Reply:

We plan to seek funding approval of the Finance Committee (FC) to set up the sustainable fisheries development fund with a commitment of \$500 million. Subject to FC's approval, we plan to start inviting applications in the first half of 2014. The fund will directly or indirectly benefit the whole fisheries industry, with a work force of some 12 000 local people.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 28 March 2013



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

**FHB(FE)059**

Question Serial No.

0927

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 involved in catching stray animals for the three financial years of 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The expenditure on management of stray animals including catching operations in 2010-11 and 2011-12 was \$21.3 million and \$22.0 million respectively. The estimated expenditure for 2012-13 is \$25.6 million.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)060**

Question Serial No.

0928

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 in the past three years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13).

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The number and species of stray animals caught, animals given up by owners, and those received through other channels by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, and the number of animals reclaimed by the owners, re-homed and euthanised in 2010, 2011 and 2012 are at **Annex**.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 8 April 2013

**Annex**

Calendar Year	Stray Animals Caught			Animals Given Up by Owners			Animals Received through Other Channels			Animal Reclaimed			Animals Re-homed			Animals Euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	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	1 964	805	45	789	119	32	7 420	3 047	482
2011	5 800	3 557	331	2 403	244	107	1 445	267	956	1 517	738	474	852	205	87	6 561	2 422	649
2012	4 722	3 027	260	2 009	248	85	1 131	98	1 276	1 292	707	348	666	145	89	5 675	1 950	1 160

\* 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)061**

Question Serial No.

0929

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In the three financial years of 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13, how many days on average did the Department keep the stray animals caught before they were euthanised, and what was the average expenditure on 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. Unclaimed dogs and cats will be passed to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) 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 AWOs, will be euthanised.

In 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13, the average number of days that a stray animal was kept in an AFCD facility before the stray animals 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>
2010-11	7.5	\$137
2011-12	7.6	\$138
2012-13	8.1	\$167

The increase in the unit euthanasia cost from \$138 in 2011-12 to \$167 in 2012-13 is due to the decrease in the number of euthanised animals whilst many fixed costs remain unchanged.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)062**

Question Serial No.

0930

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In the three financial years of 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13, how many days on average did the Department keep the animals caught or received before they were euthanised, and what was the average daily expenditure on each animal?

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. Unclaimed dogs and cats will be passed to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) 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 AWOs, will be euthanised.

In 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13, the average number of days that a stray animal was kept in an AFCD facility before the stray animals were reclaimed, re-homed or euthanised and the average daily expenditure required for each animal are as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Average number of days in AFCD Facilities</b>	<b>Average daily expenditure* for each animal</b>
2010-11	7.5	\$17
2011-12	7.6	\$22
2012-13	8.1	\$27

\*Daily expenditure includes feed and drug costs, but does not include staff costs.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)063**

Question Serial No.

0931

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 centre received from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department? 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 re-homing service. The number and type of animals that these AWOs have received from AFCD in 2012 are set out in **Annex**.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 9 April 2013

## Number of Animals Received from AFCD by AWOs for Re-homing in 2012

	<b>Animal Welfare Organisation</b>	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Cats</b>	<b>Others*</b>	<b>Total</b>
1.	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	463	0	0	463
2.	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	75	123	25	223
3.	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	59	2	0	61
4.	Society for Abandoned Animals	26	1	0	27
5.	Hong Kong AlleyCat Watch	0	17	0	17
6.	Other AWOs <sup>#</sup>	43	2	64	109
	<b>Total</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>900</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)064**

Question Serial No.

0932

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 2013-14, \$2.7 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 \$41 and \$720 respectively. The significant increase in the average expenditure for providing de-sexing service for one animal from \$500 in 2012-13 to \$720 in 2013-14 is due to the higher price quoted in the tender received in the recent tender exercise.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013



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

**FHB(FE)065**

Question Serial No.

0933

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Department has pledged to implement a “trap-neuter-vaccinate-return” scheme. What is the progress of the consultation with District Councils? What is the official launch date of the scheme? What is the estimated cost per stray dog under this scheme? Please give a breakdown of the expenditure items.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

Following the identification of three potential sites in Yuen Long, Sai Kung and Lamma Island respectively for implementing the “Trap-Neuter-Return” (TNR) trial scheme for dogs, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), in collaboration with relevant animal welfare organisations, have consulted the local community and the respective District Councils on the trial scheme in 2012 but could not obtain support from them. The Department and the relevant animal welfare organisations have subsequently identified two alternative potential sites in Yuen Long and Cheung Chau and will proceed to consult the local community and the respective District Councils if these two sites are assessed to be suitable. If the trial is implemented, AFCD will commission an independent consultancy study to monitor the changes in the number of stray dogs at the trial sites and assess the effectiveness of the trial scheme in reducing the stray dog population.

In 2013-14, \$1.9 million has been earmarked for the TNR trial scheme. Details of the estimated expenditure for the trial scheme which is expected to span over three years are as follows:

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

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)066**

Question Serial No.

0934

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 2013-14? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

In 2013-14, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to strengthen its efforts to prevent illegal importation of animals into Hong Kong. With the expansion of the Quarantine Detector Dog Team, AFCD has been carrying 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 have been provided for setting up AFCD inoculation and animal inspection facilities at the new air cargo terminal, which commenced operation in February 2013, for providing animal import control services. In addition, the Department will step up the collation of intelligence in order to combat smuggling of animals. Continuous education and publicity efforts will also be made to raise the awareness of the general public on the import and quarantine requirements of bringing animals into Hong Kong. In 2013-14, \$11.1 million has been earmarked for work on import control of animals.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 3 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)067**

Question Serial No.

0935

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 2013-14, 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 2013-14, AFCD will continue to provide technical support and advice to farmers on these aspects. Training and workshops will also be organised to assist farmers to comply with the requirements in the CoP. We do not keep separate breakdown for the expenditure incurred by AFCD in such work.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 26 March 2013

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

**FHB(FE)068**

Question Serial No.

0936

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 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 2013-14, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to pursue various measures for managing animals and promoting animal welfare. These include (a) implementing a strengthened education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (b) pursuing proposals to better regulate pet trading including breeding of dogs for sale through amending the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations, Cap. 139B; (c) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals; (d) stepping up enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant animal laws; (e) improving the handling of animal cruelty reports or complaints through the inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; (f) strengthening collaboration with and the provision of technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in re-homing of animals and conducting activities relating to animal welfare and management; and (g) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle population in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities. Besides, AFCD will continue to explore further enhanced measures for animal management and promotion of animal welfare.

Other than using existing resources allocated for animal management, an additional provision of \$3.1 million, which includes resources for two time-limited posts, namely one Field Officer II and one Field Assistant, has been earmarked for the implementation of the above enhanced measures in 2013-14.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 8 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)069**

Question Serial No.

0945

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 names of the drugs used in euthanasia of animals in the three financial years of 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13? What was the dosage used on each type of animals? What was the total dosage used?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The drugs used in euthanasia of animals are general anesthetics. The dosage used generally depends on the species, weight and age of the animals. The total amount of drugs ordered in the three financial years was 9 087 vials in 2010-11, 4 084 vials in 2011-12 and 3 969 vials in 2012-13 respectively.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)070**

Question Serial No.

0946

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 three financial years of 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13?

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 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 in 2011, the profile mix of the animal welfare programmes to be supported by the subvention 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. As a result, the amount of subvention to SPCA was increased to \$1 million in 2011-12. The same amount has been earmarked for 2012-13.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)071**

Question Serial No.

0947

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 2013-14 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, animals given up by owners, and those received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) through other channels (such as seizure in law enforcement operations) usually stay at AFCD Animal Management Centres (AMCs) for at least four days pending retrieval by their owners. Unclaimed animals will be passed to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) for re-homing if they are found to be healthy and of an acceptable temperament. In recent years, AFCD has been strengthening its collaboration with and support for these AWOs in re-homing 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 re-homing; and (d) organising educational and publicity events jointly with AWOs to promote adoption of animals.

Through the above efforts, the number of animals re-homed has increased from 758 in 2009 to 900 in 2012, notwithstanding the decrease in the total number of animals received by AFCD over the past three years. The average number of days an animal stayed in AMCs increased from 7.6 days in 2011-12 to 8.1 days in 2012-13. We consider it more appropriate to continue our efforts in promoting re-homing of animals through strengthening collaboration with AWOs rather than setting up animal re-homing centres under AFCD.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)072**

Question Serial No.

1789

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Subhead (No. & title):  
Conservation Department

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:

Under Brief Description of Programme (3), the safeguarding of animal welfare is mentioned.

- (a) What was the Department's expenditure on the de-sexing of stray animals (cattle, cats and dogs) over the past three years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13) and what were the details?
- (b) What are the Department's current policy and measures on handling stray animals (cattle, cats and dogs)?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Che-cheung

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure on the de-sexing of cattle, cats and dogs over the past three years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Expenditure (\$)			
	Cattle	Dogs	Cats	Total Cost
2010	0	789,000	119,000	908,000
2011	71,000	426,000	103,000	600,000
2012	178,000	480,000	104,000	762,000

(b) To address the environmental nuisance problems and potential public health hazards that may be caused by stray animals, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will, upon receipt of complaints against stray animals (mostly cats and dogs), take follow-up actions including carrying out catching operations to remove the stray animals from the area concerned with a view to reducing the nuisance at source and controlling the population of stray animals. Stray dogs and cats caught will usually stay at AFCD Animal Management Centres for at least four days pending retrieval by their owners. Unclaimed dogs and cats will be passed to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) 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 AWOs, will be euthanised. As for cattle, AFCD has established a Cattle Management Team with a view to handling stray cattle cases more effectively. A long term strategy, which includes adoption of a "Trap-Neuter-Return" (TNR) approach, for the management of stray cattle population has been devised and is being implemented in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities.



In addition, AFCD will strengthen its efforts in stray animal management through a number of new and enhanced measures. These include (i) implementation of an enhanced education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (ii) drawing up code of practice for the proper keeping of pets and other animals; (iii) stepping up enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant animal laws; (iv) strengthening collaboration with and the provision of support for AWOs in re-homing animals; and (v) assisting the relevant AWOs in pursuing the TNR trial scheme for dogs.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)073**

Question Serial No.

1735

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The trawl ban in Hong Kong waters has been implemented. However, the compensation arrangements for the fishermen concerned are chaotic while the fishermen's livelihood has been greatly affected. Will the Department provide the distribution of the amount of allowance granted? (Please set out the data in the table below)

Amount of ex-gratia allowance for inshore trawlers / each vessel (\$)

<b>Type of vessel</b> <b>Homeport</b>	<b>Stern trawler</b>	<b>Shrimp trawler</b>	<b>Hang trawler</b>	<b>Pair trawler</b>	<b>Total</b>
Aberdeen					
Shau Kei Wan / Chai Wan					
Castle Peak					
Cheung Chau					
Tai Po					
Sai Kung					
Others					
Total					

Asked by: Hon. MO Claudia

Reply:

The amount of ex-gratia allowance granted to each eligible inshore trawler owner varies, depending on the merits of individual applications. The breakdown by type of vessel and homeport (as reported by the applicant) is provided below:

<b>Type of vessel Homeport*</b>	<b>Stern trawler</b>	<b>Shrimp trawler</b>	<b>Hang trawler</b>	<b>Pair trawler</b>	<b>Others#</b>	<b>Total</b>
Aberdeen	\$619,793 – \$3,616,961	\$1,941,930 – \$4,548,679	\$6,028,157	\$859,968 – \$4,833,380	\$423,461 – \$2,335,167	\$174,654,010
Shau Kei Wan / Chai Wan	\$663,147 – \$3,641,176	\$2,127,421 – \$4,548,679	-	\$907,561 – \$3,413,132	-	\$170,239,769
Castle Peak	\$593,990 – \$2,969,954	\$1,923,485 – \$4,548,679	\$1,859,863 – \$6,355,934	\$913,962 – \$966,675	\$581,518 – \$1,363,770	\$266,580,280
Cheung Chau	-	\$1,923,485 – \$4,524,454	\$5,959,510	\$696,709 – \$4,826,978	\$1,421,968	\$127,120,060
Tai Po	\$3,632,652	\$4,394,990	-	\$966,675 – \$4,833,380	-	\$41,137,913
Sai Kung	\$3,616,961	\$2,796,969 – \$4,394,990	-	-	-	\$14,425,881
Others	-	\$1,889,846 – 4,473,224	\$4,545,078	-	\$799,652 – \$1,421,968	\$40,611,847
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$77,103,243</b>	<b>\$460,824,701</b>	<b>\$154,112,850</b>	<b>\$113,542,980</b>	<b>\$29,185,986</b>	<b>\$834,769,760</b>

\* Based on information provided by applicants.

# Trawler vessels other than the four types in the table.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 25 March 2013

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

**FHB(FE)074**

Question Serial No.

1743

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 details of the Department's work and expenditure on the euthanasia of animals and the "trap-neuter-vaccinate-return" trial scheme respectively in the past three years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13)? Has the Department considered changing the amounts of expenditure on these two aspects in the coming financial years? If yes, what are the extent of changes and the reasons? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MO Claudia

Reply:

Euthanasia of Animals

For animals that are not claimed by their owners and are assessed to be unsuitable for re-homing due to health or temperament reasons or cannot be re-homed by animal welfare organisations (AWOs), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) disposes of them by euthanasia.

The number of animals euthanised in the past three years with breakdown by species is as follows:

Calendar Year	Animals Euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2010	7 420	3 047	482
2011	6 561	2 422	649
2012	5 675	1 950	1 160

\* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc. The sharp increase in 2012 is due to a surge in the number of euthanised wild birds in the wake of Psittacosis cases.

The expenditure involved in euthanasia of animals in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2010-11	1.3
2011-12	1.3
2012-13	1.5

Through strengthened efforts on various fronts such as the promotion of responsible pet ownership and animal re-homing as well as taking enforcement against abandonment of animals by irresponsible owners, the number of animals euthanised has been on a declining trend in recent years. While it is expected that such a trend will continue in the coming year, the same amount of \$1.5 million as allocated for 2012-13 has been earmarked for this area of work in 2013-14, taking into account the anticipated increase in cost.

“Trap-Neuter-Return” Trial Scheme

Following the identification of three potential sites in Yuen Long, Sai Kung and Lamma Island respectively for implementing the “Trap-Neuter-Return” (TNR) trial scheme, AFCD, in collaboration with relevant AWOs, have consulted the local community and the respective District Councils on the trial scheme in 2012 but could not obtain support from them. The Department and the relevant AWOs have subsequently identified two alternative potential sites in Yuen Long and Cheung Chau and will proceed to consult the local community and the respective District Councils if these two sites are assessed to be suitable. If the trial is implemented, AFCD will commission an independent consultancy study to monitor the changes in the number of stray dogs at the trial sites and assess the effectiveness of the trial scheme in reducing the stray dog population.

The Department made use of existing resources and deployed an additional provision of \$0.82 million for pursuing the TNR trial scheme in 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively. In 2013-14, \$1.9 million and four staff (one Veterinary Officer and three Animal Health Inspectors) have been earmarked for this area of work.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)075**

Question Serial No.

1744

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 the work and the expenditure of the inter-departmental special working group set up by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the Hong Kong Police Force, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) for the protection of animals?

Asked by: Hon. MO Claudia

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), in conjunction with the Hong Kong Police Force, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, set up an inter-departmental special working group (working group) to enhance co-operation in handling animal cruelty cases. The working group meets regularly to discuss the handling of such cases, devise and review guidelines for improving efficiency in detection and prevention to ensure that the welfare of animals involved is protected. The working group also keeps in view the level of penalty handed down by the court in convicted cases. If and when the penalty imposed by the court is considered too lenient, the working group will make recommendations to the Department of Justice for a review.

The work of the working group forms part of AFCD's on-going efforts in combating cruelty to animals and in promoting animal welfare. No additional expenditure is involved.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)076**

Question Serial No.

1745

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 the various types of animals caught by the Department (with a breakdown by the channels through which they were received) and the numbers of the various types of animals euthanised in the past three years (2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13).

Asked by: Hon. MO Claudia

Reply:

Other than stray animal caught, the Animal Management Centres of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department also handle many animals given up by owners. There are also other animals received through other channels such as seizure. They are tabulated as separate categories as below:

Calendar Year	Number of Stray Animals Caught			Number of Animals Given Up by Owners			Number of Animals Received through Other Channels			Number of Animals Euthanised		
	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	7 420	3 047	482
2011	5 800	3 557	331	2 403	244	107	1 445	267	956	6 561	2 422	649
2012	4 722	3 027	260	2 009	248	85	1 131	98	1 276	5 675	1 950	1 160

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

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)077**

Question Serial No.

1746

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 details of the types and dosage of the drugs used by the Department in euthanasia of various animals, as well as the expenditure involved in the past three years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13).

Asked by: Hon. MO Claudia

Reply:

The drugs used in euthanasia of animals are general anesthetics. The dosage used generally depends on the species, weight and age of the animals.

The expenditure involved in euthanasia of animals in the past three years is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2010-11	1.3
2011-12	1.3
2012-13	1.5

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 9 April 2013



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

**FHB(FE)078**

Question Serial No.

1747

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 details and expenditure on the work related to the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance over the past three years (2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13)?

Asked by: Hon. MO Claudia

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is one of the departments involved in the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance, Cap 169. The work carried out by the Department in this respect includes (a) inspection of the relevant premises and facilities including pet shops, animal boarding premises, riding schools, animal exhibition venues, etc. to ensure compliance with the relevant animal welfare standards; (b) gathering intelligence on suspected animal cruelty or abuse activities; and (c) conducting investigation of animal cruelty reports/complaints and taking prosecution actions.

In 2011, AFCD, in conjunction with the Hong Kong Police Force (the Force), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), set up an inter-departmental special working group (working group) to enhance co-operation in handling animal cruelty cases. The working group meets regularly to discuss the handling of such cases, devise and review guidelines for improving efficiency in detection and prevention to ensure that the welfare of animals involved is protected. The working group also keeps in view the level of penalty handed down by the court in convicted cases. If and when the penalty imposed by the court is considered too lenient, the working group will make recommendations to the Department of Justice for a review. Besides, AFCD has been actively involved in the "Animal Watch Scheme" which was launched by the Force in 2011 to strengthen co-operation among the Force, AFCD, SPCA and other stakeholders in the investigation of cases involving cruelty to animals. Specifically, the Department provides the expert veterinary advice necessary for taking forward the investigation and carries out post-mortem examination to find out the cause of death and whether the animals have been cruelly treated.

The number of reports/complaints handled by AFCD regarding cruelty to animals in contravention of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance over the past three years is as follows:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of Reports/Complaints</b>
2010	80
2011	63
2012	49

The expenditure involved in the work related to the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance over the past three years is as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2010-11	1.2
2011-12	1.7
2012-13	2.1

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)079**

Question Serial No.

1766

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): 700 General non-recurrent

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Department has stated that a portion of the compensation in relation to the trawl ban would be offered to holders of Sha Chau marine park fishing permits. In the Estimates, however, measures related to the trawl ban and matters regarding Sha Chau are listed in two separate operating account items. Why is there such an allocation of resources by the Department? Will this allocation of resources have an impact on the fishermen affected by the trawl ban?

Asked by: Hon. MO Claudia

Reply:

The operating account item Head 700 Item 536 provides for the setting up of a marine sanctuary in the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau area, while the other item Head 700 Item 852 provides for a one-off assistance package to trawler vessel owners, local deckhands and fish collector owners affected by the trawl ban and other related measures, which includes making ex-gratia payments to affected trawler vessel owners for permanent loss of fishing ground arising from the trawl ban. The ex-gratia allowance for inshore trawlers is derived from the notional value of 11 years' fish catch in Hong Kong waters by all trawlers based on the data from the Port Survey conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in 1989/91 and adjusted with fish price movement since then.

Only trawlers issued with a valid marine park fishing permit were permitted to fish in the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau marine park (the marine park). The ex-gratia allowance calculated based on the notional value of fish catch in the marine park was apportioned among eligible inshore trawler owners holding a valid fishing permit for operating in the marine park only, and is provided for in the one-off assistance package. Such allocation of resources would not have any impact on the fishermen affected by the trawl ban.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 28 March 2013

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

**FHB(FE)080**

Question Serial No.

0674

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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:

Under the Programme "Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets", the estimate for 2013-14 is 37.7% lower than the previous year but is nearly four times higher than the actual financial provision for 2011-12. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. NG Leung-sing

Reply:

The estimate for 2013-14 is nearly four times higher than the actual financial provision for 2011-12 mainly because of the inclusion of non-recurrent expenditure for the one-off assistance package to fishermen affected by the trawl ban. The estimate for 2013-14 is lower than that in 2012-13 by 37.7% because of a reduction in the projected cash flow requirement under the one-off assistance package.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)081**

Question Serial No.

1847

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will strengthen import control of animals in 2013-14. Please set out:

- (a) The numbers of animals and birds imported to Hong Kong from 2008 to 2012.
- (b) The specific objectives of the AFCD in strengthening import control of animals.

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

- (a) The number of animals and birds imported into Hong Kong from 2008 to 2012 is as follows:

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Dogs and Cats	3 546	4 629	5 725	5 991	6 280
Breeding Pigs	1 680	1 605	1 477	1 281	1 158
Horses	845	488	459	494	531
Poultry/Birds	2 850 921	1 528 529	1 529 270	1 509 553	1 544 240
Others*	162 347	180 279	247 238	575 345	533 483

\* including reptiles and small mammals.

(b) In carrying out import control of animals, the main objectives of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) are to protect public health, prevent introduction of exotic animal diseases and safeguard animal welfare. The work includes (a) inspection of animals imported into Hong Kong to ensure compliance with the relevant regulations pertaining to animal health, animal welfare and import requirements; and (b) providing quarantine services as necessary to prevent the introduction and spread of rabies and other zoonotic diseases.

In 2013-14, AFCD will continue to strengthen its control efforts to prevent illegal importation of animals into Hong Kong. With the expansion of the Quarantine Detector Dog Team, the Department has been carrying 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 have been provided for setting up AFCD inoculation and animal inspection facilities at the new air cargo

terminal of the Hong Kong International Airport. These facilities commenced operation in February 2013. In addition, the Department will step up the collation of intelligence in order to combat smuggling of animals. Continuous education and publicity efforts will also be made to raise the awareness of the general public on the import and quarantine requirements of bringing animals into Hong Kong.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 8 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)082**

Question Serial No.

0027

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

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 (latest position)
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	( )
• \$6,240 to \$6,500	( )
• below \$6,240	( )
Length of service of NCSC staff	
• above 15 years	( )
• 10 to 15 years	( )
• 5 to 10 years	( )
• 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	( )
Number of staff applying for paternity leave	( )
Number of applications approved	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote percentage changes compared with the same period in 2011-12*

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Details of the information are as follows:

	2012-13 (as at 31 December 2012)
Number of NCSC staff	304 (+3.4%)
Breakdown of posts taken up by NCSC staff	In this department, NCSC positions may broadly be categorised into four groups according to their job nature, namely professional support [21 staff], technical support [140 staff], administrative support [28 staff] and other services [115 staff].
Salary expenditure for NCSC staff	\$55,557,659 (+17.4%)
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff	
• \$30,001 or above	35 (+52.2%)
• \$16,001 to \$30,000	17 (0%)
• \$8,001 to \$16,000	252 (-0.8%)
• \$6,501 to \$8,000	-
• \$6,240 to \$6,500	-
• below \$6,240	-
Length of service of NCSC staff	
• above 15 years	-
• 10 to 15 years	19 (+26.7%)
• 5 to 10 years	90 (-17.4%)
• 3 to 5 years	12 (+33.3%)
• 1 to 3 years	95 (+28.4%)
• less than 1 year	88 (+1.1%)
Number of staff converted to civil servants	27 (+28.6%) [Note 1]
Number of staff failed to be converted to civil servants	[Note 2]
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the Department	17.2% (+1.2 percentage points)
Percentage of payment for NCSC staff in the total staff costs of the Department	11.5% (+3.5 percentage points)
Number of staff with paid meal break	[Note 3]
Number of staff without paid meal break	[Note 3]
Number of staff on five-day week	304 (+3.4%)
Number of staff on six-day week	-
Number of staff applying for paternity leave	4 (-)
Number of applications approved	4 (-) [Note 4]

Figures in ( ) denote percentage changes compared with the same period in 2011-12

Note 1: The statistics reflect NCSC staff in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) who have successfully applied for civil service posts of the AFCD only.

Note 2: Information is not available.

Note 3: 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.

Note 4: Since the paternity leave arrangement was implemented from 1 April 2012, comparison with 2011-12 is not applicable.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 9 April 2013



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

**FHB(FE)083**

Question Serial No.

0079

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

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 (latest position)
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 (number of workers)	
• \$30,001 or above	( )
• \$16,001 to \$30,000	( )
• \$8,001 to \$16,000	( )
• \$6,501 to \$8,000	( )
• \$6,240 to \$6,500	( )
• below \$6,240	( )
Length of service of agency workers (number of workers)	
• above 15 years	( )
• 10 to 15 years	( )
• 5 to 10 years	( )
• 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 percentage changes compared with the same period in 2011-12*

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Details of the information are as follows:

	2012-13 (as at 18 February 2013)
Number of contracts of engaging employment agencies	10 (+25.0%)
Contract sum paid to each employment agency	\$0.08 to \$1.42 million (+177.8% on average)
Total amount of commission paid to each employment agency	[Note 1]
Length of contract for each employment agency	3 to 9 months
Number of agency workers	61 (+45.2%)
Breakdown of posts taken up by agency workers	The workers mainly provide general and / or clerical support services.
Monthly salary range of agency workers (number of 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>• \$6,240 to \$6,500</li> <li>• below \$6,240</li> </ul>	[Note 2]
Length of service of agency workers (number of workers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• above 15 years</li> <li>• 10 to 15 years</li> <li>• 5 to 10 years</li> <li>• 3 to 5 years</li> <li>• 1 to 3 years</li> <li>• less than 1 year</li> </ul>	[Note 3]
Percentage of agency workers in the total number of staff in the Department	2.9% (+0.9 percentage point)
Percentage of payment for employment agencies in the total staff costs of the Department	0.6% (+0.3 percentage point)
Number of workers with paid meal break Number of workers without paid meal break	[Note 1]
Number of workers on five-day week Number of workers on six-day week	

*Figures in ( ) denote percentage changes compared with the same period in 2011-12*

Note 1: Relevant information is not specified in the contract and hence not available.

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: 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.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 22 March 2013

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

**FHB(FE)084**

Question Serial No.

0080

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

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 (latest position)
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	( )
• \$6,240 to \$6,500	( )
• below \$6,240	( )
Length of service of outsourced workers	
• above 15 years	( )
• 10 to 15 years	( )
• 5 to 10 years	( )
• 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 percentage changes compared with the same period in 2011-12*

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Details of the information are as follows:

	2012-13 (as at 18 February 2013)
Number of outsourced service contracts	44 (+57.1%)
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers	\$18.1 million (-1.1%)
Length of contract for each outsourced service provider	6 to 36 months
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	184 (-21.7%)
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>• \$6,240 to \$6,500</li><li>• below \$6,240</li></ul>	[Note 1]
Length of service of outsourced workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• above 15 years</li><li>• 10 to 15 years</li><li>• 5 to 10 years</li><li>• 3 to 5 years</li><li>• 1 to 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	8.9% (-2.1 percentage points)
Percentage of payment for outsourced service providers in the total staff costs of the Department	2.8% (-0.1 percentage point)
Number of workers with paid meal break Number of workers without paid meal break	[Note 3]
Number of workers on five-day week Number of workers on six-day week	

*Figures in ( ) denote percentage changes compared with the same period in 2011-12*

Note 1: 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 2: 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 3: Relevant information is not specified in the contract and hence not available.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 22 March 2013

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

**FHB(FE)085**

Question Serial No.

0948

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 following information:

- (a) Regarding promoting the sustainable development of the agriculture and fisheries industries, what management activities and services will the Administration plan and implement in 2013-14?
- (b) Regarding requests for assistance handled by government fresh food wholesale markets, what aspects do these requests usually concern? It is estimated that there will be 16 000 requests for assistance in 2013. Why is there such a significant reduction as compared with the actual figure of 23 086 requests in 2012? What is the basis used by the Administration in projecting the number of requests?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

(a) In 2013-14, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue its efforts in pursuing various programmes and activities to enhance the sustainability of local farming. These include (i) the development of organic farming through provision of technical assistance to local farmers under the Organic Farming Support Service Scheme, joint efforts with the Vegetable Marketing Organization and the Federation of Vegetable Marketing Cooperative Societies in promoting the production and marketing of local organic produce, and supporting the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre in its endeavours to educate the public on organic farming and promote the certification of organic products; (ii) assisting farmers to develop new farming techniques such as intensive greenhouse production and controlled environment agriculture and hydroponic technology; (iii) introduction of new and improved crop varieties for local cultivation; (iv) development of brand names for local produces through the Accredited Farm Scheme; (v) assisting the industry to set up weekend farmers' markets and organizing large-scale carnivals, such as the annual FarmFest, to help showcase local agricultural and fishery products to the wider public; and (vi) administering three loan funds to provide loans to farmers for farm development and operation.

Regarding the local fisheries industry, AFCD will continue to promote its sustainable development in 2013-14 through (i) taking follow-up actions on the implementation of the legislation to ban trawling and better regulate fishing activities in Hong Kong waters, and continuing to implement other recommendations of the Committee on Sustainable Fisheries, with the aim of conserving and restoring marine resources; (ii) assisting fishermen to switch to sustainable fisheries operations and fish farmers to develop sustainable aquaculture through technical support services and credit facilities, including offering free training on sustainable fisheries and fisheries-related operations, implementing a pilot

fish hatchery scheme, and provision of loans to fishermen and fish farmers; (iii) promoting good aquaculture practices and stepping up the monitoring of aquaculture environment and fish health management; and (iv) setting up a \$500 million sustainable fisheries development fund to assist fishermen to adopt a sustainable and high value-added operation mode, and subsidise relevant programmes and research so as to enhance the overall competitiveness of the industry.

(b) The types of assistance requested include maintenance and repair works, general leasing matters and compliance with the Wholesale Market Administrative Rules which govern public order, traffic control, market cleanliness, market operation, rental payment matters, and dispute mediation. The increase in the number of requests in 2012 is mainly due to a large number of enquiries received from market tenants during March - May 2012 on matters relating to the year's rental adjustment and the government offer of rental waiver. As rents for all government wholesale food markets except the wholesale poultry market are reviewed every two years and the next review will be conducted in 2014, we anticipate that the number of requests from market tenants will return to normal at about 16 000 in 2013.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 25 March 2013

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

**FHB(FE)086**

Question Serial No.

0949

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 the following information:

- (a) Please provide by species the number of animals euthanised by the AFCD in the past three financial years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13).
- (b) What was the AFCD's expenditure involved in the euthanasia of animals in each of the past three financial years?
- (c) It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14 that measures for stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare will be strengthened. What are the details of these measures? What are the staffing and estimated expenditure involved in each of the measures?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

- (a) 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. Unclaimed dogs and cats will be passed to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) 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 AWOs, will be euthanised.

The number of animals euthanised in the past three years with breakdown by species is as follows:

Calendar Year	Animals Euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2010	7 420	3 047	482
2011	6 561	2 422	649
2012	5 675	1 950	1 160

\* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc. The sharp increase in 2012 is due to a surge in the number of euthanised wild birds in the wake of Psittacosis cases.



(b) The expenditure involved in the euthanasia of animals in the past three years is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Euthanasia Cost (\$ million)</b>
2010-11	1.3
2011-12	1.3
2012-13	1.5

(c) In 2013-14, AFCD will continue to pursue various measures for managing animals and promoting animal welfare. These include (a) implementing a strengthened education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (b) pursuing proposals to better regulate pet trading including breeding of dogs for sale through amending the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations, Cap. 139B; (c) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals; (d) stepping up enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant animal laws; (e) improving the handling of animal cruelty reports or complaints through the inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; (f) strengthening collaboration with and the provision of technical and financial support to AWOs in re-homing of animals and conducting activities relating to animal welfare and management; and (g) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle population in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities. Besides, AFCD will continue to explore further enhanced measures for animal management and promotion of animal welfare.

Other than using existing resources allocated for animal management, an additional provision of \$3.1 million, which includes resources for two time-limited posts, namely one Field Officer II and one Field Assistant, has been earmarked for the implementation of the above enhanced measures in 2013-14.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 8 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)087**

Question Serial No.

0950

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide the following information:

- (a) Regarding the Allowances under Personal Emoluments, the revised estimate for 2012-13 is \$1.48 million higher than the original. What are the reasons?
- (b) Regarding Job-related allowances, please set out the items involved and the estimated expenditure under each item in 2012-13. What is the number of staff eligible for such allowances?
- (c) Regarding the \$1 million annual subventions for animal welfare organisations, please set out the names of beneficiary organisations and the amounts of subventions granted over the last three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13). What are the application procedures involved for animal welfare organisations which want to apply for subventions? What are the criteria used in determining the eligibility of the organisations for receiving subventions?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

- (a) The number of vacancies arising from natural wastage, resignation and unfilled posts increased from 182 to 231 during the year. Among these 231 vacancies, two are at the directorate rank i.e. Assistant Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation and Principal Veterinary Officer. Appropriate acting appointments are required for taking up the duties of these new and/or vacant posts to meet operational needs. As such, the revised estimate for Allowances under Personal Emoluments for 2012-13 has been increased to meet the increased expenditure on acting allowance.
- (b) Information on job-related allowances and their respective estimated expenditure in 2012-13, together with the number of staff eligible for such allowances, is provided in the table below –

Individual items under job-related allowances	Revised estimate in 2012-13 (\$'000)	Number of staff eligible for the allowance
Typhoon allowance	220	95
Shift duty allowance	3,601	791
Rainstorm black warning allowance	10	95
Extraneous duties allowance	2,191	553
Hardship allowance	1,531	589

(c) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been collaborating with animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in its efforts to enhance animal welfare and promote better animal management. Starting from 2011-12, a sum of \$1 million has been earmarked each year for providing subvention to relevant AWOs. A total of nine applications have so far been received from AWOs that have entered into partnership with AFCD to promote animal welfare and proper animal management in Hong Kong. These AWOs include the Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation, Hong Kong Dog Rescue, Lifelong Animal Protection Charity, Society for Abandoned Animals and Hong Kong Rabbit Society. All the applications have been fully or partly approved. The total amount of subvention approved is \$1,228,480. The activities that receive subvention include the establishment of a new animal re-homing centre, installation of dog houses and renovation of facilities in existing re-homing centres, provision of de-sexing service to animals including those to be re-homed, as well as organising education and publicity activities to promote re-homing of animals.

At present, AWOs that have entered into partnership with AFCD are eligible to apply for subvention to facilitate implementation of programmes relating to promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management such as animal re-homing, promotion of neutering of pets as well as general education and publicity activities. Each application will be considered on its own merits.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)088**

Question Serial No.

0201

Head: 48 Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Statuary 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 two years (i.e. 2010-11 and 2011-12) and the anticipated number for 2012-13 and 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The number of food tests (with the corresponding number of food samples in brackets) for regulatory compliance purposes conducted by the Government Laboratory for 2010-11 and 2011-12, and the estimated number for 2012-13 and 2013-14 is as follows:

2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
198 246 tests (29 882 samples)	185 847 tests (29 589 samples)	197 000 tests (29 000 samples)	180 000 tests (30 000 samples)

Name in block letters: Dr. LAU Chau-ming

Post Title: Government Chemist

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)089**

Question Serial No.

0223

Head: 48 Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding provision of professional advice and development of testing methods in preparation for the implementation of the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Chapter 132CM) in August 2014, please provide the details, including specific details of the work, as well as the manpower and expenditure required etc. Why has the number of tests performed on pesticides formulation samples reduced from 378 in 2011 to 240 in 2012, representing a large decrease by 36%?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

To prepare for the implementation of the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM), the Government Laboratory (GL) will continue to provide advisory service on technical issues, acquire the necessary facilities and reference materials, and develop the required analytical methods. GL will also continue to render technical support to private laboratories such as organising workshops and seminars to disseminate relevant technical information so as to enhance their readiness in testing pesticide residues under the Regulation. From 2013-14 onwards, the staff establishment for pesticide analysis in the Food Safety Laboratory will increase from 14 to 17 professional and technical officers. The estimated expenditure in 2013-14 is \$26 million.

The 378 and 240 tests performed on 54 and 50 pesticide formulation samples in 2011 and 2012 respectively are related to the implementation of the Pesticides Ordinance (Cap. 133). The number of tests performed is demand-driven and hence may vary depending on need of the client department(s).

Name in block letters: Dr. LAU Chau-ming

Post Title: Government Chemist

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)090**

Question Serial No.

0224

Head: 48 Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: 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 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13? What is the current staff establishment? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower in 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-Yan, Tommy

Reply:

The expenditure of the Food Safety Laboratory (FSL) under the Government Laboratory was \$25 million for 2010-11 and \$29 million for 2011-12. The estimated expenditure for 2012-13 is \$33 million. The current staff establishment of FSL consists of 30 professional and technical officers. The estimated expenditure for 2013-14 is \$44 million and the staff establishment will be increased to 33 professional and technical officers.

Name in block letters: Dr. LAU Chau-ming

Post Title: Government Chemist

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)091**

Question Serial No.

0225

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. 2010-11 to 2011-12) and those expected to be outsourced in 2012-2013 and 2013-14, as well as the respective ratio of outsourcing.
- (b) the expenditure incurred in the past two years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2011-12) and the respective estimated expenditure to be incurred in 2012-13 and 2013-14 for the outsourcing of food testing.
- (c) Apart from new outsourced items, the average cost of testing after outsourcing of the routine testing items in the past two years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2011-12) and the estimated cost of testing after outsourcing in 2012-2013 and 2013-14.
- (d) the manpower and expenditure involved for supervising and spot-checking the outsourcing work in 2011-12 and the estimated manpower and expenditure for such purposes in 2012-13.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

- (a) The information sought is provided as follows -

	<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	70%	- ditto -

	<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>
	(12 800 samples)		
2012-13	119 000 (13 000 samples)	70%	- ditto -
2013-14	119 000 (13 000 samples)	70%	- ditto -

(b) The expenditures on outsourcing of food testing incurred in 2010-11 and 2011-12 were \$9 million and \$12 million respectively. The estimated expenditures for 2012-13 and 2013-14 are both \$12 million.

(c) The average cost of testing a sample varies considerably, depending on the test parameters involved and hence the degree of complexity. However, the expenditure on outsourcing of food testing for 2011-12 was \$12 million and will remain stable in 2012-13 and 2013-14.

(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 \$4.4 million for 2011-12 and an estimated expenditure of \$4.6 million for 2012-13.

Name in block letters: Dr. LAU Chau-ming

Post Title: Government Chemist

Date: 5.4.2013



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

**FHB(FE)092**

Question Serial No.

2823

Head: 48 Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

(1) In 2012, the Government Laboratory continued outsourcing some of the routine food testing work to private testing laboratories. Please list the total number of routine food tests outsourced by the Government to commercial testing laboratories as at December 2012, and the estimated number of and expenditure on tests to be outsourced to commercial testing laboratories in 2013, as well as the resulting savings.

(2) How was testing work distributed between the Government Laboratory and private testing laboratories after outsourcing? Please elaborate on the details of "routine food". What was the number of food tests conducted by private testing laboratories in 2012?

Asked by: Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply:

(1) During the period 1 April to 31 December 2012, the Government Laboratory outsourced 112 329 routine food tests involving 11 653 samples to the commercial testing laboratories. The estimated figures for 2012-13 are 119 000 food tests involving 13 000 samples. The estimated number and expenditure on tests to be outsourced to commercial testing laboratories in 2013-14 are 119 000 food tests involving 13 000 samples and \$12 million respectively. The resources released from outsourcing are deployed to develop new test method related to amendments of food legislation, and activities related to outsourcing such as organisation of technical seminars as well as other duties including testing work for urgent food incidents.

(2) About 70% of routine food tests are outsourced to private testing laboratories, while the remaining 30% are taken up by the Government Laboratory. Routine food tests that are outsourced include preservatives, sulphur dioxide, boric acid, propionic acid, nitrate and nitrite, colouring matter, trace metals, pesticide residues, veterinary drugs residues and other food contaminants. The number of food tests outsourced to private testing laboratories was 112 329 during the period 1 April to 31 December 2012.

Name in block letters: Dr. LAU Chau-ming

Post Title: Government Chemist

Date: 8.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)093**

Question Serial No.

0525

Head: 48 Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the departmental records management work over the past three years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13):

1. Please provide information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform such work. If there is no officer designated for such work, please provide information on the number of officers and the hours of work involved in records management duties, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management;

2. Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

3. Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

4. Please list in the table below information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

1. In the Government Laboratory, 30 officers from various grades and ranks are involved in records management work as part of their duties. On average, they spend about 10% of their working hours each day on such work. On top of records management, depending on the nature of their posts, they will be involved in other clerical, secretarial, personnel, financial, accounting, procurement and office management duties. To ensure proper management of departmental records, the Department has assigned the Departmental Secretary (at the rank of Senior Executive Officer) as the Departmental Records Manager and two officers at the rank of Executive Officer I as Assistant Departmental Records Managers.

2. Programme and administrative files which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal from 2010-11 to 2012-13 are as follows :

<b>Category of records</b>	<b>Years covered by the records</b>	<b>Number and linear metres (lm) of records</b>	<b>Retention period approved by GRS</b>	<b>Are they confidential documents</b>
Administrative	1995 - 2004	170 files (10 lm)	2 - 7 years <sup>#</sup>	no
Programme	-	-	-	-

<sup>#</sup> Period of retention by the Government Laboratory (GL) in accordance with the General Administrative Records Disposal Scheme promulgated by GRS.

3. Programme and administrative files which have been transferred to GRS for retention from 2010-11 to 2012-13 are as follows:

<b>Category of records</b>	<b>Years covered by the records</b>	<b>Number and linear metres (lm) of records</b>	<b>Years that the records were transferred to GRS</b>	<b>Retention period approved by GRS</b>	<b>Are they confidential documents</b>
Administrative	-	-	-	-	-
Programme	-	-	-	-	-

4. Programme and administrative files which have been approved for destruction by GRS from 2010-11 to 2012-13 are as follows:

<b>Category of records</b>	<b>Years covered by the records</b>	<b>Number and linear metres (lm) of records</b>	<b>Years that the records were transferred to GRS</b>	<b>Retention period approved by GRS</b>	<b>Are they confidential documents</b>
Administrative	-	-	-	-	-
Programme	2005 - 2010	19 736 files (52 lm)	Not applicable	1 - 2 years*	no

\* Period of retention by GL in accordance with the disposal schedules approved by GRS.

Name in block letters: Dr. LAU Chau-ming

Post Title: Government Chemist

Date: 8.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)094**

Question Serial No.

0966

Head: 48 Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide the following information:

- a. Regarding the tests performed on "other food samples", the estimated number of tests to be performed in 2013 will decrease by some 10 000 as compared with the actual number of tests performed in 2012. What are the reasons?
- b. Will there be any reduction in the number of tests to be performed on a specific kind of food samples in 2013-14? If yes, what are the details and reasons?
- c. How many laboratories had undertaken the testing work outsourced by the Administration in 2012 and 2013 respectively?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

The estimated numbers of tests to be performed on "other food samples" in 2012 and 2013 are both 175 000. Arising mainly from the need to conduct some ad hoc projects and investigations in the year, the actual number of tests performed in 2012 exceeded the original estimate.

There is no change in the estimated numbers of tests to be performed on food samples in 2013-14. A risk-based approach is adopted in determining the types of samples to be collected, the frequency and number of samples taken for testing, and the types of laboratory analysis to be conducted. The sampling programme is under regular review, taking into account factors such as past food surveillance results, local and overseas food incidents as well as relevant risk analysis. The Expert Committee on Food Safety will also be consulted.

Five and four local private laboratories had undertaken the outsourced testing work in year 2012 and the first quarter of 2013 respectively. The Government Laboratory will continue to conduct tender exercises to invite interested private testing laboratories to bid the outsourcing contracts for food testing work in 2013-14.

Name in block letters: Dr LAU Chau-ming

Post Title: Government Chemist

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)095**

Question Serial No.

2555

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 Department's manpower and expenditure for removal of unauthorised banners in the past three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

The Department's expenditure on street cleansing services in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 is \$1,312.6 million, \$1,402.4 million and \$1,534.5 million respectively. We do not keep separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower provision for removal of unauthorised bills and posters.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013



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

**FHB(FE)096**

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 liquor licence applications received and appeals lodged, the average time taken for processing an application and listing an appeal for hearing, the success rate of appeals, as well as the number of liquor licences revoked (with a breakdown by reasons for revocation) in 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

Statistics with regard to the applications for issue of new liquor licence are provided as follows –

Year	2010	2011	2012
Number of applications for issue of new liquor licence (including club liquor licence)	956	930	1 077
Average time taken for processing an application	37 days	33 days	35 days
Number of appeals lodged with Municipal Services Appeals Board (MSAB)	13	14	17
Average time taken for listing an appeal for hearing <sup>1</sup>	41 days	62 days	107 days <sup>2</sup>
Success rate of appeals (i.e. appeals allowed by MSAB)	23%	38%	38%

<sup>1</sup> Counting from the date of MSAB receiving the appeal application to the date of hearing of the case concerned.

<sup>2</sup> The increase in average time is due to upsurge in the number of appeal cases in relation to liquor licences (including applications for new licences and for renewal, transfer or amendment of licences) handled by MSAB from 22 in 2010 to 29 in 2011 and 48 in 2012.

The number of liquor licences (including club liquor licences) revoked in 2010, 2011 and 2012 with breakdown by reasons is provided in the table below.

Reasons for revocation of liquor licence	Number of liquor licence revoked		
	2010	2011	2012
Cessation of business	16	19	9
Licensee leaving without transferring the licence	4	1	0
Death of licensee	0	1	0
Breach of licensing condition	7	6	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)097**

Question Serial No.

0190

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 for processing a restaurant licence application and a provisional restaurant licence application in 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the average processing time for issuing a full restaurant licence was 166, 167 and 166 working days respectively, while that for issuing a provisional restaurant licence was 42, 57 and 58<sup>Note</sup> working days respectively.

(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.)

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)098**

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 list by production farm types the number of Mainland production farms exporting food (such as vegetables, fruits, live pigs, live cattle, live chickens, freshwater fish, etc.) to Hong Kong and the number of inspections to these production farms in each of the years from 2010 to 2012 respectively. Please advise on the estimated number of inspections to be conducted in 2013, as well as the expenditure and manpower required for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The type and number of registered Mainland farms eligible for exporting foods to Hong Kong from 2010 to 2012 are tabulated as follows –

	Vegetable Farms	Orchards	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Goat Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms	Total
No. of Registered Farms in 2010	549	3 602	89	298	75	5	162	4 780
No. of Registered Farms in 2011	528	3 602	63	244	34	2	145	4 618
No. of Registered Farms in 2012	521	3 602	63	243	35	2	167	4 633

In 2010 to 2012, a total of 91, 90 and 88 Mainland farms were inspected respectively. The breakdown of farms inspected by type is tabulated as follows –

	Vegetable Farms	Orchards	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Goat Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms	Total
No. of Inspections in 2010	16	4	41	8	3	0	19	91
No. of Inspections in 2011	20	0	31	12	5	0	22	90
No. of Inspections in 2012	13	0	29	13	2	0	31	88

For 2013, we plan to inspect 85 farms, including 65 food animal farms and 20 vegetable farms/orchards. An inspection unit comprising three veterinary officers, eight field officers and one research/fisheries officer is responsible for inspection of food animal farms outside Hong Kong (including the Mainland and other places). The estimated expenditure for conducting farm inspections in 2012-13 and 2013-14 is \$7.7 million and \$8.6 million respectively.

The inspection of vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong is carried out by an Agricultural Officer. The officer is also tasked with other duties. We do not keep separate breakdown on the resources used for inspection of vegetable farms and orchards.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)099**

Question Serial No.

0192

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. in 2010, 2011 and 2012), and the usage rate of the on-line Liquor Licence Processing System since 1 August 2011.

Please also advise on the usage rate of the on-line licence application services since the extension of such services to food business licence and other relevant endorsement applications in January 2013, and provide details on the publicity work, the manpower arrangement and the expenditure required in promoting such services.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2010, 58% of the applicants for food business-related licences or their authorised persons made use of the online Application Tracking Facility system to monitor the progress of their applications. The corresponding usage rate in 2011 and 2012 was 51% and 54% respectively. In 2011, 30% of the liquor and club liquor licence applicants or their authorised persons made use of the on-line services on the Liquor Licence Processing System. The corresponding usage rate in 2012 was 35%.

Starting from 1 January 2013, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) accepts online submission of applications for food business licences and permits. From 1 January to 28 February 2013, 9% of the applicants (75 applicants out of a total of 869) made use of the new service. The Department has conducted briefings for the trade to introduce and promote the new online service and will continue to do so as appropriate. There is no separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved in the promotion work.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)100**

Question Serial No.

0204

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 for processing an application in 2010, 2011 and 2012 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	2010	2011	2012
Number of applications for outside seating accommodation	73	76	104
Average time taken for processing an application <sup>Note</sup>	17 months	14 months	10 months
Number of applications approved	32	23	17
Number of applications rejected	17	19	13
Number of applications withdrawn/abandoned	18	41	68
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.)

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)101**

Question Serial No.

0205

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 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively. Please also set out in tabular form the respective average time for processing these applications in each of the above three years.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2010, 2011 and 2012, there were 639, 795 and 659 applications respectively for alteration to the approved layout of licensed restaurants. The corresponding number of approvals was 520, 629 and 477. Some applications received in one year may be carried forward with the processing completed in subsequent year(s).

We do not keep statistics on the processing time for these applications. The time required to process such applications depends on many factors, including the complexity of individual cases, the quality of the proposed layout plans submitted by licensees, the time required by the relevant departments to comment on applications, and the efforts made by licensees to comply with stipulated licensing requirements.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title: Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013



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

**FHB(FE)102**

Question Serial No.

0206

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 for processing an application as well as the number of applications withdrawn in 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2010, 2011 and 2012, there were 766, 618 and 682 applications respectively for transfer of restaurant licences, of which 17, five and two were subsequently withdrawn. The average time for processing the applications in 2010, 2011 and 2012 was 40, 41 and 46 working days respectively.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)103**

Question Serial No.

0207

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:

How many appeal cases against food business licence suspension were there in 2012? How many cases were 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 2012, there were 50 appeal cases against food business licence suspension, of which 39 cases were heard and 11 withdrawn. Of the cases heard, there were 25 cases in which the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) suspended the licence for seven days and 14 cases where the suspension was for 14 days. The Licensing Appeals Board (LIAB) upheld the Department's suspension decision in 22 cases, shortened the suspension period in 16 cases, and has yet to rule on the remaining case. For the 38 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 two.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title: Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)104**

Question Serial No.

0208

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 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The information sought is provided at Annex.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

## Annex

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

District	2010 (as at 31.12.2010)			2011 (as at 31.12.2011)			2012 (as at 31.12.2012)		
	No. of Fixed Pitches Occupied (a)	No. of Vacant Pitches* (b)	Vacancy Rate ((b)/(a)+(b))	No. of Fixed Pitches Occupied (a)	No. of Vacant Pitches* (b)	Vacancy Rate ((b)/(a)+(b))	No. of Fixed Pitches Occupied (a)	No. of Vacant Pitches* (b)	Vacancy Rate ((b)/(a)+(b))
Central/Western	675	0	0%	664	0	0%	651	0	0%
Eastern	477	0	0%	470	0	0%	464	0	0%
Southern	34	0	0%	34	0	0%	32	0	0%
Wan Chai	474	0	0%	472	0	0%	460	0	0%
Islands	1	0	0%	1	0	0%	1	0	0%
Yau Tsim Mong	2 599	8	0.3%	2 563	0	0%	2 531	0	0%
Sham Shui Po	1 127	0	0%	1 111	0	0%	1 096	0	0%
Kowloon City	184	25	12%	132	0	0%	120	0	0%
Wong Tai Sin	22	0	0%	20	0	0%	18	0	0%
Kwun Tong	90	0	0%	85	0	0%	79	0	0%
Kwai Tsing	17	0	0%	16	0	0%	16	0	0%
Tsuen Wan	22	6	21%	21	0	0%	21	0	0%
Tuen Mum	8	0	0%	8	0	0%	8	0	0%
Yuen Long	21	2	9%	19	0	0%	19	0	0%
North	8	0	0%	8	0	0%	8	0	0%
Tai Po	11	0	0%	8	0	0%	7	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>5 776</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>5 638</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5 537</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

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

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

**FHB(FE)105**

Question Serial No.

0209

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 inspections to the Mainland chilled pork processing plants in each of the past three years (i.e. in 2010, 2011 and 2012).

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the number of Mainland processing plants approved for supplying chilled pork to Hong Kong was four, five and five respectively. The quantity of Mainland chilled pork imported into Hong Kong was about 18 300 tonnes, 16 600 tonnes and 12 900 tonnes respectively.

According to the Census and Statistics Department, the average import price of chilled pork from the Mainland in 2010, 2011 and 2012 was \$13.2, \$13.5 and \$14.1 per catty respectively.

The number of inspections to Mainland chilled pork processing plants in 2010, 2011 and 2012 was four, five and five respectively.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)106**

Question Serial No.

0210

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 beef to Hong Kong, the total quantity of import, the average import price of chilled beef and the number of inspections to the Mainland chilled beef processing plants each year (i.e. from 2011 to 2012) since the introduction of Mainland chilled beef to Hong Kong.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In both 2011 and 2012, there were six Mainland processing plants approved for supplying chilled beef to Hong Kong. The quantity of Mainland chilled beef imported into Hong Kong was about 140 tonnes and 15 tonnes respectively.

According to the Census and Statistics Department, the average import price of Mainland chilled beef in 2011 and 2012 was \$28.2 and \$34.0 per catty respectively.

The number of inspections to the Mainland chilled beef processing plants in 2011 and 2012 was five and one respectively.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title: Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)107**

Question Serial No.

0211

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

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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 2011 and 2012 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The information sought is provided at Annex.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

Serial No.	Name of Market	Number of live poultry stalls as at	
		end-2011	end-2012
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)108**

Question Serial No.

0212

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:

How many non-local food production farms and food processing plants (apart from those in the Mainland) were inspected by the Department in 2011 and 2012 respectively? What were the staff establishment required and expenditure involved in each of the above two years?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2011, a total of 11 farms and 10 processing plants in Mexico, Germany and Sweden were inspected.

In 2012, a total of 15 farms and 16 processing plants in Chile, Italy, France, Hungary and Ireland were inspected.

An inspection unit comprising three veterinary officers, eight field officers and one research / fisheries officer is responsible for inspection of food animal farms (including fish farms) outside Hong Kong. The actual expenditure on farm inspections was \$6.6 million in 2011-12 and the related estimated expenditure was \$7.7 million in 2012-13. \$8.6 million has been earmarked for farm inspections in 2013-14.

The inspection of vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong is carried out by an agricultural officer, while an inspection unit comprising five health inspectors is responsible for inspecting food processing plants outside Hong Kong. These officers are also tasked with other duties. Separate breakdown on the manpower resources spent on inspection of food processing plants is not readily available.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)109**

Question Serial No.

0213

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

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to 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 2011 and 31 December 2012:

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

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

		<u>Position as at</u>	
		<u>31.12.2011</u>	<u>31.12.2012</u>
1.	Number of stalls let out	12 212	12 475
2.	Number of vacant stalls	1 754 (including 871 stalls frozen)#	1 484 (including 824 stalls frozen)#

3.	Total number of stalls	13 966	13 959
4.	Vacancy rate	12.56%	10.6%
5.	Highest monthly stall rental	\$65,350	\$62,286
6.	Lowest monthly stall rental	\$10.34	\$10.34
7.	Average monthly stall rental	\$2,791.86	\$2,785.50
8.	Median monthly rent	\$1,800	\$1,800

# The figure includes vacant stalls which are frozen for reasons such as forthcoming improvement works.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)110**

Question Serial No.

0214

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 that the Department will procure an integrated system of liquid chromatograph-tandem mass spectrometer. In this connection, please give details such as the functions of the equipment, the scope of support services to be provided, the expenditure required and the expected gains in efficiency, etc.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

Liquid Chromatograph-Tandem Mass Spectrometer is a highly sensitive equipment which can be used to detect even a small amount of toxic chemical residue in food. It will be used to test pesticides regulated under the "Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation" (Cap. 132CM) which will come into operation on 1 August 2014. Using this equipment, about 4 000 fruit and vegetable samples can be analysed for multiple pesticide residues annually. The equipment costs around \$4.5 million.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title: Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)111**

Question Serial No.

0215

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 that there will be an increase of five posts in 2013-14. Please set out in tabular form the grade(s) and duties of the posts to be created and the annual expenditure on salaries to be involved, and advise on the area(s) of services to be improved with the creation of these new posts.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

Grades	Purpose	Total annual salary
Medical and Health Officer Veterinary Officer	To improve food safety regulation and control	\$5.0 million

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)112**

Question Serial No.

0216

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 mentioned that there will be a net decrease of seven posts in 2013-14. Please set out in tabular form the grade(s) and duties of the posts to be deleted and advise on the reasons for deletion of these posts.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Duties</b>	<b>Reason for deletion</b>
Workman I Workman II	To provide environmental hygiene services	Vacant posts with no operational need for retention
Health Inspector Clerical Officer	To assist in planning and launching the internet memorial service	The posts were created on a time-limited basis up to end March 2013

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title: Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)113**

Question Serial No.

0217

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 this programme, it is mentioned that there will be an increase of 13 posts in 2013-14. Please set out in tabular form the grade(s) and duties of the posts to be created and the annual expenditure on salaries to be involved, and advise on the area(s) of services to be improved with the creation of these new posts.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

Grades	Purpose	Total annual salary
Health Inspector Hawker Control Officer	To plan and implement a financial assistance scheme to improve fire safety at fixed-pitch hawker areas	\$4.6 million

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013



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

**FHB(FE)114**

Question Serial No.

0222

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 average, highest and lowest daily quantities of live pigs and live cattle imported from the Mainland into Hong Kong in each of the past three years (i.e. in 2010, 2011 and 2012). Please also advise on the average, highest and lowest auction prices per picul for each of these years.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

Information on the number of live pigs and live cattle imported from the Mainland in the past three years is tabulated as follows -

Year	Daily number of live pigs and live cattle imported from the Mainland					
	Pigs			Cattle		
	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest
2010	4 467	5 728	1 359	77	140	18
2011	4 012	6 232	2 031	79	172	18
2012	4 210	5 960	1 513	71	161	12

Information on the auction or wholesale prices of live pigs and live cattle imported from the Mainland in the past three years is tabulated as follows -

Year	Auction/wholesale prices per picul of live pigs and live cattle imported from the Mainland								
	Auction Price of Pig (HK\$)			Wholesale Price of Cattle (HK\$)					
				Marbled Meat Cattle			Beef Cattle		
	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest
2010	1,061	1,201	939	2,648	2,685	2,610	2,303	2,325	2,280
2011	1,482	1,632	1,353	2,871	3,110	2,685	2,533	2,790	2,325
2012	1,329	1,484	1,195	3,601	4,310	3,110	3,291	4,105	2,790

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)115**

Question Serial No.

0226

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. in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13) and the estimated provision and manpower required for 2013-14.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The actual expenditure on food surveillance in 2010-11 and 2011-12 was \$51.4 million and \$51.6 million respectively. Estimated expenditure for 2012-13 and 2013-14 is \$53.4 million and \$54.9 million respectively.

The manpower establishment of the Centre for Food Safety in carrying out the above work in 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 was 102, 110 and 112 respectively, and the estimated manpower provision for 2013-14 is 115.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title: Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 2.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)116**

Question Serial No.

0227

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the work of continuing to improve the management, upgrade the facilities, provide a more flexible mix of trade and carry out promotional activities in public markets in 2013-14, 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 2013-14, in addition to regular maintenance and daily management of markets, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will carry out improvement works in six markets, namely, Kwun Chung Market, Ngau Chi Wan Market, Smithfield Market, Tai Wai Market, Haiphong Road Temporary Market and Tsing Yi Market. The estimated cost of these improvement works is \$31.05 million. The works include upgrading of fire services facilities, improvement of ventilation and lighting systems, and refurbishment of toilets.

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.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)117**

Question Serial No.

0420

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:

According to the information of the Department, a total of 119 712 raids were conducted by Hawker Control Teams (HCTs) in 2012. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of raids conducted in each of the 18 districts (set out in tabular form);
- (b) of these 119 712 raids, the number of raids against licensed hawkers; the nature of their offences; the number of prosecutions instituted; whether warnings have been given before taking prosecution actions; and the number of raids in which Police assistance was needed due to conflicts between hawkers and HCTs; and
- (c) whether the Department has assessed if these raids were conducted too frequently and as a result affected the livelihood of licensed hawkers.

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher

Reply:

- (a) The information sought is provided at Annex.
- (b) There was no breakdown on which raids covered licensed hawkers. In 2012, a total of 6 088 prosecutions were instituted against licensed hawkers, mainly related to obstruction offences. Generally speaking, the enforcement strategy against licensed hawkers is to issue verbal warning first, followed by prosecution if the warning is found unheeded. The Department does not keep the number of raids in which Police assistance was needed due to conflicts between hawkers and HCTs.
- (c) The number of raids is determined by the number of complaints against suspected illegal hawking activities and other relevant factors. Raiding operations are planned by HCTs having regard to the prevailing field situation.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

**Number of Raids Conducted by Hawker Control Teams in 2012**

<b>District</b>	<b>No. of Raids</b>
Central/Western	6 693
Wan Chai	5 428
Eastern	3 776
Southern	2 175
Islands	587
Yau Tsim Mong	12 698
Sham Shui Po	10 362
Kowloon City	7 767
Wong Tai Sin	2 837
Kwun Tong	4 370
Kwai Tsing	7 672
Tsuen Wan	7 157
Tuen Mum	6 980
Yuen Long	10 330
North	7 173
Tai Po	9 250
Sha Tin	7 497
Sai Kung	6 960
<b>Total</b>	<b>119 712</b>

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

**FHB(FE)118**

Question Serial No.

2820

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) The indicator for raids by Hawker Control Teams (HCTs) under Programme (3) shows that a total of 119 712 raids were conducted in 2012. Please advise on the ten locations with the highest number of HCT operations, as well as the number of prosecutions initiated and the amount of fines imposed in 2012.

(b) Regarding the indicator for hawker blackspots, please advise on the location of the 45 hawker blackspots; the criteria adopted in identifying hawker blackspots; the usual number of hawkers trading at these locations and their normal hours of trading; whether the Department will step up patrol at hawker blackspots; and the reason(s) why the number of blackspots remained at 45 in the past two years (i.e. in 2011 and 2012) and is estimated to be at the same level in 2013.

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 2012, 33 545 prosecutions were instituted by HCT and the level of fines imposed by the court ranged from \$50 to \$5,000.

(b) Hawker blackspots are locations where unlicensed hawkers congregate. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) conducts quarterly surveys to identify and update the list of hawker blackspots. A certain location is classified as a hawker blackspot if at any one time of the day during the quarterly survey, there is an assembly of ten or more unlicensed hawkers or five or more unlicensed cooked food hawkers. According to the surveys done in the last quarter of 2010, 2011 and 2012, the number of hawker blackspots stood at 45 in all 3 years. The location of the 45 hawker blackspots is provided at Annex.

The Department has adopted the strategies of mobile patrol and raiding to deter unlicensed hawking. 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 enhance deterrence. HCT staff will continue to take enforcement actions in accordance with the established enforcement strategies and guidelines.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013



**Location of Hawker Blackspots**

<b>District</b>	<b>Location</b>
Central/Western	1. The vicinity of Statue Square and Legislative Council Building
	2. The vicinity of Chater Garden and Murray Road
	3. Footbridge along Connaught Road Central and its vicinity
Wan Chai	4. Wan Chai Road (between Johnston Road and Cross Street), Tai Yuen Street, Cross Street, Stone Nullah Lane (between Johnston Road and Cross Street) and the vicinity
	5. Bowrington Road (between Hennessy Road and Sharp Street West) and Wan Chai Road (between Canal Road West and Tin Lok Lane)
Eastern	6. Area near Chai Wan Market including the open space outside Walton Estate, Yee Shun Street, Yee Tai Street, Yee Fung Street and the lane in front of Winner Centre
	7. Kam Wa Street area including Mong Lung Street and Tai Tak Street
	8. Marble Road area including North Point MTR Exits, Kam Hong Street, Shu Kuk Street, a section of King's Road between Kam Hong Street and Tin Chiu Street as well as the vicinity of Java Road Market
	9. Chun Yeung Street area including North Point Road, Tong Shui Road, a section of King's Road around Kam Hong Street, and Fortress Hill MTR Exits
	10. Siu Sai Wan area along Siu Sai Wan Road from Bus Terminus up to Fullview Garden
	11. Kut Shing Street and Chai Wan Footbridge outside Chai Wan MTR Station
	12. The streets around Sai Wan Ho Market including Tai On Street and section of Shau Kei Wan Road in front of Tai On Building, the vicinity of Quarry Bay Market including Quarry Bay Footbridge, a section of King's Road between Finnie Street and Hong On Street and outside Jusco area
Southern	13. Pavement between Aberdeen West Typhoon Shelter and Aberdeen Promenade
Islands	14. The areas in the vicinity of Cheung Chau Ferry Pier and Praya Street, Cheung Chau
	15. The areas at the junction of Yat Tung Street and Chung Yan Road, Tung Chung, Lantau Island
Yau Tsim Mong	16. Nathan Road section between Argyle Street and Dundas Street

	17. Sai Yeung Choi Street South section between Argyle Street and Dundas Street
	18. The vicinity of FEHD Mong Kok Market bounded by Nelson Street, Canton Road, Argyle Street and Tong Mi Road
	19. Fa Yuen Street section between Nullah Road and Dundas Street
	20. Sai Yee Street section between Argyle Street and Soy Street
	21. Portland Street section between Argyle Street and Dundas Street
Sham Shui Po	22. Tung Chau Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)
	23. Pei Ho Street (between Un Chau Street and Lai Chi Kok Road)
	24. Kweilin Street (between Apliu Street and Yu Chau Street)
Kowloon City	25. Bulkeley Street (between Gillies Ave South and Dock Street)
Wong Tai Sin	26. Tai Shing Street, Tai Tung Street and its vicinity
	27. Ngau Chi Wan Village and its vicinity
	28. Lung Cheung Road and Shatin Pass Road
	29. Lok Fu MTR Station area near Wang Tau Hom East Road and its vicinity
	30. Ching Tak Street and its vicinity
	31. Tai Yau Street and its vicinity in San Po Kong Industrial Area
Kwun Tong	32. Tsun Yip Street/ How Ming Street / Hip Wo Street / Shui Wo Street / Hoi Yuen Road
	33. Footbridges of Telford Plaza linking Kowloon Bay MTR / Ngau Tau Kok Road of Amoy Plaza / Wang Hoi Road
	34. Lam Tin Estate passage way between Tak Tin Street & Ping Tin Street at side of Lam Tin Estate Bus Terminus
	35. On Wah Street / On Tak Road / Jordan Valley Road North / Ngau Tau Kok Road adjacent to Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate, Kwun Tong
Kwai Tsing	36. Sheung Ko Tan Street, Chung Mei Village, Tsing Yi
Tuen Mun	37. The vicinity of Sam Shing Estate
	38. Kai Man Path
	39. Mei Lok Lane
Yuen Long	40. Hop Choi Street
North	41. Sheung Shui MTR Station & its vicinity (including surrounding

	footbridges, Choi Yuen Road and San Wan Road)
	42. Fanling MTR Station & its vicinity (including Fanling Station Road and from adjoining footbridge to Pak Wo Road and Yat Ming Road)
Sha Tin	43. Under flyover between Lung Hang Estate & Sun Chui Estate
	44. Near Fun City, Lek Yuen Street
	45. Mei Tin Road

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

**FHB(FE)119**

Question Serial No.

1945

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the wholesale of live cattle, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the number of live cattle supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13), the total expenditure and average expenditure per head of cattle by the Government in handling live cattle supplied to Hong Kong (such as the arrangements for slaughterhouses, quarantine management, etc), as well as the manpower involved;
- (b) the monthly average price of live cattle supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13); and
- (c) the expenditure and manpower involved in commissioning a consultant to conduct a survey on the live cattle market, as well as the progress of the survey.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

(a) In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the total number of live cattle admitted to the slaughterhouses for slaughtering is 28 035, 28 718 and 26 032 respectively. The expenditure on live food animal inspection in the slaughterhouses in 2010-11 and 2011-12 is \$24.2 million and \$24.9 million respectively and the estimated expenditure in 2012-13 is \$30.1 million involving 85 staff posts in each of these three years. Pigs, cattle and goats are slaughtered in the slaughterhouses. The average expenditure of live animal inspection on each live food animal slaughtered is \$13.7, \$15.6 and \$18.0 in the same period. The cost for handling live cattle cannot be separately identified.

(b) The average monthly wholesale price per picul of live cattle imported from the Mainland in 2010 to 2012 is given below -

Year	Average monthly wholesale price per picul of live cattle imported from the Mainland (HK\$)	
	Marbled meat cattle	Beef cattle
2010	2,648	2,303
2011	2,871	2,533
2012	3,601	3,291

(c) To better understand the situation of the live cattle market, the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) commissioned a consultant in January 2013 to conduct a market survey covering the prices, quality and costs of fresh beef in Hong Kong and nearby Mainland cities, thereby providing empirical data for informed comparisons as well as an objective basis for the Government to analyse issues related to the market. The survey is in progress and due for completion in April 2013. A sum of \$250,000 has been earmarked by FHB for conducting the survey.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)120**

Question Serial No.

1950

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the wholesale of live pigs, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the number of live pigs supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13), the total expenditure and average expenditure per pig by the Government in handling live pigs supplied to Hong Kong (such as the arrangements for slaughterhouses, quarantine management, etc), as well as the manpower involved;
- (b) the monthly average price of live pigs supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13); and
- (c) the details of policy measures implemented recently for maintaining a stable supply of live pigs, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

(a) In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the total number of live pigs admitted to the slaughterhouses for slaughtering is 1 719 091, 1 557 170 and 1 638 233 respectively. The expenditure on live food animals inspection in the slaughterhouses in 2010-11 and 2011-12 is \$24.2 million and \$24.9 million respectively and the estimated expenditure in 2012-13 is \$30.1 million involving 85 staff posts in each of these three years. Pigs, cattle and goats are slaughtered in the slaughterhouses. The average expenditure of live animal inspection on each live food animal slaughtered is \$13.7, \$15.6 and \$18.0 in the same period. The cost for handling live pigs cannot be separately identified.

(b) Average monthly auction price per picul of live pigs imported from the Mainland in 2010 to 2012 was -

Year	Average monthly auction price per picul of live pigs imported from the Mainland (HK\$)
2010	1,061
2011	1,482
2012	1,329

(c) The policy objective of the Government is to maintain stable supply of various foodstuffs and to ensure food safety. At present, over 90% of live pigs supplied in Hong Kong are imported from the Mainland. To ensure a stable supply of live pigs, the Government has maintained close liaison with relevant Mainland authorities and the import agents of live pigs. In July 2007, after discussion between the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and the Ministry of Commerce, the live pig market was opened up to foster competition. In October 2007, the number of wholesale import agents for live pig supplied to Hong Kong from the Mainland increased to three from one. To enhance market transparency and efficiency, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has made available on their website information on the number and average auction price of live pigs imported from the Mainland everyday for reference by the trade and the public. The Government will continue to monitor the supply of live pigs and maintained dialogue with the trade and relevant Mainland authorities with a view to securing stable supply of live pigs as far as possible.

Formulation of policy relating to the live pig market is the responsibility of FHB, which does not keep separate breakdown for the expenditure and manpower for such work.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG  
Post Title: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)121**

Question Serial No.

1951

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the issue of licences relating to live chickens, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the number of retail licences issued for selling of freshly slaughtered chickens in each of the past three years (i.e. 2010, 2011 and 2012), as well as the expenditure and manpower involved; and
- (b) in view of the reducing risk of avian influenza at present, whether the Government plans to issue more licences for selling of freshly slaughtered chickens to meet public demand for fresh chickens; and the estimated expenditure and manpower to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

(a) In 2010, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department issued one fresh provision shop (FPS) licence with permission for selling fresh poultry carcass and granted permission to two FPS licensees for selling fresh poultry carcass. The corresponding figure for 2011 was one licence and one permission respectively. No FPS licence or permission to existing licensee for selling fresh poultry carcass was granted in 2012. There is no separate breakdown of the expenditure and manpower involved in the handling of applications for licence or permission for selling fresh poultry carcass.

(b) The Government has to carefully weigh up the risk of avian influenza in determining whether there is room to issue more licences for selling fresh poultry carcass. The manpower involved in keeping the risk of avian influenza under review is absorbed within existing resources.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013



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

**FHB(FE)122**

Question Serial No.

1954

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:

Regarding environmental hygiene and related services, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the Department's estimated expenditure on and manpower resources for the provision of cleansing services in 2013-14, with a breakdown by type of services (including the expenditure on various cleansing services as well as the number of contractors, in-house staff and contractor staff to be involved), and the changes in expenditure and manpower over the past three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13); and
- (b) given that potential hygiene hazards have become increasingly difficult to detect in recent years, whether the Department has explored ways to eliminate these hazards, such as allocating additional resources, recruiting more staff, enhancing training for frontline cleansing workers, increasing the frequency of street cleansing by cleansing workers and mechanical street sweepers as well as the number of litter containers on streets and refuse collections per day.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (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 2013-14 is \$436.9 million and \$1,560.4 million respectively. The manpower involved in providing these services is 10 660, including 3 010 in-house staff and 7 650 staff employed by 15 contractors. Comparing the expenditure in the past three financial years on a year-on-year basis, there is an increase of about 4.6% in 2011-12, 5.8% in 2012-13 and 2% in 2013-14 respectively. In terms of headcount, the level of manpower provision on a year-on-year basis is maintained at a similar level during this period.
- (b) The Department will continue to closely monitor the cleanliness and hygiene condition of public places across the territory, and provide public cleansing services, pest control and step up law enforcement actions as necessary.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)123**

Question Serial No.

1956

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:

In respect of the monitoring of the safety of food supplied to Hong Kong, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of Mainland production farms approved for exporting food to Hong Kong, with a breakdown by province and type of food exported, such as vegetables, fruits, live pigs, live cattle, live chickens, freshwater fish, etc.;
- (b) the number of inspections conducted by the Department to these production farms in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2010, 2011 and 2012); and
- (c) whether any policy has been examined to encourage farms to become production farms approved for exporting food to Hong Kong so as to increase the sources of food supply.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

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 eligible to export live food animals, fish, vegetables and fruits to Hong Kong in 2012 by type and location is tabulated as follows -

Province or city	Number of registered farms and plants for each food type						
	Poultry	Pig	Cattle	Goat	Live Aquatic Animals	Vegetable	Fruit
Guangdong(廣東)	42	91	3		81	150	181
Shenzhen(深圳)	6	3				6	1
Zhuhai(珠海)	13	6			4	1	5
Anhui(安徽)			1		14		2
Beijing(北京)			5			3	16

Province or city	Number of registered farms and plants for each food type						
	Poultry	Pig	Cattle	Goat	Live Aquatic Animals	Vegetable	Fruit
Chongqing(重慶)		1				1	4
Fujian(福建)		1				7	225
Gansu(甘肅)			2			9	123
Guangxi(廣西)		9		1	1	2	113
Guizhou(貴州)			1			3	1
Hainan(海南)	2	1				15	51
Hebei(河北)			4			14	237
Heilongjiang(黑龍江)			1				6
Henan(河南)		22	1			14	23
Hubei(湖北)		31	1		18	13	38
Hunan(湖南)		40	1		7	50	64
Jiangsu(江蘇)					18	25	
Jiangxi(江西)		22	1		9	15	35
Jilin(吉林)			1				1
Liaoning(遼寧)					5	5	271
Neimongol(內蒙古)			5			1	
Ningxia(寧夏)						21	9
Qinghai(青海)			1				
Shaanxi(陝西)			3				635
Shandong(山東)						69	675
Shanxi(山西)			3			2	37
Shanghai(上海)		7				13	2
Sichuan(四川)						2	48
Tianjin(天津)			1		1	7	
Xinjiang(新疆)							584
Yunnan(雲南)				1		55	99
Zhejiang(浙江)		9			9	18	116
<b>Total no. of registered /associated farms</b>	63	243	35	2	167	521	3 602

(b) A total of 91, 90 and 88 inspections to registered Mainland farms were conducted in 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively. The breakdown of farms inspected by types is tabulated as follows –

Year	Poultry	Pig	Cattle	Goat	Live Aquatic Animals	Vegetable	Fruit	Total
2010	41	8	3	0	19	16	4	91
2011	31	12	5	0	22	20	0	90
2012	29	13	2	0	31	13	0	88

(c) The Food and Health Bureau, as well as the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, have maintained close liaison with AQSIQ and other relevant Mainland authorities in ensuring the stable supply of live food animals, fish, vegetables and fruits to Hong Kong, including broadening the sources of food supply where necessary. Such efforts will continue.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)124**

Question Serial No.

1962

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:

Regarding the Liquor Licensing Board, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the expenditure and manpower involved in handling the work of the Liquor Licensing Board in 2013-14;
- (b) the number of existing liquor licences in the territory, the location of liquor-licensed premises and the type of buildings (residential, commercial or composite commercial / residential buildings) in which these premises are located; and
- (c) the total number of liquor licence applications received in the past three years (i.e. 2010, 2011 and 2012); among them, the number of applications granted and refused, the number of appeals lodged and the success rate of appeals.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

(a) In the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, there are 34 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 liquor licences in the territory by districts as at end-2012 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-2012)		Total
	Liquor Licences	Club Liquor Licences	
Central and Western	738	79	817
Eastern	330	16	346
Southern	115	27	142
Wanchai	813	134	947
Islands	206	19	225
Yau Tsim Mong	1 453	104	1 557
Sham Shui Po	199	9	208
Kowloon City	329	23	352
Wong Tai Sin	145	3	148
Kwun Tong	224	10	234
Tsuen Wan	190	11	201
Kwai Tsing	102	3	105
North	79	7	86
Tai Po	115	3	118
Sai Kung	172	8	180
Shatin	189	11	200
Tuen Mun	149	4	153
Yuen Long	187	11	198
Total	5 735	482	6 217

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

Year	2010	2011	2012
Number of applications for issue of new liquor licence (including club liquor licence)	956	930	1 077
Number of liquor licences (including club liquor licences) approved by LLB <sup>Note</sup>	918	812	907
Number of applications refused by LLB <sup>Note</sup>	17	23	17
Number of appeals lodged with Municipal Services Appeals Board (MSAB)	13	14	17
Success rate of appeals (i.e. appeals allowed by MSAB)	23%	38%	38%

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

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013



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

**FHB(FE)125**

Question Serial No.

1964

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 in respect of liquor-licensed premises:

- (a) the manpower and expenditure involved in processing liquor licence applications by the Liquor Licensing Board in 2013-14;
- (b) the total number of complaints against liquor-licensed premises received in 2010, 2011 and 2012, the districts in which these premises were located, the type and nature of the complaints and their investigation results;
- (c) the number of inspections to liquor-licensed premises in 2010, 2011 and 2012 and the districts for inspection; and
- (d) the number of liquor licences revoked in 2010, 2011 and 2012 and the reasons for revocation.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

(a) In the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), there are 34 staff, including contract staff, in three licensing offices handling liquor and club liquor licence applications as part of their licensing-related duties. Besides, four staff are deployed for providing secretariat service to the Liquor Licensing Board. There is no separate breakdown of the expenditure involved in the handling of liquor licence applications and appeals.

(b) 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 about non-compliance with liquor licensing conditions. In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the number of substantiated complaints concerning environmental hygiene and obstruction of passageway against liquor-licensed food premises lodged with the Department was 1 122, 1 259 and 1 473 respectively, and the breakdown is at Annex. Statistics on complaints received by the Police against liquor-licensed premises are not readily available.

(c) The Department does not keep separate inspection figures for liquor-licensed premises. In principle, inspections of restaurants holding liquor licences are conducted once every four, ten or 20 weeks according to the risk type of individual restaurants as assessed under the "Risk-based Inspection System" whereas inspections of clubs with catering facilities, including those holding club liquor licences, are conducted once

every ten weeks. In each of 2010 and 2011, the Police conducted over 18 000 inspections to liquor-licensed premises whereas in 2012, the Police conducted over 19 000 such inspections.

(d) The number of liquor licences (including club liquor licences) revoked in 2010, 2011 and 2012 with breakdown by reasons is provided in the table below.

Reasons for revocation of liquor licence	Number of liquor licence revoked		
	2010	2011	2012
Cessation of business	16	19	9
Licensee leaving without transferring the licence	4	1	0
Death of licensee	0	1	0
Breach of licensing condition	7	6	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

**Number of Substantiated Complaints against Liquor-Licensed Food Premises  
in 2010, 2011 and 2012**

District	Environmental Hygiene			Obstruction		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Central and Western	3	7	3	0	10	23
Eastern	3	3	41	23	19	12
Southern	5	3	2	1	3	0
Wan Chai	39	52	28	3	2	41
Islands	2	3	0	10	12	14
Yau Tsim Mong	84	63	110	165	181	385
Sham Shui Po	42	49	23	70	24	13
Kowloon City	2	4	7	16	23	15
Wong Tai Sin	24	27	32	61	59	53
Kwun Tong	35	32	9	33	30	21
Tsuen Wan	5	5	12	50	62	66
Kwai Tsing	15	24	13	10	6	39
North	0	0	33	5	17	60
Tai Po	0	0	15	110	113	40
Sai Kung	0	0	43	2	16	143
Sha Tin	37	39	22	121	210	23
Tuen Mun	0	0	16	11	18	25
Yuen Long	87	93	14	48	50	77
Total	383	404	423	739	855	1 050

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

**FHB(FE)126**

Question Serial No.

1965

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to mosquito control work, the number of mosquito breeding places eliminated dropped substantially from 47 039 in 2011 (Actual) to only 41 650 in 2012 (Actual), and the number for 2013 (Estimate) will be 41 700. Please advise this Committee on:

- (a) the Department's expenditure and manpower involved in the anti-mosquito work in 2013-14;
- (b) the reasons for the decrease in the number of mosquito breeding places eliminated by the Department in recent years; and
- (c) the details of the Department's new mosquito control plans.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The estimated expenditure involved in mosquito control work in 2013-14 is \$226.1 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 number of mosquito breeding places eliminated in 2012 reflects the general decline in the number of mosquito breeding places in the territory. This is attributed to the continuous efforts of the Department in enhancing community education and publicity to raise public awareness of mosquito prevention and control.
- (c) 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.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)127**

Question Serial No.

1966

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 from 2010 to 2012, 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. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The number of food samples taken from fresh food wholesale markets from 2010 to 2012 is as follows -

Wholesale Food Market	Food category	Number of food samples taken		
		2010	2011	2012
North District Temporary Wholesale Market for Agricultural Products	vegetable	7	9	0
Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market	vegetable	860	1032	977
	poultry egg	131	116	138
	aquatic products	26	18	11
Western Wholesale Food Market	vegetable	433	941	863
	fruit	1 205	1 208	1 244
	poultry egg	89	116	98
	aquatic products	20	20	8
Total		2 771	3 460	3 339

From 2010 to 2012, a total of four vegetable samples (two taken from Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market and two from Western Wholesale Food Market) were found not meeting food safety standards.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)128**

Question Serial No.

1967

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to rodent control work, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of rodent infestation complaints received in the past three years (i.e. in 2010, 2011 and 2012), with a breakdown by district;
- (b) the total number of rodents trapped in 2012 as 55 814 trappings were conducted;
- (c) the Department's expenditure and manpower involved in rodent disinfection work in 2013-14; and
- (d) the Department's special measures to tackle rodent blackspots with higher infestation rates.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

(a)

District	Number of rodent infestation complaints received		
	2010	2011	2012
Central & Western	605	585	528
Eastern	505	453	506
Southern	163	140	139
Wan Chai	372	373	349
Islands	222	137	138
Kowloon City	610	492	414
Kwun Tong	306	242	254
Wong Tai Sin	199	144	126
Sham Shui Po	577	510	547
Yau Tsim Mong	971	858	802
Sai Kung	425	380	378
Sha Tin	261	248	288



Tai Po	322	267	265
North	179	169	172
Kwai Tsing	221	203	131
Tsuen Wan	414	555	447
Tuen Mun	507	480	381
Yuen Long	512	397	513
Total	7 371	6 633	6 378

(b) The number of rodents trapped in 2012 is 10 402.

(c) The estimated expenditure involved in rodent control work in 2013-14 is \$152.3 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.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)129**

Question Serial No.

1968

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:

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, but no further action has been taken by the Department to follow up on the conditions of these blackspots after the operations. In this connection, please advise whether consideration has been given to putting in place a hygiene blackspots reporting mechanism in which the Department will be required to draw up a performance pledge for cleaning up hygiene blackspots within a specified time frame after receipt of reports from the public.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

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. These blackspots were all eradicated by February 2010. Since then, the Department has been closely monitoring the cleanliness and hygiene condition of these spots, and stepped up clean-up operation and enforcement action as necessary. According to the performance pledge of the Department, staff of the Department will carry out investigation within 6 working days from receipt of a complaint about environmental nuisance and pest infestation.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)130**

Question Serial No.

1969

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:

In respect of food surveillance, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the financial provision and manpower involved or to be involved in conducting food surveillance by the Centre for Food Safety from 2010-11 to 2012-13, as well as in 2013-14 respectively; and
- (b) the total number of food samples taken for testing in various projects under the Food Surveillance Programme in 2012 (including routine food surveillance, targeted food surveillance and seasonal food surveillance) and the satisfactory rates.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The actual expenditure on food surveillance in 2010-11 and 2011-12 was \$51.4 million and \$51.6 million respectively. The estimated expenditure for 2012-13 and 2013-14 is \$53.4 million and \$54.9 million respectively.

The manpower establishment of the Centre for Food Safety in carrying out the above work in 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 was 102, 110 and 112 respectively, and the estimated manpower provision for 2013-14 is 115.

- (b) In 2012, the number of food samples tested under routine food surveillance, targeted food surveillance and seasonal food surveillance was 60 400, 3 400 and 1 200 respectively. The overall satisfactory rate is 99.8 per cent.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)131**

Question Serial No.

1970

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health  
(4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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 this connection, 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 food labelling and nutrition labelling requirements in 2013-14;
- (b) the number of enquiries received relating to the food labelling and nutrition labelling requirements since the requirements came into force; and
- (c) the number of inspections conducted, and the number and nature of non-compliance cases detected since the food labelling and nutrition labelling requirements came into force.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The estimated manpower provision for inspection and enforcement of the general food labelling and nutrition labelling requirements in 2013-14 is 13, while that for promoting the Nutrition Labelling Scheme in 2013-14 cannot be separately identified. The expenditure of these activities will be absorbed within existing resources for safeguarding food safety in general and cannot be separately identified.
- (b) Since the commencement of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme on 1 July 2010, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) has received, as at 31 December 2012, 2 319 enquiries on nutrition labelling and 1 036 enquiries on general food labelling.
- (c) Since the commencement of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme on 1 July 2010, CFS has checked, as at 31 December 2012, 24 056 nutrition labels of prepackaged food products, with 246 found to be non-compliant. A detailed breakdown of the 246 cases is as follows –

Nature of non-compliance	No. of cases for the period of 1.7.2010 – 31.12.2012
No nutrition label or incomplete 1+7 core nutrients label	81
Inappropriate nutrition label format	10
Inappropriate nutrient claim	25
Inappropriate language	18
Involved more than one type of irregularity	15
Discrepancy on declared nutrient value confirmed after chemical analysis	97
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>

During the same period, CFS had checked 130 474 labels of prepackaged food products for general food labelling requirements, with 209 found to be non-compliant. A detailed breakdown of the 209 cases is as follows -

Nature of non-compliance	No. of cases for the period of 1.7.2010 – 31.12.2012
Blank label	10
Beyond expiry date	4
Improper indication of durability	13
Ingredient not properly listed	59
Incomplete manufacturer/packer's name and address	25
Food name and list of ingredients not marked in both English and Chinese where both languages	38

are used on the label	
Involved more than one type of the above mentioned irregularities	60
Total	209

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)132**

Question Serial No.

1971

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 inspections to food production farms outside Hong Kong:

- (a) the number of food production farms and food processing plants outside Hong Kong inspected by the Department in 2012, as well as the major regions / places for inspections; and
- (b) the estimated staff establishment and expenditure to be involved in the inspection of food production farms and food processing plants outside Hong Kong in 2013-14.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) In 2012, a total of 88 registered food production farms (including farms which export live food animals, live aquatic products, fish and vegetables to Hong Kong) and 42 food processing plants in the Mainland were inspected. Another 15 farms and 16 processing plants in Chile, Italy, France, Hungary and Ireland were also inspected.
- (b) An inspection unit comprising three veterinary officers, eight field officers and one research/fisheries officer is responsible for the inspection of food animal farms (including fish farms) outside Hong Kong. \$8.6 million has been earmarked for the work in 2013-14.

The inspection of vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong is carried out by an agricultural officer, while an inspection unit comprising five health inspectors is responsible for inspecting food processing plants outside Hong Kong. These officers are also tasked with other duties. Separate breakdown on the manpower resources spent on inspection of vegetable farms, orchards and food processing plants is not readily available.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)133**

Question Serial No.

1972

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 this programme, it is mentioned that the Department will continue to enhance the viability of public markets by improving management, upgrading facilities, providing a more flexible mix of trade, and carrying out promotional activities. Please provide details of the market improvement works and promotional activities to be carried out in 2013-14, as well as the expenditure and manpower to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

In 2013-14, in addition to regular maintenance and daily management of markets, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will carry out improvement works in six markets, namely, Kwun Chung Market, Ngau Chi Wan Market, Smithfield Market, Tai Wai Market, Haiphong Road Temporary Market and Tsing Yi Market. The estimated cost of these improvement works is \$31.05 million. The works include upgrading of fire services facilities, improvement of ventilation and lighting systems, and refurbishment of toilets.

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.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013



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

**FHB(FE)134**

Question Serial No.

1973

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 management of public markets, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the expenditure on subsidising public market management from 2010-11 to 2012-13;
- (b) the number of vacant stalls in public markets and the vacancy rate at present; the average and longest vacancy period; the total rental receivable (in terms of open market rental) from all vacant stalls in 2012-13 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. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) For 2010-11 and 2011-12, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department recorded deficits of \$158.0 million and \$167.9 million respectively in the management of public markets. The deficit in this regard for 2012-13 is estimated to be \$227.9 million.
- (b) As at 31 December 2012, 1 511 stalls out of a total of 14 443 stalls in public markets were vacant. The vacancy rate was 10.5%. The figure has included those stalls being frozen for various purposes, such as for market improvement works. Information on the average and longest period of vacancy and the related rental estimate is not readily available.
- (c) As at 31 December 2012, 253 in-house staff were involved in the management of public markets.
- (d) As at 31 December 2012, a total of 12 contractors and about 1 700 contractors' staff were engaged in the management of public markets, including market cleansing, pest control and security guard services. The estimated total expenditure involved for 2012-13 is about \$201 million.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)135**

Question Serial No.

1974

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 2010, 2011 and 2012, as well as the number of illegal cases detected.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

Licensed food premises selling chilled meat/poultry are inspected once every four, ten or 20 weeks depending on their respective risk types under the "Risk-based Inspection System". Stalls in public markets with permission to sell chilled meat/poultry are inspected once every eight weeks. In addition, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) conducts inspections to follow up complaints. Appropriate actions will be taken should any irregularities come to light during such inspections. The Department does not keep separate statistics on inspections concerning illegal sale of chilled meat/poultry.

In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the number of prosecutions taken against licensed food premises and stalls in public markets for selling chilled meat/poultry without permission was five, 18 and three respectively. As regards actions taken against the selling of chilled/frozen meat/poultry as fresh meat/poultry, they have resulted in the cancellation of one food premise licence in 2010; the termination of two market stall tenancy agreements in 2011; and the termination of one market stall tenancy agreement in 2012.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)136**

Question Serial No.

1975

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the efforts against illegal hawking of unlicensed hawkers, 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 2012-13; 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. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) In 2012, the number of prosecutions instituted against illegal hawking activities, including street obstruction, illegal hawking and sale of cooked food / restricted food, was 27 457. Further detailed breakdown is not readily available. We do not keep statistics on the number of warnings issued.
- (b) With its existing manpower resources, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to adopt 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 the hawkers persist in trading and do not disperse, arrest action would follow. To enhance the deterrent effect, HCT staff also mount raiding operations at blackspots to arrest unlicensed hawkers and seize their goods and equipment.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title: Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)137**

Question Serial No.

1976

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 2012 was 5 261, which was higher than the corresponding figure of 4 265 in 2011. Please advise on the following:

- (a) the type and nature of food complaints handled in the past three years (i.e. in 2010, 2011 and 2012), 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. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The number of food complaints handled by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department from 2010 to 2012 with breakdown by nature is provided in the following table -

<b>Nature of complaints</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Unwholesome food	2 059	2 152	2 790
Foreign substances in food	1 018	1 017	1 342
Chemicals in food	393	647	474
Labelling issues	176	208	393
Fake/counterfeit food	53	167	124
Others	38	74	138
<b>Total number of cases</b>	<b>3 737</b>	<b>4 265</b>	<b>5 261</b>
Number of warnings issued	809	774	761
Number of prosecutions taken out	122	132	178

- (b) The increase in the number of food complaints in 2012 was attributed to growing public awareness of food safety and food labelling issues as well as the occurrence of a number of food incidents in 2012. Examples include the case of low iodine content in infant formulae that came to light in August, the case of

aquatic products suspected to be tainted with plastic pellet in August, and the case of suspected substandard cooking oil in December.

(c) As the estimated number of food complaints in 2013 is similar to the number of food complaints in 2012, the manpower and funding provided for handling food complaints will remain the same.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)138**

Question Serial No.

1977

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:

Regarding the inspections conducted to food premises by the Department in the past three years (i.e. 2010, 2011 and 2012), please advise on the number and nature of cases of irregularities found, the types of premises involved, the districts in which these premises were located, as well as the number of warnings issued and prosecutions instituted.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

All licensed food premises are subject to regular inspection. In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the number of prosecutions instituted against licensed food premises was 4 117, 4 207 and 4 231 respectively, and the breakdown by nature of irregularities is at Annex. There are no separate statistics on the types and locations of premises involved and the number of warnings issued.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title: Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

**Breakdown of Prosecutions instituted against Licensed Food Premises  
in 2010, 2011 and 2012**

Nature of Irregularities	No. of Prosecutions		
	2010	2011	2012
Dirty food premises / presence of vermins	15	14	9
Dirty equipment and utensils	9	17	15
Food not protected from risk of contamination	6	5	6
Sub-standard fish tank water	3	4	1
Improper storage of open food	180	179	164
Use of open space for scullery / food preparation / storage of food utensils	134	132	259
Dirty food room / improper repair of food room	64	66	64
Dirty toilet	1	2	1
Alteration of premises or fittings	15	16	14
Alteration to the approved layout of the premises	148	145	116
Sale of restricted food without permission	7	27	19
Operating other types of unlicensed food business	115	46	9
Extension of food business beyond licensed area	783	1 058	1 350
Obstruction of public places	2 622	2 473	2 173
Other irregularities such as smoking in food room, sale of fresh and frozen meat at the same premises, sale of food unfit 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.	15	23	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 117</b>	<b>4 207</b>	<b>4 231</b>



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

**FHB(FE)139**

Question Serial No.

1978

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the food poisoning incidents happened in Hong Kong in the past three years (in 2010, 2011 and 2012), 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 restaurants and the food business (i.e. food poisoning arising from dining out or home cooking).

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department received 279, 290 and 341 referrals of food poisoning outbreaks related to food premises/food business from the Department of Health in 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively. Food poisoning cases were more commonly reported during the period of June to September. Bacteria were the leading group of causative agents for food poisoning outbreaks. The commonly identified contributing factors included cross-contamination and improper holding temperature. The majority of the affected persons presented mild symptoms and made full recovery.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title: Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 2.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)140**

Question Serial No.

1979

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, and assist the Food and Health Bureau in formulating appropriate measures to enhance the regulation of private columbaria, including the introduction of proposed legislation for a licensing scheme. In this connection, please advise this Committee on:

- (a) the plans and projects in the pipeline to provide more crematorium and columbarium facilities, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved; and
- (b) the details and progress of the work to enhance the regulation of private columbaria (including the scope of the licensing scheme for private columbaria, the intensity of regulation, the setting up of the Private Columbaria Licensing Board and the introduction of the Private Columbaria Ordinance), as well as the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) On public crematorium facilities, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is upgrading the cremators by phases to increase their handling capacity. The reprovisioning of the Cape Collision Crematorium to provide ten new cremators and other ancillary facilities in two phases, at an estimated cost of \$696.3 million, is underway. The first phase has been completed in early 2013 while the second phase is scheduled for completion in late 2015.

On public columbarium facilities, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and identified 24 potential sites across the 18 districts for columbarium development to increase the supply of public niches. Of these 24 sites, construction of 1 540 new niches in the Diamond Hill Columbarium at an estimated cost of about \$0.76 million was completed in early 2012 while construction of 1 000 niches in Cheung Chau Cemetery at an estimated cost of \$4.8 million will be completed by late 2013. As regards the other sites, the Department has consulted the relevant District Councils in 2012 on the construction of 44 000 niches at Wo Hop Shek, 110 000 niches at Tsang Tsui, 20 000 niches at Tsing Tsuen Road and 200 000 niches at Sandy Ridge Cemetery. Construction works in Wo Hop Shek, Tsang Tsui and Tsing Tsuen Road are scheduled to start in 2015 for completion in 2017. The site formation and associated infrastructural works at Sandy Ridge Cemetery are currently the subject of site investigations and detailed design. The columbarium development at Sandy Ridge Cemetery is expected to start in 2019 (after site formation) for completion in 2022. 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.

The total estimated cost for conducting site investigation and detailed design of site formation and associated infrastructural works for development of columbarium, crematorium and related facilities at Sandy Ridge Cemetery is \$66.4 million. The estimated cost for developing columbarium facilities at the other three sites is not yet available. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower resources involved in taking forward plans and projects to provide more crematorium and columbarium facilities.

- (b) Following two rounds of public consultation, the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) consulted the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Food and Environmental Hygiene in December 2012 on the legislative proposals about regulating private columbaria. The Administration is now working on the details of the legislative proposals with reference to the views and comments received. A Business Impact Assessment is also underway to collect views from relevant stakeholders. The current target is to introduce the relevant legislation into LegCo in the last quarter of 2013. The work on formulating policy and preparing legislation would be absorbed within FHB's existing resources.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)141**

Question Serial No.

1980

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 that the Department will assist the Food and Health Bureau in preparing legislation to govern formula products and foods for infants and young children. In this connection, please advise on the details and progress of the work, as well as the estimated expenditure and manpower to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

To protect the health of infants and young children, the Food and Health Bureau and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) have put forward a package of legislative proposals relating to formula products and foods intended for infants and young children under the age of 36 months. We propose to prescribe in the law the nutritional composition requirement for infant formula and nutrition labelling requirement for infant formula, follow-up formula and foods intended for infants and young children under the age of 36 months.

The legislative proposals were discussed at a joint meeting of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene and Panel on Health Services on 20 November 2012. A two-month public consultation exercise was launched on the same day. In general, traders and members of the public welcomed the Codex-based approach and supported the legislative proposals. The views and comments received during the public consultation were reported to the LegCo Panel of Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 12 March 2013. We are drafting the legislation for tabling in LegCo in 2013.

The additional work related to the preparation of the legislation is absorbed within existing resources.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)142**

Question Serial No.

1981

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:

Regarding the supply of public niches, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of deaths (Hong Kong residents) and the means of disposal of the dead (by burial or cremation) in 2010, 2011 and 2012; and
- (b) the number of applications for public niches in Hong Kong, the number of niches allocated, the total number of applicants on the waiting list for public niches and the average waiting time for a public niche in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

(a)

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of Deaths</b>	<b>No. of Burials</b>	<b>No. of Cremations</b>
2010	42 705	4 102	38 006
2011	42 188	4 210	37 916
2012	43 672	3 643	39 494

(b)

Year	Re-allocated niches			
	No. of applications	No. of niches allocated	No. of applications on the waiting list	Average waiting time (months)
2010	1 404	639	11 945	30.5
2011	5 341	416	17 286	39
2012	4 852	255	22 138	43.5

Year	New niches <sup>(1)</sup>	
	No. of applications	No. of niches allocated
2010	0	0
2011	0	0
2012	24 267	1 612 <sup>(2)</sup>

(1) New niches are allocated through computer balloting, rather than by reference to a waiting list.

(2) New niches at Diamond Hill columbarium (560 niches) and Wo Hop Shek Kiu Tau Road columbarium (10 182 niches) were made available for public allocation in 2012. The exercise commenced on 29 November 2012 and will complete in May 2013.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)143**

Question Serial No.

1982

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 this programme, it is mentioned that the Department will assist the Food and Health Bureau in taking forward an assistance scheme for improving the fire safety and operating environment of fixed-pitch hawker areas. In this connection, please advise on the details and progress of the scheme as well as the estimated expenditure and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The Finance Committee has approved a financial commitment of \$230 million for launching a five-year assistance scheme for the licensed fixed-pitch hawkers operating in the 43 hawker areas ("the Assistance Scheme"). Under the Assistance Scheme, a one-off grant/ex-gratia payment ("EGP") will be granted to hawkers who reconstruct their stalls at the same location, relocate their stalls to other pitch spaces or choose to surrender their hawker licences. Specifically, the Assistance Scheme will have the following features –

- (a) hawkers who are required by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) to relocate their stalls to new pitch spaces for fire safety reasons may apply for a one-off relocation grant;
- (b) hawkers who are not required to relocate their stalls under (a) may apply for a one-off reconstruction grant to carry out partial or full reconstruction of their stalls in-situ for reducing fire risks; and
- (c) an EGP will be paid to hawkers (except those whose licences are newly issued pursuant to the hawker licensing policy review in 2008-09) who opt for voluntary surrender of their hawker licences to the Government.

The Department has briefed all Hawker Management Consultative Committees and relevant District Councils on the details of the Assistance Scheme and commenced local consultation on the specific relocation proposals.

The amount of grants/EPG under the Assistance Scheme is summarised at Annex.

Regarding manpower, the Department will create 13 civil service posts for five years starting from 2013-14 to implement the Assistance Scheme, and will also employ non-civil service contract staff to assist in the preparatory work and provide other support. The total estimated staff expenditure is about \$33 million for five years.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013



**Amount of Grant/Ex-gratia Payment (EGP) under  
the Assistance Scheme for Hawkers in Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas**

Type	Size	Maximum Grant		EGP for Voluntary Surrender of Licence
		In-situ Reconstruction	Relocation	
“Cabinet-type” Hawker Stalls	Not exceeding 1.1 m <sup>2</sup>	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$120,000
	Exceeding 1.1 m <sup>2</sup> but not exceeding 1.7 m <sup>2</sup>	\$47,000	\$57,000	
	Exceeding 1.7 m <sup>2</sup> but not exceeding 2.2 m <sup>2</sup>	\$54,000	\$64,000	
Hawker Permitted Places Hawker Stalls	Not exceeding 1.1 m <sup>2</sup>	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$120,000
	Exceeding 1.1 m <sup>2</sup> but not exceeding 1.7 m <sup>2</sup>	\$23,500	\$33,500	
	Exceeding 1.7 m <sup>2</sup> but not exceeding 2.2 m <sup>2</sup>	\$27,000	\$37,000	

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

**FHB(FE)144**

Question Serial No.

1983

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:

Regarding the enforcement against street obstruction and illegal posting activities, please provide data broken down by district on the following:

(a) the number of complaints received relating to street obstruction (including obstruction caused by on-street promotional activities involving the use of easy-mount frames and illegal extension of business by shops or restaurants) and illegal posting activities (including display of posters or banners) in 2010, 2011 and 2012; and

(b) the number of inspections or enforcement actions carried out by the Department in respect of the obstruction and activities mentioned above, as well as the number of prosecutions initiated and the total amount of fines imposed in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

(a)

	No. of complaints received		
	2010	2011	2012
Causing obstruction in public places	15 606	19 535	16 240
Display of bills and posters in public place without permission	2 978	3 399	3 651

Breakdown by district is not available.

(b) Staff of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) take prosecution actions during routine patrol and operations. Statistics on inspections carried out are not available.

Figures showing the number of prosecutions taken against obstruction in public places and the total amount of fines are as follows -

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
No. of prosecutions taken against causing obstruction in public place	18 624	19 703	19 021
Total fines	about \$14.3 million	about \$18.6 million	about \$14.3 million

Since 1 March 2011, the Department starts issuing \$1,500 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) to offenders displaying bills and posters, including those displayed on easy-mount frames, in public place without permission. A total of 1 716 and 1 563 FPNs were issued in 2011 and 2012 respectively. Breakdown by district is not available.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)145**

Question Serial No.

0523

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the departmental records management work over the past three years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13):

1. Please provide information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform such work. If there is no officer designated for such work, please provide information on the number of officers and the hours of work involved in records management duties, and the other duties they have to undertake in addition to records management;

2. Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to the Government Records Service (GRS) for appraisal:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

3. Please list in the table below information on programme and administrative records which have been transferred to GRS for retention:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

4. Please list in the table below information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS:

Category of records	Years covered by the records	Number and linear metres of records	Years that the records were transferred to GRS	Retention period approved by GRS	Are they confidential documents

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. The day-to-day records management work is mainly undertaken by the registry staff (e.g. clerical grades staff) of respective registries in sections/districts/offices of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) on full-time or part-time basis. At the headquarters level, a total of 12 staff, including 1 Assistant Clerical Officer, 6 Clerical Assistants, 1 Senior Confidential Assistant, 4 Confidential Assistants, are deployed full time to carry out records management work in addition to staff who work on this on part-time basis. At the section/district level, such work is taken up by staff on part-time basis. On the management side, we have appointed officers at different levels to oversee records management policies and activities on part-time basis in addition to their other administrative or operational duties. A directorate officer overseeing records management is underpinned by the Departmental Records Manager and Branch Records Managers at Chief Executive Officer level to establish and implement comprehensive records management programmes at departmental and branch levels respectively. A total of 118 Records Managers not below the rank of Executive Officer II or equivalent are also appointed to oversee records management matters in each section/district/office.

2. The closed programme and administrative files yet to be transferred to the Government Records Service (GRS) for files appraisal:

<b>Category of records</b>	<b>Years covered by the records</b>	<b>Number and linear meters of records (lm)</b>	<b>Retention period approved by GRS</b>	<b>Are they confidential documents</b>
Administrative	1974 - 2013	6 330 files (325.43 lm)	2 - 7 years	Yes
Programme	1977 - 2013	1 843 files (131.75 lm)	3 - 10 years	Yes
Total		8 173 files (457.18 lm)		

3. The programme and administrative files transferred to GRS for retention:

<b>Category of records</b>	<b>Years covered by the records</b>	<b>Number and linear metres of records (lm)</b>	<b>Years that the records were transferred to GRS</b>	<b>Retention period approved by GRS</b>	<b>Are they confidential documents</b>
Administrative	1961 - 1994	6 files (0.24 lm)	2011	3 - 5 years	No
Programme	1953 - 1980	4 files (1.70 lm)	2012	Not <sup>(Note)</sup> Applicable	No
Total		10 files (1.94 lm)			

Note: These are old files without a disposal schedule. They had been appraised to have archival values and transferred to GRS for retention.

4. The files approved for destruction by GRS:

<b>Category of records</b>	<b>Years covered by the records</b>	<b>Number and linear metres of records (lm)</b>	<b>Years that the records were transferred to GRS</b>	<b>Retention period approved by GRS</b>	<b>Are they confidential documents</b>
Administrative	1953 - 2010	17 870 files (382.42 lm)	Not Applicable	1 - 7 years	Yes
Programme	1953 - 2011	443 876 files (3 299.30 lm)	Not Applicable	6 months - 7 years	Yes
Total		461 746 files (3 681.72 lm)			

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)146**

Question Serial No.

1178

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 target number of food samples tested for food surveillance purpose has all along remained at 8 per 1 000 population, although the actual number of samples tested has attained 9 per 1 000 population. In view of the frequent occurrence of food safety issues in recent years, please advise whether the Department has considered allocating additional resources to increase the number of food samples to be tested with a view to safeguarding public health; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

In 2013, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) will take a total of about 65 000 samples for testing, i.e. about nine samples per 1 000 population. This is a relatively high testing rate when compared with other overseas economies.

CFS takes food samples at the import, wholesale and retail levels. It adopts a risk-based approach in determining the types of samples to be collected, the frequency and number of samples taken for testing, and the types of laboratory analysis to be conducted. CFS keeps the sampling programme under regular review, taking into account factors such as past food surveillance results, local and overseas food incidents as well as relevant risk analysis. CFS will consult the Expert Committee on Food Safety and obtain its endorsement before food surveillance projects under the Programme are implemented.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)147**

Question Serial No.

1179

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 in preparing legislation to extend the existing import control regime for meat and poultry to cover poultry eggs in 2013-14. In this connection, please advise on the timetable and details of the work, as well as the manpower and estimated expenditure to be 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 under Cap. 132AK to cover poultry eggs in view of the avian influenza threat posed by eggs from infected poultry. To allow sufficient time for traders to prepare for the new requirements, it is proposed that a six-month grace period should be allowed. We will table the relevant amendments in the Legislative Council in 2013. Apart from providing expert advice and support to the drafting of the proposed amendments, the Department has liaised with overseas regulatory authorities and local trade on the proposed amended regulatory arrangement. If the proposed amendments are passed, the Department will arrange sufficient publicity prior to their commencement. The additional workload will be absorbed by the Department.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013



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

**FHB(FE)148**

Question Serial No.

3224

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) It is common that smoke or fire is seen coming from the ashtrays on the top of the existing public litter containers, emitting pungent smoke and possibly toxic chemical substances and constituting a major source of air pollution. There are views that this kind of pollutants from ashtrays located mainly in pedestrian walkways and on streets are no less harmful than the pollutants from vehicle emissions. In this connection, please advise whether the Department has examined the impacts of this kind of pollution on public health; if yes, please give the details. Please also advise whether the Department will take any improvement and monitoring measures, including improving the design of litter containers, jointly with the Environmental Protection Department to solve the aforesaid problem; and

(b) please advise on the expenditure incurred in the past for improving the design of public litter containers and replacement of the containers with newly designed ones.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kenneth

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

(a) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department implements a number of measures to address public concerns about smoke emission from ashtrays on top of litter containers (LCs). They include adjusting the cleaning and emptying frequency of LCs, adding water to ashtrays of LCs, providing stand-alone cigarette butt containers at locations where numerous smokers are expected, and improving the design of the ashtrays to minimise smoke emission.

(b) There is no separate breakdown for the expenditure in this area of work. The provision of LCs with a new design has been absorbed by the replacement programme of LCs due to normal wear and tear. It does not involve additional expenditure.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)149**

Question Serial No.

0110

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:

Many market complexes in Hong Kong are old buildings with their design and layout being out-dated (in terms of their ventilation and drainage systems, demarcation of stalls, etc.) With the supermarket chains taking up a dominant market position, the competitiveness and viability of market traders are getting diminished, leaving consumers with fewer choices. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the expenditure involved in systematically improving the trading environment of markets in various districts, such as replacement of lighting systems, retrofitting of air-conditioning and improvement of hygiene facilities, over the past three years (i.e. in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13); the expenditure on each type of upgrading projects; and whether the financial provision in this respect will increase for the next three years (i.e. in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16); if yes, the rate of the increase.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

The expenditure involved in improvement projects completed in the past three years to enhance the operating environment of public markets is set out as follows -

<b>Year</b>	<b>Estimated total cost (\$million)</b>
2010-11	5.30
2011-12	4.00
2012-13	23.66

These market improvement works include upgrading of fire services and electricity provisions; refurbishment of ceiling, floor tiles and sanitary fitments; addition of public space, lighting, ventilation and signage. As resources for market improvement projects are allocated on a venue basis, there is no cost breakdown of individual types of improvement works.

Under the existing arrangement, resources are earmarked for market improvement works for the coming financial year. The estimated total cost for market improvement projects for 2013-14 is \$31.05 million.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)150**

Question Serial No.

1081

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:

The Department announced earlier that the rodent infestation rate in Hong Kong in 2012 was 2.4%, which was the highest in three years. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

- (a) the Department's expenditure on anti-rodent measures in various districts in the past three years (i.e. in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13) and details of the expenditure on different areas of work; and
- (b) whether the Department has assessed the effectiveness of its rodent disinfection work in the past three years (i.e. in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13); the increase in expenditure for the next three years (i.e. in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16); and the measures to step up inspections to and prosecutions against food premises with illegal extensions which may worsen the rodent infestation problem.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

(a) The expenditure on rodent control work for 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 is \$129.9 million, \$136.4 million and \$141.0 million respectively. There is no breakdown on expenditure based on areas of work.

(b) The Rodent Infestation Rate (RIR) in 2010, 2011 and 2012 was 1.5%, 1.7% and 2.4% respectively. Whilst the RIR in 2012 has gone up slightly from the low levels in the previous two years, the rodent problem in public areas remains generally under control. For 2013-14, the estimated expenditure on rodent control work is \$152.3 million. Estimates for 2014-15 and 2015-16 are not yet available. The Department has been taking vigorous enforcement actions against food premises with illegal extensions. In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the number of prosecutions against licensed restaurants for such irregularities were 2 195, 2 607 and 2 238 respectively. 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.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)151**

Question Serial No.

0500

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the indicators for various types of hawkers, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of fixed pitch hawkers and itinerant hawkers as well as the estimated number of unlicensed hawkers in the past three years (i.e. from 2010 to 2012), with a breakdown by district and commodities sold;
- (b) whether the number of hawkers in various districts will be reviewed and facilitation policies for hawkers will be formulated; and
- (c) whether public markets and open bazaars will be provided according to the needs of individual districts (such as Tung Chung, Tin Shui Wai, Ma On Shan and Tseung Kwan O) to alleviate the problem of unlicensed hawkers; if yes, the details and the expenditure to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The number of licensed fixed pitch hawkers and itinerant hawkers as well as the estimated number of unlicensed hawkers in the past three years from 2010 to 2012, with a breakdown by district/region and commodities sold, are provided at Annex. There was no breakdown on the commodities sold by unlicensed hawkers.
- (b) The Government reviewed its hawker licensing policy in 2008 and 2009 and consulted the Legislative Council, District Councils, hawker associations and relevant stakeholders. As a result of the review, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) issued a limited number of hawker licences, including licences for vacant fixed hawker pitches and for itinerant (frozen confectionery) hawkers (commonly known as “small ice-cream vendors”). The Administration has currently no plan to further issue new hawker licences having regard to the fire-safety, environmental hygiene and general nuisance concerns.

(c) The Department has currently no plan to construct new public market in individual districts to accommodate unlicensed hawkers. As for open-air bazaars, the Department stands ready to provide, in collaboration with the relevant departments, appropriate assistance to the proponents if they have obtained local support, and have identified suitable sites for establishing and operating these bazaars, and have satisfied the requirements on food safety and environmental hygiene.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

**No. of Licensed Fixed Pitch and Itinerant Hawkers and Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers  
(Position as at 31.12.2010)**

		Hong Kong Island & Kowloon									New Territories & Islands									Total
		Central/ Western	Wan Chai	Eastern	Souther n	Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Kowloo n City	Wong Tai Sin	Kwun Tong	Kwai Tsing	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	North	Tai Po	Sha Tin	Sai Kung	Islands	
Fixed Pitch Hawker Licence	Barber	2	4	3	1	17	10	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43
	Bootblack	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
	Cooked Food/Light Refreshment	10	3	0	3	35	32	7	12	26	22	26	31	0	6	8	34	0	1	256
	Newspaper	80	58	52	5	134	27	34	19	56	17	22	8	20	8	11	3	3	1	558
	Tradesman	94	16	16	0	59	2	5	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	195
	Wall Stall	33	17	20	14	153	61	36	3	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	364
	Other Classes	459	379	386	34	2 598	1 053	108	0	113	0	92	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	5 226
Itinerant Hawker Licence	Frozen Confectionery	37									34									71
	Mobile Van	10									6									16
	Newspaper	2									0									2
	Other Classes	219									214									433
Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers		161	182	140	58	368	249	74	121	126	92	19	65	25	70	6	75	11	34	1 876



**No. of Licensed Fixed Pitch and Itinerant Hawkers and Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers  
(Position as at 31.12.2011)**

		Hong Kong Island & Kowloon									New Territories & Islands									Total
		Central/ Western	Wan Chai	Eastern	Souther n	Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Kowloo n City	Wong Tai Sin	Kwun Tong	Kwai Tsing	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	North	Tai Po	Sha Tin	Sai Kung	Islands	
Fixed Pitch Hawker Licence	Barber	2	3	3	1	15	10	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40
	Bootblack	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Cooked Food/Light Refreshment	10	3	0	3	35	30	6	11	26	21	26	16	0	6	7	32	0	1	233
	Newspaper	77	57	49	5	132	27	32	17	51	16	21	8	18	8	8	3	3	1	533
	Tradesman	95	16	17	0	58	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	194
	Wall Stall	31	16	19	14	147	61	33	3	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	351
	Other Classes	454	380	382	34	2 573	1 031	63	0	113	0	91	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	5 124
	Itinerant Hawker Licence	Frozen Confectionery	44									33								
Mobile Van		10									6									16
Newspaper		2									0									2
Other Classes		206									204									410
Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers		165	173	125	39	384	286	59	126	144	91	22	52	32	77	27	59	13	30	1 904

**No. of Licensed Fixed Pitch and Itinerant Hawkers and Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers  
(Position as at 31.12.2012)**

		Hong Kong Island & Kowloon									New Territories & Islands									Total
		Central/ Western	Wan Chai	Eastern	Souther n	Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Kowloo n City	Wong Tai Sin	Kwun Tong	Kwai Tsing	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	North	Tai Po	Sha Tin	Sai Kung	Islands	
Fixed Pitch Hawker Licence	Barber	2	3	2	1	14	9	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36
	Bootblack	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
	Cooked Food/Light Refreshment	10	3	0	3	32	30	6	11	26	20	24	16	0	6	7	31	0	1	226
	Newspaper	75	52	48	4	128	26	29	16	48	16	21	8	18	8	7	3	3	1	511
	Tradesman	90	15	17	0	56	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	186
	Wall Stall	30	15	18	14	143	60	32	2	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	336
	Other Classes	447	375	379	33	2 551	1 020	56	0	64	0	39	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 967
	Itinerant Hawker Licence	Frozen Confectionery	39									33								
Mobile Van		9									6									15
Newspaper		2									0									2
Other Classes		186									195									381
Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers		158	140	128	28	355	279	61	23	131	87	21	51	33	79	22	24	24	29	1 673

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

**FHB(FE)152**

Question Serial No.

0501

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 indicator for “raids by Hawker Control Teams”, please advise on the number of summonses issued, the person-count for the service of summonses and the expenditure involved in the raids conducted in each of the past five years (i.e. from 2008 to 2012), with a breakdown by district.

Asked by: Hon. TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

There is no breakdown on the expenditure involved in the raids. Other than that, the information sought is provided at Annex.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

**No. of summonses issued in connection with raids by Hawker Control Teams  
and the person-count for service of summonses<sup>1</sup>**

<b>District</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Central/Western	942	1 707	1 912	1 690	1 306
Wan Chai	3 189	3 390	4 958	4 917	4 619
Eastern	2 734	3 283	4 102	4 237	3 160
Southern	533	619	601	130	481
Islands	34	41	21	9	11
Yau Tsim Mong	5 341	4 622	4 718	5 293	5 043
Sham Shui Po	746	760	1 212	1 898	2 130
Kowloon City	1 043	1 316	1 216	1 152	1 161
Wong Tai Sin	408	529	438	535	516
Kwun Tong	52	330	559	309	161
Kwai Tsing	6	3	4	7	3
Tsuen Wan	20	65	28	22	31
Tuen Mun	539	402	367	600	830
Yuen Long	36	92	161	287	465
North	86	40	118	122	286
Tai Po	1 866	1 539	1 446	1 317	1 193
Sha Tin	4	41	64	54	52
Sai Kung	15	9	33	42	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>17 594</b>	<b>18 788</b>	<b>21 958</b>	<b>22 621</b>	<b>21 535</b>

<sup>1</sup>Each summons is served on one individual.

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

**FHB(FE)153**

Question Serial No.

0502

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the indicator for "hawker blackspots", what are the criteria adopted by the Department in identifying these hawker blackspots? Please list by district the hawker blackspots in the territory.

Asked by: Hon. TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

For better deployment of hawker control resources, the Food and Environmental Hygiene 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 survey.

A breakdown by districts of the hawker blackspots in the territory is provided at Annex.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title: Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

**Location of Hawker Blackspots**

<b>District</b>	<b>Location</b>
Central/Western	1. The vicinity of Statue Square and Legislative Council Building
	2. The vicinity of Chater Garden and Murray Road
	3. Footbridge along Connaught Road Central and its vicinity
Wan Chai	4. Wan Chai Road (between Johnston Road and Cross Street), Tai Yuen Street, Cross Street, Stone Nullah Lane (between Johnston Road and Cross Street) and the vicinity
	5. Bowrington Road (between Hennessy Road and Sharp Street West) and Wan Chai Road (between Canal Road West and Tin Lok Lane)
Eastern	6. Area near Chai Wan Market including the open space outside Walton Estate, Yee Shun Street, Yee Tai Street, Yee Fung Street and the lane in front of Winner Centre
	7. Kam Wa Street area including Mong Lung Street and Tai Tak Street
	8. Marble Road area including North Point MTR Exits, Kam Hong Street, Shu Kuk Street, a section of King's Road between Kam Hong Street and Tin Chiu Street as well as the vicinity of Java Road Market
	9. Chun Yeung Street area including North Point Road, Tong Shui Road, a section of King's Road around Kam Hong Street, and Fortress Hill MTR Exits
	10. Siu Sai Wan area along Siu Sai Wan Road from Bus Terminus up to Fullview Garden
	11. Kut Shing Street and Chai Wan Footbridge outside Chai Wan MTR Station
Southern	13. Pavement between Aberdeen West Typhoon Shelter and Aberdeen Promenade
Islands	14. The areas in the vicinity of Cheung Chau Ferry Pier and Praya Street, Cheung Chau
	15. The areas at the junction of Yat Tung Street and Chung Yan Road, Tung Chung, Lantau Island

District	Location
Yau Tsim Mong	16. Nathan Road section between Argyle Street and Dundas Street
	17. Sai Yeung Choi Street South section between Argyle Street and Dundas Street
	18. The vicinity of FEHD Mong Kok Market bounded by Nelson Street, Canton Road, Argyle Street and Tong Mi Road
	19. Fa Yuen Street section between Nullah Road and Dundas Street
	20. Sai Yee Street section between Argyle Street and Soy Street
	21. Portland Street section between Argyle Street and Dundas Street
Sham Shui Po	22. Tung Chau Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)
	23. Pei Ho Street (between Un Chau Street and Lai Chi Kok Road)
	24. Kweilin Street (between Apliu Street and Yu Chau Street)
Kowloon City	25. Bulkeley Street (between Gillies Ave South and Dock Street)
Wong Tai Sin	26. Tai Shing Street, Tai Tung Street and its vicinity
	27. Ngau Chi Wan Village and its vicinity
	28. Lung Cheung Road and Shatin Pass Road
	29. Lok Fu MTR Station area near Wang Tau Hom East Road and its vicinity
	30. Ching Tak Street and its vicinity
	31. Tai Yau Street and its vicinity in San Po Kong Industrial Area
Kwun Tong	32. Tsun Yip Street/ How Ming Street / Hip Wo Street / Shui Wo Street / Hoi Yuen Road
	33. Footbridges of Telford Plaza linking Kowloon Bay MTR / Ngau Tau Kok Road of Amoy Plaza / Wang Hoi Road
	34. Lam Tin Estate passage way between Tak Tin Street & Ping Tin Street at side of Lam Tin Estate Bus Terminus
	35. On Wah Street / On Tak Road / Jordan Valley Road North / Ngau Tau Kok Road adjacent to Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate, Kwun Tong
Kwai Tsing	36. Sheung Ko Tan Street, Chung Mei Village, Tsing Yi
Tuen Mun	37. The vicinity of Sam Shing Estate
	38. Kai Man Path
	39. Mei Lok Lane

<b>District</b>	<b>Location</b>
Yuen Long	40. Hop Choi Street
North	41. Sheung Shui MTR Station & its vicinity (including surrounding footbridges, Choi Yuen Road and San Wan Road)
	42. Fanling MTR Station & its vicinity (including Fanling Station Road and from adjoining footbridge to Pak Wo Road and Yat Ming Road)
Sha Tin	43. Under flyover between Lung Hang Estate & Sun Chui Estate
	44. Near Fun City, Lek Yuen Street
	45. Mei Tin Road



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

**FHB(FE)154**

Question Serial No.

0545

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 indicator for “refuse collected” increased from 1 882 299 tonnes in 2011 to 1 930 863 tonnes in 2012. Please provide information on the following:

- (a) the reasons for the increase in tonnage;
- (b) the expenditure on refuse collection in each of the past five years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2012-13); and
- (c) the amount of refuse collected in each of the past five years (i.e. from 2008 to 2012), with a breakdown by district.

Asked by: Hon. TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The volume of refuse collected in a year depends on a number of factors, which may include population size, life style of the general public, and the amount of refuse collected for recycling purposes.
- (b) The required figures are as follows –

Year	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Recurrent expenditure of refuse collection (\$ million)	378.8	378.2	377.8	405.4	422.5

- (c) The required figures are as follows –

District	Refuse Collected (in tonnes)				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012

District	Refuse Collected (in tonnes)				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Central & Western	96 834	92 341	94 918	92 627	93 936
Eastern	129 400	133 150	133 416	135 398	129 276
Southern	79 549	74 446	78 060	76 327	78 456
Wan Chai	85 374	83 501	80 451	79 215	75 803
Islands	46 383	47 119	48 394	46 754	48 656
Kowloon City	89 315	90 049	92 392	90 037	90 405
Kwun Tong	126 835	132 717	135 173	132 017	137 810
Wong Tai Sin	94 369	94 627	93 747	89 388	92 361
Sham Shui Po	103 754	102 479	100 341	96 456	105 983
Mong Kok	89 242	89 920	91 053	88 913	90 939
Yau Tsim	79 602	77 769	82 477	81 937	84 848
Sai Kung	98 211	98 080	101 367	100 603	103 875
Sha Tin	132 486	136 179	136 510	132 865	131 431
Tai Po	74 772	76 655	75 647	72 105	75 369
North	79 899	88 157	89 036	86 657	90 024
Kwai Tsing	109 555	110 514	111 883	109 156	112 373
Tsuen Wan	81 481	83 224	83 348	79 852	82 933
Tuen Mun	125 078	128 373	134 911	119 811	120 260
Yuen Long	166 267	168 180	171 688	172 181	186 125
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 888 406</b>	<b>1 907 480</b>	<b>1 934 812</b>	<b>1 882 299</b>	<b>1 930 863</b>

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)155**

Question Serial No.

1810

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:

In 2013-14, the Food and Health Bureau will continue to collaborate with the Mainland authorities to explore the feasibility of applying information technology in enhancing the traceability of food. Regarding the development of the chilled meat and poultry trade in recent years, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the average daily quantity of fresh, chilled and frozen chickens, ducks, geese, beef, pork and other kinds of meat (in kilogram/number) imported into Hong Kong from the Mainland from 2008 to 2012 and their ratio;
- (b) the average daily quantity of chilled meat and poultry (in kilogram/number) imported into Hong Kong from places other than the Mainland;
- (c) the percentage of the average monthly quantity of imported chilled meat and poultry to the quantity of imported meat and poultry of the same kind from places other than the Mainland;
- (d) the expenditure involved in exploring the feasibility of applying information technology to enhance the traceability of food by the Administration, and the details of such work;
- (e) whether the Administration formulated special test procedures for the process of dividing chilled meat and poultry in the past five years (i.e. in 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13); if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s);
- (f) whether the Administration keep any statistics on the daily arrival time of chilled meat and poultry to Hong Kong and the time required for dividing such meat and poultry; and whether there are any measures to ensure food safety is up to the standard required by the Administration during the process of dividing such meat and poultry; and
- (g) whether the Administration has imposed any specific hygiene requirements and regulatory control on the venues for carrying out the process of dividing chilled meat and poultry; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) From 2008 to 2012, the average daily quantities of fresh, chilled and frozen chicken, duck, goose, pork and beef imported from the Mainland and their respective share of the same type of import from the Mainland are tabulated as follows -

	Chicken		Duck		Goose		Pork		Beef	
	tonnes	%	tonnes	%	tonnes	%	tonnes	%	tonnes	%
<b>Fresh</b>	15.45	5.32	0	0	0	0	309.75	63.53	22.74	47.59
<b>Chilled</b>	109.24	37.64	57.04	89.39	31.03	96.82	37.04	7.60	0.10	0.21
<b>Frozen</b>	165.57	57.04	6.77	10.61	1.02	3.18	140.76	28.87	24.94	52.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>290.26</b>	100	<b>63.81</b>	100	<b>32.05</b>	100	<b>487.55</b>	100	<b>47.78</b>	100

- (b) From 2008 to 2012, Hong Kong imported from places other than the Mainland a daily average of 1.07 tonnes chilled chicken, 0.02 tonnes chilled duck, 0.02 tonnes chilled goose, 2.47 tonnes chilled pork and 13.48 tonnes chilled beef.
- (c) From 2008 to 2012, the average monthly quantity of chilled chicken, duck, goose, pork and beef relative to the quantity of the same kind of meat and poultry (chilled and frozen combined) imported from places other than the Mainland is about 0.98%, 2.57%, 0.65%, 0.87% and 5.83% respectively.
- (d) The Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) trial programme is an on-going collaborative study with the Mainland authorities which aims at applying RFID technique in tracking live pigs supplied to Hong Kong from Guangdong. The estimated expenditure incurred by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in 2013-14 is \$2.30 million.
- (e) Imported chilled meat and poultry must be distributed in their original packaging from the Man Kam To Import Control Point to licensed cold stores for temporary storage, retail outlets with the permission for selling chilled meat and poultry or licensed food premises. Should there be the need to cut and repackage the chilled meat and poultry, they should be delivered to licensed food factories for further processing. These relevant premises shall conform to the safety and hygiene standards prescribed by the law, and comply with the relevant licensing requirements and conditions, such as provision of sanitary fitments and refrigeration facilities etc. They are also subject to regular inspections to ensure compliance with the above requirements and conditions, in the interest of safeguarding food safety.
- (f) The Department has no information on the daily arrival time of the chilled meat and poultry to Hong Kong and the average time required for distribution of the imported consignments. For measures to ensure food safety of chilled meat and poultry along the chain of distribution, please refer to the answer to part (e) of the question.
- (g) For hygiene requirements and regulatory control along the chain of distribution for chilled meat and poultry, please refer to the answer to part (e) of the question.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 8.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)156**

Question Serial No.

0552

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 specific locations of the 45 hawker blackspots in 2013-14;
- (b) the actual and estimated staff establishment of the Hawker Control Teams (HCTs) in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14; and
- (c) the actual, revised and estimated financial provision for HCTs in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The location of the 45 hawker blackspots is listed at Annex.
- (b) The actual and estimated staff establishment of the HCTs is 2 204. It is the same for the years of 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14.
- (c) The expenditure position of HCTs is as follows -

2011-12 Actual : \$809.5 million

2012-13 Revised Estimate : \$853.6 million

2013-14 Estimate : \$868.6 million

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title: Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

**Location of Hawker Blackspots**

<b>District</b>	<b>Location</b>
Central/Western	1. The vicinity of Statue Square and Legislative Council Building
	2. The vicinity of Chater Garden and Murray Road
	3. Footbridge along Connaught Road Central and its vicinity
Wan Chai	4. Wan Chai Road (between Johnston Road and Cross Street), Tai Yuen Street, Cross Street, Stone Nullah Lane (between Johnston Road and Cross Street) and the vicinity
	5. Bowrington Road (between Hennessy Road and Sharp Street West) and Wan Chai Road (between Canal Road West and Tin Lok Lane)
Eastern	6. Area near Chai Wan Market including the open space outside Walton Estate, Yee Shun Street, Yee Tai Street, Yee Fung Street and the lane in front of Winner Centre
	7. Kam Wa Street area including Mong Lung Street and Tai Tak Street
	8. Marble Road area including North Point MTR Exits, Kam Hong Street, Shu Kuk Street, a section of King's Road between Kam Hong Street and Tin Chiu Street as well as the vicinity of Java Road Market
	9. Chun Yeung Street area including North Point Road, Tong Shui Road, a section of King's Road around Kam Hong Street, and Fortress Hill MTR Exits
	10. Siu Sai Wan area along Siu Sai Wan Road from Bus Terminus up to Fullview Garden
	11. Kut Shing Street and Chai Wan Footbridge outside Chai Wan MTR Station
Southern	12. The streets around Sai Wan Ho Market including Tai On Street and section of Shau Kei Wan Road in front of Tai On Building, the vicinity of Quarry Bay Market including Quarry Bay Footbridge, a section of King's Road between Finnie Street and Hong On Street and outside Jusco area
Islands	13. Pavement between Aberdeen West Typhoon Shelter and Aberdeen Promenade
	14. The areas in the vicinity of Cheung Chau Ferry Pier and Praya Street, Cheung Chau
	15. The areas at the junction of Yat Tung Street and Chung Yan Road, Tung Chung, Lantau Island

District	Location
Yau Tsim Mong	16. Nathan Road section between Argyle Street and Dundas Street
	17. Sai Yeung Choi Street South section between Argyle Street and Dundas Street
	18. The vicinity of FEHD Mong Kok Market bounded by Nelson Street, Canton Road, Argyle Street and Tong Mi Road
	19. Fa Yuen Street section between Nullah Road and Dundas Street
	20. Sai Yee Street section between Argyle Street and Soy Street
	21. Portland Street section between Argyle Street and Dundas Street
Sham Shui Po	22. Tung Chau Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)
	23. Pei Ho Street (between Un Chau Street and Lai Chi Kok Road)
	24. Kweilin Street (between Apliu Street and Yu Chau Street)
Kowloon City	25. Bulkeley Street (between Gillies Ave South and Dock Street)
Wong Tai Sin	26. Tai Shing Street, Tai Tung Street and its vicinity
	27. Ngau Chi Wan Village and its vicinity
	28. Lung Cheung Road and Shatin Pass Road
	29. Lok Fu MTR Station area near Wang Tau Hom East Road and its vicinity
	30. Ching Tak Street and its vicinity
	31. Tai Yau Street and its vicinity in San Po Kong Industrial Area
Kwun Tong	32. Tsun Yip Street/ How Ming Street / Hip Wo Street / Shui Wo Street / Hoi Yuen Road
	33. Footbridges of Telford Plaza linking Kowloon Bay MTR / Ngau Tau Kok Road of Amoy Plaza / Wang Hoi Road
	34. Lam Tin Estate passage way between Tak Tin Street & Ping Tin Street at side of Lam Tin Estate Bus Terminus
	35. On Wah Street / On Tak Road / Jordan Valley Road North / Ngau Tau Kok Road adjacent to Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate, Kwun Tong
Kwai Tsing	36. Sheung Ko Tan Street, Chung Mei Village, Tsing Yi
Tuen Mun	37. The vicinity of Sam Shing Estate
	38. Kai Man Path
	39. Mei Lok Lane



<b>District</b>	<b>Location</b>
Yuen Long	40. Hop Choi Street
North	41. Sheung Shui MTR Station & its vicinity (including surrounding footbridges, Choi Yuen Road and San Wan Road)
	42. Fanling MTR Station & its vicinity (including Fanling Station Road and from adjoining footbridge to Pak Wo Road and Yat Ming Road)
Sha Tin	43. Under flyover between Lung Hang Estate & Sun Chui Estate
	44. Near Fun City, Lek Yuen Street
	45. Mei Tin Road

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

Reply Serial No.

**FHB(FE)157**

Question Serial No.

0553

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 give details of the 13 posts to be increased under Programme (3) in 2013-14.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

Grades	Purpose	Total annual salary
Health Inspector Hawker Control Officer	To plan and implement a financial assistance scheme to improve fire safety at fixed-pitch hawker areas	\$4.6 million

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)158**

Question Serial No.

0236

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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

	2012-13 (the latest position)
Number of contracts engaging employment agencies (EAs)	( )
Contract sum paid to each EA	( )
Total amount of commission paid to each EA	( )
Length of service contract for each EA	( )
Number of agency workers	( )
Positions held by agency workers	
Monthly salary range of agency workers	
• \$30,001 or above	( )
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	( )
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	( )
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	( )
• \$6,240 - \$ 6,500	( )
• below \$6,240	( )
Length of service of agency workers	
• over 15 years	( )
• 10 - 15 years	( )
• 5 - 10 years	( )
• 3 - 5 years	( )
• 1 - 3 years	( )
• less than 1 year	( )
Percentage of agency workers in the total number of staff in the Department	( )
Percentage of amount paid to EAs in the total departmental staff cost	( )

Number of workers with paid meal breaks	( )
Number of workers without paid meal breaks	( )
Number of workers working 5 days a week	( )
Number of workers working 6 days a week	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote percentage of change as compared with the same period in 2011-12*

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

	2012-13 (as at 30.9.2012)
Number of contracts engaging employment agencies (EAs)	15 (-17%)
Contract sum paid to each EA	\$81,000 to \$438,000
Total amount of commission paid to each EA	Note 1
Length of service contract for each EA	2.5 to 9 months
Number of agency workers	27 (-27%)
Positions held by agency workers	Agency workers mainly undertake general office support duties.
Monthly salary range of agency workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$30,001 or above</li> <li>• \$16,001 - \$30,000</li> <li>• \$8,001 - \$16,000</li> <li>• \$6,501 - \$8,000</li> <li>• \$6,240 - \$ 6,500</li> <li>• below \$6,240</li> </ul>	Note 2
Length of service of agency workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• over 15 years</li> <li>• 10 - 15 years</li> <li>• 5 - 10 years</li> <li>• 3 - 5 years</li> <li>• 1 - 3 years</li> <li>• less than 1 year</li> </ul>	Note 3

Percentage of agency workers in the total number of staff in the Department (Note 4)	0.2% (-0.1 percentage point)
Percentage of amount paid to EAs in the total departmental staff cost	0.07% (-0.03 percentage point)
Number of workers with paid meal breaks	Note 5
Number of workers without paid meal breaks	
Number of workers working 5 days a week	27 (-27%)
Number of workers working 6 days a week	0 (±0%)

*Figures in ( ) denote change as compared with the same period in 2011-12*

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

Note 2: 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. With the implementation of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) effective from 1 May 2011, we have specified in the contracts that, for the whole duration of the concerned service contracts, the employment agencies must ensure that the salaries of the agency workers comply with the SMW Ordinance.

Note 3: 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 4: 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 5: The Department does not keep information on the number of agency workers with/without paid meal break.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)159**

Question Serial No.

0237

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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

	2012-13 (the latest position)
Number of outsourced service contracts	( )
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers	( )
Length of service contract for each outsourced service provider	( )
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	( )
Positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology)	
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers	
• \$30,001 or above	( )
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	( )
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	( )
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	( )
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	( )
• below \$6,240	( )
Length of service of outsourced workers	
• over 15 years	( )
• 10 - 15 years	( )
• 5 - 10 years	( )
• 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 percentage of change as compared with the same period in 2011-12*

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

	2012-13 (as at 31.12.2012)
Number of outsourced service contracts	128 (-0.8%)
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers	\$1,464.3 million (estimate) <sup>Note 1</sup> (+8.7%)
Length of service contract for each outsourced service provider	Please see Table below
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	11 858 (+2.3%)
Positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology)	Outsourced workers mainly undertake work relating to various types of services including cleansing, public toilet management, pest control, security, etc.
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers	
• \$30,001 or above	0 (-)
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	2 (N/A)
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	1 458 (+82.7%)
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	10 398 (-3.7%)
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	0 (-)
• below \$6,240	0 (-)
Length of service of outsourced workers	
• over 15 years	Note 2
• 10 - 15 years	
• 5 - 10 years	
• 3 - 5 years	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 - 3 years</li> <li>• less than 1 year</li> </ul>	
Percentage of outsourced workers in the total number of staff in the Department	103.6% (+2.9 percentage points)
Percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers in the total departmental staff cost	52.6% <sup>Note 1</sup> (+2.2 percentage points)
Number of outsourced workers with paid meal breaks Number of outsourced workers without paid meal breaks	Note 3
Number of outsourced workers working 5 days a week Number of outsourced workers working 6 days a week	Note 4

*Figures in ( ) denote change as compared with the same period in 2011-12*



Table Length of service contracts

Length	2012-13 (No. as at 31.12.2012)	2011-12 (No. as at 31.12.2011)
Below 1 year	3	1
1 year	1	1
2 years	104	111
3 years	3	1
5 years	17	15
Total no. of contracts	128	129

Note 1: Estimate for the whole financial year.

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.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)160**

Question Serial No.

0238

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

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 (the latest position)
Number of NCSC staff	( )
Positions held by NCSC staff	
Expenditure on salaries for NCSC staff	( )
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff	
• \$30,001 or above	( )
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	( )
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	( )
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	( )
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	( )
• below \$6,240	( )
Length of service of NCSC staff	
• over 15 years	( )
• 10 - 15 years	( )
• 5 - 10 years	( )
• 3 - 5 years	( )
• 1 - 3 years	( )
• less than 1 year	( )
Number of NCSC staff converted to civil servants	( )
Number of NCSC staff who failed to convert to civil servants	( )
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the Department	( )
Percentage of NCSC staff costs in the total departmental staff costs	( )

Number of NCSC staff with paid meal 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	( )
Number of NCSC staff who applied for paternity leave	( )
Number of NCSC staff granted paternity leave	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote percentage of change as compared with the same period in 2011-12*

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

	2012-13 (as at 31.12.2012)
Number of NCSC staff	289 (-19%)
Positions held 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	\$50 million (+2%)
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff	
• \$30,001 or above	8 (±0%)
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	63 (-19%)
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	218 (-19%)
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	0 (±0%)
• \$6,240 - \$6,500	0 (±0%)
• below \$6,240	0 (±0%)
Length of service of NCSC staff	
• over 15 years	0

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 - 15 years</li> <li>• 5 - 10 years</li> <li>• 3 - 5 years</li> <li>• 1 - 3 years</li> <li>• less than 1 year</li> </ul>	(±0%) 25 (+25%) 68 (±0%) 34 (+26%) 127 (+37%) 35 (-76%)
Number of NCSC staff converted to civil servants	Note 1
Number of NCSC staff who failed to convert to civil servants	Note 1
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the Department	3% (±0 percentage point)
Percentage of NCSC staff costs in the total departmental staff costs	2% (±0 percentage point)
Number of NCSC staff with paid meal breaks	36 (-18%)
Number of NCSC staff without paid meal breaks	253 (-19%)
Number of NCSC staff working 5 days a week	148 (-28%)
Number of NCSC staff working 6 days a week	141 (-6%)
Number of NCSC staff who applied for paternity leave	1
Number of NCSC staff granted paternity leave	1

*Figures in ( ) denote change as compared with the same period in 2011-12*

Note 1: Relevant information is not available.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)161**

Question Serial No.

0955

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:

In respect of inspections to farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the current number of approved farms, as well as the staff establishment and expenditure required for each inspection in 2012-13; and
- (b) the normal frequency of inspections to these approved farms.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) As at 31 December 2012, there were 510 registered farms in the Mainland eligible to export food animals to Hong Kong. An inspection unit comprising three veterinary officers, eight field officers and one research/fisheries officer is responsible for inspection of food animal farms outside Hong Kong. The estimated expenditure for conducting such farm inspections in 2012-13 is \$7.7 million. The manpower required and expenditure incurred for each visit varies, depending on factors including the distance travelled and the number of farms inspected in each visit, etc.
- (b) A plan for inspecting food animal farms is drawn up every year using a risk-based approach. In 2012, 75 food animal farms in the Mainland were inspected.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 2.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)162**

Question Serial No.

2397

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

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 cases relating to environmental hygiene problems caused by street sleepers handled by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in each of the past three years (i.e. in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13).

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

Cases involving street sleepers, being a street management issue, are handled by the Home Affairs Department (HAD), Lands Department, Police, Social Welfare Department and Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department). The Department participates in the joint operations coordinated by District Offices of HAD to remove abandoned articles and provides cleaning services for the places as appropriate. The required figures are as follows -

	No. of joint operations the Department participated in
2010-11	897
2011-12	627
2012-13 (up to 28.2.2013)	603

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title: Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)163**

Question Serial No.

2398

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

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 whether the street sleeper cases received by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) are handled by its Pest Control Section and how these cases are handled by the Pest Control Section, and how the cases relating to environmental hygiene problems caused by street sleepers are handled by officers of the Department (other than that of the Pest Control Section) as well as the Department.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

Cases involving street sleepers, being a street management issue, are handled by the Home Affairs Department (HAD), Lands Department, Police, Social Welfare Department and Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department). The Department participates in the joint operations coordinated by District Offices of HAD to remove abandoned articles and provides cleaning services for the places as appropriate. The Department deploys staff from different sections to handle the tasks as appropriate.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)164**

Question Serial No.

2399

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

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 specific information on the measures taken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to upgrade the facilities in public markets, and list the markets with facility upgrading plans already in place.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

In 2013-14, in addition to regular maintenance and daily management of markets, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will carry out improvement works in six markets, namely, Kwun Chung Market, Ngau Chi Wan Market, Smithfield Market, Tai Wai Market, Haiphong Road Temporary Market and Tsing Yi Market. The works include upgrading of fire services facilities, improvement of ventilation and lighting systems, and refurbishment of toilets.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title: Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013



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

**FHB(FE)165**

Question Serial No.

2400

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the measures taken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), besides issuing summonses, imposing fines and seizing their goods and hawking paraphernalia, to ensure that licensed hawkers are in compliance with the relevant legislation or requirements. Please also advise whether the Department will consider increasing the use of these alternative measures in the management of licensed hawkers in order not to stifle their business and affect their livelihood.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

While law enforcement is an important tool, we consider self-compliance is of equal importance. To this end, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has set up 16 Hawker Management Consultative Committees in 43 major hawker areas. These Committees provide a platform for two-way communication and for the Department to discuss day-to-day management, regulatory and safety issues with hawker representatives, as well as to encourage self-compliance and good practices among hawkers.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)166**

Question Serial No.

0808

Head: 31 Customs and Excise Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

After the implementation of the new regulation imposing export control on baby formula, how many additional staff does the Customs and Excise Department require to exercise enforcement? What is the additional salary provision involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply:

To exercise export control on powdered formula for infants imposed by the Government of the Special Administrative Region since 1 March 2013, the Customs and Excise Department has deployed 56 officers together with the authorized non-civil service contract staff to provide support, and will apply for additional resources in accordance with the existing mechanism and the needs.

Name in block letters: Clement CHEUNG

Post Title: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date: 8.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)167**

Question Serial No.

1865

Head: 31 Customs and Excise Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In respect of the implementation of export control on baby formula in March, is it necessary to increase manpower and facilities to tackle the smuggling activities? What are the details of the additional expenditure and manpower deployed in implementing the new control measure?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher

Reply:

To exercise export control on powdered formula for infants imposed by the Government of the Special Administrative Region since 1 March 2013, the Customs and Excise Department has deployed 56 officers and existing baggage screening equipment, together with the authorized non-civil service contract staff, to provide support. We will apply for additional resources in accordance with the existing mechanism and the needs.

Name in block letters: Clement CHEUNG

Post Title: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date: 8.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)168**

Question Serial No.

3165

Head: 31 Customs and Excise Department      Subhead (No. & title): -

Programme: (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

A new legislation came into operation on 1 March 2013 to impose restriction on the amount of baby formula that can be brought out of Hong Kong. Since the commencement of this new legislation, how much additional manpower has been deployed at various control points by the Customs and Excise Department? How many persons have been arrested at these control points? What are the penalties imposed normally and the amount of baby formula seized?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wai-king, Starry

Reply:

To exercise export control on powdered formula for infants imposed by the Government of the Special Administrative Region since 1 March 2013, the Customs and Excise Department has deployed 56 officers together with the authorized non-civil service contract staff to provide support, and will apply for additional resources in accordance with the existing mechanism and the needs.

As at 26 March, a total of 424 outbound travellers were arrested for alleged contravention of such provision, involving a total of 1 783 kilograms of powdered formula. Besides, as at the same day, fines ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 were imposed as sentences in a total of 25 cases.

Name in block letters: Clement CHEUNG

Post Title: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date: 8.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)169**

Question Serial No.

1894

Head: 31 Customs and Excise Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Import and Export (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2013, which came into operation on 1 March this year, prohibits the export of powdered formula for infants and children aged under 36 months from Hong Kong except under an export licence. However, a person aged 16 or above leaving Hong Kong may bring powdered formula not exceeding 1.8 kg in net weight for personal use. Would the Administration please advise on the impacts of this new regulation on the staffing establishment and expenditures of the Customs and Excise Department?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

To exercise export control on powdered formula for infants imposed by the Government of the Special Administrative Region since 1 March 2013, the Customs and Excise Department has deployed 56 officers together with the authorized non-civil service contract staff to provide support, and will apply for additional resources in accordance with the existing mechanism and the needs.

Name in block letters: Clement CHEUNG

Post Title: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date: 8.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)170**

Question Serial No.

3180

Head: 31 Customs and Excise Department      Subhead (No. & title): -

Programme: (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is reported that the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) has to deploy additional manpower (including appointment of experienced former Customs Officers who have retired) for enforcing the new policy of restricting the exportation of baby formula.

In light of the aforesaid policy, how many additional manpower and expenditure are estimated to be required in the new financial year of 2013-14 by the C&ED? Will the C&ED request for additional financial provision? If yes, what will be the amount?

Asked by: Hon. TSE Wai-chun, Paul

Reply:

To exercise export control on powdered formula for infants imposed by the Government of the Special Administrative Region since 1 March 2013, the Customs and Excise Department has deployed 56 officers together with the authorized non-civil service contract staff to provide support, and will apply for additional resources in accordance with the existing mechanism and the needs.

Name in block letters: Clement CHEUNG

Post Title: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date: 8.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)171**

Question Serial No.

3347

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Secretary for Food and Health said on a public occasion that a study would be conducted on the imported live pig and live cattle market in Hong Kong so as to ascertain any prevailing market monopoly and identify ways to open the imported fresh meat market. What are the details of the work plan, work schedule and estimated expenditure concerning this study by the Administration in 2013-14? If the study is to be completed in this financial year, is there any expenditure earmarked by the Bureau to follow up on the recommendations put forth in the study? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

To better understand the situation of the live cattle market, the Food and Health Bureau commissioned a consultant in January 2013 to conduct a market survey covering the prices, quality and costs of fresh beef in Hong Kong and nearby Mainland cities, thereby providing empirical data for informed comparisons as well as an objective basis for the Government to analyse issues related to the market. The survey is in progress and due for completion in end of April this year. A sum of \$250,000 has been earmarked for conducting the survey.

There has been a suggestion in some quarters that the Government should open up the live cattle wholesale market. The Government has an open mind about the merits of the suggestion. In considering the way forward, the Government will assess carefully the possible long-term implications on the supply and price of live cattle having regard to all relevant considerations including the survey result.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)172**

Question Serial No.

3348

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

As there are suggestions in the community that the Administration should enhance the regulation of advertisements and promotional claims of formula milk for infants and young children, will the Administration conduct policy research and public consultation on regulation of advertisements of formula milk for infants and young children by legislation in 2013-14? If yes, what are the detailed plan, timetable and estimated expenditure of the work? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

At present, there is still a lack of international consensus on the regulation of claims of formula products for infants and young children. In view of the complexity and controversies concerning the regulation of claims, more time would be needed for consultation among stakeholders and public before a consensus can be reached. To avoid delay in the more urgent task of regulating nutritional composition and nutrition labelling of formula products and foods intended for infants and young children under the age of 36 months, we plan to tackle the issue of regulating claims at a later stage in 2013. We have already started to examine various regulatory options for claims and will take into account international practices as well as the current situation in Hong Kong in mapping out the way forward.

The estimated expenditure on such work is absorbed within existing resources.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health(Food)

Date: 5.4.2013



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

**FHB(FE)173**

Question Serial No.

3350

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In 2013-14, what specific measures will the Administration take to increase the number of public columbarium niches and enhance the regulation of private columbaria? What are the specific work plan and estimated expenditure for such measures?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

To increase the supply of public niches, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and identified 24 potential sites across the 18 districts for columbarium development. Of these 24 sites, construction of 1 540 new niches in the Diamond Hill Columbarium at a cost of about \$0.76 million was completed in early 2012 while construction of 1 000 niches in the Cheung Chau Cemetery at an estimated cost of \$4.8 million will be completed by late 2013. As regards the other sites, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department consulted the respective District Councils in 2012 on the construction of 44 000 niches at Wo Hop Shek, 110 000 niches at Tsang Tsui, 20 000 niches at Tsing Tsuen Road and 200 000 niches at Sandy Ridge Cemetery. Construction works in Wo Hop Shek, Tsang Tsui and Tsing Tsuen Road are scheduled to start in 2015 for completion in 2017. The site formation and associated infrastructural works at Sandy Ridge Cemetery are currently the subject of site investigations and detailed design. The columbarium development at Sandy Ridge Cemetery is expected to start in 2019 (after site formation) for completion in 2022. 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.

The estimated cost for conducting site investigation and detailed design of site formation and associated infrastructural works for the development of columbarium, crematorium and related facilities at Sandy Ridge Cemetery is \$66.4 million. The estimated cost for developing columbarium facilities at the other three sites is not yet available.

Following two rounds of public consultation, the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) consulted the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene in December 2012 on the legislative proposals about regulating private columbaria. The Administration is now working on the details of the legislative proposals with reference to the views and comments received. A Business Impact Assessment is also underway to collect views from relevant stakeholders. The

current target is to introduce the relevant legislation into LegCo in the last quarter of 2013. The work on formulating policy and preparing legislation would be absorbed within FHB's existing resources.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI  
Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)  
Date: 21.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)174**

Question Serial No.

3351

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Will the Administration allocate any resources in 2013-14 to conduct review and public consultation on hawker licensing policies and the issue of additional hawker licences? If yes, what are the relevant work plans and estimated expenditure? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Government reviewed its hawker licensing policy in 2008 and 2009 and consulted the Legislative Council, District Councils, hawker associations and relevant stakeholders. As a result of the review, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department issued a limited number of hawker licences, including licences for vacant fixed hawker pitches and for itinerant (frozen confectionery) hawkers (commonly known as "small ice-cream vendors"). Currently, the Administration has no plan to further issue new hawker licences having regard to the fire-safety, environmental hygiene and general nuisance concerns.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date: 21.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)175**

Question Serial No.

3436

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

On regulating private columbaria by legislation, what are the Government's work plan, timetable and estimated expenditure in 2013-2014? Will the Government consider providing additional resources to expedite the legislative process? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

Following two rounds of public consultation, the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) consulted the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene in December 2012 on the legislative proposals about regulating private columbaria. We have commissioned a Business Impact Assessment Study to collect the comments of relevant stakeholders, with a view to finalising a set of regulatory requirements which are reasonable, practicable and enforceable. Having regard to the complexity of the exercise, our current target is to introduce the relevant legislation into LegCo in the last quarter of 2013.

The work on formulating policy and preparing legislation would be absorbed within FHB's existing resources.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date: 21.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)176**

Question Serial No.

4873

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 were the respective numbers of cases of coffin burial, cremation, scattering of cremated human ashes in Gardens of Remembrance and scattering of cremated human ashes at sea in the past 3 years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13)? Will the Government allocate resources in 2013-14 to study the ways of burial preferred by the public so as to provide reference for the formulation of related policies in the future? If yes, what are the work plan and estimated expenditure of the study? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The table below gives the number of cases involving coffin burial in public cemeteries, cremation in public crematoria, scattering of ashes at Gardens of Remembrance (GoR) and scattering of ashes at sea in the past three years:

Year	Coffin burial in public cemeteries	Cremation in public crematoria	Scattering of ashes	
			at GoR	at sea
2010	1 377	38 006	1 171	804
2011	1 327	37 916	1 648	661
2012	1 164	39 494	2 023	791

- (b) The storage of ashes in niches is currently the most popular way of burials used by the public. We believe that it will remain so in the near future. A change in mindset takes time. Meanwhile, the Administration has been actively encouraging cremation and more sustainable forms of "green burials". The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to promote scattering of ashes at GoRs and at sea in 2013-14. The publicity plan includes participation in the Hong Kong Senior Fair 2013, broadcasting a new television announcement in

the public interest, updating publicity pamphlets, organising talks for elderly centres/homes and schools, and collaboration with non-government organisations. The estimated expenditure of these promotional activities is around \$0.5 million.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date: 1.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)177**

Question Serial No.

5346

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

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme:

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Chief Executive stated in the Policy Address delivered in January 2013 that a total of 14 bureaux, committees and sub-committees will be or recommended to be set up. The Financial Secretary has expressed in his Speech that relevant financial resources would be provided. What are the action plans of the committee of Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund for 2013-2014? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

In the 2013 Policy Address, the Chief Executive has announced a \$500 million Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (the Fund) to provide for financial assistance for projects and researches conducive to the sustainable development of the fisheries industry.

We are now consulting the trade and other stakeholders on the scope of the Fund and its mode of operation before seeking funding approval from the Legislative Council (LegCo). The funding application is expected to reach the Finance Committee in the fourth quarter of 2013. A committee consisting of both non-officials and officials will be set up to advise on the use of the Fund in accordance with the parameters to be endorsed by the Finance Committee.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is carrying out preparatory work relating to the setting up of the Fund using its existing resources, and will apply for additional resources for administering and operating the Fund in future, if necessary, in accordance with established procedures.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health(Food)

Date: 21.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)178**

Question Serial No.

4132

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the financial provision under Programme (3) Environmental Hygiene, the estimate is \$1.3 million higher than the revised estimate for last year. What are the operational expenses involved and details of work?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

The provision under Programme (3): Environmental Hygiene for 2013-14 is \$1.3 million (6.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2012-13. This is mainly due to the additional provision reserved for consultancy needs which may arise in the course of the year (\$4.9 million) and the increased provision for personal emoluments and general departmental expenses (\$0.9 million), partly offset by the lapse of provision for the engineering feasibility study for columbarium development at Sandy Ridge Cemetery and other projects completed in 2012-13 (\$3.9 million) as well as reduced cash flow requirement for the business impact assessment on the licensing scheme for private columbaria (\$0.6 million).

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date: 23.3.2013



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

**FHB(FE)179**

Question Serial No.

4952

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

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme:

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide information on the expenditures incurred for overseas duty visits in the name of the Food and Health Bureau in the past five years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13) in the table below.

Date of overseas duty visit	Purpose of overseas duty visit	Number of entourage members	Name and expenses of residing hotel	Class and price of air ticket	Total expenditure

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

The expenditures on overseas duty visits incurred under Head 139 in the name of the Food and Health Bureau in the past five years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13) are provided at Annex.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health(Food)

Date: 17.4.2013

## Annex

<b>Date of overseas duty visit</b> (No. of visits)	<b>Purpose of overseas duty visit</b>	<b>Number of entourage members</b>	<b>Hotel Expenses*</b> (\$'000) (a)	<b>Cost of air tickets</b> (\$'000) (b)	<b>Total expenditure</b> (\$'000) (a)+ (b)
2008-09 (9)	To attend international conferences, working meetings, study tours, exchange programmes, official signing ceremony in the Mainland, United States, United Kingdom, Switzerland and Germany.	1 to 5	100	424	524
2009-10 (25)	To attend international conferences, working meetings, study tours, exchange programmes, goodwill visits, seminars, ceremonies in the Mainland, United States, United Kingdom, Switzerland, France, Australia, Japan, Philippines, Singapore and Macau.	1 to 4	277	828	1,105
2010-11 (31)	To attend international conferences, working meetings, study tours, exchange programmes, goodwill visits, seminars, official signing ceremonies in the Mainland, United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, Estonia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and Macau.	1 to 5	134	787	921
2011-12 (24)	To attend international conferences, working meetings, study tours, exchange programmes,	1 to 5	339	1,521	1,860

<b>Date of overseas duty visit</b> (No. of visits)	<b>Purpose of overseas duty visit</b>	<b>Number of entourage members</b>	<b>Hotel Expenses*</b> (\$'000) (a)	<b>Cost of air tickets</b> (\$'000) (b)	<b>Total expenditure</b> (\$'000) (a)+ (b)
	goodwill visits, seminars, ceremonies in the Mainland, United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Chile, Brazil, Australia and Singapore.				
2012-13 (26)	To attend international conferences, working meetings, study tours, exchange programmes, goodwill visits, seminars, ceremonies in the Mainland, United States, United Kingdom, Switzerland, France, Netherlands, Russia, Peurto Rico, Malaysia, Vietnam and Singapore.	1 to 5	223	758	981

\* Excluding the cost of hotel accommodation where participating officials are receiving the normal rates of subsistence allowance outside Hong Kong and arranging the hotel accommodation themselves.

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

**FHB(FE)180**

Question Serial No.

3696

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

Subhead (No. & title):

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 in the past 2 financial years (2011-2012 and 2012-13):

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
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- (b) Are there any projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies this year (2013-2014)? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
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- (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) Information on studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated in the past two financial years (2011-2012 and 2012-13) is at Annex A.
- (b) Information on consultancy studies under planning is at 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.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health(Food)

Date: 17.4.2013

**Studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated  
in the past 2 financial years (2011-2012 and 2012-13)**

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Consumer Search	Tender *	<p>Survey for Assessment on Impact of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme on new-to-market Prepackaged Food Products in the Food Expo 2011</p> <p>The objective of the Survey is to assess the impact brought by the Nutrition Labelling Scheme on new-to-market prepackaged food products introduced via the Food Expo.</p>	0.148 million	August 2011	Completed	Results of the survey were reported to LegCo Panel of Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 8 May 2012.	Yes, the Executive Summary was uploaded to the Centre for Food Safety website in May 2012.
Ecosystems Ltd	Tender*	<p>Service for studying the population size and distribution of feral cattle and water buffalo for long term strategic planning</p> <p>The study includes population estimation and basic ecology surveys of feral cattle and buffalo in Hong Kong in order to provide the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department 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	Completed	Studying the population size and distribution of feral cattle and water buffalo for long term strategic planning	Yes. Report summary was sent to interested non-governmental organisations. Population data on cattle/ buffalo would be released upon request (e.g. media enquiry).

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Consumer Search	Tender *	Post-campaign 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	February 2012	In progress	The study is still on-going.	The study is still on-going.
GHK (Hong Kong) Limited	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	February 2012	In progress	The study is still on-going.	The study is still on-going.
Deloitte	Tender*	Business Impact Assessment on “Proposed New Measures for Compliance with Fire Safety Requirements by Licensed Food Premises”	0.890 million (Fire Services Department will share half of the cost, i.e. \$0.445 million)	August 2012	In progress	The study is still on-going.	The study is still on-going.
Ecosystems Ltd	Tender*	Service for studying cattle movement corridors and range, based on previous study, which provides important information to fine-tune our relocation attempts, and explore feasibility of measures to restrict cattle movement, such as cattle grids or fencing	0.330 million	Nov. 2012	In progress	The study is still on-going.	The study is still on-going.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee (\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For completed projects, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
PricewaterhouseCoopers Advisory Services Limited	Tender*	Business Impact Assessment on the licensing scheme for private columbaria	1.430 million	January 2013	In progress	The study is still on-going.	The study is still on-going.
Policy 21 Limited	Tender*	Market Survey on the Supply and Price of Live Cattle and Fresh Beef in the Mainland and Hong Kong  The market survey collects information on the prices, quality and costs of fresh beef in Hong Kong and the nearby Mainland cities, thereby providing empirical data for informed comparisons as well as an objective basis for the Government to analyse issues related to the market and consider the way forward.	0.250 million	February 2013	In progress	The survey is scheduled for completion by end April 2013.	The study is still on-going.

\*By invitation of quotation



## Projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy study in 2013-2014

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Ecosystems Ltd	Tender*	Service for assessment of the effectiveness of the Trap-Neuter-Return trial scheme for stray dog  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 three years	Around 1.38 million (exact amount may vary subject to the number of trial sites selected)	Within 2013 (subject to the consent obtained from the local community of the selected trial site(s))	Under planning	The study has yet to commence.	The study has yet to commence.
To be selected	Tender*	To engage a consultant (with expertise in helping clients to boost/maximise the patronage of retail/shopping outlets) to come up with improvement proposals for a sample of public markets, which differ in terms of	We have earmarked about \$4 million for this consultancy	September 2013	Under planning	The study is yet to commence.	The study is yet to commence.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/ tender/ others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the study report and their progress (if any)	For projects that are expected to be completed this year, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
		<p>physical conditions, business viability, and the availability of other markets / retail outlets in the vicinity etc. The consultant is also expected to give general professional advice that would help draw more customers to public markets and enhance customer satisfaction etc.</p>					

\*By invitation of quotation

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

**FHB(FE)181**

Question Serial No.

3710

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In regard to the 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) has been involved.

a) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes, please provide information over the past 2 years (for 2011-12 and 2012-13) as per following table:

Project/ programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the expenditure involved in the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement)	Mainland department/ organisation involved	Progress (% completed, commencement date, target completion date)	Have the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If so, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?	Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project/programme

b) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes of this year (2013-14), please provide information as per following table:

Project/ programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the expenditure involved in the Framework Agreement	Mainland department/ organisation involved	Progress (%) completed, commencement date, target completion date)	Will the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology be released to the public? If so, through which channels and what will be the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?	Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project/programme
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c) Apart from the projects or programmes listed above, are there any other modes of Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary co-operation? If so, what are they? What were the manpower and expenditure involved over the past 3 years (from 2010-11 to 2012-13)? How much financial and manpower resources have been earmarked in this year's Estimates?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

The required information is provided as follows:

a)

<b>Project/ programme</b>	<b>Details, objective and whether it is related to the expenditure involved in the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement)</b>	<b>Mainland department/ organisation involved</b>	<b>Progress (%) completed, commencement date, target completion date)</b>	<b>Have the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If so, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?</b>	<b>Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project/programme</b>
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<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>Guangdong, Shenzhen and Zhuhai Entry-exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureaux (CIQs)</p>	<p>The liaison officer system was established in November 2009 and the related work 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>Nil</p>
<p>Inspection of 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>General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) and local CIQs</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>The inspection work is publicised on CFS' webpage. The related costs were absorbed within existing resources and could not be separately identified.</p>	<p>Nil</p>

<p>Liaison with the Mainland authorities on the proposed registration of farms for supplying cultured marine fish, shellfish and related aquatic products to Hong Kong</p>	<p>To discuss the proposed registration of farms for supplying cultured marine fish, shellfish and related aquatic products 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>AQSIQ and local CIQs</p>	<p>Ongoing</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>Nil</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>Guangdong CIQ</p>	<p>Based on results of evaluation in 2011, an optimized trial programme was established and commenced in late 2012.</p>	<p>Progress was reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 20 October 2011. The actual expenditure of the study in 2011-2012 was \$0.79 million and the estimated expenditure in 2012-13 is \$1.52 million.</p>	<p>Nil</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>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>The Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612)(enacted in 2011).</p>
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<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>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>Nil</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 in the Chapter of Ecology Construction and Environmental Protection under the Framework Agreement.</p>	<p>Guangdong Fishery Administration General Brigade</p>	<p>Annually since 2009-10</p>	<p>Combating illegal fishing is a day-to-day activity of AFCD. No special publicity has been arranged.</p>	<p>Nil</p>



Fishermen training	<p>To organise training courses for fishermen in collaboration with the Guangdong side to assist them to switch to sustainable operations.</p> <p>It is one of the initiatives in the Chapter of Ecology Construction and Environmental Protection under the Framework Agreement.</p>	Guangdong Provincial Administration of Ocean and Fisheries, and Guangdong Ocean University	Training courses were organised since 2010 – 2011.	The training programme was publicised in fishermen community. The related publicity costs were absorbed within existing resources and could not be separately identified.	Nil
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 in the Chapter of Ecology Construction and Environmental Protection under the Framework Agreement.</p>	Guangdong Provincial Administration of Ocean and Fisheries	On-going project	Monitoring of harmful algae is a day-to-day activity of AFCD. No special publicity has been arranged.	Nil
Training on aquatic animal disease diagnosis	To enhance technical exchange on aquatic animal disease diagnosis.	Shenzhen CIQ	Completed	No special publicity has been arranged as it was an internal staff training programme.	Nil

<p>Inter-laboratory comparison programmes on food safety - Aflatoxin B1 in peanut oil proficiency testing (PT) programme</p>	<p>A PT programme for the quantitative measurement of aflatoxin B1 in peanut oil sample.</p> <p>The programme enhanced the food testing capability of the participating laboratories, including those from Hong Kong and Guangdong.</p> <p>It is one of the initiatives to strengthen communication and exchanges in respect of laboratory analysis technology under the Framework Agreement</p>	<p>Guangdong Inspection and Quarantine Technology Centre, Guangdong CIQ.</p>	<p>Completed in Jan 2012.</p>	<p>A total of 14 laboratories from 6 economies participated in the programme.</p> <p>Results of the programme were posted on the website of the Government Laboratory. The related costs were absorbed within existing resources and could not be separately identified.</p>	<p>Nil</p>
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b)

<p><b>Project/programme</b></p>	<p><b>Details, objective and whether it is related to the expenditure involved in the Framework Agreement</b></p>	<p><b>Mainland department/organisation involved</b></p>	<p><b>Progress (% completed, commencement date, target completion date)</b></p>	<p><b>Will the details, objectives, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If so, through which channels and what will be the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?</b></p>	<p><b>Details of the legislative amendments or policy changes involved in the project / programme</b></p>
<p>Inspection of 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</p>	<p>AQSIQ, local CIQs</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>The inspection work is publicised on CFS' webpage. The related costs are absorbed within existing resources and can not be separately identified.</p>	<p>Nil</p>

	<p>cooperation areas under the Framework Agreement to enhance inspection, quarantine and supervision at source.</p>				
<p>Liaison with the Mainland authorities on the proposed registration of farms for supplying cultured marine fish, shellfish and related aquatic products to Hong Kong</p>	<p>To discuss the proposed registration of farms for supplying cultured marine fish, shellfish and related aquatic products 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>AQSIQ, local CIQs</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>We will consider appropriate publicity in due course.</p>	<p>Nil</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>Guangdong CIQ</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Results will be announced upon completion of the optimized trial programme</p>	<p>Nil</p>

<p>To enhance the cooperation in the inspection and quarantine for the import and export of Hong Kong horses and to provide expert assistance in monitoring the inspection and quarantine work of the equine disease 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 horses.</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>AQSIQ MoA Guangdong CIQ Guangzhou Agriculture Bureau</p>	<p>The project is anticipated to start in 2013 – 14.</p>	<p>The project has been reported in the media.</p>	<p>Nil</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 in the Chapter of Ecology Construction and Environmental Protection under the Framework Agreement.</p>	<p>Guangdong Fishery Administration General Brigade</p>	<p>A joint operation will be organised in 2013 – 2014</p>	<p>Combating illegal fishing is a day-to-day activity of AFCD. No special publicity will be arranged.</p>	<p>Nil</p>

Fishermen training	To organise training courses for fishermen in collaboration with the Guangdong side to assist them to switch to sustainable operations.  It is one of the initiatives in the Chapter of Ecology Construction and Environmental Protection under the Framework Agreement.	Guangdong Provincial Administration of Ocean and Fisheries, and Guangdong Ocean University.	Training courses will be organised in 2013 – 2014	The training programme is publicised in fishermen community. The related publicity costs will be absorbed within existing resources.	Nil
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 in the Chapter of Ecology Construction and Environmental Protection under the Framework Agreement.	Guangdong Provincial Administration of Ocean and Fisheries	On-going project	Monitoring of harmful algae is a day-to-day activity of AFCD. No special publicity will be arranged.	Nil

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

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health(Food)

Date: 11.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)182**

Question Serial No.

3616

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

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 2012 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:

The study (namely the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) trial programme) is an on-going collaborative study with the Mainland authorities involving the application of RFID technology in tracking live pigs supplied to Hong Kong from Guangdong.

In 2012, we have agreed with the Mainland authorities to explore further enhancement to the trial programme, including improvement of the hand-held and passageway reader systems, development of an alert system and extending the application of RFID technology to the tracking of live cattle supplied to Hong Kong from Guangdong.

The estimated expenditure to be incurred by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in this area of work in 2013-14 is \$2.30 million.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date: 2.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)183**

Question Serial No.

3617

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:

As the Administration will continue to implement a multi-pronged strategy to prevent avian influenza outbreak, what are the specific work plan, timetable, estimated manpower and resources required in 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

In 2013-14, the Administration will continue to implement a multi-pronged strategy to reduce the risk of avian influenza (AI) outbreaks in Hong Kong. The Food and Health Bureau is responsible for formulating and overseeing the overall strategy, whereas the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) are responsible for the implementation of the preventive and control measures.

The programme administered by AFCD includes (a) close surveillance of poultry in local farms and wholesale poultry market, pet birds, wild birds and the environment to enable early detection of AI viruses and prevention of AI outbreaks; (b) conducting regular inspections to local farms to ensure compliance with the biosecurity, farm hygiene and other related requirements, including proper vaccination of chickens against AI, and taking enforcement actions against non-compliant cases; (c) carrying out enforcement operations to combat illegal keeping of backyard poultry; (d) keeping the local, regional and global AI situation under monitoring, thereby providing an informed basis for the Government to regularly review the AI risk in Hong Kong and ensure that the AI prevention and control measures remain effective and appropriate in present-day circumstances; and (e) organising various education and publicity activities related to AI such as education seminars on farm management and disease prevention for local farmers and their workers. The estimated expenditure in 2013-14 for the monitoring, prevention and control of AI as well as related publicity work is \$39.6 million. A total of 45 officers in AFCD are involved in this area of work.

In parallel, FEHD will continue with its surveillance and inspection programme. The work includes (a) conducting surveillance and inspection of imported live poultry at Man Kam To boundary check point; and (b) inspecting registered farms that export poultry to Hong Kong (including those in the Mainland and other places). In 2013-14, the estimated expenditure for import inspection is \$7.4 million and for inspections of poultry farms is \$5.2 million. A total of 51 staff in FEHD are involved in this area of work.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health (Food)

Date: 5.4.2013



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

**FHB(FE)184**

Question Serial No.

4253

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

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Concerning the measures to “promote the scattering of cremated human ashes at sea or in Gardens of Remembrance”,

1. how will the Administration promote such practice and the estimated expenditure required?
2. please list in the table below the number of cases handled and the expenditure involved for the past 5 years (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012).

Year		Coffin Burial	Cremation	Depositing Ashes in Public Columbaria	Scattering of Ashes in Designated Hong Kong waters	Scattering of Ashes in Gardens of Remembrance
2008	No. of Cases					
	Expenditure involved					
2009	No. of Cases					
	Expenditure involved					
2010	No. of Cases					
	Expenditure involved					
2011	No. of Cases					
	Expenditure involved					
2012	No. of Cases					
	Expenditure involved					

\* Will the Administration consider offering financial incentives such as fee remission to those members of the public who choose to scatter cremated human ashes at sea or in Gardens of Remembrance in order to encourage more people to choose these practices in handling bodies of the deceased? If yes, what are the details? What is the estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will continue to promote scattering of ashes at sea and at Gardens of Remembrance (GoR). The publicity plan in 2013 includes participation in the Hong Kong Senior Fair 2013, broadcasting a new television announcement in the public interest, updating publicity pamphlets, organising talks for elderly centres/homes and schools, and collaboration with non-government organisations. The estimated expenditure of these promotional activities is around \$0.5 million.
- (b) The number of cases involving coffin burial in public cemeteries, cremation in public crematoria, scattering of ashes at sea and scattering of ashes at GoR, and the number of niches allocated for the past five years were :

Year	Coffin burial in public cemeteries	Cremations in public crematoria	No. of niches allocated	Scattering of ashes	
				at sea	at GoR
2008	1 395	36 410	280	243	383
2009	1 302	36 486	22 163	279	650
2010	1 377	38 006	639	804	1 171
2011	1 327	37 916	416	661	1 648
2012	1 164	39 494	1 867	791	2 023

The expenditure incurred by FEHD on providing cemetery and crematorium services in 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 was \$163.7 million, \$173.8 million, \$185 million, \$208.1 million and \$268.7 million respectively. FEHD does not have further breakdown for these services.

- (c) FEHD provides ferry service to encourage the public to scatter ashes at sea. FEHD has in the course of time enhanced the service by employing a bigger vessel and further increasing the number of sails.

As the promotion of green burials involves changing people's mindset, it is considered more appropriate to use publicity, promotion and education to gain wider public acceptance, and to encourage people to articulate, to family members, their wish on after-death arrangement.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and  
Health(Food)

Date: 1.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)185**

Question Serial No.

4254

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:

With regard to “formulate appropriate measures to enhance the regulation of private columbaria, including the introduction of proposed legislation for a licensing scheme”, please advise on the following:

1. What are the details? What is the proposed timetable for legislation? What is the estimated expenditure involved?
2. What were the respective number of public enquiries and complaints received by the Administration on private columbaria for the past 3 years (2010, 2011 and 2012)?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

1. Following two rounds of public consultation, the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) consulted the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Food and Environmental Hygiene in December 2012 on the legislative proposals about regulating private columbaria. The Administration is now working on the details of the legislative proposals with reference to the views and comments received. A Business Impact Assessment is also underway to collect views from relevant stakeholders. The current target is to introduce the relevant legislation into LegCo in the last quarter of 2013. The work on formulating policy and preparing legislation would be absorbed within FHB's existing resources.
2. The information sought is given below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of public enquiries and complaints received (i)</b>
2010 (ii)	2 719
2011	1 498

Year	No. of public enquiries and complaints received (i)
2012	1 226

Note:

- (i) Figures include enquiries and complaints received by the Development Bureau, FHB, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Lands Department, Planning Department and the 1823 call centre. There may be duplication in the total number of enquiries and complaints reported since a single enquiry or complaint may be referred to and handled by more than one bureau / department.
- (ii) For 2010, the number of enquiries received by PlanD and the number of enquiries and complaints received by the 1823 call centre are only available for the period since April 2010 and 16 December 2010 respectively.

Name in block letters: Mrs. Marion LAI

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health(Food)

Date: 4.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)186**

Question Serial No.

3352

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 view of the numerous animal cruelty cases that have taken place in Hong Kong, will the Administration take measures in 2013-14 to strengthen protection for animals and enhance its efficiency in handling animal cruelty cases? If yes, what are the specific details of the measures and estimated expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is one of the departments involved in the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance, Cap 169. The work carried out by the Department in this respect mainly includes (a) inspection of the relevant premises and facilities including pet shops, animal boarding premises, riding schools, animal exhibition venues, etc. to ensure compliance with the relevant animal welfare standards; (b) gathering intelligence on suspected animal cruelty or abuse activities; and (c) conducting investigation of animal cruelty reports/complaints and taking prosecution actions.

In 2011, AFCD, in conjunction with the Hong Kong Police Force (the Force), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), set up an inter-departmental special working group (working group) to enhance co-operation in handling animal cruelty reports and complaints. The working group meets regularly to discuss the handling of such cases, devise and review guidelines for improving efficiency in detection and prevention to ensure that the welfare of animals involved is protected. The working group also keeps in view the level of penalty handed down by the court in convicted cases. If and when the penalty imposed by the court is considered too lenient, the working group will make recommendations to the Department of Justice for a review.

Besides, AFCD has been actively involved in the "Animal Watch Scheme" which was launched by the Force in 2011 to strengthen co-operation among the Force, AFCD, SPCA and other stakeholders in the investigation of cases involving cruelty to animals. Specifically, the Department provides the expert veterinary advice necessary for taking forward the investigation and carries out post-mortem examination to find out the cause of death and whether the animals have been cruelly treated.

AFCD will continue with its efforts in combating cruelty to animals. The estimated expenditure for this area of work in 2013-14 is \$2.1 million. Furthermore, in order to support the effective implementation of activities under the “Animal Watch Scheme” and other new and enhanced programmes on the part of SPCA, AFCD has increased the subvention to SPCA from \$608,000 in 2010-11 to \$1 million in 2011-12. The same amount (i.e. \$1 million) has been earmarked for 2013-14.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)187**

Question Serial No.

4197

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 Administration has mentioned that it will strengthen measures for stray animals and promotion of animal welfare. In this regard, please set out in detail the measures and proposed activities. What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

In 2013-14, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to pursue various measures for managing animals and promoting animal welfare. These include (a) implementing a strengthened education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (b) pursuing proposals to better regulate pet trading including breeding of dogs for sale through amending the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations, Cap. 139B; (c) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals; (d) stepping up enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant animal laws; (e) improving the handling of animal cruelty reports or complaints through the inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; (f) strengthening collaboration with and the provision of technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in re-homing of animals and conducting activities relating to animal welfare and management; and (g) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle population in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities. Besides, AFCD will continue to explore further enhanced measures for animal management and promotion of animal welfare.

Other than using existing resources allocated for animal management, an additional provision of \$3.1 million, including resources for two time-limited posts, namely one Field Officer II and one Field Assistant, has been earmarked for the implementation of the above enhanced measures in 2013-14.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013



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

**FHB(FE)188**

Question Serial No.

5321

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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:

At present, how many hectares of agricultural land are suitable for rehabilitation? Is there any limit on the area of land for which a person can apply for agricultural rehabilitation? What is the maximum area of land available for agricultural rehabilitation? How many people are there on the waiting list? What is the average waiting time?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) promotes the rehabilitation of abandoned agricultural land through the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (the Scheme). As at 15 March 2013, AFCD has identified 0.7 hectare of agricultural land that may be available for rehabilitation. There is no restriction on the size of the agricultural land that a person may apply for under the Scheme. At present, about 250 people are on the waiting list. The average waiting time for successful cases under the Scheme is 3.5 years.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 3 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)189**

Question Serial No.

4482

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 specify the expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department on promoting organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production in the past five years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13). Please set out the Department's estimated expenditure on the same aspects in 2013-14.

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The expenditure involved in promoting organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production in the past five years is tabulated below:

	Expenditure (\$ million)				
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
<b>Organic cultivation</b>	4.6	4.8	6.8	7.1	6.7
<b>Intensive greenhouse production</b>	3.3	3.7	4.1	4.4	4.9

A level of expenditure similar to that in 2012-13 has been earmarked for the work in 2013-14.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 28 March 2013

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

**FHB(FE)190**

Question Serial No.

4487

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 specify the expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department on stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare in the past five years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13). Please advise on the Department's estimated expenditure on the same aspects in 2013-14.

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The expenditure on stray animal management and promotion of animal welfare in the past five years is as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
Expenditure (\$ million)	18.5	20.5	25.0	30.6	38.9

In 2013-14, \$38.9 million has been earmarked for this area of work.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)191**

Question Serial No.

3931

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 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 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue to pursue various programmes and activities that help enhance the sustainability of local farming. These include (i) encouraging the development of organic farming through the provision of technical assistance to local farmers under the Organic Farming Support Service Scheme, joint efforts with the Vegetable Marketing Organisation and the Federation of Vegetable Marketing Cooperative Societies in promoting the production and marketing of local organic produce, and supporting the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre in its endeavours to educate the public on organic farming and promote the certification of organic products; (ii) assisting farmers to develop new farming techniques such as intensive greenhouse production and controlled environment agriculture and hydroponic technology; (iii) the introduction of new and improved crop varieties for local cultivation; (iv) developing the brand names of local produces through the Accredited Farm Scheme; (v) assisting the industry to set up weekend farmers' markets and organising large-scale carnivals, such as the annual FarmFest, to help showcase local agricultural and fishery products to the public; and (vi) administering three loan funds to provide loans to farmers for farm development and operation.

In 2012-13, the expenditure involved in promoting the sustainable development of the local agricultural industry including organic farming is \$31.3 million. In 2013-14, a similar level of resources will be deployed on such work.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)192**

Question Serial No.

5446

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 will be the uses of the \$1 million provided to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has been collaborating with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) in implementing various animal welfare and management programmes. In 2013-14, the \$1 million subvention will continue to support SPCA in the implementation of collaborative programmes for dealing with stray animal control, stray cattle management, de-sexing and re-homing of animals, animal rescue, animal cruelty cases, 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.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)193**

Question Serial No.

5447

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

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:

Among the \$8 million provision for the handling of stray animals in the coming year, how much will be used on euthanising and catching stray animals? In the past five years (up to 2012), what were the numbers of stray animals euthanised and caught by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and what was the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

In 2013-14, \$25.6 million has been earmarked for the management of stray animals including catching operations and euthanasia of animals.

The number of stray animals caught and euthanised by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in the past five years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of Stray Animals	
	Caught	Euthanised
2008	13 726	11 069
2009	13 781	10 659
2010	10 837	8 390
2011	9 688	7 001
2012	8 009	6 610

The total expenditure involved in the management of stray animals including catching operations and euthanasia of animals in the past five years is as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure for Management of Stray Animals (\$ million)</b>
2008-09	19.9
2009-10	20.6
2010-11	21.3
2011-12	22.0
2012-13	25.6

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)194**

Question Serial No.

5457

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 numbers of stray cats and dogs caught and the number of successful prosecution of animal abandonment cases over the past five years (up to 2012)? What were the details of penalties? Has the Administration considered increasing significantly the penalty for animal abandonment with a view to reducing the number of stray pets caught?

In addition, how many carcasses of cats and dogs that had died from cruelty were found over the past five years? What were the numbers of animal cruelty cases? What were the numbers of successful prosecution of cases of torturing cats and dogs to death and of animal cruelty cases respectively? What were the details of penalties? Please set out the progress and schedule of the study on increasing the penalty for torturing animals to death.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

The numbers of stray cats and dogs caught and the number of successful prosecution of abandonment and improper control of animals over the past five years are as follows:

Calendar Year	Stray Animals Caught		Number of Successful Prosecutions	Range of Penalties (\$)
	Cats	Dogs		
2008	4 642	8 375	150	50 - 1,200
2009	4 570	7 850	247	0* - 4,500
2010	3 907	6 519	365	0* - 2,500
2011	3 557	5 800	325	100 - 1,200
2012	3 027	4 722	355	0* - 2,500

\* The magistrate did not impose any fine on the defendant on compassionate grounds, e.g., the defendant was a recipient of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance or an aged person.

In addition to stepping up law enforcement actions against abandonment and improper control of animals, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to implement an enhanced education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership, including educating pet owners on their responsibilities and legal obligations. We consider these measures effective in reducing the number of stray animals. At this stage, we have no plan to increase the penalty for animal abandonment.



The number of cats and dogs which died from cruelty is not available. In 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, the number of reports/complaints received by AFCD on suspected cases of cruelty to animals is 92, 86, 80, 63 and 49 respectively.

In 2006, with the support of the Legislative Council, we raised the maximum penalty under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance, Cap. 169 (the Ordinance) by a significant margin. From a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for six months, the maximum penalty has been brought up to a fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for three years, offering a good measure of deterrence. The number of successful prosecution cases handled by AFCD regarding cruelty to animals in contravention of the Ordinance over the past five years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of Successful Prosecution Cases	Penalties	
		Fine (\$)	Imprisonment
2008	6	500 - 5,000	--
2009	7	300 - 20,000	2 months (one case)
2010	0	--	--
2011	5	2,200 - 4,000	--
2012	5	1,000 - 4,000	6 weeks (one case)

Apart from stepping up efforts in taking enforcement actions against animal cruelty cases and organising related education and publicity activities, AFCD, in conjunction with the Hong Kong Police Force, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, set up an inter-departmental special working group (working group) in 2011 to enhance co-operation in handling animal cruelty cases. The working group meets regularly to discuss the handling of such cases, devise and review guidelines for improving efficiency in detection and prevention to ensure that the welfare of animals involved is protected. The working group also keeps in view the level of penalty handed down by the court in convicted cases. If and when the penalty imposed by the court is considered too lenient, the working group will make recommendations to the Department of Justice for a review.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 8 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)195**

Question Serial No.

4297

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): 700 General non-recurrent

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the expenditure on “one-off assistance package to trawler vessel owners, local deckhands and fish collector owners affected by the trawl ban and other related measures”, how many applications for assistance has the Administration accepted up till now and what is the sum involved? Please provide a breakdown by type of vessels, deckhands involved and amounts of assistance.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The Inter-departmental Working Group (IWG) set up to handle matters relating to applications under the one-off assistance package to trawler vessel owners, local deckhands and fish collector owners affected by the trawl ban received 1 117 applications for ex-gratia allowance (EGA) from affected trawler owners. Of these, 977 applications have been approved and the total amount of EGA involved is \$940,969,760. The breakdown by vessel type is provided below:

Vessel type	Larger trawlers		Inshore trawlers	
	Amount of EGA (\$) involved	Number of applications	Amount of EGA (\$) involved	Number of applications
<b>Pair trawler</b>	71,850,000	479	113,542,980	68
<b>Stern trawler</b>	9,450,000	63	77,103,243	30
<b>Shrimp trawler</b>	22,500,000	150	460,824,701	117
<b>Hang trawler</b>	1,800,000	12	154,112,850	30
<b>Others</b>	600,000	4	29,185,986	24
<b>Total (\$)</b>	<b>106,200,000</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>834,769,760</b>	<b>269</b>

In addition, in relation to the 269 approved applications from inshore trawlers, the IWG has so far received 16 applications under the voluntary buy-out scheme for affected inshore trawler vessels, and 69 applications for one-off grants to local deckhands employed by the affected inshore trawler owners. These applications are being processed.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 8 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)196**

Question Serial No.

4304

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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:

Under Programme (3), strengthening measures for stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare is one of the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013-14;

- (a) Please set out the numbers of stray animal cases handled by the Department over the past five years (2008-09 to 2012-13), broken down by types of animals and methods of handling;
- (b) The numbers and types of animals reclaimed by owners over the past five years (2008-09 to 2012-13);
- (c) What are the criteria used by the Administration for determining the euthanasia of stray animals caught? Please set out the numbers of stray animals euthanised by the Department over the past five years (2008-09 to 2012-13), broken down by types of animals and reasons for euthanasia.
- (d) There has been a rise in animal abandonment in recent years. Will the Department recruit more staff to handle the problem of rising numbers of stray animals? Or will the Department consider co-operating with animal welfare groups, such as giving assistance to the neuter-return programme of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals? It was mentioned in the 2010-11 Policy Address that the Government would co-operate with animal welfare groups. What is the progress in this aspect? Has the effectiveness of the co-operation been reviewed? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) The number of stray animals caught by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past five years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Stray Animals Caught		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2008	8 375	4 642	709
2009	7 850	4 570	1 361
2010	6 519	3 907	411

2011	5 800	3 557	331
2012	4 722	3 027	260

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

(b) The number and type of animals reclaimed by owners over the past five years are as follows:

Calendar Year	Animals Reclaimed by Owners		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2008	1 607	809	8
2009	1 658	810	11
2010	1 964	805	45
2011	1 517	738	474
2012	1 292	707	348

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

(c) Stray dogs and cats caught by AFCD will usually stay at AFCD Animal Management Centres for at least four days pending retrieval by their owners. Unclaimed animals will be passed to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) for re-homing if they are found to be healthy and of an acceptable temperament. Only those which are assessed to be unsuitable for re-homing due to health or temperament reasons, or cannot be re-homed by AWOs, will be euthanised.

The number and type of animals euthanised by AFCD over the past five years are as follows:

Calendar Year	Animals Euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2008	10 240	3 923	825
2009	9 085	3 497	1 161
2010	7 420	3 047	482
2011	6 561	2 422	649
2012	5 675	1 950	1 160

\* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc. The sharp increase in 2012 is due to a surge in the number of euthanised wild birds in the wake of Psittacosis cases.

(d) In recent years, AFCD has been strengthening its efforts in stray animal management through a number of new and enhanced measures. As a result, the number of animals surrendered by owners and the number of stray animals caught have decreased. In 2013-14, AFCD will continue to pursue various measures for managing animals and promoting animal welfare. These include (i) implementing a strengthened education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (ii) pursuing proposals to better regulate pet trading including breeding of dogs for sale through amending the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations, Cap. 139B; (iii) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals; (iv) stepping up enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant animal laws; (v) improving the handling of animal cruelty reports or complaints through the inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA); (vi) strengthening collaboration with and the

provision of technical and financial support to AWOs in re-homing of animals and conducting activities relating to animal welfare and management; and (vii) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle population in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities. Besides, AFCD will continue to explore further enhanced measures for animal management and promotion of animal welfare.

Other than using existing resources allocated for animal management, an additional provision of \$3.1 million, which includes resources for two time-limited posts, namely one Field Officer II and one Field Assistant, has been earmarked for the implementation of the above enhanced measures in 2013-14.

Following the identification of three potential sites in Yuen Long, Sai Kung and Lamma Island respectively for implementing the "Trap-Neuter-Return" (TNR) trial scheme for dogs, AFCD, in collaboration with relevant AWOs, have consulted the local community and the respective District Councils on the trial scheme in 2012 but could not obtain support from them. The Department and the relevant AWOs have subsequently identified two alternative potential sites in Yuen Long and Cheung Chau and will proceed to consult the local community and the respective District Councils if these two sites are assessed to be suitable. If the trial is implemented, AFCD will commission an independent consultancy study to monitor the changes in the number of stray dogs at the trial sites and assess the effectiveness of the trial scheme in reducing the stray dog population. In 2013-14, \$1.9 million has been earmarked for the TNR trial scheme.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 8 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)197**

Question Serial No.

4305

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 in detail the Department's measures for promotion of animal welfare. In view of the continuous growth in the number of animal cruelty cases in recent years, will the Department increase its resources for the prevention of cruelty to animals and step up enforcement actions in collaboration with related departments apart from enhancing education and raising public awareness in this regard?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

**Promotion of Animal Welfare**

In 2013-14, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to pursue various measures for managing animals and promoting animal welfare. These include (a) implementing a strengthened education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (b) pursuing proposals to better regulate pet trading including breeding of dogs for sale through amending the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations, Cap. 139B; (c) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals; (d) stepping up enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant animal laws; (e) improving the handling of animal cruelty reports or complaints through the inter-departmental special working group (working group) comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA); (f) strengthening collaboration with and provision of technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in re-homing of animals and conducting activities relating to animal welfare and management; and (g) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle population in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities. Besides, AFCD will continue to explore further enhanced measures for animal management and promotion of animal welfare.

Other than using existing resources allocated for animal management, an additional provision of \$3.1 million, which includes resources for two time-limited posts, namely one Field Officer II and one Field Assistant, has been earmarked for the implementation of the above enhanced measures in 2013-14.

## Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

AFCD is one of the departments involved in the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance, Cap 169. The work carried out by the Department in this respect mainly includes (a) inspection of the relevant premises and facilities including pet shops, animal boarding premises, riding schools, animal exhibition venues, etc. to ensure that they comply with the relevant animal welfare standards; (b) gathering intelligence on suspected animal cruelty or abuse activities; and (c) conducting investigation of animal cruelty reports/complaints and taking prosecution actions.

In 2011, AFCD, in conjunction with the Hong Kong Police Force (the Force), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and SPCA, set up an inter-departmental special working group (working group) to enhance co-operation in handling animal cruelty cases. The working group meets regularly to discuss the handling of such cases, devise and review guidelines for improving efficiency in detection and prevention to ensure that the welfare of animals involved is protected. The working group also keeps in view the level of penalty handed down by the court in convicted cases. If and when the penalty imposed by the court is considered too lenient, the working group will make recommendations to the Department of Justice for a review.

Besides, AFCD has been actively involved in the “Animal Watch Scheme” which was launched by the Force in 2011 to strengthen co-operation among the Force, AFCD, SPCA and other stakeholders in the investigation of cases involving cruelty to animals. Specifically, the Department provides expert veterinary advice necessary for taking forward the investigation and carries out post-mortem examination to find out the cause of death and whether the animals have been cruelly treated.

AFCD will continue with its efforts in combating cruelty to animals. The estimated expenditure for this area of work in 2013-14 is \$2.1 million. Furthermore, in order to support the effective implementation of activities under the “Animal Watch Scheme” and other new and enhanced programmes on the part of SPCA, AFCD has increased the subvention to SPCA from \$608,000 in 2010-11 to \$1 million in 2011-12. The same amount (i.e. \$1 million) has been earmarked for 2013-14.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)198**

Question Serial No.

5382

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 provide the following information:

- (a) What are the details of the measures? What is the estimated expenditure involved?
- (b) Please set out the numbers of stray cattle in various districts in the past five years (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012).
- (c) Regarding the stray cattle problem, the Administration has mentioned that a dedicated cattle team would be set up to implement a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle population in collaboration with relevant animal welfare organisations and local communities. What was the expenditure for the dedicated team in the last year (2012-13)? How will the Administration assess the effectiveness of the dedicated team?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) In 2013-14, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to pursue various measures for managing animals and promoting animal welfare. These include (i) implementing a strengthened education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (ii) pursuing proposals to better regulate pet trading including breeding of dogs for sale through amending the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations, Cap. 139B; (iii) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals; (iv) stepping up enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant animal laws; (v) improving the handling of animal cruelty reports or complaints through the inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA); (vi) strengthening collaboration with and the provision of technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in re-homing of animals and conducting activities relating to animal welfare and management; and (vii) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle population in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities. Besides, AFCD will continue to explore further enhanced measures for animal management and promotion of animal welfare.



Other than using existing resources allocated for animal management, an additional provision of \$3.1 million, which includes resources for two time-limited posts, namely one Field Officer II and one Field Assistant, has been earmarked for the implementation of the above enhanced measures in 2013-14.

- (b) According to a territory-wide population survey of stray cattle conducted in 2012, there were around 1 200 stray cattle in the rural areas of Hong Kong. Their distribution as compared to information obtained from another survey conducted by AFCD in 2008 is shown below:

	Estimated Number of Stray Cattle (Head)									
	Lantau Island		Sai Kung/ Ma On Shan		Northeast New Territories		Central New Territories		Total	
	2008	2012	2008	2012	2008	2012	2008	2012	2008	2012
<b>Brown Cattle</b>	200	200	190	500	250	200	260	200	900	1 100
<b>Buffalo</b>	80	80	0	0	0	0	50	50	130	130
<b>Total</b>	280	280	190	500	250	200	310	250	1 030	1 230

- (c) In order to minimise the nuisance and potential danger caused by stray cattle to the public while at the same time safeguarding the welfare of the cattle, AFCD has established a dedicated Cattle Management Team with a view to handling stray cattle cases more effectively. A long term strategy, which includes adoption of a “Trap-Neuter-Return” (TNR) approach, for the management of stray cattle population, has been devised and is being implemented in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities. Through the concerted efforts of AFCD, relevant AWOs and the local communities, a total of 106 cattle/buffalo in Lantau and Sai Kung were neutered and released to suitable locations in 2012. In addition, the number of complaints against stray cattle nuisance received by AFCD has decreased from 245 in 2011 to 149 in 2012. We will continue to closely monitor the effectiveness of the long-term strategy by conducting necessary surveys on the number and distribution of stray cattle in various districts, and make adjustment to the strategy where appropriate. The total expenditure involved in managing stray cattle in Hong Kong in 2012-13 is \$3.9 million.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 5 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)199**

Question Serial No.

5383

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

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 the indicator of “requests for assistance handled” under “Government fresh food wholesale markets”, the figure for 2012 is 23 086, which marks a significant increase over the figure of 14 848 for 2011. As such, please provide the following information:

- (a) What are the reasons for the significant increase in the number of requests for assistance?
- (b) Please provide the numbers of requests for assistance handled in the past five years (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012), broken down by types of requests.
- (c) What was the expenditure involved in handling requests for assistance in the past five years (2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13)? Please provide a breakdown by year.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) The increase is mainly due to a large number of enquiries received from market tenants during March - May 2012 on matters relating to the year's rental adjustment and the government offer of rental waiver.
- (b) The number of requests for assistance handled by categories is tabulated as follows:

<b>Nature of enquiries / assistance</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Daily operation and management matters	6 664	8 716	8 113	7 537	8 986
Rental and related matters	11 760	6 456	6 010	6 384	12 972
Maintenance	1 176	968	901	927	1 128
<b>Total number of requests for assistance handled</b>	<b>19 600</b>	<b>16 140</b>	<b>15 024</b>	<b>14 848</b>	<b>23 086</b>

- (c) As the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department market staff and contractor staff carrying out management duties at the wholesale markets are also involved in many other activities, the manpower and expenditure required for handling requests for assistance cannot be separately identified.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 9 April 2013

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

**FHB(FE)200**

Question Serial No.

4674

Head: 48 Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013–14 that the Administration will outsource some of the routine food testing work to the private sector. What are the details and estimated expenditure of such? Currently how many laboratories are there in Hong Kong that can provide testing and certification work? What are the criteria for outsourcing? What laboratories are eligible for taking up the outsourcing work? And what is the anticipated savings in terms of manpower and expenditure for the Government Laboratory to outsource the work concerned?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

The estimated number and expenditure on routine food tests to be outsourced to the private sector in 2013-14 are 119 000 food tests (13 000 samples) and \$12 million respectively.

Since 2008, the Government Laboratory has outsourced some routine food testing work to private testing laboratories. The scope of outsourcing includes preservatives, sulphur dioxide, boric acid, propionic acid, nitrate and nitrite, colouring matter, trace metals, pesticide residues, veterinary drugs residues and other food contaminants. In deciding the scope of the outsourcing, the major criterion is the availability of the relevant testing capability of private testing laboratories.

To be eligible for taking up outsourced food tests, private laboratories must obtain accreditation from the Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS), or by any accreditation body with which the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme has concluded mutual recognition agreements/arrangements, in the test parameters concerned and maintain the accredited status throughout the contract period. There are currently 16 private laboratories in Hong Kong accredited by HKAS for conducting various types of food tests.

The resources released from outsourcing are deployed to develop new test method related to amendments of food legislation, and activities related to outsourcing such as organisation of technical seminars as well as other duties including testing work for urgent food incidents.

Name in block letters: Dr. LAU Chau-ming

Post Title: Government Chemist

Date: 8.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)201**

Question Serial No.

3353

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:

As more and more cases of European meat products being adulterated with other meats came to light, please advise whether the Department will enhance surveillance on meat products by means of increasing the number of samples for testing and including more testing parameters, etc. in 2013-14; if yes, please give the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) conducts a Food Surveillance Programme to ensure that food for sale in Hong Kong complies with legal requirements and is fit for human consumption. A risk based approach is adopted in taking samples for chemical, microbiological and radiological testing. DNA testing for species identification had been done in the past in response to labelling complaints against individual products.

Since the onset of the meat adulteration incident in Europe, CFS has closely followed the progress made by the European investigation authorities. So far, two relevant products were found to have been offered for sale in Hong Kong. Although there was no evidence to suggest that consignments imported into Hong Kong had been adulterated, the vendors had stopped sale and recalled the products. Based on current evidence, this is an isolated incident mainly affecting European countries with little food safety risk to local consumers. The control measures implemented by the European authorities are considered effective. CFS will continue to monitor the situation and initiate appropriate risk management measures when necessary.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 8.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)202**

Question Serial No.

3432

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:

Regarding the service of scattering of cremains at sea, please advise whether additional resources will be allocated to increase the capacity of service in 2013-14; if yes, please give the specific arrangements and estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s). Please also advise whether additional resources will be allocated to step up publicity for the service in 2013-14; if yes, please give the work plan and estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

To promote scattering of cremains at sea, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) introduced a ferry service for the public in January 2010. Since January 2012, the Department has further enhanced the service by employing a bigger vessel which can accommodate over 200 passengers per sail and arranging two sails each month. As the new service is well received by the public, the Department has, since 14 January 2013, further increased the number of sails to four each month. The estimated expense for the ferry service per annum will be increased by 105% from \$796,000 in 2012-13 to \$1,632,000 in 2013-14.

The Department will continue to promote green burials, which cover scattering of cremains at sea, in 2013-14. The publicity plan includes participation in the Hong Kong Senior Fair 2013, broadcasting a new television announcement in the public interest, updating publicity pamphlets, organising talks for elderly centres/homes and schools, and collaboration with non-government organisations. The estimated expenditure of these promotional activities is around \$0.5 million.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)203**

Question Serial No.

3433

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:

Regarding the service provided by the Department for temporary storage of cremains pending allocation of niches, please advise on the capacity of service at present; and whether additional resources will be allocated to increase the service capacity in 2013-14 so that members of the public may deposit the cremains temporarily while waiting for the allocation of public or private niches; if yes, please give the details and estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) provides service for temporary storage of cremains in all its crematoria free of charge in the first two months following cremation. The duration may be extended upon application at a monthly fee of \$250 and the cremains are stored in the Kwai Chung Crematorium. Paying respect to the deceased at the temporary storage facilities is not allowed. The Department does not keep separate breakdown of the expenditure involved in operating these facilities.

At present, there is no waiting list for the service. The Department will closely monitor the situation and consider the need for more temporary storage facilities as necessary.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)204**

Question Serial No.

3434

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 dead bodies handled and the usage rate of cremators in each of the crematorium under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in the past three years (i.e. in 2010, 2011 and 2012); and whether additional resources will be allocated and measures will be taken to increase the existing handling capacity of various crematoria in 2013; if yes, please give the details and estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

(a) Name of Crematorium	2010			2011			2012		
	No. of cremation sessions released	No. of cremation sessions booked	% of cremation sessions booked	No. of cremation sessions released	No. of cremation sessions booked	% of cremation sessions booked	No. of cremation sessions released	No. of cremation sessions booked	% of cremation sessions booked
Cape Collinson	14 679	13 937	94.9%	14 514	13 640	94.0%	14 308	13 496	94.3%
Diamond Hill	9 197	9 131	99.3%	9 048	8 943	98.8%	8 839	8 807	99.6%
Fu Shan	7 393	7 346	99.4%	7 090	7 058	99.5%	7 901	7 879	99.7%
Kwai Chung	7 485	7 455	99.6%	8 193	8 143	99.4%	9 202	9 152	99.5%
Cheung Chau	1 536	137	8.9%	2 086	132	6.3%	2 067	160	7.7%
Wo Hop Shek (Note 1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>40 290</b>	<b>38 006</b>	<b>94.3%</b>	<b>40 931</b>	<b>37 916</b>	<b>92.6%</b>	<b>42 317</b>	<b>39 494</b>	<b>93.3%</b>

Note 1: Closed since June 2009 for reprovioning work.



- (b) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is upgrading the cremators by phases to increase their handling capacity. The reprovisioning of the Wo Hop Shek Crematorium at an estimated cost of \$686.3 million for constructing six new cremators and other ancillary facilities has been completed in January 2013 and commissioned for use by phases since February 2013. The reprovisioning of the Cape Collinson Crematorium to construct ten new cremators and ancillary facilities in two phases, at an estimated cost of \$696.3 million, is underway. Phase I of the reprovisioning work with 4 new cremators has been completed in January 2013 and commissioned for use by phases since February 2013. Phase II of the reprovisioning work covering the remaining six cremators has started in March 2013 and is expected to complete in December 2015. With the completion of the above projects, the number of scheduled cremation sessions per annum will be increased by 34.8% from 39 180 in 2008 (before the Wo Hop Shek crematorium was closed for reprovisioning work) to 52 800 in 2016.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)205**

Question Serial No.

3435

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:

Regarding the website "memorial.gov.hk" set up by the Department, please advise on the current number of memorial webpages created for the deceased and the annual number of visits to the website since its launch. Please also advise on the estimated expenditure and manpower establishment for the management of the website in 2013-14; and whether the Department will consider allocating resources to review the effectiveness of the operation of the website in 2013-14; if yes, please give the work plan and estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) For the Internet Memorial Service (IMS) managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), over 5 100 memorial pages have been created since its commissioning in June 2010, and the total number of hit counts of memorial pages is as follows :

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total no. of hit counts of memorial pages</b>
2010-11 (starting from June 2010)	463 842
2011-12	400 006
2012-13 (up to 28.2.2013)	348 714
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1 212 562</b>

- (b) The maintenance, support and enhancement service for the IMS has been contracted out to a private company. The estimated expenditure involved in 2013-14 will be \$147,000. The Department reviews the operation of the IMS from time to time by monitoring the number of registered users, number of new memorial pages created, hit rate, as well as views collected on-line from IMS users. The Department has in the course of time introduced measures to enhance the IMS, such as introducing more features to allow users to design and enrich memorial

pages, posting demonstration videos in the IMS to explain the use of the system, and creating IMS accounts automatically for applicants of cremation service. The Department will keep in view the usage of the IMS and continue to promote the service to the public.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)206**

Question Serial No.

3437

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 number of stalls, the occupancy rate, the provision of air-conditioning facilities, the cost of air-conditioning maintenance and the average stall rental per square metre in each of the public markets under the Department in the past three years (i.e. in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13). Please also advise on the work plan and estimated expenditure on the enhancement of the occupancy rate of public markets in 2013-14.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The information sought is provided at Annex. Information on the monthly rent per square meter for the year 2010 is not readily available.

In 2013-14, in addition to the regular maintenance and daily management of markets, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will implement the following measures to improve the occupancy rate of public markets –

- (a) carrying out improvement works in six markets, including upgrading of fire services facilities, improvement of ventilation and lighting systems, and refurbishment of toilets. The estimated cost is \$31.05 million;
- (b) conducting market promotional activities, especially during traditional festival periods. The estimated cost is \$4 million; and
- (c) letting out vacant stalls at reduced upset auction prices and identifying suitable vacant market stalls for conversion into service trade stalls. No additional resources will be required.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

**Number of stalls, occupancy rate, provision of air-conditioning facilities, cost of air-conditioning maintenance and average stall rental per square metre in each public markets in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13**

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Number of stalls* as at 31 December			Occupancy rate as at 31 December			A/C maintenance cost (\$'000)			Average monthly rent per sq.m. (\$/sqm) as at 31 December	
			2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2011	2012
1	Aberdeen Market	no	335	335	335	94%	96%	97%	NA	NA	NA	623	633
2	Aldrich Bay Market	yes	71	71	71	70%	75%	62%	288	301	315	850	833
3	Apleichau Market	yes	59	59	59	98%	100%	100%	402	422	442	239	223
4	Bowrington Road Market	only in CFC	296	296	296	97%	98%	99%	312	324	337	396	396
5	Bridges Street Market	no	27	24	24	26%	29%	29%	NA	NA	NA	150	150
6	Causeway Bay Market	no	51	51	51	94%	94%	94%	NA	NA	NA	155	153
7	Centre Street Market	yes	47	47	47	66%	72%	77%	199	209	219	389	389
8	Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market	no	32	32	32	84%	94%	97%	NA	NA	NA	182	181
9	Chai Wan Market	yes	173	173	173	95%	95%	94%	467	489	512	420	418
10	Cheung Chau Cooked Food Market	no	17	17	17	100%	100%	100%	NA	NA	NA	173	173
11	Cheung Chau Market	no	237	237	237	92%	100%	99%	NA	NA	NA	176	178

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Number of stalls* as at 31 December			Occupancy rate as at 31 December			A/C maintenance cost (\$'000)			Average monthly rent per sq.m. (\$/sqm) as at 31 December	
			2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2011	2012
12	Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market	no	28	28	28	43%	43%	43%	NA	NA	NA	168	168
13	Cheung Tat Road Cooked Food Market	no	12	12	12	100%	100%	100%	NA	NA	NA	169	169
14	Choi Hung Road Market	no	116	116	116	87%	95%	91%	NA	NA	NA	150	150
15	Electric Road Market	no	96	96	96	75%	88%	86%	NA	NA	NA	185	188
16	Fa Yuen Street Market	no	180	180	180	92%	97%	100%	NA	NA	NA	511	520
17	Fo Tan (East) Cooked Food Market	no	24	24	24	100%	100%	100%	NA	NA	NA	293	293
18	Fo Tan (West) Cooked Food Market	no	15	15	15	100%	100%	100%	NA	NA	NA	222	222
19	Haiphong Road Temporary Market	no	88	88	88	72%	66%	66%	NA	NA	NA	319	319
20	Heung Che Street Market	no	223	223	223	77%	94%	93%	NA	NA	NA	259	270
21	Hung Cheung Cooked Food Market	no	11	11	11	100%	91%	100%	NA	NA	NA	358	354
22	Hung Hom Market	only in CFC	224	224	224	97%	98%	97%	155	162	170	194	204
23	Hung Shui Kiu Market	no	215	215	215	43%	41%	40%	NA	NA	NA	154	153

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Number of stalls* as at 31 December			Occupancy rate as at 31 December			A/C maintenance cost (\$'000)			Average monthly rent per sq.m. (\$/sqm) as at 31 December	
			2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2011	2012
24	Java Road Market	only in CFC	194	194	194	84%	87%	97%	267	280	293	364	369
25	Ka Ting Cooked Food Market	no	17	17	17	82%	100%	100%	NA	NA	NA	597	597
26	Kam Tin Market	no	41	41	41	80%	100%	100%	NA	NA	NA	83	83
27	Kik Yeung Road Cooked Food Market	no	14	14	14	100%	100%	100%	NA	NA	NA	392	392
28	Kin Wing Cooked Food Market	no	20	20	20	85%	75%	80%	NA	NA	NA	237	248
29	Kin Yip Street Cooked Food Market	no	14	14	14	100%	100%	100%	NA	NA	NA	135	135
30	Kowloon City Market	no	581	581	581	93%	95%	97%	NA	NA	NA	270	271
31	Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market	no	11	11	11	100%	100%	100%	NA	NA	NA	162	162
32	Kwai Shun Street Cooked Food Market	no	12	12	12	100%	100%	100%	NA	NA	NA	153	153
33	Kwu Tung Market Shopping Centre	no	98	98	98	98%	100%	100%	NA	NA	NA	51	51
34	Kwun Chung Market	no	218	218	218	73%	87%	97%	NA	NA	NA	159	158
35	Kwun Tong Ferry Concourse Cooked Food Market	no	29	29	29	97%	100%	100%	NA	NA	NA	97	99

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Number of stalls* as at 31 December			Occupancy rate as at 31 December			A/C maintenance cost (\$'000)			Average monthly rent per sq.m. (\$/sqm) as at 31 December	
			2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2011	2012
36	Lai Wan Market	no	42	42	42	100%	100%	98%	NA	NA	NA	699	712
37	Lam Tei Market	no	7	7	7	100%	100%	86%	NA	NA	NA	57	57
38	Lau Fau Shan Market	no	25	25	25	80%	80%	88%	NA	NA	NA	33	32
39	Lei Yue Mun Market	yes	20	20	20	80%	85%	85%	123	128	134	264	264
40	Lockhart Road Market	only in CFC	166	166	166	87%	87%	90%	193	202	212	265	260
41	Luen Wo Hui Market	yes	338	338	338	85%	87%	92%	1,214	1,272	1,332	428	434
42	Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	yes	14	14	14	100%	100%	100%	41	42	44	988	988
43	Mui Wo Cooked Food Market	no	20	20	20	100%	95%	90%	NA	NA	NA	124	123
44	Mui Wo Market	no	33	33	33	91%	91%	94%	NA	NA	NA	182	177
45	Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market	no	28	28	28	100%	100%	96%	NA	NA	NA	461	472
46	Ngau Chi Wan Market	no	404	404	403	83%	89%	92%	NA	NA	NA	357	339
47	Ngau Tau Kok Market	no	466	466	466	85%	84%	84%	NA	NA	NA	475	477
48	North Kwai Chung Market	no	222	222	222	92%	95%	85%	NA	NA	NA	290	292



Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Number of stalls* as at 31 December			Occupancy rate as at 31 December			A/C maintenance cost (\$'000)			Average monthly rent per sq.m. (\$/sqm) as at 31 December	
			2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2011	2012
49	North Point Market	no	42	42	42	93%	95%	98%	NA	NA	NA	176	177
50	On Ching Road Flower Market	no	13	13	13	100%	100%	100%	NA	NA	NA	167	167
51	Pei Ho Street Market	only in CFC	227	227	227	97%	100%	100%	201	210	220	233	232
52	Peng Chau Market	yes	41	18	18	39%	83%	89%	142	75	79	91	92
53	Plover Cove Road Market	no	244	244	244	84%	97%	98%	NA	NA	NA	192	206
54	Po On Road Market	no	449	449	449	77%	80%	86%	NA	NA	NA	432	415
55	Quarry Bay Market	no	115	115	115	68%	77%	76%	NA	NA	NA	239	236
56	Queen Street Cooked Food Market	yes	13	13	11	77%	69%	82%	71	74	82	811	811
57	Sai Kung Market	no	207	207	209	92%	96%	99%	NA	NA	NA	223	216
58	Sai Wan Ho Market	only in CFC	274	274	274	86%	88%	96%	107	112	117	326	318
59	Sai Ying Pun Market	yes	102	98	98	85%	88%	91%	391	410	429	247	260
60	San Hui Market	yes	324	324	324	93%	99%	98%	891	930	972	578	561
61	Sha Tau Kok Market	no	66	66	66	91%	94%	92%	NA	NA	NA	23	23

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Number of stalls* as at 31 December			Occupancy rate as at 31 December			A/C maintenance cost (\$'000)			Average monthly rent per sq.m. (\$/sqm) as at 31 December	
			2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2011	2012
62	Sha Tin Market	yes	173	173	173	97%	98%	99%	328	343	359	965	965
63	Sham Tseng Temporary Market	no	36	29	29	67%	79%	76%	NA	NA	NA	100	102
64	Shaukeiwan Market	no	82	82	82	72%	68%	66%	NA	NA	NA	129	128
65	Shek Tong Tsui Market	no	153	151	153	71%	75%	95%	NA	NA	NA	258	229
66	Shek Wu Hui Market	yes	392	392	392	99%	99%	99%	1,039	1,084	1,132	358	364
67	Sheung Fung Street Market	no	73	73	71	81%	92%	99%	NA	NA	NA	240	234
68	Sheung Wan Market	only in CFC	226	222	222	88%	91%	91%	296	310	325	188	186
69	Shui Wo Street Market	no	304	302	302	84%	93%	93%	NA	NA	NA	633	634
70	Smithfield Market	only in CFC	218	214	214	91%	99%	100%	176	184	193	198	202
71	Stanley Waterfront Mart	no	20	20	20	85%	90%	100%	NA	NA	NA	1,444	1,421

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Number of stalls* as at 31 December			Occupancy rate as at 31 December			A/C maintenance cost (\$'000)			Average monthly rent per sq.m. (\$/sqm) as at 31 December	
			2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2011	2012
72	Sze Shan Street Cooked Food Market	no	17	17	17	100%	88%	100%	NA	NA	NA	454	504
73	Tai Kiu Market	yes	379	379	379	90%	98%	97%	223	234	245	566	584
74	Tai Kok Tsui Market	yes	135	135	135	89%	97%	99%	397	416	436	418	418
75	Tai O Market	no	26	26	26	81%	81%	85%	NA	NA	NA	62	60
76	Tai Po Hui Market	yes	314	314	313	96%	98%	99%	1,485	1,555	1,629	636	610
77	Tai Shing Street Market	only in CFC	453	453	446	95%	95%	97%	134	140	147	321	320
78	Tai Tong Road Cooked Food Market	no	18	18	18	100%	100%	100%	NA	NA	NA	237	237
79	Tai Wai Market	no	196	196	195	93%	94%	91%	NA	NA	NA	523	522
80	Tai Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	no	20	20	20	70%	90%	100%	NA	NA	NA	38	41
81	Tang Lung Chau Market	no	34	34	34	91%	97%	100%	NA	NA	NA	347	345
82	Tin Wan Market	no	171	171	171	91%	94%	97%	NA	NA	NA	163	167

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Number of stalls* as at 31 December			Occupancy rate as at 31 December			A/C maintenance cost (\$'000)			Average monthly rent per sq.m. (\$/sqm) as at 31 December	
			2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2011	2012
83	Tokwawan Market	only in CFC	267	267	267	84%	88%	98%	78	81	85	335	344
84	Tsing Yeung Cooked Food Market	no	18	18	18	94%	89%	100%	NA	NA	NA	146	157
85	Tsing Yi Market	yes	74	74	74	86%	80%	89%	442	463	485	1,017	987
86	Tsuen King Circuit Market	no	241	241	241	46%	39%	34%	NA	NA	NA	87	73
87	Tsuen Wan Market	no	381	381	381	84%	86%	94%	NA	NA	NA	412	399
88	Tsun Yip Cooked Food Market	no	56	56	56	98%	98%	98%	NA	NA	NA	107	107
89	Tui Min Hoi Market	no	34	34	34	74%	82%	94%	NA	NA	NA	40	49
90	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	no	359	359	358	51%	52%	51%	NA	NA	NA	183	187
91	Tung Yick Market	no	448	447	446	44%	44%	43%	NA	NA	NA	216	217
92	Tung Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	no	8	8	8	100%	100%	100%	NA	NA	NA	55	55
93	Wanchai Market	yes	50	50	50	100%	100%	100%	303	318	333	872	882

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Number of stalls* as at 31 December			Occupancy rate as at 31 December			A/C maintenance cost (\$'000)			Average monthly rent per sq.m. (\$/sqm) as at 31 December	
			2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2011	2012
94	Wing Fong Street Market	no	112	112	112	71%	87%	96%	NA	NA	NA	311	308
95	Wo Yi Hop Road Cooked Food Market	no	18	18	18	94%	89%	100%	NA	NA	NA	152	154
96	Wong Nai Chung Market	only in CFC	66	66	69	92%	92%	94%	40	41	43	252	251
97	Yan Oi Market	yes	106	108	108	90%	99%	97%	228	239	250	408	407
98	Yau Ma Tei Market	no	144	144	144	81%	79%	90%	NA	NA	NA	260	247
99	Yee On Street Market	yes	65	65	65	78%	80%	83%	175	183	192	226	225
100	Yeung Uk Road Market	no	320	320	319	97%	98%	99%	NA	NA	NA	303	304
101	Yue Kwong Road Market	no	192	192	192	95%	98%	100%	NA	NA	NA	320	369
102	Yue Wan Market	yes	373	373	374	91%	90%	92%	978	1,022	1,067	469	468

Remark:

CFC – Cooked Food Centre in Market

NA – Not Applicable

\* Including the number of vacant stalls that are frozen for reasons such as market improvement works, etc.

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

**FHB(FE)207**

Question Serial No.

3438

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

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise whether the Department will allocate resources to review and consult stakeholders on the number of newspaper stall licences, and the scope of business and size of licensed newspaper stalls in 2013-14; if yes, please give the plan and timetable of the work as well as the estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

As at 31.12.2012, there were 513 licensed newspaper hawkers in Hong Kong. The Government reviewed its hawker licensing policy in 2008 and 2009 and consulted the Legislative Council, District Councils, hawker associations and relevant stakeholders. As a result of the review, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) issued a limited number of hawker licences, including licences for vacant fixed hawker pitches and for itinerant (frozen confectionery) hawkers (commonly known as "small ice-cream vendors"). Given the growing number of newspaper and magazine retail outlets in recent years, as well as concerns about obstruction and nuisance, the Government has no intention of issuing new newspaper hawker licences.

To improve the business environment of licensed newspaper hawkers, the Department expanded the list of additional commodities permitted for sale from eight to 12 items in September 2009. On top of the eight commodities already approved (i.e. tissue paper, cigarettes, cigarette lighters, sweets, chewing gums, preserved fruits, battery cells and pens), four more types of items, namely bottled distilled water, lai-see packets, trinkets and cell phone cards, have been added to the commodity list. The Department has also relaxed the restriction on the total space by expanding the limit from not more than 25% to not more than 50% of the stall area used for the sale of additional commodities.

Moreover, licensed newspaper hawkers can display within the confines of their stalls promotional materials in relation to the promotion of the commodities approved to be sold under the licence. The Department will continue to communicate with representatives of the newspaper hawkers in order to improve their operating environment.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)208**

Question Serial No.

3439

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued against littering by District Council district in the past five years (i.e. in 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13), and advise whether the Department will allocate resources to enhance public education on and promotion of the work of keeping Hong Kong clean in 2013-14; if yes, please give the work plan and estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

District	Number of Fixed Penalty Notice issued against littering by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department)				
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (up to 31.1.2013)
Central & Western	1 785	2 170	2 206	2 830	2 245
Eastern	1 602	1 527	1 197	1 185	1 100
Southern	691	610	357	329	346
Wan Chai	5 494	5 264	4 068	3 317	2 526
Islands	715	719	510	499	553
Kowloon City	902	933	1 073	1 108	1 058
Kwun Tong	1 898	1 412	1 940	1 761	1 367
Wong Tai Sin	957	993	808	910	610



District	Number of Fixed Penalty Notice issued against littering by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department)				
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (up to 31.1.2013)
Sham Shui Po	1 126	850	1 341	1 152	1 021
Yau Tsim Mong	4 144	4 312	4 612	5 802	5 309
Sai Kung	757	770	779	764	748
Sha Tin	1 369	1 564	1 793	1 873	1 673
Tai Po	963	863	861	927	844
North	1 848	1 624	1 316	1 431	1 265
Kwai Tsing	963	943	1 389	1 687	1 793
Tsuen Wan	2 059	1 820	1 508	1 130	850
Tuen Mun	1 264	1 319	1 221	1 288	1 124
Yuen Long	2 353	2 350	2 803	2 772	2 124
Total	30 890	30 043	29 782	30 765	26 556

The Department plans to organise 1 200 school talks, 20 outreaching programmes for schools, and 1 385 seminars for the general public on health education concerning both environmental hygiene and food safety in 2013. Keeping Hong Kong clean will remain a key theme in our promotion activities. The expenditure will be absorbed within the budget of \$24.8 million which the Department has reserved for public education and community involvement in 2013-14.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)209**

Question Serial No.

3440

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 whether the Department will provide additional solid waste recovery facilities at refuse collection points and on streets in 2013-14; if yes, please give the details and estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

In 2013-14, 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 number of recyclable collection points set up in public places. There is no separate breakdown on the estimated expenditure in this area of work.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title: Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)210**

Question Serial No.

4874

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 complaints received, enforcement actions taken, illegal banners removed and penalty notices issued as well as the total amount of fines imposed by the Department in respect of illegal display of banners on streets in each of the past three years (i.e. in 2010, 2011 and 2012). Please also advise whether the Department will allocate additional manpower and resources to step up enforcement actions in 2013; if yes, please give the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

Staff of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) take prosecution actions during day-to-day patrols and operations. We do not keep separate statistics on the number of inspections carried out. Figures available are given below –

Year	2010	2011	2012
No. of complaints against unauthorised display of publicity materials in public place	2 978	3 399	3 651
No. of publicity materials removed	3 435 080	3 410 967	3 340 171
No. of prosecutions taken against unauthorised display of publicity materials in public place	3 060	3 315	4 492
No. of \$1,500 Fixed Penalty Notices issued (Note)	-	1 716	1 563

Note: Since 1 March 2011, the Department starts issuing \$1,500 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) to offenders who display publicity materials in public places without permission, including those displayed on

easy-mount frames. The Department does not keep separate breakdown on the amount of fines resulting from prosecutions other than the FPN.

In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the Department did not take any prosecution against the unauthorised display of non-commercial publicity materials in public places. Resources on public cleansing services are deployed according to the actual situation in individual districts and will be adjusted as necessary in the light of changing circumstances. The Department will continue to closely monitor the situation and step up operations and enforcement actions as necessary.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)211**

Question Serial No.

4875

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of enforcement actions against breaches of licensing conditions by licensed hawkers, the number of hawkers prosecuted (with a breakdown by nature of offence) and the total amount of fines imposed in each of the past three years (i.e. in 2010, 2011 and 2012); and whether the Department will allocate resources to review the level and frequency of the enforcement actions against licensed hawkers in 2013-14; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the number of prosecutions taken against licensed hawkers was 6 283, 6 704 and 6 088 respectively. They were mainly related to obstruction offences. There are no statistics on the total amount of fines.

Generally speaking, under the current enforcement strategy, the staff of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) would give the hawkers a verbal warning first before resorting to prosecution action in those cases where the warning is not heeded. The Department will maintain the current strategy in 2013.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title: Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)212**

Question Serial No.

4876

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

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of enforcement actions taken against unlicensed hawkers in response to complaints received, the number of hawkers prosecuted (with a breakdown by age) and summonses issued, as well as the total amount of fines imposed in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2010 to 2012).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

Information on the number of prosecutions taken including summonses issued against unlicensed hawkers in the past three years is given below :

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of prosecutions</u>
2010	29 321 (including 17 034 summonses)
2011	28 576 (including 16 835 summonses)
2012	27 457 (including 15 788 summonses)

Information on age breakdown and the total amount of fines imposed is not readily available. Nor do we have separate statistics on the enforcement actions taken against unlicensed hawkers in response to complaints received.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title: Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)213**

Question Serial No.

5324

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:

Regarding the service provided by the Department for temporary storage of cremains, please advise on the number of cases with storage period longer than two months, the longest storage period and the total amount of fees collected in the past five years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2012-13). Please also advise whether there will be an increase in the expenditure on provision of the service in the future; if yes, please give the amount of increase, the number of planned additional premises and their storage capacity.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) provides service for temporary storage of cremains in all its crematoria free of charge in the first two months following cremation. The duration may be extended upon application at a monthly fee of \$250 and the cremains are stored in the Kwai Chung Crematorium. Paying respect to the deceased at the temporary storage facilities is not allowed. The Department does not keep separate breakdown of the expenditure involved in operating these facilities.

In the past 5 years, there were 140 cases in which the duration of temporary storage exceeded 2 months. Among these cases, the longest storage time was 15 months. The total revenue collected in connection with the temporary storage service in the past 5 years was \$39,930.

At present, there is no waiting list for the service. The Department will closely monitor the situation and consider the need for more temporary storage facilities as necessary.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)214**

Question Serial No.

5326

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 new public columbaria provided in the past five years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2012-13), the distribution and number of new niches, as well as the expenditure incurred. Please also advise on the estimated expenditure for constructing public columbaria in 2013-14, the number of new niches to be provided and their distribution.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

Details about the public columbarium facilities completed from 2008-09 to 2012-13 are set out as follows -

Location	Number of Niches	Approved Project Estimate (\$ million)	Year of Completion
Kwai Chung Columbarium	3 374	14.80	2008-09
Diamond Hill Columbarium	18 501	113.60	2008-09
	1 540	0.76	2012-13
Wo Hop Shek Cemetery	43 710	629.50	2012-13

We have earmarked \$4.80 million for constructing 1 000 niches at the Cheung Chau Cemetery in 2013-14 whilst \$8.00 million is expected to be spent on the detailed design and site investigation of site formation and associated infrastructural works for the development of columbarium, crematorium and related facilities at the Sandy Ridge Cemetery. The Sandy Ridge project will provide 200 000 new niches in due course.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title: Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013



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

**FHB(FE)215**

Question Serial No.

4133

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:

According to current legislation, charitable fund-raising activities involving on-street selling are covered by the Temporary Hawker Licence (THL) issued by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) pursuant to the Hawker Regulation (Cap 132AI). In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the total number of applications for THL received by the Department, licences issued, organisations issued with THL, applications rejected, appeals lodged with the Licensing Appeals Board (LIAB) and cases dismissed in each of the past five years; and

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total number of applications received					
Number of licences issued					
Number of organisations issued with THL					
Number of applications rejected					
Number of appeals lodged with LIAB					
Number of appeals dismissed by LIAB					

- (b) the average number of applications made by and licences granted to the organisations issued with THL in each of the past five years (i.e. in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012).

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

**Temporary Hawker Licence (THL) issued by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for charitable fund-raising activities involving on-street selling of commodities**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of applications received	533	1 353	960	1 603	862
Number of licences issued	345	881	694	1 232	575
Number of organisations issued with THL	50	72	58	69	70
Number of applications rejected	103	184	147	164	105
Number of appeals lodged with LIAB	0	0	0	0	0
Number of appeals dismissed by LIAB	0	0	0	0	0
Average number of applications made by each organisation	11	19	17	23	12
Average number of licences issued to each organisation	7	12	12	18	8

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)216**

Question Serial No.

4134

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 indicator for "licensed hawkers", the number of fixed pitch hawkers and itinerant hawkers will drop from 6 269 and 470 in 2012 (Actual) to 6 100 and 460 in 2013 (Estimate) respectively. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the reason(s) for the estimated decrease in numbers;
- (b) given that 169 Fixed-Pitch Hawker Licences and ten Itinerant Hawker Licences will be surrendered, whether the Department will consider according priority to the assistants of the licensees concerned to take up these licences or making them available for application by the public; if yes, the details of the arrangement; if not, the reason(s); and
- (c) whether the Department received any application for a hawker licence in respect of vacant stalls in the past ten years (i.e. from 2002 to 2012); if yes, the number of such applications received each year.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The number of licensed fixed-pitch and itinerant hawkers is estimated to decrease in 2013 mainly due to projected natural attrition and the projected number of licences that may be voluntarily surrendered under the Assistance Scheme for Hawkers in Fixed-pitch Areas (the Assistance Scheme).
- (b) The voluntary surrender arrangement under the Assistance Scheme aims to help expedite the release of vacant pitches for facilitating the relocation of stalls which pose higher fire risks in 43 hawker areas. The Scheme will last for five years. After the Assistance Scheme has been implemented for a period of time, the Government will consider the case for issuing new hawker licences to fill vacant pitches, taking into account the circumstances of each hawker area, including the business environment, fire safety and environmental hygiene considerations and the views of District Councils and local residents.

The Administration currently has no plan to issue new itinerant hawker licences.

- (c) The Government reviewed its hawker licensing policy in 2008 and 2009 and consulted the Legislative Council, District Councils, hawker associations and relevant stakeholders. As a result

of the review, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department issued a limited number of hawker licences, including 218 licences for vacant fixed hawker pitches and 61 licences for new itinerant (frozen confectionery) hawkers and received 9 510 and 3 743 applications in 2009 and 2010 respectively.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)217**

Question Serial No.

4549

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

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the unauthorised display of roadside commercial publicity banners, please inform this Committee on the following for each of the past five years (i.e. 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012):

- (a) the number of complaints received by the Department;
- (b) the number of cases referred by the Lands Department;
- (c) the number of publicity banners removed by the Department, with a breakdown by commercial and non-commercial banners; and
- (d) the number of cases with actions taken to recover the removal costs from relevant parties, the number of successful and unsuccessful recovery cases as well as the amount of costs recovered.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

<b>Year</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
No. of complaints against unauthorised display of commercial publicity materials in public place	2 277	2 832	2 794	2 984	2 405
No. of commercial publicity materials in public place removed	4 270 566	3 503 393	3 428 689	3 403 948	3 333 987
No. of non-commercial publicity materials in public place removed	4 399	4 726	6 391	7 019	6 184
No. of cases involving recovery of the removal cost	917	992	938	1 378	1 692

<b>Year</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
No. of cases in which the removal cost has been recovered	875	900	854	1 225	1 599
No. of cases in which the removal cost cannot be recovered or is not yet recovered	42	92	84	153	93
Removal cost recovered (\$ million)	0.25	0.28	0.26	0.40	0.48

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not keep separate breakdown on the number of cases referred to it by the Lands Department.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)218**

Question Serial No.

3494

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 existing fresh provision shop licences for retail sale of live poultry in each of the 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

<b>District</b>	<b>Number of licensed fresh provision shops with permission for selling live poultry</b>
Central & Western	2
Eastern	2
Southern	0
Wan Chai	3
Kowloon City	1
Kwun Tong	4
Sham Shui Po	2
Yau Tsim Mong	9
Wong Tai Sin	2
Islands	1
Kwai Tsing	1
North	0

Sai Kung	3
Sha Tin	8
Tai Po	3
Tsuen Wan	0
Tuen Mun	1
Yuen Long	4

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013



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

**FHB(FE)219**

Question Serial No.

3613

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 to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The First Hong Kong Total Diet Study (TDS) 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 food sampling and preparation of food samples, at a contract value of about \$1.24 million. The fieldwork was completed in February 2011.

CFS performed laboratory analysis on over 130 substances, including persistent organic pollutants, pesticide residues, metallic contaminants, processing contaminants, mycotoxins, other contaminants and nutrients in food samples. The laboratory analysis was undertaken by existing staff of CFS and the Government Laboratory. The expenses incurred by CFS are therefore absorbed internally. While the whole study will be completed in 2014, CFS has been releasing the study findings by phases. As of March 2013, five reports covering "Dioxins and Dioxin-like Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)", "Inorganic Arsenic", "Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs)", "Pesticide Residues" and "Metallic Contaminants" respectively, have been released and are available on CFS's website. The TDS is progressing on course in accordance with the schedule.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 8.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)220**

Question Serial No.

3614

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 five posts in the Department in 2013-14. Please advise on the nature, ranks, salaries and duties of the posts concerned.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The posts to be created are in the grades of Medical and Health Officer and Veterinary Officer. The total annual salary amounts to \$5 million in 2013-14. The main duties of these posts are to perform work related to food safety regulation and control.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)221**

Question Serial No.

3615

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 seven posts in the Department in 2013-14. Please advise on the nature, ranks, salaries and duties of the posts to be deleted and whether the deletion of posts will affect daily operation and quality of services.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Annual salary per post (\$ million)</b>	<b>Duties</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Workman I Workman II	0.14 0.13	To provide environmental hygiene services	Vacant posts with no operational need for retention
Health Inspector Clerical Officer	0.42 0.21	To assist in planning and launching the internet memorial service	The posts were created on a time-limited basis up to end March 2013

The deletion will not affect the operation of and the services provided by the Department.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)222**

Question Serial No.

3926

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please set out in tabular form information on the following:

- (a) the names of air-conditioned public markets;
- (b) the air-conditioning expenses of each of these markets over the past year (i.e. in 2012-13); 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 provided at Annex.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

**Air-conditioned markets, recurrent air-conditioning expenses and power consumption in 2012-13**

<b>Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Market</b>	<b>Recurrent Air-conditioning Expenses (\$'000)</b>	<b>Power Consumption (Kilowatt Hour '000)</b>
1.	Aldrich Bay Market cum Cooked Food Centre	1,584	895
2.	Ap Lei Chau Market cum Cooked Food Centre	1,578	801
3.	Bowrington Road Market Cooked Food Centre	1,211	616
4.	Centre Street Market cum Cooked Food Centre	817	422
5.	Chai Wan Market cum Cooked Food Centre	2,779	1 598
6.	Hung Hom Market Cooked Food Centre	689	528
7.	Java Road Market Cooked Food Centre	1,429	801
8.	Lei Yue Mun Market	415	286
9.	Lockhart Road Market Cooked Food Centre	1,654	1 017
10.	Luen Wo Hui Market cum Cooked Food Centre	5,886	4 633
11.	Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	550	515
12.	Pei Ho Street Market Cooked Food Centre	1,019	813
13.	Peng Chau Market	346	272
14.	Queen Street Cooked Food Market	704	439
15.	Sai Wan Ho Market Cooked Food Centre	852	518
16.	Sai Ying Pun Market	1,959	1 079
17.	San Hui Market	3,914	2 993
18.	Sha Tin Market	1,411	1 070
19.	Shek Wu Hui Market cum Cooked Food Centre	5,389	4 331
20.	Sheung Wan Market Cooked Food Centre	2,664	1 649
21.	Smithfield Market Cooked Food Centre	1,505	925
22.	Tai Kiu Market	1,928	1 712
23.	Tai Kok Tsui Market cum Cooked Food Centre	2,487	2 087
24.	Tai Po Hui Market cum Cooked Food Centre	5,988	4 435
25.	Tai Shing Street Market Cooked Food Centre	820	685
26.	To Kwa Wan Market Cooked Food Centre	143	59
27.	Tsing Yi Market	1,537	1 070
28.	Wan Chai Market	1,010	477
29.	Wong Nai Chung Market Cooked Food Centre	316	192
30.	Yan Oi Market	982	745
31.	Yee On Street Market	590	405
32.	Yue Wan Market cum Cooked Food Centre	5,791	3 331
	Total	59,947	41 399

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

**FHB(FE)223**

Question Serial No.

3927

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

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise whether the Department has any plan to retrofit air-conditioning system in any public market; if yes, please specify the expenditure to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department currently has no plan to retrofit air-conditioning system in any public market.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)224**

Question Serial No.

3928

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:

In 2013-14, in addition to regular maintenance and daily management of markets, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will implement the following measures to improve the operating environment of public markets –

1. To carry out improvement works in six markets, including upgrading of fire services facilities, improvement of ventilation and lighting systems, and refurbishment of toilets. The estimated cost is \$31.05 million.
2. To continue to conduct market promotional activities, especially during traditional festival periods. The estimated cost is \$4 million.
3. To continue to identify suitable vacant market stalls for conversion into service trade, bakery and light refreshment stalls. No additional resources are required.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title: Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)225**

Question Serial No.

3929

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise when the Department will commence and complete the refurbishment of the power supply system at Ngau Tau Kok Market so that all stalls in the market will be available for lease, and specify the expenditure involved in the refurbishment works.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has been consulting the Architectural Services Department, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and stall tenants on the proposed addition of a transformer room to increase power supply for Ngau Tau Kok Market. As details of the proposal are being considered, information on the commencement date, completion date and expenditure of the works is not yet available.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013



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

**FHB(FE)226**

Question Serial No.

3930

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

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please set out in tabular form information on the following:

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

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) As at 31 December 2012, there were five public markets with an occupancy rate of less than 50%, one of which was pending closure. For the remaining four markets, vacant stalls were withheld from letting out due to improvement works.
- (b) As staff resources for public markets are allocated on a district basis, there is no cost breakdown by individual markets.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 8.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)227**

Question Serial No.

3958

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise on the number of staff engaged and the total cost incurred by the Hawker Control Teams in taking prosecution actions against itinerant hawkers in the coming year (i.e. in 2013-14). Please also advise on the number of hawkers prosecuted, undergoing legal proceedings and convicted in the past five years (i.e. up to 2012-13).

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

In 2013-14, the estimated staff establishment in the Hawker Control Teams is 2 204. The estimated total expenditure for the management and control of on-street hawking and related activities is \$868.6 million. There is no separate breakdown on the number of staff and the expenditure incurred in handling itinerant hawkers.

In the five years ending 31.12.2012, the total number of convictions related to hawker offences was 142 784. There is no separate breakdown on the number of hawkers prosecuted, undergoing legal proceedings or convicted.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Director of  
Post Title: Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)228**

Question Serial No.

5352

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 recent months, a large number of unauthorised non-commercial banners are found on streets causing obstruction. In this connection, please advise on the number of complaints received relating to these banners, the manpower involved in the removal of banners in response to the complaints received, the average removal costs of each banner, the number of banners handled by the Department and its percentage in the total number of unauthorised non-commercial banners removed since last year (i.e. 2012). Please also provide figures in the table below.

Number of complaints received relating to unauthorised banners over the past year (i.e. in 2012) (listed by regions)	Number of banners removed in response to the complaints received over the past year (i.e. in 2012) (listed by regions)	Percentage of banners removed as compared with the number of complaints received (%)
Hong Kong Island: Kowloon East: Kowloon West: New Territories East: New Territories West:	Hong Kong Island: Kowloon East: Kowloon West: New Territories East: New Territories West:	

In reply to a question raised by a Legislative Council Member in January (i.e. at the Legislative Council meeting held on 9 January 2013), the Department mentioned that “FEHD and the relevant departments will continue to keep in view the situation (of the streets in Yau Tsim Mong District) and follow up as appropriate”. Given that a large number of non-commercial banners remain on streets, please advise whether the Department has estimated the number of existing non-commercial banners in the territory as well as the number of banners placed at street corners which may pose potential danger to the traffic; if not, please advise on the actions taken by the Department to keep the situation under review.

Asked by: Hon. MOK Charles Peter

Reply:

Under the Management Scheme for the Display of Roadside Non-commercial Publicity Materials (the Scheme), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) conducts joint operations with the Lands Department (LandsD) to remove non-commercial banners (NCBs) which were displayed without authorisation or did not comply with the Implementation Guidelines of the Scheme. The manpower deployed and number of joint operations with LandsD is determined in accordance with the circumstances of individual districts. In January and February 2013, the number of complaints received against unauthorised NCBs and the number of unauthorised NCBs removed is 451 and 520 respectively. The average removal cost of each banner and the percentage of NCBs removed in response to complaints as compared with the total number of NCBs removed is not available. The figures sought are as follows –

Number of complaints received relating to unauthorised banners in 2012 (listed by region)	Total number of banners removed in 2012 (listed by region)	Percentage of banners removed as compared with the number of complaints received (%)
Hong Kong Island: 177 Kowloon East: 46 Kowloon West: 803 New Territories East: 74 New Territories West: 146	Hong Kong Island: 1 120 Kowloon East: 398 Kowloon West: 749 New Territories East: 2 038 New Territories West: 1 879	The required information is not available.

The Department will continue to closely monitor the situation and step-up operations and enforcement actions as necessary.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)229**

Question Serial No.

5084

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 indicator for "refuse collected" in 2012 is higher than that in 2011, and most of the refuse collection vehicles are diesel vehicles. As the Chief Executive announced in his Policy Address the initiative to phase out diesel vehicles, please advise whether assessment has been made on the implications of this initiative on the disposal and transportation of the increasing volume of refuse collected. Please also advise on the number of diesel refuse collection vehicles currently in service and their percentage in the total number of refuse collection vehicles; whether additional expenditure will be incurred with the replacement of these vehicles; if yes, the details.

Asked by: Hon. TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has 138 refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) as at 31 December 2012. They are all diesel vehicles. The Department has obtained funding provisions in previous financial years to acquire replacement vehicles so that all RCVs in the Department will meet the Euro V emission standard by mid-2014.

All existing RCVs of the Department's contractors meet either the Euro IV or Euro V emission standard.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 8.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)230**

Question Serial No.

4251

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is stated that the Department will “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-compliance cases detected each year (i.e. in 2010, 2011 and 2012) since the implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme on 1 July 2010, with a breakdown by the type of food products and nature of non-compliance;
- (d) whether prosecutions have been taken out against non-compliance cases since the implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme on 1 July 2010; if yes, the number of cases each year (i.e. in 2010, 2011 and 2012); and
- (e) the number of complaints regarding the labelling of nutrition information received each year (i.e. in 2010, 2011 and 2012) since the implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme on 1 July 2010, with a breakdown by the type of food products and nature of complaints.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) Since the passage of the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment: Requirements for Nutrition Labelling and Nutrition Claim) Regulation 2008 in mid-2008, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) had launched a three-year Publicity and Education Campaign on promoting nutrition labelling. To sustain the efforts, CFS has launched a two-year enhanced education and publicity programme on nutrition labelling since July 2011 with details as follows -
  - (i) during the academic year 2011-12, CFS and the Education Bureau jointly organised the “Live it, Use it” Nutrition Labelling Promotion Award Scheme (the Promotion Award Scheme). Under the Promotion Award Scheme, a total of 28 teams from 18 secondary schools took part in various creative activities. A sharing session cum award presentation ceremony was held in July 2012. The Promotion Award Scheme for the academic year 2012-13 has started since October 2012;

- (ii) CFS also joined hands with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service to launch the “Live it, Use it” Nutrition Labelling Fun Shopping Award Scheme (Fun Shopping Award Scheme) since December 2011. A total of 18 community service organisations participated in the Fun Shopping Award Scheme with over 900 people joining the activities in the year 2011-12. The Fun Shopping Award Scheme for the year 2012-13 has started since November 2012;
- (iii) CFS launched a mobile application “Nutrition Calculator” (“NuCal”) in October 2011. With “NuCal”, one can set up a personal database on food items for recording the total nutrient intake of their favourite prepackaged food items. As at 1 March 2013, “NuCal” had recorded about 55 000 downloads; and
- (iv) to echo the theme of World Health Day 2013 on high blood pressure, CFS would launch a campaign in 2013 on using nutrition labelling to reduce sodium intake.

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

- (b) In addition to using quantifiable indicators such as the number of visits to websites and the number of participants in publicity and education activities, CFS evaluates the effectiveness of the promotional activities on nutrition labelling 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 was conducted in 2012 to evaluate the effectiveness of the Campaign. Data analysis is in progress and would be completed in the first half of 2013.
- (c) As at 31 December 2012, CFS had checked 24 056 nutrition labels of prepackaged food products since the commencement of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme (the Scheme) on 1 July 2010, with 246 found to be non-compliant. The overall compliance rate is 98.98%. A detailed breakdown of the 246 cases by nature of irregularity and type of food is as follows -

**Breakdown of the 246 non-compliant cases by nature of irregularity**

<b>Nature of non-compliance</b>	<b>No. of cases (1.7.2010 - 31.12.2010)</b>	<b>No. of cases (2011)</b>	<b>No. of cases (2012)</b>
No or incomplete 1+7 nutrition label	43	24	14
Inappropriate nutrition label format	4	3	3
Inappropriate nutrient claim	7	11	7
Inappropriate language	12	3	3
Involving more than one type of irregularity	0	7	8

Discrepancy on declared nutrient value confirmed after chemical analysis	30	29	38
Subtotal	96	77	73
Total	246		

**Breakdown of the 246 non-compliant cases by type of food**

<b>Type of food</b>	<b>No. of cases (1.7.2010 - 31.12.2010)</b>	<b>No. of cases (2011)</b>	<b>No. of cases (2012)</b>
Bakery and cereal products	23	12	20
Candies and snacks	31	9	22
Drinks	12	9	15
Oils, sauces and condiments	13	19	7
Others	17	28	9
Subtotal	96	77	73
Total	246		

- (d) No prosecution has been made since the implementation of the Scheme. Upon detection of non-compliance, traders have either withdrawn the product concerned from the shelf or rectified the nutrition label according to the statutory requirements of the Scheme.
- (e) From 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2012, CFS received 102 food complaints against nutrition labelling of prepackaged food. A detailed breakdown of the 102 cases by nature of irregularity and type of food is as follows -



**Breakdown of the 102 complaint cases by nature of irregularity**

<b>Nature of complaint</b>	<b>No. of cases (1.7.2010 - 31.12.2010)</b>	<b>No. of cases (2011)</b>	<b>No. of cases (2012)</b>
No or incomplete 1+7 nutrition label	8	10	17
Inappropriate declared nutrient value	5	20	35
Others	0	3	4
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>		

**Breakdown of the 102 complaint cases by type of food**

<b>Type of food</b>	<b>No. of cases (1.7.2010 - 31.12.2010)</b>	<b>No. of cases (2011)</b>	<b>No. of cases (2012)</b>
Bakery and cereal products	5	13	25
Candies and snacks	1	8	4
Drinks	4	2	8
Oils, sauces and condiments	1	4	5
Others	2	6	14
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>		

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 8.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)231**

Question Serial No.

4252

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the work of “managing cremation and burial facilities, including public cemeteries, crematoria and columbaria”, please advise on:

- (a) the number of allocated and unallocated burial spaces at each public cemetery as well as the number of applicants on the waiting list at present; and
- (b) the total number of niches, the number of allocated niches, the number of niches for re-allocation, the number of unallocated niches, and the number of applicants on the waiting list at each public columbarium at present.

Asked by: Hon. Wong Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The number of allocated and unallocated burial spaces at each public cemetery as at 31 December 2012 was as follows -

Name of Cemetery	No. of coffin burial spaces			No. of urn burial spaces		
	Allocated	Unallocated	Total	Allocated	Unallocated	Total
Wo Hop Shek	5 873	3 485	9 358	83 240	29 976	113 216
Sandy Ridge	3 183	1 827	5 010	31 785	6 076	37 861
Cheung Chau	627	633	1 260	12 104	1 358	13 462
Tai O	104	316	420	97	177	274
Lai Chi Yuen	153	123	276	215	117	332
Diamond Hill Urn Cemetery	-	-	-	52 765	-	52 765
<b>Total:</b>	<b>9 940</b>	<b>6 384</b>	<b>16 324</b>	<b>180 206</b>	<b>37 704</b>	<b>217 910</b>

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

- (b) As at 31 December 2012, the total number of niches in public columbaria, the number of niches allocated, the number of niches available for re-allocation, the number of applicants on the waiting list for re-allocated niches, and the number of new niches available for allocation were given below:

Name of Columbaria	Total no. of niches	No. of niches allocated	Re-allocated niches		No. of new niches available for allocation (Note)
			No. of niches available for re-allocation	No. of applicants on the waiting list	
Cape Collinson	61 615	61 600	15	4 221	0
Diamond Hill	63 351	62 352	19	10 149	980
Wo Hop Shek	66 000	23 341	1	3 157	42 658
Fu Shan	9 625	9 622	3	972	0
Kwai Chung	9 276	9 276	0	3 950	0
Cheung Chau	2 335	2 315	0	0	20
Lamma	490	70	4	0	416
Peng Chau	490	316	2	0	172
<b>Total:</b>	<b>213 182</b>	<b>168 892</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>22 449</b>	<b>44 246</b>

Note: New niches are allocated through computer balloting, rather than by reference to a waiting list.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

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

**FHB(FE)232**

Question Serial No.

4255

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the work of “taking forward an assistance scheme for improving the fire safety and operating environment of fixed-pitch hawker areas”, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the estimated expenditure of the assistance scheme, with a breakdown by one-off relocation grant, one-off reconstruction grant and ex-gratia payment (EGP) for surrender of hawker licences;
- (b) whether the Department will consider raising the EGP amount of \$120,000 to be provided to eligible hawkers who opt for voluntary surrender of their hawker licences as mentioned earlier in a paper submitted to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s); and the estimated additional expenditure to be involved if the EGP is increased to \$200,000;
- (c) the current number of licensed hawkers operating in 43 fixed-pitch hawker areas, with a breakdown by hawker area, stall type (i.e. “cabinet-type” stalls and “Hawker Permitted Place” stalls) and their approved pitch area;
- (d) the estimated decrease in the number of licensed hawkers after the implementation of the scheme; and
- (e) the annual expenditure and number of licences involved each year since the implementation of the Voluntary Surrender Scheme in 2002 in the table below.

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

2009					
2010					
2011					
2012					

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The Finance Committee has approved a financial commitment of \$230 million for implementing a five-year assistance scheme for the licensed fixed-pitch hawkers in the 43 hawker areas. A breakdown of the projected expenditure for the purpose of determining the financial requirement of the scheme is at Annex 1.
- (b) In determining the level of one-off ex-gratia payment (EGP) payable to eligible hawkers who opt for voluntary surrender of their hawker licences, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has taken into account factors including the nature of on-street hawking activities, the views of stakeholders as well as the level of payment in previous EGP schemes for licensed cooked food hawkers and itinerant hawkers. The Department considers \$120,000 an appropriate level.
- (c) As at 11 March 2013, there are 4 335 licensed fixed-pitch hawkers in the 43 hawker areas. They include 2 578 hawkers operating in “cabinet-type” stalls while the remaining 1 757 involve “Hawker Permitted Place” (HPP) stalls. A breakdown is at Annex 2. In terms of approved pitch area, there are three categories of stalls, i.e. (1) those not exceeding 1.1 m<sup>2</sup>; (2) those exceeding 1.1 m<sup>2</sup> but not exceeding 1.7 m<sup>2</sup>; and (3) those exceeding 1.7 m<sup>2</sup> but not exceeding 2.2 m<sup>2</sup>.
- (d) The Department cannot provide a forecast on the number of licensed hawkers that may be reduced after the implementation of the assistance scheme.
- (e) The information sought is provided at Annex 3.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

**Projected Expenditure under  
the Assistance Scheme for Hawkers in Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas**

Items	Number of Eligible Hawkers	Projected Expenditure (\$ million)
Voluntary surrender of hawker licences	About 4 300	104 <sup>1</sup>
Relocation of stalls	About 550	20 <sup>2</sup>
In-situ reconstruction of stalls	About 3 750	104 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Total</b>		<b>228</b> <b>(around 230)</b>

Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> Projected expenditure is estimated on the basis of the assumption that 20% of eligible hawkers will opt for voluntary surrender of licences.
- <sup>2</sup> Projected expenditure is estimated on the basis of the assumption that 80% of eligible hawkers will opt for relocation of stalls. The actual expenditure will hinge on the number of hawkers who opt for the licence surrender arrangement.
- <sup>3</sup> Projected expenditure is estimated on the basis of the assumption that 80% of eligible hawkers will opt for in-situ reconstruction of stalls. The actual expenditure will hinge on the number of hawkers who opt for the licence surrender arrangement.

## Breakdown of Fixed-Pitch Hawker stalls in the 43 Hawker Areas

District	Location of Fixed Pitches	Cabinet-type	HPP-type	Total
Eastern	1. Chun Yeung Street	93	0	93
	2. Marble Street	124	0	124
	3. Kam Wa Street	20	91	111
	4. Tai Tak Street	26	2	28
	5. Mong Lung Street	4	17	21
	Subtotal	<b>267</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>377</b>
Central & Western	6. Pottinger Street	47	0	47
	7. Graham Street	35	20	55
	8. Gage Street	15	0	15
	9. Li Yuen Street East	63	0	63
	10. Li Yuen Street West	58	0	58
	11. Peel Street	36	7	43
	12. Wing Kut Street	32	2	34
	13. Upper Lascar Row	13	0	13
	14. Man Wa Lane	32	0	32
	Subtotal	<b>331</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>360</b>
Wan Chai	15. Gresson Street	46	5	51
	16. Cross Street	60	11	71
	17. Tai Yuen Street	5	71	76
	18. Jardine's Crescent	162	0	162
	Subtotal	<b>273</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>360</b>
Yau Tsim	19. Reclamation Street	189	44	233
	20. Pak Hoi Street	7	9	16
	21. Saigon Street	19	0	19
	22. Canton Road	32	4	36
	23. Bowring Street	100	0	100
	24. Temple Street	34	289	323
	Subtotal	<b>381</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>727</b>
	25. Tung Choi Street	0	698	698



Mongkok	26. Canton Road	317	0	317
	27. Fife Street	29	0	29
	28. Yin Chong Street	78	0	78
	29. Ki Lung Street	20	0	20
	30. Poplar Street	12	0	12
	31. Fa Yuen Street	220	0	220
	32. Nelson Street	0	63	63
	Subtotal	<b>676</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>1 437</b>
Sham Shui Po	33. Wing Lung Street	5	66	71
	34. Fat Tseung Street	27	20	47
	35. Cheung Fat Street	54	11	65
	36. Fuk Wa Street	166	0	166
	37. Fuk Wing Street	0	40	40
	38. Pei Ho Street	124	30	154
	39. Apliu Street	179	42	221
	40. Ki Lung Street	39	96	135
	41. Tai Nan Street	2	61	63
	42. Kweilin Street	0	58	58
	Subtotal	<b>596</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>1 020</b>
Kowloon City	43. Pau Chung Street	54	0	54
	Subtotal	<b>54</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>54</b>
	<b>Total No. of Stalls :</b>	<b>2 578</b>	<b>1 757</b>	<b>4 335</b>

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure of the Voluntary Surrender Scheme</b>	<b>Number of “Dai Pai Tong” licences voluntarily surrendered<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total number of “Dai Pai Tong” licences</b>	<b>Number of Itinerant Hawker Licences voluntarily surrendered<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Total number of Itinerant Hawker Licences</b>
2002	\$0	0	161	0	1 006
2003	\$3,960,000	5	153	138	858
2004	\$2,370,000	13	135	62	787
2005	\$1,620,000	8	119	47	726
2006	\$1,470,000	5	113	48	673
2007	\$1,890,000	6	107	71	600
2008	\$810,000	N/A	105	47	546
2009	\$480,000	N/A	104 <sup>3</sup>	30	535
2010	\$690,000	N/A	105	28	522
2011	\$510,000	N/A	103	17	505
2012	\$780,000	N/A	98	26	470

Notes :

- <sup>1</sup> Voluntary Surrender Scheme for Fixed Pitch (Cooked Food/Light Refreshment) Hawker Licences was administered for five years from 1 December 2002 to 30 November 2007.
- <sup>2</sup> Voluntary Surrender Scheme for Itinerant Hawker Licences was administered for ten years from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2012.
- <sup>3</sup> One licence was cancelled due to the death of a licensee in 2009 but the licence was succeeded by the spouse of the deceased licensee in the following year.

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

**FHB(FE)233**

Question Serial No.

4289

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the work of continuing to improve the management and upgrade the facilities of public markets, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the occupancy and vacancy rates of individual public markets/cooked food markets under the Department (listed by air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned markets) in the territory over the past five years (i.e. from 2008 to 2012);
- (b) the expenditure on the management of individual public markets/cooked food markets in each of the past five years (i.e. from 2008 to 2012); and
- (c) the vacancy situation in various markets in the table below:

District	Name of public market/cooked food market	Number of stalls vacant for more than 1 year	Number of stalls vacant for more than 2 years	Number of stalls vacant for more than 3 years	Number of stalls vacant for more than 4 years	Number of stalls vacant for more than 5 years	Total number of vacant stalls	Whether the market is air-conditioned

\* Please also advise on the existing tender procedures for the public markets/cooked food markets under the Department and whether measures for long-standing vacant stalls (e.g. expediting the tender procedures) have been formulated to raise the occupancy rate in order to minimise the waste of resources.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) The information sought is provided at Annex.
- (b) The total expenditure on management of public markets/cooked food markets in the past five years is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
2008-09	\$531.6 million
2009-10	\$571.0 million
2010-11	\$555.5 million
2011-12	\$575.0 million
2012-13	\$632.4 million (Revised Estimate)

As resources for public markets are allocated on a district basis, there is no cost breakdown by individual public markets/cooked food markets.

- (c) Information on the number of stalls vacant for more than 1 year to 5 years in individual public markets/cooked food markets is not readily available. Vacant stalls in public market/cooked food markets are let out by open auction on a monthly basis. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to let out long-standing vacant stalls at reduced upset auction prices and introduce more service trade stalls to enhance the occupancy rates of public markets/cooked food markets.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 8.4.2013

**Occupancy and vacancy rates in each public market in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012**

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Occupancy rate as at 31 December					Vacancy rate* as at 31 December				
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	Bowrington Road Market	only in CFC	89%	96%	97%	98%	99%	11%	4%	3%	2%	1%
2	Hung Hom Market	only in CFC	92%	95%	97%	98%	97%	8%	5%	3%	2%	3%
3	Java Road Market	only in CFC	69%	81%	84%	87%	97%	31%	19%	16%	13%	3%
4	Lockhart Road Market	only in CFC	85%	89%	87%	87%	90%	15%	11%	13%	13%	10%
5	Pei Ho Street Market	only in CFC	96%	98%	97%	100%	100%	4%	2%	3%	0%	0%
6	Sai Wan Ho Market	only in CFC	71%	78%	86%	88%	96%	29%	22%	14%	12%	4%
7	Sheung Wan Market	only in CFC	84%	87%	88%	91%	91%	16%	13%	12%	9%	9%
8	Smithfield Market	only in CFC	89%	91%	91%	99%	100%	11%	9%	9%	1%	0%
9	Tai Shing Street Market	only in CFC	85%	95%	95%	95%	97%	15%	5%	5%	5%	3%
10	Tokwawan Market	only in CFC	75%	85%	84%	88%	98%	25%	15%	16%	12%	2%
11	Wong Nai Chung Market	only in CFC	82%	89%	92%	92%	94%	18%	11%	8%	8%	6%
12	Aldrich Bay Market	yes	70%	77%	70%	75%	62%	30%	23%	30%	25%	38%
13	Apleichau Market	yes	95%	97%	98%	100%	100%	5%	3%	2%	0%	0%
14	Centre Street Market	yes	36%	36%	66%	72%	77%	64%	64%	34%	28%	23%
15	Chai Wan Market	yes	86%	91%	95%	95%	94%	14%	9%	5%	5%	6%
16	Lei Yue Mun Market	yes	78%	80%	80%	85%	85%	22%	20%	20%	15%	15%

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Occupancy rate as at 31 December					Vacancy rate* as at 31 December				
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
17	Luen Wo Hui Market	yes	78%	83%	85%	87%	92%	22%	17%	15%	13%	8%
18	Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	yes	86%	93%	100%	100%	100%	14%	7%	0%	0%	0%
19	Peng Chau Market	yes	39%	39%	39%	83%	89%	61%	61%	61%	17%	11%
20	Queen Street Cooked Food Market	yes	77%	85%	77%	69%	82%	23%	15%	23%	31%	18%
21	Sai Ying Pun Market	yes	81%	85%	85%	88%	91%	19%	15%	15%	12%	9%
22	San Hui Market	yes	81%	91%	93%	99%	98%	19%	9%	7%	1%	2%
23	Sha Tin Market	yes	89%	94%	97%	98%	99%	11%	6%	3%	2%	1%
24	Shek Wu Hui Market	yes	97%	98%	99%	99%	99%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%
25	Tai Kiu Market	yes	70%	89%	90%	98%	97%	30%	11%	10%	2%	3%
26	Tai Kok Tsui Market	yes	66%	84%	89%	97%	99%	34%	16%	11%	3%	1%
27	Tai Po Hui Market	yes	93%	97%	96%	98%	99%	7%	3%	4%	2%	1%
28	Tsing Yi Market	yes	84%	82%	86%	80%	89%	16%	18%	14%	20%	11%
29	Wanchai Market	yes	82%	100%	100%	100%	100%	18%	0%	0%	0%	0%
30	Yan Oi Market	yes	83%	85%	90%	99%	97%	17%	15%	10%	1%	3%
31	Yee On Street Market	yes	67%	72%	78%	80%	83%	33%	28%	22%	20%	17%
32	Yue Wan Market	yes	77%	85%	91%	90%	92%	23%	15%	9%	10%	8%
33	Aberdeen Market	no	86%	93%	94%	96%	97%	14%	7%	6%	4%	3%
34	Bridges Street Market	no	30%	30%	26%	29%	29%	70%	70%	74%	71%	71%
35	Causeway Bay Market	no	76%	84%	94%	94%	94%	24%	16%	6%	6%	6%
36	Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market	no	81%	75%	84%	94%	97%	19%	25%	16%	6%	3%
37	Cheung Chau Cooked Food Market	no	94%	94%	100%	100%	100%	6%	6%	0%	0%	0%
38	Cheung Chau Market	no	90%	88%	92%	100%	99%	10%	12%	8%	0%	1%

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Occupancy rate as at 31 December					Vacancy rate* as at 31 December				
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
39	Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market	no	43%	43%	43%	43%	43%	57%	57%	57%	57%	57%
40	Cheung Tat Road Cooked Food Market	no	92%	100%	100%	100%	100%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%
41	Choi Hung Road Market	no	88%	93%	87%	95%	91%	12%	7%	13%	5%	9%
42	Electric Road Market	no	71%	73%	75%	88%	86%	29%	27%	25%	12%	14%
43	Fa Yuen Street Market	no	76%	91%	92%	97%	100%	24%	9%	8%	3%	0%
44	Fo Tan (East) Cooked Food Market	no	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
45	Fo Tan (West) Cooked Food Market	no	80%	100%	100%	100%	100%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%
46	Haiphong Road Temporary Market	no	82%	61%	72%	66%	66%	18%	39%	28%	34%	34%
47	Heung Che Street Market	no	76%	79%	77%	94%	93%	24%	21%	23%	6%	7%
48	Hung Cheung Cooked Food Market	no	73%	73%	100%	91%	100%	27%	27%	0%	9%	0%
49	Hung Shui Kiu Market	no	51%	48%	43%	41%	40%	49%	52%	57%	59%	60%
50	Ka Ting Cooked Food Market	no	71%	76%	82%	100%	100%	29%	24%	18%	0%	0%
51	Kam Tin Market	no	76%	80%	80%	100%	100%	24%	20%	20%	0%	0%
52	Kik Yeung Road Cooked Food Market	no	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
53	Kin Wing Cooked Food Market	no	60%	65%	85%	75%	80%	40%	35%	15%	25%	20%
54	Kin Yip Street Cooked Food Market	no	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
55	Kowloon City Market	no	85%	91%	93%	95%	97%	15%	9%	7%	5%	3%
56	Kut Shing Street	no	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Occupancy rate as at 31 December					Vacancy rate* as at 31 December				
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	Cooked Food Market											
57	Kwai Shun Street Cooked Food Market	no	92%	92%	100%	100%	100%	8%	8%	0%	0%	0%
58	Kwu Tung Market Shopping Centre	no	98%	100%	98%	100%	100%	2%	0%	2%	0%	0%
59	Kwun Chung Market	no	68%	69%	73%	87%	97%	32%	31%	27%	13%	3%
60	Kwun Tong Ferry Concourse Cooked Food Market	no	79%	66%	97%	100%	100%	21%	34%	3%	0%	0%
61	Lai Wan Market	no	98%	100%	100%	100%	98%	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%
62	Lam Tei Market	no	100%	100%	100%	100%	86%	0%	0%	0%	0%	14%
63	Lau Fau Shan Market	no	80%	80%	80%	80%	88%	20%	20%	20%	20%	12%
64	Mui Wo Cooked Food Market	no	100%	100%	100%	95%	90%	0%	0%	0%	5%	10%
65	Mui Wo Market	no	88%	88%	91%	91%	94%	12%	12%	9%	9%	6%
66	Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market	no	93%	100%	100%	100%	96%	7%	0%	0%	0%	4%
67	Ngau Chi Wan Market	no	75%	80%	83%	89%	92%	25%	20%	17%	11%	8%
68	Ngau Tau Kok Market	no	82%	86%	85%	84%	84%	18%	14%	15%	16%	16%
69	North Kwai Chung Market	no	82%	84%	92%	95%	85%	18%	16%	8%	5%	15%
70	North Point Market	no	71%	83%	93%	95%	98%	29%	17%	7%	5%	2%
71	On Ching Road Flower Market	no	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
72	Plover Cove Road Market	no	73%	81%	84%	97%	98%	27%	19%	16%	3%	2%
73	Po On Road Market	no	67%	84%	77%	80%	86%	33%	16%	23%	20%	14%
74	Quarry Bay Market	no	70%	66%	68%	77%	76%	30%	34%	32%	23%	24%



Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Occupancy rate as at 31 December					Vacancy rate* as at 31 December				
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
75	Sai Kung Market	no	87%	90%	92%	96%	99%	13%	10%	8%	4%	1%
76	Sha Tau Kok Market	no	88%	86%	91%	94%	92%	12%	14%	9%	6%	8%
77	Sham Tseng Temporary Market	no	47%	67%	67%	79%	76%	53%	33%	33%	21%	24%
78	Shaukeiwan Market	no	63%	79%	72%	68%	66%	37%	21%	28%	32%	34%
79	Shek Tong Tsui Market	no	62%	63%	71%	75%	95%	38%	37%	29%	25%	5%
80	Sheung Fung Street Market	no	70%	84%	81%	92%	99%	30%	16%	19%	8%	1%
81	Shui Wo Street Market	no	74%	81%	84%	93%	93%	26%	19%	16%	7%	7%
82	Stanley Waterfront Mart	no	100%	100%	85%	90%	100%	0%	0%	15%	10%	0%
83	Sze Shan Street Cooked Food Market	no	82%	100%	100%	88%	100%	18%	0%	0%	12%	0%
84	Tai O Market	no	62%	85%	81%	81%	85%	38%	15%	19%	19%	15%
85	Tai Tong Road Cooked Food Market	no	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
86	Tai Wai Market	no	88%	91%	93%	94%	91%	12%	9%	7%	6%	9%
87	Tai Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	no	30%	25%	70%	90%	100%	70%	75%	30%	10%	0%
88	Tang Lung Chau Market	no	27%	60%	91%	97%	100%	73%	40%	9%	3%	0%
89	Tin Wan Market	no	88%	92%	91%	94%	97%	12%	8%	9%	6%	3%
90	Tsing Yeung Cooked Food Market	no	83%	83%	94%	89%	100%	17%	17%	6%	11%	0%
91	Tsuen King Circuit Market	no	46%	51%	46%	39%	34%	54%	49%	54%	61%	66%
92	Tsuen Wan Market	no	79%	82%	84%	86%	94%	21%	18%	16%	14%	6%
93	Tsun Yip Cooked Food Market	no	98%	95%	98%	98%	98%	2%	5%	2%	2%	2%

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Occupancy rate as at 31 December					Vacancy rate* as at 31 December				
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
94	Tui Min Hoi Market	no	100%	68%	74%	82%	94%	0%	32%	26%	18%	6%
95	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	no	52%	53%	51%	52%	51%	48%	47%	49%	48%	49%
96	Tung Yick Market	no	47%	46%	44%	44%	43%	53%	54%	56%	56%	57%
97	Tung Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	no	88%	100%	100%	100%	100%	13%	0%	0%	0%	0%
98	Wing Fong Street Market	no	67%	66%	71%	87%	96%	33%	34%	29%	13%	4%
99	Wo Yi Hop Road Cooked Food Market	no	83%	94%	94%	89%	100%	17%	6%	6%	11%	0%
100	Yau Ma Tei Market	no	69%	80%	81%	79%	90%	31%	20%	19%	21%	10%
101	Yeung Uk Road Market	no	90%	95%	97%	98%	99%	10%	5%	3%	2%	1%
102	Yue Kwong Road Market	no	90%	93%	95%	98%	100%	10%	7%	5%	2%	0%

Remark:

CFC – Cooked Food Centre in Market

\* Including the number of vacant stalls that are frozen for reasons such as market improvement works, etc.

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

**FHB(FE)234**

Question Serial No.

5385

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:

The indicator for "food complaints handled" increased from 4 265 in 2011 to 5 261 in 2012. Please provide information on the following:

- (a) the reason(s) for the increase in number; and
- (b) the number of food complaints handled and the expenditure involved, with a breakdown by year and type of complaint, for the past five years (i.e. in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012).

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The increase in the number of food complaints in 2012 was attributed to growing public awareness of food safety and food labelling issues as well as the occurrence of a number of food incidents in 2012. Examples include the case of low iodine content in infant formulae which came to light in August; the case of aquatic products suspected to be tainted with plastic pellet in August; and the case of suspected substandard cooking oil in December.
- (b) The number of food complaints handled by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department from 2008 to 2012 with breakdown by nature is provided as follows -

<b>Nature of complaints</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Unwholesome food	2 545	2 115	2 059	2 152	2 790
Foreign substances in food	1 476	1 127	1 018	1 017	1 342
Chemicals in food	645	558	393	647	474
Labelling issues	285	227	176	208	393
Fake/counterfeit food	84	160	53	167	124
Others	51	40	38	74	138
<b>Total number of cases</b>	<b>5 086</b>	<b>4 227</b>	<b>3 737</b>	<b>4 265</b>	<b>5 261</b>

The actual expenditure on food surveillance work and the handling of food complaints for 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 was \$45.2 million, \$48.7 million, \$51.4 million and \$51.6 million respectively. The estimated expenditure for 2012-13 is \$53.4 million. Separate breakdown on expenditure involved in handling food complaints is not readily available.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 8.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)235**

Question Serial No.

5386

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:

The indicator for “poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks” dropped from 52 520 in 2011 to 46 983 in 2012 while the indicator for “number of trappings” increased from 50 781 in 2011 to 55 814 in 2012. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the reason(s) for the different trend of change in numbers in respect of the indicator for the above two anti-rodent measures, and the reason(s) for the change in numbers;
- (b) the estimated expenditure for each of the above two anti-rodent measures in 2013-14; and
- (c) the rodent infestation rate for each of the districts / areas over the past five years (i.e. in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012) in the table below.

District / Area	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
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					
Total					

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) adopts an integrated approach in rodent control. The measures include improving the environmental conditions, applying poisonous bait and setting traps. They are employed on a need basis according to the actual situation prevailing in different areas, thus resulting in a variation in the number of poison treatments and rodent trappings each year.
- (b) The estimated expenditure on rodent control work in 2013-14 is \$152.3 million. There is no separate breakdown on the proportion of poison treatment and rodent trapping services undertaken by the Department.
- (c) Information on the rodent infestation rate in different districts is given below -

District	Year				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Central & Western	5.7%	4.7%	0.5%	0.5%	1.1%
Eastern	4.4%	8.1%	2.3%	0.6%	3.2%
Southern	4.0%	6.5%	0.5%	1.6%	2.2%
Wan Chai	8.1%	1.6%	4.5%	1.8%	2.7%
Islands	7.9%	9.3%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Kowloon City	4.2%	5.0%	0.9%	1.4%	5.6%
Kwun Tong	5.3%	12.4%	3.1%	3.1%	4.1%
Wong Tai Sin	6.9%	7.5%	2.4%	1.5%	3.8%
Sham Shui Po	6.5%	7.8%	2.0%	3.2%	3.8%
Mong Kok	6.8%	2.0%	1.3%	2.9%	2.1%
Yau Tsim	5.7%	5.4%	2.3%	1.8%	1.8%
Sai Kung	8.4%	5.4%	0.9%	1.8%	0.0%
Sha Tin	5.5%	5.5%	1.3%	1.7%	0.9%
Tai Po	11.0%	1.8%	0.0%	0.9%	1.3%
North	6.5%	7.2%	0.9%	0.6%	1.2%
Kwai Tsing	4.9%	3.1%	1.5%	2.6%	1.5%
Tsuen Wan	13.3%	5.1%	2.1%	2.6%	1.0%
Tuen Mun	1.7%	8.3%	1.3%	0.8%	1.7%
Yuen Long	5.3%	6.6%	1.8%	3.0%	7.9%
Total	6.3%	6.1%	1.5%	1.7%	2.4%

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)236**

Question Serial No.

5387

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

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the target of “responding to complaints against illegal hawking in built-up areas within 30 minutes”, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of complaints against illegal hawking in built-up areas received by the Department in each of the past five years (i.e. in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012), with a breakdown by type of complaints; and
- (b) the expenditure involved in handling these complaints in each of the past five years (i.e. in 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13).

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The total number of complaints against illegal hawking received by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in each of the past five years is given below-

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of Complaints</b>
2008	9 647
2009	11 686
2010	12 470
2011	13 440
2012	13 416

There was no breakdown on the proportion of complaints that involved illegal hawking in built-up areas or breakdown by type of complaints.



- (b) The expenditure incurred in handling these complaints in the past five years was subsumed under the overall cost of our work to manage and control on-street hawking and related activities. There was no separate breakdown for the expenditure incurred in handling these complaints.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)237**

Question Serial No.

5388

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

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the work of continuing to improve the management and upgrade the facilities of public markets, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the details of the work involved, and the measure to be taken to improve the management and upgrade the facilities of public markets so as to enhance the quality of service;
- (b) the occupancy and vacancy rates of individual public markets (listed by air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned markets) in the territory over the past five years (i.e. in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012); and
- (c) the expenditure required for the retrofitting of air-conditioning systems in each of the non-air-conditioned public markets.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) In 2013-14, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will carry out various measures to improve the management and maintenance of public markets. In addition to the regular maintenance and daily management of markets, the Department will carry out improvement works in six markets, conduct promotional activities to attract patronage, let out vacant stalls at reduced upset auction price and introduce more service stalls (as appropriate) to enhance the occupancy rates of public markets.
- (b) The information sought is set out at Annex.
- (c) The Department currently has no plan to retrofit air-conditioning systems in the non-air-conditioned public markets.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013

**Occupancy and vacancy rates in each public markets in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012**

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Occupancy rate as at 31 December					Vacancy rate* as at 31 December				
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	Bowrington Road Market	only in CFC	89%	96%	97%	98%	99%	11%	4%	3%	2%	1%
2	Hung Hom Market	only in CFC	92%	95%	97%	98%	97%	8%	5%	3%	2%	3%
3	Java Road Market	only in CFC	69%	81%	84%	87%	97%	31%	19%	16%	13%	3%
4	Lockhart Road Market	only in CFC	85%	89%	87%	87%	90%	15%	11%	13%	13%	10%
5	Pei Ho Street Market	only in CFC	96%	98%	97%	100%	100%	4%	2%	3%	0%	0%
6	Sai Wan Ho Market	only in CFC	71%	78%	86%	88%	96%	29%	22%	14%	12%	4%
7	Sheung Wan Market	only in CFC	84%	87%	88%	91%	91%	16%	13%	12%	9%	9%
8	Smithfield Market	only in CFC	89%	91%	91%	99%	100%	11%	9%	9%	1%	0%
9	Tai Shing Street Market	only in CFC	85%	95%	95%	95%	97%	15%	5%	5%	5%	3%
10	Tokwawan Market	only in CFC	75%	85%	84%	88%	98%	25%	15%	16%	12%	2%
11	Wong Nai Chung Market	only in CFC	82%	89%	92%	92%	94%	18%	11%	8%	8%	6%
12	Aldrich Bay Market	yes	70%	77%	70%	75%	62%	30%	23%	30%	25%	38%
13	Apleichau Market	yes	95%	97%	98%	100%	100%	5%	3%	2%	0%	0%
14	Centre Street Market	yes	36%	36%	66%	72%	77%	64%	64%	34%	28%	23%
15	Chai Wan Market	yes	86%	91%	95%	95%	94%	14%	9%	5%	5%	6%
16	Lei Yue Mun Market	yes	78%	80%	80%	85%	85%	22%	20%	20%	15%	15%

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Occupancy rate as at 31 December					Vacancy rate* as at 31 December				
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
17	Luen Wo Hui Market	yes	78%	83%	85%	87%	92%	22%	17%	15%	13%	8%
18	Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	yes	86%	93%	100%	100%	100%	14%	7%	0%	0%	0%
19	Peng Chau Market	yes	39%	39%	39%	83%	89%	61%	61%	61%	17%	11%
20	Queen Street Cooked Food Market	yes	77%	85%	77%	69%	82%	23%	15%	23%	31%	18%
21	Sai Ying Pun Market	yes	81%	85%	85%	88%	91%	19%	15%	15%	12%	9%
22	San Hui Market	yes	81%	91%	93%	99%	98%	19%	9%	7%	1%	2%
23	Sha Tin Market	yes	89%	94%	97%	98%	99%	11%	6%	3%	2%	1%
24	Shek Wu Hui Market	yes	97%	98%	99%	99%	99%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%
25	Tai Kiu Market	yes	70%	89%	90%	98%	97%	30%	11%	10%	2%	3%
26	Tai Kok Tsui Market	yes	66%	84%	89%	97%	99%	34%	16%	11%	3%	1%
27	Tai Po Hui Market	yes	93%	97%	96%	98%	99%	7%	3%	4%	2%	1%
28	Tsing Yi Market	yes	84%	82%	86%	80%	89%	16%	18%	14%	20%	11%
29	Wanchai Market	yes	82%	100%	100%	100%	100%	18%	0%	0%	0%	0%
30	Yan Oi Market	yes	83%	85%	90%	99%	97%	17%	15%	10%	1%	3%
31	Yee On Street Market	yes	67%	72%	78%	80%	83%	33%	28%	22%	20%	17%
32	Yue Wan Market	yes	77%	85%	91%	90%	92%	23%	15%	9%	10%	8%
33	Aberdeen Market	no	86%	93%	94%	96%	97%	14%	7%	6%	4%	3%
34	Bridges Street Market	no	30%	30%	26%	29%	29%	70%	70%	74%	71%	71%
35	Causeway Bay Market	no	76%	84%	94%	94%	94%	24%	16%	6%	6%	6%
36	Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market	no	81%	75%	84%	94%	97%	19%	25%	16%	6%	3%
37	Cheung Chau Cooked Food Market	no	94%	94%	100%	100%	100%	6%	6%	0%	0%	0%
38	Cheung Chau Market	no	90%	88%	92%	100%	99%	10%	12%	8%	0%	1%
39	Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market	no	43%	43%	43%	43%	43%	57%	57%	57%	57%	57%

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Occupancy rate as at 31 December					Vacancy rate* as at 31 December				
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
40	Cheung Tat Road Cooked Food Market	no	92%	100%	100%	100%	100%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%
41	Choi Hung Road Market	no	88%	93%	87%	95%	91%	12%	7%	13%	5%	9%
42	Electric Road Market	no	71%	73%	75%	88%	86%	29%	27%	25%	12%	14%
43	Fa Yuen Street Market	no	76%	91%	92%	97%	100%	24%	9%	8%	3%	0%
44	Fo Tan (East) Cooked Food Market	no	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
45	Fo Tan (West) Cooked Food Market	no	80%	100%	100%	100%	100%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%
46	Haiphong Road Temporary Market	no	82%	61%	72%	66%	66%	18%	39%	28%	34%	34%
47	Heung Che Street Market	no	76%	79%	77%	94%	93%	24%	21%	23%	6%	7%
48	Hung Cheung Cooked Food Market	no	73%	73%	100%	91%	100%	27%	27%	0%	9%	0%
49	Hung Shui Kiu Market	no	51%	48%	43%	41%	40%	49%	52%	57%	59%	60%
50	Ka Ting Cooked Food Market	no	71%	76%	82%	100%	100%	29%	24%	18%	0%	0%
51	Kam Tin Market	no	76%	80%	80%	100%	100%	24%	20%	20%	0%	0%
52	Kik Yeung Road Cooked Food Market	no	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
53	Kin Wing Cooked Food Market	no	60%	65%	85%	75%	80%	40%	35%	15%	25%	20%
54	Kin Yip Street Cooked Food Market	no	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
55	Kowloon City Market	no	85%	91%	93%	95%	97%	15%	9%	7%	5%	3%
56	Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market	no	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
57	Kwai Shun Street Cooked Food Market	no	92%	92%	100%	100%	100%	8%	8%	0%	0%	0%
58	Kwu Tung Market	no	98%	100%	98%	100%	100%	2%	0%	2%	0%	0%

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Occupancy rate as at 31 December					Vacancy rate* as at 31 December				
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	Shopping Centre											
59	Kwun Chung Market	no	68%	69%	73%	87%	97%	32%	31%	27%	13%	3%
60	Kwun Tong Ferry Concourse Cooked Food Market	no	79%	66%	97%	100%	100%	21%	34%	3%	0%	0%
61	Lai Wan Market	no	98%	100%	100%	100%	98%	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%
62	Lam Tei Market	no	100%	100%	100%	100%	86%	0%	0%	0%	0%	14%
63	Lau Fau Shan Market	no	80%	80%	80%	80%	88%	20%	20%	20%	20%	12%
64	Mui Wo Cooked Food Market	no	100%	100%	100%	95%	90%	0%	0%	0%	5%	10%
65	Mui Wo Market	no	88%	88%	91%	91%	94%	12%	12%	9%	9%	6%
66	Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market	no	93%	100%	100%	100%	96%	7%	0%	0%	0%	4%
67	Ngau Chi Wan Market	no	75%	80%	83%	89%	92%	25%	20%	17%	11%	8%
68	Ngau Tau Kok Market	no	82%	86%	85%	84%	84%	18%	14%	15%	16%	16%
69	North Kwai Chung Market	no	82%	84%	92%	95%	85%	18%	16%	8%	5%	15%
70	North Point Market	no	71%	83%	93%	95%	98%	29%	17%	7%	5%	2%
71	On Ching Road Flower Market	no	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
72	Plover Cove Road Market	no	73%	81%	84%	97%	98%	27%	19%	16%	3%	2%
73	Po On Road Market	no	67%	84%	77%	80%	86%	33%	16%	23%	20%	14%
74	Quarry Bay Market	no	70%	66%	68%	77%	76%	30%	34%	32%	23%	24%
75	Sai Kung Market	no	87%	90%	92%	96%	99%	13%	10%	8%	4%	1%
76	Sha Tau Kok Market	no	88%	86%	91%	94%	92%	12%	14%	9%	6%	8%
77	Sham Tseng Temporary Market	no	47%	67%	67%	79%	76%	53%	33%	33%	21%	24%
78	Shaukeiwan Market	no	63%	79%	72%	68%	66%	37%	21%	28%	32%	34%

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Occupancy rate as at 31 December					Vacancy rate* as at 31 December				
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
79	Shek Tong Tsui Market	no	62%	63%	71%	75%	95%	38%	37%	29%	25%	5%
80	Sheung Fung Street Market	no	70%	84%	81%	92%	99%	30%	16%	19%	8%	1%
81	Shui Wo Street Market	no	74%	81%	84%	93%	93%	26%	19%	16%	7%	7%
82	Stanley Waterfront Mart	no	100%	100%	85%	90%	100%	0%	0%	15%	10%	0%
83	Sze Shan Street Cooked Food Market	no	82%	100%	100%	88%	100%	18%	0%	0%	12%	0%
84	Tai O Market	no	62%	85%	81%	81%	85%	38%	15%	19%	19%	15%
85	Tai Tong Road Cooked Food Market	no	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
86	Tai Wai Market	no	88%	91%	93%	94%	91%	12%	9%	7%	6%	9%
87	Tai Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	no	30%	25%	70%	90%	100%	70%	75%	30%	10%	0%
88	Tang Lung Chau Market	no	27%	60%	91%	97%	100%	73%	40%	9%	3%	0%
89	Tin Wan Market	no	88%	92%	91%	94%	97%	12%	8%	9%	6%	3%
90	Tsing Yeung Cooked Food Market	no	83%	83%	94%	89%	100%	17%	17%	6%	11%	0%
91	Tsuen King Circuit Market	no	46%	51%	46%	39%	34%	54%	49%	54%	61%	66%
92	Tsuen Wan Market	no	79%	82%	84%	86%	94%	21%	18%	16%	14%	6%
93	Tsun Yip Cooked Food Market	no	98%	95%	98%	98%	98%	2%	5%	2%	2%	2%
94	Tui Min Hoi Market	no	100%	68%	74%	82%	94%	0%	32%	26%	18%	6%
95	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	no	52%	53%	51%	52%	51%	48%	47%	49%	48%	49%
96	Tung Yick Market	no	47%	46%	44%	44%	43%	53%	54%	56%	56%	57%
97	Tung Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	no	88%	100%	100%	100%	100%	13%	0%	0%	0%	0%
98	Wing Fong Street	no	67%	66%	71%	87%	96%	33%	34%	29%	13%	4%



Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning (A/C) system	Occupancy rate as at 31 December					Vacancy rate* as at 31 December				
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	Market											
99	Wo Yi Hop Road Cooked Food Market	no	83%	94%	94%	89%	100%	17%	6%	6%	11%	0%
100	Yau Ma Tei Market	no	69%	80%	81%	79%	90%	31%	20%	19%	21%	10%
101	Yeung Uk Road Market	no	90%	95%	97%	98%	99%	10%	5%	3%	2%	1%
102	Yue Kwong Road Market	no	90%	93%	95%	98%	100%	10%	7%	5%	2%	0%

Remark:

CFC – Cooked Food Centre in Market

\* Including the number of vacant stalls that are frozen for reasons such as market improvement works, etc.

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

**FHB(FE)238**

Question Serial No.

5475

Head: 31 Customs and Excise Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the indicators for measuring performance under the above programme, please advise on the following:

In respect of the amendment of the Import and Export (General) Regulations (Chapter 60A) to impose export control on baby formula, has the Administration earmarked funds for additional manpower and equipment to strengthen spot checks?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

To exercise export control on powdered formula for infants imposed by the Government of the Special Administrative Region since 1 March 2013, the Customs and Excise Department has deployed 56 officers and existing baggage screening equipment, together with the authorized non-civil service contract staff, to provide support. We will apply for additional resources in accordance with the existing mechanism and the needs.

Name in block letters: Clement CHEUNG

Post Title: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date: 8.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)239**

Question Serial No.

4735

Head: 31 Customs and Excise Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What are the details of the resources, including expenditures, equipment and staffing provision, to be deployed by the Customs and Excise Department to enforce the export control on baby formula in 2013-14? Under what circumstances will the Administration adjust the allocation of resources in question?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

To exercise export control on powdered formula for infants imposed by the Government of the Special Administrative Region since 1 March 2013, the Customs and Excise Department has deployed 56 officers and existing baggage screening equipment, together with the authorized non-civil service contract staff, to provide support. We will apply for additional resources in accordance with the existing mechanism and the needs.

Name in block letters: Clement CHEUNG

Post Title: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date: 8.4.2013

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

**FHB(FE)240**

Question Serial No.

5478

Head: 31 Customs and Excise Department      Subhead (No. & title): -

Programme: (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Following the amendment of the relevant regulation to impose export control on baby formula, will there be any adjustments in the estimated strength of manpower, amount of resources and enforcement work allocated for combating the smuggling of baby formula in 2013-14?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply:

To exercise export control on powdered formula for infants imposed by the Government of the Special Administrative Region since 1 March 2013, the Customs and Excise Department has deployed 56 officers together with the authorized non-civil service contract staff to provide support, and will apply for additional resources in accordance with the existing mechanism and the needs.

Name in block letters: Clement CHEUNG

Post Title: Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Date: 8.4.2013