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**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining
the Estimates of Expenditure 2014-15**

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

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FHB(FE)248	4350	LEUNG Kenneth	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
FHB(FE)249	4402	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	N/A
FHB(FE)250	4403	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)251	4404	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)252	4416	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	N/A
FHB(FE)253	5849	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)254	5850	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	N/A
FHB(FE)255	5851	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	N/A
FHB(FE)256	5852	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	N/A
FHB(FE)257	5999	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)258	6000	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)259	6001	LEUNG Kwok-hung	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)260	4698	WONG Kwok-hing	49	N/A
FHB(FE)261	4699	WONG Kwok-hing	49	N/A
FHB(FE)262	4700	WONG Kwok-hing	49	N/A
FHB(FE)263	4778	WONG Kwok-hing	49	(1) Food Safety and Public Health
FHB(FE)264	4779	WONG Kwok-hing	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)265	5244	WONG Yuk-man	49	N/A
FHB(FE)266	5001	WU Chi-wai	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)267	5002	WU Chi-wai	49	(3) Market Management and Hawker Control
FHB(FE)268	5034	WU Chi-wai	49	(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
FHB(FE)269	5089	WU Chi-wai	49	N/A
FHB(FE)270	5090	WU Chi-wai	49	N/A
FHB(FE)271	4777	WONG Kwok-hing	703	N/A

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)001****(Question Serial No. 1271)**Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch)Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food SafetyControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion Lai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthThis question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 424 (if applicable)Question (Member Question No. 47):

The City University's application to operate a publicly-funded veterinary programme was rejected by the University Grants Committee early this year. Will the Government take the initiative to examine and assess the public demand for veterinarians in the future? Please also advise on the figures in relation to public facilities and expenditure allocated by the Government for pet support in the past three years.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuenReply:

The Food and Health Bureau and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) review from time to time the supply of and demand for veterinary services in Hong Kong. At present, there is no indication that there is shortage in the supply of veterinarians in Hong Kong. It is our projection that the demand for veterinary services is unlikely to see a quantum leap in the foreseeable future. The Government will keep in view further development of the profession.

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 information required in relation to the operation of the AMCs in the past three years is as follows –

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)			
	AMC/NTN	AMC/NTS	AMC/K	AMC/HK
2011-12	17.8	12.1	15.3	12.1
2012-13	20.7	14.1	17.7	14.1
2013-14 (revised estimate)	20.9	14.2	18.0	14.2

Specifically, AMCs provide rabies vaccine inoculation, re-homing and de-sexing services for dogs, cats and rabbits. 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
2011-12	2.4	0.2	1.0
2012-13	2.4	0.3	1.0
2013-14 (revised estimate)	2.7	0.3	1.0

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO

FHB(FE)002

(Question Serial No. 0009)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 425 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 2):

As regards the follow-up on the public consultation on the review of liquor licensing in 2014-15, 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 finalizing the relevant proposals in consultation with the Liquor Licensing Board (“LLB”). The current position is set out below.

To enhance transparency as well as to help the trade and the public better understand the factors that are taken into account by the LLB when assessing liquor licence applications, the LLB has prepared a set of guidelines that capture the criteria used in vetting liquor licence applications. The “Guidelines on Assessing Liquor Licence Applications” (“Guidelines”) were uploaded onto the LLB website on 1 December 2013 for the easy reference of the trade and the public.

Since “upstairs bars” are relatively more prone to attract public concern, the LLB has set out, in the Guidelines, the specific factors that it would take into account when vetting liquor licence applications from upstairs bars. The LLB has also taken the opportunity to foreshadow that the Board is minded to impose two additional licensing conditions in the liquor licence for upstairs bars, namely, (a) requiring the licensee to

attend the “Seminar on Liquor Licensing” which covers various aspects pertaining to the management of upstairs bars including fire safety, and law and order; and (b) imposing a more stringent capacity limit for the premises. For liquor-licensed premises with serious noise problem, the LLB also proposes to impose more stringent noise abatement requirement on the liquor licence. The new licensing conditions will take effect by phases.

Since November 2012, liquor licence applications have been put on the LLB website in parallel with newspaper advertisement made by the applicants as per the prevailing requirement. We plan to allow, at a later stage, applicants to choose between putting the advertisement on newspapers or the internet. Our aim is ultimately to have all the advertisements put on the internet only such that no expenses would be incurred for the applicants. Separately, we are working out with the 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 (compared with up to 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 Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on the proposed legislative amendments later this year.

Separately, we are finalising the operational details of the reserve licensee proposal, with a view to pursuing it on the basis of existing provisions in the DCLR.

The resources required for placing licence applications on the internet has been absorbed internally. Separate breakdown is not available. We will review the resource implications as and when the details of the other proposals have been finalised.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)003

(Question Serial No. 0015)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 424 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 22):

As regards the devising of a policy and measures to sustain and upgrade the development of local agriculture in 2014-15, please provide the details, including the specific work, timetable and the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The Government's existing policy is to facilitate agricultural development through the provision of basic infrastructure, technical support and low interest loans to farmers and those who aspire to become farmers. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has been pursuing various programmes and activities to sustain and upgrade the development 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.

In 2014-15, a provision of \$31.8 million and 75 staff have been earmarked for continuing with the programme in sustaining and upgrading the development of the agriculture industry as stated above.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)004

(Question Serial No. 2291)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion Lai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 424 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 29):

With regard to the proposed separate holding of live chickens supplied by the Mainland to Hong Kong until the completion of quarantine procedures, please advise on the following:

1. the expenditure to be involved;
2. the way in which the above expenditure is reflected in this year's Estimates; and
3. the total expenditure involved in the testing of live chickens supplied by the Mainland to Hong Kong in the prevention of disease.

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

1. In the light of the avian influenza (AI) incident dated 27 January 2014, many people in Hong Kong, Legislative Council Members as well as stakeholders in the poultry trade have suggested to the Government that we should consider segregating the imported and local live poultry and holding the imported poultry at a suitable location until the AI testing results are available before releasing them to the wholesale market. That way, it would help minimize the impact that the contingency measures (taken to prevent the spread of the AI virus) may have on the continued supply of live poultry in the event of an AI incident.

The Government has been looking into the future arrangement for imported live poultry, including the feasibility of establishing temporary holding facilities for imported live poultry or other practicable alternative. Having evaluated various options, the Government is now focusing on a contingency measure which would enable the continued supply of live chickens. Upon resumption of import of live poultry from the Mainland, we would follow the existing practice of allowing the delivery of imported live poultry to the wholesale poultry market while testing results are pending. In the event of an AI incident which leads to the closure of the wholesale poultry market, during the closure period, local poultry could be delivered to the retail outlets via the proposed check-point at the Government farm in Ta Kwu Ling. This will allow the continued supply of local live poultry to the market. We are now following up with the relevant works departments. The cost estimate of the project is not available yet.

2. The cost for implementing the project mentioned above has not been provided for under Head 139 in the 2014-15 Estimates.

3. The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is responsible for verifying and collecting animal health certificates accompanied with the live poultry imported from the Mainland, inspecting the health status of these birds and collecting from them samples for laboratory testing of avian influenza. Samples taken by CFS at the Man Kam To Animal Inspection Station are sent to the Veterinary Laboratory under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for testing.

The estimated expenditure involved for CFS to carry out the abovementioned AI surveillance measures in 2013-14 was about \$7.2 million and the estimated expenditure involved for AFCD to carry out the abovementioned AI testing on live poultry imported from the Mainland in 2013-14 was about \$5.1 million. Financial provisions of about \$8 million and \$6.7 million have been earmarked under FEHD and AFCD respectively for the relevant work in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)005

(Question Serial No. 0679)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion Lai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 424 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 10):

With regard to the prevention and control of avian influenza, please provide information on the following:

- (a) What are the details of the work, estimated provision and manpower involved in the preventive and control measures put in place by the Bureau against avian influenza in 2014-15?
- (b) What are the details of, estimated provision and manpower for the Bureau's work in taking forward at the wholesale level the segregation of live chickens imported from the Mainland from those supplied locally?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) In 2014-15, 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 2014-15 for the monitoring, prevention and control of AI as well as related publicity work by AFCD is \$51 million. A total of 46 staff 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 Animal Inspection

Station; and (b) inspecting registered farms that export poultry to Hong Kong (including those in the Mainland and other places). In 2014-15, the estimated expenditure for import inspection is \$8 million and that for inspections of poultry farms is \$5.7 million. A total of 49 staff in FEHD are involved in this area of work.

- (b) In the light of the AI incident dated 27 January 2014, many people in Hong Kong, Legislative Council Members as well as stakeholders in the poultry trade have suggested to the Government that we should consider segregating the imported and local live poultry and holding the imported poultry at a suitable location until the AI testing results are available before releasing them to the wholesale market. That way, it would help minimize the impact that the contingency measures (taken to prevent the spread of the AI virus) may have on the continued supply of live poultry in the event of an AI incident.

The Government has been looking into the future arrangement for imported live poultry, including the feasibility of establishing temporary holding facilities for imported live poultry or other practicable alternatives. Having evaluated various options, the Government is now focusing on a contingency measure which would enable the continued supply of live chickens. Upon resumption of import of live poultry from the Mainland, we would follow the existing practice of allowing the delivery of imported live poultry to the wholesale poultry market while testing results are pending. In the event of an AI incident which leads to the closure of the wholesale poultry market, during the closure period, local poultry would be delivered to the retail outlets via proposed check-point at the Government farm in Ta Kwu Ling. This will allow the continued supply of local live poultry to the market. We are now following up with the relevant works departments. The cost estimate of the project is not available yet.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)006****(Question Serial No. 2577)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office,(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety,(3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health(Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 423 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 31):

Regarding the records management work of the Bureau and its departments over the past 3 years:

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 meters 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 meters 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 meters 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 details of records management work in the Food and Health Bureau and its departments under the Food portfolio, i.e. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and Government Laboratory are provided at Annex 1, Annex 2, Annex 3 and Annex 4 respectively.

Records management work
in the Food and Health Bureau (FHB)

1. Information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform records management work in FHB is provided below -

Two Confidential Assistants, two Assistant Clerical Officers and one Clerical Assistant are designated to carry out records management duties on a full time basis in 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 Bureau. 13 Records Managers not below the rank of Executive Officer II or equivalent are also appointed 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
Administrative records	1973 - 1990	8 records (0.8 lm)	3 years	Yes
Administrative records	1972 - 2010	20 records (2 lm)	3 - 5 years	No

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 FHB (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	1 120 records (72 lm)	Not Applicable	2 - 7 years	No

Records management work
in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (ACFD)

1. Information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform records management work in ACFD is provided below -

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 of 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 (GRS) and the departmental records management policy, in addition to performing other duties.

2. Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to 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
Programme records	1960 - 2011	1 413 records (55.1 lm)	2 - 7 years	No
Programme records	1955 - 1997	192 records (3.81 lm)	15 years	Yes
Administrative records	1951 - 2003	235 records (16.18 lm)	2 - 5 years	No

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
Programme records	1953 - 2008	245 records (7.71 lm)	2011 - 2013	12 years - permanent retention	No
Programme records	1973 - 2006	1 959 records (33 lm)	2011 - 2012	45 years - permanent retention	Yes

4. Information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS 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
Programme records	1951 - 2007	5 754 records (133.76 lm)	Not Applicable	3 - 15 years	No
Programme records	1977 - 2004	540 records (0.18 lm)	Not Applicable	5 - 15 years	Yes

Records management work
in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD)

1. Information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform records management work in FEHD is provided below -

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 FEHD on a 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 other staff who work on this on a part-time basis. At the section/district level, such work is taken up by staff on a part-time basis. On the management side, we have appointed officers at different levels to oversee records management policies and activities on a 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. 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
Programme records	1977 - 2014	1 872 records (94.86 lm)	3 - 10 years	Yes
Administrative records	1974 - 2014	6 061 records (313.24 lm)	2 - 7 years	Yes

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
Programme records	1946 - 2002	92 records (5.24 lm)	2012 - 2014	Not ^(Note) Applicable	No
Administrative records	1946 - 2004	101 records (4.55 lm)	2011, 2013, 2014	3 - 5 years	Yes

Note: These are old files without a disposal schedule. They have been appraised to have archival values and transferred to GRS for retention.

4. Information on records which have been approved for destruction by GRS 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
Programme records	1946 - 2011	549 127 records (3 699.50 lm)	Not Applicable	6 months - 7 years	Yes
Administrative records	1946 - 2012	17 132 records (659.24 lm)	Not Applicable	1 - 7 years	Yes

Records management work
in the Government Laboratory (GL)

1. Information on the number and rank of officers designated to perform records management work in GL is provided below -

In GL, 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. 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 (GRS) and the departmental records management policy, in addition to performing other duties.

2. Information on programme and administrative records which have been closed pending transfer to 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
Administrative records	1995-2004	170 records (10 lm)	2 - 7 years	No

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 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
Programme records	2006-2010	14 801 records (38 lm)	Not Applicable	1 - 2 years	No

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)007

(Question Serial No. 2126)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health(Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 423 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 13):

1. Please give a breakdown of the actual expenditure on salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Secretary in 2013-14, as well as the estimate for salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Secretary in 2014-15.
2. Please give a breakdown of the actual expenditure on salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Under Secretary in 2013-14, as well as the estimate for salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Under Secretary in 2014-15.
3. Please give a breakdown of the actual expenditure on salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Political Assistant in 2013-14, as well as the estimate for salaries, regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowance payable to the Political Assistant in 2014-15.

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply:

The expenditure on salaries for the Secretary for Food and Health, Under Secretary for Food and Health and Political Assistant to Secretary for Food and Health in 2013-14 is \$3.4 million, \$2.2 million and \$1.2 million respectively. For budgetary purposes, the same salary provisions have been reserved in 2014-15. We have not incurred any expenditure on regularly-paid allowances, job-related allowances and non-accountable entertainment allowances for the above officials in 2013-14 and no provisions for such have been reserved in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3255)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 423 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 594):

1) What is the actual staff establishment of the Director of Bureau's Office in the 2012-13 financial year? What are the actual salary, allowance, job-related allowance and Mandatory Provident Fund contribution/Civil Service Provident Fund contribution for each post/rank in the Office respectively?

2) What is the revised staff establishment of the Director of Bureau's Office in the 2013-14 financial year? What are the revised salary, allowance, job-related allowance and Mandatory Provident Fund contribution/Civil Service Provident Fund contribution for each post/rank in the Office respectively?

3) What is the estimated staff establishment of the Director of Bureau's Office in the 2014-15 financial year? What are the estimated salary, allowance, job-related allowance and Mandatory Provident Fund contribution/Civil Service Provident Fund contribution for each post/rank in the Office respectively?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

Other than the Secretary for Food and Health (SFH), Under Secretary for Food and Health (USFH) and Political Assistant to Secretary for Food and Health (PA/SFH), the staff establishment of the Director of Bureau's Office under Programme (1) also includes six civil service posts, namely, one Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, one Personal Assistant*, one Senior Personal Secretary, one Personal Secretary I, one Clerical Assistant and one Personal Chauffeur*, which provide support to the Office.

In 2012-13, the salary and Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) contribution for SFH, USFH and PA/SFH is \$3.4 million, \$0.9 million (post of USFH being vacant from 30.9.2011 to 31.10.2012) and \$0.8 million (post of PA/SFH being vacant from 1.7.2012 to 30.11.2012) respectively. The expenditure on salary, allowance, job-related allowance and MPF contribution for other supporting staff is \$3.8 million.

In 2013-14, the salary and MPF contribution for SFH, USFH and PA/SFH is \$3.4 million, \$2.2 million and \$1.2 million respectively. The expenditure on salary, allowance, job-related allowance and MPF contribution for other supporting staff is \$3.9 million.

In 2014-15, the estimated salary and MPF contribution for SFH, USFH and PA/SFH is \$3.4 million, \$2.2 million and \$1.2 million respectively. The estimated expenditure on salary, allowance, job-related allowance and MPF contribution for other supporting staff is \$4.2 million.

* currently filled by non-civil service contract staff

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO

FHB(FE)009

(Question Serial No. 0179)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 424 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 10):

With regard to “formulate legislation to enhance the regulation of private columbaria”, please advise on the following:

- (a) What are the details? What is the proposed timetable for legislation? What is the estimated expenditure involved?
- (b) What were the numbers of public enquiries and complaints received by the Administration on private columbaria in each of the past three years (i.e. 2011, 2012 and 2013)?
- (c) What were the numbers of inspections conducted, non-compliance cases detected and enforcement actions taken by the Administration on private columbaria in each of the past three years (i.e. 2011, 2012 and 2013)?

Asked by: Hon. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

(a) 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 and November 2013 on the legislative proposals about regulating private columbaria. Taking into account the views collected from relevant stakeholders including the preliminary findings of a Business Impact Assessment, the Administration is finalising the detailed provisions of the draft legislation with a view to introducing the relevant Bill into LegCo by the second quarter of 2014. The work on formulating policy and preparing legislation would be absorbed within FHB’s existing resources.

(b) The information sought is given below:

Year	No. of public enquiries and complaints received (i)
2010	2 719
2011	1 498
2012	1 226
2013	735

Note:

- (i) Figures include enquiries and complaints received by the Development Bureau, FHB, Buildings Department (figure only available for 2013), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Lands Department (figures include complaints only), 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.

(c) The information sought is given below:

Year	No. of inspections / visits conducted (ii)	No. of non-compliance cases detected	No. of enforcement actions taken (iii)
2011	907	30	31
2012	804	43	59
2013	617	47	35

Note:

- (ii) Figures include site inspections of both confirmed and suspected cases arising from complaints, referrals, patrol, visits (as appropriate) by Buildings Department (figure only available for 2013), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Lands Department and Planning Department.
- (iii) Figures include the issuance of warning letters, orders, enforcement notices and the instigation of prosecution actions, etc.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)010****(Question Serial No. 1887)****Head:** (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch)**Subhead (No. & title):** (-) Not Specified**Programme:** (-) Not Specified**Controlling Officer:** Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)**Director of Bureau:** Secretary for Food and Health**This question originates from:** Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page (if applicable)**Question (Member Question No. 27):**

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?

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	24 May 2011	Tuen Mun	Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning Letter issued*	As follow-up inspections by Lands Department (LandsD) revealed that the breach of lease

						conditions persisted, the warning letter was registered in the Land Registry on 24 November 2011.
	30 January 2013		Irregularities on fire resisting construction affecting the fire safety of the building	Building (Construction) Regulation 90	Order issued	Rectification works have been substantially completed.
2	14 December 2011	Sha Tin	Usage of liquid fuel in a diesel-fired furnace in the Sha Tin fuel restriction area	Air Pollution Control (Fuel Restriction) Regulations, (Cap. 311I)	Fine of HK\$1,000	The cremator was found to be removed in 2012.
3	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.
	12 September 2012		Installed furnace and chimney without prior approval from the Environmental Protection Department (EPD)	Air Pollution Control (Furnaces, Ovens and Chimneys) (Installation and Alteration) Regulations, Cap. 311A	Convicted and fined \$5000	Operation of the concerned pet cremator was stopped. Approval for installation of suitably-designed furnace & chimney was issued by EPD.
	15 February 2013		The unit entrance door was replaced by glass door without fire resistant rating	Section 3 of the Fire Services (Fire Hazard Abatement) Regulation, Cap. 95F	Fire Hazard Abatement Notice was issued.	The Fire Hazard Abatement Notice was found complied with.

4	2 May 2012	Kwai Chung	Irregularities on fire resisting construction affecting the fire safety of the building	Buildings (Construction) Regulation 90	Order issued	Irregularities have been rectified. No further action by the Buildings Department (BD).
	1 June 2012		Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning Letter issued*	As follow-up inspection by the LandsD revealed that the breach of lease conditions persisted, the warning letter was registered in the Land Registry on 24 September 2012.
	31 December 2012		Emitted excessive dark smoke	Air Pollution Control (Smoke) Regulations, Cap 311C	Convicted and fined \$5000	Recent inspections by EPD did not reveal emission of dark smoke from the concerned chimney.
	10 January 2013		Emitted excessive dark smoke	Air Pollution Control (Smoke) Regulations, Cap 311C	Convicted and fined \$5000	
	5 February 2013		The unit entrance door was replaced by glass door without fire resistant rating	Section 3 of the Fire Services (Fire Hazard Abatement) Regulation, Cap. 95F	Fire Hazard Abatement Notice was issued .	Fire Hazard Abatement Notice was found complied with.
5	23 July 2012	Cheung Sha Wan	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.

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 and 20 February 2014	Kowloon Bay	Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning Letters 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. As further complaints were received and recent inspection revealed that the breach persisted, LandsD issued another warning letter on 20 February 2014 requiring the owner to purge the breach.
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, the warning letter was registered in the Land Registry on 22 March 2013.
9	21 February 2013, 28 March 2013 and 20	Kowloon Bay	Breach of the user condition of the lease	Not applicable*	Warning Letters issued*	As follow-up inspection revealed that the lease breach persisted, the

	February 2014					two warning letters were registered in the Land Registry on 13 May 2013. As further complaints were received and recent inspection revealed that the breach persisted, LandsD issued another warning letter on 20 February 2014 requiring the owner to purge the breach.
10	14 March 2013	Yau Ma Tei	Irregularities on fire resisting construction affecting the fire safety of the building	Building (Construction) Regulation 90	Order issued	Irregularities have been rectified. However, recent inspection on 18 March 2014 revealed an additional irregularity on fire resisting construction. Advisory letter will be issued shortly.
11	14 June 2013	Mongkok	Irregularities on fire resisting construction affecting the fire safety of the building	Building (Construction) Regulation 90	Order issued	Irregularities not yet rectified. Prosecution is being instigated against the owner for failing to comply with the order.

* 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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)011

(Question Serial No. 1605)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion Lai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 424 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 42):

1. Regarding the "Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund", would the Administration please advise on the timetable for taking forward the Fund, the details of the Fund including target beneficiaries, projects to be funded and mode of assistance, as well as how to ensure the effectiveness of the Fund?
2. Will the Administration consider adopting a similar mode of assistance in its agricultural policy? If yes, what are the findings at this stage? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

1. The Finance Committee approved on 10 January 2014 the establishment of the \$500 million Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (the Fund) under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). AFCD is now working out the detailed arrangements and procedures of the Fund with a view to inviting applications in the first half of 2014 and disbursing the first batch of funding within 2014-15.

The Fund will be used to fund projects that would contribute to fostering the sustainable development and enhancing the overall competitiveness of the fisheries industry, with such initiatives bringing benefits to the operations of the local fisheries industry. Depending on the nature of the projects, different projects may have different targeted beneficiaries, including both capture fishermen and aquaculturists. The scope of the Fund covers the provision of technical assistance and training in fishing operations, financial support for fishermen to switch to other fisheries or sea related operations, assistance for local aquaculturists to modernise their operations, and studies and monitoring programmes that provide the scientific basis for assessing the effectiveness of the fisheries management measures implemented in Hong Kong. To ensure proper governance, an Advisory Committee has been set up to advise on the overall strategy in the allocation of funds and the approval of projects under the Fund.

Fund recipients will be required to keep an audit trail of the budget spent, provide periodic progress reports and schedules on planned activities on the implementation of projects, and complete a final report to evaluate the effectiveness of the project against its stated aims.

2. The Government's existing policy is to facilitate agricultural development through the provision of basic infrastructure, technical support and low-interest loans to farmers. We also make full use of the
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Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) under the Vegetable Marketing Organization to facilitate the further development of local agriculture. Between 2008 and 2013, the ADF has provided about \$140 million for funding projects. As at 31 March 2013, the net usable amount of ADF stood at \$170 million. The Government is now reviewing the agricultural policy to enhance productivity and promote sustainable development of local agriculture.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO

FHB(FE)012

(Question Serial No. 0129)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 424 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 36):

Concerning the measures to “promote the scattering of cremated human ashes at sea or in Gardens of Remembrance”,

- (a) what is the expenditure involved of the relevant promotion activities for the past 3 years (2011, 2012 and 2013)? Please list by year the expenditure of each promotion activity;
- (b) please list in the table below the number of cases handled and the expenditure involved for the past 3 years (2011, 2012 and 2013); and

Year		Coffin burial	Cremation	Depositing ashes in public columbaria	Scattering ashes in designated Hong Kong waters	Scattering ashes in Gardens of Remembrance
2011	No. of cases					
	Expenditure involved					
2012	No. of cases					
	Expenditure involved					
2013	No. of cases					
	Expenditure involved					

- (c) what are the number of attendances and the utilisation rate of the ferry service provided by the Administration to encourage the public to scatter ashes at sea for the past 5 years (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013)? What is the expenditure involved? Please list by year.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) The expenditure of promoting scattering of ashes at sea and at Gardens of Remembrance (GoR) was \$0.17 million, \$0.96 million and \$0.74 million in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively. The publicity measures included participation in the Hong Kong Senior Fairs, distributing promotional videos, broadcasting announcements in the public interest through radio and television channels, updating publicity pamphlets, organising talks for elderly centres/homes and schools, and collaboration with non-government organisations.
- (b) The information sought is given below :

Year	Coffin burial in public cemeteries	Cremations in public crematoria	No. of niches allocated	Scattering of ashes	
				at sea	at GoR
2011	1 327	37 916	416	661	1 648
2012	1 164	39 494	1 867	791	2 023
2013	1 114	38 914	13 143	797	2 354

The expenditure incurred by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in providing cemetery and crematorium services in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 was \$208.1 million, \$250.8 million and \$265.0 million (estimate) respectively. FEHD does not have further breakdown for these services.

- (c) FEHD has been providing free ferry service to encourage the public to scatter ashes at sea since 2010. Each ferry trip can accommodate 10 applications (bereaved families), allowing a maximum of 8 participants for each application. FEHD has employed a bigger vessel to accommodate 25 applications since January 2012 and increased the number of participants for each application to 11 since January 2013. The number of applications handled, the number of applications which can be accommodated and the usage rate for the past four years were :

Year	No of applications handled	No. of applications which can be accommodated*	Usage rate
2010	658	660	99.7%
2011	549	550	99.8%
2012	671	725	92.6%
2013	709	950	74.6%
* The number of applications which can be accommodated in a year equals to the number of sail available in that year multiplied by the number of applications which can be accommodated in each sail.			

* The expenditure incurred by FEHD for contracting out free ferry services in 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 was \$0.233 million, \$0.232 million, \$0.796 million and \$1.391 million respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)013

(Question Serial No. 0986)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 425 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 12):

Based on the recommendation of the commissioned consultancy study, the positioning and functions of public markets in present-day circumstances will be examined. In this connection, when will the study be completed and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

The consultant is expected to submit preliminary study findings in mid-2014 if the study progresses smoothly. The consultancy fee amounts to \$2 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO

FHB(FE)014

(Question Serial No. 0153)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 423 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 84):

What is the estimate for the pay and allowances for the Under Secretary for Food and Health and the Political Assistant to Secretary for Food and Health in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

For budgetary purposes, the provisions for the salary in respect of the Under Secretary for Food and Health and the Political Assistant to Secretary for Food and Health in 2014-15 are \$2.2 million and \$1.2 million respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)015

(Question Serial No. 2949)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 424 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 124):

The Secretary for Food and Health Dr KO Wing-man has said that it will take at least one year before separate holding of Mainland-imported and local live chickens can be achieved. In this regard, what are the relevant timetable and work procedures? In the coming year, will there be any new facilities or measures in the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market for maintaining a clean and hygienic environment and preventing the spread of infectious diseases?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

In the light of the avian influenza (AI) incident dated 27 January 2014, many people in Hong Kong, Legislative Council Members as well as stakeholders in the poultry trade have suggested to the Government that we should consider segregating the imported and local live poultry and holding the imported poultry at a suitable location until the AI testing results are available before releasing them to the wholesale market. That way, it would help minimize the impact that the contingency measures (taken to prevent the spread of the AI virus) may have on the continued supply of live poultry in the event of an AI incident.

The Government has since been looking into the feasibility of establishing temporary holding facilities for imported live poultry or other practicable alternative. Having evaluated various options, the Government is now focusing on the following contingency measure. Upon resumption of import of live poultry from the Mainland, we would follow the existing practice of allowing the delivery of imported live poultry to the wholesale poultry market while testing results are pending. In the event of an AI incident which leads to the closure of the wholesale poultry market, during the closure period, local poultry could be delivered to the retail outlets via the proposed check-point at the Government farm in Ta Kwu Ling. This will allow the continued supply of local live poultry to the market. We are now following up with the relevant works departments on the preparation and subsequent construction works. The proposed check-point is expected to come into operation by end of June 2014.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been maintaining a clean and hygienic environment in the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market. The stocking area is cleaned every hour and the market floor is disinfected twice every week. Regular and surprise checks are conducted on wholesalers and their workers to ensure compliance with the bio-security requirements, including cleansing and disinfection of poultry holding cages. Additional inspection or cleansing would be conducted

where necessary. Faecal and environmental swabs are also collected from the wholesale market on a regular basis for AI testing to ensure that the venue remains free of AI virus. In 2013, new facilities were set up for the separate holding of leftover local chickens, imported chickens and minor poultry with a view to minimising cross-infection. AFCD will continue with these efforts in the coming year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)016****(Question Serial No. 1272)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 45):

What is the estimated expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on the "Trap-Neuter-Return" policy for 2014-15?

What was the number of stray dogs caught over the past three years? How many of them were euthanised?

What was the number of stray cats caught over the past three years? How many of them were euthanised?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

In 2014-15, \$1.4 million has been earmarked for the implementation of the "Trap-Neuter-Return" trial scheme for stray dogs.

The number of stray dogs and cats caught and euthanised by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past three years 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
2013	4 626	3 506	2 866	1 699

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)017

(Question Serial No. 1732)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 37):

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15 that measures for stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare will be strengthened. However, the 2014 estimate on stray animals caught in the indicator is similar to that in the past two years. Has the Department reviewed the effectiveness of its publicity efforts in appealing to the public of not abandoning animals? What are the specific details of the measures to be "strengthened" as stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention? How many additional resources are required in this regard?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

In recent years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been strengthening its efforts in the areas of stray animal management and promotion of animal welfare through a number of new and enhanced measures. In particular, AFCD has established a dedicated education team to devise and implement an enhanced public education and publicity programme to promote responsible pet ownership and proper care for animals, advise against the abandonment and needless surrendering of pets and champion the need for dog licensing and rabies vaccination as well as the benefits of neutering. Relevant activities include producing announcements in the public interest on television and radio; placing advertisements on different platforms such as cinemas, public transport, bus stops, magazines and websites; organising promotional events jointly with different animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in shopping arcades and outdoor venues; conducting village and community campaigns as well as holding talks in schools and housing estates. In addition, AFCD has recently revamped its website to further promote respect for animals and provide information on proper care for animals. As a result of the sustained efforts, the number of animals surrendered by owners and the number of stray animals caught have decreased by 39% and 42% respectively over the past five years.

In 2014-15, AFCD will continue to pursue various measures for managing animals and promoting animal welfare. These include (i) implementing and enhancing the public education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (ii) assisting the AWOs concerned in rolling out the "Trap-Neuter-Return" trial programme for stray dogs; (iii) 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); (iv) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals; (v) taking enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant legislation; (vi) 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 (Hong Kong); (vii) 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 (viii) 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 \$3.4 million, which includes resources for four staff (one Veterinary Officer, one Veterinarian and two Animal Management Inspectors), has been earmarked for the implementation of the above enhanced measures in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)018****(Question Serial No. 1733)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 38):

How many resources and manpower have been earmarked by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in 2014-15 for implementing the "Trap-Neuter-Return" Scheme for dogs at the district level? What is the progress of the Scheme?

What was the expenditure on implementing the Wild Cattle Contraceptive and Neutering Trial Programme? How many cattle in total were given contraceptive and neutering treatment during the period? What is the change in the overall number of wild cattle in Hong Kong? Has provision been earmarked to review the effectiveness of the programme?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

"Trap-Neuter-Return" (TNR) Trial Scheme for Stray Dogs

In 2012, the original proposal of implementing the TNR trial scheme for stray dogs in the three potential sites in Yuen Long, Sai Kung and on Lamma Island encountered objection from the respective District Councils and local communities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), in collaboration with relevant animal welfare organisations (AWOs), have since identified two alternative potential sites in Yuen Long and Cheung Chau, and consulted the local community and the respective District Councils on the proposed trial scheme. While there is no negative feedback on the Yuen Long trial site, objection has been received from the local community of the Cheung Chau trial site. In this connection, the AWO administering the trial scheme on this site is considering making adjustment to the site boundary to address the concerns of nearby residents. In parallel, the Administration is working on the legal notices necessary for the implementation of the trial scheme. The trial scheme is expected to commence in 2014 after the finalisation of the boundary of the Cheung Chau trial site by the AWO in consultation with the local community. In 2014-15, \$1.4 million and three staff have been allocated for the implementation of the trial scheme.

"Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation" (CSR) Programme for Stray Cattle

Since the implementation of the CSR programme in 2011, 245 heads of the cattle captured mainly from Sai Kung and Lantau Island have been surgically sterilised as at the end of 2013. Since the CSR programme requires a relatively long period of time to produce the desired effect of controlling the cattle population, it is expected that a significant decrease in population would only be attained a few years later. AFCD will continue to implement the programme and collect relevant information for conducting a review on its effectiveness in the future. The revised estimate for the programme in 2013-14 is \$1.1 million.

AFCD is currently studying the feasibility of sterilising cattle chemically. For this purpose, \$0.5 million has been earmarked in 2014-15 for carrying out a trial scheme and subsequent assessment of its effectiveness.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)019****(Question Serial No. 1734)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 39):

Regarding animal cruelty cases, would the Administration please advise on:

- (a) the total number of animal poisoning reports received and the types of animals involved over the past three years (i.e. 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14).
- (b) Several suspected cases of torturing tortoises to death in the past have aroused public concern. Apart from cats and dogs in general, would the Government strengthen the message of protecting reptiles in promoting animal care?

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 type of animals involved are as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of complaints/reports	Type of Animals
2011	1	Dog
2012	2	Dog
2013	0	-

- (b) To safeguard and promote animal welfare, AFCD has established a dedicated education team to devise and implement an enhanced public education and publicity programme for promoting care for animals and pressing home the related messages advocating “responsible pet ownership” and protection of animals. Relevant activities include producing announcements in the public interest on television and radio; placing advertisements on different platforms such as cinemas, public transport, bus stops, magazines and websites; organising promotional events jointly with different animal welfare organisations in shopping arcades and outdoor venues; conducting village and community campaigns, as well as holding talks in schools and housing estates. In addition, AFCD has recently revamped its website to further promote respect for animals and provide information on proper care for animals. These activities deliver general messages about respect and care for all kinds of animals, including not only dogs and cats but also birds, reptiles and other small animals. AFCD will regularly review and adjust the promotion strategy in response to the changing circumstances and public concerns on animal welfare issues.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)020

(Question Serial No. 1735)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Pages 42-43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 40):

Regarding the inspection of establishments where animals are kept for trading purpose, please advise on the following:

- (a) What is the number of licensed premises and establishments where animals were kept for trading purposes over the past year? How many inspections were carried out by the Administration and how many non-compliance cases were identified during the period? What are the details and nature of the cases?
- (b) Apart from targeting pet shops, has the Administration earmarked provision and manpower to crack down on premises and 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, and the number of inspections of and prosecutions against these premises in 2013 are as follows:

Number of Licensed Premises	Number of Inspections	Number of Prosecutions	
		Trading without a licence	Breaching licensing condition
440	5 080	3	2

- (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 as the situation warrants. In 2014-15, \$2.9 million (which includes resources for four officers on the establishment) has been earmarked for this area of work.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)021

(Question Serial No. 0251)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 6):

On the use of pesticides, would the Administration inform this Committee of the operational expenditure and the number of staff involved in the regulation of pesticides in the last year? What are the estimated operational expenditure, number of staff and salary expenditure involved in the regulation of pesticides in 2014-2015?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

In 2013-14, the estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the regulation of pesticides were \$13.3 million and 25 staff. In 2014-15, the estimated expenditure and manpower have been increased to \$16.1 million and 30 staff.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)022****(Question Serial No. 0264)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 38 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 21):

Would the Government inform this Committee of the respective titles, functions and estimated salaries of the 8 directorate posts of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in 2014-2015?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The respective post titles, functions and estimated salaries of the 8 directorate posts of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in 2014-15 are set out below –

Post Title	Functions	Estimated salaries in 2014-15 (\$)
Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (DAFC)	Responsible for the overall administration of AFCD in the areas of agriculture, fisheries, wholesale food markets, nature conservation, country and marine parks, animal health and management services	2,495,400
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation	Responsible for assisting DAFC to oversee the administration of AFCD and operation of the five branches and to deputise for DAFC as and when required	2,019,000
Assistant Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Agriculture)	Responsible for the administration of the Agriculture Branch and the programme areas related to agriculture and wholesale food markets	1,739,400
Assistant Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Conservation)	Responsible for the administration of the Conservation Branch and the programme areas related to nature conservation	1,739,400
Assistant Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Fisheries)	Responsible for the administration of the Fisheries Branch and the programme areas related to fisheries	1,739,400
Assistant Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Country and Marine Parks)	Responsible for the administration of the Country and Marine Parks Branch and the programme areas related to country and marine parks, the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China and marine conservation	1,739,400

Assistant Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Inspection and Quarantine)	Responsible for the administration of the Inspection and Quarantine Branch and the programme areas related to animal and plant import and export with regard to disease control, prevention of avian influenza and rabies, and animal welfare and management	1,739,400
Principal Veterinary Officer	Responsible for providing professional support and high-level expertise required to enhance public veterinary services in Hong Kong	1,465,200

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)023

(Question Serial No. 0265)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 42 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 22):

The Administration states in the Brief Description of this Programme that one of the duties under this Programme is to safeguard public health through the control of pesticides. However, spraying of pesticides is commonly seen on school campuses in recent years, which has enhanced the risks of children being exposed to pesticides. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the expenditure on the regulation of pesticides in 2014-15; and
- (b) will the Administration consider strengthening the regulation on the use of pesticides by the public? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

- (a) In 2014-15, \$16.1 million has been earmarked for the regulation of pesticides.
- (b) The Administration attaches importance to the safe and proper use of pesticides. To protect human health and the environment, we amended the Pesticides Ordinance (Cap. 133) in 2013 to meet in full the requirements of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade in respect of the regulation of pesticides. The Pesticides (Amendment) Ordinance 2013 commenced operation on 27 January 2014.

The Administration will continue its efforts in fostering and publicising the safe and proper use of pesticides, including promoting the adoption of appropriate safety measures in the application of pesticides and strengthening public education, etc. Among others, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will step up promotion and publicity targeted at schools, including publishing a set of educational leaflet on the safe and proper use of pesticides in schools and organising talks to schools and/or their service providers. AFCD will continue to offer advice and assistance to Government departments and the pest control industry in developing and/or updating their codes of practices on the safe and proper use of pesticides. AFCD will also continue to review periodically the registration of pesticides having regard to the relevant international standards and the experience of other places in order to ensure all pesticides registered in Hong Kong are safe to use.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)024****(Question Serial No. 0014)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 38 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 20):

Under this programme, it is mentioned that there will be an increase of 19 posts in 2014-15. 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 respectively, 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	Duties and areas of services	Annual expenditure on salaries
Fisheries Officer Executive Officer	To administer and provide support to the operation of the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund	\$1.0 million [^]
Fisheries Officer Fisheries Supervisor	To provide assistance to the Inter-departmental Working Group on trawl ban in handling appeal cases	\$1.2 million [^]
Field Officer Field Assistant	To strengthen patrol and law enforcement in the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China	\$1.3 million
Field Officer Veterinary Officer	To enhance animal welfare and animal management services	\$4.2 million
Field Officer Field Assistant	To strengthen the management of stray cattle	\$0.6 million
	Total	\$8.3 million*

[^] Time limited expenditure from 2014-15 to 2015-16.

*This amount will be partly offset by saving in salaries of \$2.7 million per annum resulting from the deletion of 7 time-limited posts in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)025****(Question Serial No. 0017)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 39 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 27):

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. 2011, 2012 and 2013)? 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 greenhouse production for the past three years are tabulated below:

	Organic cultivation			Intensive greenhouse production		
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (revised estimate)	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (revised estimate)
Number of staff deployed	16	16	15	11	11	11
Expenditure (\$ million)	7.1	6.7	6.6	4.4	4.9	5.1

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

	Number of farms that have joined the Organic Farming Support Service	Total area (ha)	Total average daily production (tonne)
2011-12	186	70.0	5.0
2012-13	212	82.5	5.0
2013-14 (revised estimate)	235	89.6	5.5

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)026****(Question Serial No. 0027)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 42 (if applicable)

Question(Member Question No. 25):

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 (2011, 2012 and 2013).

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 ²)	Rearing Capacity (Nos.)
2011	43	101 172.07	74 640
2012	43	102 817.73	74 640
2013	43	102 817.73	74 640

Chicken Farm

Year	No. of Chicken Farms	Total Area (m ²)	Rearing Capacity (Nos.)
2011	30	58 672.14	1 300 500
2012	30	60 172.04	1 300 500
2013	30	62 463.97	1 300 500

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)027****(Question Serial No. 0028)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 38 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 26):

What were the respective manpower and expenditure involved in promoting the development of the agriculture and fisheries industries over the past three years (i.e. 2011, 2012 and 2013)? What were the respective annual total production values of local crops, livestock and fisheries products within the same period?

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
2011-12	76	80	26.0	45.7
2012-13	73	94	31.3	997.5 [#]
2013-14 (revised estimate)	75	87	31.8	152.3 [#]

[#] Including \$940 million and \$91.5 million in 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively for the one-off assistance package for fishermen affected by the trawl ban

The respective annual production value of local crops, livestock and fisheries products from 2011 to 2013 is given below:

Year	Value of Production (\$ million)		
	Crops	Livestock [*]	Fisheries Products
2011	241	490	2,513
2012	246	500	2,497
2013	256	503	2,485

^{*} Including pigs and chickens

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)028

(Question Serial No. 0672)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 40 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 1):

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

- (a) What is the financial position of the Fisheries Development Load Fund under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in 2013-14 and what is its current balance?
- (b) How many applications did the Fund receive in 2013-14? 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 2014, the Fisheries Development Loan Fund (FDLF) has a balance of about \$59.4 million.
- (b) In 2013-14, FDLF has received 41 applications up to 28 February 2014. 19 of the applications amounting to \$167.6 million have been approved and the remaining 22 applications are being processed. The loans approved are mainly granted to 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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)029

(Question Serial No. 0673)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 42 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 4):

- (a) Please set out the numbers, sizes and distribution of pig farms and chicken farms currently in operation, as well as the licensed rearing capacity of each farm.
- (b) Please set out the numbers, sizes and distribution of crop farms and marine fish culture farms currently in operation.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) As of 31 December 2013, 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 tables.
- (b) Currently, there are about 2 400 crop farms (including vegetables, field crops, flowers and fruit trees cultivation) with a total cultivated area of about 729 hectares. These farms are mainly located in the Yuen Long District and North District. As regards the marine fish culture farms, there are 982 licensed farms covering a total sea area of 284 678 m². They are distributed in the 26 designated Fish Culture Zones¹.

¹ The 26 Fish Culture Zones are located at Sha Tau Kok, Ap Chau, Kat O, O Pui Tong, Sai Lau Kong, Wong Wan, Tap Mun, Kau Lau Wan, Sham Wan, Lo Fu Wat, Yung Shue Au, Leung Shuen Wan, Tiu Cham Wan, Tai Tau Chau, Kai Lung Wan, Kau Sai, Ma Nam Wat, Po Toi O, Po Toi, Sok Ku Wan, Lo Tik Wan, Ma Wan, Yim Tin Tsai, Cheung Sha Wan, Yim Tin Tsai (East) and Tung Lung Chau.

Area, rearing capacity and distribution of licensed livestock farms (as at 31.12.2013)

Pig Farm

	Licensed Area (m ²)	Licensed Capacity (Nos.)	District
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

	Licensed Area (m ²)	Licensed Capacity (Nos.)	District
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
Total:	102 817.73	74 640	

Chicken Farm

	Licensed Area (m ²)	Licensed Capacity (Nos.)	District
1	433.41	10 000	TuenMun
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	3 372.57	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	1 757.95	38 500	North
21	1 642.53	26 000	Yuen Long
22	10 454.52	162 300	Yuen Long
23	4 831.83	80 000	Yuen Long
24	1 563.39	48 000	Yuen Long

	Licensed Area (m ²)	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
Total:	62 463.97	1 300 500	

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)030****(Question Serial No. 0675)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 42 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 6):

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 and plants that were imported illegally for sale over the past three years (i.e. 2011-12 to 2013-14). How were these animals and plants imported?
- (b) Has the Administration devised any measures to step up its efforts against the illegal import of non-quarantined animals and plants for sale?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

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

Calendar Year	Dogs		Cats		Poultry/bird		Other Animals [#]		Plant	
	Airport	Boundary Control Points	Airport	Boundary Control Points	Airport	Boundary Control Points	Airport	Boundary Control Points	Airport	Boundary Control Points
2011	3	11	0	5	0	1 088	1 231	23	384	3 692
2012	0	8	0	2	60	8	301	35	2 414	0
2013	1	9	0	4	3	6	6 215	32	5 838	181

[#] including reptiles and small mammals

- (b) In 2014-15, AFCD will continue its efforts to prevent illegal importation of animals and plants into Hong Kong. The Quarantine Detector Dog Team will carry out more operations against illegal import of animals at various boundary control points and the Hong Kong International Airport. In addition, AFCD will step up the collection of intelligence from other relevant Government departments and work closely with them to combat the smuggling of animals and plants. Continuous education and publicity efforts will also be made to raise the awareness of the general public on the quarantine requirements for animals and plants to be imported into Hong Kong.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)031

(Question Serial No. 0676)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 39 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 7):

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 2014-15? How much manpower is deployed and what is the estimated expenditure involved?
- (b) Since the introduction of the Organic Farming Conversion Scheme in late 2000 up to now, what are the number, distribution, farming area, production quantity and value of local organic farms? What is the percentage in the total number of farms?
- (c) In view of the great variety of organic food labels found in the market, consumers can hardly verify the authenticity of food products claimed to be organic. Has the Administration examined the introduction of specific legislation to regulate the production, certification and labelling of organic food so as to safeguard the interest of consumers?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) In 2013-14, 15 staff are deployed on promoting organic farming and the marketing of organic produce. The expenditure involved is about \$6.6 million. In 2014-15, a similar level of manpower and expenditure will be provided. Relevant work planned for 2014-15 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) As at February 2014, 230 farms with a total area of about 89 hectares participate in the Organic Farming Support Service Scheme (OFSS) operated by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, producing about 5.5 tonnes of organic produce each day. The number of organic farms accounts for about 12% of all local vegetable farms. They concentrate mostly in Ng Ka Tsuen, Tai Kong Po, Ping Che, Fanling, Pat Hueng, Sheung Shui and Tai Po.
- (c) The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) has commissioned a consultancy study on organic food to assess whether and how the production and sale of organic food in Hong Kong should be regulated, if at all, as well as how to enhance consumer education and information about organic food. The study findings were reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene in February 2013. Bearing in mind the very small market size of the local organic food sector and the main policy objectives of the Government for ensuring food safety and stable food supply, the Consultant considered that pursuing a legislative approach to regulate organic food might not be a

proportional measure. The local organic food sector considered the legislative approach too cumbersome, resulting in negative impacts to both producers and traders. These adverse impacts might also affect consumers, ultimately hindering the development of the organic food sector. The Consultants viewed that compared to other jurisdictions covered in the study, there is no pressing need in Hong Kong for regulating domestic production and sale of organic food given the small amount of local production. There does not appear to be any pressing concern on imported organic food given that they are largely sold in reputable supermarkets or specialist stores where there are minimal false organic claims. In view of the Consultant's recommendation, FHB would not consider enacting a new piece of legislation on organic food at this stage.

To safeguard the interest of consumers, FHB accepts the Consultant's suggestion to step up efforts in raising public awareness about organic food through dissemination of information to organic producers, traders, students and consumers, etc through a wide range of channels. FHB also shares the Consultant's recommendation to strengthen the existing administrative measures such as further promoting organic certification schemes, streamlining the certification procedures and promulgating a reporting mechanism of food fraud. Through these initiatives, the Government can enrich consumers' knowledge of organic food and may encourage the food industry to produce, source and trade authentic organic products.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)032

(Question Serial No. 0677)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 39 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 8):

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) Does the Administration have any specific measures to promote advanced technology and intensified production in the agriculture industry (the industry), including intensive greenhouse production or multi-layered cultivation, so as to enhance efficiency and create new development opportunities for the industry?
- (b) Has the Government examined the allocation of more resources to universities, academic organisations and organisations in the industry for conducting studies on improving farming techniques and operating environment of the industry as well as introducing more courses for the training of professionals in the industry?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) always looks out for new and advanced production technologies to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the industry. Technologies with good potential for local adoption and development will first be put on trial at AFCD's Tai Lung Experimental Farm before being introduced to the industry through technical demonstrations, seminars and workshops. AFCD provides follow-up services to farmers taking up the new technologies. Intensive greenhouse and multi-layered production technologies are two of such technologies that were introduced to farmers in recent years.
- (b) The Government has been making use of the Agricultural Development Fund set up by the Vegetable Marketing Organization to provide financial support for agricultural research and development projects as well as vocational training for farmers and agricultural workers.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)033****(Question Serial No. 0678)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 42 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 9):

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

- (a) the number of reports received by the Department in 2011-12 to 2013-14 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 2011-12 to 2013-14, 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 in the past three years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of reports received
2011	10 617
2012	17 844
2013	18 368

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

Calendar Year	Number of bird carcasses collected	Number of bird carcasses tested	Number of carcasses tested positive for H5N1
2011	9 804	5 508	10
2012	15 486	8 097	22
2013	15 218	8 766	1

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)034

(Question Serial No. 0785)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-)Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 39 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 34):

Overseas development of "Controlled-Environment Hydroponics (C.E.H.);" has reached quite a mature stage in recent years. Advantages of C.E.H. technology include year-round production, low energy consumption and high yield, safe and pesticide-free crops, etc. To support modernisation of local agricultural technology, the Vegetable Marketing Organization established at the Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Vegetable Marketing in 2013 the first "Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre" (C.E.H.R&D Centre) in Hong Kong. Please provide the following information:

- (a) What are expenditure and manpower involved in establishing the C.E.H.R&D Centre? What are the production area of the Centre, as well as the crop varieties, production quantity and value?
- (b) The trade can barely afford the costly C.E.H. equipment and facilities, and the rentals of industrial buildings are much higher than those of farmland. Does the Administration put in place any measures to support local farmers to bring in C.E.H. technology?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) The Controlled-Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre has a set up cost of \$6.5 million financed under the Agricultural Development Fund of the Vegetable Marketing Organization. It occupies a floor area of 250 square metres and is manned by 5 staff. It grows five varieties of baby salad green (Mizuna, Oak Leaf Lettuce, Red Asian Mustard, Chinese Flat Cabbage and Rocket) on 12 sets of 7-layer vertical shelf. The total production area (by adding up the area of all shelves) is about 500 square metres. Currently, about 20 kg of vegetable are produced daily at a wholesale value of about \$180 per kg.
- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will provide technical advice and support to farmers who are interested in taking up the Controlled-Environment Hydroponics technology. The technology is capital intensive. Therefore, farmers must assess their financial position before considering adoption. Interested farmers may apply to AFCD for low-interest agricultural loans.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0786)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 46 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 35):

Regarding the Non-recurrent expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), please advise on the following:

- (a) the AFCD's estimate (2014-15) of the General non-recurrent expenditure is \$281,000,000, which represents a significant decrease by 46.2% over the 2013-14 approved estimate. What are the reasons for that? What expenditure items are covered by the AFCD's estimate (2014-15) of the General non-recurrent expenditure under the Operating Account?
- (b) the AFCD's revised estimate (2013-14) of the General non-recurrent expenditure is \$95,342,000, which represents a significant decrease by 81.7% over the 2013-14 approved estimate. What are the reasons for that?
- (c) Further to the above question, please set out in tabular form the expenditure of the 2013-14 revised and approved estimates of the General non-recurrent expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) The estimate in 2014-15 of the General non-recurrent expenditure is lower than the approved estimate in 2013-14 by 46.2% mainly because of the reduction in the projected cash flow requirement 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. The estimate in 2014-15 includes \$228.7 million for the one-off assistance package to fishermen affected by the trawl ban, \$50 million for the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund, \$1.5 million for the artificial reefs project and \$0.8 million for setting up a marine sanctuary in the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau area.
- (b) The revised estimate in 2013-14 of the General non-recurrent expenditure is lower than the approved estimate in 2013-14 by 81.7% mainly due to two factors. First, the number of applications for buying out affected inshore trawler vessels received was less than originally estimated. Second, the approved estimate in 2013-14 includes the reserved amount of the approved ex-gratia allowance for covering possible successful appeal cases to be determined by the Fishermen Claims Appeal Board (FCAB). The appeal proceedings by FCAB are still in progress and the reserved amount of ex-gratia allowance is yet to be apportioned to successful claimants to be determined by FCAB. This leads to the significant difference between the approved and revised estimate of the General non-recurrent expenditure in 2013-14.

- (c) The detailed breakdown of the 2013-14 approved and revised estimates of the General non-recurrent expenditure is as follows:

General non-recurrent expenditure under Head 700	2013-14	
	Approved Estimate (\$'000)	Revised Estimate (\$'000)
Setting up a marine sanctuary in the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau area	800	800
Artificial reefs project	3,000	3,000
Additional cleansing of country park facilities and enhancing hygiene of government wholesale food markets	42	42
One-off assistance package to trawler vessel owners, local deskhands and fish collector owners affected by the trawl ban and other related measures	518,000	91,500
Total	521,842	95,342

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)036

(Question Serial No. 0787)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 39 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 36):

Regarding the trawl ban in Hong Kong waters, please advise on the following:

- (a) Which departments are currently involved in enforcement against "illegal trawling"? How is the division of responsibilities amongst them?
- (b) What are the respective expenditure and manpower involved in enforcement against "illegal trawling" in 2013-14 and 2014-15?
- (c) What are the number of patrol launches, patrol areas and number of patrols to be conducted against "illegal trawling"?
- (d) 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?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) plays the leading role in enforcement against illegal trawling with assistance from the Hong Kong Police Force through regular and targeted patrols in the waters of Hong Kong and collection of intelligence from various sources. The two enforcement agencies also conduct joint operations to combat illegal trawling.
- (b) In 2013-14, AFCD has deployed nine staff to enforce against illegal trawling. The expenditure involved is estimated to be \$6.8 million. AFCD plans to deploy 18 staff in 2014-15 for enforcement against illegal trawling, and has earmarked \$13.4 million for the purpose.
- (c) AFCD deploys three vessels on patrol duties against illegal trawling, focusing on areas in which intelligence suggested the occurrence of illegal trawling from time to time. In 2013-14, the number of AFCD patrols conducted is about 1 300. Separate figures showing the patrolling efforts of the Police Force in this respect are not available.
- (d) AFCD is assessing whether any bona fide fish collectors are affected by the trawl ban. The outcome of the assessment is expected to be available later this year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0788)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Pages 38-40 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 37):

Regarding promoting sustainable development of the agriculture and fisheries industries, please advise on 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, agriculture and fisheries industries employing innovative technology and other sustainable fisheries) over the past three years (2011-12 to 2013-14)?
- (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 2014-15?
- (c) What are the progress and timetable of the work involved in the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund? Apart from the approved commitment for the Fund, what are the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) In the past three years (2011-12 to 2013-14), 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 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.

Regarding the fisheries industry, AFCD has been promoting its sustainable development 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 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
2011-12	76	80	26.0	45.7
2012-13	73	94	31.3	997.5 [#]
2013-14 (revised estimate)	75	87	31.8	152.3 [#]

[#] Including the actual expenditure of \$940 million and estimated expenditure of \$91.5 million in 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively for the one-off assistance package for fishermen affected by the trawl ban

- (b) In 2014-15, AFCD will continue with its current programmes in promoting sustainable development of the agriculture industry as stated above. The same level of resources as in the case of 2013-14 (revised estimate) has been earmarked for this area of work.

Regarding the fisheries industry, AFCD will continue with the various programmes and activities mentioned in (a) above, and will set up the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund mentioned in (c) below. We have earmarked \$292.1 million, including \$228.7 million under the one-off assistance package for fishermen affected by the trawl ban, and 89 staff for promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry.

- (c) The Finance Committee approved on 10 January 2014 the establishment of the \$500 million Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (the Fund) under AFCD. AFCD is now working out the detailed arrangements and procedures of the Fund with a view to inviting applications in the first half of 2014 and disbursing the first batch of funding within 2014-15. An Advisory Committee has been set up to advise on the overall strategy in the allocation of funds and the approval of projects. Apart from the approved commitment of \$500 million for the Fund, \$1.0 million and two staff have also been earmarked to administer and provide support for the operation of the Fund in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0789)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 42-43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 38):

Regarding epidemic prevention for the livestock keeping industry in Hong Kong, please advise on the following:

- (a) The latest progress of the epidemic prevention work, and the work plan, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in 2014-15;
- (b) The types of pig and bird vaccines introduced and the expenditure involved respectively over the past three years (2011-12 to 2013-14); and
- (c) The total expenditure involved respectively in vaccinating pigs and birds over the past three years (2011-12 to 2013-14). 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 2014-15, 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 chicken 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 taking enforcement action against non-compliant cases; (ii) providing technical advice and assistance to farmers on proper farm management, prevention and control of animal diseases; and (iii) organising education seminars on farm management and disease prevention for local farmers and their workers. The estimated expenditure is \$32 million. A total of 46 staff will be involved in this area of work in 2014-15.
- (b) Over the past three years, one new vaccine, namely the Re-6 H5N1 AI 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. The expenditure involved in the provision of technical assistance was absorbed in the comprehensive AI surveillance programme and cannot be separately quantified. AFCD did not introduce any new vaccine for use in the pig farms in the same period.
- (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 any information on the total expenditure and the average costs involved in vaccinating pigs and poultry, and the number of pigs and poultry vaccinated.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)039****(Question Serial No. 0790)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 42 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 39):

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

- How were the technological development studies conducted and support provided for aquaculture fisheries (e.g. culture trials of fish, promotion of pellet feeds, etc.) over the past three years (2011-12 to 2013-14)? What was the respective expenditure involved?
- What are the details of the project, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in conducting technological development studies and providing support for aquaculture fisheries in 2014-15?
- What were the details of the technology and support provided for oyster culture over the past three years (2011-12 to 2013-14)? What were the respective expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducts technological development studies and provides technical support to enhance the productivity and sustainability of the local aquaculture industry. In the past three years, AFCD has been (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; (ii) identifying suitable new culture species with good market potential (Jade Perch being one such example), introducing them to local fish farmers, and promoting the culture of Jade Perch by organizing training workshops and providing technical support to local fish farmers in the hatching and rearing of Jade Perch fries; (iii) implementing the Accredited Fish Farm Scheme to enhance competitiveness of the local aquaculture industry with 111 fish farms participating so far; and (iv) conducting adaptive studies and a pilot fish hatchery scheme to improve fish fry production and rearing techniques. The expenditure involved is set out below:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)				Total
	Good aquaculture practice and fish health management	New culture species	Accredited Fish Farm Scheme	Adaptive studies and pilot fish hatchery scheme	
2011-12	5.1	2.0	3.0	4.7	14.8
2012-13	6.1	2.3	3.6	5.3	17.3
2013-14 (revised estimate)	5.5	2.8	3.2	6.5	18.0

- (b) In 2014-15, AFCD will continue to support the local aquaculture industry through the measures described in (a) above. In addition, AFCD will conduct feasibility studies on the expansion of the existing fish culture zones and the designation of new fish culture zones for the sustainable development of the aquaculture industry. Efforts will also be made to further promote advanced technology for fish farming including fish hatchery and nursery. The provision earmarked for conducting technological development studies and providing support to the aquaculture industry in 2014-15 is \$21.7 million involving 22 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:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2011-12	0.4	1
2012-13	0.5	1
2013-14 (revised estimate)	0.5	1

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)040****(Question Serial No. 0791)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 38 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 40):

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 (2011-12 to 2013-14), 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 (2011-12 to 2013-14), 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 2014-15, 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 the relevant statistics on the cases handled over the past three years are tabulated below:

Calendar Year	Manpower	Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of Applications	Number of Successful Cases	Area of Farmland Rehabilitated for Cultivation Through the Scheme (hectare)
2011	1	0.7	62	17	2.8
2012	1	0.9	38	9	3.4
2013	1	0.9	51	14	6.2

The average waiting time for successful cases is 4 years.

- (c) In 2014-15, 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 2013-14 will be allocated.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)041****(Question Serial No. 0895)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Pages 42-43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No.42):

The Government will amend the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B). Please advise on the following:

- The number of prosecutions over the past three years (2011-12 to 2013-14), broken down by the reasons for prosecution;
- The expenditure and manpower involved in enforcing the above regulations over the past three years (2011-12 to 2013-14);
- 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:

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

Calendar Year	Number of Prosecutions	
	Trading without a licence	Breaching licensing condition
2011	13	2
2012	6	0
2013	3	2

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

Financial Year	Manpower	Expenditure (\$ million)
2011-12	23	7.4
2012-13	23	10.9
2013-14 (revised estimate)	22	10.9

- In October 2012, the Administration conducted a two-month public consultation on the proposals to better regulate pet trading, including breeding of dogs for sale, in the interest of enhancing animal health and welfare. The key proposals included introducing a new system of licence/permit to tighten the regulation of dog breeders and traders, increasing penalties under the Public Health (Animals and

Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B), and providing the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation with the power to revoke animal trader licences under specific circumstances. In April 2013, we reported to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of Legislative Council (LegCo) on the outcome of the consultation. At the meeting, Panel Members expressed different views on the proposals. Some animal groups as well as the stakeholders in the pet trading and breeding trade also provided further comments in relation to the proposals. To follow up on the matter, the Administration had been engaging the concerned LegCo Members as well as the representatives of the animal groups and the trade in the past months. We are now finalising the legislative proposals, and aim to introduce the amendment regulation into the LegCo within this year.

The study of the amendment is carried out by the existing manpower and resources of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)042****(Question Serial No. 0896)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Pages 42-43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 44):

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

- the details, respective expenditure and manpower involved in the Government's regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry over the past three years (2011-12 to 2013-14).
- the details, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the Government's regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry in 2014-15.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- 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 the lending of farm machinery and provision of loans. The resources deployed for providing these services in the past three years are tabulated below:

Financial Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (revised estimate)
Number of staff deployed	14	14	13
Expenditure (\$ million)	5.2	6.3	6.5

- In 2014-15, AFCD will continue to provide the above-mentioned services to crop farmers and a similar level of manpower resources and related expenditure as that in 2013-14 will be allocated.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)043****(Question Serial No. 2528)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 38 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 49):

Please provide the following statistics in relation to the agriculture and fisheries industries:

(a) Production values of Hong Kong's agriculture and fisheries industries from 2011 to 2013

Year	Crop Value (\$)	Poultry Value (\$)	Fisheries Value (\$)	Total Value (\$)
2011				
2012				
2013				

(b) Consumption of various fresh food in Hong Kong from 2011 to 2013

Year	Fresh Vegetables (tonnes)	Live Pigs (tonnes)	Live Poultry (tonnes)	Marine Fish (tonnes)	Freshwater Fish (tonnes)
2011					
2012					
2013					

(c) Production quantities of various fresh food in Hong Kong from 2011 to 2013

Year	Fresh Vegetables (tonnes)	Live Pigs (tonnes)	Live Poultry (tonnes)	Marine Fish (tonnes)	Freshwater Fish (tonnes)
2011					
2012					
2013					

(d) Self-sufficiency rates of various fresh food in Hong Kong from 2011 to 2013

Year	Fresh Vegetables	Live Pigs	Live Poultry	Marine Fish	Freshwater Fish
2011					
2012					
2013					

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

(a) Production values of Hong Kong's agriculture and fisheries industries from 2011 to 2013

Calendar Year	Crop Value (\$ million)	Poultry Value (\$ million)*	Fisheries Value (\$ million)	Total Value (\$ million)
2011	241	218	2,513	2,972
2012	246	251	2,497	2,994
2013	256	247	2,485	2,988

* Including hatching eggs and table eggs

(b) Consumption of fresh food in Hong Kong from 2011 to 2013

Calendar Year	Fresh Vegetables (tonnes)	Live Pigs (tonnes)*	Live Poultry (tonnes)	Marine Fish (tonnes)	Freshwater Fish (tonnes)
2011	721 700	157 600	12 500	93 878	51 069
2012	837 800	165 800	13 000	114 996	65 916
2013	826 900	169 200	12 500	105 989	83 265

* Gross weight

(c) Production quantities of fresh food in Hong Kong from 2011 to 2013

Calendar Year	Fresh Vegetables (tonnes)	Live Pigs (tonnes)*	Live Poultry (tonnes)	Marine Fish (tonnes)	Freshwater Fish (tonnes)
2011	16 300	11 200	7 100	161 763# (38 699^)	2 315
2012	16 300	11 700	7 800	146 523# (49 150^)	2 306
2013	16 300	11 600	7 500	163 140# (38 668^)	2 187

* Gross weight

Including marine fish landed in and outside Hong Kong

^ Marine fish landed in Hong Kong only

(d) Self-sufficiency rates of fresh food in Hong Kong from 2011 to 2013

Calendar Year	Fresh Vegetables	Live Pigs	Live Poultry	Marine Fish	Freshwater Fish
2011	2%	7%	57%	41%	5%
2012	2%	7%	60%	43%	3%
2013	2%	7%	60%	36%	3%

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)044****(Question Serial No. 2529)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 38 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No.50):

Please provide the statistics on the utilisation and area of agricultural land in Hong Kong as set out in the following table:

Utilisation and Area of Agricultural Land in 2011-2013

Year	Total area of agricultural land (hectare)	Abandoned agricultural land (hectare)	Utilization rate of agricultural land	Percentage of agricultural land in the total land area of Hong Kong
2011				
2012				
2013				

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The utilisation and area of agricultural land in Hong Kong according to the records of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department are shown below:

Year	Total area of agricultural land * (hectare) (a)	Abandoned agricultural land (hectare) (b)	Utilization rate of agricultural land (c) ((a) – (b) / (a))	Percentage of agricultural land in the total land area of Hong Kong (d) ((a) / total land area of Hong Kong)
2011	4 618	3 884	16%	4.2%
2012	4 575	3 843	16%	4.1%
2013	4 523	3 794	16%	4.1%

* Total area of agricultural land includes active and abandoned farmland in Hong Kong.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2531)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Pages 38-40 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 52):

Regarding Programme (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, please advise on the following:

- (a) The 2013-14 revised estimate is \$326.4 million, which is significantly lower than the original estimate of \$753.4 million by 56.7%. What are the reasons for that?
- (b) Two new items were added to Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15 under Programme (1), namely "supporting the Food and Health Bureau in devising policy and measures to sustain and upgrade the development of local agriculture", and "setting up and administering the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund to help fishermen 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". However, the 2014-15 estimate is lower than the 2013-14 original estimate by 31.1%. What are the reasons for that?
- (c) Please set out in tabular form the expenditure items and their details for 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) The 2013-14 revised estimate is lower than the original estimate in 2013-14 by 56.7% mainly due to two factors. First, the number of applications for buying out affected inshore trawler vessels received was less than originally estimated. Second, the original estimate in 2013-14 includes the reserved amount of the approved ex-gratia allowance for covering possible successful appeal cases to be determined by the Fishermen Claims Appeal Board (FCAB). The appeal proceedings by FCAB are still in progress and the reserved amount of ex-gratia allowance is yet to be apportioned to successful claimants to be determined by FCAB. This leads to the significant difference between the original and revised estimate in 2013-14.
- (b) The 2014-15 estimate is lower than the 2013-14 original estimate by 31.1% mainly because of the reduction in the projected cash flow requirement of the one-off assistance package to trawler vessel owners, local deckhands and fish collector owners affected by the trawl ban and other related measures.

(c) The expenditure items for 2013-14 and 2014-15 and their details are set out in the table below:

	Approved Estimate 2013-14 (\$ million)	Revised Estimate 2013-14 (\$ million)	Estimate 2014-15 (\$ million)
Operational expenses			
- Personal emoluments	111.5	110.0	111.8
- Personnel related expenses	3.3	3.3	3.5
- Departmental expenses	109.1	109.7	115.5
- Subventions	0.1	0.1	0.1
General non-recurrent			
- Artificial reefs project	3.0	3.0	1.5
- Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund	-	-	50.0
- One-off assistance package to trawler vessel owners, local deckhands and fish collector owners affected by the trawl ban and other related measures	518.0	91.5	228.7
Capital account			
- Plant, vehicles and equipment	3.5	3.5	3.7
- Minor irrigation works in the New Territories	1.0	1.0	1.6
- Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)	4.0	4.3	2.6
Total	753.4	326.4	519.0

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)046

(Question Serial No. 0377)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 47 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 1):

Regarding outsourced work, please advise on:

- (a) the expenditure on outsourced contracts (including consultancy work), the total number of outsourced workers involved, and the types of contracts of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in the previous year;
- (b) the expenditure on outsourced contracts (including consultancy work), the total number of outsourced workers involved, and the types of contracts of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in the coming year. What is the percentage change compared with the previous year, and the percentage in the total expenditure of the Department?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

- (a) The total estimated expenditure on outsourced contracts of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in 2013-14 is \$133 million. The outsourced contracts are mainly for (a) the provision of cleansing, security, facilities, landscape and vegetation management, information technology system development and maintenance, professional training, education and publicity, animal management and testing services; (b) hiring of vehicles/vessels; and (c) conducting technical studies and surveys. As the number of workers required would not be specified in most of the outsourced contracts, we do not have information on the total number of outsourced workers involved.
- (b) In 2014-15, AFCD will arrange outsourced contracts to provide similar types of services and activities as for the case in 2013-14. The total expenditure involved is estimated to be \$140 million, which represents an increase of some 5% as compared with the previous year mainly due to increase in contract price. It accounts for about 13% of the total operating expenditure of the Department. As mentioned above, since the number of workers required would not be specified in most of the outsourced contracts, we do not have information on the total number of outsourced workers involved.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)047

(Question Serial No. 2035)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 48):

What was the total expenditure on catching stray animals for the three financial years of 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14, as well as the estimated expenditure involved in this regard for 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The expenditure on management of stray animals including catching operations in 2011-12 and 2012-13 was \$22.0 million and \$25.6 million respectively. The revised estimate for 2013-14 is \$24.1 million. In 2014-15, \$24.1 million has been earmarked for this area of work.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)048

(Question Serial No. 2436)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 42 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 49):

Please provide by types (e.g. cats, dogs, etc.) and in tabular form the numbers of animals caught and handed over to the Department, and the numbers of animals eventually euthanised, re-homed and reclaimed by owners in the three financial years of 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14.

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 2011, 2012 and 2013 are at **Annex**.

Annex

Calendar Year	Stray Animals Caught			Animals Given Up by Owners			Animals Received through Other Channels			Animals Reclaimed by Owners			Animals Re-homed			Animals Euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
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
2013	4 626	2 866	444	1 871	222	105	1 271	136	1 001	1 379	779	315	770	206	116	5 353	1 861	1 015

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

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)049****(Question Serial No. 2437)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 42 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 50):

In the three financial years of 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and in the 2014-15 estimate,

- (a) What is the total expenditure involved in euthanasia of animals?
- (b) What is the respective average expenditure on euthanising each dog or cat?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure involved in the euthanasia of animals in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14, and the estimated expenditure for 2014-15 are as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2011-12	1.3
2012-13	1.5
2013-14 (revised estimate)	1.6
2014-15 (estimate)	1.6

- (b) The average unit cost for euthanising an animal in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14, and the estimated unit cost for 2014-15 are as follows:

Financial Year	Unit Cost
2011-12	\$138
2012-13	\$167
2013-14	\$196
2014-15	\$196

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)050

(Question Serial No. 2438)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 42 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 51):

What are the names of the drugs used in euthanasia of animals in the three financial years of 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14? 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 the 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 past three financial years was 4 084 vials in 2011-12, 3 969 vials in 2012-13 and 1 116 vials in 2013-14 respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)051****(Question Serial No. 2439)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 42 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 52):

In the three financial years of 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14, after stray animals had been caught:

- (a) how many days on average did the Department keep such animals before they were euthanised;
- (b) what was the average daily expenditure on keeping each animal; and
- (c) what was the respective 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 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14, the average number of days that a stray animal was kept in an AFCD facility before it was reclaimed, re-homed or euthanised, the average daily expenditure on keeping an animal and the unit cost of euthanasia are as follows:

Financial Year	Average Number of Days in AFCD Facilities	Average Daily Expenditure* for Each Animal	Euthanasia Unit Cost
2011-12	7.6	\$22	\$138
2012-13	8.1	\$27	\$167
2013-14 (revised estimate)	8.7	\$28	\$196

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

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)052

(Question Serial No. 2440)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 42 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 53):

In the three financial years of 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14, what were the achievements of the partnership between 13 organisations and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to provide animal re-homing service? How many animals had each organisation received from AFCD? How many of these animals had been re-homed successfully and how many had been euthanised in the end? Will AFCD increase the number of partner organisations in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has continued to collaborate closely with 12 animal welfare organisations (AWOs) (one AWO has ceased its partnership with AFCD in 2013) to provide animal re-homing service. The number and type of animals that AFCD provided to AWOs in the past three years are set out in **Annex**. There is no available information on the number of animals re-homed successfully or euthanised by the AWOs. AFCD will continue to promote the animal re-homing service and provide technical and financial support to AWOs with a view to encouraging more AWOs to partner with AFCD to provide the service.

Number of Animals that AFCD Provided to AWOs for Re-homing in the Past Three Years

2011	Animal Welfare Organisation	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Total
1.	Hong Kong Dog Rescue (HKDR)	650	0	0	650
2.	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) (SPCA)	101	147	15	263
3.	Society for Abandoned Animals (SAA)	33	36	0	69
4.	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity (LAP)	57	4	0	61
5.	Hong Kong AlleyCat Watch	0	18	0	18
6.	Other partner AWOs	11	0	72	83
	Total	852	205	87	1 144

2012	Animal Welfare Organisation	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Total
1.	Hong Kong Dog Rescue (HKDR)	463	0	0	463
2.	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) (SPCA)	75	123	25	223
3.	Society for Abandoned Animals (SAA)	26	1	0	27
4.	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity (LAP)	59	2	0	61
5.	Hong Kong AlleyCat Watch	0	17	0	17
6.	Other partner AWOs	43	2	64	109
	Total	666	145	89	900

2013	Animal Welfare Organisation	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Total
1.	Hong Kong Dog Rescue (HKDR)	510	0	0	510
2.	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) (SPCA)	94	168	27	289
3.	Society for Abandoned Animals (SAA)	26	3	0	29
4.	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity (LAP)	73	12	0	85
5.	Hong Kong AlleyCat Watch	0	21	0	21
6.	Other partner AWOs	67	2	89	158
	Total	770	206	116	1 092

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

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)053

(Question Serial No. 1292)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 49):

Regarding the management of stray animals, the Department implemented a "Trap-Relocation" pilot scheme for stray cattle in Sai Kung and Mui Wo in November 2013. In this regard, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Please set out the details of expenditure items, expenditure and number of cattle involved in the pilot scheme in 2013 and 2014, as well as the details, progress and implementation date of the scheme.
- (b) What are the justifications and reasons for implementing the pilot scheme? What is the expected effectiveness of the pilot scheme?
- (c) Please set out the details of consultation on the scheme.
- (d) It was reported that the pilot scheme had caused health problems amongst cattle, and calves were found nearly dead after being separated from their mothers. Would the Department consider reviewing and terminating the scheme so that cattle can be relocated to the previous locations?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Che-cheung

Reply:

- (a) & (b) As part of the long-term strategy to address the issue of stray cattle, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been implementing a "Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation" (CSR) programme in Sai Kung and on Lantau Island since 2011, with a view to minimising the nuisance and potential danger caused by stray cattle to the public by controlling the population growth of stray cattle and relocating them from town centres or residential areas to rural areas or country parks. Under this CSR programme, as at the end of 2013, of the 448 heads of cattle captured from Sai Kung and Lantau Island, 245 were neutered and relocated to the adjacent rural areas or country parks. The number of complaints against nuisance caused by stray cattle received by AFCD has decreased from 245 in 2011 to 114 in 2013. However, according to AFCD's observation, most of the cattle, including those caught from town centres or residential areas, tended to return to their original dwelling places or locations where they were caught after being relocated. These cattle had apparently made use of the road networks that were familiar to them and returned to town centres. Not only do they cause potential danger and nuisance again to members of the public, the cattle also subject themselves to safety threats from motor vehicles using the roads.

In view of the above situation and having considered the professional advice from the consultancy study commissioned by AFCD on the territory-wide population survey on stray cattle, AFCD carried out a pilot scheme in November 2013 under which those cattle with records of repeatedly

returning to their original dwelling places were relocated to a farther location. Under the pilot scheme, 29 cattle from Sai Kung have been relocated to Lantau Island and another 21 cattle from Lantau Island to Sai Kung. These relocated cattle have been sterilised and ear-tagged for easy identification. Regular site visits and inspections are conducted by AFCD staff to closely monitor the health condition and the movement of the relocated cattle. According to the observation in the past few months, most of the relocated cattle were in good condition without major health problems. Many of them stayed at the relocated area and did not wander onto the access roads in the vicinity. There has not been any report on road traffic accidents caused by stray cattle in Sai Kung after the implementation of the pilot scheme. AFCD will continue to monitor the situation and collect relevant information. A review on the efficacy of this scheme will be conducted later this year. The estimated expenditure for 2013-14 is \$0.2 million, and \$0.41 million has been earmarked for this area of work in 2014-15.

- (c) AFCD has consulted the relevant District Councils, rural committees, local communities and animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in the process of formulating the long-term strategy and the related measures including the CSR programme to address the issue of stray cattle. AFCD has also been maintaining close liaison with the concerned parties and keeping them informed of the latest state of the CSR programme.
- (d) To safeguard the well-being of the cattle after relocation, AFCD has carefully selected the relocation sites in rural areas or country parks to ensure that there is adequate food and water to sustain the relocated herd. Members of the same family group have been relocated altogether as far as possible to maintain the herd structure. After moving the cattle to the relocation sites, regular site visits and inspections have been carried out by AFCD staff to closely monitor the health condition of the cattle and provide veterinary care to the sick or injured ones when necessary. AFCD will continue to monitor the situation and collect relevant information. A review on the efficacy of this scheme will be conducted later this year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)054

(Question Serial No. 1342)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 1.18):

Regarding the Stray Cattle and Buffalo Management Plan,

- (a) Please set out the respective data of the survey on the numbers and distribution of stray cattle in Hong Kong, the expenditure and manpower involved, as well as the estimated expenditure in 2014-15;
- (b) Please give a breakdown by districts on the numbers of cattle nuisance complaints received by the Department, follow-up cases, as well as the number of cases of injured/sick cattle and the number of cattle euthanised over the past five years;
- (c) It is noted that the Department has started to spay female cattle recently so as to control cattle population to "a stable level". What are the criteria adopted by the Department for determining the population level of cattle in order to strike a harmonised balance of activities between local residents and cattle?
- (d) Please set out the expenditure and manpower involved, and the number of service provided in 2013-14, as well as the estimated expenditure in 2014-15 in relation to the cattle herding service implemented by the Department at the district level. Does the service cover public enquiry and liaison? Does the Department put in place any measures or guidelines to minimise the potential impact on cattle in the process of herding?
- (e) What criteria and justifications are adopted by the Department to remove and relocate cattle from problem areas to country parks? Have the cattle's adaptability to new habitats and the potential impact on cattle during relocation been taken into consideration? If yes, does the Department put in place any measures or guidelines to minimise the said impact? Please provide the mortality of cattle after relocation; and
- (f) Has the Department considered any solution(s) which can have fewer impacts on cattle health and address individual problem districts, e.g. installing railings, enhancing refuse management so as to minimise cattle nuisance, etc?

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG, Kenneth

Reply:

- (a) According to a territory-wide population survey on stray cattle conducted in 2012, there were around 1 200 stray cattle in the rural areas of Hong Kong. The estimated number of stray cattle and their distribution based on the survey data is shown below:

	Estimated Number of Stray Cattle (Head)				
	Lantau Island	Sai Kung/ Ma On Shan	North East New Territories	Central New Territories	Total
Buffalo	75	0	0	45	120
Brown Cattle	225	450	235	200	1 110
Total	300	450	235	245	1 230

The expenditure for conducting the survey in 2012 was \$0.38 million. As it is only necessary to conduct such comprehensive surveys every 4-5 years to monitor the long-term changes in cattle population, we do not plan to carry out a similar survey in 2014-15 and hence no expenditure will be incurred.

- (b) The number of cattle-related complaints, the number of cases involving injured/sick cattle and the number of cattle euthanized over the past 5 years are listed in the table below:

Calendar Year	Number of cattle-related complaints received and followed up	Number of cases involving injured/sick cattle	Number of cattle euthanized
2009	76	No available data	30
2010	81	No available data	48
2011	245	No available data	27
2012	149	66	69
2013	114	94	30

Breakdown of the above figures by districts is only available for 2012 and 2013 as tabulated below:

Calendar Year	Number of cattle-related complaints received and followed up		Number of cases involving injured/sick cattle		Number of cattle euthanized	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
Lantau	68	58	17	33	3	6
Sai Kung	55	41	42	40	8	9
Northeast and Central New Territories	26	15	7	21	58	15
Subtotal	149	114	66	94	69	30

- (c) Since 2011, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been implementing a "Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation" (CSR) programme in Sai Kung and on Lantau Island with a view to minimising the nuisance and potential danger caused by stray cattle to the public by controlling the population growth of stray cattle and relocating them from town centres or residential areas to rural areas or country parks. AFCD will continue to monitor the cattle population and the number of cattle-related complaints, and take into account the opinions of different stakeholders in determining whether and how the CSR programme should be adjusted in order to strike a balance between human activities and cattle welfare.
- (d) AFCD has been working in collaboration with animal welfare organisations (AWOs) to herd cattle in various districts. Upon receipt of relevant reports from members of the public, volunteers from the AWOs will proceed to the site and help herd cattle off the roads or away to a safe place. If the situation is too complicated to be handled by volunteers alone, AFCD will take over and follow up the case as appropriate. In addition, AFCD also cooperates with AWOs to carry out education and publicity activities, and liaise with local communities on cattle-related issues. To ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the cattle herding service, AFCD maintains close communication

with the AWOs involved and exchanges information with them whenever necessary.

As the service is mainly provided by the AWOs, AFCD does not have information on the number of service provided, nor the expenditure and manpower involved.

- (e) As part of the long-term strategy to address the issue of stray cattle, AFCD has been implementing the CSR programme in Sai Kung and on Lantau Island since 2011, with a view to minimising the nuisance and potential danger caused by stray cattle to the public by controlling the population growth of stray cattle and relocating them from town centres or residential areas to rural areas or country parks. As at the end of 2013, of the 448 heads of cattle captured, 245 were sterilised and relocated to the adjacent rural areas or country parks. The number of complaints against nuisance caused by stray cattle received by AFCD has decreased from 245 in 2011 to 114 in 2013. However, according to AFCD's observation, most of the cattle, including those caught from town centres or residential areas, tended to return to their original dwelling places or locations where they were caught after being relocated. These cattle had apparently made use of the road networks that were familiar to them and returned to town centres. Not only do they cause potential danger and nuisance again to members of the public, the cattle also subject themselves to safety threats from motor vehicles using the roads.

In view of the above situation and having considered the professional advice from the consultancy study commissioned by AFCD on the territory-wide population survey on stray cattle, AFCD carried out a pilot scheme in November 2013 under which those cattle with records of repeatedly returning to their original dwelling places were relocated to a farther location. Under the pilot scheme, 29 cattle from Sai Kung have been relocated to Lantau Island and another 21 cattle from Lantau Island to Sai Kung. These relocated cattle have been sterilised and ear-tagged for easy identification. Regular site visits and inspections are conducted by AFCD staff to closely monitor the health condition and the movement of the relocated cattle. According to the observation in the past few months, most of the relocated cattle were in good condition without major health problems. Many of them stayed at the relocated area and did not wander onto the access roads in the vicinity. There has not been any report on road traffic accidents caused by stray cattle in Sai Kung after the implementation of the pilot scheme. AFCD will continue to monitor the situation and collect relevant information. A review on the efficacy of this scheme will be conducted later this year.

To safeguard the well-being of the cattle after relocation, AFCD will carefully select the relocation sites in rural areas or country parks to ensure that there is adequate food and water to sustain the relocated herd. Members of the same family group will be relocated altogether as far as possible to maintain the herd structure. After moving the cattle to the relocation sites, regular site visits and inspections will be carried out by AFCD staff to closely monitor the health condition of the cattle and provide veterinary care to the sick or injured ones when necessary.

- (f) Under the multi-pronged approach for managing stray cattle, continuous efforts are being made by AFCD to explore new and enhanced measures that will help minimise the nuisance caused by stray cattle while safeguarding the welfare of the cattle. Apart from the pilot scheme mentioned in (e) above, AFCD is currently studying the feasibility of sterilising cattle chemically with the use of a contraceptive drug which, if proved feasible, will enable the sterilising process to be conducted in remote areas without the need for surgical operations. In addition, other measures such as installing cattle grids to confine the stray cattle to a particular location or to prevent them from entering into a particular area are being explored.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)055****(Question Serial No. 0180)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 11):

Regarding the indicator of "stray animals caught" under "Animal and plant regulation", please advise on:

- the numbers of stray animals caught by the Administration over the past five years (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013), broken down by year and types of animals;
- the numbers and types of animals reclaimed by owners over the past five years (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013);
- the numbers of stray animals eventually euthanised by the Administration over the past five years (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013). What was the expenditure involved? Please give a breakdown by year and types of animals;
- what are the criteria used by the Administration for determining the euthanasia of stray animals caught?

Asked by: Hon. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

- 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*
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
2013	4 626	2 866	444

* 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*
2009	1 658	810	11
2010	1 964	805	45
2011	1 517	738	474
2012	1 292	707	348
2013	1 379	779	315

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

(c) The number and type of animals euthanised by AFCD over the past five years are as follows:

Calendar Year	Animals Euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*
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
2013	5 353	1 861	1 015

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

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

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2009-10	1.5
2010-11	1.3
2011-12	1.3
2012-13	1.5
2013-14 (revised estimate)	1.6

(d) Stray dogs and cats caught by AFCD will usually stay at the 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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)056****(Question Serial No. 1880)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 19):

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 over the past three years? Has the Department considered changing the amounts of expenditure on these two aspects in the next financial year or allocating the total expenditure on the euthanasia of animals to the "trap-neuter-vaccinate-return" scheme? 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

The number of animals euthanised in the past three years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Animals Euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2011	6 561	2 422	649
2012	5 675	1 950	1 160
2013	5 353	1 861	1 015

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

The expenditure involved in the euthanasia of animals in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2011-12	1.3
2012-13	1.5
2013-14 (revised estimate)	1.6

Through strengthened efforts on various fronts such as the promotion of responsible pet ownership and animal re-homing as well as taking enforcement action 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, provision earmarked for this area of work in 2014-15 is the same as the revised estimate for 2013-14, taking into account the anticipated increase in cost.

“Trap-Neuter-Return” (TNR) Trial Scheme for Stray Dogs

In 2012, the original proposal of implementing the TNR trial scheme for stray dogs in the three potential sites in Yuen Long, Sai Kung and on Lamma Island encountered objection from the respective District Councils and local communities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, in collaboration with relevant animal welfare organisations (AWOs), have since identified two alternative potential sites in Yuen Long and Cheung Chau, and consulted the local community and the respective District Councils on the proposed trial scheme. While there is no negative feedback on the Yuen Long trial site, objection has been received from the local community of the Cheung Chau trial site. In this connection, the AWO administering the trial scheme on this site is considering making adjustment to the site boundary to address the concerns from the nearby residents. In parallel, the Administration is working on the legal notices necessary for the implementation of the trial scheme. The trial scheme is expected to commence in 2014 after the finalisation of the boundary of the Cheung Chau trial site by the AWO in consultation with the local community.

The expenditure in 2011-12 and 2012-13, and the revised estimate in 2013-14 involved in pursuing the TNR trial scheme is \$0.82 million for each financial year. In 2014-15, \$1.4 million and three staff have been allocated for the implementation of the trial scheme.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)057

(Question Serial No. 1881)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 42 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 20):

What were 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) to examine the work on handling animal cruelty cases in the recent year?

Asked by: Hon. MO, Claudia

Reply:

In 2011, 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 (Hong Kong), set up an inter-departmental special working group (working group) to enhance co-operation in handling animal cruelty cases. In the past year, members of the working group continued to work closely with and render mutual support to each other in handling animal cruelty cases. Regular meetings were held for discussion on the handling of such cases, sharing of information and experience, as well as devising and reviewing guidelines for improving efficiency in the detection and prevention of animal cruelty cases, with a view to ensuring that the welfare of animals involved was protected. An inter-departmental animal welfare training course was organised to enhance the knowledge of frontline staff in animal welfare and their skills for investigation of animal cruelty cases. Moreover, the working group kept in view the penalty handed down by the court in convicted cases in relation to animal cruelty for the purpose of forming recommendations to the Department of Justice for review if and when the penalty imposed by the court was considered too lenient.

The work of the working group forms part of AFCD's on-going efforts in combating cruelty to animals and in promoting animal welfare. The relevant departments/parties have made use of existing resources to carry out the work arising from the working group.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)058****(Question Serial No. 1882)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 21):

What were the details and overall expenditure on the Department's work in catching community animals over the past five years? What was the establishment of staff catching community animals? Was there any outsourced staff involved? What was the overall expenditure on salaries? Please also 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 over the past five years.

Asked by: Hon. MO, Claudia

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides animal management services to the public through four animal management centres (AMCs). The expenditure involved in the management of stray animals including catching operations over the past five years is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2009-10	20.6
2010-11	21.3
2011-12	22.0
2012-13	25.6
2013-14 (revised estimate)	24.1

All stray animals catching operations are carried out by the staff of AMCs without outsourcing. The total staff cost involved in the management of stray animals including catching operations in 2013-14 is \$19.8 million. The staff establishment of each AMC is as follows:

Financial Year 2013-14	New Territories North AMC	New Territories South AMC	Kowloon AMC	Hong Kong AMC
Veterinary Officer	1	1	1	1
Field Officers	12	9	12	9
Frontline Staff	42	25	31	28
Total	55	35	44	38

The number and species of stray animals caught, animals given up by owners, and those received through other channels by AFCD and the number of animals reclaimed by the owners, re-homed and euthanised in the past five years are at **Annex**.

Annex

Calendar Year	Stray Animals Caught			Animals Given Up by Owners			Animals Received through Other Channels			Animals Reclaimed by Owners			Animals Re-homed			Animals Euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2009	7 850	4 570	1 361	2 990	190	427	1 175	150	40	1 658	810	11	650	90	18	9 085	3 497	1 161
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
2013	4 626	2 866	444	1 871	222	105	1 271	136	1 001	1 379	779	315	770	206	116	5 353	1 861	1 015

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

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)059****(Question Serial No. 1883)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 23):

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 over the past three years.

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:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2011-12	1.3
2012-13	1.5
2013-14 (revised estimate)	1.6

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)060

(Question Serial No. 1884)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 42 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 24):

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? Would the Administration consider increasing the penalties under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance to enhance the deterrent effect?

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 on-going work carried out by AFCD 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 Police), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) (SPCA), set up an inter-departmental special working group (working group) to enhance co-operation in handling animal cruelty cases. In the past three years, members of the working group worked closely with and rendered mutual support to each other in handling animal cruelty cases. Regular meetings were held for the discussion on the handling of such cases, sharing of information and experience, as well as devising and reviewing guidelines for improving efficiency in the detection and prevention of animal cruelty cases, with a view to ensuring that the welfare of animals involved was protected. Various training courses were organised to enhance the knowledge of frontline staff in animal welfare and their skills for handling and investigation of animal cruelty cases. Moreover, the working group kept in view the level of penalty handed down by the court in convicted cases in relation to animal cruelty and might make recommendations to the Department of Justice for review if and when the penalty imposed by the court was considered by the working group as being too lenient.

Besides, AFCD had been actively involved in the "Animal Watch Scheme" launched by the Police in 2011 to strengthen co-operation among the Police, AFCD, SPCA and other stakeholders in the investigation of cases involving cruelty to animals. Specifically, AFCD 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 had been cruelly treated.

The expenditure involved in the above-mentioned work related to the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) over the past three years is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2011-12	1.7
2012-13	2.1
2013-14 (revised estimate)	2.3

At present, the maximum penalty under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) is a fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for three years. It was raised, by a significant margin, from a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for six months in 2006 with the support of the Legislative Council. The level of penalty imposed by the court is generally higher than what it used to be before the penalty provisions in the Ordinance were amended. The heaviest sentence handed down so far is imprisonment for sixteen months. The Administration is of the view that the maximum penalty under the Ordinance and the level of penalty imposed by the court offer sufficient deterrence against acts of animal cruelty and it has no plan to raise the penalty.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)061

(Question Serial No. 2036)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 47 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 22):

The amount of subventions for “animal welfare organisations” under the Operating Account is estimated to be \$1 million. Please set out the organisations that received the subventions over the past three years. What are the criteria for selecting organisations to receive the subventions? What are the specific uses of the subventions? Did the Department conduct any review on the effectiveness of such subventions in the past? If yes, what were the outcomes? If not, what were the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MO, Claudia

Reply:

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 provision of \$1 million has been earmarked in each financial year for providing subvention to AWOs to facilitate their implementation of relevant programmes.

In the past three years, a total of 17 applications have 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, Hong Kong Puppies Rescue, Lifelong Animal Protection Charity, Sai Kung Stray Friends, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong), Society for Abandoned Animals, and Hong Kong Rabbit Society. All the applications have been fully or partly approved. The total amount of subvention approved in the past three years is \$2,017,600. Activities that received subvention include the establishment of a new animal re-homing centre, installation of dog houses and renovation of facilities in existing rehoming centres, provision of desexing service and medical treatment to animals including those to be re-homed, as well as organising education and publicity activities to promote re-homing of animals and responsible pet ownership.

AFCD has been monitoring the implementation of the subvention scheme and revised the eligibility criteria in 2013-14 to cover all AWOs in Hong Kong. Each application is considered on its own merits. Document review and audit inspections are conducted to monitor the implementation and assess the outcome of individual subvented programmes. The results of all subvented programmes are found to be satisfactory.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)062****(Question Serial No. 0924)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 44 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 1):

Regarding the net increase of 2 posts under Programme (1) in 2014-15, what are the details of those posts and the annual expenditure for each of them?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

Posts	Details	Annual expenditure on salaries
Fisheries Officer	To administer and provide support to the operation of the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund	\$0.6 million
Executive Officer II		\$0.4 million

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)063

(Question Serial No. 0925)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 39 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 2):

Regarding the implementation of the legislation to ban trawling in Hong Kong waters, please set out the respective numbers of prosecution cases arising from the trawl ban over the past two years.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

The trawl ban came into effect on 31 December 2012. The number of prosecution cases arising from the trawl ban in 2013 and 2014 (as at 28 February 2014) is 14 and 2 respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)064****(Question Serial No. 0927)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 42 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 4):

- (a) Please set out the number of inspections carried out over the past three years of premises and establishments where animals are kept for exhibition or trading purposes.
- (b) What is the staff establishment for the inspection of such premises and establishments? What was the expenditure involved in each of the past three years?
- (c) How many prosecutions were taken against such premises and establishments over the past three years respectively? What were the types of cases prosecuted?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

- (a) The number of inspections on exhibition establishments and animal trading premises in the past three years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of Inspections
2011	5 385
2012	5 722
2013	5 809

- (b) The staff establishment and expenditure involved in the inspection of exhibition establishments and animal trading premises in the past three years are as follows:

Financial Year	Manpower	Expenditure (\$ million)
2011-12	20	6.9
2012-13	20	7.6
2013-14 (revised estimate)	19	8.5

- (c) The number of prosecutions against exhibition establishments and animal trading premises in the past three years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of Prosecutions	
	Trading without a licence	Breaching licensing condition
2011	13	2
2012	6	0
2013	3	2

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)065****(Question Serial No. 0928)**

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 (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 5):

- (a) Regarding the four existing animal management centres of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), please set out the actual, revised and estimated expenditure of each centre in 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively.
- (b) What are the details of the staff establishment of each centre in 2014?
- (c) Please set out the maximum capacity of animal accommodation (by types) of each animal management centre, and set out the average number of animals accommodated in each animal centre over the past three years.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

- (a) 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 actual, revised and estimated expenditure of the AMCs in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively are as follows:

Financial Year	Operational Expenditure (\$ million)			
	AMC/NTN	AMC/NTS	AMC/K	AMC/HK
2012-13	20.70	14.05	17.74	14.05
2013-14 (revised estimate)	20.94	14.21	17.95	14.21
2014-15 (estimate)	20.94	14.21	17.95	14.21

- (b) The staff establishment of each AMC in 2014 is as follows:

	AMC/NTN	AMC/NTS	AMC/K	AMC/HK
Veterinary Officer	1	1	1	1
Field Officers	12	9	12	9
Frontline staff	42	25	31	28
Total	55	35	44	38

(c) The maximum capacity of animal accommodation of the four AMCs is as follows:

	Maximum Capacity (Numbers)			
	Dog kennels	Cat kennels	Bird cages	Enclosures for other animals
AMC/HK	50	30	--	--
AMC/K	90	30	--	--
AMC/NTS	80	30	--	--
AMC/NTN	130	80	25	16
Total	350	170	25	16

The average number of animals (dogs and cats) kept in the four AMCs in HK, K, NTS and NTN per year over the past three years is 1431, 2439, 2099 and 6433 respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)066

(Question Serial No. 3098)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 48 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 2):

The trade may apply for grants under the new Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund to explore new fisheries-related eco-tourism tour routes so as to develop recreational fisheries tourism. Since 2010, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has also been helping fishermen in switching to eco-tourism through the implementation of a trial scheme. In this regard, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Please set out the numbers of fisheries-related eco-tourism tours organised and the turnout figures over the past three years (2011-12 to 2013-14).
- (b) In 2014-15, how much provision will be earmarked by the Administration in developing recreational fisheries tourism? How many recreational fisheries tours will be planned and what is the target number of participants attracted to recreational fisheries tourism activities?

Asked by: Hon. YIU Si-wing

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) launched in 2010 a pilot scheme in collaboration with relevant stakeholders to help fishermen venture into ecotourism. In the past three years, it has organised 403 eco-tours under the pilot scheme, with over 12 000 participants.
- (b) In 2014-15, AFCD has earmarked \$2.2 million for the pilot scheme. It is estimated that some 120 eco-tours will be organised, with a target of about 3 700 participants. AFCD is working out the detailed arrangements and procedures of the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (the Fund) with a view to inviting applications in the first half of 2014 and disbursing the first batch of funding within 2014-15. The scope of the Fund covers financial support for fishermen to switch to other fisheries-related operations, including recreational fisheries tourism projects.

AFCD has been working closely with other government departments to promote recreational fisheries tourism and will continue to help fishermen identify new tour routes/destinations for fisheries-related eco-tourism and upgrade existing routes. As and when more routes/destinations are developed and taken forward, AFCD would review the resources deployed on this area of work.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)067

(Question Serial No. 0019)

Head: (48) Government Laboratory
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Statutory Testing
Controlling Officer: Government Chemist (Dr. LAU Chau-ming)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 279 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 30):

What was the expenditure of the Food Safety Laboratory in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14? What is the current staff establishment? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The expenditure of the Food Safety Laboratory (FSL) under the Government Laboratory was \$29 million in 2011-12 and \$33 million in 2012-13. The revised estimate for 2013-14 is \$44 million. The current staff establishment of FSL consists of 33 professional and technical officers. The estimated expenditure for 2014-15 is \$35 million with no change in staff establishment. The decrease of estimated expenditure in 2014-15 when compared with the revised estimate for 2013-14 is because the latter involved procurement of more items of major equipment.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)068****(Question Serial No. 0077)**

Head: (48) Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist (Dr. LAU Chau-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 279 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 31):

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 2012-13 and those expected to be outsourced in 2013-14 and 2014-15, as well as the respective ratio of outsourcing.
- b. the expenditure incurred in 2012-13 and the respective estimated expenditure to be incurred in 2013-14 and 2014-15 for the outsourcing of food testing.
- c. the manpower and expenditure involved for supervising and spot-checking the outsourcing work in 2012-13 and the estimated manpower and expenditure for such purposes in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

- (a) The scope and numbers of samples outsourced in 2012-13 and the estimated numbers for 2013-14 and 2014-15 as well as the respective ratios of outsourcing are provided in the table below:

Financial year	Number of food tests (number of samples involved)	Outsourced Food Tests/ Government Laboratory's Routine Food Testing Work	Scope of outsourcing
2012-13	118 000 (12 800 samples)	70%	preservatives, sulphur dioxide boric acid, propionic acid, nitrate and nitrite, colouring matter, trace metals, pesticide residues, veterinary drug residues, other food contaminants
2013-14 (estimated)	119 000 (13 000 samples)	70%	- ditto -
2014-15 (estimated)	119 000 (13 000 samples)	70%	- ditto -

(b) The expenditure on outsourcing of food testing incurred in 2012-13 was \$12 million. The revised estimate for 2013-14 and the estimated expenditure for 2014-15 are both \$12 million.

(c) 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 \$4.6 million for 2012-13 and estimated expenditures of \$4.8 and \$5.0 million for 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)069****(Question Serial No. 0089)**

Head: (48) Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist (Dr. LAU Chau-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 279 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 33):

What is the respective number of food samples tested for regulatory compliance in each of the past two years (i.e. 2011-12 and 2012-13) and the anticipated number for 2013-14 and 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The numbers of food tests (with the corresponding numbers of food samples in brackets) for regulatory compliance purposes conducted by the Government Laboratory in 2011-12 and 2012-13, and the estimated numbers for 2013-14 and 2014-15 are as follows:

2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (estimated)	2014-15 (estimated)
185 847 tests (29 589 samples)	189 421 tests (27 987 samples)	198 000 tests (30 000 samples)	180 000 tests (30 000 samples)

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)070****(Question Serial No. 0984)**

Head: (48) Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist (Dr. LAU Chau-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 285 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 10):

On procurement of equipment, what equipment specifically for food testing will be procured in 2014-15? Please advise on the name and purpose of the equipment, and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

Government Laboratory has planned to procure the following equipment for food testing in 2014-15:

Equipment to be purchased in 2014-15	Purpose	Approved Commitment (\$ million)
A set of equipment including a liquid chromatographic-mass spectrometric system; two liquid chromatographic systems with various spectrometric detectors; a microwave digestion system; a gas chromatographic-mass spectrometric system with various detectors and an inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer	For testing of nutrients in infant formula, follow-up formula and foods intended for infants and young children	9.600
An integrated high performance liquid chromatographic system with tandem mass spectrometric detection	For testing of toxins in food	4.600
A set of equipment including a digital real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction system and a DNA hybridization system	For testing of genetically modified organism in food and for species identification	7.056
A set of equipment including an integrated gas chromatograph mass spectrometric system; a sample and data management system; a bundle of sample preparation equipment including gel permeation chromatograph and automated solid phase extraction system	For testing of pesticide residues in food	6.720

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)071

(Question Serial No. 0985)

Head: (48) Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist (Dr. LAU Chau-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 278 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 11):

With regard to the outsourcing of routine food testing work, what are the actual, revised and estimated expenditures in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-2015 respectively?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

The expenditure on outsourcing of food testing incurred in 2012-13 was \$12 million. The revised estimate for 2013-14 and the estimated expenditure for 2014-15 are both \$12 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)072****(Question Serial No. 1263)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 17):

Please provide information on the following:

- (1) the number of public toilets in each district in the territory (set out in tabular form), with a breakdown by male toilet, female toilet, toilet for the disabled and unisex toilet, as well as the operational expenses for public toilets in each district over the past three years; and
- (2) given that transgender persons express their discomfort in using gender-specified public toilets, whether the Department has any plans to construct unisex public toilets intended for use by both sexes or to convert existing toilets for the disabled into unisex toilets in the coming year (i.e. in 2014-15); and the estimated manpower and expenditure to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

- (1) Of the 769 public toilets managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), 340 are provided with accessible unisex toilets for use by people with needs, including people with babies and small children, people with a disability and the elderly.

The expenditure involved in providing street cleansing service (including public toilets) is given below

2012-13 (actual expenditure)	2013-14 (revised estimated expenditure)	2014-15 (estimated expenditure)
\$1,561.1 million	\$1,653.7 million	\$1,772.8 million

Separate breakdown for public toilets is not available.

Information on the number of public toilets in each district is given below -

District	(a) Number of public toilets	(b) Number of the public toilets in (a) that are provided with accessible unisex toilet
Central & Western	40 (3)	12
Eastern	15	14
Southern	23 (2)	12
Wan Chai	16	14
Islands	62	18
Kowloon City	16	16
Kwun Tong	10	10
Wong Tai Sin	6	6
Sham Shui Po	10	10
Mong Kok	9	9
Yau Tsim	12 (1)	11
Sai Kung	61	23
Sha Tin	29	16
Tai Po	67	16
North	132	43
Kwai Tsing	19	15
Tsuen Wan	31	11
Tuen Mun	40	18
Yuen Long	171	66
Total	769 (6)	340

Note

The public toilets are normally provided with both male and female toilet compartments. The figure in bracket denotes public toilets in (a) that are provided with male toilet compartment only.

- (2) In recent years, the Department has made continuous efforts to improve the public toilet facilities under its management. In planning for new public toilets, and reprovisioning or refurbishing existing toilets, whenever circumstances permit, accessible unisex toilets will be provided in compliance with the requirements of the prevailing “Design Manual – Barrier Free Access 2008” issued by the Buildings Department. At present, the Department has no plan to provide unisex toilets other than accessible unisex toilets.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)073****(Question Serial No. 1281)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 43):

Please provide the number of public cleanliness offences committed by non-resident visitors in Hong Kong in the past three years, including verbal warnings given and fixed penalty notices issued, as well as the amount of outstanding fines.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

Officers of seven government departments (namely, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Hong Kong Police Force, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Housing Department, Environmental Protection Department, Marine Department and Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department) are authorised under the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness Offences) Ordinance, Cap. 570 (the Ordinance) to issue fixed penalty notices. When cleanliness offences under the Ordinance are witnessed, the authorised officers of the enforcement departments may issue Notices to the offenders without giving verbal warnings. The information sought is provided as follows –

Year	2011	2012	2013
Number of \$1,500 fixed penalty notices (Notices) issued to non-resident visitors (Note)	2 835	3 051	2 836
Number of Notices issued to non-resident visitors with payment of fines remaining outstanding in January 2014	48	58	723

Note

It gives the total number of notices issued by the seven enforcement departments.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0644)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expense
Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 7):

It is stated that there will be an increase of 6.3% in the estimated expenditure on environmental hygiene and related services. In this connection, please advise on the following:

- 1) the amount and percentage of expenditure and the proportion of the manpower involved in taking actions against illegal extension of business area by restaurants in the past three years;
- 2) in view of the public query on the effectiveness of the actions against illegal extension of business area by restaurants and the different situations in 18 districts, the ways in identifying target spots and restaurants in each district for enforcement actions; the number of prosecutions instituted, the number of complaints received in each district, the actions taken and the effectiveness of these actions in the past three years; and
- 3) whether the Department will explore the feasibility of imposing heavier penalties, or formulating other measures in order to curb illegal extension of food business area. If yes, the plans; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Han-pan

Reply:

- 1) In the past three years, 291 Health Inspectors in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) are responsible for licensing control of food premises, including taking enforcement actions against illegal extension of business area by restaurants, among other duties relating to environmental hygiene matters. There is no separate breakdown showing the amount and percentage of expenditure and the proportion of the manpower involved in taking actions against illegal extension of business area by restaurants.
- 2) The Department has been vigilant in combating illegal extension of business area by restaurants. In recent years, the Department has adopted a multi-pronged approach and implemented targeted measures to strengthen its actions against illegal extension of business area by restaurants. In formulating the enhanced enforcement strategy, the Department has taken into consideration relevant factors including the problem of illegal extension of business area by food premises and work priorities in different districts etc. The enhanced measures include stepping up inspections and enforcement actions, speeding up the prosecution process and providing additional information to the court for consideration when passing sentences, consultation with District Councils (DCs) on the enhanced measures to solicit their support, and application for closure order from the court against food premises which persistently operate without a licence. In respect of an applicant whose restaurant licence has previously been cancelled due to repeated illegal extension of business area,

his/her application, or an application made by his/her representative/business partner for any licence in relation to the same premises will not be processed within 12 months from the date of cancellation of the licence. With the enhanced measures against illegal extension of business area by restaurants in place, more prosecutions have been taken resulting in an increase in the number of restaurants sanctioned for illegal extension of business area under the licensing regime. The relevant enforcement statistics and number of restaurants sanctioned under the licensing regimes are provided in Annexes I and II respectively. Besides, the total number of complaints against illegal extension of business area by restaurants has dropped in the past three years, with breakdown by districts set out in Annex III.

- 3) The Department set up in May 2013, on a pilot basis, a task force comprising eight health inspectorate officers redeployed within the Department to pursue enhanced enforcement actions in selected areas. The task force has been effective in containing the problematic spots in Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung. The Department plans to set up additional task force teams to tackle the problem in other problematic spots and, where appropriate, will consult the relevant DCs on the enhanced measures to seek their support.

Prosecutions instituted against illegal extension of food business by restaurants

Year	2011	2012	2013
Section 34C of Food Business Regulation, Cap. 132X (i.e. illegal extension of business area)	871	1 123	859
Section 31(1)(b) of Food Business Regulation, Cap. 132X (i.e. unlicensed food business)	392	1 018	1 535
Section 4A of Summary Offences Ordinance, Cap. 228 (i.e. obstruction of public places)	1 736	1 115	1 163
Total	2 999	3 256	3 557

Number of licensed restaurants sanctioned under the licensing regime

Year	2011	2012	2013
Suspension of licence	99	164	180
Cancellation of licence	16	39	57
Total	115	203	237

Number of complaints against illegal extension of food business by restaurants

District	2011	2012	2013
Central and Western	160	119	68
Wanchai	252	130	222
Eastern	153	98	79
Southern	20	46	42
Islands	44	32	76
Yau Tsim	1 036	485	407
Mong Kok	558	338	208
Sham Shui Po	320	299	276
Kowloon City	201	183	166
Wong Tai Sin	185	146	184
Kwun Tong	594	283	233
Kwai Tsing	182	214	126
Tsuen Wan	413	524	345
Tuen Mun	240	154	265
Yuen Long	987	920	1 096
North	93	218	196
Tai Po	209	147	167
Sha Tin	456	501	355
Sai Kung	120	118	137
Total	6 223	4 955	4 648

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)075

(Question Serial No. 0645)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 248 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 8):

Information shows that the expenditure on food safety and public health will increase by 5.6% in the coming year. In this connection, please advise on the following:

- 1) the amount of resources to be allocated for exercising import control on high-risk food, as well as the places of origin and the types of food to be covered in such control;
- 2) with regard to the testing of high-risk food imported from places such as Japan, China and Taiwan, whether resources will be allocated for procuring equipment and additional manpower be deployed;
- 3) whether financial provision will be earmarked for conducting a study with a view to adopting measures similar to those implemented overseas (e.g. in South Korea) to prohibit the import of agricultural products from radiation-contaminated areas in Japan so as to allay public concerns. If yes, the plans; if not, the reason(s); and
- 4) given the difference in the conception of food labelling and content of high-risk food among the public, whether the expenditure on publicity and public education on this front will be increased. If yes, the plans; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Han-pan

Reply:

- 1) At present, high-risk food including game, meat, poultry, milk and frozen confections imported from outside Hong Kong is subject to import control. Apart from that, in response to the Fukushima nuclear power plant incident in Japan on 11 March 2011, the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene made a food safety order prohibiting the import of certain fresh produce and milk products (note 1) from five prefectures (Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, and Chiba) of Japan. The order is still effective.

The expenditure of exercising import control on high-risk food will be absorbed within existing resources for safeguarding food safety in general and cannot be separately identified.

- 2) The Administration has allocated sufficient resources to procure the instruments required for carrying out various food tests. The Administration will also flexibly deploy its manpower to meet the operational needs and service demand, including import control on high-risk food.
- 3) Since the nuclear power plant incident in Fukushima, Japan in March 2011, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) has adopted a risk-based approach in formulating strategies to monitor food imports from Japan.

CFS will continue to stay alert to the situation of the Fukushima nuclear power plant and collect food samples for radiation testing, with reference to the test results of the Japanese authority and local surveillance. CFS will also keep track of the latest measures taken by other countries/places against food products imported from Japan, and recommendations made by international agencies including the World Health Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the issue. CFS will adjust the surveillance measures on Japanese food imports as necessary to ensure food safety and protect public health.

In response to the nuclear power plant incident, CFS has promptly adopted the “Guideline Levels for Radionuclides in Foods Contaminated Following a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency” (Guideline Levels) laid down by the Codex Alimentarius Commission for testing the radiation levels of every consignment of food products imported from Japan to ensure food safety. This testing strategy has been in force since then. On 23 March 2011, three samples of vegetables imported from the Chiba prefecture were detected with radioactive substances at levels exceeding the Guideline Levels. To protect public health, the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene issued an order on the following day (i.e. 24 March 2011) to prohibit the import of certain fresh produce and milk products from five prefectures of Japan. The order remains in force today.

Taking into account the latest experts’ opinions of IAEA and the above-mentioned mechanism to monitor and assess import control measures imposed by other countries/places against food products imported from Japan, CFS considers the existing control measures adequate for the protection of public health and there is no plan to conduct a separate study to review the control strategy.

- 4) Public education and publicity (PE&P) on food labelling and high-risk food is part and parcel of the CFS’ overall PE&P efforts and the relevant expenditure cannot be separately identified. CFS adopts a risk-based approach in setting out priorities of its PE&P programmes, having regard to food incidents and results of food surveillance, amongst other considerations, and deploys resources flexibly in accordance with such priorities.

Note 1: The food safety order applies to:

- (a) all vegetables and fruits;
- (b) all milk, milk beverages and milk powder; and
- (c) all chilled or frozen game, meat and poultry, all poultry eggs and all live, chilled or frozen aquatic products, unless accompanied by a certificate issued by the competent authority of Japan certifying that the radiation levels do not exceed the guideline levels laid down by Codex.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)076****(Question Serial No. 2883)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 41):

Regarding the assistance scheme for hawker licensees, please advise on the number of applications processed, the number of applications approved and the total amount of grants provided since its implementation.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply:

The information sought, as at 28 February 2014, is provided as follows -

Item	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved for payment	Amount of grant involved (\$)
Voluntary surrender of fixed-pitch hawker licences	261	215	25,800,000
Relocation of stalls	112	3#	156,900
In-situ reconstruction of stalls	93	1#	15,000

Payment for relocation or in-situ reconstruction grant is subject to compliance of all stall construction specifications and clearance of existing stall structure.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)077****(Question Serial No. 2886)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 10):

Please advise on the number of liquor licence applications received and liquor licences granted in each of the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply:

The number of liquor licence applications received and liquor licences granted in each of the past 5 years is provided as follows -

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total number of liquor licence applications received (including new issue, renewal, transfer and amendment applications)	6 945	7 071	7 274	7 789	8 179
Total number of liquor licences granted (including newly issued and renewed licences)	6 230	6 424	6 395	6 781	6 807

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)078

(Question Serial No. 0174)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 11):

Regarding the indicators for various types of hawkers, please provide information on the following:

1. the number of fixed pitch hawkers, itinerant hawkers and registered hawker assistants as well as the estimated number of unlicensed hawkers in the past three years (i.e. from 2011 to 2013), with a breakdown by district and commodities sold;
2. the number of hawker licences surrendered under the assistance scheme for hawker licensees since the implementation of the scheme last year and the expenditure involved;
3. whether the Department will re-issue the surrendered hawker licences for application by interested parties. If yes, the details; if not, the reason(s); and
4. whether the registered assistants will be given priority in applying for vacant fixed pitches if the surrendered hawker licences are re-issued. If yes, the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. The number of licensed fixed-pitch hawkers and itinerant hawkers, registered hawker assistants as well as the estimated number of unlicensed hawkers in the past three years from 2011 to 2013, with a breakdown by district/region and commodities sold, are provided at Annex. There is no information on the commodities sold by unlicensed hawkers.
2. As at 28 February 2014, 215 voluntary surrender of fixed-pitch hawker licence for ex-gratia payment applications are approved and the expenditure involved is \$25.8 million.
3. and 4.
The Administration will examine these suggestions after the assistance scheme has been implemented for a period of time, 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.

**No. of Licensed Fixed-Pitch and Itinerant Hawkers, Registered Assistant 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	Southern	Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Kowloon City	Wong Tai Sin	Kwun Tong	Kwai Tsing	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	North	Tai Po	Sha Tin	Sai Kung	Islands	
Fixed-Pitch 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 Licence	Frozen Confectionary	44									33									77
	Mobile Van	10									6									16
	Newspaper	2									0									2
	Other Classes	206									204									410
Registered Hawker Assistant		521	533	293	36	2 046	754	55	42	215	22	30	20	20	17	15	31	3	3	4 656
Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers		165	173	125	39	384	286	59	126	144	91	22	52	32	77	27	59	13	30	1 921[#] (1904+17)

[#]The figure includes 17 unlicensed hawkers in housing estates as provided by Housing Department

**No. of Licensed Fixed-Pitch and Itinerant Hawkers, Registered Assistant 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	Southern	Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Kowloon 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 Confectionary	39									33									72
	Mobile Van	9									6									15
	Newspaper	2									0									2
	Other Class	186									195									381
Registered Hawker Assistant	571	577	356	45	2 154	896	59	42	219	27	53	22	24	17	15	32	3	3	5 115	
Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers	158	140	128	28	355	279	61	23	131	87	21	51	33	79	22	24	24	29	1 691 [#] (1673+18)	

*Excluding 48 temporary hawkers licences at Hip Wo Street Hawker Bazaar and Mut Wah Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar, where the hawkers would be resited to Tung Yan Street Interim Hawker Bazaar

[#]The figure includes 18 unlicensed hawkers in housing estates as provided by Housing Department

**No. of Licensed Fixed-Pitch and Itinerant Hawkers, Registered Assistant and Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers
(Position as at 31.12.2013)**

		Hong Kong Island & Kowloon									New Territories & Islands									Total
		Central/ Western	Wan Chai	Eastern	Southern	Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Kowloon City	Wong Tai Sin	Kwun Tong	Kwai Tsing	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	North	Tai Po	Sha Tin	Sai Kung	Islands	
Fixed-Pitch Licence	Barber	2	3	2	1	13	9	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34
	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	33	28	6	11	24	21	20	10	0	4	7	30	0	1	211
	Newspaper	72	50	44	4	123	26	25	16	42	14	20	8	17	7	7	2	3	1	481
	Tradesman	86	15	16	0	55	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	180
	Wall Stall	29	15	18	14	139	59	29	2	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	325
	Other Classes	426	368	340	32	2 443	984	53	0	0*	0	92	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 741
Itinerant Licence	Frozen Confectionary	38									32									70
	Mobile Van	9									6									15
	Newspaper	2									0									2
	Other Class	177									191									368
Registered Hawker Assistant	610	602	397	48	2 261	1 032	61	42	227	26	124	23	24	17	16	33	3	3	5 549	
Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers	148	36	131	44	256	248	62	21	119	75	18	50	27	78	20	57	13	20	1 463 [#] (1423+40)	

*Excluding 112 temporary hawker licences at Hip Wo Street Hawker Bazaar and Mut Wah Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar, where the hawkers will be resited to Tung Yan Street Interim Hawker Bazaar

[#]The figure includes 40 unlicensed hawkers in housing estates as provided by Housing Department

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)079****(Question Serial No. 0001)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 251 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 1):

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 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The statistics sought are given below -

Year	2011	2012	2013
Total number of liquor licence applications ¹	7 274 (930)	7 789 (1 077)	8 179 (1 087)
Average time taken for processing an application for liquor licence	33 days	35 days	42 days ²
Number of appeals lodged with Municipal Services Appeals Board (MSAB)	29	48	55
Average time taken for listing an appeal for hearing ³	67 days	106 days	84 days
Success rate of appeals (i.e. appeals allowed by MSAB) ⁴	47%	51%	49%

¹ The figures in bracket denotes the number of applications for new liquor licence.

² Under the new consultation mechanism which took effect from May 2013, the District Councillor of the relevant geographical constituency will be consulted on liquor licence renewal / transfer applications for premises which are recorded with objection to the previous licence application or implicated with complaints in the past 12 months. Also, since November 2012, liquor licence applications are required to be put on the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB) website for 14 days before LLB considers them. These new arrangements might have contributed to the increase in the average processing time.

³ Counting from the date of MSAB receiving the appeal application to the date of hearing of the case concerned.

⁴ Only appeal cases with MSAB's decisions issued before the end of a year are taken into account for calculating the success rate of appeals in that year.

The number of liquor licences (including club liquor licences) revoked in 2011, 2012 and 2013 with breakdown by reasons is provided in the table below.

Reasons for revocation of liquor licence	Number of liquor licence revoked		
	2011	2012	2013
Cessation of business	19	9	20
Licensee leaving without transferring the licence	1	0	2
Death of licensee	1	0	0
Breach of licensing condition	6	5	5
Total	27	14	27

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)080

(Question Serial No. 0002)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 251 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 3):

Please advise on the average time for processing a restaurant licence application and a provisional restaurant licence application in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2011, 2012 and 2013, the average processing time for issuing a full restaurant licence was 167, 166 and 165 working days respectively, while that for issuing a provisional restaurant licence was 57, 58 and 59 working days respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)081****(Question Serial No. 0003)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 251 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 4):

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 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively. Please also list the respective number of applications rejected (with a breakdown by reasons for rejection), appeals lodged and applications withdrawn in each of the above three years. Besides, please also advise on the manpower and expenditure involved for each of these years.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

Year	2011	2012	2013
Number of applications for outside seating accommodation	76	104	117
Average time taken for processing an application	14 months	10 months	15 months
Number of applications approved	23	17	23
Number of applications rejected	19	13	39
Number of applications withdrawn/abandoned	41	68	48
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. It varies from case to case.)

Information about the number of applications rejected in 2013 (with a breakdown by reasons for rejection) is provided as follows (the breakdown for cases rejected in the previous years is not available) -

Reason of Rejection	No. of Rejected Applications
Objection(s) raised by the concerned department(s)	32
Objection(s) raised by the public	4
Objection(s) raised by the concerned department(s) and the public	3

Under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, 116 staff in three licensing offices are responsible for handling applications for food business and other trade licences as well as applications for outside seating accommodation, etc. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved in the handling of applications for outside seating accommodation.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)082

(Question Serial No. 0004)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 251 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 5):

Please advise on the number of applications for revision of layout plans submitted by restaurant licensees and the number of applications approved in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively. Please also set out in tabular form the average processing time for these applications in each of the above three years.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2011, 2012 and 2013, there were 795, 659 and 550 applications respectively for alteration to the approved layout of licensed restaurants. The corresponding number of approvals was 629, 477 and 435. 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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)083

(Question Serial No. 0005)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 251 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 6):

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 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2011, 2012 and 2013, there were 618, 682 and 720 applications respectively for transfer of restaurant licences, of which five, two and five were subsequently withdrawn. The average time for processing the applications in 2011, 2012 and 2013 was 41, 46 and 43 working days respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)084

(Question Serial No. 0006)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 251 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 8):

How many appeal cases against food business licence suspension were there in 2013? 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 2013, there were 40 appeal cases against food business licence suspension, of which 35 cases were heard and five withdrawn. Of the cases heard, there were 18 cases in which the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) suspended the licence for seven days and 17 cases where the suspension was for 14 days. The Licensing Appeals Board (LIAB) upheld the Department's suspension decision in 12 cases, shortened the suspension period in 22 cases, and has yet to rule on the remaining case. For these 34 cases with ruling made by LIAB, the average suspension period, as determined by LIAB, was eight days, with the longest period being 14 days and the shortest two.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)085

(Question Serial No. 0007)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 7):

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 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The information sought is provided at Annex.

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

District	2011 (as at 31.12.2011)			2012 (as at 31.12.2012)			2013 (as at 31.12.2013)		
	No. of Fixed Pitches (a)	No. of Vacant Pitches* (b)	Vacancy Rate ((b)/(a)+(b))	No. of Fixed Pitches (a)	No. of Vacant Pitches* (b)	Vacancy Rate ((b)/(a)+(b))	No. of Fixed Pitches (a)	No. of Vacant Pitches* (b)	Vacancy Rate ((b)/(a)+(b))
Central/Western	664	0	0%	651	0	0%	622	0	0%
Eastern	470	0	0%	464	0	0%	420	0	0%
Southern	34	0	0%	32	0	0%	31	0	0%
Wan Chai	472	0	0%	460	0	0%	451	0	0%
Islands	1	0	0%	1	0	0%	1	0	0%
Yau Tsim Mong	2 563	0	0%	2 531	0	0%	2 413	0	0%
Sham Shui Po	1 111	0	0%	1 096	0	0%	1 059	0	0%
Kowloon City	132	0	0%	120	0	0%	110	0	0%
Wong Tai Sin	20	0	0%	18	0	0%	18	0	0%
Kwun Tong	85	0	0%	79	0	0%	68	0	0%
Kwai Tsing	16	0	0%	16	0	0%	14	0	0%
Tsuen Wan	21	0	0%	21	0	0%	20	0	0%
Tuen Mum	8	0	0%	8	0	0%	8	0	0%
Yuen Long	19	0	0%	19	0	0%	18	0	0%
North	8	0	0%	8	0	0%	7	0	0%
Tai Po	8	0	0%	7	0	0%	7	0	0%
Sha Tin	3	0	0%	3	0	0%	2	0	0%
Sai Kung	3	0	0%	3	0	0%	3	0	0%
Total	5 638	0	0%	5 537	0	0%	5 272	0	0%

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

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)086

(Question Serial No. 0008)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 10):

Please advise on the number of Mainland processing plants supplying chilled pork to Hong Kong, the total import and average import price of Mainland chilled pork as well as the number of inspections to the Mainland chilled pork processing plants in each of the past three years (i.e. in 2011, 2012 and 2013).

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2011, 2012 and 2013, the number of Mainland processing plants approved for supplying chilled pork to Hong Kong was five, five and four respectively. The quantity of Mainland chilled pork imported into Hong Kong was about 16 600 tonnes, 12 900 tonnes and 11 500 tonnes respectively.

According to the Census and Statistics Department, the average import price of Mainland chilled pork in 2011, 2012 and 2013 was \$13.5, \$14.1 and \$14.4 per catty respectively.

The number of inspections to the Mainland chilled pork processing plants in 2011, 2012 and 2013 was five, five and four respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)087

(Question Serial No. 0010)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 11):

Please advise on the number of Mainland processing plants supplying chilled beef to Hong Kong, the total import and average import price of Mainland chilled beef as well as the number of inspections to the Mainland chilled beef processing plants each year (i.e. in 2011, 2012 and 2013) since the introduction of Mainland chilled beef to Hong Kong.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2011, 2012 and 2013, the number of Mainland processing plants approved for supplying chilled beef to Hong Kong was six, six and seven respectively. The quantity of Mainland chilled beef imported into Hong Kong was about 140 tonnes, 15 tonnes and two tonnes respectively.

According to the Census and Statistics Department, the average import price of Mainland chilled beef in 2011, 2012 and 2013 was \$28.2, \$34.0 and \$45.6 per catty respectively.

The number of inspections to the Mainland chilled beef processing plants in 2011, 2012 and 2013 was five, one and one respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)088

(Question Serial No. 0011)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 12):

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 2012 and 2013 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The information sought is provided at Annex.

Serial No.	Name of Market	Number of live poultry stalls as at	
		end-2012	end-2013
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**FHB(FE)089****(Question Serial No. 0012)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 251 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 13):

Please advise on the number of fresh provision shops with permission for selling live poultry and for selling fresh poultry carcass in 2012 and 2013 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

Fresh provision shops	Number as at 31.12.2012	Number as at 31.12.2013
1. With permission for selling live poultry (including fresh poultry carcass)	46	46
2. With permission for selling fresh poultry carcass (other than 1. above)	51	44

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)090****(Question Serial No. 0013)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 18):

Please advise on the quantities of fresh, chilled and frozen chickens imported from the Mainland into Hong Kong, their respective share and average import price in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2011 to 2013).

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2011, 2012 and 2013, the quantity of fresh, chilled and frozen chicken imported from the Mainland, their respective share and average import price are tabulated as follows -

	Fresh Chicken			Chilled Chicken			Frozen Chicken		
	Quantity (kg)*	%	Average Import Price (\$/kg) ^{*#}	Quantity (kg) [@]	%	Average Import Price (\$/kg) [#]	Quantity (kg) [@]	%	Average Import Price (\$/kg) [#]
2011	4,666,000	4.09	16.2	42,330,000	37.14	12.4	66,994,000	58.77	15.9
2012	4,582,000	4.77	15.7	37,846,000	39.36	13.2	53,716,000	55.87	15.2
2013	4,448,000	4.54	14.7	37,538,000	38.33	15.9	55,943,000	57.13	15.5

* According to information collected by Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. The import data on live chickens as given in the trade declarations is on a per chicken basis. To facilitate comparison, the quantity and the price are presented in terms of kg by a conversion factor of 1.86 kg per chicken.

@ According to information from the Hong Kong Merchandise Trade Statistics

According to information compiled by Census and Statistics Department on the basis of the trade declarations. The declared import price reflects the full cost of the commodity up to the point of import, including the value of the commodity, cost of shipment, insurance and other related charges.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)091

(Question Serial No. 0016)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume - Page - (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 23):

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that fees and charges, including the charges relating to environmental hygiene services, will be reviewed. In this connection, please advise on the fee items concerned as well as their current fee levels in monetary terms and as a percentage of their respective costs.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department provides a wide range of services and undertakes regulatory work for the purpose of ensuring environmental hygiene and food safety. There are about 140 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
- (g) Places of public entertainment licences
- (h) Karaoke establishment permits

For food safety related fees and charges, they are near full cost recovery at the 2013-14 price level. The rest of the fees are in general below their full cost (with an overall cost recovery rate of about 47% at the 2013-14 price level) as almost all the rates of these fees have remained unchanged since 2000 or revised downward after fee alignment.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)092****(Question Serial No. 0018)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 28):

Please advise on the average, highest and lowest daily number of live pigs and live cattle imported from the Mainland into Hong Kong in each of the past three years (i.e. in 2011, 2012 and 2013). 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
2011	4 012	6 232	2 031	79	172	18
2012	4 210	5 960	1 513	71	161	12
2013	4 317	5 565	1 942	52	116	8

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
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
2013	1,350	1,499	1,228	4,497	4,690	4,310	4,093	4,105	4,070

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)093

(Question Serial No. 0020)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 16):

How many non-local food production farms and food processing plants (apart from those in the Mainland) were inspected by the Department in each of the years from 2011 to 2013? What were the staff establishment required and expenditure involved in each of the above three years?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2011, a total of 11 farms and ten 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.

In 2013, a total of nine farms and ten food processing plants in Spain, Vietnam and Iceland were inspected.

An inspection unit comprising three veterinary officers, eight field officers and one fisheries officer is responsible for inspection of food animal farms (including fish farms) outside Hong Kong. The actual expenditure on Mainland and overseas food animal farm inspections in 2011-12 and 2012-13 was \$6.6 million and \$7.7 million respectively. The revised estimate in 2013-14 is \$8.6 million, and the estimated expenditure in 2014-15 is \$9.5 million.

The inspection of vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong is carried out by a team led 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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)094****(Question Serial No. 0021)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 17):

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 2012 and 31 December 2013:

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>31.12.2012</u>	<u>Position as at</u> <u>31.12.2013</u>
1.	Number of stalls let out	12 475	12 608
2.	Number of vacant stalls	1 484 (824 of which are frozen#)	1 353 (947 of which are frozen#)
3.	Total number of stalls	13 959	13 961
4.	Vacancy rate	10.6%	9.7%
5.	Highest monthly stall rental	\$62,286	\$66,337
6.	Lowest monthly stall rental	\$10.34	\$10.34
7.	Average monthly stall rental	\$2,785.50	\$2,790.27
8.	Median monthly rent	\$1,800	\$1,800

These stalls were frozen for reasons such as forthcoming improvement works.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)095****(Question Serial No. 0022)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 248 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 19):

There will be an increase of 30 posts in the Department in 2014-15. 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 increase of 30 posts in Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in 2014-15 represents the net increase of posts. Information on all the posts proposed to be created in 2014-15 is provided as follows –

Purpose	Grades	#Total annual salary
To improve food safety regulation and control	Field Officer	\$1.8 million
To strengthen environmental hygiene and related services (including enforcement against illegal outside seating accommodation of food premises and water seepage in private buildings; and strengthening of cemetery and crematorium services)	Health Inspector Foreman Executive Officer Clerical Officer	* \$26.8 million
To enhance the Department's IT systems and services	Health Inspector Hawker Control Officer	*\$1.0 million

Gross increase of annual salary for all the posts proposed to be created in 2014-15.

* Posts for enforcement against illegal outside seating accommodation of food premises, and for enhancement of the Department's IT systems and services are to be created on a time-limited basis.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)096

(Question Serial No. 0023)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 251 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 15):

Please advise on the usage rate of the on-line Licence Application Tracking Facility (ATF) in respect of food business licences and the on-line Liquor Licence Processing System in each of the past two years (i.e. in 2012 and 2013).

Please also advise on the usage rate of the on-line licence application service since the extension of the service 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 the service.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2012, 54% of the applicants for food business-related licences or their authorised persons made use of the on-line Application Tracking Facility system to monitor the progress of their applications. The corresponding usage rate in 2013 was 51%. In 2012, 35% of the liquor and club liquor licence applicants or their authorised persons made use of on-line services on the Liquor Licence Processing System. The corresponding usage rate in 2013 was 37%.

Starting from 1 January 2013, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) accepts online submission of applications for food business licences and permits. In 2013, 9% of the applicants (589 applicants out of a total of 6 616) made use of the new service. The Department has conducted briefings for the trade and consultants and issued promotional flyers to the applicants to introduce and promote the online service and will continue to do so as appropriate. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved in the promotion work.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)097

(Question Serial No. 0024)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 9):

The number of farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong planned for inspection will drop to 65 in 2014, representing a decrease as compared to the actual number of 70 in 2013. Please advise on the reason(s) for the decrease.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

A plan for inspecting farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong is drawn up every year using a risk-based approach. The plan is subject to adjustment taking into account the actual circumstances that transpire in the course of time. In 2012 and 2013, while the planned number of such farm inspections was 50 and 65 respectively, the actual number of inspections conducted was higher, at 75 and 70 respectively. In 2014, we keep the planned number of farm inspection at 65 as in 2013.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)098****(Question Serial No. 0025)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 14):

Please list by 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 2011 to 2013. Please advise on the estimated number of inspections to be conducted in 2014, as well as the expenditure and manpower required for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 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 2011 to 2013 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 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
No. of registered farms in 2013	480	3 602	53	231	32	2	169	4 569

In 2011 to 2013, a total of 90, 88 and 86 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 2011	20	0	31	12	5	0	22	90
No. of Inspections in 2012	13	0	29	13	2	0	31	88
No. of Inspections in 2013	16	0	29	13	7	0	21	86

In 2014, we plan to inspect 85 farms, including 65 food animal and fish farms as well as 20 vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong, including the Mainland and overseas. We do not have a specific estimate on the number of farms in the Mainland to be inspected in 2014.

An inspection unit comprising three veterinary officers, eight field officers and one fisheries officer is responsible for inspection of food animal farms outside Hong Kong. The revised estimate of expenditure for conducting farm inspections outside Hong Kong in 2013-14 is \$8.6 million, while the estimated expenditure in 2014-15 is about \$9.5 million. We do not keep separate breakdown on the resources used for inspection of food animal farms in the Mainland.

The inspection of vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong is carried out by a team led 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 in the Mainland.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)099

(Question Serial No. 0026)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 21):

Please advise on the manpower and expenditure involved in conducting avian influenza testing on live poultry imported into Hong Kong from the Mainland in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2011 to 2013) and the estimated manpower and expenditure required for 2014.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is responsible for verifying and collecting animal health certificates that accompany the live poultry imported from the Mainland, inspecting the health status of these birds and collecting from them samples for laboratory testing of avian influenza (AI). Samples taken by CFS at the Man Kam To Animal Inspection Station are sent to the Veterinary Laboratory under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for testing. The expenditure incurred by CFS to carry out the abovementioned AI surveillance on live poultry imported from the Mainland in 2011-12 and 2012-13 was \$7.4 million and \$7.3 million respectively, and the revised estimate in 2013-14 is \$7.2 million. A financial provision of \$8 million for the same purpose has been earmarked for 2014-15.

The number of CFS staff engaged in carrying out the above work was 42 in each of the three financial years ending 2013-14. In 2014-15, the same number of staff has been provided for carrying out the relevant work.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)100

(Question Serial No. 0078)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 32):

Please advise on the financial provision for and manpower involved in food surveillance by the Centre for Food Safety in each of the past two years (i.e. in 2011-12 and 2012-13) and the estimated provision and manpower required for 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The actual expenditure on food surveillance in 2011-12 and 2012-13 was \$51.6 million and \$54.7 million respectively. The revised estimate for 2013-14 and the estimated expenditure for 2014-15 is \$60.9 million and \$61.9 million respectively.

The manpower establishment of the Centre for Food Safety in carrying out the above work in 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 was 110, 112 and 115 respectively, and the estimated manpower provision for 2014-15 is 115.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)101

(Question Serial No. 0079)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 24):

During 2014-15, the Department will assist the Food and Health Bureau in developing proposals for improving the operating environment of public markets, taking into account the recommendations of the consultancy study commissioned in December 2013. In this connection, please provide details, including the consultancy fee, the timetable of work, the specific measures to be taken, the manpower arrangement and the expenditure required.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In December 2013, the Food and Health Bureau commissioned a consultant for developing proposals to improve the operating environment of public markets thereby enabling them to fulfil the functions expected of them. The consultancy fee amounts to \$2 million. The consultant is expected to submit preliminary study findings in mid-2014 if the study progresses smoothly. The study will be monitored by existing staff. No additional manpower and resources will be required.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)102

(Question Serial No. 2290)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 28):

With regard to the 3 300 applications for import of game, meat and poultry as indicated in this year's Estimates, please advise on the following:

1. the number of applications for import of game;
2. the types of game to be imported; and
3. the manpower for and expenditure on processing the applications, as well as the amount of expenditure to be involved in disease control.

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

1. In 2013, there were a total of 315 applications for import of game. With regard to the estimated 3 300 applications for import of game, meat and poultry in 2014, the number in respect of game cannot be separately identified.
2. In 2013, a total of 27 types of game were imported, including pigeon, goat, venison, crocodile, ostrich, rabbit, kangaroo, quail, snake and elk velvet antler. We do not have information on the types of game to be imported in 2014.
3. The Food Import and Export Section of the Centre for Food Safety, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is responsible for import control of game, meat and poultry, among other duties. For 2014-15, the Food Import and Export Section has an establishment of 245 staff and its estimated expenditure is about \$143.8 million. Separate breakdown on the manpower resources to be spent on processing of applications for import of game and expenditure on disease control is not readily available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)103

(Question Serial No. 2648)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 27):

At present, there is only one public toilet in Tung Chung Town Centre. Please advise whether there is any plan to build more public toilets in the area, especially after the commissioning of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, so as to cater for the needs of both local residents and visitors. If yes, please give the details of the plan and the expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

In planning for the provision of public toilets, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will take into consideration various factors, including the availability of alternative toilet facilities nearby, whether the facilities are in venues and facilities managed by other government departments or in private developments and shopping arcades. At present, in the Tung Chung town centre area, there is one public toilet at Tat Tung Road under the management of the Department. To cater for the future Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge development, the expected increase in the number of commuters using the public transport facilities nearby, as well as morning joggers and dog walkers using the adjacent morning trail, a public toilet at an estimated cost of \$4.94 million will be constructed near the Tung Chung Development Pier. The construction works are scheduled to commence in mid-2014 for completion in 2015.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)104****(Question Serial No. 0674)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 5):

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

- 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.;
- the number of inspections conducted by the Department to these production farms in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2011-12 to 2013-14); and
- 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 –

- According to the State General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), the number of registered Mainland farms exporting vegetables, fruits, live food animals and fish to Hong Kong in 2013 by type and location is tabulated as follows –

Province or cities	Vegetable Farms	Orchards	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Goat Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms
Guangdong(廣東)	142	181	37	82	2		80
Shenzhen(深圳)	6	1	2	2			
Zhuhai(珠海)	1	5	12	5			4
Anhui(安徽)		2			1		14
Beijing(北京)	3	16			5		
Chongqing(重慶)	1	4		1			

Province or cities	Vegetable Farms	Orchards	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Goat Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms
Fujian(福建)	2	225		1			
Gansu(甘肅)	9	123			2		
Guangxi(廣西)	2	113		8		1	1
Guizhou(貴州)	3	1			1		
Hainan(海南)	15	51	2	1			
Hebei(河北)	8	237			3		
Heilongjiang(黑龍江)		6			1		
Henan(河南)	16	23		16	1		
Hubei(湖北)	13	38		34	1		18
Hunan(湖南)	50	64		41			8
Jiangsu(江蘇)	26						18
Jiangxi(江西)	8	35		24	1		9
Jilin(吉林)		1			1		
Liaoning(遼寧)	5	271					5
Neimongol(內蒙古)	2				5		
Ningxia(寧夏)	22	9					
Qinghai(青海)					1		
Shaanxi(陝西)		635			3		
Shandong(山東)	70	675					
Shanxi(山西)	2	37			3		
Shanghai(上海)	13	2		7			2
Sichuan(四川)	2	48					
Tianjin(天津)	7				1		1
Xiamen(廈門)	6						
Xinjiang(新疆)		584					
Yunnan(雲南)	28	99				1	
Zhejiang(浙江)	18	116		9			9
Total no. of registered farms	480	3 602	53	231	32	2	169

- (b) The total number of inspections conducted is kept on a calendar year basis. A total of 90, 88 and 86 inspections to Mainland farms were conducted in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively. The breakdown of farms inspected by type is tabulated as follows –

	Vegetable Farms	Orchards	Poultry Farms	Pig Farms	Cattle Farms	Aquatic Food Animal Farms	Total
No. of Inspections in 2011	20	0	31	12	5	22	90
No. of Inspections in 2012	13	0	29	13	2	31	88
No. of Inspections in 2013	16	0	29	13	7	21	86

- (c) As the Mainland is a major supplier of food and live food animals to Hong Kong, the Government maintains close liaison and exchanges information with relevant Mainland authorities (including the Ministry of Commerce and AQSIQ, etc.) on the stable supply of fresh food produce and live food animals, including broadening the sources of supply where necessary. We will continue with this effort.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)105****(Question Serial No. 0792)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 248 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 41):

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

- (a) the total number, the average daily number, as well as the highest and lowest daily wholesale number of live cattle supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2011-12 to 2013-14);
- (b) the monthly average, highest and lowest price of live cattle supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2011-12 to 2013-14);
- (c) the total expenditure and average expenditure per head of cattle by the Government in handling live cattle (such as the arrangements for slaughterhouses, quarantine management, etc), as well as the manpower involved; and
- (d) the expenditure and manpower involved in setting up a joint working group with the Mainland last year to conduct surveys and studies on the supply of live cattle to Hong Kong, as well as the progress of the work.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) Information on the number of live cattle admitted to the slaughterhouse in the past three years is tabulated as follows –

Year	Total number of live cattle admitted	Daily number of live cattle admitted		
		Average	Highest	Lowest
2011	28 718	79	172	18
2012	26 032	71	161	12
2013	19 156	52	116	8

- (b) Information on the monthly wholesale prices of live cattle imported from the Mainland in the past three years is tabulated as follows –

Year	Monthly wholesale prices per picul of live cattle imported from the Mainland (\$)					
	Marbled Meat Cattle			Beef Cattle		
	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest
2011	2,871	3,110	2,685	2,533	2,790	2,325
2012	3,601	4,310	3,110	3,291	4,105	2,790
2013	4,497	4,690	4,310	4,093	4,105	4,070

- (c) The expenditure on live food animal inspection in the slaughterhouses in 2011-12 and 2012-13 was \$24.9 million and \$27.7 million respectively and the revised estimate in 2013-14 is \$31.5 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 \$15.6, \$16.6 and \$18.6 in the same period. The cost for handling live cattle cannot be separately identified.
- (d) In view of the concerns articulated in the community about the supply and price of fresh beef, we commissioned a consultant to conduct a market survey in 2013. We have also relayed to the Ministry of Commerce the request of the general public on opening up the market of live cattle supply agents. To this end, the Ministry of Commerce convened a research seminar in November 2013 to listen to the views of the industry in Hong Kong and the Mainland on the existing system for the supply of live cattle to Hong Kong, in order to facilitate further studies on whether there is a need to reform the current system. We will continue to maintain contact and communication with the Ministry of Commerce, and inform the public as and when there is further development.

Policy matters relating to food safety, import control, and supply of live cattle are overseen and handled by a team in the Food and Health Bureau comprising a Principal Assistant Secretary and an Assistant Secretary. These officers are also tasked with other duties. Separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower resources spent on this aspect is not available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)106

(Question Serial No. 0872)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 3):

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 2014-15, 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 2011-12 to 2013-14); and
- (b) given that the hygiene problem in Hong Kong has become increasingly serious in recent years, whether the Department has explored ways to eliminate the potential hygiene hazards, such as allocating additional resources, recruiting more staff, enhancing training for frontline cleansing workers, increasing the frequency of street sweeping 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 2014-15 is \$484 million and \$1,772.8 million respectively. The manpower involved in providing these services is 10 940, including 3 020 in-house staff and 7 920 staff employed by 14 contractors. Comparing the expenditure on a year-on-year basis, there is an increase of about 7.7% in 2012-13, 5.5% in 2013-14 and 7.4% in 2014-15 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, provide public cleansing and pest control services, and step up law enforcement actions, as necessary.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)107

(Question Serial No. 0873)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 11):

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 2014-15;
- (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. from 2011-12 to 2013-14); 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, 37 staff (including contract staff) in three licensing offices are responsible for handling liquor and club liquor licence applications as part of their licensing-related duties. There is no separate breakdown of the expenditure involved in the handling of liquor licence applications and appeals. Besides, nine staff (including contract staff) are deployed for providing secretariat service to the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB) as their main duties. The estimated expenditure involved in manning the LLB Secretariat in 2014-15 is \$5.3 million.

- (b) The number of liquor licences in the territory (broken down by district) as at end-2013 is provided in the table below. There is no separate breakdown on the type of buildings in which the licensed premises are located.

District	No. of Liquor Licences (as at end-2013)		Total
	Liquor Licences	Club Liquor Licences	
Central and Western	763	75	838
Eastern	346	15	361
Southern	120	25	145
Wanchai	846	118	964
Islands	216	19	235
Yau Tsim Mong	1 498	97	1 595
Sham Shui Po	219	9	228
Kowloon City	337	20	357
Wong Tai Sin	144	3	147
Kwun Tong	242	10	252
Tsuen Wan	192	10	202
Kwai Tsing	101	3	104
North	80	7	87
Tai Po	123	3	126
Sai Kung	176	6	182
Shatin	200	12	212
Tuen Mun	154	5	159
Yuen Long	218	12	230
Total	5 975	449	6 424

(c) Relevant statistics are provided as follows :

Year	2011	2012	2013
Total number of liquor licence applications ¹	7 274 (930)	7 789 (1 077)	8 179 (1 087)
Total number of liquor licence granted by LLB ²	6 570	7 359	7 221
Total number of applications refused by LLB ²	46	50	69
Total number of appeals lodged with Municipal Services Appeals Board (MSAB)	29	48	55
Success rate of appeals (i.e. appeals allowed by MSAB) ³	47%	51%	49%

¹ The figure in bracket denotes the number of applications for new liquor licence.

² Applications for liquor licence received in one year may be carried forward with the processing completed in the subsequent year.

³ Only appeal cases in that year with MSAB's decision issued at the end of that year are taken into account for calculating the success rate of appeals in that year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)108

(Question Serial No. 0875)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 13):

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 2014-15;
- (b) the total number of complaints against liquor-licensed premises received from 2011-12 to 2013-14, the districts in which these premises were located, the type and nature of the complaints and their investigation results; and
- (c) the number of liquor licences revoked from 2011-12 to 2013-14 and the reasons for revocation.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) In the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), 37 staff (including contract staff) in three licensing offices are responsible for handling liquor and club liquor licence applications as part of their licensing-related duties. There is no separate breakdown of the expenditure involved in the handling of liquor licence applications and appeals. Besides, nine staff (including contract staff) are deployed for providing secretariat service to the Liquor Licensing Board as their main duties. The estimated expenditure involved in manning the LLB Secretariat in 2014-15 is \$5.3 million.
- (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 2011, 2012 and 2013, the number of substantiated complaints concerning environmental hygiene and obstruction of passageway against liquor-licensed food premises lodged with the Department was 1 259, 1 473 and 1 703 respectively, and the breakdown is at Annex. Statistics on complaints received by the Police against liquor-licensed premises are not readily available.

- (c) The number of liquor licences (including club liquor licences) revoked in 2011, 2012 and 2013 with breakdown by reasons is provided in the table below.

Reasons for revocation of liquor licence	Number of liquor licence revoked		
	2011	2012	2013
Cessation of business	19	9	20
Licensee leaving without transferring the licence	1	0	2
Death of licensee	1	0	0
Breach of licensing condition	6	5	5
Total	27	14	27

**Number of Substantiated Complaints against Liquor-Licensed Food Premises
in 2011, 2012 and 2013**

District	Environmental Hygiene			Obstruction		
	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013
Central and Western	7	3	41	10	23	33
Eastern	3	41	10	19	12	14
Southern	3	2	15	3	0	34
Wan Chai	52	28	9	2	41	33
Islands	3	0	5	12	14	16
Yau Tsim Mong	63	110	66	181	385	232
Sham Shui Po	49	23	6	24	13	24
Kowloon City	4	7	42	23	15	61
Wong Tai Sin	27	32	47	59	53	72
Kwun Tong	32	9	4	30	21	4
Tsuen Wan	5	12	15	62	66	46
Kwai Tsing	24	13	31	6	39	15
North	0	33	16	17	60	36
Tai Po	0	15	81	113	40	131
Sai Kung	0	43	8	16	143	40
Sha Tin	39	22	70	210	23	293
Tuen Mun	0	16	3	18	25	6
Yuen Long	93	14	30	50	77	114
Total	404	423	499	855	1 050	1 204

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)109

(Question Serial No. 0876)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 14):

With regard to inspection of farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong, the number of farms inspected dropped from 75 in 2012 (Actual) to only 70 in 2013 (Actual), and the number for 2014 (Estimate) will only be 65. Please provide information on the following:

- (a) the Department's expenditure and manpower involved in conducting inspections of farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong;
- (b) the reasons for the decrease in the number of farms inspected by the Department in recent years; and
- (c) in view of the increasing severity of diseases linked to food animals in recent years, whether the Department has given thought to increasing the number of farms to be inspected and extending the scope of inspection.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) An inspection unit comprising three veterinary officers, eight field officers and one fisheries officer is responsible for inspection of food animal farms outside Hong Kong. The estimated expenditure on Mainland and overseas food animal farm inspections in 2013-14 and 2014-15 is about \$8.6 million and \$9.5 million respectively.
- (b) A plan for inspecting farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong is drawn up every year using a risk-based approach. The plan is subject to adjustment taking into account the actual circumstances that transpire in the course of time. In 2012 and 2013, while the planned number of such farm inspections was 50 and 65 respectively, the actual number of inspections conducted was higher, at 75 and 70 respectively. In 2014, we keep the planned number of farm inspection at 65 as in 2013.
- (c) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department would remain vigilant and continue to closely liaise with the relevant authorities of our trading partners to take appropriate measures to protect food safety and public health as necessary.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)110****(Question Serial No. 0877)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 248 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 15):

Please advise on the number of samples taken from various fresh food wholesale markets for testing from 2011-12 to 2013-14, with a breakdown by food type and market, as well as the number of samples with test 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 2011 to 2013 is kept on a calendar year basis. The information requested is as follows:

Wholesale Food Market	Food category	Number of food samples taken		
		2011	2012	2013
North District Temporary Wholesale Market for Agricultural Products	vegetable	9	0	7
Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market	vegetable	1 032	977	1 027
	poultry egg	116	138	159
	aquatic products	18	11	16
Western Wholesale Food Market	vegetable	941	863	844
	fruit	1 208	1 244	1 308
	poultry egg	116	98	111
	aquatic products	20	8	12
Total		3 460	3 339	3 484

From 2011 to 2012, a total of three samples of vegetables (one taken from Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market and two from Western Wholesale Food Market) were found not meeting food safety standards. No food sample from fresh food wholesale markets was found not meeting food safety standards in 2013.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)111****(Question Serial No. 0878)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 248 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 16):

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 with a breakdown by district;
- (b) the total number of rodents trapped in 2013 as 53 236 trappings were conducted;
- (c) the Department's expenditure and manpower involved in rodent disinfection work in 2014-15; 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		
	2011	2012	2013
Central & Western	585	528	669
Eastern	453	506	644
Southern	140	139	142
Wan Chai	373	349	310
Islands	137	138	143
Kowloon City	492	414	457
Kwun Tong	242	254	273
Wong Tai Sin	144	126	188
Sham Shui Po	510	547	537
Mong Kok	467	483	605

Yau Tsim	391	319	313
Shatin	248	288	302
Tai Po	267	265	232
North	169	172	154
Kwai Tsing	203	131	191
Tsuen Wan	555	447	551
Tuen Mun	480	381	232
Yuen Long	397	513	451
Sai Kung	380	378	419
Total	6 633	6 378	6 813

- (b) The number of rodents trapped in 2013 is 10 305.
- (c) The estimated expenditure involved in rodent control work in 2014-15 is \$154.7 million. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) and its contractors have a total workforce of about 2 270 in providing pest control services.
- (d) The Department will continue to enhance rodent control work and launch district-specific publicity and educational programmes to promote greater community involvement in rodent control and prevention in districts with higher infestation rates, in addition to its regular pest control work and annual territory-wide publicity campaigns.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)112

(Question Serial No. 0879)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 17):

The Territory-wide Cleansing Campaign was launched in 2013-14 to enhance public awareness of the importance of observing good personal hygiene and keeping the environment clean. Please provide information on the following:

- (a) the expenditure and manpower involved in organising the Campaign;
- (b) whether consideration has been given to organising cleansing campaigns on a regular basis to draw public attention to the importance of environmental and personal hygiene; and
- (c) whether consideration has been given to compiling a community environmental hygiene index for each of the 18 districts to facilitate the public to have a better understanding of the hygiene conditions of each district and keep a close watch on the situation.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) The Territory-wide Cleansing Campaign (the Campaign) is part and parcel of the ongoing cleansing services and promotional activities of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department). In 2013-14, the estimated expenditure on street cleansing services is \$1,653.7 million, and the estimated expenditure on public education and community involvement is \$25.1 million. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower for the Campaign undertaken by the Department.
- (b) The Department will continue to closely monitor the hygiene conditions across the territory. As and when appropriate, the Administration will encourage and promote public participation in concerted efforts to enhance environmental and personal hygiene.
- (c) In 2004, the Administration introduced the Community Cleanliness Index (CCI) to arouse community awareness of environmental hygiene. Over the past few years, the Government departments have put in place a range of measures to promote personal, home and community hygiene. Most of these measures have been thoroughly implemented and incorporated into the regular operations of the departments concerned. After reviewing the CCI project in early 2008, the Administration concluded that the project had achieved its intended objective and that it was no longer necessary to continue with the project. Meanwhile, the Department is maintaining close contact with various District Councils and local personalities to monitor the hygiene conditions of specific locations as well as the general condition across the territory. Additional cleansing services will be provided, where necessary, to maintain environmental hygiene.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)113

(Question Serial No. 0880)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 248 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 18):

In respect of food surveillance, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the financial provision and manpower for food surveillance by the Centre for Food Safety in 2014-15; and
- (b) the total number of food samples taken for testing in various projects under the Food Surveillance Programme in 2013-14 (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 estimated expenditure on food surveillance in 2014-15 is \$61.9 million and the estimated manpower provision for carrying out the above work in 2014-15 is 115.
- (b) The statistics on food surveillance are kept on a calendar year basis. In 2013, the number of food samples tested under routine food surveillance, targeted food surveillance and seasonal food surveillance was 59 200, 4 200 and 1 200 respectively. The overall satisfactory rate is 99.9 per cent.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)114

(Question Serial No. 0881)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health
(4) Public Education and Community Involvement

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 248 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 19):

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 on and manpower for promotional activities, inspection and enforcement in respect of the food labelling and nutrition labelling requirements in 2014-15;
- (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 2014-15 is 12, while that for promoting the Nutrition Labelling Scheme in 2014-15 cannot be separately identified. The expenditure of these activities will be absorbed from 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 2013, 2 543 enquiries on nutrition labelling and 1 403 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 2013, 29 207 nutrition labels of prepackaged food products, with 364 found to be non-compliant. A detailed breakdown of the 364 cases is as follows –

Nature of non-compliance	No. of cases for the period of 1.7.2010 – 31.12.2013
No nutrition label or incomplete 1+7 core nutrients label	97
Inappropriate nutrition label format	11
Inappropriate nutrient claim	39
Inappropriate language	24
Involved more than one type of the above mentioned irregularities	18
Discrepancy on declared nutrient value confirmed after chemical analysis	175
Total	364

During the same period, CFS had checked 185 624 labels of prepackaged food products for general food labelling requirements, with 288 found to be non-compliant. A detailed breakdown of the 288 cases is as follows -

Nature of non-compliance	No. of cases for the period of 1.7.2010 – 31.12.2013
Blank label	11
Beyond expiry date	13
Improper indication of durability	27
Ingredient not properly listed	77
Incomplete manufacturer/packer's name and address	27
Food name and list of ingredients not marked in both English and Chinese where both languages are used on the label	42
Involved more than one type of the above mentioned irregularities	91
Total	288

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)115

(Question Serial No. 0882)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 248 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 20):

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 2013-14, 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 2014-15.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) Figures on farms and food processing plant inspection are kept on a calendar year basis. In 2013, a total of 86 registered food production farms (including farms which export live food animals, live aquatic products, fish, vegetables and fruits to Hong Kong) and 52 food processing plants in the Mainland were inspected. Another nine farms and ten processing plants in Spain, Vietnam and Iceland were also inspected.
- (b) An inspection unit comprising three veterinary officers, eight field officers and one fisheries officer is responsible for inspection of food animal farms (including fish farms) outside Hong Kong. The estimated expenditure on Mainland and overseas food animal farm inspections in 2014-15 is \$9.5 million.

The inspection of vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong is carried out by a team led 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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)116

(Question Serial No. 0883)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 21):

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 2014-15, as well as the expenditure and manpower to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

In 2014-15, in addition to regular maintenance and daily management of markets, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will carry out improvement works in five markets, namely, Smithfield Market, Kwun Chung Market, Tsing Yi Market, Ngau Chi Wan Market and Haiphong Road Temporary Market. The estimated cost of these improvement works is \$31.5 million. The works include installation of a goods lift, 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 enhance patronage of public markets. These include thematic exhibitions and workshops, festive celebration activities, 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 in 2014-15 is \$4 million.

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

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)117

(Question Serial No. 0884)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 22):

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

- (a) the expenditure on subsidising public market management from 2011-12 to 2013-14;
- (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 2013-14 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 2011-12 and 2012-13, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department recorded deficits of \$167.9 million and \$220.1 million respectively in the management of public markets. The deficit in this regard for 2013-14 is estimated to be \$236.4 million.
- (b) As at 31 December 2013, 1 384 stalls out of a total of 14 445 stalls in public markets were vacant. The vacancy rate was 9.6%. 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 is not readily available. Besides, there is no information on the estimated rental receivable from vacant stalls and thus comparison with the expenditure on subsidizing public market management cannot be made.
- (c) As at 31 December 2013, 253 in-house staff were involved in the management of public markets.
- (d) As at 31 December 2013, a total of 12 contractors and about 1 700 contractors' staff were engaged in the management of public markets, including venue management, cleansing, pest control and security guard services. The estimated total expenditure involved for 2013-14 is about \$220 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)118****(Question Serial No. 0885)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 23):

Under section 31(1)(d) of the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X), any person who carries on any food business which involves the sale of fresh, chilled or frozen beef, mutton, pork, reptiles, fish or poultry must obtain a fresh provision shop licence. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of fresh provision shop licences in force in Hong Kong in 2013-2014, with a breakdown by licence type (fresh, chilled and frozen); and
- (b) the number of inspections conducted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to licensed fresh provision shops from 2011-12 to 2013-14, with a breakdown by licence type (fresh, chilled and frozen); the number and nature of cases of irregularities detected; and the number of prosecutions instituted.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) The information sought is given below, showing the position at end-2013 -

Type of commodities permitted to be sold	Number of fresh provision shops (FPS)
Fresh commodities	973
Chilled commodities	105
Frozen commodities	255
Fresh and chilled commodities	171
Fresh and frozen commodities	101
Chilled and frozen commodities	422
Fresh, chilled and frozen commodities	684
Total	2 711

- (b) In general, inspections of licensed FPS are conducted once every four, ten or 20 weeks according to the risk type of individual premises as assessed under the "Risk-based Inspection System". The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department keeps statistics on the overall number of inspections and prosecutions pertaining to licensed food premises. A separate breakdown for licensed FPS is not available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)119

(Question Serial No. 0886)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 24):

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 2013-14; 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 2013, the number of prosecutions instituted against illegal hawking activities, including street obstruction, illegal hawking and sale of cooked food / restricted food, was 29 243. 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 deter 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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)120****(Question Serial No. 0887)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 248 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 25):

Please advise on the number of food complaints received in the past three years (i.e. from 2011-12 to 2013-14), the type and nature of these complaints, as well as their examination results and outcome.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, StevenReply:

The number of food complaints received by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is kept on a calendar year basis. A detailed breakdown by nature of complaints from 2011 to 2013 is provided as follows -

Nature of complaints	2011	2012	2013
Unwholesome food	2 152	2 790	2 346
Foreign substances in food	1 017	1 342	1 331
Chemicals in food	647	474	347
Labelling issues	208	393	610
Fake/counterfeit food	167	124	84
Others	74	138	287
Total number of cases	4 265	5 261	5 005
Number of warnings issued	774	761	604
Number of prosecutions taken out	132	178	192

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)121

(Question Serial No. 0888)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 248 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 26):

Regarding the inspections to food premises by the Department in the past three years (i.e. from 2011-12 to 2013-14), please advise on the number of inspections conducted, the number and nature of cases of irregularities detected, the types of premises involved and 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:

In 2011, 2012 and 2013, the number of inspections to licensed food premises was 206 433, 204 384 and 203 007 respectively, and the number of prosecutions instituted against licensed food premises was 4 207, 4 231 and 3 687 respectively. 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.

**Breakdown of Prosecutions instituted against Licensed Food Premises
in 2011, 2012 and 2013**

Nature of Irregularities	No. of Prosecutions		
	2011	2012	2013
Food not protected from risk of contamination	5	6	7
Sub-standard fish tank water	4	1	3
Improper storage of open food	179	164	132
Use of open space for scullery / food preparation / storage of food utensils	132	259	171
Sale of restricted food without permission	27	19	17
Operating other types of unlicensed food business	46	9	7
Dirty food room / improper repair of food room	66	64	56
Dirty equipment and utensils	17	15	27
Dirty food premises / presence of vermins, live birds or animals	14	9	15
Dirty toilet	2	1	0
Alteration of premises or fittings	16	14	12
Alteration to the approved layout of the premises	145	116	136
Extension of food business beyond licensed area	1 058	1 350	1 044
Obstruction of public places	2 473	2 173	2 048
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.	23	31	12
Total	4 207	4 231	3 687

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)122

(Question Serial No. 0889)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 248 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 27):

Please advise on the number, nature and causes of local food poisoning incidents in the past three years (i.e. from 2011-12 to 2013-14), the seasons when these incidents 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 290, 341 and 285 referrals of food poisoning cases related to food premises/food business from the Department of Health in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively. Food poisoning cases were more commonly reported during the period of June to August. Bacteria were the leading group of causative agents for food poisoning cases. 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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0890)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 28):

Under this programme, it is stated that the Department will continue to take forward plans and projects to provide more crematorium and columbarium facilities. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the details of the work relating to the plans and projects 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:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (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 re-provisioning of the Cape Collinson Crematorium to provide ten new cremators and other ancillary facilities, at an estimated cost of \$696.3 million, is underway. The first phase was completed in early 2013 while the second phase is scheduled for completion in late 2015.

On public columbarium facilities, the Administration has completed the construction of Wo Hop Shek Kiu Tau Road Columbarium Phase V in 2012-13, providing 43 710 niches. The Administration has also been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and identified 24 potential sites across 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 a cost of about \$0.51 million was completed in early 2012, while construction of 1 000 niches in Cheung Chau Cemetery at an estimated cost of about \$3.3 million was completed in December 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. Should we be able to secure support of the Legislative Council (LegCo) and the relevant District Councils, construction works in Tsang Tsui are scheduled to start in 2015 for completion in 2018, while that for Tsing Tsuen Road and Wo Hop Shek are scheduled to start in 2016 for completion in 2018 and 2019 respectively. The estimated cost for developing columbarium facilities at these three sites is not yet available. We are currently conducting site investigation and detailed design for site

formation and associated infrastructural works at Sandy Ridge Cemetery. 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 columbarium development at Sandy Ridge Cemetery is expected to start in 2019 (after site formation) and will provide 200 000 new niches by phases starting from 2022. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on the remaining sites.

The Administration will consult the relevant District Councils before the sites are confirmed for columbarium development. 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 LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene in December 2012 and November 2013 on the legislative proposals for regulating private columbaria. A Business Impact Assessment was conducted to collect views from stakeholders. The Administration is now finalising the detailed provisions of the draft legislation with a view to introducing the relevant legislation into LegCo by the second quarter of 2014. The work on formulating policy and preparing legislation would be absorbed within FHB's existing resources.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)124

(Question Serial No. 0891)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 248 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 29):

Under this programme, it is mentioned that the Department will assist the Food and Health Bureau in preparing legislation to regulate 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 better protect the health of infants and young children, the Administration has put forward a package of legislative proposals comprising requirements on nutritional composition of infant formulae and nutrition labelling of infant formulae, follow-up formulae and other foods for infants and young children. The Administration has completed the public consultation on the legislative proposals and received strong support from the respondents. It has also reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on the findings of the consultation exercise. The Administration is in the process of drafting the legislation for tabling at the Legislative Council in 2014.

The relevant expenditure arising from the additional work related to the preparation of the legislation will be absorbed within existing resources.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)125****(Question Serial No. 0892)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 30):

Please provide information on the following in respect of public niches:

- (a) the number of deaths (Hong Kong residents) and the means of disposal of the dead (by burial or cremation) from 2011-12 to 2013-14; 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 from 2011-12 to 2013-14.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) Means of disposal of the dead :

Year	No. of Deaths	No. of Burials	No. of Cremations
2011	42 188	4 210	37 916
2012	43 672	3 643	39 494
2013	43 399	3 573	38 914

- (b) Allocation of new niches :

Year	New niches ⁽¹⁾	
	No. of applications	No. of niches allocated
2011	0	0
2012	24 267	1 612 ⁽²⁾
2013	13 172	12 913 ⁽³⁾

(1) New niches are allocated through computer balloting. There is no waiting list.

(2) Phase I allocation of new niches at Diamond Hill columbarium (560 niches) and Wo Hop Shek Kiu Tau Road columbarium (10 182 niches) commenced in November 2012 and was completed in May 2013.

(3) Phase II allocation of new niches at Diamond Hill columbarium (444 niches) and Wo Hop Shek Kiu Tau Road columbarium (15 118 niches) commenced in September 2013 and will complete in May 2014.

Re-allocation of niches :

Year	Re-allocated niches			
	No. of applications	No. of niches re-allocated	No. of applications on the waiting list	Average waiting time (months)
2011	5 341	416	17 286	39
2012	4 852	255	22 138	43.5
2013	5 037	230	21 360	45

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)126

(Question Serial No. 0893)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 31):

Under this programme, it is mentioned that the Department will “continue to take forward the assistance scheme for hawker licensees to improve the fire safety and operating environment of fixed-pitch hawker areas”. 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 approved in March 2013 a financial commitment of \$230 million for launching a five-year assistance scheme for some 4 300 licensed fixed-pitch hawkers operating in 43 hawker areas (“the Assistance Scheme”). The Assistance Scheme, which commenced on 3 June 2013, aims to provide one-off financial assistance to hawkers in the hawker areas for stall reconstruction and relocation in order to expedite the work of reducing fire risks in those areas. Besides, an ex-gratia payment (“EGP”) is offered under the Assistance Scheme for voluntary surrender of hawker licences. This would help expedite the release of vacant pitches and facilitate the relocation of stalls which pose higher fire risks. Specifically, the Assistance Scheme has 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.

A summary of the package under the Assistance Scheme is at Annex.

As at 28 February 2014, the Department has received 261 applications from eligible hawkers for EGP on surrendering of hawker licences, 46 of which were from hawkers whose stalls were located directly in front of building staircase discharge points and required to be relocated (“relocatees”). Further, 167 relocatees have reached agreement with the Department on relocation arrangements. In other words, the Department has so far handled over 40% of the some 500 cases requiring relocation. Besides, the Department has also received 93 applications for in-situ reconstruction grant.

Regarding manpower, 13 civil service posts for five years starting from 2013-14 have been allocated for implementing the Assistance Scheme, with 4 non-civil service contract staff providing support. The total estimated staff expenditure is about \$33 million for five years.

**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 ²	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$120,000
	Exceeding 1.1 m ² but not exceeding 1.7 m ²	\$47,000	\$57,000	
	Exceeding 1.7 m ² but not exceeding 2.2 m ²	\$54,000	\$64,000	
Hawker Permitted Place Hawker Stalls	Not exceeding 1.1 m ²	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$120,000
	Exceeding 1.1 m ² but not exceeding 1.7 m ²	\$23,500	\$33,500	
	Exceeding 1.7 m ² but not exceeding 2.2 m ²	\$27,000	\$37,000	

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)127****(Question Serial No. 0894)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 32):

Regarding the enforcement against illegal display of posters and banners, please provide data broken down by district on the following:

- (a) the number of complaints received relating to illegal display of posters and banners from 2011 to 2013; and
- (b) the number of inspections or enforcement actions carried out by the Department in respect of the illegal display of posters and banners mentioned above, as well as the number of prosecutions initiated and the total amount of fines imposed from 2011 to 2013.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) The number of complaints received relating to illegal display of posters and banners in 2011, 2012 and 2013 is 3 399, 3 651 and 4 756 respectively. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not keep breakdown of the complaints by district.
- (b) The information sought is given below –

Year	2011	2012	2013
No. of unauthorised publicity materials removed	3 410 967	3 340 171	3 148 500
No. of prosecutions taken against unauthorised display of publicity materials in public place	3 315	4 492	4 228
No. of \$1,500 Fixed Penalty Notices issued	1 716	1 563	1 769

Staff of the Department take enforcement actions during day-to-day patrols and operations. The Department does not keep separate statistics on the number of inspections carried out.

Breakdown of the figures by district is not available. Nor does the Department keep separate breakdown on the amount of fines resulting from prosecutions.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)128****(Question Serial No. 0898)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 248 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 46):

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

- the total number, the average daily number, as well as the highest and lowest daily wholesale number of live pigs supplied to Hong Kong and supplied locally in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2011-12 to 2013-14);
- the monthly average, highest and lowest price of live pigs supplied to Hong Kong and supplied locally in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2011-12 to 2013-14); and
- the total expenditure and average expenditure per head of 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.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

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

Calendar year	Total number of live pigs imported from the Mainland	Daily number of live pigs		
		Average	Highest	Lowest
2011	1 464 211	4 012	6 232	2 031
2012	1 540 756	4 210	5 960	1 513
2013	1 575 810	4 317	5 565	1 942

Information on the number of live pigs supplied by local farms in the past three years is tabulated as follows –

Calendar year	Total number of live pigs supplied by local farms	Daily number of live pigs		
		Average	Highest	Lowest
2011	92 959	255	807	39
2012	97 477	266	644	31
2013	96 488	264	529	24

- (b) The monthly auction prices of live pigs imported from the Mainland in the past three years are tabulated below -

Calendar year	Monthly auction prices per picul of live pigs imported from the Mainland (HK\$)		
	Average	Highest	Lowest
2011	1,482	1,632	1,353
2012	1,329	1,484	1,195
2013	1,350	1,499	1,228

Since local pigs are not sold by auction, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not have information on their wholesale price.

- (c) The expenditure incurred in 2011-12 and 2012-13 on live food animal inspection in the slaughterhouses was \$24.9 million and \$27.7 million respectively. The revised estimate in 2013-14 is \$31.5 million. In each of these three years, 85 staff are involved in this area of work. Pigs, cattle and goats are slaughtered in the slaughterhouses. The average expenditure of live animal inspection on each live food animal slaughtered is \$15.6, \$16.6 and \$18.6 in the same period. The cost for handling live pigs cannot be separately identified.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)129

(Question Serial No. 0899)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250-252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 47):

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

- (a) the number of permissions granted for selling of fresh poultry carcass in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2011-12 to 2013-14), as well as the expenditure and manpower involved; and
- (b) the policy and direction of the Government in respect of the sale of live chickens, as well as the estimated expenditure and manpower to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) In 2011, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department issued one new fresh provision shop (FPS) licence with permission for selling fresh poultry carcass and granted permission to one existing FPS licensee for selling fresh poultry carcass. No new FPS licence or permission to existing licensees for selling fresh poultry carcass was granted in 2012 and 2013. 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) Contact with infected live poultry is the main source of risk insofar as human infection by avian influenza (AI) is concerned. Over the past decade or so, the Government and the local live poultry industry, as well as the Mainland inspection and quarantine authorities and the farms supplying Hong Kong, have collaboratively built up a resilient and stringent system for the surveillance and control of AI, for the purpose of reducing the AI risks in Hong Kong. To mitigate the AI risks, the local live poultry trade has put in a lot of efforts and resources to ensure that the farms comply with all the biosecurity measures, whilst the Government has also invested a lot of public resources in the inspection and testing of imported and local live poultry, as well as the surveillance and biosecurity measures adopted in the supply chain of live poultry. The Mainland inspection and quarantine authorities and the farms supplying Hong Kong have also made significant efforts to ensure the safety of live poultry supplying Hong Kong. However, no surveillance system can attain zero risk. Occasionally we would still encounter AI cases, which may pose threat to public health, exert impacts on the community including the poultry trade and bring anxiety and worries to the citizens, at a considerable cost to society on the whole. On public health grounds, we should consider whether Hong Kong, being a place with scarce land resources and a densely populated city, should continue with the practice enabling close contact between human and poultry. In many developed cities like Hong Kong, there is generally no longer any selling of live poultry. And in Hong Kong, we have also observed a change in the eating habit of the ordinary citizens in that there has been a growing consumption of chilled and frozen poultry on the whole. We believe it is time for the Government, the poultry trade and the citizens to reflect whether the

selling of live poultry in Hong Kong remains appropriate in the long run. The Government would consider engaging a consultant to study and make recommendation in this regard.

A subject team in the Food and Health Bureau comprising a Principal Assistant Secretary and an Assistant Secretary, who are also tasked with other duties, oversees the policies in relation to the prevention and control of AI and the supply of poultry for food consumption. There is no separate breakdown of the expenditure for this area of work.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)130

(Question Serial No. 2527)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 48):

Regarding the efforts against unauthorised extension of business area by shops and restaurants, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the Department's estimated expenditure and manpower to be involved in 2014-15;
- (b) the number of inspections conducted, warnings issued and prosecutions instituted, the locations involved as well as the nature of the cases detected in 2013-14; and
- (c) whether new measures will be put in place or additional manpower or resources be allocated to step up raids in districts or streets where the problem of unauthorised extension of business area is serious; and whether consideration has been given to imposing heavier penalties and expediting the prosecution process to achieve a greater deterrent effect.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) In the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), 608 Foreman grade officers, 2 210 Hawker Control grade officers and 291 Health Inspectorate grade officers are responsible for enforcing the respective legislation against unauthorised extension of business area by shops and restaurants under their purview, among other duties relating to cleansing, hawker control and environmental hygiene services. There is no separate breakdown on the estimated expenditure involved for taking enforcement against unauthorised extension of business area by shops and restaurants.
- (b) The Department has not kept separate statistics on the number of inspections conducted, locations involved and nature of cases in respect of unauthorised extension of business area by shops and restaurants. In 2013, the Department issued 33 923 warnings and instituted 26 896 prosecutions against unauthorised extension of business area by shops and restaurants.
- (c) In recent years, the Department has adopted a multi-pronged approach and implemented targeted measures to strengthen its actions against illegal extension of business area by food premises. The enhanced measures include stepping up inspections and enforcement actions, speeding up the prosecution process, providing additional information to the court for consideration when passing sentences, applying for closure order from the court against food premises which persistently operate without a licence and, where appropriate, consulting the relevant District Councils on the enhanced measures to seek their support. The Department set up in May 2013, on a pilot basis, a task force comprising eight health inspectorate officers through internal redeployment to pursue enhanced

enforcement actions in Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung. The Department plans to set up additional task force teams comprising 26 health inspectorate officers and two clerical officers for five years starting from 2014-15, with an estimated annual expenditure of about \$14 million, to tackle the extension of business area by food premises in other areas. The Department will also flexibly deploy the manpower and resources in stepping up enforcement action to tackle obstruction to scavenging operation, illegal hawking and obstruction in public place due to unauthorised extension of business by shops. The Government will also explore the feasibility of enhanced measures against shop front extensions, including introducing a fixed penalty system against shop front extensions.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)131****(Question Serial No. 2530)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 51):

Under existing legislation, \$1,500 Fixed Penalty Notices will be issued to persons who dirty public areas while feeding wild birds. Please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of complaints about illegal feeding of wild birds received in the past three years (with a breakdown by 18 districts in the territory), and the actions taken in following up these complaints;
- (b) the number of \$1,500 Fixed Penalty Notices issued against dirtying public areas while feeding wild birds in the past three years; and
- (c) the measures adopted to abate the environmental nuisances caused by congregation of wild birds.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

(a)&(c) The number of complaints about feeding of wild birds received in 2011, 2012 and 2013 is given below –

District	2011	2012	2013
Central & Western	28	39	67
Eastern	10	14	34
Southern	10	6	13
Wan Chai	28	29	48
Islands	3	3	3
Kowloon City	37	42	98
Kwun Tong	1	1	6

Wong Tai Sin	3	2	6
Sham Shui Po	38	46	95
Yau Tsim Mong	21	33	35
Sai Kung	3	8	7
Sha Tin	2	14	16
Tai Po	2	6	9
North	3	2	6
Kwai Tsing	0	6	5
Tsuen Wan	4	7	10
Tuen Mun	7	9	20
Yuen Long	2	13	15
Total	202	280	493

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has put in place a series of enhanced measures to prevent environmental hygiene nuisances caused by the conglomeration of wild birds. These include stepping up inspection, cleaning and disinfection with diluted bleach at public places where wild birds gather; reminding the public not to feed wild birds through distribution of leaflet and erection of warning signs at specific locations; and taking stringent enforcement actions against feeding of wild birds causing dirtiness to public places.

- (b) In 2011, 2012 and 2013, the Department issued 68, 57 and 91 \$1,500 Fixed Penalty Notices and took out 5, 2 and 4 prosecutions respectively against persons who caused dirtiness to public places in feeding wild birds.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)132

(Question Serial No. 2354)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 36):

Please provide information on the following:

- (a) the staff establishment for combating unlicensed hawking and the salary points of the staff;
- (b) the number of raids conducted outside office hours (e.g. during the late-night hours) and whether additional allowance(s) and overtime pay need to be provided; and
- (c) the number of prosecution cases in the previous year.

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

- (a) The establishment and pay scale of Hawker Control Officer Grade staff for the year of 2014-15 is listed at Annex. There is no separate breakdown on the number of staff handling unlicensed hawkers.
- (b) The number of raids conducted by Hawker Control Teams in 2013 was 118 894. There was no breakdown on the number of raids conducted during or outside office hours. As the raids were undertaken by existing staff working on shifts, no additional expenditure was incurred.
- (c) In 2013, the number of prosecutions taken against unlicensed hawkers was 29 243.

Establishment of Hawker Control Officer Grade Staff
(2014-15)

Rank	Pay Scale (Master Pay Scale)	Establishment
Principal Hawker Control Officer	Point 28-30	21
Chief Hawker Control Officer	Point 23-27	49
Senior Hawker Control Officer	Point 19-22	231
Hawker Control Officer	Point 15-18	312
Assistant Hawker Control Officer	Point 8-14	1 597
		Total : 2 210

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)133

(Question Serial No. 2322)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 52):

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 2014, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) will take a total of about 65 000 samples for testing under its Food Surveillance Programme (the Programme) 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 the number of samples to be 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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)134

(Question Serial No. 1286)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 251 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 5):

The Department's indicator under Programme (2) shows that the volume of refuse collected in 2013 (1 947 442 tonnes) is higher than that in 2012 (1 930 863 tonnes), and the estimated volume of refuse to be collected in 2014 (1 947 400) will only be slightly lower than that in 2013. The Government has repeatedly emphasised its determination to reduce waste and set a target of reducing waste by 40% in a decade. Yet, the estimated volume of refuse to be collected as provided by the Department does not seem to be in line with the waste reduction target. Please advise on the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Che-cheung

Reply:

The Government is determined to mobilise the people of Hong Kong to jointly achieve the waste reduction target by 40% over 10 years as set out in the "Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022" (the Blueprint) published by the Environment Bureau. However, within such a long time-frame, there may well be year-to-year fluctuations in the quantity of wastes that we have to handle. In parallel with the actions set out in the Blueprint, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to plan for proper provision of household refuse collection service. As a prudent approach in ensuring proper waste management service for the community, adequate funding is reserved for handling a prospective amount of refuse similar to that in the previous year. We will closely monitor the actual quantity of refuse collected in the coming years for preparation of estimates for the subsequent years.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)135

(Question Serial No. 1287)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 4):

Under this programme, it is mentioned that the number of hawker blackspots was 45 in 2012 and 2013 and is estimated to be at the same level in 2014. In this connection, please advise this Committee:

- (a) whether the 45 hawker blackspots remain the same throughout the years, and the locations of these blackspots;
- (b) the reason(s) why there is no reduction in the number of hawker blackspots despite the enforcement actions undertaken by the Department; and
- (c) the expenditure on controlling licensed and unlicensed hawking and containing obstruction caused by commercial activities, as well as the manpower and establishment of various districts for carrying out these duties during and outside office hours.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Che-cheung

Reply:

- (a) The number of hawker blackspots stood at 45 in the past three years (i.e. 2011, 2012 and 2013). The locations of the 45 blackspots remained the same and are provided at Annex I.
- (b) Hawker blackspots are locations where unlicensed hawkers congregate. 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 spotted trading at the location at any one time of the day during the surveys.
- (c)(i) The expenditure incurred in controlling licensed and unlicensed hawking and containing obstruction caused by commercial activities is subsumed under the overall cost of our work to manage and control on-street hawking and related activities. This is estimated at \$953.5 million in 2014-15. There is no separate breakdown for the expenditure incurred in handling these activities.
- (ii) The establishment of hawker control officer grade staff for the year of 2014-15 is 2 210, with breakdown as listed at Annex II. To control on-street hawking and related activities, the Hawker Control Teams ("the HCTs") at district level operate on a two-shift system from 7:00 a.m. to mid-night, whereas the HCTs at regional level operate on a three-shift system around the clock, including an additional overnight shift to augment district hawker control at hawker blackspots and to tackle illegal hawking activities after mid-night and in the early morning hours in the respective regions. Manpower deployment to each shift in districts and regions depends on operational need.

Location of Hawker Blackspots

District	Location
Central/Western	1. The vicinity of Statue Square and former Legislative Council Building
	2. The vicinity of Charter 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 Aeon area
	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

District	Location
	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 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)

District	Location
	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

**Establishment of Hawker Control Officer Grade Staff
(2014-15)**

Post	Regions			HK and Islands Districts					Kln Districts							NT Districts							Hawker management and supporting services	Total		
	HK and Islands	Kln	NT	E	S	WcH	C/W	Is	KT	MK	SSP	KC	WTS	YT	TW	KwT	N	TP	SK	ST	TM	YL				
Principal Hawker Control Officer	1	1	1*	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	21
Chief Hawker Control Officer	3	3	3	2	2	2	4	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	49
Senior Hawker Control Officer	7	10	13	16	5	13	17	7	10	16	14	9	9	14	6	8	7	7	8	9	8	9	9	9	231	
Hawker Control Officer	20	29	37	17	7	14	20	9	11	16	15	11	11	15	8	10	9	9	10	11	10	11	11	2	312	
Assistant Hawker Control Officer	53	80	102	113	43	84	119	45	73	106	101	71	63	102	45	52	50	48	52	63	54	62	16	1 597		
Total	84	123	156	149	57	114	161	62	97	141	133	94	86	134	62	73	69	67	73	86	75	85	29	2 210		

* 1 Principal Hawker Control Officer loaned from District Office (C/W)

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)136

(Question Serial No. 1017)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 248 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 16):

Regarding the establishment of the Department, please inform this Committee of :

1. the number of directorate civil servants;
2. the ranks of these directorate civil servants, the expenses on their salaries, job-related benefits and allowances, as well as the personnel related expenses pertaining to them; and
3. the percentage of the total amount of emoluments and personnel related expenses pertaining to these directorate civil servants in the overall staff expenses.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. There are 15 directorate posts in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department).
2. The ranks of the 15 directorate posts are Administrative Officer Staff Grade A; Controller, Centre for Food Safety; Administrative Officer Staff Grade B; Consultant; Assistant Director of Health; Assistant Director of Municipal Services; Senior Principal Executive Officer; Chief Treasury Accountant; Principal Executive Officer; and Principal Medical and Health Officer. The estimated expenditure in 2013-14 on salaries and allowances of the 15 directorate posts is \$25.6 million.
3. In 2013-14, the total amount of personal emoluments (salaries and allowances) of the 15 directorate posts accounts for around 0.9% of the Department's overall staff expenses (personal emoluments and personnel related expenses).

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)137

(Question Serial No. 2376)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 248 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 19):

In Hong Kong, the rodent problem in some buildings located in old districts is serious, not only affecting environmental hygiene, but also causing great disturbance to the residents of these buildings. Recently residents of Oi Man Estate in Kowloon City reflected to me the unrelenting rodent problem in the neighbourhood. They hoped the Administration would step up its effort to tackle the problem and provide appropriate support to them. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

1. the resources allocated by the Administration for rodent control work in the past three years and the details of the expenditure on various anti-rodent measures;
2. whether the Administration has assessed the effectiveness of these measures; if yes, the results of the assessment; if not, the reason(s); and
3. whether new measures will be implemented (such as distributing rodent cage traps to the residents of the old buildings where the rodent problem is serious) to help the residents catch rodents.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply:

1. The actual expenditure on rodent control work for 2011-12 and 2012-13 was \$136.4 million and \$141.0 million respectively. The revised estimate for 2013-14 is \$151.6 million. There is no breakdown on expenditure based on areas of work.
2. The Rodent Infestation Rate (RIR) in 2011, 2012 and 2013 was 1.7%, 2.4% and 3.1% respectively. Whilst the RIR in 2013 went up slightly from the low levels in the previous two years, it remained at a low single digit, suggesting that the rodent problem in public areas remains generally under control. When the RIR of a district is higher than 10%, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will strengthen rodent disinfestation operations there. For a district with an RIR reaching 20% or higher, the relevant government departments will form a joint task force and launch special rodent control operations to strengthen rodent disinfestation, environmental improvement and cleansing services comprehensively, and to promote rodent control in the community.
3. The Department will continue to enhance rodent control work and launch district-specific rodent control measures in districts with a higher RIR, including 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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)138

(Question Serial No. 0177)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 1):

It is stated 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. In this connection, please advise on the following:

- (a) the details of the work on providing a more flexible mix of trade and carrying out promotional activities, the estimated expenditure involved, and when the work is expected to commence; and
- (b) the year of commissioning, current number of stalls and occupancy rate of and the number of public parking spaces near individual public markets (listed by air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned markets) in the territory.

Asked by: Hon. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) As an on-going initiative, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will continue to conduct promotional activities to enhance patronage of public markets. These include thematic exhibitions and workshops, festive celebration activities, 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 in 2014-15 is \$4 million.

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

- (b) The information sought is set out at Annex. The Department does not have information on the number of public parking spaces near individual public markets.

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning System	Commencement Year	No. of Stalls	Occupancy rate as at 31 December 2013
1	Bowrington Road Market	only in CFC	1979	296	100%
2	Hung Hom Market	only in CFC	1996	224	99%
3	Java Road Market	only in CFC	1993	194	95%
4	Lockhart Road Market	only in CFC	1987	166	89%
5	Pei Ho Street Market	only in CFC	1995	227	100%
6	Sai Wan Ho Market	only in CFC	1984	274	96%
7	Sheung Wan Market	only in CFC	1989	223	92%
8	Smithfield Market	only in CFC	1996	215	99%
9	Tai Shing Street Market	only in CFC	1998	446	95%
10	Tokwawan Market	only in CFC	1984	267	100%
11	Wong Nai Chung Market	only in CFC	1996	69	97%
12	Aldrich Bay Market	yes	2008	71	80%
13	Apleichau Market	yes	1998	63	92%
14	Centre Street Market	yes	1976	47	77%
15	Chai Wan Market	yes	2001	173	95%
16	Lei Yue Mun Market	yes	2000	20	80%
17	Luen Wo Hui Market	yes	2002	338	96%
18	Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	yes	2005	14	100%

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning System	Commencement Year	No. of Stalls	Occupancy rate as at 31 December 2013
19	Peng Chau Market	yes	1999	18	89%
20	Queen Street Cooked Food Market	yes	2004	11	91%
21	Sai Ying Pun Market	yes	1999	102	88%
22	San Hui Market	yes	1982	324	98%
23	Sha Tin Market	yes	1980	173	100%
24	Shek Wu Hui Market	yes	1994	392	100%
25	Tai Kiu Market	yes	1984	379	96%
26	Tai Kok Tsui Market	yes	2005	135	100%
27	Tai Po Hui Market	yes	2004	313	100%
28	Tsing Yi Market	yes	1999	76	95%
29	Wanchai Market	yes	2008	50	98%
30	Yan Oi Market	yes	1983	108	99%
31	Yee On Street Market	yes	1999	65	88%
32	Yue Wan Market	yes	1979	374	94%
33	Aberdeen Market	no	1983	335	97%
34	Causeway Bay Market	no	1995	51	98%
35	Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market	no	1979	32	100%
36	Cheung Chau Cooked Food Market	no	1991	17	100%
37	Cheung Chau Market	no	1991	237	98%
38	Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market	no	1982	28	43%
39	Cheung Tat Road Cooked Food Market	no	1987	12	100%
40	Choi Hung Road Market	no	1988	116	79%
41	Electric Road Market	no	1993	99	98%
42	Fa Yuen Street Market	no	1988	180	99%

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning System	Commencement Year	No. of Stalls	Occupancy rate as at 31 December 2013
43	Fo Tan (East) Cooked Food Market	no	1982	24	96%
44	Fo Tan (West) Cooked Food Market	no	1982	15	100%
45	Haiphong Road Temporary Market	no	1978	88	66%
46	Heung Che Street Market	no	1972	223	99%
47	Hung Cheung Cooked Food Market	no	1979	11	100%
48	Hung Shui Kiu Market	no	1987	215	39%
49	Ka Ting Cooked Food Market	no	1983	17	88%
50	Kam Tin Market	no	1964	41	100%
51	Kik Yeung Road Cooked Food Market	no	1981	14	100%
52	Kin Wing Cooked Food Market	no	1979	20	80%
53	Kin Yip Street Cooked Food Market	no	1985	14	100%
54	Kowloon City Market	no	1988	581	98%
55	Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market	no	1986	11	100%
56	Kwai Shun Street Cooked Food Market	no	1990	12	100%
57	Kwu Tung Market Shopping Centre	no	1985	98	100%
58	Kwun Chung Market	no	1991	218	98%
59	Kwun Tong Ferry Concourse Cooked Food Market	no	1984	29	100%
60	Lai Wan Market	no	1992	42	98%
61	Lam Tei Market	no	1969	7	100%
62	Lau Fau Shan Market	no	1964	25	88%

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning System	Commencement Year	No. of Stalls	Occupancy rate as at 31 December 2013
63	Mui Wo Cooked Food Market	no	1985	20	100%
64	Mui Wo Market	no	1993	33	97%
65	Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market	no	1987	28	89%
66	Ngau Chi Wan Market	no	1986	402	94%
67	Ngau Tau Kok Market	no	1981	466	87%
68	North Kwai Chung Market	no	1984	222	92%
69	North Point Market	no	1970	42	98%
70	On Ching Road Flower Market	no	1979	13	100%
71	Plover Cove Road Market	no	1991	244	99%
72	Po On Road Market	no	1988	449	90%
73	Quarry Bay Market	no	1988	115	83%
74	Sai Kung Market	no	1985	209	99%
75	Sha Tau Kok Market	no	1998	66	94%
76	Sham Tseng Temporary Market	no	1984	29	76%
77	Shaukeiwan Market	no	1973	82	56%
78	Shek Tong Tsui Market	no	1991	151	99%
79	Sheung Fung Street Market	no	1989	71	100%
80	Shui Wo Street Market	no	1988	302	98%
81	Stanley Waterfront Mart	no	2007	20	90%
82	Sze Shan Street Cooked Food Market	no	1980	17	100%
83	Tai O Market	no	1989	26	96%
84	Tai Tong Road Cooked Food Market	no	1985	18	100%

Serial No.	Name of Market	Provision of Air-conditioning System	Commencement Year	No. of Stalls	Occupancy rate as at 31 December 2013
85	Tai Wai Market	no	1985	195	90%
86	Tai Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	no	1984	20	90%
87	Tang Lung Chau Market	no	1963	34	100%
88	Tin Wan Market	no	1979	180	97%
89	Tsing Yeung Cooked Food Market	no	1983	18	100%
90	Tsuen King Circuit Market	no	1990	241	31%
91	Tsuen Wan Market	no	1981	381	94%
92	Tsun Yip Cooked Food Market	no	1985	56	100%
93	Tui Min Hoi Market	no	1983	34	100%
94	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	no	1992	359	50%
95	Tung Yick Market	no	1991	446	43%
96	Tung Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	no	1983	8	100%
97	Wing Fong Street Market	no	1982	112	92%
98	Wo Yi Hop Road Cooked Food Market	no	1984	18	89%
99	Yau Ma Tei Market	no	1957	144	91%
100	Yeung Uk Road Market	no	1990	318	100%
101	Yue Kwong Road Market	no	1981	197	96%

Remark:

CFC – Cooked Food Centre in Market

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)139

(Question Serial No. 0178)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (4) Public Education and Community Involvement
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 254 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 8):

It is stated that the Department will “continue to promote the use of nutrition information on nutrition labelling”. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the plans to promote the use of nutrition information on nutrition labelling, the details of the plans and the estimated expenditure to be involved;
- (b) the numbers of inspections conducted and non-compliance cases detected, with a breakdown by the type of food products and nature of non-compliance, in each of the past three years (i.e. in 2011, 2012 and 2013);
- (c) whether prosecutions have been taken out against non-compliance cases in each of the past three years (i.e. in 2011, 2012 and 2013); if yes, the number of cases in each of these years;
- (d) the number of complaints regarding the labelling of nutrition information received, with a breakdown by the type of food products and nature of complaints, in each of the past three years (i.e. in 2011, 2012 and 2013);
- (e) whether the Department will conduct a review on the existing Nutrition Labelling Scheme; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) Nutrition labelling education has been part and parcel of the Centre for Food Safety's (CFS) food safety and nutritional education efforts. CFS will continue to promote nutrition labelling to the general public in the coming year through a multitude of activities including announcements of public interest, roving exhibitions and talks. On top of that, to enhance consumers' understanding of nutrition labels and assist them to make good use of nutrition information, CFS will launch a new nutrition labelling training kit and conduct training workshops in 2014. CFS is also organising a “Secondary School Food Safety and Nutrition Labelling Quiz Competition” to enhance secondary school students' understanding of nutrition labelling and food safety with a view to helping them develop healthy eating habits and safe food handling practices. The expenditure of these activities will be absorbed within existing resources and cannot be separately identified.

- (b) In 2011, 2012 and 2013, CFS had checked 5 048, 5 277 and 5 151 nutrition labels of prepackaged food products respectively, with 268 found to be non-compliant. A detailed breakdown of the 268 cases by nature of irregularity and type of food is as follows –

Breakdown of non-compliant cases by nature of irregularity

Nature of Non-compliance	No. of cases (2011)	No. of cases (2012)	No. of cases (2013)
No or incomplete 1+7 nutrition label	24	14	16
Inappropriate nutrition label format	3	3	1
Inappropriate nutrient claim	11	7	14
Inappropriate language	3	3	6
Involving more than one type of the abovementioned irregularities	7	8	3
Discrepancy on declared nutrient value confirmed after chemical analysis	29	38	78
Subtotal	77	73	118
Total	268		

Breakdown of non-compliant cases by type of food

Type of food	No. of cases (2011)	No. of cases (2012)	No. of cases (2013)
Bakery and cereal products	12	20	9
Candies and snacks	9	22	19
Drinks	9	15	31
Oils, sauces and condiments	19	7	22
Others	28	9	37
Subtotal	77	73	118
Total	268		

- (c) No prosecution has been made from 2011 to 2013. Upon detection of non-compliance, traders have either withdrawn the product concerned from the shelf or rectified the nutrition labels according to the statutory requirements of the Scheme.
- (d) From 2011 to 2013, CFS received 124 food complaints against nutrition labelling of prepackaged food. A detailed breakdown of the 124 cases by nature of irregularity and type of food is as follows –

Breakdown of complaint cases by nature of irregularity

Nature of complaint	No. of cases (2011)	No. of cases (2012)	No. of cases (2013)
No or incomplete 1+7 nutrition label	10	17	17
Inappropriate declared nutrient value	20	35	12
Others	3	4	6
Subtotal	33	56	35
Total	124		

Breakdown of complaint cases by type of food

Type of food	No. of cases (2011)	No. of cases (2012)	No. of cases (2013)
Bakery and cereal products	13	25	5
Candies and snacks	8	4	8
Drinks	2	8	3
Oils, sauces and condiments	4	5	2
Others	6	14	17
Subtotal	33	56	35
Total	124		

- (e) The existing Nutrition Labelling Scheme does not cover formula products and foods intended for infants and young children under the age of 36 months. To better protect the health of infants and young children, the Administration has put forward a package of legislative proposals relating to the aforesaid products. The legislative proposals comprise requirements on nutritional composition of infant formulae and nutrition labelling of infant formulae, follow-up formulae and other foods for infant and young children. The Administration has completed the public consultation on the legislative proposals and received strong support for them. It has also reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on the outcome of the consultation. The Administration is in the process of drafting the legislation for tabling at the Legislative Council within 2014.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)140

(Question Serial No. 2042)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 252-253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 46):

Please advise on the specific timetable of future full-scale retrofitting of air-conditioning in public markets across the territory, as well as details of the estimated expenditure to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. MO, Claudia

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department currently has no plan to retrofit air-conditioning system in any public market.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)141****(Question Serial No. 1576)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 13):

In 2014-2015, the Food and Health Bureau will continue to collaborate with the Mainland authorities to apply 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:

- the average daily quantities of fresh, chilled and frozen chickens, ducks, geese, beef, pork and other kinds of meat (by kilogram and number) imported from the Mainland into Hong Kong from 2009 to 2013 and their respective share of the same type of import from the Mainland (set out by year in tabular form);
- 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;
- the expenditure involved in exploring the feasibility of applying information technology to enhance the traceability of food, and the details of the work; and
- given that the consumption of chilled meat and poultry will become a prevailing trend in the face of the ongoing threat of avian influenza in recent years, chilled meat and poultry available in Hong Kong are of varied qualities as there is no venue for quality control, and it is difficult to trace the source in the event of a food safety incident, whether the Department has explored the need of setting up a quality control centre to enhance the traceability of food for safeguarding public health; if yes, the findings; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- The average daily quantities of fresh, chilled and frozen chicken, duck, goose, beef and pork imported from the Mainland from 2009 to 2013, and their share of the total import of each type from the Mainland are as follows:

Chicken

	Fresh Chicken		Chilled Chicken		Frozen Chicken	
	Quantity (tonnes) ¹	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%
2009	13.12	4.73%	117.47	42.37%	146.67	52.90%
2010	13.66	4.28%	129.00	40.46%	176.21	55.26%

2011	12.78	4.09%	115.97	37.14%	183.55	58.77%
2012	12.55	4.77%	103.69	39.36%	147.17	55.87%
2013	11.73	4.38%	102.84	38.40%	153.27	57.22%

Duck

	Fresh Duck		Chilled Duck		Frozen Duck	
	Quantity (tonnes)	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%
2009	0	0%	59.58	90.92%	5.95	9.08%
2010	0	0%	54.74	90.46%	5.77	9.54%
2011	0	0%	55.58	88.45%	7.26	11.55%
2012	0	0%	55.64	86.09%	8.99	13.91%
2013	0	0%	55.77	84.76%	10.03	15.24%

Goose

	Fresh Goose		Chilled Goose		Frozen Goose	
	Quantity (tonnes)	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%
2009	0	0%	33.06	99.46%	0.18	0.54%
2010	0	0%	36.70	97.89%	0.79	2.11%
2011	0	0%	27.78	87.97%	3.80	12.03%
2012	0	0%	30.74	99.39%	0.19	0.61%
2013	0	0%	29.43	98.82%	0.35	1.18%

Beef

	Fresh Beef		Chilled Beef		Frozen Beef	
	Quantity (tonnes) ²	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%
2009	23.21	50.39%	0	0%	22.85	49.61%
2010	22.78	48.67%	0.02	0.04%	24.01	51.29%
2011	23.36	43.75%	0.44	0.82%	29.60	55.43%
2012	21.18	53.47%	0.04	0.10%	18.39	46.43%
2013	17.32	79.01%	0.09	0.41%	4.51	20.58%

Pork

	Fresh Pork		Chilled Pork		Frozen Pork	
	Quantity (tonnes) ²	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%
2009	301.10	60.98%	43.80	8.87%	148.86	30.15%
2010	307.33	58.17%	39.50	7.48%	181.48	34.35%
2011	320.92	65.67%	40.46	8.28%	127.31	26.05%
2012	337.70	70.52%	30.92	6.46%	110.24	23.02%
2013	345.38	70.24%	24.97	5.08%	121.33	24.68%

Remarks

¹ Converted by multiplying the number of imported chicken by their average weight

² Slaughtered carcass weight

- b) According to the Hong Kong Merchandise Trade Statistics, the monthly average quantities and percentage of chicken, duck, goose, beef and pork imported from places other than the Mainland from 2009 to 2013 are as follows:

Chicken

	Fresh Chicken		Chilled Chicken		Frozen Chicken	
	Quantity (tonnes)	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%
2009	0	0%	32.25	1.00%	3,205.33	99.00%
2010	0	0%	35.67	1.36%	2,585.00	98.64%
2011	0	0%	35.75	0.64%	5,525.42	99.36%
2012	0	0%	31.00	1.53%	1,998.25	98.47%
2013	0	0%	41.17	11.23%	325.58	88.77%

Duck

	Fresh Duck		Chilled Duck		Frozen Duck	
	Quantity (tonnes)	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%
2009	0	0%	0.42	1.65%	25.00	98.35%
2010	0	0%	0.67	1.64%	40.08	98.36%
2011	0	0%	0.83	2.52%	32.08	97.48%
2012	0	0%	0.67	4.44%	14.42	95.56%
2013	0	0%	8.58	66.00%	4.42	34.00%

Goose

	Fresh Goose		Chilled Goose		Frozen Goose	
	Quantity (tonnes)	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%
2009	0	0%	1.58	1.25%	125.08	98.75%
2010	0	0%	0.08	0.07%	111.17	99.93%
2011	0	0%	1.08	1.03%	104.08	98.97%
2012	0	0%	0.33	0.39%	84.42	99.61%
2013	0	0%	1.42	1.32%	105.83	98.68%

Beef

	Fresh Beef		Chilled Beef		Frozen Beef	
	Quantity (tonnes)	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%
2009	0	0%	384.50	5.23%	6,973.50	94.77%
2010	0	0%	461.00	6.57%	6,559.33	93.43%
2011	0	0%	431.50	7.97%	4,984.42	92.03%
2012	0	0%	452.92	4.57%	9,449.00	95.43%
2013	0	0%	524.08	2.50%	20,418.58	97.50%

Pork

	Fresh Pork		Chilled Pork		Frozen Pork	
	Quantity (tonnes)	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%	Quantity (tonnes)	%
2009	0	0%	57.58	0.66%	8,727.58	99.34%
2010	0	0%	33.83	0.63%	5,338.17	99.37%
2011	0	0%	55.67	0.57%	9,773.00	99.43%
2012	0	0%	27.67	0.28%	9,977.25	99.72%
2013	0	0%	39.25	0.57%	6,847.00	99.43%

- c) The Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) trial programme is an on-going collaborative study with the Mainland authorities involving the application of RFID technology for tracking live pigs and cattle supplied to Hong Kong from Guangdong.

In 2013, we in cooperation with the Mainland authorities implemented further enhancement to the programme, including improvement of the hand-held and passageway reader systems and development of an alert system. We also extended the application of RFID technology to the tracking of live cattle supplied to Hong Kong from Guangdong starting from April 2013. We would evaluate the progress and consider the next steps in consultation with the Mainland authorities in due course.

The estimated expenditure to be incurred by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in this area of work in 2014-15 is \$1.78 million.

- d) Hong Kong imposes strict import control on high-risk foods like meat and poultry. The Centre for Food Safety enforces regulations under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) to ensure that food sold in Hong Kong is fit for human consumption. The Food Safety Ordinance (Cap. 612) also requires food traders to keep record of business transactions so that the source of problem food can be traced in case of food incidents. There is no plan to set up a separate quality control centre for this purpose.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)142

(Question Serial No. 1604)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 41):

Regarding the control of licensed hawkers and enforcement against unlicensed hawkers, please provide information on the following in respect of the years between 2008 and 2013:

- a. the number of unlicensed hawkers in each of the above years;
- b. the respective numbers of convicted prosecution cases involving licensed hawkers and unlicensed hawkers in each of the above years;
- c. the respective reasons for prosecutions against licensed hawkers and unlicensed hawkers who were subsequently convicted in each of the above years, as well as their percentage share; and
- d. given that a certain number of raids are conducted by Hawker Control Teams each year, the effectiveness of these raids in reducing the number of unlicensed hawkers and in controlling licensed hawkers (taking the year 2013 as an example).

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Puk-sun, Michael

Reply:

- a. The information sought is provided at Annex I.
- b. The information sought is provided at Annex II.
- c. Prosecutions instituted against licensed hawkers were mainly related to the following acts: street obstruction; hawking commodities not specified in licence; using a fixed pitch without holding a fixed-pitch licence; and failing to comply with conditions of licence. Prosecutions instituted against unlicensed hawkers were mainly related to the following acts: street obstruction; illegal hawking; and sale of cooked food/restricted food. Further breakdown is not readily available.
- d. The number of raids is determined by the number of complaints received involving suspected illegal hawking activities and other relevant factors including the actual situation prevailing in individual hawker blackspots. Raiding operations are planned by Hawker Control Teams having regard to the prevailing situation in the districts, for the purpose of keeping the streets and main thoroughfares unobstructed and free from illegal hawkers as far as possible. In 2013, the number of convictions against unlicensed hawkers has increased, while the number of unlicensed hawkers is declining.

No. of Unlicensed Hawkers in 2008 - 2013

Year	Unlicensed Hawkers
2008	2 061
2009	2 010
2010	1 896
2011	1 921
2012	1 691
2013	1 463

No. of convictions against licensed and unlicensed hawkers

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
No. of convictions against licensed hawkers	4 855	5 418	5 246	5 048	5 256	5 064
No. of convictions against unlicensed hawkers	21 801	25 919	24 565	25 169	25 234	26 294

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)143

(Question Serial No. 0127)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 25):

With regard to the work of developing proposals for improving the operating environment of public markets, please advise on the following:

- (a) when the work will be completed and the estimated expenditure to be involved;
- (b) the number of stalls, occupancy rate, vacancy rate and average stall rental per square metre of individual public markets (listed by air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned markets) in the territory over the past three years (i.e. in 2011, 2012 and 2013); and
- (c) the estimated 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 December 2013, the Food and Health Bureau commissioned a consultant for developing proposals to improve the operating environment of public markets thereby enabling them to fulfil the functions expected of them. The consultancy fee amounts to \$2 million. The consultant is expected to submit preliminary study findings in mid-2014 if the study progresses smoothly.
- (b) The information sought is set out at Annex.
- (c) We do not have the required information. The estimated expenditure required for retrofitting air-conditioning systems in public markets will depend on a host of factors, such as the design and size of the markets, the condition of the supporting infrastructures, and the extent of conversion works required to meet the latest standard and statutory requirement within the existing building constraints. The information required will only be available until after detailed feasibility study is conducted for individual markets.

Annex

Serial no.	Name of market	Provision of Air-conditioning system	No. of stalls			Occupancy rate as at 31 December			Vacancy rate as at 31 December			Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)		
			2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013
1	Bowrington Road Market	only in CFC	296	296	296	98%	99%	100%	2%	1%	0%	396	396	402
2	Hung Hom Market	only in CFC	224	224	224	98%	97%	99%	2%	3%	1%	194	204	198
3	Java Road Market	only in CFC	194	194	194	87%	97%	95%	13%	3%	5%	364	369	365
4	Lockhart Road Market	only in CFC	166	166	166	87%	90%	89%	13%	10%	11%	265	260	285
5	Pei Ho Street Market	only in CFC	227	227	227	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	233	232	241
6	Sai Wan Ho Market	only in CFC	274	274	274	88%	96%	96%	12%	4%	4%	326	318	320
7	Sheung Wan Market	only in CFC	222	222	223	91%	91%	92%	9%	9%	8%	188	186	186
8	Smithfield Market	only in CFC	214	214	215	99%	100%	99%	1%	0%	1%	198	202	204
9	Tai Shing Street Market	only in CFC	453	446	446	95%	97%	95%	5%	3%	5%	321	320	316
10	Tokwawan Market	only in CFC	267	267	267	88%	98%	100%	12%	2%	0%	335	344	343
11	Wong Nai Chung Market	only in CFC	66	69	69	92%	94%	97%	8%	6%	3%	252	251	242
12	Aldrich Bay Market	yes	71	71	71	75%	62%	80%	25%	38%	20%	850	833	793
13	Apleichau Market	yes	59	59	63	100%	100%	92%	0%	0%	8%	239	223	216
14	Centre Street Market	yes	47	47	47	72%	77%	77%	28%	23%	23%	389	389	409
15	Chai Wan Market	yes	173	173	173	95%	94%	95%	5%	6%	5%	420	418	422

Serial no.	Name of market	Provision of Air-conditioning system	No. of stalls			Occupancy rate as at 31 December			Vacancy rate as at 31 December			Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)		
			2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013
16	Lei Yue Mun Market	yes	20	20	20	85%	85%	80%	15%	15%	20%	264	264	266
17	Luen Wo Hui Market	yes	338	338	338	87%	92%	96%	13%	8%	4%	428	434	412
18	Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	yes	14	14	14	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	988	988	988
19	Peng Chau Market	yes	18	18	18	83%	89%	89%	17%	11%	11%	91	92	92
20	Queen Street Cooked Food Market	yes	13	11	11	69%	82%	91%	31%	18%	9%	811	811	1,146
21	Sai Ying Pun Market	yes	98	98	102	88%	91%	88%	12%	9%	12%	247	260	264
22	San Hui Market	yes	324	324	324	99%	98%	98%	1%	2%	2%	578	561	561
23	Sha Tin Market	yes	173	173	173	98%	99%	100%	2%	1%	0%	965	965	970
24	Shek Wu Hui Market	yes	392	392	392	99%	99%	100%	1%	1%	0%	358	364	370
25	Tai Kiu Market	yes	379	379	379	98%	97%	96%	2%	3%	4%	566	584	585
26	Tai Kok Tsui Market	yes	135	135	135	97%	99%	100%	3%	1%	0%	418	418	427
27	Tai Po Hui Market	yes	314	313	313	98%	99%	100%	2%	1%	0%	636	610	607
28	Tsing Yi Market	yes	74	74	76	80%	89%	95%	20%	11%	5%	1,017	987	959
29	Wanchai Market	yes	50	50	50	100%	100%	98%	0%	0%	2%	872	882	884
30	Yan Oi Market	yes	108	108	108	99%	97%	99%	1%	3%	1%	408	407	407
31	Yee On Street Market	yes	65	65	65	80%	83%	88%	20%	17%	12%	226	225	232
32	Yue Wan Market	yes	373	374	374	90%	92%	94%	10%	8%	6%	469	468	462
33	Aberdeen Market	no	335	335	335	96%	97%	97%	4%	3%	3%	623	633	626
34	Causeway Bay Market	no	51	51	51	94%	94%	98%	6%	6%	2%	155	153	153

Serial no.	Name of market	Provision of Air-conditioning system	No. of stalls			Occupancy rate as at 31 December			Vacancy rate as at 31 December			Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)		
			2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013
35	Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market	no	32	32	32	94%	97%	100%	6%	3%	0%	182	181	192
36	Cheung Chau Cooked Food Market	no	17	17	17	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	173	173	173
37	Cheung Chau Market	no	237	237	237	100%	99%	98%	0%	1%	2%	176	178	178
38	Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market	no	28	28	28	43%	43%	43%	57%	57%	57%	168	168	168
39	Cheung Tat Road Cooked Food Market	no	12	12	12	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	169	169	169
40	Choi Hung Road Market	no	116	116	116	95%	91%	79%	5%	9%	21%	150	150	148
41	Electric Road Market	no	96	96	99	88%	86%	98%	12%	14%	2%	185	188	192
42	Fa Yuen Street Market	no	180	180	180	97%	100%	99%	3%	0%	1%	511	520	530
43	Fo Tan (East) Cooked Food Market	no	24	24	24	100%	100%	96%	0%	0%	4%	293	293	294
44	Fo Tan (West) Cooked Food Market	no	15	15	15	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	222	222	222
45	Haiphong Road Temporary Market	no	88	88	88	66%	66%	66%	34%	34%	34%	319	319	319
46	Heung Che Street Market	no	223	223	223	94%	93%	99%	6%	7%	1%	259	270	269
47	Hung Cheung Cooked Food Market	no	11	11	11	91%	100%	100%	9%	0%	0%	358	354	343
48	Hung Shui Kiu Market	no	215	215	215	41%	40%	39%	59%	60%	61%	154	153	235
49	Ka Ting Cooked Food Market	no	17	17	17	100%	100%	88%	0%	0%	12%	597	597	602

Serial no.	Name of market	Provision of Air-conditioning system	No. of stalls			Occupancy rate as at 31 December			Vacancy rate as at 31 December			Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)		
			2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013
50	Kam Tin Market	no	41	41	41	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	83	83	83
51	Kik Yeung Road Cooked Food Market	no	14	14	14	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	392	392	392
52	Kin Wing Cooked Food Market	no	20	20	20	75%	80%	80%	25%	20%	20%	237	248	299
53	Kin Yip Street Cooked Food Market	no	14	14	14	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	135	135	135
54	Kowloon City Market	no	581	581	581	95%	97%	98%	5%	3%	2%	270	271	278
55	Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market	no	11	11	11	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	162	162	162
56	Kwai Shun Street Cooked Food Market	no	12	12	12	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	153	153	162
57	Kwu Tung Market Shopping Centre	no	98	98	98	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	51	51	52
58	Kwun Chung Market	no	218	218	218	87%	97%	98%	13%	3%	2%	159	158	162
59	Kwun Tong Ferry Concourse Cooked Food Market	no	29	29	29	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	97	99	99
60	Lai Wan Market	no	42	42	42	100%	98%	98%	0%	2%	2%	699	712	695
61	Lam Tei Market	no	7	7	7	100%	86%	100%	0%	14%	0%	57	57	59
62	Lau Fau Shan Market	no	25	25	25	80%	88%	88%	20%	12%	12%	33	32	32
63	Mui Wo Cooked Food Market	no	20	20	20	95%	90%	100%	5%	10%	0%	124	123	148
64	Mui Wo Market	no	33	33	33	91%	94%	97%	9%	6%	3%	182	177	176
65	Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market	no	28	28	28	100%	96%	89%	0%	4%	11%	461	472	477

Serial no.	Name of market	Provision of Air-conditioning system	No. of stalls			Occupancy rate as at 31 December			Vacancy rate as at 31 December			Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)		
			2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013
66	Ngau Chi Wan Market	no	404	403	402	89%	92%	94%	11%	8%	6%	357	339	357
67	Ngau Tau Kok Market	no	466	466	466	84%	84%	87%	16%	16%	13%	475	477	478
68	North Kwai Chung Market	no	222	222	222	95%	85%	92%	5%	15%	8%	290	292	280
69	North Point Market	no	42	42	42	95%	98%	98%	5%	2%	2%	176	177	177
70	On Ching Road Flower Market	no	13	13	13	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	167	167	167
71	Plover Cove Road Market	no	244	244	244	97%	98%	99%	3%	2%	1%	192	206	211
72	Po On Road Market	no	449	449	449	80%	86%	90%	20%	14%	10%	432	415	411
73	Quarry Bay Market	no	115	115	115	77%	76%	83%	23%	24%	17%	239	236	224
74	Sai Kung Market	no	207	209	209	96%	99%	99%	4%	1%	1%	223	216	224
75	Sha Tau Kok Market	no	66	66	66	94%	92%	94%	6%	8%	6%	23	23	24
76	Sham Tseng Temporary Market	no	29	29	29	79%	76%	76%	21%	24%	24%	100	102	102
77	Shaukeiwan Market	no	82	82	82	68%	66%	56%	32%	34%	44%	129	128	130
78	Shek Tong Tsui Market	no	151	153	151	75%	95%	99%	25%	5%	1%	258	229	231
79	Sheung Fung Street Market	no	73	71	71	92%	99%	100%	8%	1%	0%	240	234	233
80	Shui Wo Street Market	no	302	302	302	93%	93%	98%	7%	7%	2%	633	634	622
81	Stanley Waterfront Mart	no	20	20	20	90%	100%	90%	10%	0%	10%	1,444	1,421	1,498
82	Sze Shan Street Cooked Food Market	no	17	17	17	88%	100%	100%	12%	0%	0%	454	504	505

Serial no.	Name of market	Provision of Air-conditioning system	No. of stalls			Occupancy rate as at 31 December			Vacancy rate as at 31 December			Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)		
			2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013
83	Tai O Market	no	26	26	26	81%	85%	96%	19%	15%	4%	62	60	54
84	Tai Tong Road Cooked Food Market	no	18	18	18	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	237	237	237
85	Tai Wai Market	no	196	195	195	94%	91%	90%	6%	9%	10%	523	522	523
86	Tai Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	no	20	20	20	90%	100%	90%	10%	0%	10%	38	41	41
87	Tang Lung Chau Market	no	34	34	34	97%	100%	100%	3%	0%	0%	347	345	345
88	Tin Wan Market	no	171	171	180	94%	97%	97%	6%	3%	3%	163	167	174
89	Tsing Yeung Cooked Food Market	no	18	18	18	89%	100%	100%	11%	0%	0%	146	157	157
90	Tsuen King Circuit Market	no	241	241	241	39%	34%	31%	61%	66%	69%	87	73	73
91	Tsuen Wan Market	no	381	381	381	86%	94%	94%	14%	6%	6%	412	399	385
92	Tsun Yip Cooked Food Market	no	56	56	56	98%	98%	100%	2%	2%	0%	107	107	111
93	Tui Min Hoi Market	no	34	34	34	82%	94%	100%	18%	6%	0%	40	49	45
94	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	no	359	358	359	52%	51%	50%	48%	49%	50%	183	187	187
95	Tung Yick Market	no	447	446	446	44%	43%	43%	56%	57%	57%	216	217	217
96	Tung Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	no	8	8	8	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	55	55	55
97	Wing Fong Street Market	no	112	112	112	87%	96%	92%	13%	4%	8%	311	308	290
98	Wo Yi Hop Road Cooked Food Market	no	18	18	18	89%	100%	89%	11%	0%	11%	152	154	154

Serial no.	Name of market	Provision of Air-conditioning system	No. of stalls			Occupancy rate as at 31 December			Vacancy rate as at 31 December			Average monthly rental per square meter of stall (\$/sq.m)		
			2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013
99	Yau Ma Tei Market	no	144	144	144	79%	90%	91%	21%	10%	9%	260	247	246
100	Yeung Uk Road Market	no	320	319	318	98%	99%	100%	2%	1%	0%	303	304	307
101	Yue Kwong Road Market	no	192	192	197	98%	100%	96%	2%	0%	4%	320	369	376

Remark:

CFC – Cooked Food Centre in Market

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)144

(Question Serial No. 0128)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 35):

It is stated that the Department will “continue to take forward the assistance scheme for hawker licensees to improve the fire safety and operating environment of fixed-pitch hawker areas”. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the latest position of the assistance scheme in the table below:

Item	Number of hawkers eligible	Number of hawkers applied	Number of hawkers approved	Expenditure required
Voluntary surrender of hawker licences				
Relocation of stalls				
In-situ reconstruction of stalls				

- (b) the take-up rate of the assistance scheme in each of the 43 fixed-pitch hawker areas covered by the scheme;
- (c) the number of licensed hawkers operating in the 43 fixed-pitch hawker areas before and after the implementation of the assistance scheme in the table below:

District	Location of fixed pitches	Before the implementation of the assistance scheme for hawker licensees			After the implementation of the assistance scheme for hawker licensees		
		Cabinet-type	HPP-type	Total	Cabinet-type	HPP-type	Total
Eastern	Chun Yeung Street						
	Marble Street						
	Kam Wa Street						
	Tai Tak Street						
	Mong Lung Street						
	Subtotal						

Central & Western	Pottinger Street						
	Graham Street						
	Gage Street						
	Li Yuen Street East						
	Li Yuen Street West						
	Peel Street						
	Wing Kut Street						
	Upper Lascar Row						
	Man Wa Lane						
	Subtotal						
Wan Chai	Gresson Street						
	Cross Street						
	Tai Yuen Street						
	Jardine's Crescent						
	Subtotal						
Yau Tsim	Reclamation Street						
	Pak Hoi Street						
	Saigon Street						
	Canton Road						
	Bowring Street						
	Temple Street						
	Subtotal						
Mongkok	Tung Choi Street						
	Canton Road						
	Fife Street						
	Yin Chong Street						
	Ki Lung Street						
	Poplar Street						
	Fa Yuen Street						
	Nelson Street						
	Subtotal						
Sham Shui Po	Wing Lung Street						
	Fat Tseung Street						
	Cheung Fat Street						
	Fuk Wa Street						
	Fuk Wing Street						
	Pei Ho Street						
	Apliu Street						
	Ki Lung Street						
	Tai Nan Street						
	Kweilin Street						
	Subtotal						

Kowloon City	Pau Chung Street						
	Subtotal						
	Total No. of Stalls :						

HPP: Hawker Permitted Place

- (d) the 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					
2013					

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought for (a) – (d) is provided at Annexes 1-4.

**The Latest Position of the Assistance Scheme
(as at 28.2.2014)**

Item	Number of hawkers eligible	Number of hawkers who have applied	Number of applications approved for payment	Amount of grant involved (\$)
Voluntary surrender of hawker licences	4 202	261	215	25,800,000
Relocation of stalls	498	112	3#	156,900
In-situ reconstruction of stalls	3 837	93	1#	15,000

Payment for relocation or in-situ reconstruction grant is subject to compliance of all stall construction specifications and clearance of existing stall structure.

**Take-up Rate of the Assistance Scheme in Each of the 43 Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas
Covered by the Scheme (as at 28.2.2014)**

District	Location of Hawker Areas		Number of Hawker Stalls (a)	Number of Ex-gratia Payment Applications (b)	Number of Relocation Applications (c)	Number of In-situ Reconstruction Applications (d)	Take-up Rate (e) = ((b)+(c)+(d))/(a)
Eastern	1	Chun Yeung Street	93	5	5	1	12%
	2	Marble Street	124	23	4	1	23%
	3	Kam Wa Street	111	10	6	0	14%
	4	Tai Tak Street	28	4	0	1	18%
	5	Mong Lung Street	21	3	0	0	14%
		Sub-total	377	45	15	3	17%
Central and Western	6	Pottinger Street	47	3	1	0	9%
	7	Graham Street	55	7	6	2	27%
	8	Gage Street	15	2	0	0	13%
	9	Li Yuen Street East	63	4	13	13	48%
	10	Li Yuen Street West	58	5	20	19	76%
	11	Peel Street	43	9	2	3	33%
	12	Wing Kut Street	34	1	6	1	24%
	13	Upper Lascar Row	13	1	0	3	31%
	14	Man Wa Lane	32	0	2	0	6%
		Sub-total	360	32	50	41	34%
Wan Chai	15	Gresson Street	51	5	0	0	10%
	16	Cross Street	71	0	1	0	1%
	17	Tai Yuen Street	76	0	1	0	1%
	18	Jardine's Crescent	162	3	0	0	2%
		Sub-total	360	8	2	0	3%
Yau Tsim	19	Reclamation Street	233	32	0	0	14%
	20	Pak Hoi Street	16	3	1	0	25%
	21	Saigon Street	19	1	1	0	11%
	22	Canton Road	36	14	1	0	42%
	23	Bowring Street	100	6	7	3	16%
	24	Temple Street	323	6	5	16	8%
	Sub-total	727	62	15	19	13%	
Mongkok	25	Tung Choi Street	698	17	0	0	2%
	26	Canton Road	317	20	3	4	9%
	27	Fife Street	29	3	2	3	28%
	28	Yin Chong Street	78	4	0	0	5%
	29	Ki Lung Street	20	10	2	1	65%

	30	Poplar Street	12	3	1	0	33%
	31	Fa Yuen Street	220	1	0	0	0%
	32	Nelson Street	63	5	0	0	8%
		Sub-total	1 437	63	8	8	5%
Sham Shui Po	33	Wing Lung Street	71	16	2	0	25%
	34	Fat Tseung Street	47	7	0	0	15%
	35	Cheung Fat Street	65	14	2	1	26%
	36	Fuk Wa Street	166	2	0	0	1%
	37	Fuk Wing Street	40	0	0	0	0%
	38	Pei Ho Street	154	1	0	0	1%
	39	Apliu Street	221	7	0	2	4%
	40	Ki Lung Street	135	1	9	3	10%
	41	Tai Nan Street	63	0	0	5	8%
	42	Kweilin Street	58	0	0	0	0%
			Sub-total	1 020	48	13	11
Kowloon City	43	Pau Chung Street	54	3	9	11	43%
		Sub-total	54	3	9	11	43%
		Total:	4 335	261	112	93	11%

**Licensed Hawkers Operating in the 43 Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas before and after
the Implementation of the Assistant Scheme**

District	Location of fixed pitches		Before the implementation of the assistance scheme for hawker licensees			After the implementation of the assistance scheme for hawker licensees (as at 28.2.2014)		
			“Cabinet” type stalls	Hawker Permitted Place stalls	Total	“Cabinet” type stalls	Hawker Permitted Place stalls	Total
Eastern	1	Chun Yeung Street	93	0	93	88	0	88
	2	Marble Street	124	0	124	105	0	105
	3	Kam Wa Street	20	91	111	19	83	102
	4	Tai Tak Street	26	2	28	23	1	24
	5	Mong Lung Street	4	17	21	3	15	18
			Sub-total	267	110	377	238	99
Central and Western	6	Pottinger Street	47	0	47	44	0	44
	7	Graham Street	35	20	55	31	17	48
	8	Gage Street	15	0	15	13	0	13
	9	Li Yuen Street East	63	0	63	61	0	61
	10	Li Yuen Street West	58	0	58	53	0	53
	11	Peel Street	36	7	43	31	5	36
	12	Wing Kut Street	32	2	34	31	2	33
	13	Upper Lascar Row	13	0	13	12	0	12
	14	Man Wa Lane	32	0	32	32	0	32
			Sub-total	331	29	360	308	24
Wan Chai	15	Gresson Street	46	5	51	42	4	46
	16	Cross Street	60	11	71	60	11	71
	17	Tai Yuen Street	5	71	76	5	71	76
	18	Jardine's Crescent	162	0	162	161	0	161
			Sub-total	273	87	360	268	86
Yau Tsim	19	Reclamation Street	189	44	233	167	37	204
	20	Pak Hoi Street	7	9	16	7	6	13
	21	Saigon Street	19	0	19	18	0	18
	22	Canton Road	32	4	36	20	2	22
	23	Bowring Street	100	0	100	96	0	96
	24	Temple Street	34	289	323	34	284	318
			Sub-total	381	346	727	342	329
Mongkok	25	Tung Choi Street	0	698	698	0	681	681
	26	Canton Road	317	0	317	297	0	297
	27	Fife Street	29	0	29	26	0	26
	28	Yin Chong Street	78	0	78	74	0	74
	29	Ki Lung Street	20	0	20	10	0	10
	30	Poplar Street	12	0	12	9	0	9
	31	Fa Yuen Street	220	0	220	219	0	219
	32	Nelson Street	0	63	63	0	58	58
			Sub-total	676	761	1 437	635	739

Sham Shui Po	33	Wing Lung Street	5	66	71	5	52	57
	34	Fat Tseung Street	27	20	47	25	16	41
	35	Cheung Fat Street	54	11	65	43	9	52
	36	Fuk Wa Street	166	0	166	164	0	164
	37	Fuk Wing Street	0	40	40	0	40	40
	38	Pei Ho Street	124	30	154	123	30	153
	39	Apliu Street	179	42	221	173	42	215
	40	Ki Lung Street	39	96	135	39	95	134
	41	Tai Nan Street	2	61	63	2	61	63
	42	Kweilin Street	0	58	58	0	58	58
		Sub-total	596	424	1 020	574	403	977
Kowloon City	43	Pau Chung Street	54	0	54	51	0	51
		Sub-total	54	0	54	51	0	51
		Total No. of Stalls	2 578	1 757	4 335	2 416	1 680	4 096

Information on Expenditure and Number of Hawker Licences involved since the Implementation of the Voluntary Surrender Scheme in 2002

Year	Expenditure of the Voluntary Surrender Scheme	Number of “Dai Pai Tong” licences voluntarily surrendered¹	Total number of “Dai Pai Tong” licences	Number of Itinerant Hawker Licences voluntarily surrendered²	Total number of Itinerant Hawker Licences
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 ³	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
2013	N/A	N/A	97	N/A	455

Note:

- ¹ 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.
- ² Voluntary Surrender Scheme for Itinerant Hawker Licences was administered for ten years from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2012.
- ³ 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**FHB(FE)145****(Question Serial No. 0222)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 248 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 46):

Regarding the supply of livestock and poultry, please provide information on the following:

- the average, highest and lowest daily number of live pigs, live cattle and live chickens imported from the Mainland and supplied locally in each of the past three years (in 2011, 2012 and 2013), with a breakdown by year and source of supply;
- the monthly average price of live pigs and live cattle supplied by the Mainland to Hong Kong in each of the past three years (in 2011, 2012 and 2013); and
- the progress of the study on the opening up of the market of imported live cattle, as well as the scheduled time for publishing the findings of the study.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

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

Year	Daily number of live pigs, live cattle and live chickens imported from the Mainland								
	Pigs			Cattle			Chickens		
	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest
2011	4 012	6 232	2 031	79	172	18	6 764	10 900	3 700
2012	4 210	5 960	1 513	71	161	12	6 751	9 000	3 400
2013	4 317	5 565	1 942	52	116	8	6 307	9 600	2 300

Information on the number of live pigs, live cattle and live chickens supplied from local farms in the past three years is tabulated as follows –

Year	Daily number of live pigs, live cattle and live chickens supplied from local farms								
	Pigs			Cattle			Chickens		
	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest
2011	255	807	39	N/A	15	N/A	10 299	53 655	200
2012	266	644	31	0	0	0	11 151	62 157	3 900
2013	264	529	24	N/A	3	N/A	10 546	69 956	2 000

N/A – Not applicable

- (b) Information on the average monthly auction or wholesale prices of live pigs and live cattle imported from the Mainland in 2011 to 2013 is given below –

Year	Average monthly 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
2011	1,482	2,871	2,533
2012	1,329	3,601	3,291
2013	1,350	4,497	4,093

- (c) In view of the concerns articulated in the community about the supply and price of fresh beef, we commissioned a consultant to conduct a market survey in 2013. We have also relayed to the Ministry of Commerce the request of the general public on opening up the market of live cattle supply agents. To this end, the Ministry of Commerce convened a research seminar in November 2013 to listen to the views of the industry in Hong Kong and the Mainland on the existing system for the supply of live cattle to Hong Kong, in order to facilitate further studies on whether there is a need to reform the current system. We will continue to maintain contact and communication with the Ministry of Commerce, and inform the public as and when there is further development.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)146****(Question Serial No. 0233)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 27):

With regard to the work of “managing cremation and burial facilities, including public cemeteries, crematoria and columbaria”, please advise on the following:

- (a) the number of allocated and unallocated burial spaces at each public cemetery; and
- (b) the total number of niches, the number of allocated niches, the number of niches available for re-allocation, the number of unallocated niches, and the number of applicants for allocation of niches by ballot 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 2013 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	5 772	3 697	9 469	82 598	30 274	112 872
Sandy Ridge	2 880	2 130	5 010	31 877	5 954	37 831
Cheung Chau	616	644	1 260	12 150	1 312	13 462
Tai O	109	311	420	99	175	274
Lai Chi Yuen	146	130	276	216	116	332
Diamond Hill Urn Cemetery	-	-	-	52 707	-	52 707
Total:	9 523	6 912	16 435	179 647	37 831	217 478

- (b) As at 31 December 2013, the total number of niches, the number of allocated niches, the number of niches available for re-allocation, the number of unallocated new niches, and the number of applications received for allocation of new niches by ballot were given below:

Name of Columbarium	Total no. of niches	No. of allocated niches	No. of niches available for re-allocation	No. of unallocated new niches	No. of applications received for allocation of new niches by ballot
Cape Collinson	61 615	61 603	12	0	N.A.
Diamond Hill	63 351	62 811	15	525	28 038 ^{Note 1}
Wo Hop Shek	66 000	35 817	2	30 181	
Fu Shan	9 625	9 619	6	0	N.A.
Kwai Chung	9 276	9 266	10	0	N.A.
Cheung Chau	3 335	2 335	0	1 000	Not yet available. Note 2
Lamma	490	70	4	416	N.A.
Peng Chau	490	339	2	149	N.A.
Total:	214 182	181 860	51	32 271	

Note 1: Phase I of the exercise for allocation of new niches at Wo Hop Shek Kiu Tau Road Columbarium and Diamond Hill Columbarium commenced on 29.11.2012, and was completed on 8.5.2013. Applications for Phase II allocation were accepted from 18.6.2013 to 18.7.2013. A total of 13 172 applications for balloting were received. Together with the 14 866 unsuccessful applications carried over from Phase I, the total number of applications for balloting was 28 038. Phase II allocation will be completed in May 2014.

Note 2: The process of accepting applications for allocation of new niches at Cheung Chau Columbarium commenced on 18.2.2014 and ended on 10.3.2014.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)147****(Question Serial No. 0493)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249-250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 59):

Regarding the indicators for “poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks”, “number of trappings” and “pest control surveys conducted”, please provide information on the following:

1. the estimated expenditure to be involved in achieving each of the above projected indicators;
2. the overall rodent infestation rate for each quarter over the past three years in the table below:

	2011				2012				2013			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Overall Rodent Infestation Rate												

3. the rodent infestation rate for various districts and for the whole territory over the past three years (i.e. from 2011 to 2013) in the table below:

District	2011	2012	2013
Central & Western			
Eastern			
Southern			
Wan Chai			
Kowloon City			
Kwun Tong			
Wong Tai Sin			
Sham Shui Po			
Mong Kok			
Yau Tsim			
Sha Tin			
Tai Po			

North			
Kwai Tsing			
Tsuen Wan			
Tuen Mun			
Yuen Long			
Sai Kung			
Islands			
Territory-wide			

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

1. The estimated expenditure on rodent control work in 2014-15 is \$154.7 million. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure for poison treatment, rodent trapping services and rodent control surveys undertaken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department).
2. The Department conducts territory-wide rodent infestation survey twice a year. Information on the overall rodent infestation rate (RIR) over the past three years is given below -

	2011		2012		2013	
	first half of 2011	second half of 2011	first half of 2012	second half of 2012	first half of 2013	second half of 2013
Overall RIR	1.8%	1.5 %	2.9 %	1.9%	3.0%	3.2%

Note

Overall RIR is the average infestation rate of the districts during the period.

3. Information on the RIR for various districts and for the whole territory over the past three years is given below –

District	Year		
	2011	2012	2013
Central & Western	0.5 %	1.1%	3.6%
Eastern	0.6 %	3.2%	5.9%
Southern	1.6 %	2.2%	1.1%
Wan Chai	1.8 %	2.7%	2.7%
Kowloon City	1.4 %	5.6%	4.2%
Kwun Tong	3.1 %	4.1%	2.0%
Wong Tai Sin	1.5 %	3.8%	5.8%
Sham Shui Po	3.2 %	3.8%	6.6%
Mong Kok	2.9 %	2.1%	2.1%
Yau Tsim	1.8 %	1.8%	0.9%
Shatin	1.7 %	0.9%	1.3%

Tai Po	0.9 %	1.3%	2.7%
North	0.6 %	1.2%	1.6%
Kwai Tsing	2.6 %	1.5%	2.6%
Tsuen Wan	2.6 %	1.0%	4.6%
Tuen Mun	0.8 %	1.7%	0.4%
Yuen Long	3.0 %	7.9%	8.3%
Sai Kung	1.8 %	0.0%	0.0%
Islands	0.0 %	0.0%	0.5%
Territory-wide	1.7 %	2.4%	3.1%

Note

When the RIR of a district is higher than ten per cent, the Department will strengthen rodent disinfestation operations there. For a district with an RIR reaching 20 per cent or higher, the relevant government departments will form a joint task force and launch special rodent control operations to strengthen rodent disinfestation, environmental improvement and cleansing services comprehensively, and to promote rodent control in the community.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)148****(Question Serial No. 0929)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 6):

With regard to the checking of labels, please advise on the number of cases in which the labels were found to be non-compliant with legal requirements, as well as the number of cases with warning letters issued and prosecutions taken in 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

	2012	2013	2014 (January – February)
Number of non-compliant cases	172	197	39
Number of cases with warning letters issued	123	157	26
Number of prosecutions taken out	49	40	13

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)149

(Question Serial No. 0930)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 7):

Regarding the introduction of a mandatory pre-market safety assessment scheme for genetically modified food, please advise when the scheme will take effect and when it will come to a close, as well as the expenditure to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

To provide a mechanism to further enhance the food safety control over genetically modified (GM) food and provide the legal basis for preventing unauthorised GM products from entering the local market, the Government is considering regulating GM food by introducing a mandatory pre-market safety assessment scheme (PMSAS) in Hong Kong. Under the proposed scheme, a GM food developer who intends to place a GM food on the local market would be required to submit an application together with the necessary supporting documentation to Centre for Food Safety (CFS) for evaluation. CFS will determine whether the GM food developer has adequately addressed the safety issues based on Codex principles and guidelines. Food which consists of, or is derived from, GM microorganisms, plants and animals, must pass the safety assessment before it may be sold in Hong Kong. The Administration will embark on a public consultation before deciding on the details of PMSAS and its implementation timetable.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)150

(Question Serial No. 0931)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 251 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 8):

Please provide information on the following:

- (a) the existing manpower for providing support to the Liquor Licensing Board and the total operating expenses to be incurred in 2014-15; and
- (b) the number of new and renewed liquor licences issued in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively, with a breakdown by 18 administrative districts.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

- (a) In the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, 37 staff (including contract staff) in three licensing offices are responsible for handling liquor and club liquor licence applications as part of their licensing-related duties. There is no separate breakdown of the expenditure involved in the handling of liquor licence applications and appeals. Besides, nine staff (including contract staff) are deployed for providing secretariat service to the Liquor Licensing Board as their main duties. The estimated expenditure involved in manning the LLB Secretariat in 2014-15 is \$5.3 million.
- (b) The information sought is given below -

Year	2011	2012	2013
Number of new liquor licences issued	812	907	919
Number of renewed liquor licences issued	5 583	5 874	5 888

The breakdown by district (as at end-2013) is shown in the table below. There is no separate breakdown on whether the liquor licences are newly issued or renewed.

District	No. of Liquor Licences (as at end-2013)		Total
	Liquor Licences	Club Liquor Licences	
Central and Western	763	75	838
Eastern	346	15	361

Southern	120	25	145
Wanchai	846	118	964
Islands	216	19	235
Yau Tsim Mong	1 498	97	1 595
Sham Shui Po	219	9	228
Kowloon City	337	20	357
Wong Tai Sin	144	3	147
Kwun Tong	242	10	252
Tsuen Wan	192	10	202
Kwai Tsing	101	3	104
North	80	7	87
Tai Po	123	3	126
Sai Kung	176	6	182
Shatin	200	12	212
Tuen Mun	154	5	159
Yuen Long	218	12	230
Total	5 975	449	6 424

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)151

(Question Serial No. 0932)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 255 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 9):

1. Please advise on the actual, revised and estimated expenditure and the staff establishment of the Hawker Control Teams in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15.
2. Provision for 2014-15 is \$97.8 million higher than the revised estimate for 2013-14. Please give details of the post(s) to be increased, if any.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. Expenditure on hawker management –

2012-13 (Actual) : \$850.2 million
2013-14 (Revised Estimate) : \$929.9 million
2014-15 (Estimate) : \$953.5 million

The staff establishment of the Hawker Control Teams in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 is 2 204, 2 209 and 2 210 respectively.

2. In 2014-15, one Senior Hawker Control Officer and one Senior Health Inspector posts will be created to assist in the enhancement of the Department's IT systems and services. The increase in provision of \$97.8 million in 2014-15 is the aggregate increase for hawker and market management. The estimated provision in 2014-15 for hawker management is \$23.6 million higher than the revised estimate for 2013-14.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)152

(Question Serial No. 0933)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 13):

1. It is stated that the Department will take stringent enforcement actions against unlicensed food premises and food premises which pose immediate health hazards or with illegal extension of food business area. In this connection, please advise on the stringent enforcement actions to be taken.
2. With regard to prosecutions against food premises, please advise on the average amount of fine imposed, as well as the period of licence suspension in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

1. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has been vigilant in combating unlicensed food premises. Apart from taking out prosecutions, the Department would arrest persistent offenders and apply for a closure order from the court to close the premises. In addition, the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene may order the immediate closure of a food premises which poses an immediate health hazard to the public.

In recent years, the Department has adopted a multi-pronged approach and implemented targeted measures to strengthen its actions against illegal extension of business area by food premises. In formulating the enhanced enforcement strategy, the Department has taken into consideration the problem of illegal extension of business area by food premises and work priorities in different districts. The enhanced measures include stepping up inspections and enforcement actions, speeding up the prosecution process and providing additional information to the court for consideration when passing sentences, executing suspension or cancellation of a licence pending appeal by recalcitrant offenders, issuing licence only after the Department is satisfied that the food premises concerned have no illegal encroachment onto the public place, consultation with District Councils (DCs) on the enhanced measures to solicit their support, and application for closure order from the court against food premises which persistently operate without a licence. In respect of an applicant whose restaurant licence has previously been cancelled due to repeated illegal extension of business area, his/her application, or an application made by his/her representative/business partner for any licence in relation to the same premises will not be processed within 12 months from the date of cancellation of the licence. The Department set up in May 2013, on a pilot basis, a task force comprising eight health inspectorate officers redeployed from other units within the Department to pursue enhanced enforcement actions in selected areas. The task force has been effective in containing the problematic spots in Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung. The Department plans to set up additional task force teams to tackle the problem in other problematic spots and, where appropriate, will consult the relevant DCs on the enhanced measures to seek their support.

2. For successful prosecutions against food premises, the average amount of fine imposed in 2011, 2012 and 2013 was \$2,642, \$2,685 and \$2,842 respectively. The corresponding average period of licence suspension was 8.0 days, 8.5 days and 8.6 days respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)153

(Question Serial No. 0934)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 255 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 14):

Please advise on the following:

1. the actual, revised and estimated operating expenses for pest control in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15; and
2. the main reason(s) for the increase in operating expenses for pest control.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

1. The actual expenditure in 2012-13, revised estimated expenditure in 2013-14 and estimated expenditure in 2014-15 on pest control services is \$435 million, \$476 million and \$484 million respectively.
2. The increase in expenditure is mainly due to the increase in the wages payable to the staff of the contractors after implementation of the statutory minimum wage as reflected in the contract prices for the pest control services.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)154****(Question Serial No. 0987)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 15):

With regard to the work of abating environmental nuisances relating to water seepage, please advise on the following:

1. the number of complaints handled in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively;
2. in handling water seepage complaints, the criteria adopted in determining whether the problem has been resolved, abated or remains outstanding; and
3. the number of water seepage cases resolved in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

1. and 3.

The relevant statistics are tabulated as follows -

No. of cases	2011	2012	2013
(a) Number of cases screened out ^{Note 1}	12 219	13 727	13 062
(b) Number of cases resolved			
(i) Number of cases with source of seepage identified and abatement action taken ^{Note 2}	4 199	4 053	4 692
(ii) Number of cases where seepage ceased during investigation	4 703	4 810	4 766
(c) Number of cases where investigation is ceased because the source of seepage cannot be identified after completion of tests	2 089	1 963	2 336
Total number of complaints handled (a) + (b) + (c)	23 210	24 553	24 856

Note 1

Cases where the complaints are falsified, the moisture content of the seepage area is less than 35%, the seepage has stopped or the complainants have withdrawn their complaints before investigation starts, etc.

will be screened out by the Joint Office, and investigation will not be conducted.

Note 2

Nuisance notice under section 12(1) of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) will be issued to the liable owner to require him/her to abate the nuisance within a specified period.

2. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Buildings Department have established a Joint Office (JO) to assist members of the public to tackle water seepage problems involving public health nuisance in private premises. JO has prescribed standards and requirements for investigating the source of water seepage. Cases where the moisture content of the seepage area is less than 35% do not fall within the scope of follow-up investigation by JO. For cases where the moisture content of the seepage area equals to or exceeds 35%, JO will conduct follow-up investigation into the source of water seepage. Where the source is identified, JO will require the respective owner to take action to resolve the seepage problem. JO will cease the investigation work for those cases where the source of seepage cannot be identified after completion of the systematic non-destructive tests.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)155

(Question Serial No. 2950)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 125):

Please advise on the number of niches in public columbaria vacated and returned in each of the past three years. Please also provide specific information on the estimated time for the completion of the projects to provide additional columbarium facilities this year and the number of niches to be provided.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

The number of public niches returned to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in 2011, 2012 and 2013 was 225, 209 and 229 respectively.

In 2014, the Department will commence the allocation of 1 000 new niches at the Cheung Chau Columbarium in April, and complete the allocation of 15 562 new niches at the Wo Hop Shek Kiu Tau Road Columbarium and Diamond Hill Columbarium (the Columbaria) in May. Another allocation of some 24 000 new niches at the Columbaria will commence in mid-2014 tentatively. At the same time, the Department is taking forward other public columbarium projects under the district-based columbarium development scheme.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)156

(Question Serial No. 2951)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 126):

Please advise on the estimated expenditure and manpower of the Hawker Control Teams (HCTs) for 2014-15 and give a breakdown of the 5 064 prosecution cases taken out by the HCTs against licensed hawkers in the past year by the nature of the offences involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

The staff establishment of Hawker Control Teams and estimated expenditure on hawker management for the year of 2014-15 is 2 210 and \$953.5 million respectively. The 5 064 convictions against licensed hawkers in 2013 were mainly related to the following acts: street obstructions; hawking commodities not specified in licence; using a fixed pitch without holding a fixed-pitch licence; and failing to comply with conditions of licence. Further detailed breakdown is not readily available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)157

(Question Serial No. 2952)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 127):

Please advise whether the Department will deploy staff to conduct consultations in the public markets, besides following the recommendations of the consultancy study, with a view to improving the operating environment of the markets; whether the Department has any specific plan for improving the management and upgrading the facilities of the public markets in the coming year; and which public markets have been identified for environmental improvement works in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has established Market Management Consultative Committees (MMCC) for its public markets. Through regular meetings of the MMCC with participation of the representatives of market tenants and District Council Members, the Department discusses with relevant stakeholders on matters relating to market management, in particular the operating environment of specific markets.

In addition to regular maintenance and daily management of markets, the Department will carry out improvement works in five markets, namely, Smithfield Market, Kwun Chung Market, Tsing Yi Market, Ngau Chi Wan Market and Haiphong Road Temporary Market in 2014-15. The estimated cost of these improvement works is \$31.5 million. The works include installation of a goods lift, improvement of ventilation and lighting systems, and refurbishment of toilets.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)158

(Question Serial No. 1530)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 10):

With regard to the work of “managing cremation and burial facilities, including public cemeteries, crematoria and columbaria”, please advise on the restriction by the Department on the number of sets of cremated ashes placed in a niche at present, and whether the restriction has been relaxed to allow for placement of more than one set of cremated ashes in a niche. Please also advise on the maximum number of sets of cremated ashes allowed to be placed under the relaxed arrangement, and the number of applications approved by the Department so far.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

There are two types of niches in public columbaria managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), namely the standard and the large niche, which can accommodate two and four sets of cremated ashes respectively. To enhance utilisation, the Department has removed such restriction since January 2014, and an applicant may now deposit as many additional sets of cremated ashes that a standard or a large niche can hold, subject to application and approval of the Department. The Department has received and approved two such applications up to February 2014.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)159

(Question Serial No. 1531)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 12):

Regarding the collection of household waste under this programme, please advise this Committee on the following:

- 1) information about public refuse collection points (RCPs) in operation in 2013-14, stating the name, location and area of individual RCPs, and whether they are installed with mobile refuse compactors;
- 2) whether there is any plan to relocate the existing RCPs or build new ones in 2014-15; if yes, the details; and
- 3) whether RCPs with sufficient space will be installed with mobile refuse compactors; if yes, the details of the plan and the expenditure to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- 1) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has a total of 159 permanent off-street refuse collection points (RCPs) over the territory, 44 of which are provided with mobile refuse compactors. Particulars of these permanent off-street RCPs are given at Annex. Apart from permanent off-street RCPs, the Department has 705 village-type RCPs and some 2 300 bin sites provided in villages and the rural areas.
- 2) In 2014-15, the Department has 12 RCP projects under planning. These include construction of one new RCP, in-situ reprovisioning of one RCP, and reprovisioning of ten RCPs at new sites due to development or public works at their original sites.
- 3) The Department will consider the provision of mobile refuse compactor in individual RCP with operational need and where the site situation permits. The estimated expenditure on waste collection service in 2014-15 is \$484 million. There is no separate breakdown on expenditure for the provision of mobile refuse compactor in RCPs.

List of permanent off-street public refuse collection points (RCPs)

District	Name	Location	Area (square metres)	Provision of Mobile Refuse Compactors
Central/ Western	Shek Tong Tsui RCP	Shek Tong Tsui Municipal Services Building, No. 470, Queen's Road West	430	Yes
	In Ku Lane RCP	No.8, In Ku Lane, Sheung Wan	364	Yes
	Man Kat Street RCP	Junction of Man Kat Street & Connaught Road Central	360	Yes
	Smithfield Municipal Services Building RCP	Basement, Smithfield Municipal Services Building, 12K Smithfield Road, Kennedy Town	360	-
	Third Street RCP	Junction of Third Street & Eastern Street, Sheung Wan	349	-
	Lan Kwai Fong RCP	At side of Lan Kwai Fong Sitting-out Area	312	Yes
	Sai Ying Pun Market RCP	No. 43-47, Centre Street, Sai Ying Pun	282	-
	Gage Street RCP	No. 38-42, Gage Street	280	-
	Arbuthnot Road RCP	Junction of Arbuthnot Road & Caine Road	280	-
	Lok Ku Road RCP	G/F, No. 21-23, Lok Ku Road, Sheung Wan	215	-
	Queensway Plaza RCP	Queensway Plaza	188	-
	Sheung Wan Municipal Services Building RCP	G/F, Sheung Wan Municipal Services Building, No. 345, Queen's Road Central, Sheung Wan	156	-
	Centre Street RCP	Junction of Centre Street & First Street, Sheung Wan	151	-
	Peak Galleria RCP	Peak Galleria, near Bus Terminus	56	-
	Robinson Road RCP	Junction of Robinson Road & Castle Road	48	-
	Shing Wong Street RCP	Junction of Shing Wong Street & Bridges Street	19	-
Kennedy Road RCP	Junction of Kennedy Road & Underneath of Cotton Tree Drive flyover	12	-	
Eastern	Tanner Road RCP	No. 63, Tanner Road	435	Yes
	Tung Hei Road RCP	At side of No. 28, Tung Hei Road	389	-
	Hing Man Street RCP	Junction of Hing Man Street & Oi Yee Street	364	-

District	Name	Location	Area (square metres)	Provision of Mobile Refuse Compactors
	Cheung Lee Street RCP	No. 30, Cheung Lee Street	280	-
	Sheung On Street RCP	At side of Chai Wan Fire Station, Sheung On Street	205	-
	Java Road RCP	No. 94, Java Road (G/F of Java Road Market)	170	Yes
	Wing Hing Street RCP	No. 15, Wing Hing Street	169	-
	Kam Wa Street RCP	Junction of Kam Wa Street & Wang Wa Street	104	-
	Sai Wan Ho Street RCP	No. 2A, Sai Wan Ho Street	98	-
	Oil Street RCP	No. 3, Oil Street	83	-
	Quarry Bay Market RCP	No. 38, Quarry Bay Street	70	-
	Mansion Street RCP	No. 41, Mansion Street	68	-
	Marble Road RCP	Marble Road opposite to King's Road Playground	319	-
Southern	Shek O RCP	Next to Shek O Main Beach Carpark	228	-
	Tin Wan Close RCP	Next to No.9, Tin Wan Close, Tin Wan	127	-
	Apleichau Municipal Services Building RCP	Apleichau Municipal Services Building, No.8, Hung Shing Street	110	-
	Stanley Beach Road RCP	Next to Carpark opposite to No.20, Stanley Beach Road	85	-
	Repulse Bay RCP	Next to No.33, Beach Road, Repulse Bay	84	-
	Tsung Man Street RCP	No.19, Tsung Man Street, Aberdeen	78	-
	Lee Nam Road RCP	Opposite to No.4, Lee Lok Street, Apleichau	69	-
Wanchai	Sing Woo Road RCP	Junction of Sing Woo Road & Yik Yam Street	304	Yes
	Cross Lane RCP	Junction of Cross Lane & Bullock Lane	263	-
	Spring Garden Lane RCP	Junction of Spring Garden Lane & Cross Street	257	Yes
	Luard Road RCP	Junction of Luard Road & Johnston Road	224	Yes
	Paterson Street RCP	Junction of Paterson Street & Gloucester Road	190	-
	Lockhart Road RCP	No. 224, Lockhart Road	167	-
	Star Street RCP	Junction of Star Street and Sun Street	131	-

District	Name	Location	Area (square metres)	Provision of Mobile Refuse Compactors
	Gloucester Road RCP	Opposite to No. 250, Gloucester Road	104	Yes
	Shiu Fai Terrace RCP	Opposite to No. 7, Shiu Fai Terrace	99	-
Islands	Ngan Shue Street RCP	Ngan Shu Street, Mui Wo, Lantau	198	-
	Cheung Tung Road RCP	Cheung Tung Road, Tung Chung, Lantau	188	-
Kowloon City	Ma Tau Kok Road RCP	Ma Tau Kok Road	430	Yes
	Sung On Street RCP	No. 18, Sung On Street, Peninsula Square	350	-
	Baptist University Road RCP	Baptist University Road, opposite to Baptist University Block 6	295	-
	Tung Tsing Road RCP	Tung Tsing Road, at side of Kowloon Walled City Park	246	-
	Hok Yuen Street RCP	No.12A, Hok Yuen Street	230	-
	Kwei Chow Street RCP	Kwei Chow Street opposite to Vehicle Examination Centre	212	-
	Lung Kong Road RCP	No. 30-32, Lung Kong Road	210	-
	Peace Avenue RCP	Junction of Peace Avenue & Liberty Avenue	203	-
	Kowloon City Road RCP	No. 3, Kowloon City Road	201	-
	Cheung Ning Street RCP	Cheung Ning Street, at side of To Kwa Wan Recreation Ground	192	-
	Chung Hau Street RCP	Junction of Chung Hau Street & Fat Kwong Street	188	-
	Kowloon City Complex RCP	Hau Wong Road (Kowloon City Municipal Service Building)	184	Yes
	Baker Street RCP	No.65, Baker Street	170	Yes
	Shek Ku Lung Road RCP	Junction of Shek Ku Lung Road and Carpenter Road	155	-
	On Ching Road RCP	Junction of On Ching Road & Cheong Tung Road	116	-
	Broadcast Drive RCP	At side of No.63, Broadcast Drive, Peninsula Heights	93	-
	Gillies Avenue RCP	Junction of Gillies Avenue South and Station Lane	80	-
	Man Wan Road RCP	Man Wan Road, at side of Yu Chun Keung Memorial College	78	-
Kwun Tong	Yan Yue Wai RCP	Junction of Yan Yue Wai & Tung Yuen Street	360	-
	Lei Yue Mun RCP	Lei Yue Mun Municipal Services Building Lei Yue Mun	305	-

District	Name	Location	Area (square metres)	Provision of Mobile Refuse Compactors
	Yuet Wah Street RCP	Opposite to No.16 Yuet Wah Street	305	-
	Kei Yip Street RCP	Kei Yip Lane	185	-
	Ting On Street RCP	Opposite to No.53-61, Ting On Street Ngau Tau Kok	130	-
	Lai Yip Street RCP	Junction of Lai Yip Street & Wai Yip Street	120	-
	Hong Ning Road RCP	At side of No.74 Hong Ning Road	115	-
	Shung Yan Street RCP	Shung Yan Wai	107	-
	Wan Hon Street RCP	Junction of Wan Hon Street & Shui Wo Street	106	-
	Yan Oi Court RCP	Yan Oi Court Bus Terminus	81	-
Mong Kok	Bedford Road RCP	No. 62, Bedford Road	379	-
	Mong Kok Road RCP	No. 661B, Shanghai Street	334	-
	Nelson Street RCP	No. 1024, Canton Road	251	-
	Anchor Street RCP	No. 55, Anchor Street	212	Yes
	Cheung Wong Road RCP	Junction of Cheung Wong Road & Shum Chun Street	201	-
	Dundas Street RCP	Junction of Dundas Street & Tung Choi Street	170	Yes
	Nullah Road RCP	Opposite to No. 3-13, Nullah Street	158	Yes
	Portland Street RCP	No. 193, Portland Street	156	-
	Fa Yuen Street Market RCP	G/F, No. 123, Fa Yuen Street	134	-
	Yu Chau Street RCP	Opposite to No. 47, Yu Chau Street	131	Yes
Sai Yee Street RCP	No.188, Sai Yee Street	90	-	
Shum Shui Po	Cheung Wah Street RCP	360 Shun Ning Road	420	Yes
	Un Chau Street RCP	No. 59 – 63, Un Chau Street	410	Yes
	Fa Po Street RCP	No. 48, Fa Po Street	394	-
	Pei Ho Street RCP	No. 333, Kilung Street	266	-
	Yee Kuk Street RCP	No. 152, Yee Kuk Street	250	-

District	Name	Location	Area (square metres)	Provision of Mobile Refuse Compactors
	Tai Nan Street RCP	Tai Nan Street J/O Boundary Street	206	-
	Cassia Road RCP	Cassia Road J/O Begonia Road	129	-
	King Lam Street RCP	At side of No. 111, King Lam Street	78	-
	Cheung Shun Street RCP	At side of No. 22, Cheung Shun Street	74	-
	Lai Wan Market RCP	Lai Wan Market, Mei Foo Sun Chuen	52	-
Wong Tai Sin	Yi Lun Street RCP	G/F, San Po Kong Plaza, No. 33, Shung Ling Street, San Po Kong	220	Yes
	Yan Oi RCP	G/F, at side of No. 1, Ma Chai Hang Road	98	-
	Sheung Fung Street Market RCP	G/F, Sheung Fung Street Market, Fung Wong Sun Tsuen	84	-
	Yuk Wah Crescent RCP	G/F, No. 4-6, Yuk Wah Crescent, Tsz Wah Shan	53	-
	Ngau Chi Wan Village RCP	G/F, No. 1, Lung Chi Path, Ngau Chi Wan	46	-
	Tung Tai Lane RCP	At junction of Tung Tai Lane and Tai Tung Street	32	-
Yau Tsim	Parkes Street RCP	No. 107, Parkes Street, Jordan	372	Yes
	Market Street RCP	No. 1, Market Street, Yau Ma Tei	280	Yes
	Auto Plaza RCP	Auto Plaza, Mody Square, Tsim Sha Tsui East	220	-
	Kimberley Street RCP	No. 28, Kimberley Street, Tsim Sha Tsui	219	-
	Kwun Chung Street RCP	No. 17, Bowring Street, Jordan	162	Yes
	Man Cheong Street RCP	Opposite to No.47, Man Cheong Street, Jordan	160	-
	Minden Row RCP	Opposite to No.3, Minden Row, Tsim Sha Tsui	127	Yes
Kwai Tsing	Hing Shing Road RCP	No. 82, Hing Shing Road, Kwai Chung	250	-
	Tai Yuen Street RCP	Tai Yuen Street near the Carpark	144	-
	Cheung Tat Road RCP	At side of No. 28, Cheung Tat Road	118	-
	Kwai Shun Street RCP	Kwai Shun Street near Kwai Wo Street	118	-
	Ta Chuen Ping Street RCP	Ta Chuen Ping Street near Shek Kin Street	113	-
	Wing Kin Road RCP	No.14, Wing Kin Road	106	-

District	Name	Location	Area (square metres)	Provision of Mobile Refuse Compactors
	Tai Lin Pai Road RCP	Tai Lin Pai Road near Kung Yip Street	101	-
North	Fu Hing Street RCP	At side of No. 16, Fu Hing Street, Sheung Shui	298	Yes
	Luen Fat Street RCP	Opposite to No.18, Luen Fat Street, Fanling	246	Yes
	On Lok Tsuen RCP	G/F, Yip Cheong Street, On Lok Tsuen, Fanling	216	-
Sai Kung	Yi Chun Street RCP	Yi Chun Street (opposite to Sai Kung Market)	195	Yes
	Wan Lung Road RCP	At side of Tseung Kwan O Sports Centre, No. 9, Wan Lung Road	155	-
	Fuk Man Road RCP	Fuk Man Road (at side of Sai Kung Tang Shiu Kin Sports Ground)	150	Yes
	Tui Min Hoi RCP	Hong Kin Road, Tui Min Hoi (at side of Kwun Mun Fishermen New Village)	144	-
	Clear Water Bay Second Beach RCP	Clear Water Bay Second Beach Carpark	84	-
Sha Tin	Shing Ho Road RCP	No. 31, Shing Ho Road	188	-
	Yuen Chau Kok Road RCP	Area 5B, Yuen Chau Kok Road	148	-
	Cheung Lek Mei Street RCP	Cheung Lek Mei Street	147	-
	Chik Fai Street Tai Wai RCP	Chik Fai Street, Tai Wai	55	Yes
	Siu Lek Yuen Road RCP	No. 69, Siu Lek Yuen Road (Castello)	46	-
	Wo Liu Hang Road RCP	30 Wo Liu Hang Road	8	-
Tuen Mun	Tsing Hoi Circuit RCP (Area 37B)	Area 37B, Tsing Hoi Circuit	170	Yes
	Tseng Choi Street RCP (Area 4B)	Area 4B, Tseng Choi Street	170	Yes
	Hung Cheung Road RCP (Area 12)	Area 12, Hung Cheung Road	156	-
	Kai Fat Path RCP (Area 10A)	Kai Fat Path, Yan Ching Street	146	Yes
	Tat Yan Square RCP	Tat Yan Square	131	-
	Tsing Yeung Circuit RCP (Area 9N)	Area 9N, Tsing Yeung Circuit	130	-
	Tseng Choi Street RCP (Area 4C)	Area 4C, Tseng Choi Street	119	-
	Kin Lung Street RCP (Area 9)	Area 9, Kin Lung Street	88	-
	Castle Peak Beach RCP	Castle Peak Beach, Tuen Mun	33	-

District	Name	Location	Area (square metres)	Provision of Mobile Refuse Compactors
	Wu Shan Road RCP (Area 44)	Area 44, Wu Shan Road, Tuen Mun	703	-
Tai Po	Evergreen Court RCP	G/F., No. 9, Chui Lok Street	350	-
	Dai Kwai St. RCP	Dai Kwai St, Tai Po Industrial Estate	230	-
	Plover Cove Road RCP	G/F, Plover Cove Garden, 3 Plover Cove Road	174	-
	Yan Hing St. RCP	Yan Hing Street	165	Yes
	Kwong Fuk Square RCP	Kwong Fuk Square	100	Yes
Tsuen Wan	RCP at Chak Yan Road at Penny's Bay	Chak Yan Road at Penny's Bay	288	-
	Mei Wan Street RCP	Tsuen King Circuit	241	-
	Luen Yan Street RCP	No. 10, Luen Yan Street	183	Yes
	Tsuen Wan Market Street RCP	Tsuen Wan Market Street (Opposite to No. 150)	170	Yes
	Heung Che Street RCP	Heung Che Street (at side of Heung Che Street Market)	168	Yes
	Tsuen Wan Transport Complex RCP	Tsuen Wan Transport Complex, Hoi Kwai Road (at side of Skyline Plaza)	131	-
Yuen Long	Yan Lok Square RCP	At side of Chung Sing Path Playground, Yan Lok Square	170	Yes
	Tai Tong Road RCP	Junction of Tai Tong Road and Hop Yick Road	170	Yes
	Tai Kiu RCP	At side of Tai Kiu Market, Kiu Lok Square	170	Yes
	Kam Cheung Square RCP	Junction of Kam Cheung Square and Sai Yu Street	170	Yes
	Tung Tai Street RCP	Junction of Tung Tai Street & On Lok Road	125	Yes
	Fung Kwan Street RCP	Fung Kwan Street Near Car Park (Open space)	120	Yes
	Ping Shun Street RCP	At side of Sewage Treatment Works, Ping Shun Street	120	Yes

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)160

(Question Serial No. 1532)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 13):

Regarding the collection of household waste and management of public cleansing facilities under this programme, please advise this Committee on the following:

- 1) the annual expenditure on outsourcing the collection service for three-colour waste separation bins (three-colour bins) managed by the Department, the information on individual contractors hired and the respective numbers of three-colour bins they handled in 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively;
- 2) the whereabouts of the materials collected by the contractors, the quantities of materials (in kilograms) eventually recycled with a breakdown by type (i.e. paper, metals and plastics) and the quantities of materials (in kilograms) ended up being disposed of in landfills in 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively;
- 3) the estimated expenditure to be involved in outsourcing the collection service for three-colour bins managed by the Department in 2014-15; and
- 4) whether there is any plan to invite tenders for provision of collection service for three-colour bins in 2014-15; if yes, the details.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- 1) The current two-year contract for the provision of recyclables collection service commenced on 1 August 2012 with a total contract value of about \$12.7 million. The contract has been awarded to On Kee Metal Company. The contractor is required to provide collection service for some 3 380 sets of recyclables collection bins collecting waste paper, metal and plastics. These bins are placed in public places including streets, refuse collection points, public markets, bus termini, schools and venues managed by other government departments.

2) The quantity of recyclables collected by the contractor in 2012 and 2013 is given below -

Calendar Year	Paper (kilograms)	Metal (kilograms)	Plastic materials (kilograms)
2012	525 000	15 000	165 000
2013	519 000	17 000	175 000

Under the contract, the contractor should not dispose of the recyclables collected in any landfills or any other waste disposal facilities without the prior written consent of the Government. The contractor is required to deliver all recyclables collected to recyclers approved by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), whose names must appear on the list of recyclers published on the Environmental Protection Department (EPD)'s website.

3)&4) The existing contract will expire after 31 July 2014. Since the Department is at present inviting bids for provision of the collection service in the next two years through open tender, the estimated expenditure of the contract cannot be revealed at this stage.

The Department has introduced the following new tender terms in the new contracts for the purpose of improving the monitoring and control of the contractors' performance –

- (a) the existing contract covering the entire territory will be split into four regional contracts so as to introduce more competition and facilitate better monitoring of the performance of the contractors;
- (b) to facilitate public monitoring of the contractors' work, the contractors are required to use transparent plastic bags for collection of recyclables, and the bags should be printed with the words "used for collecting recyclable materials"; whereas notices showing "FEHD contractors providing collection service for recyclable materials" should be displayed on both sides of the body of their collection vehicles;
- (c) the contractors are required to nominate up to two local recyclers to receive and recycle plastic recyclables when submitting their bids for the contracts. Each recycler nominated shall have independent capability and experience to properly process plastic recyclables at a designated recycling site. EPD will visit the designated recycling sites to check if the nominated recyclers meet the minimum requirements. The bid will not be considered further if both nominated recyclers fail to meet the minimum requirements; and
- (d) the Department may direct the contractors to change their recyclers if their performance is not satisfactory.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)161

(Question Serial No. 1534)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 14):

Regarding "inspections to food premises", please advise on the following:

- 1) the Department's expenditure on and manpower for conducting "inspections to food premises" in the past three years, as well as the estimated expenditure and manpower for the coming year;
- 2) the total number of prosecutions instituted (with a breakdown by nature) in the past three years, as well as the respective number of premises which had been prosecuted more than once, 5 times and 10 times or more; and
- 3) considering that the Department has indicated it will explore the feasibility of introducing a fixed penalty system as an enforcement action against "food premises with illegal extension of food business area", the scheduled time for tabling the proposed system in the Legislative Council.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

1. In the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), 291 Health Inspectors are responsible for licensing control of food premises, including conducting inspections to food premises, among other duties relating to environmental hygiene matters in the past three years and the coming year. There is no separate breakdown on the Department's expenditure on and manpower for conducting inspections to food premises.
2. In 2011, 2012 and 2013, the number of prosecutions instituted against licensed food premises was 4 207, 4 231 and 3 687 respectively. The breakdown by nature of irregularities is at Annex. There are no separate statistics on the number of licensed food premises instituted with more than one, five and ten prosecutions.
3. The Government launched a public consultation exercise on the enhanced measures against shop front extensions on 14 March 2014. The consultation period will last for four months. The Government consulted the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Home Affairs on 24 March 2014. Taking into consideration the views expressed by members of the public, LegCo Members and relevant stakeholders during the public consultation period, the Government will decide on the way forward in introducing the enhanced measures, including the feasibility of introducing a fixed penalty system against shop front extensions.

**Breakdown of Prosecutions instituted against Licensed Food Premises
in 2011, 2012 and 2013**

Nature of Irregularities	No. of Prosecutions		
	2011	2012	2013
Food not protected from risk of contamination	5	6	7
Sub-standard fish tank water	4	1	3
Improper storage of open food	179	164	132
Use of open space for scullery / food preparation / storage of food utensils	132	259	171
Sale of restricted food without permission	27	19	17
Operating other types of unlicensed food business	46	9	7
Dirty food room / improper repair of food room	66	64	56
Dirty equipment and utensils	17	15	27
Dirty food premises / presence of vermins, live birds or animals	14	9	15
Dirty toilet	2	1	0
Alteration of premises or fittings	16	14	12
Alteration to the approved layout of the premises	145	116	136
Extension of food business beyond licensed area	1058	1 350	1 044
Obstruction of public places	2 473	2 173	2 048
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.	23	31	12
Total	4 207	4 231	3 687

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)162

(Question Serial No. 2300)

Head: (31) Customs and Excise Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Clement CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 143

Question (Member Question No. 38):

According to the information provided by the Customs and Excise Department to the media earlier on, there were 2 811 cases in which a fine was imposed for contravention of the Import and Export (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2013 (commonly known as the “restriction on the quantity of powdered formula”) between 1 March and 20 December 2013. The total fines amounted to approximately \$6.057 million. Please advise on the following:

- a. Regarding the cases in which a fine was imposed, how many of them ended up in default of fine payment? What was the total amount of fines in default?
- b. Regarding the cases of fines in default, which types of document of identity (for instance, the Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card, the Two-way Exit Permit, etc.) did the defendants hold?
- c. Normally, how does the Government handle cases of default of fine payment? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. FAN Kwok-wai, Gary

Reply:

- a) & b) The Judiciary does not keep a breakdown of the relevant information.
- c) A magistrate may issue a summons or a warrant of arrest to any person who fails to pay a fine imposed by the Court. However, it is difficult to separately quantify the expenditure in respect of handling such cases of default payment.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)163

(Question Serial No. 2217)

Head: (31) Customs and Excise Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (-) Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Clement CHEUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 143

Question (Member Question No.:37):

Regarding the export control on powdered formula, would the Administration advise the Committee on the following:

1. What is the number of persons prosecuted by the Administration for contravening the export control law?
2. How much resources has the Administration allocated to execute the export control law?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK, Dennis

Reply:

1. Since the implementation of export control on powdered formula for infants by the Government of the Special Administrative Region on 1 March 2013 and up to 28 February 2014, the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) arrested a total of 5 092 persons departing Hong Kong at various control points. Among them, 3 604 were prosecuted.
2. To exercise the above export control, C&ED has deployed 238 civil servants and non-civil service contract staff to provide support at various control points, and will apply for additional resources in accordance with the existing mechanism and the needs.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)164

(Question Serial No. 3214)

Head: (31) Customs and Excise Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Control and Enforcement

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Clement CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 143

Question (Member Question No. 24):

Since the implementation of export control on powdered formula in March 2013, 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 (C&ED) has deployed 238 civil servants and non-civil service contract staff to provide support at various control points, and will apply for additional resources in accordance with the existing mechanism and the needs.

As at 28 February 2014, C&ED detected a total of 5 058 cases in contravention of the relevant provision at various control points, resulting in the arrests of 5 092 persons departing Hong Kong and seizure of 39 019 kilograms of powdered formula. Among these cases, over 90% were detected at Lo Wu Control Point and Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Control Point. Besides, as at the same day, the Court imposed sentences in a total of 3 526 cases, of which 3 509 persons involved were imposed fines ranging from \$200 to \$27,000; 12 persons were imposed immediate custodial sentences ranging from 8 to 35 days; 45 persons were imposed sentences ranging from 7 to 40 days subject to suspended sentences ranging from 12 to 36 months; and a company was imposed a fine of \$80,000.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)165

(Question Serial No. 1519)

Head: (708) Capital Works Reserve Fund: Capital Subventions and Major Systems and Equipment

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume II Page 66-67 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 86):

Regarding the three subheads 8022VB – Refurbishment of escalators (E12 and E13) at Shui Wo Street Market, 8023VB – Refurbishment of escalators (E8 and E9) at Shui Wo Street Market, and 8024VB – Modernisation work of elevators at Ngau Chi Wan Market, please give the timetable of the works with their expected commencement or completion dates. Apart from the above three projects, please also advise whether the Government currently has other plans to improve elevators / escalators in markets.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

The preparatory works for the projects at Shui Wo Street Market and Ngau Chi Wan Market will commence in 2014-15.

Apart from the above projects, improvement works to the elevators/escalators of four other markets will also be undertaken, namely Ap Lei Chau Market, Sai Ying Pun Market, Fa Yuen Street Market and Shek Wu Hui Market.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)166

(Question Serial No. 4368)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health(Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 423 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 67):

Would the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (1) the estimated payroll cost for the Secretary for Food and Health for 2014-15?
- (2) the estimated payroll cost for the Under Secretary for Food and Health for 2014-15?
- (3) the estimated payroll cost for the Political Assistant to Secretary for Food and Health for 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

For budgetary purposes, the provisions for the salary in respect of the Secretary for Food and Health, Under Secretary for Food and Health and Political Assistant to Secretary for Food and Health in 2014-15 are \$3.4 million, \$2.2 million and \$1.2 million respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)167

(Question Serial No. 3599)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health(Food) (Mrs Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 424 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 210):

The Administration stated that it would identify potential sites in 18 districts in Hong Kong for public columbarium development. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- A) The latest progress of the work, confirmed number of niches to be provided and estimated number of niches to be provided;
- B) The work plan, manpower, schedule and estimated expenditure in this area in 2014-15.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (A) On public columbarium facilities, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and identified 24 potential sites across 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 a cost of about \$0.51 million was completed in early 2012, while construction of 1 000 niches in Cheung Chau Cemetery at an estimated cost of about \$3.3 million was completed in December 2013. 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. Should we be able to secure support of the Legislative Council and the relevant District Councils (DCs), construction works in Tsang Tsui are scheduled to start in 2015 for completion in 2018, while that for Tsing Tsuen Road and Wo Hop Shek are scheduled to start in 2016 for completion in 2018 and 2019 respectively. We are currently conducting site investigation and detailed design for site

formation and associated infrastructural works at Sandy Ridge Cemetery. 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.

(B) The Administration has been consulting the respective DCs on the columbarium projects since the second quarter of 2012. We have consulted the Wong Tai Sin DC, Islands DC, Kwai Tsing DC, North DC and Tuen Mun DC. In 2014-15, we plan to consult the Sha Tin DC, Eastern DC, Tsuen Wan DC, Tai Po DC and Yuen Long DC. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower resources involved in taking forward plans and projects to provide more columbarium facilities.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)168

(Question Serial No. 3600)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health(Food) (Mrs Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 424 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 211):

As more and more people wish to bury the cremains of their deceased family members by scattering the ashes at sea, will the Administration, in 2014-15, allocate resources to conduct policy research on allowing the public to arrange scattering of ashes at designated waters on their own and open more waters for ash scattering purpose? If yes, what are the research plan, timetable, manpower and estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

Apart from using the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department)'s free ferry service to scatter ashes at three designated areas, namely east of Tap Mun, east of Tung Lung Chau and south of West Lamma Channel, members of the public may arrange their own vessels to scatter ashes at sea subject to approval of the Department. Since July 2007, the Department has streamlined the application procedures so that approval could be issued within five working days. The three designated areas were selected in consultation with relevant government departments and District Councils. The Department does not have any plan at present to increase the number of designated areas. The Department will closely monitor the situation and conduct review as necessary.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)169

(Question Serial No. 3601)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 212):

Many people consider hawkers as one of the characteristics of Hong Kong, which offer the grassroots opportunities to earn a living. In 2014-15, will the Administration allocate manpower and resources to make an overall review on the regulatory mechanism of hawkers and carry out studies and public consultation, including re-issuing itinerant hawker licences, rezoning hawker permitted areas, revising the existing legislation on hawkers? If yes, what are the work plan, schedule, manpower and estimated expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Government fully recognises the history of hawking in Hong Kong. Hawker areas are very often conveniently located and offer cheaper goods for the general public. The unique culture of street hawkers / hawker bazaars has become part of the everyday life of many Hong Kong residents. Some hawker areas have become tourist attractions.

While striving to provide a conducive environment for hawking activities in Hong Kong, the Government has also a duty to regulate hawking activities to maintain order, to reduce environmental effect to the local population and to minimize fire risks to nearby residents. The Administration's current hawker policy is to strike a proper balance between allowing legal hawking activities on the one hand and maintaining environmental hygiene and protecting the public from undesirable effect on the other.

The Government has adjusted its hawker policy with time. A comprehensive review on hawker licensing policy was conducted in 2008 and 2009. The scope of the review covered examining the feasibility of re-issuing new hawker licences and relaxing the requirements for succession to and transfer of hawker licences without compromising environmental hygiene, as well as ways to strengthen the role of District Councils ("DCs") in terms of hawker licensing and management work at the district level. We consulted the Legislative Council, the DCs, hawker associations and other stakeholders on several occasions in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Following the consultations, a number of measures were implemented in response to calls to preserve and revitalise the hawking trade. They include merging over 600 back-row vacant pitches with front-row pitches to provide a larger trading area for licensees, issuing new fixed-pitch licences to over 200 persons to trade in vacant pitches, and issuing 61 new itinerant (frozen confectionery) hawker (commonly known as "small ice-cream vendors") licences.

Currently, the Administration has no plan to conduct another round of review on hawker policy. The Government believes that the best way to preserve the tradition related to hawking lies in maintaining the current flexible, low cost environment, so as to sustain vibrancy. This enables hawker areas to thrive and develop in an organic manner.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)170

(Question Serial No. 3602)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health(Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 423 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 213):

As there is still occasional shortage of supply of powdered formula for infants, will the Administration, in 2014-15, allocate resources to conduct regular research to better understand the overall supply chain of powdered formula for infants and base on the research results, formulate measures to stabilise the supply and the price of powdered formula for infants? If yes, what are the detailed plan, timetable, manpower and estimated expenditure? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The Government considers that unless powdered formula suppliers substantially improve their supply chain, it is difficult to ensure stable and sufficient supply of powdered formula to meet local demand in an unregulated environment. It is therefore premature to repeal the provisions introduced by the Import and Export (General)(Amendment)Regulation, which aims at ensuring stable and sufficient supply of powdered formula for meeting the needs of local infants and young children.

The Government has urged the seven major suppliers (Note 1) to actively follow up on the recommendations on improving the supply chain of powdered formula as proposed by the consultant appointed by the Government last year, and continue promoting their pre-order services including the Coupon Scheme (Note 2). It is considered that during periods when demand is heavy, utilising these services can separate local from non-local demand, hence helping to ensure adequate supply for local infants and young children.

The Committee on Supply Chain of Powdered Formula (the Committee)(Note 3) will continue its work to follow up on and monitor the supply chain improvements. To facilitate the work of the Committee, the Government will engage a consultant to conduct regular surveys between the second quarter of 2014 and February 2015 before the next Lunar New Year, on the supply of selected major brands of powdered formula and any unusual fluctuation in prices. It will also engage another consultant to conduct periodic surveys during the same period to gauge local parents' experience in purchasing powdered formula and their attitude towards using various pre-order channels. The results of the surveys will be submitted to the Committee for their views.

The total estimated expenditure of the two aforementioned surveys is about \$3.3 million. The additional workload will be absorbed by existing staff and the manpower requirement involved cannot be separately identified.

- Note 1: The seven major suppliers are Abbott, Cow & Gate, Friso, Mead Johnson, Nestle, Snow Brand and Wyeth. They account for over 95% of the market share.
- Note 2: Under the Coupon Scheme, parents of local infants and young children aged under 36 months can apply for coupons from the seven major suppliers. Coupon holders are entitled to order powdered formula by presenting the coupons at designated pharmacies.
- Note 3: In July 2013, the Government appointed a Committee on Supply Chain of Powdered Formula to study and recommend to the Government improvement measures in the supply chain of powdered formula. The Committee comprises of 14 non-official members, including major powdered formula suppliers, retailers, parents, representatives from the logistics sector, relevant academia and those representing consumer interests.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)171

(Question Serial No. 5985)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 424 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 714):

- a) In the past 2 years, what has the Bureau done in formulating legislation to enhance the regulation of private columbaria? What are the details and expenditure involved?
- b) In 2014-15, what are the plan and estimated expenditure involved in the work of the Bureau in formulating legislation to enhance the regulation of private columbaria?

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 and November 2013 on the legislative proposals for regulating private columbaria. Taking into account the views collected from relevant stakeholders, the Administration is finalising the detailed provisions of the draft legislation with a view to introducing the relevant Bill into LegCo by the second quarter of 2014. The work on formulating policy and preparing legislation would be absorbed within FHB's existing resources.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)172

(Question Serial No. 5988)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health(Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 715):

In 2014-15, what are the work and estimated expenditure involved in following up on the public consultation on the review of liquor licensing by the Bureau?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

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

To enhance transparency as well as to help the trade and the public better understand the factors that are taken into account by the LLB when assessing liquor licence applications, the LLB has prepared a set of guidelines that capture the criteria used in vetting liquor licence applications. The “Guidelines on Assessing Liquor Licence Applications” (“Guidelines”) were uploaded onto the LLB website on 1 December 2013 for the easy reference of the trade and the public.

Since “upstairs bars” are relatively more prone to attract public concern, the LLB has set out, in the Guidelines, the specific factors that it would take into account when vetting liquor licence applications from upstairs bars. The LLB has also taken the opportunity to foreshadow that the Board is minded to impose two additional licensing conditions in the liquor licence for upstairs bars, namely, (a) requiring the licensee to attend the “Seminar on Liquor Licensing” which covers various aspects pertaining to the management of upstairs bars including fire safety, and law and order; and (b) imposing a more stringent capacity limit for the

premises. For liquor-licensed premises with serious noise problem, the LLB also proposes to impose more stringent noise abatement requirement on the liquor licence. The new licensing conditions will take effect by phases.

Since November 2012, liquor licence applications have been put on the LLB website in parallel with newspaper advertisement made by the applicants as per the prevailing requirement. We plan to allow, at a later stage, applicants to choose between putting the advertisement on newspapers or the internet. Our aim is ultimately to have all the advertisements put on the internet only such that no expenses would be incurred for the applicants. Separately, we are working out with the 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 (compared with up to 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 Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on the proposed legislative amendments later this year.

Separately, we are finalising the operational details of the reserve licensee proposal, with a view to pursuing it on the basis of existing provisions in the DCLR.

The resources required for placing licence applications on the internet has been absorbed internally. Separate breakdown is not available. We will review the resource implications as and when the details of the other proposals have been finalised.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)173

(Question Serial No. 5989)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 424

Question (Member Question No. 716):

The Bureau states that it will continue to review and update the existing standards on food safety having regard to international practice and local needs. What are the details and estimated expenditure of the work?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

In 2014-15, the Government will continue to review and update the existing standards on food safety in the following areas:-

- (a) to better protect the health of infants and young children, the Administration has 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. The legislative proposals comprise requirements on nutritional composition of infant formulae and nutrition labelling of infant formulae, follow-up formulae and other foods for infant and young children. The Administration has completed the public consultation on the legislative proposals and received strong support from the respondents. We have also reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on the findings of the consultation exercise. The Administration is in the process of drafting the legislation for tabling at the Legislative Council in 2014;
- (b) to ensure the proper use of pesticides in food, the Administration enacted the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation in June 2012. The Regulation will come into operation on 1 August 2014. In 2014-15, having regard to the latest international developments on application of pesticides, the Administration will update the residue limits in Schedule 1 of the Regulation before it comes into operation. Meanwhile, briefings will also be conducted for different stakeholders to assist them in understanding the new requirements of the Regulation;
- (c) according to the World Health Organization, it is possible that eggs from infected poultry could be contaminated with the avian influenza virus. The World Organization for Animal Health has recommended that the import of poultry eggs for human consumption should be accompanied with an international veterinary certificate for the purpose of controlling avian influenza. We have therefore proposed to extend the import control regime for meat and poultry under the Imported Game, Meat and Poultry Regulations to cover poultry eggs. We have secured the support of the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene for our proposals and intend to table the relevant legislative amendment in around 2014. We are in the process of drafting the legislative amendments and liaising with the stakeholders; and

(d) we are also reviewing the safety standards for veterinary drug residues and heavy metals in food, and drawing up a regulatory scheme on the safety of imported aquatic food products. Such work will continue in 2014-15.

The related expenditure will be absorbed within existing resources and could not be separately identified.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)174

(Question Serial No. 6459)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 424 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 612):

It is stated in the 2014-15 Estimates of Expenditure that policy and measures will be devised to sustain and upgrade the development of local agriculture. Please inform this Committee of the details of the policy and measures.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

The Government's existing policy is to facilitate agricultural development through the provision of basic infrastructure, technical support and low interest loans to farmers and those who aspire to become farmers. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been pursuing various programmes and activities to sustain and upgrade the development 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, Ltd. 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. These programmes and activities will continue in an updated mode in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)175

(Question Serial No. 6464)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health(Food) (Mrs. Marion Lai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 424 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 236):

The Government shelved the plan on poultry slaughtering centre in 2010 and up to now, it was repeatedly found after inspections that live chickens in markets carried avian influenza virus, posing a risk to health of the public. Chickens had to be culled immediately to prevent the spread of virus and the Government had to pay a large amount of compensation to the people of the relevant trades. In this respect, please provide the following information:

To protect public health in the long term, will the Government allocate resources to set up poultry slaughtering centres to halt the spread of virus, improve safety in society and to meet the needs of the public in eating fresher slaughtered chickens? If yes, how will the work be carried out? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

Over the past decade or so, the Government and the local live poultry industry, as well as the Mainland registered poultry farms supplying Hong Kong, have collaboratively built up a resilient and stringent system for the surveillance and control of avian influenza (AI), for the purpose of reducing AI risks in Hong Kong. Since 2010, there was one incident in December 2011 in which a dead chicken found in the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Poultry Wholesale Market was tested positive with H5N1 AI virus, leading to a culling operation at the wholesale market and suspension of live poultry trade in Hong Kong. The AI incident on 27 January 2014 was the first case where a positive sample tested with H7N9 AI virus was found in imported live poultry.

The Government announced in June 2010 the decision to shelve the development of a poultry slaughtering centre. This was based on the scientific assessment then that the AI risk in Hong Kong was at a relatively low level and the consultant's assessment that the operation of a poultry slaughtering centre was not commercially viable. Indeed, even with the implementation of a poultry slaughtering centre, there is no guarantee from the science point of view that the AI risks in Hong Kong can be eliminated. This is because there are still presence and aggregation of live chickens at local farms and the wholesale market, and wild birds can be a source of infection as well. We are therefore of the view that it is time for society as a whole to reflect whether the selling of live poultry in Hong Kong remains appropriate in the long run. The Government would consider engagement of a consultant to study and make recommendation in this regard.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)176

(Question Serial No. 6465)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 423 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 237):

Currently, local people and visitors are restricted from taking powdered formula for infants and young children out of Hong Kong in order to ensure that there is an adequate supply of powdered formula for local parents and to curb parallel trading activities. The restriction was criticized by certain people and economists for undermining our free economy, being intrusive and tarnishing Hong Kong's reputation. Please advise:

Will the Administration revise the above measure and allocate resources for issuing formula purchase cards to eligible parents of infants and young children to ensure that they can purchase adequate quantities of powdered formula from suppliers? Or will more manpower be deployed to step up monitoring of the pre-ordering arrangement / supply of powdered formula by the suppliers of powdered formula to ensure that parents can purchase by pre-orders adequate quantities of powdered formula within a reasonable period?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

To combat the problem of parallel traders diverting large quantities of powdered formula away from the supply chain in Hong Kong, the Government regulates the export of powdered formula from Hong Kong through the Import and Export (General)(Amendment) Regulation 2013 (The Amendment Regulation) which became effective as from 1 March 2013. The Amendment Regulation prohibits the export of powdered formula from Hong Kong except with a licence issued by the Director-General of Trade and Industry.

The Government has also notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) about the Amendment Regulation in accordance with the established mechanism. According to WTO's General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Members shall not institute or maintain any prohibitions or restrictions, other than duties, taxes or other charges, on the export of any products. However, export prohibitions or restrictions temporarily applied to prevent or relieve critical shortages of foodstuffs or other products essential to the exporting Member is expressly allowed as an exception.

The Amendment Regulation has been very effective. Since the implementation of the Amendment Regulation, parallel trading activities related to powdered formula have dropped substantially, while the supply of powdered formula at retail outlets has become more stable when compared with the situation in early 2013, though shortage of some popular brands of powdered formula is still observed at times. Besides, there has been a continued expansion in the volume of import, re-export and retained import of powdered formula. To a certain extent the Amendment Regulation has achieved a delicate balance among the supply, local demand and non-local demand of / for powdered formula. It has catered for the needs of local parents for powdered formula while safeguarding free trade and commerce.

The Government has urged the seven major suppliers (Note 1) to actively follow up on the recommendations on improving the supply chain of powdered formula as proposed by the consultant appointed by the Government last year, and continue promoting their pre-order services including the Coupon Scheme (Note 2). It is considered that during periods when demand is heavy, utilising these services can separate local from non-local demand, hence helping to ensure adequate supply for local infants and young children.

To monitor the supply situation, the Government will engage a consultant to conduct regular surveys between the second quarter of 2014 and February 2015 before the next Lunar New Year, on the supply of selected major brands of powdered formula and any unusual fluctuation in prices. It will also engage another consultant to conduct periodic surveys during the same period to gauge local parents' experience in purchasing powdered formula and their attitude towards using various pre-order channels. The results of the surveys will be submitted to the Committee on Supply Chain of Powdered Formula (Note 3) for their views.

Note 1: The seven major suppliers are Abbott, Cow & Gate, Friso, Mead Johnson, Nestle, Snow Brand and Wyeth. They account for over 95% of the market share.

Note 2: Under the Coupon Scheme, parents of local infants and young children aged under 36 months can apply for coupons from the seven major suppliers. Coupon holders are entitled to order powdered formula by presenting the coupons at designated pharmacies.

Note 3: In July 2013, the Government appointed a Committee on Supply Chain of Powdered Formula to study and recommend to the Government improvement measures in the supply chain of powdered formula. The Committee comprises of 14 non-official members, including major powdered formula suppliers, retailers, parents, representatives from the logistics sector, relevant academia and those representing consumer interests.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)177

(Question Serial No. 6579)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health(Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 423 - 424 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 246):

The Food and Health Bureau formulates and oversees implementation of policies to ensure food safety as well as sustains and upgrades the development of local agriculture. Please advise on the following:

1. Will the Government make it mandatory for food manufacturers to have genetically modified food clearly labelled so that consumers are informed when they choose the food so as to protect their interest?
2. In recent years, some farmers in Hong Kong have adopted the soilless and water culture and it proves to be land saving, pesticide-free, pollution-free and eco-friendly with a steady yield. In the long run, it may increase the supply of local agricultural products and we shall be less dependent on the Mainland. Will the Government provide support for enhancing the agricultural technique and assistance in the development of local agriculture so that the public and the whole society can benefit from it?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

1. In considering whether new food regulatory measures should be introduced, the Administration is primarily concerned with public health and food safety. In this connection, the Food and Health Bureau noted that according to the World Health Organisation, Genetically Modified (GM) food currently traded on the international market are not likely, nor have been shown, to present risks for human health.

In response to public concern on GM food, the Administration conducted a public consultation on GM Food labelling in 2001 and a regulatory impact assessment (RIA) in April 2002. The RIA revealed certain issues that need to be addressed when implementing a mandatory GM food labelling scheme in Hong Kong, e.g. increasing operational cost of the trade with a greater impact on the small and medium-sized enterprises, and the lack of international consensus on GM food labelling. Taking into account the findings of the RIA and the lack of strong justification for the labelling of GM food on food safety grounds, the Administration considered that encouraging the trade to adopt a voluntary labelling system would be a practical alternative to a mandatory labelling system. Many of the considerations derived from the RIA conducted in 2002 are still relevant. Most of the GM food available on the market in Hong Kong are imported, and not all food exporting economies require mandatory labelling of GM food, and even for the ones that do, the labelling requirements vary. It would be costly and difficult for Hong Kong food importers to come up with labels for all GM ingredients in respect of GM food coming from all over the world in order to comply with Hong Kong's labelling requirement if one were to be introduced on a mandatory basis. While a mandatory GM food labelling system could address consumers' demand for more product information and facilitate the making of informed choices by consumers, it may not necessarily be the most useful tool to ensure the safety of GM food.

To provide a mechanism to further enhance the food safety control over GM food and provide the legal basis for preventing unauthorised GM products from entering the local market, the Government is considering regulating GM food by introducing a mandatory pre-market safety assessment scheme (PMSAS) in Hong Kong. Under the proposed scheme, a GM food developer who intends to place a GM food on the local market would be required to submit an application together with the necessary supporting documentation to Centre for Food Safety (CFS) for evaluation. CFS will determine whether the GM food developer has adequately addressed the safety issues based on Codex principles and guidelines. Food which consists of, or is derived from, GM microorganisms, plants and animals, must pass the safety assessment before it may be sold in Hong Kong. The Administration will embark on a public consultation before deciding on the details of PMSAS and its implementation timetable.

2. Recognizing the merits and potential in developing hydroponic farming in Hong Kong, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has set up jointly with the Vegetable Marketing Organization in 2013 a “Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre” in Cheung Sha Wan to introduce and demonstrate the feasibility of such production to farmers. AFCD will continue to promote, and is prepared to provide related technical advice and support to all who are interested in pursuing such production in Hong Kong. Interested farmers may also apply for low interest agricultural loans from AFCD as start-up capital.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)178****(Question Serial No. 4579)**

- Head:** (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch)
- Subhead (No. & title):** (-) Not Specified
- Programme:** (1) Director of Bureau's Office, (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety, (3) Environmental Hygiene
- Controlling Officer:** Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)
- Director of Bureau:** Secretary for Food and Health
- This question originates from:** Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 423

Question (Member Question No. 75):

1. Regarding the expenses on entertainment and gifts of your bureau and the departments under its purview over the past 3 years, please provide details using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/ department and year	Estimated expenses on entertainment and gifts in the year	Actual expenses on entertainment and gifts in the year	Cap on entertainment expenses (including beverages) per head for the year	Cap on gift expenses per guest for the year	Number of receptions held and total number of guests entertained in the year

2. Regarding the expenses on entertainment and gifts of your bureau and the departments under its purview in 2013-14, please provide details using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/ department	Date of reception (day/ month/ year)	Departments/ organisations and titles of the guests entertained (grouped by department/ organisation and indicating the number of guests)	Food expenses incurred in the reception	Beverage expenses incurred in the reception	Gift expenses incurred in the reception	Venue of the reception (department office/ restaurant in government facilities/ private restaurant/ others (please specify))

3. Please provide the estimated expenses on entertainment and gifts for 2014-15 using the table below:

Bureau/ branch/ department	Estimated provision for expenses on entertainment and gifts	Cap on entertainment expenses per guest	Cap on gift expenses per guest

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

As a general rule, all politically appointed officials and civil servants should observe the same principles and act in accordance with the relevant regulations and administrative guidelines when providing official entertainment in the form of meals. Government officers are required to exercise prudent judgement and economy when entertaining guest(s) for official purposes in order to avoid any public perception of extravagance. According to the existing general guidelines, the expenditure limits on official meals should not exceed \$450 per person for lunch or \$600 per person for dinner, inclusive of all expenses incurred on food and beverages consumed on the occasion, service charges and tips. The actual expenditure on official entertainment incurred by the Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) and departments under its purview in the past three years, and the provision earmarked for 2014-15 are listed in the table below:

Financial Year	Expenditure on official entertainment (\$ million)			
	Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch)	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Government Laboratory
2011-12	0.12	0.36	0.16	0.02
2012-13	0.16	0.38	0.06	0.01
2013-14 (as at 17.3.2014)	0.14	0.21	0.04	0.02
2014-15 (Estimate)	0.14	0.18	0.06	0.02

In line with the Government's green policy, public officers should as far as possible refrain from bestowing gifts/souvenirs to others during the conduct of official activities. According to the existing guidelines, where bestowal of gifts/souvenirs is necessary or unavoidable due to operational, protocol or other reasons, the gift/souvenir items should not be lavish or extravagant and the number should be kept to a minimum. Also, the exchange of gifts/souvenirs should only be made from organisation to organisation. As we do not maintain separate accounts for the expenses on the procurement of gifts and souvenirs, we do not have the relevant statistics.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)179****(Question Serial No. 4610)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office,(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety,(3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health(Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 423 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 109):

Regarding the studies (if any) conducted by your bureau and the departments under its purview 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 (2012-13 and 2013-14):

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?

- (b) Are there any projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies this year (2014-15)? 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?

- (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 2 financial years 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. Consulting firms 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 consultant.

**Studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated
in 2012-13 and 2013-14**

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee million (\$)	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?
Deloitte	By invitation of quotations	Business Impact Assessment on “Proposed New Measures for Compliance with Fire Safety Requirements by Licensed Food Premises”	0.890 (Fire Services Department shares half of the cost, i.e. \$0.445 million)	Aug 2012	Completed	Taking into account the outcome of the study, the relevant new measures will be implemented in the second quarter of 2014 tentatively.	Yes. Three briefing sessions for licensees and two consultation forums for trade associations were held in 2012. The Food Business and Related Services Task Force was briefed on the progress of implementing the new measures on 20.6.2013. The outcome of the study was reported to the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of Legislative Council on 10.12.2013.
Ecosystem Ltd	By invitation of quotations	Service for studying cattle movement corridors and range, which provides information for fine-tuning the relocation attempts, and explores feasibility of measures (such as cattle grids or fencing) to restrict cattle movement	0.330	Nov 2012	Completed	Findings of the survey had been taken into account for long term strategic planning and fine-tuning the implementation of cattle desexing and relocation operations	The study mainly contains technical information for use for internal planning. Relevant findings would be released to interested parties as appropriate.
Pricewaterhouse Coopers Advisory Services Limited	By invitation of quotations	Business Impact Assessment on the licensing scheme for private columbaria	1.430	Jan 2013	Nearing completion	The Government is finalising the Private Columbaria Bill, taking into account relevant considerations, including the preliminary findings of the consultancy study.	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 million (\$)	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?
Policy 21 Limited	By invitation of quotations	Market Survey on the Supply and Price of Live Cattle and Fresh Beef in the Mainland and Hong Kong. The market survey collected 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	Feb 2013	Completed	Results of the market survey were reported to LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 28 May 2013.	Yes. The main findings of the market survey were set out in the paper submitted to LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 28 May 2013.
Ecosystems Ltd	By invitation of quotations	Service of conducting annual surveys to provide cumulative data on cattle population and distribution to facilitate more effective management of cattle and buffalo	0.380	April 2013	Completed	The Government is studying the population size and distribution of feral cattle and water buffalo for long term strategic planning	The report summary is under final fine-tuning. Findings may be released to interested and related organisations.
BMT Asia Pacific Limited	By invitation of quotations	Consultancy Study on Supply Chain Improvements to Ensure Steady and Sufficient Supply of Powdered Formula for Local Infants and Young Children Aged under 36 Months	0.816	June 2013	Completed	Having considered the results of the stress test (see item below) on the powdered formula supply chain, the Consultant's assessment and the views of the Committee on Supply Chain of Powdered Formula, the	Yes. The outcome of the Study was reported to the LegCo Panel of Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 10 December 2013.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee million (\$)	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?
		The Study was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness and sustainability of the improvement measures on the powdered formula supply chain proposed by the trade in a non-regulated environment, and to provide advice on how the improvement measures could be enhanced or refined.				Government considers it premature to repeal the legal provisions regulating the export of powdered formula at this stage. The Government has urged the trade to actively follow up on the recommendations on improving the supply chain proposed by the Consultant.	
Cimigo Limited	By invitation of quotations	Provision of Stress Test Service on Supply Chain Improvements to Ensure Steady and Sufficient Supply of Powdered Formula for Local Infants and Young Children Aged under 36 months The key objective of the service is to assist the Government in planning and conducting the stress test on the improvement measures of the powdered formula supply chain during the National Day Golden Week in 2013 as well as the days immediately before and after it.	1.560 (including \$1.159 million and \$0.401 million under the respective contracts awarded in August and September 2013)	Aug and Sept 2013	Completed	ditto	Yes. The findings were reported to the LegCo Panel of Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 10 December 2013.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee million (\$)	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?
BMT Asia Pacific Limited	By invitation of quotations	Provision of Service for Conducting Warehouse Inventory Monitoring in the Stress Test on Powdered Formula Supply Chain Improvements The key objective of the service is to conduct qualitative assessment of warehouse inventory management during the stress test on the improvement measures of the powdered formula supply chain.	0.515	Sept 2013	Completed	ditto	ditto
Cimigo Limited	By invitation of quotations	Service for Conducting Surveys of the Supply and Price Levels of Powdered Formula at the Local Retail Level The objective of the surveys is to enable the Government to have a grasp of the supply and price levels of selected major brands of powdered formula at the local retail level in the run up to the 2014 Lunar New Year.	0.245	Dec 2013	Completed	The results were submitted to the Committee on Supply Chain of Powdered Formula to facilitate their deliberations on how to improve the powdered formula supply chain	Yes. The results of the first and second surveys were published through a press release on 23 January 2014.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee million (\$)	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?
BMT Asia Pacific Limited	By invitation of proposals	Study on ways to improve the operating environment of public markets	1.997	Dec 2013	In progress	The study is still on-going.	The study is still on-going.

Projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy study in 2014-15

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objective of project	Consultancy fee million (\$)	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	By invitation of quotations	Service for assessment of the effectiveness of the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) trial scheme for stray dogs. The project includes an initial population estimation and basic ecology surveys of stray dogs in selected TNR sites, as well as 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 2014 (subject to consent from the local community for carrying out the trial at the selected site(s))	Under planning	The study is yet to commence.	The study is yet to commence.
To be selected	By invitation of proposals	Service for Conducting Surveys on the Supply and Price Levels of Powdered Formula at the Local Retail Level The objective of the surveys is to enable the Government to have a continuous grasp of the supply and price levels of selected major brands of powdered formula at the local retail level from the second quarter of 2014 till mid-February 2015 before the Lunar New Year.	1.800 (estimated)	Second quarter of 2014	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 million (\$)	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?
To be selected	By invitation of proposals	Service for conducting periodic surveys to gauge local parents' experience in purchasing powdered formula and their attitude towards using pre-order channels in purchasing powdered formula, from the second quarter of 2014 till mid-February 2015 before the Lunar New Year	1.500 (estimated)	Second quarter of 2014	Under planning	The study is yet to commence.	The study is yet to commence.
To be selected	By invitation of quotations	Second Food Consumption Survey The objective of the survey is to obtain up-to-date food consumption information (e.g. the types and amounts of food consumed) among individuals in Hong Kong	\$1.5 million has been earmarked for this consultancy in financial year 2014-15	Within financial year 2014-15	Under planning	The study is yet to commence.	The study is yet to commence.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)180****(Question Serial No. 4635)**

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office, (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety, (3) Environmental Hygiene

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 423

Question (Member Question No. 134):

In regard to the growing co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland in recent years, please provide relevant information on Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in which your bureau and the departments under its purview have been involved.

(a) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes, please provide information in 2011-12 to 2013-14 as per following table:

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong /Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement)	Expenditure involved	Mainland official and 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 in 2014-15, please provide information as per following table:

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement	Expenditure involved	Mainland official and 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

(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? How much financial and manpower resources have been earmarked in the Estimates for 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

The required information is provided as follows:

(a)

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong /Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement)	Expenditure involved	Mainland official and 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

<p>Liaison officer system with the Mainland authorities on inspection and quarantine</p>	<p>To establish a liaison officer system to enhance communication about food and agricultural products safety so that timely notification of related problems could be provided to the other side. Proactive action will be taken to tackle issues on inspection and quarantine of food and agricultural products.</p> <p>It is one of the cooperation areas in relation to food safety under the Framework Agreement.</p>	<p>Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has deployed existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.</p>	<p>Officials of 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's (CFS') webpage. The related costs were absorbed within existing resources and could not be separately identified.</p>	<p>Nil</p>
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<p>Inspection of registered Mainland food production farms and processing plants</p>	<p>To inspect registered food production farms and processing plants on the Mainland as part of the control regime to ensure the safety of food and agricultural products supplied to Hong Kong.</p> <p>It is one of the cooperation areas under the Framework Agreement to enhance inspection, quarantine and supervision at source.</p>	<p>The actual expenditure incurred by FEHD on food animal farm inspections in the Mainland and other places outside Hong Kong in 2011-12 and 2012-13 was about \$6.6 million and \$7.7 million respectively. The revised estimate in 2013-14 is about \$8.6 million. FEHD does not keep separate breakdown for food animal farm inspections in the Mainland.</p> <p>Separate breakdown on the resources spent on inspection of vegetable farms, orchards and food processing plants in the Mainland is not readily available.</p>	<p>Officials of 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>
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<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>FEHD has deployed existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative</p>	<p>Officials of AQSIQ and local CIQs</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Yes. The work was reported at the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel (LegCo) on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene (FSEH) 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>It is an on-going collaborative study with the Guangdong CIQ involving the application of RFID technology in tracking live pigs and cattle supplied to Hong Kong from Guangdong.</p> <p>It is one of the cooperation areas under the Framework Agreement to enhance inspection, quarantine and supervision at source.</p>	<p>The actual expenditure incurred by FEHD in carrying out this initiative in 2011-12 and 2012-13 was \$0.79 million and \$1.52 million respectively. The revised estimate of the study in 2013-14 was \$2.26 million.</p>	<p>Officials of Guangdong CIQ</p>	<p>Based on results of evaluation in 2011, an optimized trial programme was established and commenced in late 2012.</p> <p>The study of applying RFID technology to the tracking of live cattle imported from Guangdong Province has been started from April 2013.</p>	<p>Progress was reported to the LegCo FSEH Panel on 20 October 2011.</p> <p>The actual expenditure of the study in 2011-12 and 2012-13 was \$0.79 million and \$1.52 million respectively. The revised estimate of the study in 2013-2014 was \$2.26 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>FEHD has deployed existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.</p>	<p>Officials of AQSIQ and 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>
<p>Briefing sessions on the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (the Regulation) (Cap. 132CM)</p>	<p>Briefing sessions were conducted in Guangzhou in September 2013, Qingdao in December 2013 and Shenzhen in February 2014, to assist Mainland authorities and traders in understanding the new requirements of the Regulation.</p> <p>It is one of the cooperation areas under the Framework Agreement to enhance communication in relation to food safety information.</p>	<p>FEHD has deployed existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.</p>	<p>Officials of Guangdong CIQ and the China Entry & Exit Inspection and Quarantine Association (CIQA)</p>	<p>On-going</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>Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM), which will come into operation on 1 August 2014.</p>

<p>Cooperation Agreement between Guangdong and Hong Kong on Quality Agricultural Products</p>	<p>To establish an information exchange platform on the production, quality and marketing of agricultural produce.</p> <p>To set up exchange and training of workers, technical researchers and management personnel for quality agricultural products, and to establish a mechanism for technical exchange and cooperation on the production of quality agricultural products, as well as to explore the organisation of relevant technical exchange activities.</p> <p>This cooperation and exchange project is not under the Framework Agreement.</p>	<p>Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has deployed existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.</p>	<p>Officials of the Department of Agriculture of Guangdong Province</p>	<p>Fresh food supply and price figures are uploaded to AFCD's homepage.</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>
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<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>To 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>AFCD has deployed existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.</p>	<p>Officials of AQSIQ, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Guangdong CIQ and Guangzhou Agriculture Bureau</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>The project has been reported in the media.</p>	<p>Nil</p>
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<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>AFCD has deployed existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative</p>	<p>Officials of Guangdong Fishery Administration General Brigade</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Combating illegal fishing is a day-to-day activity of AFCD. No special publicity has been arranged.</p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p>Fishermen training</p>	<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>	<p>AFCD has deployed existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.</p>	<p>Officials of Guangdong Provincial Administration of Ocean and Fisheries, and Guangdong Ocean University</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>The training programme was publicised in fishermen community. The related publicity costs were absorbed within existing resources and could not be separately identified.</p>	<p>Nil</p>

Preparation of the List of Harmful Microalgae Species for harmful algae monitoring	<p>To facilitate technical communication between AFCD and Guangdong officials in relation to harmful algae monitoring.</p> <p>It is one of the initiatives under the Chapter of Ecology Construction and Environmental Protection of the Framework Agreement.</p>	AFCD has deployed existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.	Officials of Guangdong Provincial Administration of Ocean and Fisheries	On-going	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.	The cumulative expenditure incurred by AFCD in this area of work from 2011-12 to 2013-14 was \$65,000	Officials of Shenzhen CIQ	On-going	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>\$0.1 million</p>	<p>Officials of 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)

Project / Programme	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement	Expenditure involved	Mainland official and 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

<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>FEHD will deploy existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.</p>	<p>Officials of Guangdong, Shenzhen and Zhuhai 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 CFS' webpage. The related costs were absorbed within existing resources and could not be separately identified.</p>	<p>Nil</p>
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<p>Inspection of registered Mainland food production farms and processing plants</p>	<p>To inspect registered food production farms and processing plants on the Mainland as part of the control regime to ensure the safety of food and agricultural products supplied to Hong Kong.</p> <p>It is one of the cooperation areas under the Framework Agreement to enhance inspection, quarantine and supervision at source.</p>	<p>The estimated expenditure incurred by FEHD on food animal farm inspections in the Mainland and other places outside Hong Kong in 2014-15 is about \$9.5 million. FEHD does not keep separate breakdown for food animal farm inspections in the Mainland.</p> <p>Separate breakdown on the resources spent on inspection of vegetable farms, orchards and food processing plants in the Mainland is not readily available.</p>	<p>Officials of AQSIQ and 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 cannot be separately identified.</p>	<p>Nil</p>
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<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>FEHD will deploy existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.</p>	<p>Officials of AQSIQ and 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>It is an on-going collaborative study with the Guangdong CIQ involving the application of RFID technology in tracking live pigs and cattle supplied to Hong Kong from Guangdong.</p> <p>It is one of the cooperation areas under the Framework Agreement to enhance inspection quarantine and supervision at source.</p>	<p>The estimated expenditure incurred by FEHD in carrying out this initiative in 2014-15 is \$1.78 million.</p>	<p>Officials of Guangdong CIQ</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>We will keep the LegCo FSEH Panel informed of the progress in due course.</p>	<p>Nil</p>

<p>Briefing sessions on the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (the Regulation) (Cap. 132CM)</p>	<p>Briefing sessions will be conducted to assist Mainland authorities and traders in understanding the new requirements of the Regulation.</p> <p>It is one of the cooperation areas under the Framework Agreement to enhance communication in relation to food safety information.</p>	<p>FEHD will deploy existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.</p>	<p>Officials of AQSIQ, local CIQs and CIQA</p>	<p>On-going in 2014-15</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>Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM), which will come into operation on 1 August 2014.</p>
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<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>AFCD will deploy existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.</p>	<p>Officials of AQSIQ, MoA, Guangdong CIQ and Guangzhou Agriculture Bureau</p>	<p>On-going.</p>	<p>The project has been reported in the media.</p>	<p>Nil</p>
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<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>AFCD will deploy existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.</p>	<p>Officials of Guangdong Fishery Administration General Brigade</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Combating illegal fishing is a day-to-day activity of AFCD. No special publicity will be arranged.</p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p>Fishermen training</p>	<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>	<p>AFCD will deploy existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.</p>	<p>Officials of Guangdong Provincial Administration of Ocean and Fisheries, and Guangdong Ocean University.</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>The training programme is publicised in fishermen community. The related publicity costs will be absorbed within existing resources.</p>	<p>Nil</p>

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.	AFCD will deploy existing manpower and resources to carry out this initiative.	Officials of Guangdong Provincial Administration of Ocean and Fisheries	On-going	Monitoring of harmful algae is a day-to-day activity of AFCD. No special publicity will be arranged.	Nil
Training on aquatic animal disease diagnosis	To enhance technical exchange on aquatic animal disease diagnosis.	The estimated expenditure incurred by AFCD in this area of work in 2014-15 is \$9,000	Officials of Shenzhen CIQ	On-going	No special publicity has been arranged as it was an internal staff training programme.	Nil

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

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)181

(Question Serial No. 5446)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health(Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 424 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 173):

Review on agricultural policy

It is stated in the 2014 Policy Address that the Government will review its agricultural policy and consultation will be carried out within this year.

- 1) What are the details of the overall estimated expenditure, manpower and ranks involved in the review?
- 2) Please specify details of the review on agricultural policy, including the scope, details, form, targets, number of targets and number of activities of the consultations, as well as the relevant estimated expenditure.
- 3) How does the Administration decide on the target and form of consultations when making the work plan of the review?
- 4) Will the progress and results of the policy review be disclosed to the public? If yes, what is the anticipated time of disclosure? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

(1) and (2)

The Government is reviewing the agricultural policy with a view to enhancing productivity and promoting sustainable development of local agriculture. This will include introducing modern and environment-friendly agricultural technologies that help conserve our natural resources and the agricultural ecology, so as to supply quality produce to the people of Hong Kong and promote the diversified development of the rural areas. The policy review is being conducted under the lead of the Food and Health Bureau with support from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department using existing resources.

(3) and (4)

The policy review is being conducted and the Government plans to consult the public in due course.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)182

(Question Serial No. 5459)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health(Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 57):

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:

According to the World Health Organization, it is possible that eggs from infected poultry could be contaminated with the avian influenza virus. The World Organization for Animal Health has recommended that the import of poultry eggs for human consumption should be accompanied with an international veterinary certificate for the purpose of controlling avian influenza. We have therefore proposed to extend the import control regime for meat and poultry under the Imported Game, Meat and Poultry Regulations to cover poultry eggs. We have secured the support of the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene for our proposals and intend to table the relevant legislative amendment in around 2014. We are in the process of drafting the legislative amendments and liaising with the stakeholders. The additional workload will be absorbed within existing resources.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)183

(Question Serial No. 5460)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health(Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 424 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 58):

On continuing to collaborate with the Mainland authorities to apply information technology in enhancing the traceability of food, what is the progress of work in 2013 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 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 and cattle supplied to Hong Kong from Guangdong.

In 2013, we in cooperation with the Mainland authorities implemented further enhancement to the programme, including improvement of the hand-held and passageway reader systems and development of an alert system. We also extended the application of RFID technology to the tracking of live cattle supplied to Hong Kong from Guangdong starting from April 2013. We would evaluate the progress and consider the next steps in consultation with the Mainland authorities in due course.

The estimated expenditure to be incurred by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in this area of work in 2014-15 is \$1.78 million.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE) 184

(Question Serial No. 5461)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion Lai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 424 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 59):

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 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

In 2014-15, 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 2014-15 for the monitoring, prevention and control of AI as well as related publicity work by AFCD is \$51 million. A total of 46 staff 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 Animal Inspection Station; and (b) inspecting registered farms that export poultry to Hong Kong (including those in the Mainland and other places). In 2014-15, the estimated expenditure for import inspection is \$8 million and that for inspections of poultry farms is \$5.7 million. A total of 49 staff in FEHD are involved in this area of work.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)185

(Question Serial No. 5462)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 424 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 60):

On continuing to review and update the existing standards on food safety, what is the progress of work in 2013? What are the specific work plan, timetable, estimated manpower and resources required in 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The following sets out the progress of the Government's work on various food safety areas in 2013, and the workplan in 2014-15:-

- (a) to better protect the health of infants and young children, the Administration has 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. The legislative proposals comprise requirements on nutritional composition of infant formulae and nutrition labelling of infant formulae, follow-up formulae and other foods for infant and young children. In 2013, the Administration completed the public consultation on the legislative proposals and received strong support from the respondents. We also reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on the findings of the consultation exercise. The Administration is drafting the legislation for tabling at the Legislative Council in 2014;
- (b) to ensure the proper use of pesticides in food, the Administration enacted the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation in June 2012. The Regulation will come into operation on 1 August 2014. In 2013, to assist stakeholders concerned to understand the new requirements of the Regulation, the Administration conducted technical meetings and briefings for different stakeholders including food traders, representatives of testing laboratories as well as the Mainland authorities, and issued technical guidelines. The Administration will continue with the work in 2014. In 2013, we undertook preparatory work to update the residue limits in Schedule 1 of the Regulation, having regard to the latest international developments on application of pesticides. We aim to table the Amendment Regulation in 2014;
- (c) according to the World Health Organization, it is possible that eggs from infected poultry could be contaminated with the avian influenza virus. The World Organization for Animal Health has recommended that the import of poultry eggs for human consumption should be accompanied with an international veterinary certificate for the purpose of controlling avian influenza. We have therefore proposed to extend the import control regime for meat and poultry under the Imported Game, Meat and Poultry Regulations to cover poultry eggs. We have secured the support of the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene for our proposals and intend to table the relevant legislative amendment in around 2014. We are in the process of drafting the legislative amendments and liaising with the stakeholders; and

(d) we are also reviewing the safety standards for veterinary drug residues and heavy metals in food, and drawing up a regulatory scheme on the safety of imported aquatic food products. The work will continue in 2014-15.

The additional workload generated in 2014-15 will be absorbed by existing resources in FHB and the resources required cannot be separately identified.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)186

(Question Serial No. 6203)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health(Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 423 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 164):

In respect of the public relations expenses of various government departments in the past year, please inform this Committee of:

- (1) The expenses this department spent on advertisement on mainstream or online media as well as the relevant details in table form (please see Annex 1):

Published / Broadcasted Time (Month / Year)	Status (one-off / ongoing / done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government or Public Organisation (including policy bureau / department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Advertisement	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station / TV station / advertising panel / car wrap advertising / website, etc)	Purpose and Frequency of the Advertisement (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources for the expenses involved (as at 31 January 2014)
			(1)... (2)... (3)...	(1)... (2)... (3)...			

- (2) The expenses this department spent on sponsoring media to provide programmes or materials as well as the relevant details (please see Annex 2):

Programme / Materials Published / Broadcasted Time (Month / Year)	Status (one-off / ongoing / done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Sponsoring Government or Public Organisation (including policy bureau / department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Programme / Materials	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station / TV station / website, etc)	Purpose and Frequency of the Sponsorship (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Expenses (as at 31 January 2014)
			(1)... (2)... (3)...	(1)... (2)... (3)...			

(3) The expenses on and details of the Advertorial of this department (please see Annex 3):

Programme / Materials Published / Broadcasted Time (Month/Year)	Status (one-off / ongoing / done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government Organisation (including policy bureau / department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Programme / Materials	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station / TV station / website, etc)	Purpose and Frequency of the Programme / Materials (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Non-government organisation / Personnel Responsible for Writing Advertisement Script (if any)	Expenses (as at 31 January 2014)
			(1)...	(1)...				
			(2)...	(2)...				
			(3)...	(3)...				

Asked by: Hon. MOK Charles Peter

Reply:

The details of public relations expenses by the Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) in the past year are provided at Annex.

(1) The details of advertisements on mainstream or online media arranged by the Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) and the expenditures involved are provided in the table below -

Published / Broadcasted Time (Month / Year)	Status (one-off / ongoing / done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government or Public Organisation (including policy bureau / department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Advertisement	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station / TV station / advertising panel / car wrap advertising / website, etc)	Purpose and Frequency of the Advertisement (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources for the expenses involved (as at 31 January 2014)
March – May 2013	Done	Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch)	Import and Export (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2013	Mass Transit Railway	To publicise the export control of powdered formula which commenced on 1 March 2013 by the following means: (1) broadcast of announcements in the public interest (APIs) in in-train, trackside and concourse TVs at regular intervals (2) poster panels along railway lines (3) window stickers in trains	1 Senior Administrative Officer	\$1.7 million

(2) The details of sponsored media programmes or materials arranged by the Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) and the expenditures involved are provided in the table below -

Programme / Materials Published / Broadcasted Time (Month / Year)	Status (one-off / ongoing / done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Sponsoring Government or Public Organisation (including policy bureau / department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Programme / Materials	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station / TV station / website, etc)	Purpose and Frequency of the Sponsorship (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Expenses (as at 31 January 2014)
Nil							

(3) The details of advertorials arranged by the Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) and the expenditures involved are provided in the table below -

Programme / Materials Published / Broadcasted Time (Month/Year)	Status (one-off / ongoing / done) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government Organisation (including policy bureau / department / public organisation / government advisory body)	Name of Programme / Materials	Name of Publisher or Broadcasting Media (newspaper / radio station / TV station / website, etc)	Purpose and Frequency of the Programme / Materials (as at 31 January 2014)	Rank and No. of Responsible Person(s) (as at 31 January 2014)	Non-government organisation / Personnel Responsible for Writing Advertisement Script (if any)	Expenses (as at 31 January 2014)
Nil								

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)187

(Question Serial No. 6212)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 423 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 175):

The Government has announced that it would make all government information released for public consumption machine-readable in digital formats. In respect of this,

(1) Please provide in the table below details of the government information to be released for public consumption by your Bureau/Department.

Bureau/ Department	Information items that can be released for public consumption	Description of the information	Period of the information	Is the information released in digital formats currently and date of release	If not, will it be converted into digital formats	Digital format already/planned to be used (please choose)			
						Machine-readable, non-proprietary formats (e.g. CSV)	Machine-readable, proprietary formats (e.g. MS Excel, Word)	Non-Machine-readable formats (e.g. JPG, PDF, PNG)	Open-standard formats (e.g. XML)

(2) Would the Administration indicate the manpower and expenditure involved for releasing government information for public consumption in 2014-15? Will more resources and manpower be provided to your Bureau/Department for handling this task so that the plan can be more effectively implemented?

Asked by: Hon. MOK Charles Peter

Reply:

In 2011, the Government launched the public sector information portal Data.One (data.one.gov.hk), making available public sector information for free use in the development of web services and mobile applications. Currently the portal provides over 2 000 datasets in 15 categories, including Air Quality Health Index, buildings, charitable fund-raising activities, food and environmental hygiene, geo-referenced public facility data, image resources, law and order, marine, news and information, population census statistics, property market statistics, public transport, real-time traffic data, water quality and weather data. These datasets are available in digital formats, including CSV, JPG, JSON, HTML, MDB, PNG, RSS, XLS and XML.

Besides the above portal, the public may access information in various digital formats through the web pages of the Food and Health Bureau and its executive departments. Given the large variety and quantity of information involved, we are not able to tabulate them one by one in detail. The work of releasing public sector information will be absorbed by the existing manpower and no additional resources or manpower will be required.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)188

(Question Serial No. 6226)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 423 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 198):

Regarding the Bureau's expenditure on the procurement of computer software and hardware, could the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Does the Administration have any standard internal procurement guidelines which set out criteria for the purchase or upgrade of computer software and hardware for the Bureau? If yes, what are the details? Do the guidelines require that the Bureau must upgrade its computer software and hardware in a timely manner?
- (b) Given that the computer software and hardware supplier Microsoft will terminate its support service for the operating platform of its Windows XP, please provide the respective numbers of computers in the Bureau which are using (1) the operating platform of Microsoft Windows XP; (2) the operating platforms released by Microsoft before 2001; and (3) other operating platforms (please specify the version), as well as the respective percentages of these three types of operating systems in the Bureau's total number of computers. Does the Bureau have any plan to upgrade the above operating platform versions which are now obsolete?
- (c) What are the expenditure on and criteria for the procurement of tablet computers by the Bureau? What are the model numbers and the uses of the tablet computers? Is there any confidential information saved on the tablet computers? If yes, what are the details? Is there any information security software installed in the tablet computers used by the Bureau? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. MOK Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) According to the prevailing Government guidelines, our Bureau is required each year to formulate information technology (IT) project portfolio for the next 3 years and to plan for the IT-related projects to ensure that these IT projects can practically and effectively meet our business and operational needs. In planning for IT replacement projects, we have to review and evaluate a wide range of potential risks and devise mitigation measures. From the technology perspective, the potential risks to be considered include product compatibility, maintenance support, replacement products for ensuring continuity as well as availability of market supply. We are also required to make purchases in the most cost-effective way through fair and open market competitions in compliance with the Government's procurement guidelines. We should also take into account the importance and priorities of the IT projects in handling the updating of computer hardware and software.

- (b) The operating platforms of all our computers have been upgraded from Microsoft Windows XP to Microsoft Windows 7. No computer is using the operating platforms released by Microsoft before 2001 or other obsolete versions.
- (c) In 2013-14, the model name of the tablet computers we have procured through the Standing Offer Agreement managed by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer is “Apple iPad”, the total value of which amounts to about \$53,000. We also make direct procurement from the market based on the actual need.

The tablet computers procured by our Bureau are mainly used to meet outside-office operational needs of our senior management personnel at the directorate level or above. They are used for emails, SMS, calendar management and Internet browsing. We are required to make new or enhancement purchases of the tablet computers in the most cost-effective way through fair and open market competitions in compliance with the Government's procurement guidelines.

We do not store confidential information on our tablet computers. We have installed and taken security measures in the tablet computers we are using as appropriate, such as enabling the password lock on mobile devices, wiping device data after a specified number of failed login attempts. The expenditures for installation of information security measures in the tablet computers are generally subsumed into the procurement and maintenance expenses. We do not have a breakdown of such expenditures.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)189

(Question Serial No. 6538)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 423 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 124):

In connection with the provision of public information and gathering of public opinions by means of the Internet, please advise on the following:

- (a) the information regarding the social media platforms set up and operated by your bureau/departments/public bodies or their agents (such as out-sourced contractors or consultants) for the past year in tabulated form (see Annex 1).

Commencement of operation (Month/Year)	Status (keep updating /ceased updating) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government agencies (including policy bureaux/ departments /public bodies/ government consultations)	Name	Social media (Facebook /Flickr/ Google+ /LinkedIn /Sina Weibo/ Twitter/ YouTube)	Purpose of establishment and no. of updates (as at 31 January 2014)	No. of "Likes"/ No. of subscribers /Average monthly visits (as at 31 January 2014)	Compiling summary of comments and following up on a regular basis (Yes/ No)	Rank and No. of officers responsible for the operation (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation (as at 31 January 2014)
			(1)...	(1)...					
			(2)...	(2)...					
			(3)...	(3)...					

- (b) whether the "Guidelines on the Use of Social Media" available on Government intranets give instructions to your department on the ceilings on expenditures for using social media or web-based platforms, such as registration fees, advertising expenditures and value-added services. If yes, what are the details? If not, will the guidelines be revised to set out the reasonable levels of expenditures derived from the use of social media?

- (c) In recent years, governments around the world have introduced systems through which citizens may hand in their online proposals. They have also undertaken that they will give a formal online response if a certain number of citizens have indicated their support of the proposals. Has the Administration examined ways to improve the existing channels for collecting public opinions on the Internet and evaluate the feasibility of the system of collecting online proposals mentioned above? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK Charles Peter

Reply:

- (a) The details of social media platforms set up and operated by the Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) and departments/public bodies under its purview in the past year are at Annex.
- (b) The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) has set up a thematic website on social media in the government's intranet to provide bureaux/departments with guidelines, tips and tools on the use of social media. Bureaux/departments (B/Ds) may set up social media platforms having regard to their operational needs and the technical advice from OGCIO. Whilst OGCIO will continue to provide support to assist B/Ds to enhance interaction with the public, B/Ds would follow the Government's established procurement procedures when incurring the related expenditures according to individual needs.
- (c) While public opinions on specific issues are being collected through the setting up of dedicated websites, mailboxes and hotlines, we will continue to explore the possibility of collecting public opinions through different means and channels including those on the internet.

Commencement of operation (Month/Year)	Status (keep updating/ceased updating) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government agencies (including policy bureaux/departments/public bodies/government advisory bodies)	Name	Social media (Facebook/Flickr/Google+/LinkedIn/Sina Weibo/Twitter/YouTube)	Purpose of establishment and no. of updates (as at 31 January 2014)	No. of "Likes"/No. of subscribers/Average monthly visits (as at 31 January 2014)	Compiling summary of comments and following up on a regular basis (Yes/No)	Rank and No. of officers responsible for the operation (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation (as at 31 January 2014)
August 2010	Keeps on updating	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)	Hong Kong Wetland Park YouTube Channel	YouTube	To promote the Hong Kong Wetland Park	Average 787 visits per month	Yes	1 Senior Field Officer; 1 Executive Officer II	Absorbed by existing resources
September 2010	Keeps on updating	AFCD	Hong Kong Wetland Park Facebook Page	Facebook	To promote the Hong Kong Wetland Park	About 5 700 "Likes"	Yes	1 Senior Field Officer; 1 Executive Officer II	\$20,000 (establishment)
January 2012	Keeps on updating	AFCD	Crop Production Channel	YouTube	To introduce local crop production techniques (29 updates)	44 subscribers, 3329 visits	No	1 Field Officer I; 1 Field Assistant	Absorbed by existing resources
January 2012	Keeps on updating	AFCD	Hong Kong Wetland Park Official Sina Weibo	Sina Weibo	To promote the Hong Kong Wetland Park	About 3 700 subscribers	Yes	1 Senior Field Officer; 1 Executive Officer II	Absorbed by existing resources
March 2012	Keeps on updating	Fish Marketing Organization (FMO)	(1) HK FMO (2) FMO Seafood Ordering	Facebook	To update product information and provide platform for customers to place online orders	177 Friends 172 "Likes"	Yes	1 Manager; 1 Officer	\$1,780 (\$178/month for 10 months)

Commencement of operation (Month/ Year)	Status (keep updating/ ceased updating) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government agencies (including policy bureaux/ departments/ public bodies/ government advisory bodies)	Name	Social media (Facebook/ Flickr/ Google+/ LinkedIn/ Sina Weibo/ Twitter/ YouTube)	Purpose of establishment and no. of updates (as at 31 January 2014)	No. of "Likes"/ No. of subscribers/ Average monthly visits (as at 31 January 2014)	Compiling summary of comments and following up on a regular basis (Yes/ No)	Rank and No. of officers responsible for the operation (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation (as at 31 January 2014)
					(1) 15 updates (2) 22 updates				
October 2012	Keeps on updating	AFCD	Animal Management YouTube Channel	YouTube	To promote Responsible Pet Ownership	Average 707.5 visits per month	No	1 Senior Field Officer; 1 Field Officer II; 1 Education Resources Officer	Absorbed by existing resources
December 2012	Keeps on updating	AFCD	Hong Kong Country Parks	YouTube	To enhance departmental homepage and thematic websites to adopt accessibility standards and foster public's awareness about country parks and hiking safety. (6 updates)	12 "Likes"/ 13 Subscribers/ 3,779 Views	Yes (1 comment was received)	1 Senior Field Officer	Absorbed by existing resources
March 2013	Ceased updating	AFCD	AFCD Biodiversity Conservation Division YouTube Channel	YouTube	To introduce the work of the Biodiversity Conservation Division of AFCD to the public.	Over 2,600 visits since launch	No	1 Forestry Officer	Absorbed by existing resources

Commencement of operation (Month/Year)	Status (keep updating/ceased updating) (as at 31 January 2014)	Government agencies (including policy bureaux/departments/public bodies/government advisory bodies)	Name	Social media (Facebook/Flickr/Google+/LinkedIn/Sina Weibo/Twitter/YouTube)	Purpose of establishment and no. of updates (as at 31 January 2014)	No. of "Likes"/No. of subscribers/Average monthly visits (as at 31 January 2014)	Compiling summary of comments and following up on a regular basis (Yes/No)	Rank and No. of officers responsible for the operation (as at 31 January 2014)	Financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation (as at 31 January 2014)
March 2013	Keeps on updating	Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO)	iVeggie	Facebook	For promotion and to provide product information (20 updates)	113 "Likes"	No	1 Market Manager; 1 Publicity Executive	Absorbed by existing resources
October 2013	Keeps on updating	Centre for Food Safety/ Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Centre for Food Safety Facebook Page	Facebook	To provide food safety information for Internet users	822 "Likes"	Yes	3 Scientific Officers; 1 Executive Officer I; 1 Executive Officer II; 1 Field Officer	Absorbed by existing resources

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)190

(Question Serial No. 6569)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health(Food) (Mrs. Marion Lai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 424 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 60):

Does the Administration plan to formulate the timetable for relocation of Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market? If yes, what are the details and expenditure? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

The Administration is exploring the feasibility of relocating the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market. In identifying a suitable replacement site for live poultry wholesale activities, we have to take into account a number of factors. If and when a potential replacement site has been identified, the relevant departments will also need to conduct detailed technical assessments. In designing and planning the new wholesale poultry market, consultation with relevant stakeholders will have to be conducted at different stages.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)191

(Question Serial No. 5257)

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

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs. Marion LAI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 429 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 33):

What is the 2014-15 estimate for duty visits or exchanges in the Mainland conducted by the Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch)? Please provide information about the themes of duty visits or exchanges in the Mainland planned for 2014-15. How will the Administration prevent activities irrelevant to official duties from taking place during duty visits outside Hong Kong? And how will the Administration prevent applications for revising visit destinations from becoming a mere formality?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

Officers of the Food and Health Bureau (Food Branch) will, having regard to operational needs, undertake duty visits and exchange programmes in the Mainland with a view to strengthening collaboration with Mainland counterparts and exchanging expert views on subjects under the portfolio of Food Branch. We have no specific plans for such activities in 2014-15 at this stage.

Duty visits, if publicly funded, are subject to control under relevant regulations and guidelines to ensure effective monitoring and proper use of public funds. There is control on various aspects, such as duty visits should only be conducted when there are strong operational reasons; formal prior approval is required for all duty visits and non-official activities should be avoided; the officers concerned should provide all necessary information in respect of the proposed visit as far as possible when submitting the application; if there are any subsequent changes to the arrangements, the officers concerned should inform the approving officers as soon as possible who should then assess whether re-consideration of the application is needed.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)192****(Question Serial No. 3763)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 38 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 184):

Regarding the SAR Government's proposal on regulating the import and export of toothfish protected by an international convention, please advise on the following:

- What were the respective annual volumes and values of imported, exported and re-exported toothfish in Hong Kong over the past five years?
- In 2000, the Commission under the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources ("CCAMLR") implemented a documentation scheme in relation to toothfish. China acceded to the CCAMLR in 2006, but the Convention has not been extended to Hong Kong yet. What are the reasons for that? Regarding the proposed extension of the CCAMLR to Hong Kong, has the CCAMLR effected regulation on species other than toothfish? Has the Administration planned to extend the scope of regulation in accordance with the CCAMLR?
- What are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the proposed regulation?
- Has the proposal's impact on the local community been evaluated? If yes, what are the details and the outcome?
- What are the timetable and plan for the implementation of regulation under the CCAMLR?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

- The annual volume and value of toothfish imported, exported and re-exported over the past five years are as follows:

Calendar Year	Import*		Export*		Re-export*	
	Volume (tonnes)	Value (\$ million)	Volume (tonnes)	Value (\$ million)	Volume (tonnes)	Value (\$ million)
2009	512.0	59.0	0	0	0	0
2010	435.3	51.0	0	0	0	0
2011	455.6	77.9	0	0	0	0
2012	567.0	61.2	0	0	92.6	9.12
2013#	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

* From statistics compiled by the Census and Statistics Department using information lodged with the Commissioner of Customs and Excise in import and export declarations

Relevant statistics are not available yet

- (b) No fishing vessels from Hong Kong were engaged in the harvesting activities in the Convention Area. The volume of toothfish traded in Hong Kong used to be relatively small in the past. The Government was therefore of the view that there was limited merit to implement the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) or the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) for toothfish in Hong Kong. Nonetheless, the trade volume and commercial activities in relation to toothfish in Hong Kong has increased in the course of time, such that Hong Kong is becoming one of the major importing economies of toothfish. To contribute to the international concerted efforts in the protection and sustainable use of marine resources, the Government has decided to extend application of the CCAMLR to Hong Kong

CCAMLR also has in place regulations on the harvesting of krill and icefish in the Convention Area. However, the regulations do not cover trading of these species. Since Hong Kong has no fishing vessels operating in the Convention Area, those regulations are not relevant to Hong Kong.

- (c) As we are consulting the relevant stakeholders on the proposed control scheme, we are unable to provide an estimate of the financial and manpower resources required for implementing CCAMLR at this stage.
- (d) Hong Kong has no fishing vessels operating in the Convention Area, and there will unlikely be any such vessels in the foreseeable future. The application of CCAMLR to Hong Kong therefore will have no implication on our fisheries industry. For the seafood trading sector, toothfish only constitutes a small proportion of the fish produce traded in Hong Kong and accounts for less than 0.5% of the total consumption of fish produce. The additional costs to be incurred by the trade in meeting the requirements under the proposed CDS are expected to be minimal.
- (e) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is engaging the relevant stakeholders (including seafood traders and importers, environmental concern groups, and relevant advisory committee) and seeking their views on the proposed control scheme. Taking into account the views gathered, we will fine-tune the proposed scheme and prepare the proposed legislation. CCAMLR will formally apply to the HKSAR upon enactment of the relevant legislation.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)193

(Question Serial No. 5369)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 47 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 126):

Would the Department please provide the information on the engagement of outsourced workers as follows:

	2014-15
Estimated number of outsourced service contracts	
Estimated operational expenditure for payment to outsourced service providers	
Estimated number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

	2014-15
Estimated number of outsourced service contracts	34
Estimated operational expenditure for payment to outsourced service providers	\$21 million
Estimated number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers#	185

As most of the outsourced contracts do not specify the number of workers required, only the number of workers who are deployed to carry out cleansing and security services on a full-time basis are counted.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)194

(Question Serial No. 3481)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 38 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 269):

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). AFCD identifies such farmland and brings the landowners and interested farmers together to work out rental agreements among themselves for leasing out the land. As at 14 March 2014, about 1.3 hectares of agricultural land is available for leasing to interested parties for farming. There is no restriction on the size of the agricultural land that a person may apply for under the Scheme. By the end of 2013, 258 people are on the waiting list. The average waiting time for successful cases under the Scheme in 2013 is 4 years.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)195

(Question Serial No. 6584)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 46 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 219):

Regarding livestock industry and agriculture, what was the total expenditure on the Government's latest chicken culling operation (late January in 2014)? (Example: amount of compensation made to local chicken farmers, additional manpower and materials involved in the operation, landfill disposal costs, etc.)

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

The culling operation conducted on 28 January 2014 entails an expenditure of around \$0.8 million on the part of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. This covers the compensation paid to the owners of the birds slaughtered, overtime and subsistence allowance for staff involved, hire of vehicles and cost of carbon dioxide consumed.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)196****(Question Serial No. 6433)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 42 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 286):

Regarding the development of co-operative societies in Hong Kong, please inform this Committee of the following:

Please advise on the details on the Government's efforts to promote the development of co-operative societies, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 (for months with available data).

Types	Details	Number of Staff	Expenditure
Primary Industries			
Non-primary Industries			

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has been promoting the development of co-operative societies through (i) registering and regulating co-operative societies under the Co-operative Societies Ordinance (Cap. 33) to ensure that members of the co-operative societies enjoy equal rights and benefits in respect of the business of the relevant co-operative societies; (ii) attending general, special general and committee meetings of co-operative societies to promote co-operation, self-help and mutual help among the members; (iii) auditing accounts, books and records of the co-operative societies to ensure their compliance with the law; and (iv) assisting interested parties to form co-operative societies by providing talks and information.

The expenditure and manpower involved in the past three years are provided as follows:

Types	Number of Staff			Expenditure (\$ million)		
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (revised estimate)	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (revised estimate)
Primary Industries						
Agriculture	2	2	2	0.9	0.8	0.7
Fisheries	4	4	4	1.6	1.6	1.8
Non-primary Industries						
Buildings, Consumers, Workers etc.	9	9	9	3.9	4.1	4.6
Total	15	15	15	6.4	6.5	7.1

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)197****(Question Serial No. 3312)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 39 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 56):

What is the total number of new agricultural and fish species introduced to Hong Kong by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) (such as Vegetable Spaghetti, Jade Perch, etc.) with training provided to local crop and fish farmers on culturing such species in the past?

What were the annual production and sales volume of such new species introduced by the AFCD over the past three years?

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher

Reply:

Since 2000, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has introduced over 30 new crop varieties to local farmers. The new varieties cover leafy vegetables (e.g. Choy Sum - Summer variety, Cabbage), fruit vegetables (e.g. Cherry Tomato, Vegetable Spaghetti, Mini Wax Gourd), root/stem vegetables (e.g. Potato, Snow Ball Turnip) and fruits (e.g. Strawberry, Water Melon, Sweet Melon). Technical guidance and support have been provided to those farmers who are interested in growing these new crop varieties through seminars, field demonstrations, workshops and follow-up farm visits. AFCD does not keep statistics on the production and sales volume of each individual variety.

On the fisheries side, AFCD has successfully introduced four aquaculture species, namely Jade Perch, Hybrid Grouper, Giant Grouper and Red Drum to local fish farmers since 2000. AFCD has provided training and technical guidance to fish farmers to help them acquire necessary knowledge and skills for culturing these species. The annual production and sales volume of these species over the past three calendar years are as follows:

Species	2011		2012		2013	
	Annual Production (tonnes)	Sales Volume (\$ million)	Annual Production (tonnes)	Sales Volume (\$ million)	Annual Production (tonnes)	Sales Volume (\$ million)
Jade Perch	70	6	134	12	123	11
Red Drum	26	1	40	2	33	2
Giant Grouper	7	1	82	14	24	4
Hybrid Grouper*	--	--	--	--	177	16

* Commercial production of Hybrid Grouper started in 2013.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)198****(Question Serial No. 5143)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume1 Pages 38-40 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No.53):

Regarding the wholesale of live chickens, please advise on:

- the annual total quantities and daily average quantities of imported and local live chickens, as well as the largest and the smallest daily wholesale quantities over the past three years (2011-12 to 2013-14);
- the monthly average prices, as well as the highest and the lowest monthly prices of imported and local live chickens over the past three years (2011-12 to 2013-14);
- the total expenditure on handling matters on import of live chickens (e.g. quarantine management, wholesale markets, etc.), the average expenditure on each chicken, as well the manpower involved;
- the expenditure, manpower and current progress of segregating local and imported live chickens for quarantine.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- The statistics on the quantity of imported and local live chickens traded through the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market (CSWTWPM) over the past three years are tabulated as follows:

Calendar Year	Live Chicken	Quantity	Daily Average Quantity	Highest Daily Quantity	Lowest Daily Quantity
2011	Imported	2 468 800	6 764	10 900	3 700
	Local	3 759 163	10 299	53 655*	200 [#]
2012	Imported	2 463 800	6 732	9 000	3 400
	Local	4 081 370	11 151	62 157*	3 900 [#]
2013	Imported	2 304 900	6 315	9 600	2 300
	Local	3 849 304	10 546	69 956*	2 000 [^]

* Chinese New Year Eve (2 February 2011, 22 January 2012 and 9 February 2013)

[#] First day of Chinese New Year (3 February 2011 and 23 January 2012)

[^] A day when Hong Kong was affected by typhoon (23 September 2013)

- (b) The statistics on the wholesale price of imported and local live chickens recorded in CSWTWPM over the past three years are tabulated as follows:

Calendar Year	Live Chicken	Monthly Average Wholesale Price (\$/kg)											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	Imported	43.35*	39.17	28.87	27.88	27.70	29.03	26.77 [^]	29.09	35.34	30.40	28.64	37.23
	Local	44.04*	41.45	27.49	26.56	26.44	28.54	25.81 [^]	28.04	34.79	29.18	27.24	37.09
2012	Imported	34.11	29.45	33.90	37.00	33.61	30.24	27.89	26.94 [^]	31.48	32.91	33.04	39.91*
	Local	32.89	28.00	32.60	35.67	32.21	28.95	26.52	25.50 [^]	31.91	31.56	31.71	40.16*
2013	Imported	45.84	57.53*	37.99	27.60	23.33 [^]	29.42	27.95	30.96	43.77	39.02	31.71	28.11
	Local	44.82	57.86*	36.62	25.75	22.28 [^]	28.80	27.02	30.13	43.83	37.97	30.44	27.13

* Highest monthly average price in the respective calendar year

[^] Lowest monthly average price in the respective calendar year

- (c) In 2013-14, the total expenditure incurred by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department on operating CSWTWPM is estimated to be \$15.5 million. 18 staff are involved in this area of work. CSWTWPM handles the wholesale of all live poultry and there is no separate breakdown in respect of imported live chickens alone.
- (d) In the light of the avian influenza (AI) incident dated 27 January 2014, many people in Hong Kong, Legislative Council Members as well as stakeholders in the poultry trade have suggested to the Government that we should consider segregating the imported and local live poultry and holding the imported poultry at a suitable location until the AI testing results are available before releasing them to the wholesale market. That way, it would help minimise the impact that the contingency measures (taken to prevent the spread of the AI virus) may have on the continued supply of live poultry in the event of an AI incident.

The Government has been looking into the future arrangement for imported live poultry, including the feasibility of establishing temporary holding facilities for imported live poultry or other practicable alternative. Having evaluated various options, the Government is now focusing on a contingency measure which would enable the continued supply of live chickens. Upon resumption of import of live poultry from the Mainland, we would follow the existing practice of allowing the delivery of imported live poultry to the wholesale poultry market while testing results are pending. In the event of an AI incident which leads to the closure of the wholesale poultry market, during the closure period, local poultry could be delivered to the retail outlets via the proposed check-point at the Government farm in Ta Kwu Ling. This will allow the continued supply of local live poultry to the market. We are now following up with the relevant works departments. The cost and manpower estimates of the project are not yet available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)199

(Question Serial No. 5144)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume1 Page 46 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 54):

Regarding the statutory compensation and ex-gratia payments to poultry operators affected by avian influenza, please advise on the following:

- (a) According to the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance (Cap. 139), compensation shall be paid to the owners of any birds slaughtered by order of the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (DAFC). When was the compensation determined? What criteria does the DAFC adopt in determining the compensation?
- (b) On 21 February 2014, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved the creation of a new commitment of \$17.7 million. What criteria were adopted in determining the amount of the ex-gratia payments and other relief measures?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- (a) The compensation for birds slaughtered by order of the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation is provided for under section 6 of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance (Cap. 139) enacted in 1936. The provision states that where the bird slaughtered was not affected with any kind of disease, the compensation shall be its full value immediately before it was slaughtered. It is also stated that the compensation payable for a bird slaughtered shall not exceed thirty dollars. When the Government rolled out the Buy-Out Scheme for the live poultry trade in 2008, it had made clear to the live poultry operators who chose to stay in the trade that they had to bear the risks of any further avian influenza (AI) incidents in Hong Kong and that in the event of disruption of business arising from an AI outbreak in future, the statutory compensation at a maximum of \$30 per bird slaughtered would be provided to them.
- (b) In the light of the AI incident on 27 January 2014, the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market was closed for 21 days for thorough cleansing and disinfection. All live poultry trading activities were suspended. The interruption to the live poultry trading activities occurred at a time when market demand for and price of live poultry peaked in the immediate run-up to the Lunar New Year. The traders and farmers could not sell their chickens during the trade suspension period. The chickens would also likely fetch a lower market price after passage of the Lunar New Year peak season. It was under these special circumstances that we saw a case for proposing ex-gratia payments and other relief measures to help alleviate the financial hardship of the poultry operators affected by the suspension of trade. The proposed ex-gratia package and other relief measures approved by the Finance Committee on 21 February 2014 were formulated with reference to those approved by the Finance Committee in 2001 (FCR(2001-02)10), 2004 (FCR(2003-04)67) and 2008 (FCR(2008-09)39), taking into account the unique circumstances of the present case, which took place in the immediate run-up to the Lunar New Year.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)200****(Question Serial No. 5145)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Pages 38-40 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 55):

Regarding the wholesaling of fish, please advise on the following:

- What were the annual total and daily average wholesale quantity, as well as the highest and lowest figures thereof for different kinds of marine fish (including Golden thread, Horse-heads, Yellow croakers, Big-eyes, Scads, Breams, Hair-tails, Mackerels, Croakers, Filefish, etc.) and freshwater fish (including Grass carp, Big head, Mud carp, etc.) over the past three years (2011-12 to 2013-14)?
- What were the monthly average, the highest and lowest prices for different kinds of marine fish (including Golden thread, Horse-heads, Yellow croakers, Big-eyes, Scads, Breams, Hair-tails, Mackerels, Croakers, Filefish, etc.) and freshwater fish (including Grass carp, Big head, Mud carp, etc.) over the past three years (2011-12 to 2013-14)?
- What is the Government's overall expenditure on handling matters relating to the wholesaling of fish? What is the respective staff establishment involved?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, StevenReply:

- Information on the quantity of freshwater fish traded through the government wholesale food markets over the past three years is shown below. We do not have breakdown on the figures for different kinds of freshwater fish.

Calendar Year	Total quantity (tonnes)	Daily average quantity (tonnes)	Highest daily quantity (tonnes)	Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)
2011	49,466	136	213	38
2012	49,599	136	215	30
2013	51,625	141	198	31

Information on the quantity of marine fish traded over the past three years (2011 to 2013) is shown in Annex A.

- Information on the value of freshwater fish traded through the government wholesale food markets over the past three years is shown below. We do not have breakdown on the figures for different kinds of freshwater fish.

Calendar Year	Monthly average wholesale value (\$/tonne)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	20,555^	21,112	21,242	21,858	22,777	23,402	24,457	25,355	25,421	25,866*	25,278	24,878
2012	24,703	25,032	25,505	25,876*	25,726	25,035	23,700^	24,338	24,263	24,240	23,839	24,152
2013	24,275	23,686^	24,447	24,466	24,188	24,834	24,908	24,824	25,246	25,549*	25,042	24,962

* Highest monthly average value in the respective calendar year

^ Lowest monthly average value in the respective calendar year

The wholesale prices of marine fish over the past three years (2011 to 2013) are in Annex B.

- (c) In 2013-14, 11 staff are involved in the management of government wholesale food markets relating to the wholesale of freshwater fish. The expenditure incurred (revised estimate) is \$19.4 million.

The wholesaling of marine fish is conducted at the wholesale fish markets operated by the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO). FMO is a self-financing and non-profit making statutory organisation. It is headed by the Director of Marketing, a position currently held by the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (DAFC). In discharging his duties as the Director of Marketing, DAFC is supported by Assistant Director (Fisheries), one Senior Fisheries Officer and one Fisheries Officer, who also take up other duties. The operation of FMO is carried out by its own staff with its own budget. In 2013-14, the amount of government expenditure incurred in overseeing the administration of FMO is about \$1.2 million.

Wholesale quantity of marine fish over the past three years (2011 to 2013)

Calendar Year	Fish	Total quantity (tonnes)	Daily average quantity (tonnes)	Highest daily quantity (tonnes)	Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)
2011	Golden thread (紅衫)	3730.7	10.2	14.9	6.6
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	3033.5	8.3	11.4	4.5
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	1651.3	4.5	5.4	3.0
	Big-eyes (木棉)	3223.1	8.8	12.7	5.1
	Scads (池魚)	1896.3	5.2	7.6	2.7
	Breams (立魚)	1247.2	3.4	4.6	2.4
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	1027.8	2.8	3.6	1.7
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	1041.2	2.9	4.2	1.5
	Croakers (或魚)	1306.9	3.6	4.9	2.7
2012	Golden thread (紅衫)	3740.5	10.2	12.1	7.7
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	3364.4	9.2	11.2	7.3
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	1482.0	4.0	5.8	2.8
	Big-eyes (木棉)	3392.7	9.3	10.7	7.0
	Scads (池魚)	2123.3	5.8	8.6	3.3
	Breams (立魚)	1493.8	4.1	5.0	2.8
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	1171.0	3.2	4.6	2.2
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	1192.2	3.3	4.7	1.7
	Croakers (或魚)	1183.3	3.2	4.1	2.5
2013	Golden thread (紅衫)	3971.9	10.9	12.7	7.1
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	3854.9	10.6	12.5	7.3
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	1855.0	5.1	5.8	3.9
	Big-eyes (木棉)	4050.0	11.1	13.6	7.1
	Scads (池魚)	1637.9	4.5	7.2	2.4
	Breams (立魚)	2130.0	5.8	6.9	4.5
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	1289.5	3.5	4.7	2.4
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	1281.8	3.5	4.4	2.3
	Croakers (或魚)	785.8	2.2	2.7	1.1

● Data on Filefish are not readily available.

Monthly average wholesale price of marine fish over the past three years (2011 to 2013)

Calendar Year	Fish	Monthly average wholesale price (\$/kg)											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	Golden thread (紅衫)	38.99	38.55	33.34	32.83	31.31	35.86	37.67	37.81	37.24	44.37	42.32	43.35
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	37.69	37.43	31.86	32.64	31.14	32.71	35.51	34.93	34.72	39.73	37.28	41.87
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	74.71	62.37	66.84	86.99	70.18	49.26	50.15	51.7	58.38	70.51	66.2	63.55
	Big-eyes (木棉)	41.79	43.77	43.05	41.76	41.81	45.31	43	43.69	44.48	45.76	46.53	48.52
	Scads (池魚)	9.3	10.41	10.93	9.34	9.8	10.13	11.15	9.86	10.28	13.63	13.55	13.1
	Breams (立魚)	54.75	61.5	55.29	55.18	55.73	49.38	50.87	52.06	51.26	56.8	58.64	59.38
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	22.89	27.34	26.75	28.05	27.96	26.32	22.43	25.53	27.9	29.77	31.15	30.97
	Mackerels (鯪魚)	42.1	43.6	41.76	41.36	40.91	38.18	43.84	41.84	53.96	47.86	46.55	48.12
	Croakers (或魚)	15.63	15.95	15.33	17.17	15.66	15.91	19.43	18.53	16.76	17.33	18.19	18.11
2012	Golden thread (紅衫)	46.54	46.09	43.72	39.77	38.6	46.94	46	43.14	40.85	42.47	44.68	48.32
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	42.55	43.9	41.5	36.1	36.09	37.63	36.72	35.81	36.33	37.48	38.47	40.32
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	62.75	64.94	68.07	63.91	60.08	65.84	74.81	72.01	72.76	81.4	84.86	74.32
	Big-eyes (木棉)	50.58	47.71	46.78	45.36	47.95	51.25	49.56	46.69	49.74	52.29	45.82	49.16
	Scads (池魚)	13.74	14.52	12.78	13.17	11.96	14.47	13.16	11.53	12.09	13.81	13.44	14.07
	Breams (立魚)	60.86	58.96	58.54	62.87	63.84	58.4	54.09	52.29	48.64	55.3	57.2	56.58
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	31.11	33.4	33.11	32.57	32.91	28.97	27.58	28.87	31.3	31.74	31.65	31.56
	Mackerels (鯪魚)	49.91	52.67	53.31	53.9	51.61	46.52	47.78	42.52	43.06	50.03	51.19	53.56
	Croakers (或魚)	18.49	18.55	18.16	17.35	17.16	17.46	21.77	18.1	16.13	17.07	17.62	22.15
2013	Golden thread (紅衫)	48.33	49.02	49.54	45.59	42.16	50.44	51.29	50.13	48	52.68	55.64	55.25
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	41.39	43.12	42.19	39.31	39.1	42.26	43.35	40.67	38.62	47.95	45.68	41.02
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	77.23	73.67	69.6	72.35	60.65	66.7	69.9	67.19	66.67	79.89	79.55	79.59
	Big-eyes (木棉)	50.66	53.81	54.35	51.32	50.62	56.31	61.3	59.13	53.57	60.7	53.6	52.2
	Scads (池魚)	15.15	14.83	12.97	15.04	15.26	15.47	8.95	15.75	14.19	14.47	14.62	16.97
	Breams (立魚)	57.91	58.8	59.76	58.51	57.62	60.72	61.6	55.49	54.27	59.93	61.73	59.67
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	34.15	36.98	36.35	33.87	35.86	38.89	39	37.32	35.32	35.76	36.49	35.47
	Mackerels (鯪魚)	56.39	59.06	57.63	53.01	55.15	58.13	56.18	53.91	54.52	55.79	56.01	58.99
	Croakers (或魚)	21.08	19.67	19.08	19.8	18.34	24.72	20.38	20.52	18.24	19.9	19.63	20.98

- Data on Filefish are not readily available.
- The highest and lowest monthly wholesale prices of marine fish are not readily available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)201****(Question Serial No. 5146)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Pages 38-40 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 56):

Regarding the wholesaling of vegetables, please advise on the following:

- What were the annual total and daily average wholesale quantity, as well as the highest and lowest figures thereof for different kinds of vegetables (including Flowering Cabbage, Water Cress, White Cabbage, Broccoli, Chinese Lettuce, Green Cabbage, Chrysanthemum Garland, Tomato, Chinese Kale, Pea Shoot, European Celery, Potato and Spinach etc.) over the past three years (2011-12 to 2013-14)?
- What were the monthly average, the highest and lowest value for different kinds of vegetables (including Flowering Cabbage, Water Cress, White Cabbage, Broccoli, Chinese Lettuce, Green Cabbage, Chrysanthemum Garland, Tomato, Chinese Kale, Pea Shoot, European Celery, Potato and Spinach etc.) over the past three years (2011-12 to 2013-14)?
- What is the Government's overall expenditure on handling matters relating to the wholesaling of vegetables? What is the respective staff establishment involved?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

- The quantity of vegetables is kept on a calendar year basis. The annual total quantity, the daily average quantity, the highest and the lowest daily quantity of vegetables wholesaled through the government wholesale food markets over the past three years are shown below. We do not have breakdown on the figures for different kinds of vegetables.

Year	Total quantity (tonnes)	Daily average quantity (tonnes)	Highest daily quantity (tonnes)	Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)
2011	274,556	752	950	91
2012	274,453	750	936	108
2013	260,383	713	959	150

- The wholesale value of vegetables is kept on a calendar year basis. The monthly average value, the highest and the lowest monthly average value for vegetables wholesaled through the government wholesale food markets over the past three years are shown below. We do not have breakdown on the figures for different kinds of vegetables.

Year	Monthly average wholesale value (\$/tonne)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	9,407	8,205^	9,452	8,850	9,139	8,824	8,612	9,139	9,675	10,373*	9,829	9,905
2012	9,452^	9,684	10,976	10,521	12,081*	9,578	9,835	10,586	10,562	9,960	9,996	11,511
2013	11,614	10,160	10,101^	13,953 *	11,004	10,729	11,177	11,891	12,536	10,793	11,229	11,251

* Highest monthly value ^ Lowest monthly value

- (c) In 2013-14, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department spent \$25.0 million on the management of government wholesale food markets relating to the wholesaling of vegetables. The number of staff involved is 15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)202****(Question Serial No. 4676)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 38 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 174):

Regarding the information about the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme in each of the past five years (2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14), please advise on:

- the details of expenditure on implementing the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme, including the departmental manpower and expenditure involved; the numbers of applications for agricultural land rehabilitation, participating land owners, cases of successful matching, as well as the area of land involved in each case;
- the numbers of new applicants for agricultural land rehabilitation, cumulative numbers of applicants on the waiting list and the area of land involved;
- the numbers of cases of successful matching, area of land and rentals involved in each case as well as the average and the longest waiting time;
- Does the Administration put in place any measures to increase the chance of successful matching and reduce the waiting time for agricultural land rehabilitation?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

- (a) to (c) The manpower deployed and expenditure involved in operating the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (the Scheme) and the relevant statistics on the cases handled over the past five years are tabulated below:

Calendar Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Manpower	1	1	1	1	1
Expenditure (\$ million)	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.9
Number of landowners participating in the Scheme	19	10	14	10	18
Number of successful cases	20	20	17	9	14
Farmlands successfully leased out (hectare)	4.1	2.9	2.8	3.4	6.2
Farm sizes for successful cases (d.c.*) / average (d.c.*)	2 to 9 / 3.2	1 to 8 / 3.3	1 to 8 / 3.2	2 to 16 / 5.6	1 to 30 / 6.5

Calendar Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Rent per d.c.* per year for successful cases	\$1,000- \$2,400	\$1,200 - \$3,600	\$1,200 - \$10,000	\$1,200 - \$5,000	\$850- \$43,500
Longest waiting time for successful cases (year) / average waiting time (year)	2 / 1.1	3 / 2	8 / 2.5	4 / 3.5	4.5 / 4
Number of new applications / land area involved (hectare)	32 / 2.6	63 / 10.6	62 / 12.8	38 / 7.7	51 / 7.8
Cumulative number of waiting cases as at end of that year/ land area involved (hectare)	104 / 29.9	147 / 37.6	192 / 47.6	221 / 51.9	258 / 53.5

*1 d.c. (dau chung) is equivalent to 7260 square feet

- (d) In 2014-15, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue to liaise with landowners for leasing out fallow 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 2013-14 will be allocated.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)203****(Question Serial No. 4174)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 39 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 190):

Please specify the expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department on promoting organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production over the past five years. Please set out the Department's estimated expenditure on the same aspects in 2014-15.

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)				
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (revised estimate)
Organic cultivation	4.8	6.8	7.1	6.7	6.6
Intensive greenhouse production	3.7	4.1	4.4	4.9	5.1

Provision earmarked for the work in 2014-15 is similar to the revised estimate for 2013-14.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)204****(Question Serial No. 4180)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 199):

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. 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14). Please advise on the Department's estimated expenditure on the same aspects in 2014-15.

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:

Financial Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (revised estimate)
Expenditure (\$ million)	20.5	25.0	30.6	34.3	32.7

In 2014-15, \$32.7 million has been earmarked for this area of work.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)205

(Question Serial No. 5577)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume1 Page 39 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 75):

Regarding the support rendered to the Food and Health Bureau in devising policy and measures to sustain and upgrade the development of local agriculture, please advise on the following:

- (a) Does it include the work of “allocating resources to foster agricultural development, and promoting community agriculture so as to encourage farmers to cultivate organic vegetables”?
- (b) If yes, what are the details?
- (c) If not, is it covered in other subheads?
- (d) If not in (c), what are the reasons?
- (e) If yes in (c), what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

- (a)-(e) The Food and Health Bureau with support from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is reviewing the agricultural policy with a view to enhancing productivity and promoting sustainable development of local agriculture. This will include introducing modern and environment-friendly agricultural technologies that help conserve our natural resources and the agricultural ecology, so as to supply quality produce to the people of Hong Kong and promote the diversified development of the rural areas. At present, AFCD has been pursuing various programmes and activities to sustain and upgrade the development 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. Such efforts will continue.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)206****(Question Serial No. 5377)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 54):

What was the respective total expenditure involved in providing inoculation and de-sexing services for dogs and cats, and what were the average costs of each inoculation and de-sexing treatment, over the three financial years of 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14? What are the estimated figures for 2014-15?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The expenditure involved in providing rabies vaccine inoculation and de-sexing services for dogs and cats in the past three years is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	
	Inoculation	De-sexing
2011-12	2.4	1.0
2012-13	2.4	1.0
2013-14 (revised estimate)	2.9	1.0

In 2014-15, \$2.9 million and \$1.0 million have been earmarked for providing rabies vaccine inoculation and de-sexing services for dogs and cats respectively.

The average unit cost for inoculating and de-sexing one animal in the past three years is as follows:

Financial Year	Unit Cost for Inoculation (\$)	Unit Cost for De-sexing (\$)
2011-12	41	1,000
2012-13	39	500
2013-14 (revised estimate)	49	680

It is estimated that the average unit cost for inoculating one animal in 2014-15 would remain roughly the same as that in 2013-14, while the average unit cost for de-sexing one animal in 2014-15 would depend on the price quoted in the tender in the coming tender exercise.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)207

(Question Serial No. 5378)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 55):

Regarding animals caught and handed to the Department, will more resources be allocated in 2014-15 to (a) keep them for a longer period of time; (b) set up re-homing centres under the Department; and (c) take other measures such as opening the animal management centres to the public, 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 through other channels by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) usually stay in the 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 efforts to promote re-homing of animals through a number of new and enhanced measures. These include (a) inviting more AWOs to enter partnership with AFCD to provide re-homing services for different kinds of animals including dogs, cats, rabbits, birds and reptiles; (b) strengthening collaboration with and the provision of technical and financial support to partner AWOs in re-homing of animals; (c) providing free de-sexing services for animals re-homed through partner AWOs; (d) organising educational and publicity events jointly with AWOs to promote animal adoption; and (e) placing advertisements regarding animal re-homing on platforms such as radio, public transport, magazines and websites.

Through the above efforts, the number of animals re-homed has increased from 758 in 2009 to 1 092 in 2013, notwithstanding the decrease in the total number of animals received by AFCD over the past five years. The average number of days an animal stayed in AMCs has increased from 6.6 days in 2009 to 8.7 days in 2013. 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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 5379)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 56):

The Department will strengthen measures for stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare in 2014-15. What are the details and the estimated expenditure in this regard?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

In recent years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been strengthening its efforts in the areas of stray animal management and promotion of animal welfare through a number of new and enhanced measures. In particular, AFCD has established a dedicated education team to devise and implement an enhanced public education and publicity programme to promote responsible pet ownership and proper care for animals, advise against the abandonment and needless surrendering of pets and champion the need for dog licensing and rabies vaccination as well as the benefits of neutering. Relevant activities include producing announcements in the public interest on television and radio; placing advertisements on different platforms such as cinemas, public transport, bus stops, magazines and websites; organising promotional events jointly with different animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in shopping arcades and outdoor venues; conducting village and community campaigns as well as holding talks in schools and housing estates. In addition, AFCD has recently revamped its website to further promote respect for animals and provide information on proper care for animals. As a result of the sustained efforts, the number of animals surrendered by owners and the number of stray animals caught have decreased by 39% and 42% respectively over the past five years.

In 2014-15, AFCD will continue to pursue various measures for managing animals and promoting animal welfare. These include (i) implementing and enhancing the public education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (ii) assisting the AWOs concerned in rolling out the "Trap-Neuter-Return" trial scheme for stray dogs; (iii) 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); (iv) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals; (v) taking enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant legislation; (vi) 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 (Hong Kong); (vii) 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 (viii) 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 \$3.4 million, which includes resources for four staff (one Veterinary Officer, one Veterinarian and two Animal Management Inspectors), has been earmarked for the implementation of the above enhanced measures in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)209****(Question Serial No. 5380)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 57):

What was the expenditure involved in the Department's promotion of re-homing of animals over the past five years? What are the details in this regard?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

In recent years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been strengthening its efforts to promote re-homing of animals through a number of new and enhanced measures. These include (a) inviting more animal welfare organisations (AWOs) to enter partnership with AFCD to provide re-homing services for different kinds of animals including dogs, cats, rabbits, birds and reptiles; (b) strengthening collaboration with and the provision of technical and financial support to partner AWOs in re-homing of animals; (c) providing free de-sexing services for animals re-homed through partner AWOs; (d) organising educational and publicity events jointly with AWOs to promote animal adoption; and (e) placing advertisements regarding animal re-homing on platforms such as radio, public transport, magazines and websites.

The expenditure involved in promotion of animal re-homing in the past five years is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2009-10	1.7
2010-11	3.2
2011-12	4.3
2012-13	4.5
2013-14 (revised estimate)	4.4

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)210****(Question Serial No. 5381)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 58):

What was the number of complaints about stray animals which the Department received over the past five years? Would a catching operation be undertaken for each complaint? If not, on what basis would a decision be made? What was the percentage of complaints for which catching operations were undertaken?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

Upon receipt of complaints related to stray animals, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will conduct investigations and inspections first. In deciding whether or not to launch a catching operation, AFCD will take into account factors such as whether the animal appears to be lost or causing nuisance and threats to members of the public, and whether the location concerned is safe for the conduct of a catching operation. The number of complaints related to stray animals and the number of stray animals caught in the past five years are as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of Complaints related to Stray Animals				Number of Stray Animals Caught			
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Total	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Total
2009	11 809	6 136	394	18 339	7 850	4 570	1 361	13 781
2010	10 562	4 900	445	15 907	6 519	3 907	411	10 837
2011	10 194	4 730	430	15 354	5 800	3 557	331	9 688
2012	9 369	4 459	467	14 295	4 722	3 027	260	8 009
2013	8 664	4 578	437	13 679	4 626	2 866	444	7 936

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

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)211****(Question Serial No. 5861)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 39 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 476):

It is stated in the Policy Address that the Government will review its agricultural policy and consultation will be carried out within this year. It is also stated in Programme (1) under Head 22 of the Estimates that the Department will "support the Food and Health Bureau in devising policy and measures to sustain and upgrade the development of local agriculture".

Please provide the following information:

Research Projects	Consultant Companies	Specific Timetable	Details of Public Consultations	Targets of Consultations
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Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

The Government is now reviewing the agricultural policy to enhance productivity and promote sustainable development of local agriculture and will carry out consultation in due course. In maintaining and upgrading the development of local agriculture, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has been pursuing various programmes and activities for the purpose. 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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)212

(Question Serial No. 4677)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 46 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 83):

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

	2013-14 (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	()
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 NCSC staff who received severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity paid	()
Number of NCSC staff with severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Number of staff with paid meal break	()
Number of staff without paid meal break	()
Number of staff on five-day week	()
Number of staff on six-day week	()

Figures in () denote percentage changes compared with the same period in 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Details of the information are as follows:

	2013-14 (as at 31 December 2013)
Number of NCSC staff	256 (-15.8%)
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 [23 staff], technical support [144 staff], administrative support [31 staff] and other services [58 staff].
Salary expenditure for NCSC staff	\$54,360,153 (-2.2%)
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff	
• \$30,001 or above	36 (+2.9%)
• \$16,001 to \$30,000	18 (+5.9%)
• \$8,001 to \$16,000	202 (-19.8%)
• \$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	10 (-47.4%)
• 5 to 10 years	45 (-50%)
• 3 to 5 years	8 (-33.3%)
• 1 to 3 years	119 (+25.3%)
• less than 1 year	74 (-15.9%)
Number of staff converted to civil servants	35 (+29.6%) [Note 1]
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the Department	12.4% (-4.8 percentage points)
Percentage of payment for NCSC staff in the total staff costs of the Department	8.2% (-3.3 percentage points)
Number of NCSC staff who received severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity	52 (+116.7%)
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity paid	\$3,105,851 (+152.7%)
Number of NCSC staff with severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	52 (+116.7%) [Note 2]
Amount of severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	\$2,363,001 (+243.2%) [Note 2]
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	256 (-15.8%)
Number of staff on six-day week	-

Figures in () denote percentage changes compared with the same period in 2012-13

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 through open recruitment.

Note 2: There is no case of "contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to the employer's contributions to MPF".

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.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)213

(Question Serial No. 4678)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (-) Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 46 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 84):

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

	2013-14 (latest position)
Number of contracts of engaging employment agencies	()
Contract sum paid to each employment agency	()
Length of contract for each employment agency	()
Number of agency workers	()
Breakdown of posts taken up by agency workers	
Monthly salary range of agency workers	
• \$30,001 or above	()
• \$16,001 to \$30,000	()
• \$8,001 to \$16,000	()
• \$6,501 to \$8,000	()
• \$6,240 to \$6,500	()
• below \$6,240	()
Length of service of agency 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 who received severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity paid	()
Number of workers with severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()

	2013-14 (latest position)
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 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Details of the information are as follows:

	2013-14 (as at 18 February 2014)
Number of contracts of engaging employment agencies	3 (-70%)
Contract sum paid to each employment agency	\$0.07 to 0.51 million (-75% on average)
Length of contract for each employment agency	5 to 9 months
Number of agency workers	9 (-85%)
Breakdown of posts taken up by agency workers	The workers mainly provide general and/ or clerical support services.
Monthly salary range of agency workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$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 	[Note 1]
Length of service of agency workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • above 15 years • 10 to 15 years • 5 to 10 years • 3 to 5 years • 1 to 3 years • less than 1 year 	[Note 2]
Percentage of agency workers in the total number of staff in the Department	0.4% (-2.5 percentage points)
Percentage of payment for employment agencies in the total staff costs of the Department	0.2% (-0.4 percentage points)
Number of workers who received severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity	[Note 3]
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity paid	
Number of workers with severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	
Amount of severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	
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 2012-13

- 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 employment contracts between the agencies and their workers.
- Note 2: Under the government service 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.
- Note 3: Relevant information is not specified in the government service contract and hence not available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)214****(Question Serial No. 4679)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 46 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 85):

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

	2013-14 (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 who received severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity paid	()
Number of workers with severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()
Amount of severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	()

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 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Details of the information are as follows:

	2013-14 (as at 18 February 2014)
Number of outsourced service contracts	36 (-18.2%)
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers	\$18.2 million (+0.6%)
Length of contract for each outsourced service provider	5 to 36 months
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	166 (-9.8%)
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 cleansing or security services.
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$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 	[Note 1]
Length of service of outsourced workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • above 15 years • 10 to 15 years • 5 to 10 years • 3 to 5 years • 1 to 3 years • less than 1 year 	[Note 2]
Percentage of outsourced workers in the total number of staff in the Department	8.0% (-0.9 percentage points)
Percentage of payment for outsourced service providers in the total staff costs of the Department	2.8% (No change)
Number of workers who received severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity	[Note 3]
Amount of severance payment/long service payment/contract gratuity paid	
Number of workers with severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	
Amount of severance payment/long service payment offset by or contract gratuity calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to employer's contributions to MPF	
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 2012-13

- 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 employment contracts between the outsourced service providers and their workers.
- Note 2: Under the government service 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 government service contract and hence not available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)215****(Question Serial No. 4706)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 75):

Regarding "strengthening measures for stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare":

- (a) please set out the numbers of stray cattle over the past three years (2011, 2012 and 2013), with a breakdown by district.
- (b) please set out the numbers of complaints about stray cattle that were received over the past three years (2011, 2012 and 2013), with a breakdown by district. Was opposition or support also indicated in such complaints regarding the problem of stray cattle? If yes, please set out the numbers of those indicating opposition and those indicating support.
- (c) what was the expenditure involved in the recent operation of swapping stray cattle between Lantau Island and Sai Kung? Had the Administration conducted any public consultation before deciding to carry out the operation?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hingReply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducts territory-wide population survey on stray cattle every 4-5 years to monitor the long-term changes in cattle population. The last one was conducted in 2012. The estimated number of stray cattle and their distribution according to the survey results in 2012 are shown below:

	Estimated Number of Stray Cattle (Head)				
	Lantau Island	Sai Kung/ Ma On Shan	Northeast New Territories	Central New Territories	Total
Brown Cattle	200	500	200	200	1 100
Buffalo	80	0	0	50	130
Total	280	500	200	250	1 230

- (b) The number of cattle related complaints over the past three years is as follows:

Calendar Year	Lantau Island	Sai Kung	Northeast and Central New Territories	Total
2011	Breakdown by district is not available			245
2012	68	55	26	149
2013	58	41	15	114

The above-quoted cattle-related complaints concern environmental nuisances, traffic blockage and disturbances to humans caused by stray cattle as well as reports of cattle injury and accidents. They do not include the expression of opinions regarding the management of stray cattle.

- (c) AFCD has consulted relevant District Councils, rural committees, local communities and animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in the process of formulating the long-term strategy and the related measures including the Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation (CSR) programme. AFCD has also been maintaining close liaison with and keeping the concerned parties updated on the progress of the CSR programme. The “cross-district relocation pilot scheme” is an enhanced initiative under the CSR programme. It has been launched to help tackle the problem of relocated cattle roaming back onto roads and returning to their original dwelling places in town centres. AFCD has on different occasions briefed the relevant AWOs and other interested parties on the details of the pilot scheme and will keep them posted of developments from time to time. The total estimated expenditure involved in 2013-14 is about \$0.2 million, and \$0.41 million has been earmarked for this area of work in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4707)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 43 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 79):

Regarding "measures for promotion of animal welfare",

- (a) please set out in detail the measures concerned and the expenditure involved;
- (b) please set out the numbers of complaints received, cases handled and prosecutions taken in relation to animal cruelty matters over the past five years (2009-2013);
- (c) will the Administration put in place measures to reduce the number of animal cruelty cases, such as imposing heavier penalties for a greater deterrent effect? If yes, what are the details? What is the estimated expenditure involved? If not, what are the details?
- (d) will the Administration consider setting up an "Animal Police" team specifically tasked to handle animal cruelty cases? If yes, what are the details? What is the estimated expenditure involved? If not, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) In recent years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been strengthening its efforts in the areas of stray animal management and promotion of animal welfare through a number of new and enhanced measures. In particular, AFCD has established a dedicated education team to devise and implement an enhanced public education and publicity programme to promote responsible pet ownership and proper care for animals, advise against the abandonment and needless surrendering of pets and champion the need for dog licensing and rabies vaccination as well as benefits of neutering. Relevant activities include producing announcements in the public interest on television and radio; placing advertisements on different platforms such as cinemas, public transport, bus stops, magazines and websites; organising promotional events jointly with different animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in shopping arcades and outdoor venues; conducting village and community campaigns, as well as holding talks in schools and housing estates. In addition, AFCD has recently revamped its website to further promote respect for animals and provide information on proper care for animals.

Besides, AFCD has continued to pursue other measures for managing animals and promoting animal welfare. These include (i) assisting the AWOs concerned in rolling out the "Trap-Neuter-Return" trial scheme for stray dogs; (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) taking enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant legislation; (v) improving the handling of reports or complaints on cruelty to animals through the inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) (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.

The total estimated expenditure involved in the management of stray animals and promotion of animal welfare in 2013-14 is about \$32.7 million.

- (b) The number of complaints received and handled by AFCD and the number of successful prosecution regarding cruelty to animals over the past five years are as follows:

Calendar Year	Number of Complaints Received and Handled by AFCD	Number of Successful Prosecutions
2009	86	7
2010	80	0
2011	63	5
2012	49	5
2013	122	2

- (c) AFCD is one of the departments involved in the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169). The on-going work carried out by AFCD 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.

At present, the maximum penalty under Cap. 169 is a fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for three years. It was raised, by a significant margin, from a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for six months in 2006 with the support of the Legislative Council. The level of penalty imposed by the court is generally higher than what it used to be before the penalty provisions in the Ordinance were amended. The heaviest sentence handed down so far is imprisonment for sixteen months. The Administration is of the view that the maximum penalty under the Ordinance and the level of penalty imposed by the court offer sufficient deterrence against acts of animal cruelty. At present, we have no plan to propose any amendment to the penalty levels.

- (d) The Animal Watch Scheme introduced in 2011 aims to consolidate collaboration among various stakeholders and strengthen the Police's efforts in the investigation of animal cruelty cases. The Scheme is supported by two professional veterinary associations, namely the Hong Kong Veterinary Association and China (Hong Kong) Veterinary Association. Both associations encourage their members to report suspected acts of cruelty to animals. All cases of cruelty to animals reported to the Police are currently investigated by crime investigation teams, which possess the professional knowhow and experience required to follow up cases of cruelty to animals amongst other criminal cases. Depending on the geographical distribution and profile of the cases, the Police will consider deploying special teams to tackle the cases with a view to delivering early results through more focused and robust investigations. These arrangements allow the Police to deploy its limited resources flexibly in conjunction with the Scheme, thereby enhancing effectiveness in combating animal cruelty cases. The Government has no plan to establish an animal police team.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)217

(Question Serial No. 5227)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 47 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 3):

What is the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's estimated expenditure on duty visits to Mainland China in 2014-15? Please advise on the duty visits to Mainland China planned for 2014-15. How would the relevant authority avoid activities that are not related to its official duties during a duty visit outside Hong Kong, and prevent the requirement to apply for change in locations to be visited from becoming a mere formality?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

Officers of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will conduct duty visits to the Mainland in 2014-15 on the basis of operational needs for the purpose of promoting further cooperation and exchanges in the professional areas under the auspices of AFCD, and attending meetings and conferences. There are no specific visit plans for the time being.

Duty visits, if publicly funded, are subject to control under relevant regulations and guidelines to ensure effective monitoring and proper use of public funds. There is control on various aspects including the following: duty visits should only be conducted when there are strong operational reasons; formal prior approval is required for all duty visits and non-official activities should be avoided; the officers concerned should provide all necessary information in respect of the proposed visit as far as possible when submitting the application; if there are any subsequent changes to the arrangements, the officers concerned should inform the approving officers as soon as possible who should then assess whether re-consideration of the application is needed.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)218

(Question Serial No. 5033)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume1 Page 38 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 88):

Regarding the provision of infrastructural support to local farmers mentioned in this Programme, please inform this Committee of:

- (a) the numbers of requests for assistance in identifying agricultural land or building agricultural structures received by the Department, and the numbers of cases referred to the Lands Department in each of the past three years;
- (b) the numbers of cases of assistance successfully rendered in identifying agricultural land for rehabilitation, and the area of agricultural land for rehabilitation involved in each of the past three years;
- (c) the area of land for agricultural uses in each of the past three years according to the Department's records, broken down by 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

- (a) & (b) The number of applications for erecting agricultural structures and for leasing agricultural land under the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (the Scheme) and related statistics over the past three years are tabulated below:

Calendar Year	Number of Applications for Erection of Agricultural Structures	Application for Leasing Agricultural Land under the Scheme		
		Number of new Applications	Number of Successful Cases	Area of Farmland leased out through the Scheme (hectare)
2011	6	62	17	2.8
2012	12	38	9	3.4
2013	18	51	14	6.2

- (c) The area of land under agricultural use according to the records of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in the 18 districts of Hong Kong over the past three years is tabulated below:

Districts	Area under Agricultural Use (hectare)		
	2011	2012	2013
Central & Western	0	0	0
Wan Chai	0	0	0
Eastern	0	0	0
Southern	4	4	4
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	0
Sham Shui Po	0	0	0
Kowloon City	0	0	0
Wong Tai Sin	0	0	0
Kwun Tong	0	0	0
Tsuen Wan	20	20	20
Tuen Mun	73	68	69
Yuen Long	229	224	220
Kwai Tsing	2	2	2
Islands	35	35	35
North	270	277	286
Tai Po	69	70	61
Sai Kung	20	20	20
Sha Tin	12	12	12
Total:	734	732	729

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)219

(Question Serial No. 5035)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume1 Page 38 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 90):

Regarding the new facilities in relation to agriculture and fisheries and fresh food wholesale markets, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Please provide in tabular form the information of land newly reverted to the Department each year from 2011 to 2014, including: (i) the location of the land, (ii) the area of the land, (iii) the facilities to be built on the land and their uses, (iv) the completion date of the facilities (or expected completion date if the facilities are not yet completed);
- (b) Is there any plan to build facilities in relation to policies on agriculture and fisheries and fresh food wholesale markets in 2014-15? If yes, please provide the details, including (i) the location of the land, (ii) the area of the land, (iii) the facilities to be built on the land and their uses, (iv) the expected completion date of the facilities.

Asked by: Hon.WU Chi-wai

Reply:

- (a) There is no land allocated to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) from 2011 to 2014 for building new facilities in relation to agriculture and fisheries and fresh food wholesale markets.
- (b) AFCD has no plan to build facilities in relation to policies on agriculture and fisheries and fresh food wholesale markets in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)220

(Question Serial No. 5041)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Alan WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 46 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 96):

Regarding the Non-recurrent expenditure under subhead 700, please inform this Committee of the reasons for the significant difference between the approved and revised estimates for 2013-14.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

The revised estimate in 2013-14 of the General non-recurrent expenditure under subhead 700 is lower than the approved estimate in 2013-14 by 81.7% mainly due to two factors. First, the number of applications for buying out affected inshore trawler vessels received was less than originally estimated. Second, the approved estimate in 2013-14 includes the reserved amount of the approved ex-gratia allowance for covering possible successful appeal cases to be determined by the Fishermen Claims Appeal Board (FCAB). The appeal proceedings of FCAB are still in progress and the reserved amount of ex-gratia allowance is yet to be apportioned to successful claimants to be determined by FCAB. This leads to the significant difference between the approved and revised estimate of the General non-recurrent expenditure in 2013-14.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)221

(Question Serial No. 6094)

Head: (48) Government Laboratory
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) Advisory and Investigative Services
Controlling Officer: Government Chemist (Dr. LAU Chau-ming)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 281 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 457):

The numbers of tests performed by the Government Laboratory on pesticides formulation samples are 240 and 160 in 2012 and 2013 respectively, while the estimated number of such tests is 300 in 2014. In this connection, will the Administration advise this Committee why there was a substantial decrease in the number of such tests in 2013? Why will there be a significant increase in 2014?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

The 240 and 160 tests performed on 50 and 58 pesticide formulation samples in 2012 and 2013 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). The estimated number of 300 tests in 2014 is based on the actual workload in the previous five years.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)222****(Question Serial No. 5405)**

Head: (48) Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Statutory Testing

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist (Dr. LAU Chau-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 280 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 84):

With respect to the outsourcing of some of the routine food testing work to the private sector, please advise on:

1. the details and the estimated expenditure involved;
2. the number of testing work outsourced, the number of contractors undertaking the outsourced testing work and the expenditure involved over the past 3 years (i.e. 2011-2013); and
3. the reasons for outsourcing the routine food testing work, and how the Administration will monitor and guarantee the quality of the testing work.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply:

1. Since 2008, the Government Laboratory (GL) 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 drug residues and other food contaminants. The estimated expenditure on outsourcing of food testing to the private sector for 2014-15 is \$12 million.

2. The required information is as follows:

Financial year	Number of food tests (number of samples involved)	Number of private laboratories involved	Expenditure
2011-12	115 000 (12 800 samples)	4	\$12 million
2012-13	118 000 (12 800 samples)	4	\$12 million
2013-14	119 000 (13 000 samples) (estimated)	4	\$12 million (revised estimate)

3. Outsourcing some routine food testing work to the private testing laboratories is for the better utilization of GL's resources. 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 organization of technical seminars as well as other duties including testing work for urgent food incidents. GL has been undertaking a series of measures, including on-site audits, implementation of quality control programme and review of test data, to monitor the performance of the contract laboratories.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)223

(Question Serial No. 5246)

Head: (48) Government Laboratory

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Government Chemist (Dr. LAU Chau-ming)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security, Secretary for Food and Health, Secretary for the Environment

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 288 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 22):

What is the 2014-15 estimate for the Government Laboratory's duty visits or exchanges in the Mainland? Please provide information about the themes of duty visits or exchanges in the Mainland planned for 2014-15. How will the Administration prevent activities irrelevant to official duties from taking place during duty visits outside Hong Kong? And how will the Administration prevent applications for revising visit destinations from becoming a mere formality?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

Officers of the Government Laboratory will conduct duty visits to the Mainland in 2014-15 with regard to operational needs, such as promoting further cooperation and exchanges with relevant Mainland authorities and testing institutions in the areas of testing and related sciences, attending relevant meetings and conferences, etc. There are no specific visit plans for the time being.

Duty visits, if publicly funded, are subject to control under relevant regulations and guidelines to ensure effective monitoring and proper use of public funds. There is control on various aspects, such as duty visits should only be conducted when there are strong operational reasons; formal prior approval is required for all duty visits and non-official activities should be avoided; the officers concerned should provide all necessary information in respect of the proposed visit as far as possible when submitting the application; if there are any subsequent changes to the arrangements, the officers concerned should inform the approving officers as soon as possible who should then assess whether re-consideration of the application is needed.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)224****(Question Serial No. 3713)**

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 214):

Regarding the provision of litter bins and recycle bins in public areas by the Department, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the number of litter bins and recycle bins in each of the 18 administrative districts over the past three years; and
- (b) whether the Department will allocate additional resources to provide more recycle bins in public areas or replace some of the litter bins currently in use by recycle bins in 2014-15; if yes, the specific details and the estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

- (a) Information on the number of litter containers (LCs) and recyclables collection bins (RCBs) provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in the 18 administrative districts is given below –

Districts	2011		2012		2013	
	LCs	RCBs	LCs	RCBs	LCs	RCBs
Eastern	1 004	67	998	69	998	69
Wanchai	1 216	93	1 216	94	1 216	94
Central & Western	1 592	141	1 607	144	1 607	146
Southern	747	62	747	67	699	71
Islands	741	120	988	124	951	130
Kowloon City	1 260	64	1 044	68	960	68
Kwun Tong	1 162	46	1 168	47	1 019	46
Sham Shui Po	1 103	57	1 070	57	1 068	57
Wong Tai Sin	768	38	731	38	729	38
Yau Tsim Mong	1 605	124	1 605	125	1 608	128
Tai Po	1 225	127	1 350	131	1 350	159
North	717	186	690	187	730	185
Yuen Long	1 357	238	1 376	237	1 445	240
Tuen Mun	952	103	952	103	994	102

Sai Kung	1 421	215	1 492	219	1 492	201
Sha Tin	2 268	103	2 268	104	2 233	105
Kwai Tsing	998	57	1 001	57	1 001	57
Tsuen Wan	811	92	813	93	816	95
Total	20 947	1 933	21 116	1 964	20 916	1 991

Notes

- (i) LCs are provided for collection of ordinary street litter.
- (ii) RCBs are provided in a set of three to four bins for collection of waste paper, metal and plastic materials.

(b) The Department's primary role in waste collection is to maintain environmental hygiene. In 2014-15, we will continue to support the "Hong Kong: Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022" of the Environment Bureau in reducing municipal solid waste. The Department will continue to review the number and location of LCs and RCBs placed in public places, and will adjust their location and number where appropriate. The estimated expenditure on street cleansing service and waste collection service in 2014-15 is \$1,772.8 million and \$484 million respectively. Separate breakdown showing the expenditure on the provision of LCs and RCBs is not available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3714)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 215):

Last year, it was found that outsourced cleansing workers of the Department had to change their uniforms in outdoor areas. Regarding the arrangements for outsourced cleansing workers to change their clothes and take rest breaks, please advise this Committee on the following:

- a) whether all outsourced cleansing workers are provided with regular changing or rest facilities in indoor premises; if not, the number of cleansing workers not provided with these facilities and when these facilities will be provided; and
- b) whether resources will be allocated to improve the existing changing or rest facilities for outsourced cleansing workers in 2014-15; if yes, the specific work plan and the estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

- (a) The contracts signed between the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) and its service contractors stipulate that contractors should comply with all the legislation in relation to the execution of the service contracts, including the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap. 509). It is incumbent upon contractors to ensure their employees' safety and health at work. There is no specific requirement on a fixed venue for the purpose of changing or rest. At present, the Department has more than 400 venues with contractors engaged. Taking into account the area of the venue and other relevant considerations, the Department will provide suitable rest facilities for employees of the contractors. If rest facilities are available for members of the public and/or staff at the venues concerned, employees of the contractors can generally make use of these facilities. Many venues of the Department with contractors engaged have rest rooms or changing rooms, which can normally be used by employees of the contractors. Some venues do not provide such facilities owing to space constraints.
- (b) The Department has no plan to allocate additional resources for improving the current arrangements on providing venues for changing facilities and breaks for contractors staff in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)226

(Question Serial No. 3715)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 216):

Regarding unauthorised deposit of refuse on streets, please advise on the number of complaint cases received, warnings issued and prosecutions instituted by the Department in the past three years, with a breakdown by 18 administrative districts.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

When unauthorised deposit of refuse in public places is witnessed, authorised officers of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will issue \$1,500 Fixed Penalty Notices (Notices) under the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness Offences) Ordinance, Cap. 570 against the offenders or institute prosecution under the Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation, Cap. 132BK without giving warnings. Information on the number of complaint cases on refuse and unhygienic conditions in public places and enforcement actions against unauthorised deposit of refuse taken by the Department in the 18 administrative districts in 2011, 2012 and 2013 is given at Annex. The Department does not keep separate statistics on the number of complaint cases on deposit of refuse on streets.

Information on the number of complaint cases on refuse and unhygienic conditions in public places and enforcement actions against unauthorised deposit of refuse

District	2011			2012			2013		
	No. of complaints received	No. of Notices issued	No. of prosecutions taken	No. of complaints received	No. of Notices issued	No. of prosecutions taken	No. of complaints received	No. of Notices issued	No. of prosecutions taken
Eastern	2 326	1 142	11	2 447	1 277	15	2 673	1 479	8
Wanchai	2 665	3 546	5	3 207	3 001	1	3 107	2 914	9
Central & Western	3 913	2 638	9	4 127	2 741	6	4 300	3 183	1
Southern	973	309	51	958	403	57	1 134	373	59
Islands	634	486	0	809	622	2	1 049	780	0
Kowloon City	2 334	1 129	9	1 972	1 239	64	910	1 059	29
Kwun Tong	1 457	1 860	38	1 691	1 602	45	2 024	1 845	37
Sham Shui Po	2 420	1 307	13	2 855	1 165	15	2 845	959	7
Wong Tai Sin	929	878	0	986	760	0	1 190	722	0
Yau Tsim Mong	4 026	5 324	55	3 798	6 393	63	4 050	4 861	42
Tai Po	1 656	894	20	2 008	975	54	1 856	925	66
North	1 261	1 395	7	1 599	1 458	7	1 480	1 492	20
Yuen Long	2 972	2 896	67	2 861	2 508	22	3 296	2 679	26

Tuen Mun	1 523	1 255	15	1 494	1 345	12	1 302	1 277	7
Sai Kung	1 467	744	17	1 616	841	22	1 687	844	150
Sha Tin	785	1 828	45	981	1 948	34	845	1 850	25
Kwai Tsing	1 691	1 613	9	1 760	2 001	1	1 458	2 320	4
Tsuen Wan	1 629	1 220	42	1 704	1 003	27	2 161	987	9
Total	34 661	30 464	413	36 873	31 282	447	37 367	30 549	499

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)227****(Question Serial No. 3716)**

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 217):

Regarding the supply of niches under the Department, please advise this Committee on the following:

- a) the number of unallocated niches in each of the cemeteries under the Department, with a breakdown by cemetery and type of niches, in the coming three years; and
- b) whether the Department will consider allocating resources to review the allocation and use of the niches in 2014-15, including adjusting the number of cinerary urns allowed to be stored in a niche, and whether priority will be given to relocating cinerary urns storing ashes of deceased persons from the same family placed in niches in different cemeteries to a family niche in order to vacate niches for re-allocation; if yes, the work plan and the estimated expenditure to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

- (a) The number of new niches to be allocated by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in the coming three years is given below:

	Name of Columbaria				
	Diamond Hill	Wo Hop Shek	Cheung Chau	Peng Chau	Lamma Island
Standard niche	525	30 046	1 000	149	388
Large niche	0	135	0	0	28

The number of used niche available for re-allocation will depend on the number of niches returned to the Department.

- (b) There are two types of niches in public columbaria managed by the Department, namely the standard and the large niche, which can accommodate two and four sets of cremated ashes respectively. To enhance utilisation, the Department has removed such restriction since January 2014. An applicant may now deposit as many additional sets of cremated ashes that a standard or a large niche can hold, subject to application and approval of the Department. The expenditure involved will be absorbed within our existing resources.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)228****(Question Serial No. 3717)**

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 218):

Regarding the services provided by the Department for the scattering of cremated ashes in Gardens of Remembrance and at sea, please provide information on the following:

- a) the respective numbers of cases of using the services provided by the Department for the scattering of cremated ashes in Gardens of Remembrance and at sea in each of the past five years;
- b) the current number of service quota available for scattering cremated ashes in Gardens of Remembrance at the cemeteries managed by the Department, with a breakdown by cemetery; whether the Department will allocate additional resources to increase the service quota in the next three years; if yes, the details; if not, the reason(s); and
- c) the number of cases of using the services provided by the Department for the scattering of cremated ashes at sea in each of the past five years; whether the Department will allocate additional resources to increase the service quota in 2014-15; if yes, the details and the number of additional quota; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

- (a) The information sought is given below:

Year	Number of cases	Scattering of ashes	
		at Gardens of Remembrance (GoR)	at sea
2009	650		0 (service commenced on 23.1.2010)
2010	1 171		658
2011	1 648		549
2012	2 023		671
2013	2 354		709

- (b) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) manages 11 GoR in eight columbaria and has not imposed any service quota for scattering of ashes in GoR.
- (c) The number of cases using the ferry services provided by the Department for the scattering of cremated ashes at sea is given below:

Year	No. of cases using free ferry services for scattering of cremated ashes at sea
2009	0 (service commenced on 23.1.2010)
2010	658
2011	549
2012	671
2013	709

The revised estimate of expenditure incurred by the Department for providing free ferry services for the scattering of cremated ashes at sea in 2013-14 was \$1.391 million. The estimated expenditure in 2014-15 is \$1.997 million. The Department is providing four ferry trips each month, each of which could accommodate up to 25 applications (bereaved families) at present. The Department will monitor usage and arrange additional trips if necessary.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)229****(Question Serial No. 3718)**

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 251 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 219):

Regarding the utilisation of the recycle bins provided by the Department, please advise this Committee on the following:

- a) the total quantities of materials recovered from the recycle bins provided by the Department in each of the past three years, with a breakdown by type (i.e. waste paper, metals and plastics);
- b) the details of the whereabouts of the materials recovered from the recycle bins in each of the past three years, with a breakdown by type and their whereabouts (e.g. sold to recyclers or delivered to landfills); and
- c) whether the Department will consider allocating resources to provide additional recycle bins for other types of materials or waste in 2014-15; if yes, the details (e.g. the location and number of the bins to be provided and the estimated expenditure to be involved); if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

- a) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has placed some 1 990 sets of recyclables collection bins (RCBs) in public places (including streets, refuse collection points, public markets and bus termini) for collection of waste paper, metal and plastics. The provision of recyclables collection service has been outsourced to a private service provider, and the quantity of recyclables collected by the contractor (excluding the recyclables collected from some 1 300 sets of RCBs provided by other government departments and schools) in 2011, 2012 and 2013 is given below -

	Paper (tonnes)	Metal (tonnes)	Plastics (tonnes)
2011	44.6	4.4	102.4
2012	33	3.3	101.6
2013	26.8	3	112.7

- b) Under the contract, the contractor should not dispose of the recyclables collected in any landfills or any other waste disposal facilities without the prior written consent of the Government. The contractor is

required to deliver all recyclables collected to recyclers approved by the Department, whose names must appear on the list of recyclers published on the Environmental Protection Department's website.

- c) The Department's primary role in waste collection is to maintain environmental hygiene. In 2014-15, we will continue to support the "Hong Kong: Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022" of the Environment Bureau in reducing municipal solid waste. The Department will continue to review the number and location of RCBs placed in public places. At present, we have no plans to provide additional collection bins for other types of recyclables.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)230

(Question Serial No. 3719)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 220):

Please advise on the number of complaints received by the Department in respect of licensed hawkers and unlicensed hawkers, enforcement actions taken in response to complaints received, verbal and written warnings issued as well as number of prosecutions instituted in each of the past five years, with a breakdown by 18 administrative districts.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The number of complaints and prosecutions against licensed hawkers and unlicensed hawkers is provided at Annex. There are no separate statistics on the issue of verbal warnings, warning letters and the enforcement actions taken against hawkers in response to complaints received.

No. of complaints related to licensed hawkers

District	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Central/Western	172	159	151	161	160
Wan Chai	236	228	186	157	149
Eastern	242	247	366	306	267
Southern	9	12	10	18	15
Yau Tsim Mong	292	291	504	633	603
Sham Shui Po	177	184	278	127	132
Kowloon City	52	67	24	23	17
Wong Tai Sin	10	10	6	3	10
Kwun Tong	65	260	98	38	49
Kwai Tsing	17	20	20	22	25
Tsuen Wan	49	152	289	136	43
Tuen Mum	21	25	44	61	28
Yuen Long	215	208	304	184	272
North	71	110	251	239	326
Tai Po	3	3	4	9	8
Sha Tin	84	44	87	92	61
Sai Kung	15	11	67	35	15
Islands	0	0	0	2	2
Others (e.g. HQs, Divisional Offices)	0	0	0	0	1
Total	1 730	2 031	2 689	2 246	2 183

No. of complaints related to unlicensed hawkers

District	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Central/Western	555	524	561	536	357
Wan Chai	603	552	664	876	823
Eastern	1 889	1 528	2 309	1 806	1 718
Southern	219	140	129	80	111
Yau Tsim Mong	2 877	3 319	3 012	3 539	5 441
Sham Shui Po	575	688	740	768	973
Kowloon City	524	560	667	661	907
Wong Tai Sin	273	193	201	248	468
Kwun Tong	869	917	842	988	1 082
Kwai Tsing	556	686	876	886	569
Tsuen Wan	214	359	482	331	276
Tuen Mum	319	272	335	311	258
Yuen Long	444	454	489	469	446
North	739	1 229	1 148	927	1 368
Tai Po	277	161	130	148	221
Sha Tin	353	316	284	281	321
Sai Kung	132	119	213	193	151
Islands	170	200	149	79	64
Others (e.g. HQs, Divisional Offices)	98	253	209	289	243
Total	11 686	12 470	13 440	13 416	15 797

No. of prosecutions against licensed hawkers

District	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Central/Western	688	824	639	360	190
Wan Chai	1 144	1 600	1 715	1 400	963
Eastern	385	512	635	594	488
Southern	7	2	5	6	7
Yau Tsim Mong	1 975	1 826	2 081	2 211	1 613
Sham Shui Po	158	163	491	570	506
Kowloon City	69	45	30	18	17
Wong Tai Sin	16	9	5	7	4
Kwun Tong	175	282	218	172	153
Kwai Tsing	110	146	90	59	49
Tsuen Wan	93	53	31	31	32
Tuen Mum	4	1	8	7	2
Yuen Long	684	505	483	365	432
North	75	81	82	170	223
Tai Po	49	66	65	65	63
Sha Tin	42	66	54	50	52
Sai Kung	0	0	2	1	1
Islands	14	9	1	2	3
Divisional Task Force	172	93	69	0	0
Total	5 860	6 283	6 704	6 088	4 798

No. of prosecutions against unlicensed hawkers

District	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Central/Western	1 196	1 255	1 141	1 012	889
Wan Chai	2 841	4 097	3 764	3 292	2 400
Eastern	3 389	3 896	3 867	2 757	3 468
Southern	964	893	333	671	804
Yau Tsim Mong	2 946	3 030	3 310	2 968	3 814
Sham Shui Po	880	1 200	1 507	1 796	2 519
Kowloon City	1 321	1 258	1 223	1 222	1 285
Wong Tai Sin	672	525	620	563	487
Kwun Tong	1 343	1 429	1 171	895	1 044
Kwai Tsing	910	972	800	1 149	695
Tsuen Wan	929	1 152	1 541	1 615	1 641
Tuen Mum	656	610	831	1 017	1 025
Yuen Long	3 452	2 606	3 045	3 198	3 669
North	660	614	373	296	233
Tai Po	2 346	2 266	2 307	1 964	2 166
Sha Tin	235	203	142	106	254
Sai Kung	75	117	110	181	237
Islands	178	84	42	54	82
Divisional Task Force	4 412	3 114	2 449	2 701	2 531
Total	29 405	29 321	28 576	27 457	29 243

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)231

(Question Serial No. 3720)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 221):

With regard to the operation of the markets under the Department, please advise this Committee on the following:

- a) the number of vacant stalls in and the vacancy rate of individual markets in each of the past five years; and
- b) whether the Department will allocate resources to carry out improvement works in markets, especially those with higher vacancy rates or patronage, to improve their environments in 2014-15; if yes, the specific plan and timetable of the works, as well as the estimated expenditure to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

- (a) The information sought is set out at Annex.
- (b) In 2014-15, in addition to regular maintenance and daily management of markets, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will carry out improvement works in five markets, namely, Smithfield Market, Kwun Chung Market, Tsing Yi Market, Ngau Chi Wan Market and Haiphong Road Temporary Market. The estimated cost of these improvement works is \$31.5 million. The works include installation of a goods lift, 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 enhance patronage of public markets. These include thematic exhibitions and workshops, festive celebration activities, 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 in 2014-15 is \$4 million.

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

Number of vacant stalls and vacancy rates in each public market in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013

Serial No.	Name of Market	No. of vacant stalls As at 31 December					Vacancy rate as at 31 December				
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
1	Aberdeen Market	24	20	15	11	9	7%	6%	4%	3%	3%
2	Aldrich Bay Market	16	21	18	27	14	23%	30%	25%	38%	20%
3	Apleichau Market	2	1	0	0	5	3%	2%	0%	0%	8%
4	Bowrington Road Market	11	9	5	3	1	4%	3%	2%	1%	0%
5	Causeway Bay Market	8	3	3	3	1	16%	6%	6%	6%	2%
6	Centre Street Market	51	16	13	11	11	64%	34%	28%	23%	23%
7	Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market	8	5	2	1	0	25%	16%	6%	3%	0%
8	Chai Wan Market	15	8	9	11	8	9%	5%	5%	6%	5%
9	Cheung Chau Cooked Food Market	1	0	0	0	0	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%
10	Cheung Chau Market	28	20	1	3	5	12%	8%	0%	1%	2%
11	Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market	16	16	16	16	16	57%	57%	57%	57%	57%
12	Cheung Tat Road Cooked Food Market	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
13	Choi Hung Road Market	8	15	6	11	24	7%	13%	5%	9%	21%
14	Electric Road Market	26	24	12	13	2	27%	25%	12%	14%	2%
15	Fa Yuen Street Market	16	15	6	0	2	9%	8%	3%	0%	1%
16	Fo Tan (East) Cooked Food Market	0	0	0	0	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%
17	Fo Tan (West) Cooked Food Market	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Serial No.	Name of Market	No. of vacant stalls As at 31 December					Vacancy rate as at 31 December				
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
18	Haiphong Road Temporary Market	37	25	30	30	30	39%	28%	34%	34%	34%
19	Heung Che Street Market	46	52	14	16	2	21%	23%	6%	7%	1%
20	Hung Cheung Cooked Food Market	3	0	1	0	0	27%	0%	9%	0%	0%
21	Hung Hom Market	11	6	5	6	3	5%	3%	2%	3%	1%
22	Hung Shui Kiu Market	112	122	126	128	131	52%	57%	59%	60%	61%
23	Java Road Market	37	32	25	6	9	19%	16%	13%	3%	5%
24	Ka Ting Cooked Food Market	4	3	0	0	2	24%	18%	0%	0%	12%
25	Kam Tin Market	8	8	0	0	0	20%	20%	0%	0%	0%
26	Kik Yeung Road Cooked Food Market	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
27	Kin Wing Cooked Food Market	7	3	5	4	4	35%	15%	25%	20%	20%
28	Kin Yip Street Cooked Food Market	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
29	Kowloon City Market	52	40	28	17	9	9%	7%	5%	3%	2%
30	Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
31	Kwai Shun Street Cooked Food Market	1	0	0	0	0	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%
32	Kwu Tung Market Shopping Centre	0	2	0	0	0	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%
33	Kwun Chung Market	68	58	28	6	5	31%	27%	13%	3%	2%
34	Kwun Tong Ferry Concourse Cooked Food Market	10	1	0	0	0	34%	3%	0%	0%	0%
35	Lai Wan Market	0	0	0	1	1	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%
36	Lam Tei Market	0	0	0	1	0	0%	0%	0%	14%	0%

Serial No.	Name of Market	No. of vacant stalls As at 31 December					Vacancy rate as at 31 December				
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
37	Lau Fau Shan Market	5	5	5	3	3	20%	20%	20%	12%	12%
38	Lei Yue Mun Market	4	4	3	3	4	20%	20%	15%	15%	20%
39	Lockhart Road Market	19	22	22	17	18	11%	13%	13%	10%	11%
40	Luen Wo Hui Market	58	51	45	28	14	17%	15%	13%	8%	4%
41	Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	1	0	0	0	0	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%
42	Mui Wo Cooked Food Market	0	0	1	2	0	0%	0%	5%	10%	0%
43	Mui Wo Market	4	3	3	2	1	12%	9%	9%	6%	3%
44	Nam Long Shan Road Cooked Food Market	0	0	0	1	3	0%	0%	0%	4%	11%
45	Ngau Chi Wan Market	79	69	46	31	24	20%	17%	11%	8%	6%
46	Ngau Tau Kok Market	67	71	76	74	59	14%	15%	16%	16%	13%
47	North Kwai Chung Market	36	18	12	34	17	16%	8%	5%	15%	8%
48	North Point Market	7	3	2	1	1	17%	7%	5%	2%	2%
49	On Ching Road Flower Market	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
50	Pei Ho Street Market	5	7	0	0	1	2%	3%	0%	0%	0%
51	Peng Chau Market	25	25	3	2	2	61%	61%	17%	11%	11%
52	Plover Cove Road Market	46	38	8	4	3	19%	16%	3%	2%	1%
53	Po On Road Market	74	102	89	63	46	16%	23%	20%	14%	10%
54	Quarry Bay Market	39	37	26	28	20	34%	32%	23%	24%	17%
55	Queen Street Cooked Food Market	2	3	4	2	1	15%	23%	31%	18%	9%
56	Sai Kung Market	20	16	9	3	2	10%	8%	4%	1%	1%

Serial No.	Name of Market	No. of vacant stalls As at 31 December					Vacancy rate as at 31 December				
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
57	Sai Wan Ho Market	61	38	34	11	10	22%	14%	12%	4%	4%
58	Sai Ying Pun Market	15	15	12	9	12	15%	15%	12%	9%	12%
59	San Hui Market	30	23	4	7	8	9%	7%	1%	2%	2%
60	Sha Tau Kok Market	9	6	4	5	4	14%	9%	6%	8%	6%
61	Sha Tin Market	11	6	3	1	0	6%	3%	2%	1%	0%
62	Sham Tseng Temporary Market	12	12	6	7	7	33%	33%	21%	24%	24%
63	Shaukeiwan Market	17	23	26	28	36	21%	28%	32%	34%	44%
64	Shek Tong Tsui Market	56	44	38	8	2	37%	29%	25%	5%	1%
65	Shek Wu Hui Market	7	4	3	2	1	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%
66	Sheung Fung Street Market	12	14	6	1	0	16%	19%	8%	1%	0%
67	Sheung Wan Market	30	26	21	20	17	13%	12%	9%	9%	8%
68	Shui Wo Street Market	59	49	22	21	7	19%	16%	7%	7%	2%
69	Smithfield Market	20	20	3	0	2	9%	9%	1%	0%	1%
70	Stanley Waterfront Mart	0	3	2	0	2	0%	15%	10%	0%	10%
71	Sze Shan Street Cooked Food Market	0	0	2	0	0	0%	0%	12%	0%	0%
72	Tai Kiu Market	43	37	6	11	16	11%	10%	2%	3%	4%
73	Tai Kok Tsui Market	21	15	4	1	0	16%	11%	3%	1%	0%
74	Tai O Market	4	5	5	4	1	15%	19%	19%	15%	4%
75	Tai Po Hui Market	10	12	7	2	1	3%	4%	2%	1%	0%
76	Tai Shing Street Market	25	22	23	12	22	5%	5%	5%	3%	5%
77	Tai Tong Road Cooked Food Market	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Serial No.	Name of Market	No. of vacant stalls As at 31 December					Vacancy rate as at 31 December				
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
78	Tai Wai Market	17	14	11	17	20	9%	7%	6%	9%	10%
79	Tai Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	15	6	2	0	2	75%	30%	10%	0%	10%
80	Tang Lung Chau Market	21	3	1	0	0	40%	9%	3%	0%	0%
81	Tin Wan Market	14	16	11	5	6	8%	9%	6%	3%	3%
82	Tokwawan Market	39	43	32	5	1	15%	16%	12%	2%	0%
83	Tsing Yeung Cooked Food Market	3	1	2	0	0	17%	6%	11%	0%	0%
84	Tsing Yi Market	13	10	15	8	4	18%	14%	20%	11%	5%
85	Tsuen King Circuit Market	117	129	147	160	167	49%	54%	61%	66%	69%
86	Tsuen Wan Market	67	61	55	21	22	18%	16%	14%	6%	6%
87	Tsun Yip Cooked Food Market	3	1	1	1	0	5%	2%	2%	2%	0%
88	Tui Min Hoi Market	11	9	6	2	0	32%	26%	18%	6%	0%
89	Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	170	175	174	176	178	47%	49%	48%	49%	50%
90	Tung Yick Market	243	249	252	255	255	54%	56%	56%	57%	57%
91	Tung Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
92	Wanchai Market	0	0	0	0	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
93	Wing Fong Street Market	38	32	15	4	9	34%	29%	13%	4%	8%
94	Wo Yi Hop Road Cooked Food Market	1	1	2	0	2	6%	6%	11%	0%	11%
95	Wong Nai Chung Market	7	5	5	4	2	11%	8%	8%	6%	3%
96	Yan Oi Market	16	11	1	3	1	15%	10%	1%	3%	1%
97	Yau Ma Tei Market	26	28	30	15	13	20%	19%	21%	10%	9%

Serial No.	Name of Market	No. of vacant stalls As at 31 December					Vacancy rate as at 31 December				
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
98	Yee On Street Market	18	14	13	11	8	28%	22%	20%	17%	12%
99	Yeung Uk Road Market	15	9	6	3	0	5%	3%	2%	1%	0%
100	Yue Kwong Road Market	13	10	4	0	8	7%	5%	2%	0%	4%
101	Yue Wan Market	56	33	37	31	23	15%	9%	10%	8%	6%

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)232

(Question Serial No. 3721)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 222):

A stallholder operating in a market managed by the Department told me that his stall had seen a significant drop in business volume and loss of business as a result of the works carried out in the market. However, the Department only agreed to grant him a 50% rental reduction during the works period. The experience of the above stallholder reflected that the rental waiver mechanism may not be able to adequately address stallholders' loss caused by market works and their costs of rebuilding clientele. In this connection, please advise whether the Department will consider reviewing and revising the rental waiver mechanism in 2014-15. If yes, please give the specific plan and timetable of the work as well as the staff establishment and estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The letting and operation of market stalls are commercial activities. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department takes into account all relevant factors including the duration of the improvement works and tenants' potential operational difficulties that might arise from the works in determining full or partial rental concessions for the market stall tenants being affected. We have no plan to review the existing mechanism.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)233

(Question Serial No. 3722)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 223):

Please advise whether the Department will allocate resources to review the current approved stall area specified in hawker licences and market stall tenancy agreements and make appropriate adjustments in light of the review results in 2014-2015. If yes, please give the plan, timetable and estimated expenditure of the review; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

On-street hawking is intended for small scale business and on-street hawker stalls take up street space in high density areas which is often major passageways for other road users as well. Increasing the size of the licensed stall area will aggravate the problem of street obstruction and would have adverse fire safety and environmental hygiene implications. Currently, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) exercises flexibility to allow hawkers to display their goods outside the approved stall areas during business hours, so long as there is no obstruction to passageways and emergency vehicular access and their stalls are retracted to their prescribed sizes after business hours. The Department considers that the current arrangement provides a balance that is about right.

As far as public markets are concerned, the Food and Health Bureau has commissioned a consultant for developing proposals to improve the operating environment of public markets thereby enabling them to fulfil the functions expected of them. Market stall area will be covered in the study. The consultancy fee amounts to \$2 million. The consultant is expected to submit preliminary study findings in mid-2014 if the study progresses smoothly.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)234

(Question Serial No. 3723)

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 251 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 224):

With regard to the provision of crematorium service by the Department, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) the number of cremation cases handled in and the usage rate of individual crematoria in Hong Kong in each of the past five years;
- (b) in view of the ageing population in Hong Kong and the increasing demand for cremation service, whether the Department will consider taking specific measures to enhance the handling capacity of various crematoria to cope with the increasing demand for the service in 2014-15; if yes, the specific work plan, the timetable, as well as the manpower and estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s); and
- (c) whether the Department will consider allocating resources to carry out a study in 2014-15 on the public demand for cremation service for the coming period and the need to construct new crematoria; if yes, the specific work plan, timetable and estimated expenditure of the study.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) The number of cremation sessions released, cremation sessions booked and the percentage of cremation sessions booked in public crematoria managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in the past five years (2009 to 2013) were :

Name of Crematorium	2009			2010			2011			2012			2013		
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)
Cape Collinson	12 510	11 820	94.5%	14 679	13 937	94.9%	14 514	13 640	94.0%	14 308	13 496	94.3%	7 992	7 844	98.1%
Diamond Hill	9 128	9 026	98.9%	9 197	9 131	99.3%	9 048	8 943	98.8%	8 839	8 807	99.6%	8 499	8 439	99.3%
Fu Shan	5 588	5 539	99.1%	7 393	7 346	99.4%	7 090	7 058	99.5%	7 901	7 879	99.7%	6 948	6 800	97.9%
Kwai Chung	7 705	7 645	99.2%	7 485	7 455	99.6%	8 193	8 143	99.4%	9 202	9 152	99.5%	8 265	8 250	99.8%
Cheung Chau	2 066	102	4.9%	1 536	137	8.9%	2 086	132	6.3%	2 067	160	7.7%	1 728	164	9.5%
Wo Hop Shek (Note 1)	2 408	2 354	97.8%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7 539	7 417	98.4%
Total:	39 405	36 486	92.6%	40 290	38 006	94.3%	40 931	37 916	92.6%	42 317	39 494	93.3%	40 971	38 914	95.0%

- (i) No. of cremation sessions released
- (ii) No. of cremation sessions booked
- (iii) Percentage of cremation sessions booked

Note 1 : Closed since June 2009 for reprovisioning and reopened since February 2013

- (b) and (c) It is the Department's pledge to provide a cremation session within the next 15 days from the date of application. Extra cremation sessions would be arranged as necessary to comply with the above performance pledge. Expenditure involved will be absorbed within our existing resources.

The Department is upgrading the cremators by phases to increase their handling capacity. The reprovisioning works for the Wo Hop Shek Crematorium were completed in January 2013, and seven new cremators have started operation by phases since February 2013. The reprovisioning of the Cape Collinson Crematorium is underway to provide ten new cremators and ancillary facilities in two phases, at an estimated cost of \$696.3 million. Phase I reprovisioning works involving four new cremators were completed in January 2013 and commissioned for use by phases since February 2013. Phase II reprovisioning works covering the remaining six cremators started in March 2013 are scheduled for completion by the end of 2015 tentatively. Upon completion of the reprovisioning of the Cape Collinson Crematorium, the number of scheduled cremation sessions per annum will be increased by 28.9% from 40 971 in 2013 to 52 800 in 2016.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)235****(Question Serial No. 5816)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 366):

Regarding the complaints about suspected illegal display of banners received in each of the District Council districts, please provide information on the following in respect of each of the past two years:

1. the number of complaints received, cases handled, offences detected, prosecutions initiated and convictions made;
2. the number of illegal banners removed as well as the average removal cost of a banner; and whether the removal cost has been fully recovered from the owners of the banners; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

1. The number of complaints received relating to unauthorised display of posters and banners in 2012 and 2013 is 3 651 and 4 756 respectively. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not keep breakdown of the complaints by the 18 District Council districts. The available figures on enforcement actions are given below –

Year	2012	2013
No. of prosecutions taken against unauthorised display of publicity materials in public places	4 492	4 228
No. of \$1,500 Fixed Penalty Notices issued	1 563	1 769

The Department does not keep separate statistics on the number of prosecution cases which have been convicted.

2. The number of unauthorised publicity materials removed in 2012 and 2013 is 3 340 171 and 3 148 500 respectively. The Department recovers the removal cost from the beneficiaries of the publicity materials removed in accordance with section 130 of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance, Cap. 132. The removal cost includes the cost of labour, transport, supervision and departmental charges, and will be apportioned among the beneficiaries of the publicity materials removed during the same operation. The removal cost for each publicity material removed depends largely on the number of publicity materials removed in the operation.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)236

(Question Serial No. 5368)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 258 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 125):

Regarding the engagement of outsourced workers, please provide the following information:

	2014-15
Estimated number of outsourced service contracts	
Estimated operating expenses for payments to outsourced service providers	
Estimated number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

	2014-15
Estimated number of outsourced service contracts	148
Estimated operating expenses for payments to outsourced service providers	\$1,845.6 million
Estimated number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	12 121

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)237

(Question Serial No. 4811)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 273):

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. Please also advise whether there will be an increase in the expenditure for providing the service in the future; if yes, please state the amount of increase, the number of planned additional storage facilities 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. Expenditure involved will be absorbed within our existing resources. In the past 5 years, there were 197 cases in which the duration of temporary storage exceeded 2 months. Among these cases, the longest storage time was 19 months. The total revenue collected in the past 5 years was \$78,410.

The Department will closely monitor the situation and consider increasing the number of temporary storage facilities as necessary.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)238****(Question Serial No. 4813)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 275):

Please advise on the number of new public columbarium facilities built, the location and number of new niches provided, as well as the expenditure incurred in the past five years. Please also advise on the estimated expenditure for constructing public columbaria, as well as the number and location of new niches to be provided in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando

Reply:

Details about the public columbarium facilities completed from 2009-10 to 2013-14 are as follows –

Location	Number of Niches	Actual/Estimated Expenditure (\$ million)	Year of Completion
Diamond Hill Columbarium	1 540	0.51	2012-13
Wo Hop Shek Kiu Tau Road Columbarium Phase V	43 710	629.50	2012-13
Cheung Chau Cemetery	1 000	3.30	2013-14

The Administration has identified 24 potential sites in the 18 districts for columbarium development to increase the supply of public niches. Construction of new niches in two of the sites, namely the Diamond Hill Columbarium and Cheung Chau Cemetery, as tabulated above, was already completed. 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. Should we be able to secure support of the Legislative Council and the relevant District Councils, construction works in Tsang Tsui are scheduled to start in 2015 for completion in 2018, while that for Tsing Tsuen Road and Wo Hop Shek are scheduled to start in 2016 for completion in 2018 and 2019 respectively. The estimated cost for developing columbarium facilities at these three sites is not yet available. We are currently conducting site investigation and detailed design for site formation and associated infrastructural works for the development of columbarium, crematorium and related facilities at Sandy Ridge Cemetery. The total estimated cost for conducting the said site investigation and detailed design work is \$66.4 million. The columbarium development at Sandy Ridge

Cemetery is expected to start in 2019 (after site formation) and will provide 200 000 new niches by phases starting from 2022. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on the remaining sites. The Administration will consult the relevant District Councils before the sites are confirmed for columbarium development.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)239

(Question Serial No. 6467)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (4) Public Education and Community Involvement
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 254 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 238):

Regarding public education and community involvement programmes, the Department plans to disseminate food safety and keep clean messages through Announcements in the Public Interest, banners, posters, leaflets, pamphlets and talks. In this connection, please advise on the following:

- (a) whether the Department will allocate additional resources to promote public education in a more extensive and indepth manner through the use of information technology, the media and other forms of communication popular among young people and the public, such as web pages and interactive games; and
- (b) if yes, the implementation details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has been using various means of information technology to promote food safety and environmental hygiene messages to the public. The Department maintains a dedicated website setting out the public services provided by the Department and the latest news of these services. The Department also uses numerous channels including mobile applications, social media, online games and e-mails to disseminate food safety information and encourage the use of nutrition labels. In addition, the Department provides various interactive exhibits and games in its Health Education Exhibition and Resource Centre as well as Mobile Education Centre for disseminating messages on food safety and environmental hygiene to students and members of the public.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)240****(Question Serial No. 6490)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 498):

It is stated that the Department will continue to take forward plans and projects to provide more crematorium and columbarium facilities. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of deaths (Hong Kong residents) in each of the past three years with a breakdown by age, race and type of disabilities;
- (b) the numbers of niches in local public and private columbaria operated by religious or non-religious bodies, number of applications received, the number of niches allocated, the number of applicants on the waiting list for niches and the average waiting time for a niche in the past five years with a breakdown by religion; and
- (c) the number of niches in public and private columbaria operated by religious or non-religious bodies available for allocation in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

- (a) The number of deaths in the past three years is as follows –

Year	No. of deaths
2011	42 188
2012	43 672
2013	43 399

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not have the number of deaths (Hong Kong residents) by age, race and type of disabilities.

(b) For niches provided in public columbaria, the information sought is given below:

Year	No. of niches (including new and re-allocated niches)	No. of applications for new and re-allocated niches received	Number of new and re-allocated niches allocated	No. of applications on "waiting list" for re-allocated niches ^{Note}	Average waiting time for re-allocated niches (Months)
2009	167 932	35 858	22 163	12 333	34.5
2010	167 932	1 404	639	11 945	30.5
2011	167 932	5 341	416	17 286	39
2012	213 182	29 119	1 867	22 138	43.5
2013	214 182	18 209	13 143	21 360	45

Note: *New niches are not allocated based on a waiting list system but through computer balloting.*

The number of niches in private columbaria operated by operators of private cemeteries in the past five years is as follows –

Year	No. of niches in				
	non-religious private columbaria	religious private columbaria			
		Catholic	Christianity	Buddhism	Others
2009	208 736	62 499	50 208	3 404	0
2010	211 639	62 499	57 654	3 404	0
2011	216 597	62 499	57 680	3 404	0
2012	224 887	62 499	57 680	3 404	0
2013	224 887	62 499	57 680	3 404	0

The Department does not have information on the number of applications received, the number of niches allocated, the number of applications on waiting list for niches and the average waiting time for a niche in private columbaria.

(c) A total of 32 271 new niches are expected to be available for allocation in public columbaria in 2014 and 2015. As regards niches in private columbaria operated by operators of private cemeteries, the number of new niches available for allocation in 2014 and 2015 is given below:

Year	Non-religious private columbaria	Religious private columbaria			
		Catholic	Christianity	Buddhism	Others
2014	0	66	0	3 220	0
2015	10 300	0	10 293	0	0

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)241

(Question Serial No. 5635)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 52):

Please advise whether there is any plan to build a market in Tin Shui Wai to be managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. If yes, please give the details of the plan and the expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

Tin Shui Wai is now served by six markets, 13 supermarkets, 13 shopping malls and more than 90 fresh provision shops. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has no plan to construct any new market there in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)242

(Question Serial No. 5639)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 58):

Please advise whether there is any plan to provide additional toilets on the riverside outside Tin Chak Estate at Tin Shui Wai. If yes, please give the details of the plan and the expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

In planning for the provision of public toilets, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will take into consideration various factors, including the availability of alternative toilet facilities nearby, whether the toilet facilities are in venues and facilities managed by other government departments or in private developments and shopping arcades. At present, toilet facilities are provided in Tin Chak Estate Shopping Centre and Tin Chak (Allmart) Chinese Market in Tin Chak Estate. The Department has no plan to provide additional public toilets on the riverside outside Tin Chak Estate.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)243

(Question Serial No. 5558)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 53):

It is stated that the Department will continue to improve the management of public markets and upgrade their facilities. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (a) whether the proposal of optimising the use of the former site of Tai Po Jockey Club Swimming Pool by planning and building a medium-sized government complex not exceeding six storeys as soon as possible and locating the proposed North Tai Po District Library cum study room in the complex will be pursued as part of the Department's above efforts;
- (b) if yes, the details;
- (c) if not, whether it will be pursued under another subhead;
- (d) if it will not be pursued under another subhead, the reason(s); and
- (e) if it will be pursued under another subhead, the details.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

The said proposal of optimizing the use of the former site of Tai Po Jockey Club Swimming Pool is not under the purview of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)244

(Question Serial No. 5455)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 53):

Under this programme, there has been a significant increase in the number of blood samples taken from poultry for testing of avian influenza H5 antibodies for two consecutive years. Given that there will be a further increase in the estimated number in 2014, please advise whether the Department has sufficient manpower to cope with the work; if not, whether additional resources and manpower will be allocated for conducting the tests. If additional resources and manpower will be provided, please give the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is responsible for verifying and collecting animal health certificates that accompany the live poultry imported from the Mainland, inspecting the health status of these birds and collecting from them samples for laboratory testing of avian influenza (AI). Samples taken by CFS at the Man Kam To Animal Inspection Station are sent to the Veterinary Laboratory under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for testing. The estimated expenditure incurred by CFS to carry out the abovementioned AI surveillance on live poultry imported from the Mainland is \$8 million in 2014-15, representing an increase of 11% from the revised estimate of \$7.2 million in 2013-14. The number of CFS staff engaged in carrying out the above work will be 42, same as the provision in 2013-14.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)245

(Question Serial No. 5456)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 54):

Under this programme, there was a significant increase in the number of vehicles carrying vegetables inspected at Man Kam To Food Control Office in 2013 compared to that in 2012. In this connection, please advise on the reason(s) for the increase. Given that there will be a slight increase in the estimated number in 2014, please also advise whether the Department has sufficient manpower to cope with the work; if not, whether additional resources and manpower will be allocated for conducting the inspections. If additional resources and manpower will be provided, please give the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

More vehicles carrying vegetables were inspected at Man Kam To Food Control Office in 2013 due to completion of the Man Kam To Food Control Office extension in March 2013. A similar number of inspections on vegetable vehicles is expected in 2014. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's current manpower and resources are sufficient to carry out the work in 2014.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)246

(Question Serial No. 5457)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 55):

Under this programme, the number of mosquito breeding places eliminated in 2013 increased significantly as compared to that in 2012. In this connection, please give the reasons for the increase. Please also advise whether the Department has sufficient manpower to cope with the work; if not, whether additional resources and manpower will be provided. If additional resources and manpower will be allocated, please give the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply:

The number of mosquito breeding places eliminated in 2012 and 2013 is 41 650 and 46 199 respectively. The increase is attributable to the enhanced mosquito prevention and control measures taken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in public places in response to the two confirmed local cases of Japanese encephalitis recorded in July 2013. In addition to about 700 departmental staff, the Department engages private contractors to provide pest control services through roving teams in the territory. The number of roving teams increases in the wet season (i.e. from April to October) every year to reinforce the mosquito control work during that period. At present, the number of roving teams provided by the contractors in the dry season and the wet season is 223 (with a total workforce of about 1 330) and 274 (with a total workforce of about 1 640) respectively. The revised estimated expenditure in 2013-14 and estimated expenditure in 2014-15 on pest control services as a whole is \$476 million and \$484 million respectively.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)247

(Question Serial No. 5458)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 56):

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 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 of over 140 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 are absorbed within existing resources. The laboratory analysis stage was completed in late 2013. CFS has been releasing the study findings by phases. As of March 2014, seven reports have been released and are available on CFS' website. CFS will release the rest of the reports, i.e. the dietary exposure of the local population to organochlorine and certain nutrients, in phases in 2014.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)248

(Question Serial No. 4350)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 1.19):

In connection with genetically modified (GM) food, please advise on the following:

- (a) Since the implementation of the Voluntary Labelling of Genetically Modified Food Scheme, the number of participating traders every year and the percentage they account for.
- (b) Has the Administration reviewed the effectiveness of the existing Voluntary Labelling of Genetically Modified Food Scheme? If yes, what are the details and the plan?
- (c) Has the Administration conducted any research on the risk and regulation of GM food? If yes, please advise on the expenditure and manpower involved and list the research projects.
- (d) Has the Administration constantly kept abreast of the international research, discussion and initiatives on GM food regulation? If yes, what are the expenditure and manpower involved? Will the Administration review and update Hong Kong's existing regulatory measures and standards accordingly and what is the specific plan?
- (e) The Bureau states that it will follow up on the proposals to introduce a pre-market safety assessment scheme for GM food. What are the expenditure and manpower involved, details and specific plan?
- (f) The expenditure and manpower involved in introducing GM food related information to the public and the traders for the past five years and the estimate for 2014-15.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG, Kenneth

Reply:

- (a) The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) introduced a voluntary genetically-modified (GM) food labelling scheme by issuing the "Guidelines on Voluntary Labelling of Genetically Modified Food" (the Guidelines) in 2006. The Guidelines set out the principles underlying the recommended labelling approaches for GM food. Traders are encouraged to adopt the Guidelines. As the labelling scheme is voluntary in nature, we do not have the number of participating traders.
- (b) The Administration conducted a study to evaluate the effectiveness of the voluntary labelling scheme and reported the results to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council in 2008. The study revealed that over 60% of the traders interviewed through a questionnaire were aware of the Guidelines. The questionnaires returned also indicated that the main reasons for some traders not adopting the voluntary labelling scheme were the absence of legal requirements, increase in production cost, and limited knowledge of GM food labelling. The market survey carried

out during the study showed that of over 1 200 prepackaged food products covered, 14 food samples carried negative GM labels and all these labels from contactable traders were substantiated by documentation. In addition, 46 samples of prepackaged food containing crops with GM counterparts most commonly used in food (i.e. corn and soya bean) were tested for GM content. Only one sample was found to contain more than 5% of GM material (the threshold value for positive labelling), and there was no GM food label on the food sample concerned. The findings from the evaluation exercise illustrated that there was no pressing need for mandatory labelling, as measured by the level of use of GM material in the samples.

In 2013, CFS and the Consumer Council conducted a joint study on GM ingredients in corn and corn-based products. 11 out of 49 samples surveyed did not follow the Guidelines. Among these 11 samples, five samples were found to contain GM corn contents exceeding the threshold value (5%) without carrying any positive GM labelling; six samples were found to carry negative labelling without substantiating documentation and/or carrying negative labelling for the products as a whole without specifying which ingredient(s) was/were derived from non-GM source. In response to these findings, CFS has issued advisory letters to remind relevant traders to follow the Guidelines.

- (c) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department commissioned a consultancy in April 2002 to conduct a regulatory impact assessment on GM food labelling and the study was completed in early 2003. The total contract value of the project was \$748,300.
- (d) The Administration has kept in view international developments on the regulatory control on GM food. It is noted that according to the World Health Organisation, GM food currently traded on the international market are not likely, nor have been shown, to present risks for human health, and there is a lack of international consensus on GM food labelling. The work is undertaken by CFS' existing staff and the expenditure cannot be separately identified.
- (e) To provide a mechanism to further enhance the food safety control over GM food and provide the legal basis for preventing unauthorised GM products from entering the local market, the Administration is considering regulating GM food by introducing a mandatory pre-market safety assessment scheme (PMSAS) in Hong Kong. The Administration will embark on a public consultation before deciding on the details of PMSAS and its implementation timetable. The work will be undertaken by existing manpower and the expenditure cannot be separately identified.
- (f) Education on GM food is part and parcel of CFS' food safety and nutritional education efforts. CFS will continue to enhance work in this respect through various channels including the Trade Consultation Forum, CFS website, newsletters, roving exhibitions and talks. The expenditure of these activities will be absorbed within existing resources for safeguarding food safety in general and cannot be separately identified.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)249

(Question Serial No. 4402)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 258 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 18):

Please provide information on the following in tabular form:

1. the number and rank of civil servants in the Department with salaries currently calculated on the basis of "net working hours", i.e. no payment for meal breaks; and
2. with the adoption of the above calculation method, the salary savings achieved by the Department in the past year and the estimated salary savings to be achieved this year.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

1. As at 1.3.2014, a total of 7 359 civil servants in the Department being on a net conditioned hours system are conditioned to work 45 hours per week. These civil servants belong to 14 grades, namely Artisan, Field Assistant, Foreman, Hawker Control Officer, Laboratory Attendant, Motor Driver, Senior Artisan, Special Driver, Works Supervisor, Ganger, Property Attendant, Supplies Attendant, Workman I and Workman II.
2. In general, conditioned hours of work vary to suit the nature and operational requirements of different grades in the civil service and they have been taken into account in determining the overall remuneration package offered to civil servants. The adoption of the net conditioned hours system does not aim at or result in any cost savings.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)250****(Question Serial No. 4403)**

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 19):

Regarding the staff establishment and operational expenses for Programme (2), please provide information on the following:

1. the expenses on staff salaries, allowances and job-related allowances respectively as well as the personnel related expenses;
2. among the 5 759 staff, the number of staff on Directorate Pay Scale and their ranks;
3. the expenses pertaining to directorate civil servants in respect of each of the items mentioned in Point 1 above and their percentage; and
4. the amount of departmental expenses and non-recurrent expenses (if any) for this programme.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

1. The estimated provision for staff salaries, allowances and job-related allowances as well as the personnel related expenses under Programme (2) for 2014-15 is as follows:

	\$ million
Salaries	1,265.8
Allowances and job-related allowances	62.2
Personnel related expenses (i.e. Mandatory Provident Fund and Civil Service Provident Fund contributions)	46.0
Total	1,374.0

2. The 5 759 staff in Programme (2) include its share of one D3 officer and three D2 officers whose major duties relate to both Programmes (2) and (3), as well as its share of other relevant directorate officers in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department who are responsible for indirect supervision or support functions for the programme.
3. The share of the salaries of the four directorate officers in question is \$4.2 million in 2014-15 which represents 0.33% of the total provision for salaries under Programme (2). The share of the relevant expenses of other directorate officers under the programme is not readily available.

4. The estimated provision for departmental expenses and capital expenditure is \$1,614.7 million and \$8.8 million respectively for this programme.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)251****(Question Serial No. 4404)**

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 20):

Regarding the staff establishment and operational expenses for market management and hawker control under Programme (3), please provide information on the following:

1. the expenses on staff salaries, allowances and job-related allowances respectively as well as the personnel related expenses;
2. among the 3 653 staff, the number of staff on Directorate Pay Scale and their ranks;
3. the expenses pertaining to directorate civil servants in respect of each of the items mentioned in Point 1, and their percentage; and
4. the amount of departmental expenses and non-recurrent expenses (if any) for this programme.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

1. The estimated provision for staff salaries, allowances and job-related allowances as well as the personnel related expenses under Programme (3) for 2014-15 is as follows:

	\$ million
Salaries	925.1
Allowances and job-related allowances	17.6
Personnel related expenses (i.e. Mandatory Provident Fund and Civil Service Provident Fund contributions)	24.4
Total	967.1

2. The 3 653 staff in Programme (3) include its share of one D3 officer and three D2 officers whose major duties relate to both Programmes (2) and (3), as well as its share of other relevant directorate officers in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department who are responsible for indirect supervision or support functions for the programme.
3. The share of the salaries of the four directorate officers in question is \$2.2 million in 2014-15 which represents 0.23% of the total provision for salaries under Programme (3). The share of the relevant expenses of other directorate officers under the programme is not readily available.
4. The estimated provision for departmental expenses and capital/non-recurrent expenditure is \$633.5 million and \$70.6 million respectively for this programme.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)252****(Question Serial No. 4416)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 258 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 123):

Please provide information on the following in tabular form:

1. the number of outsourced workers (including cleansing workers and security guards) and contract staff in the Department with salaries currently calculated on the basis of "net working hours", i.e. no payment for meal breaks, and their job types; and
2. the amount of expenditure to be involved in respect of the various job types if payments for meal breaks have to be made (estimated on the basis of their medium hourly wages).

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

1. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not keep information on the number of outsourced workers with or without paid meal breaks. As for non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff without paid meal breaks, their job types and number are as follows –

Job Type	Number (as at 31.12.2013)
Handling water seepage complaints	90
Undertaking market management duties	82
Providing support services in cemeteries	36
Providing food safety support services	28
Undertaking cleansing and other support services	16
Total:	252

2. The remuneration offered to NCSC staff is an all-inclusive pay package which has taken into account a host of considerations, such as condition of the employment market, recruitment results and cost of living, etc., to ensure that the pay is set at a rate which remains competitive in the market, thus enabling the Department to recruit and retain suitable NCSC staff. Given the "all-inclusive" nature of the pay package, information on individual elements, whether being covered by the pay package or not, cannot be provided separately.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)253****(Question Serial No. 5849)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 257 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 124):

Please provide information about outsourced public cleansing services in the table below:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Expenditure on / number of staff involved in outsourced street cleansing			
Percentage of change / percentage of outsourced service			
Expenditure on / number of staff involved in outsourced waste collection			
Percentage of change / percentage of outsourced service			
Expenditure on / number of staff involved in outsourced mechanical gully emptying			
Percentage of change / percentage of outsourced service			
Expenditure on / number of staff involved in other outsourced services (please specify)			
Percentage of change / percentage of outsourced services			
Total expenditure on / total number of staff involved in outsourced services			
Percentage of change			

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

	2012-13 (Actual)	2013-14 (Revised Estimate)	2014-15 (Estimate)
Expenditure on / number of staff involved (Note 1) in outsourced street cleansing	\$726.7 million / 7 129	\$829.8 million / 7 392	\$902.3 million / Not yet available
Percentage change (Note 2) in -			
(a) expenditure	+21.7%	+14.2%	+8.7%
(b) number of staff	+2.4%	+3.7%	Not yet available
Percentage of outsourced service (Note 3)	77%	77%	Not yet available
Expenditure on / number of staff involved in outsourced waste collection	\$130.1 million / 280	\$141.4 million / 289	\$148.2 million / Not yet available
Percentage change (Note 2) in -			
(a) expenditure	+13.2%	+8.7%	+4.8%
(b) number of staff	+2.6%	+3.2%	Not yet available
Percentage of outsourced service (Note 4)	74%	73%	Not yet available
Expenditure on / number of staff involved in outsourced mechanical gully emptying	\$5.7 million / 21	\$6.0 million / 17	\$6.5 million / Not yet available
Percentage change (Note 2) in -			
(a) expenditure	0%	+5.3%	+8.3%
(b) number of staff	0%	-19.0%	Not yet available/
Percentage of outsourced service (Note 5)	81%	81%	Not yet available
Expenditure on / number of staff involved in other outsourced services (Note 6)	\$43.8 million / 226	\$46.8 million / 219	\$52.1 million / Not yet available
Percentage change (Note 2) in -			
(a) expenditure	+16.5%	+6.8%	+11.3%
(b) number of staff	-0.9%	-3.1%	Not yet available
Percentage of outsourced services	100%	100%	Not yet available
Total expenditure on / total number of staff involved in outsourced services	\$906.3 million / 7 656	\$1,024.0 million / 7 917	\$1,109.1 million / Not yet available
Percentage change (Note 2) in -			
(a) total expenditure	+20.0%	+13.0%	+8.3%
(b) total number of staff	+2.3%	+3.4%	Not yet available

Note

1. Number of staff involved for 2012-13 and 2013-14 is stated to give the position as at 31.3.2013 and 31.12.2013 respectively.
2. Percentage change in expenditure and number of staff refers to change from the previous year.
3. Percentage of outsourced street cleansing service represents the percentage of the total number of street sweeping workers employed by the contractors against the total number of street sweeping workers (i.e. contractors' staff and in-house staff) providing the service.
4. Percentage of outsourced waste collection service represents the percentage of the total waste yield handled by the contractors against the total waste yield handled by the Department.

5. Percentage of outsourced mechanical gully emptying service represents the percentage of the total number of gullies handled by the contractors against the total number of gullies that require mechanical gully emptying service of the Department.
6. Other outsourced cleansing services include mechanical street sweeping service, animal carcasses collection service, cleansing and waste removal services for special sites or areas, desludging and mid-night conservancy service, portable toilet service and recyclables collection service.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)254****(Question Serial No. 5850)**

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 (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 257 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 125):

Please provide in tabular form information on the following in respect of the years from 2010-11 to 2014-15:

1. the number of outsourced security guards in the Department and the services provided;
2. the total expenditure on outsourced security services;
3. the percentage of the Department's security services outsourced; and
4. the percentage of change of each of the above items.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Number of outsourced security guards in the Department (Note 1)	483	499 (+3.3%)	508 (+1.8%)	488 (-3.9%)	Expected to be at a similar level as 2013-14
Services provided	Security guard services include the provision of security guards, electronic checkpoint systems and walkie-talkies for various venues including public markets, municipal services buildings and public cemeteries and crematoria.				
Total expenditure on outsourced security services	\$45.5 million	\$47.4 million (+4.2%)	\$54.6 million (+15.2%)	\$64.6 million (Revised Estimate) (+18.3%)	\$72.6 million (Estimate) (+12.4%)
Percentage of the Department's security services outsourced	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Figures in () denote percentage change as compared with the previous year.

Note 1: The figure reflects the position as of 31 March of the financial year, except for 2013-14 where the figure reflects the position as of 31.12.2013.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)255****(Question Serial No. 5851)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 257 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 126):

Please provide in tabular form information on the following in respect of the years from 2010-11 to 2014-15:

1. the number of contract staff in the Department and the services provided;
2. the expenditure on each type of contractual services and their respective percentage;
3. the total expenditure on contractual services; and
4. the percentage of change of each of the above items.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

	2010-11 (as at 31.3.2011)	2011-12 (as at 31.3.2012)	2012-13 (as at 31.3.2013)	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)	2014-15 (Note 1)
Number of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff	373	343 (-8%)	297 (-13%)	279	
Type and expenditure of services provided by NCSC staff (Note 2)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handling water seepage complaints 	\$26.5 million [33%]	\$18.5 million [27%] (-30%)	\$19.2 million [29%] (+4%)	\$15.3 million [31%]	

	2010-11 (as at 31.3.2011)	2011-12 (as at 31.3.2012)	2012-13 (as at 31.3.2013)	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)	2014-15 (Note 1)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing food safety support services 	\$7.3 million [9%]	\$15.8 million [23%] (+116%)	\$13.9 million [21%] (-12%)	\$10.7 million [21%]	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaking market management duties 	\$11.2 million [14%]	\$11.5 million [17%] (+3%)	\$12.2 million [19%] (+6%)	\$9.8 million [20%]	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing support services in cemeteries 	\$12 million [15%]	\$11.2 million [17%] (-7%)	\$9.9 million [15%] (-12%)	\$7 million [14%]	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing administrative/ executive support services 	\$9.3 million [11%]	\$7.5 million [11%] (-19%)	\$7.6 million [12%] (+1%)	\$5.1 million [10%]	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaking cleansing and other support services 	\$14.7 million [18%]	\$3.3 million [5%] (-78%)	\$2.8 million [4%] (-15%)	\$2 million [4%]	
Total expenditure on services provided by NCSC staff (Note 2)	\$81 million	\$67.8 million (-16%)	\$65.6 million (-3%)	\$49.9 million	

Figures in [] denote respective percentage out of total expenditure in the year

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Note 1: Figures for 2014-15 are not yet available as the number of NCSC staff varies over time in light of changing service and operational needs.

Note 2: Figures for 2013-14 cover 9 months while those for 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 cover the entire 12 months. Only year-on-year changes between the full-year expenditure are provided above.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)256****(Question Serial No. 5852)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 258 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 127):

Please provide in tabular form information on the following in respect of the years from 2010-11 to 2014-15:

1. the number of Workman II (WM II) in the Department, the types of services provided and the number of WM II engaged in each type of services;
2. the year-on-year percentage change;
3. the reason(s) for the decrease in the number of WM II, if any, as well as the reasons for not replenishing the manpower; and
4. whether the Department has set a minimum manpower requirement for WM II for each type of services and whether the relevant requirement is met; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

The number of WM II in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), the types of services provided and the number of WM II engaged in each type of services as well as the year-on-year percentage change are tabulated as follows -

Types of Services provided by WMII	Number of WM II			
	2010-11 (as at 31.3.2011)	2011-12 (as at 31.3.2012)	2012-13 (as at 31.3.2013)	2013-14 (as at 28.2.2014)
Public Cleansing	2 129	2 113	2 101	2 096
Pest Control in public place	425	426	424	419
Other services (e.g. removal/disposal of dead bodies, cemeteries/crematoria related services, support services to food safety, slaughterhouses, depots and markets etc.)	371	370	381	388
Total (Year-on-year % change)	2 925	2 909 (-0.5%)	2 906 (-0.1%)	2 903 (-0.1%)

While the Department has not set a minimum manpower requirement for WM II for each type of services, we consider it appropriate to maintain a core workforce of about 3 000 civil servant WM II currently. Recruitment exercises are conducted from time to time to fill vacancies arising from natural wastage. The strength of WM II has remained steady throughout the years and the number of WM II in 2014-15 is expected to remain at similar level as in previous years.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)257****(Question Serial No. 5999)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 130):

The high vacancy rate, poor environment and improper management of public markets and cooked food stalls have all along been the subjects of criticism. In recent years, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has allocated resources to upgrade these facilities and enhance their competitiveness.

In this connection, please advise on the works and measures carried out by the Department other than retrofitting air-conditioning systems to improve the hardware and software of the markets and the details of the evaluation (such as patronage survey, business volume survey and questionnaire survey) done, if any, on the effectiveness of these improvement works.

Please also provide information on the operating expenditure on markets and cooked food stalls in the table below:

(\$ million)	Expenditure	Expenditure on market improvement works	Vacancy rate (%)
2010-11			
2011-12			
2012-13			
2013-14			
2014-15			

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

In addition to regular maintenance and daily management of markets, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will carry out improvement works in specified markets. The works include improvement to the drainage, ventilation, lighting, fire services, signage and lavatory provisions, replacement of floor tiles, and provision of barrier free access.

At the same time, as an on-going initiative, the Department will continue to conduct promotional activities to enhance patronage of public markets. These include thematic exhibitions and workshops, festive celebration activities, display of multi-language recipes as well as publication of booklets and quarterly newsletters to provide updated market information.

The 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 rate of public markets.

In 2009, the Department conducted a survey on its public markets to assess their patronage and collect views on market patrons and tenants on the usage of and possible improvement measures for the markets. In December 2013, the Food and Health Bureau commissioned a consultant for developing proposals to improve the operating environment of public markets thereby enabling them to fulfil the functions expected of them. The consultant is expected to comprehensively analyse all relevant factors affecting the operating environment of public markets such as consumer profile (e.g. income and age), their shopping preferences, the mode of market operation, as well as the state of transport network in the vicinity etc. and formulate recommendations. The consultant is expected to submit preliminary study findings in mid-2014 if the study progresses smoothly.

The information sought is provided as follows-

	Operating expenditure (\$million)	Expenditure on market improvement works (\$million)	Vacancy rate* (as at 31 December)
2010-11	555.5	5.3	15.9%
2011-12	575.0	4.0	12.4%
2012-13	628.8	5.1	10.5%
2013-14	643.5 (Revised estimate)	22.2 (Revised estimate)	9.6%
2014-15	717.7 (Estimate)	Note	Not yet available

Note : The estimated cost of projects that are to commence in 2014-15 is \$31.5 million

* Including the number of vacant stalls that are frozen for reasons such as forthcoming improvement works.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)258

(Question Serial No. 6000)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) Environment Hygiene and Related Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 131):

The Department provides public cleansing services mainly through outsourcing. Yet, it still needs to deploy manpower to monitor the quality of services provided by the contractors and has the responsibility to oversee whether the contractors have breached the labour laws or exploited the outsourced workers.

Please provide information on the following:

1. the number and ranks of civil servants involved in as well as the expenditure on overseeing the performance of cleansing contractors in respect of the various types of outsourced cleansing services;
2. the number of demerit points given and, among them, the number given for breaches of contractual obligations relating to wages in each of the past five years (i.e. from 2009-10 to 2013-14) since the introduction of the Demerit Points System by the Government; and
3. the number of cases in which contractors were penalised for violating the Standard Employment Contract or the Employment Ordinance as well as the penalties imposed by the Department during the same period.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

1. The following number of civil servants in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) was involved in supervising the service performance of cleansing contractors as at 28.2.2014 –

Rank of Civil Servants	No. of Civil Servants	Expenditure incurred
Health Inspector	73	These civil servants also perform other duties, such as law enforcement and venue management. Breakdown of expenditure by type of duties is not available.
Overseer	26	
Senior Foreman	300	
Foreman	43	
Senior Hawker Control Officer	5	
Assistant Hawker Control Officer	6	
Total:	453	

2. The number of demerit points registered against contractors by the Department in the past five years is as follows –

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (as at 28.2.2014)
No. of demerit points	0	0	1(1)	2(1)	0

The figures in bracket denote the number of demerit points registered in connection with wages.

3. The number of breaches of the Standard Employment Contract or the Employment Ordinance is as follows –

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (as at 28.2.2014)
No. of cases	0	0	1	2	0

Under the demerit points system, any breach of contractual obligations in connection with wage level, daily maximum working hours, signing of standard employment contract with and wage payment by means of autopay to non-skilled workers will lead to the issuance of a default notice. Each default notice attracts one demerit point. For any contractor who has, over a rolling period of 36 months, accumulated three demerit points obtained on or after 1 May 2006 from one or more government departments, his/her tender offer for service contracts that rely heavily on the deployment of non-skilled workers will not be considered for a period of five years. A contractor will also be debarred from tendering for such service contracts for a period of five years if he/she has any conviction under the relevant sections of the Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57) and the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (Cap. 282), which individually carries a maximum fine corresponding to Level 5 or higher within the meaning of Schedule 8 to the Criminal Procedure Ordinance (Cap. 221).

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)259****(Question Serial No. 6001)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 132):

In view of the rampant outbreaks of various types of influenza in recent years, members of the public are more concerned about the cleanliness of streets. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is therefore required to step up the cleansing of environmental hygiene blackspots. Yet, there are complaints about the severe shortage of street washing vehicles. This implies that with an increasing number of blackspots, the time allowed for cleansing a blackspot reduces, let alone the non-blackspot areas. The effectiveness of the cleansing work is questionable.

In this connection, please advise on the number and change in number of street washing vehicles in each of the past five years (i.e. from 2009 to 2013); whether procurement of additional street washing vehicles is included in this year's Estimates; whether there is a standard requirement on the number of street washing vehicles; and whether the relevant requirement is met.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply:

The number of street washing vehicles deployed, including those of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) and its contractors, is given below –

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
No. of street washing vehicles	96	97 (+1)	101 (+4)	101 -	102 (+1)

Most streets are washed from on a need basis to twice weekly depending on actual situations. For specific locations such as hygiene black spots or areas with conglomeration of wild birds, the Department will conduct street washing at a frequency of up to one exercise each day. The Department will maintain the current number of street washing vehicles in 2014-15.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)260

(Question Serial No. 4698)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 257 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 107):

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

	2013-14 (the latest position)
Number of contracts engaging employment agencies (EAs)	()
Contract sum 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 who received severance payments / long service payments/ contract gratuities	()

Amount of severance payments / long service payments / contract gratuities paid	()
Number of workers with severance payments / long service payments offset by or contract gratuities calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to the employer's contributions to MPF	()
Amount of severance payments / long service payments offset by or contract gratuities calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to the employer's contributions to MPF	()
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 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

	2013-14 (as at 30.9.2013)
Number of contracts engaging employment agencies (EAs)	6 (-60%)
Contract sum paid to each EA	\$53,000 to \$857,000
Length of service contract for each EA	6 to 9 months
Number of agency workers	13 (-52%)
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"> • \$30,001 or above • \$16,001 - \$30,000 • \$8,001 - \$16,000 • \$6,501 - \$8,000 • \$6,240 - \$ 6,500 • below \$6,240 	Note 1
Length of service of agency workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • over 15 years • 10 - 15 years • 5 - 10 years • 3 - 5 years • 1 - 3 years • less than 1 year 	Note 2

Percentage of agency workers in the total number of staff in the Department (Note 3)	0.1% (-0.1 percentage point)
Percentage of amount paid to EAs in the total departmental staff cost	0.09% (+0.02 percentage point)
Number of workers who received severance payments / long service payments/ contract gratuities	Note 1
Amount of severance payments / long service payments / contract gratuities paid	
Number of workers with severance payments / long service payments offset by or contract gratuities calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to the employer's contributions to MPF	
Amount of severance payments / long service payments offset by or contract gratuities calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to the employer's contributions to MPF	
Number of workers with paid meal breaks	Note 4
Number of workers without paid meal breaks	
Number of workers working 5 days a week	5 (-81%)
Number of workers working 6 days a week	8 (Note 5)

Figures in () denote percentage of change as compared with the same period in 2012-13

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: The wage levels, terms of employment and contractual terms are agreed upon between the agency workers and their employment agencies when they enter into employment contracts. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not have such information. Nevertheless, there are provisions in the contracts between the Department and the employment agencies requiring the latter to comply with Hong Kong laws in force during the contract period, including the Employment Ordinance and the Minimum Wage Ordinance.

Note 2: 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 3: The comparison is made with the figure as at 30.9.2012. It is not representative of the situation for the financial year concerned.

Note 4: The Department does not keep information on the number of agency workers with/without paid meal break.

Note 5: No agency worker worked for 6 days a week in the same period in 2012-13.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)261

(Question Serial No. 4699)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 257 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 108):

Regarding the engagement of “outsourced workers”, please provide the following information:

	2013-14 (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, information technology etc.)	
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers	
• \$30,001 or above	()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()
• \$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 workers who received severance payments / long service payments / contract gratuities	()
Amount of severance payments / long service payments / contract gratuities paid	()
Number of workers with severance payments / long service payments offset by or contract gratuities calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to the employer's contributions to MPF	()
Amount of severance payments / long service payments offset by or contract gratuities calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to the employer's contributions to MPF	()
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 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
Number of outsourced service contracts	148 (+15.6%)
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers	\$1,642.5 million (estimate) ^{Note 1} (+8.9%)
Length of service contract for each outsourced service provider	Please see Table below
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	12 121 (+2.2%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing, information technology etc.) 	Outsourced workers provide various types of services including cleansing, public toilet management, pest control, security, etc.
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$30,001 or above \$16,001 - \$30,000 \$8,001 - \$16,000 \$6,501 - \$8,000 \$6,240 - \$6,500 below \$6,240 	0 (±0%) 2 (±0%) 3 136 (+115.1%) 8 983 (-13.6%) 0 (±0%) 0 (±0%)
Length of service of outsourced workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> over 15 years 10 - 15 years 5 - 10 years 3 - 5 years 1 - 3 years less than 1 year 	Note 2

Percentage of outsourced workers in the total number of staff in the Department	The ratio of the number of contractor staff to the number of staff of the Department 105.9% (+2.3 percentage points)
Percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers in the total departmental staff cost	The ratio of amount paid to outsourced service providers to the amount of departmental staff expenses 55.8% (+3.2 percentage points)
Number of workers who received severance payments / long service payments/ contract gratuities	Note 3
Amount of severance payments / long service payments / contract gratuities paid	Note 3
Number of workers with severance payments / long service payments offset by or contract gratuities calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to the employer's contributions to MPF	Note 3
Amount of severance payments / long service payments offset by or contract gratuities calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to the employer's contributions to MPF	Note 3
Number of outsourced workers with paid meal breaks	Note 3
Number of outsourced workers without paid meal breaks	Note 3
Number of outsourced workers working 5 days a week	Note 3
Number of outsourced workers working 6 days a week	Note 3

Figures in () denote percentage of change as compared with the same period in 2012-13

Table: Length of service contracts

	2013 – 14 (No. as at 31.12.2013)	2012 – 13 (No. as at 31.12.2012)
Below 1 year	2	3
1 year	1	1
2 years	125	104
3 years	2	3
5 years	18	17
Total no. of contracts:	148	128

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 the information being sought.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)262

(Question Serial No. 4700)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 257 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 109):

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

	2013-14 (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	()
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the Department	()
Percentage of NCSC staff cost in the total departmental staff cost	()
Number of NCSC staff who received severance payments / long service payments / contract gratuities	()
Amount of severance payments / long service payments / contract gratuities paid	()

Number of NCSC staff with severance payments / long service payments offset by or contract gratuities calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to the employer's contributions to MPF	()
Amount of severance payments / long service payments offset by or contract gratuities calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to the employer's contributions to MPF	()
Number of NCSC staff with paid meal breaks	()
Number of NCSC staff without paid meal breaks	()
Number of NCSC staff working 5 days a week	()
Number of NCSC staff working 6 days a week	()

Figures in () denote percentage of change as compared with the same period in 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
Number of NCSC staff	279 (-3%)
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	\$49.9 million (-0.2%)
Monthly salary range of NCSC staff	
• \$30,001 or above	8 (±0%)
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	74 (+17%)
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	197 (-10%)
• \$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 (±0%)
• 10 - 15 years	23 (-8%)
• 5 - 10 years	62 (-9%)
• 3 - 5 years	38 (+12%)
• 1 - 3 years	91 (-28%)
• less than 1 year	65 (+86%)
Number of NCSC staff converted to civil servants	Note 1
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the Department	2% (-1 percentage point)
Percentage of NCSC staff cost in the total departmental staff cost	2% (±0 percentage point)
Number of NCSC staff who received severance payments / long service payments / contract gratuities	191 (+12%)
Amount of severance payments / long service payments / contract gratuities paid	\$3.5 million (+40%)
Number of NCSC staff with severance payments / long service payments offset by, or contract gratuities calculated from, the accrued benefits attributable to the employer's contributions to MPF	4 (+100%)
Amount of severance payments / long service payments offset by or contract gratuities calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to the employer's contributions to MPF	\$179,000 (+189%)
Number of NCSC staff with paid meal breaks	27 (-25%)
Number of NCSC staff without paid meal breaks	252 (-0.4%)
Number of NCSC staff working 5 days a week	145 (-2%)
Number of NCSC staff working 6 days a week	134 (-5%)

Figures in () denote percentage of change as compared with the same period in 2012-13

Note 1: Relevant information is not available.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)263

(Question Serial No. 4778)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 181):

It is stated that the Department will “follow up on the proposals to introduce a mandatory pre-market safety assessment scheme for genetically modified food”. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

1. the details of the work and the estimated expenditure to be involved;
2. whether the Department has conducted tests on food products for sale on the market for genetically modified (GM) materials in the past; if yes, the test results; if not, the reason(s);
3. whether the Department will consider conducting tests on GM materials in food for sale on the market and publishing the test results for public information on a regular basis; if yes, the details and the estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s);
4. whether there were government-funded studies on GM food conducted by non-government organisations in the past; if yes, the details including the year of study, the name of organisation, the amount of funding provided and the subject of study; and
5. whether the Department will consider implementing a mandatory GM food labelling system; if yes, the details and the estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

1. To provide a mechanism to further enhance the food safety control over genetically modified (GM) food and provide the legal basis for preventing unauthorised GM products from entering the local market, the Government is considering regulating GM food by introducing a mandatory pre-market safety assessment scheme (PMSAS) in Hong Kong. Under the proposed scheme, a GM food developer who intends to place a GM food on the local market would be required to submit an application together with the necessary supporting documentation to Centre for Food Safety (CFS) for evaluation. CFS will determine whether the GM food developer has adequately addressed the safety issues based on Codex principles and guidelines. Food which consists of, or is derived from, GM microorganisms, plants and animals, must pass the safety assessment before it may be sold in Hong Kong. The Administration will embark on a public consultation before deciding on the details of PMSAS and its implementation timetable. The concerned expenditure will be absorbed by existing resources.

2. As part of the evaluation on the effectiveness of the voluntary labelling scheme in Hong Kong, CFS conducted a study related to GM ingredients in foods available on the local market and reported to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council in 2008. In that study, 46 samples of prepackaged food containing crops with GM counterparts most commonly used in food (i.e. corn and soya bean) were tested for GM content and one sample was found to contain more than 5% (the threshold value for positive labelling) of GM material. In 2013, CFS and the Consumer Council conducted a joint study on GM ingredients in corn and corn-based products, to assess whether these products followed the recommendations set out in the “Guidelines on Voluntary Labelling of GM Food”. Among the 49 samples taken, corn DNA was detected in 37 samples, and among them, 12 samples were detected with GM corn DNA. Five samples were found to contain more than 5% GM corn contents and all of them were snack products imported from the United States.
3. According to the World Health Organisation, GM food currently traded on the international market are not likely, nor have been shown, to present risks for human health. As such, CFS has not conducted separate food safety tests for GM food. GM food is treated like any other food and is covered in the regular Food Surveillance Programme conducted by CFS. The need for conducting separate regular tests on GM materials in food for sale in Hong Kong would be considered in light of any future regulatory regime that may be introduced.
4. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has not funded any non-governmental organisations to conduct a study on GM food.
5. In response to public concern on GM food, the Administration conducted a public consultation on GM Food labelling in 2001 and a regulatory impact assessment (RIA) in April 2002. The RIA revealed certain issues that need to be addressed when implementing a mandatory GM food labelling scheme in Hong Kong, e.g. increasing operational cost of the trade with a greater impact on the small and medium-sized enterprises, and the lack of international consensus on GM food labelling. Taking into account the findings of the RIA and the lack of strong justification for the labelling of GM food on food safety grounds, the Administration considered that encouraging the trade to adopt a voluntary labelling system would be a practical alternative to a mandatory labelling system. Many of the considerations derived from the RIA conducted in 2002 are still relevant. Most of the GM food available in the Hong Kong market are imported, and not all food exporting economies require mandatory labelling of GM food, and even for the ones that do, the labelling requirements vary. It would be costly and difficult for Hong Kong food importers to come up with labels for all GM ingredients in respect of GM food coming from all over the world in order to comply with Hong Kong’s labelling requirement if one were to be introduced on a mandatory basis. While a mandatory GM food labelling system could address consumers’ demand for more product information and facilitate the making of informed choices by consumers, it may not necessarily be the most useful tool to ensure the safety of GM food.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)264

(Question Serial No. 4779)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 182):

With regard to the work of 'controlling and containing on-street hawking activities and obstruction', please advise on the following:

1. the number of complaints regarding hawking or obstruction in pedestrian precincts received, with a breakdown by district and nature of complaints, in each of the past five years (i.e. from 2009 to 2013); and
2. the number of summonses issued and the person-count for the service of summonses regarding hawking or obstruction in pedestrian precincts, as well as the expenditure involved, with a breakdown by district and nature of offences, in each of the past five years (i.e. from 2009 to 2013).

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

1. The information sought is provided at Annex 1.
2. In the five years ending 2013, a total of 10 052 prosecutions (summonses and arrest charges) have been instituted against illegal hawking and street obstruction at pedestrian precincts, as shown in Annex 2. Information on the person-count for the prosecutions is not readily available and there is no breakdown on the expenditure involved.

Number of complaints in respect of pedestrian precinct

District	Year	No. of complaints against			
		(a) illegal hawking	(b) street obstruction	Both (a)&(b)	Total
Southern	2009	3	5	3	11
	2010	7	10	2	19
	2011	3	8	1	12
	2012	3	6	1	10
	2013	5	13	2	20
Wan Chai	2009	184	291	0	475
	2010	70	571	0	641
	2011	31	337	0	368
	2012	103	215	0	318
	2013	212	229	0	441
Central and Western	2009	29	10	0	39
	2010	33	10	0	43
	2011	15	18	0	33
	2012	11	4	1	16
	2013	29	10	0	39
North	2009	27	67	0	94
	2010	35	74	0	109
	2011	15	50	0	65
	2012	11	42	0	53
	2013	28	115	1	144
Yuen Long	2009	0	140	2	142
	2010	1	61	7	69
	2011	0	100	6	106
	2012	4	106	12	122
	2013	0	160	8	168
Mong Kok	2009	69	67	13	149
	2010	75	70	26	171
	2011	116	131	123	370
	2012	184	110	52	346
	2013	493	180	91	764

District	Year	No. of complaints against			
		(a) illegal hawking	(b) street obstruction	Both (a)&(b)	Total
Sham Shui Po	2009	65	136	1	202
	2010	75	182	5	262
	2011	23	279	6	308
	2012	43	251	0	294
	2013	171	235	3	409
Yau Tsim	2009	11	12	1	24
	2010	11	3	2	16
	2011	15	4	4	23
	2012	6	4	1	11
	2013	4	25	1	30

Enforcement actions in respect of pedestrian precinct

District	Year	Nature of Offence		Total
		Illegal hawking	Street obstruction	
Southern	2009	19	18	37
	2010	23	19	42
	2011	23	18	41
	2012	23	18	41
	2013	25	19	44
Wanchai	2009	2	188	190
	2010	2	415	417
	2011	3	504	507
	2012	2	293	295
	2013	3	79	82
Central and Western	2009	19	34	53
	2010	23	30	53
	2011	13	17	30
	2012	18	13	31
	2013	51	14	65
North	2009	0	13	13
	2010	0	38	38
	2011	0	35	35
	2012	0	23	23
	2013	0	17	17
Yuen Long	2009	67	221	288
	2010	32	279	311
	2011	18	649	667
	2012	36	813	849
	2013	104	888	992
MongKok	2009	5	551	556
	2010	1	1 059	1 060
	2011	4	1 161	1 165
	2012	12	528	540
	2013	39	619	658
Sham Shui Po	2009	17	63	80
	2010	22	40	62
	2011	17	162	179
	2012	17	78	95
	2013	20	136	156

District	Year	Nature of Offence		Total
		Illegal hawking	Street obstruction	
Yau Tsim	2009	1	82	83
	2010	7	45	52
	2011	24	90	114
	2012	16	66	82
	2013	2	7	9

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)265

(Question Serial No. 5244)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 258 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 20):

Please advise on the Department's estimated expenditure on Mainland duty visits or exchange activities for 2014-15, the purposes of the Mainland duty visits or exchange activities planned for 2014-15, as well as the ways to avoid non-official elements in duty visits outside Hong Kong and prevent applications for revising destinations of visits from becoming a mere formality.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

Officers of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will, having regard to operational needs, undertake duty visits, including inspections, exchange programmes and meetings in the Mainland to promote cooperation on food safety and public health issues. It is estimated that the expenditure on duty visits to the Mainland in 2014-15 will be about \$2.2 million.

Duty visits, if publicly funded, are subject to control under relevant regulations and guidelines to ensure effective monitoring and proper use of public funds. There is control on various aspects, such as duty visits should only be conducted when there are strong operational reasons; formal prior approval is required for all duty visits and non-official activities should be avoided; the officers concerned should provide all necessary information in respect of the proposed visit as far as possible when submitting the application; if there are any subsequent changes to the arrangements, the officers concerned should inform the approving officers as soon as possible who should then assess whether re-consideration of the application is needed.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)266

(Question Serial No. 5001)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 59):

It is stated that the Department will “assist FHB in developing proposals for improving the operating environment of public markets, taking into account the recommendations of the consultancy study commissioned in December 2013”. In this connection, please advise on the details of the work, the manpower and expenditure to be involved, the estimated earliest time for implementing the proposals and the list of markets initially identified for improvement of operating environment.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

In December 2013, the Food and Health Bureau commissioned a consultant for developing proposals to improve the operating environment of public markets thereby enabling them to fulfil the functions expected of them. The consultancy fee amounts to \$2 million. The consultant is expected to submit preliminary study findings in mid-2014 if the study progresses smoothly. The study will be monitored by existing staff. No additional manpower and resources will be required.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)267

(Question Serial No. 5002)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 60):

Please advise on the reason(s) why the letting percentage of market stalls is estimated to drop from 90% in 2013 to 85% in 2014. Please also advise on the total number of stalls for letting and the total number of stalls let out in individual markets across the territory in 2012, 2013 and 2014, with a breakdown by stall type.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

The 85% letting percentage for 2014 is a planned target. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has adjusted the planned target progressively from 82% in 2010 to 84% in 2011, and the current figure of 85%. The Department will continue to make suitable adjustment to such figure having regard to the actual performance in past years and the trend of market stall letting.

Information showing the number of stalls let in 2012 and 2013 is set out at Annex. Figures for 2014 are not available.

Market	Stall type	Number of stalls available for letting (as at 31 December)		Number of let stalls (as at 31 December)	
		2012	2013	2012	2013
Yue Wan Market	Cooked Food Stall	20	20	20	20
	Large Stall	43	43	37	41
	Mini Stall	311	311	286	290
Chai Wan Market	Cooked Food Stall	6	6	6	6
	Large Stall	25	25	25	25
	Mini Stall	142	142	131	134
Kut Shing Street Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	11	11	11	11
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	0	0	0	0
Java Road Market	Cooked Food Stall	15	15	15	14
	Large Stall	22	22	22	20
	Mini Stall	157	157	151	151
Causeway Bay Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	10	10	10	10
	Mini Stall	41	41	38	40
Electric Road Market	Cooked Food Stall	5	5	5	5
	Large Stall	15	15	13	15
	Mini Stall	76	79	65	77
Sai Wan Ho Market	Cooked Food Stall	8	8	8	8
	Large Stall	46	46	43	41
	Mini Stall	220	220	212	215
Quarry Bay Market	Cooked Food Stall	5	5	4	4
	Large Stall	19	19	19	19
	Mini Stall	91	91	64	72
Shaukeiwan Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	20	20	14	14
	Mini Stall	62	62	40	32
North Point Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	8	8	8	8
	Mini Stall	34	34	33	33
Aldrich Bay Market	Cooked Food Stall	4	4	2	3
	Large Stall	23	23	14	18
	Mini Stall	44	44	28	36
Bowrington Road	Cooked Food Stall	12	12	12	12
	Large Stall	36	36	36	36
	Mini Stall	248	248	245	247
Tang Lung Chau Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	17	17	17	17
	Mini Stall	17	17	17	17

Market	Stall type	Number of stalls available for letting (as at 31 December)		Number of let stalls (as at 31 December)	
		2012	2013	2012	2013
Wong Nai Chung Market	Cooked Food Stall	6	6	6	6
	Large Stall	11	11	10	9
	Mini Stall	52	52	49	52
Lockhart Road Market	Cooked Food Stall	19	19	19	19
	Large Stall	24	24	24	23
	Mini Stall	123	123	106	106
Wan Chai Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	13	13	13	13
	Mini Stall	37	37	37	36
Sheung Wan Market	Cooked Food Stall	20	20	20	20
	Large Stall	111	112	96	100
	Mini Stall	91	91	86	86
Sai Ying Pun Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	47	51	43	41
	Mini Stall	51	51	46	49
Centre Street Market	Cooked Food Stall	2	2	2	2
	Large Stall	5	5	5	5
	Mini Stall	40	40	29	29
Smithfield Market	Cooked Food Stall	12	12	12	12
	Large Stall	34	35	34	35
	Mini Stall	168	168	168	166
Shek Tong Tsui Market	Cooked Food Stall	15	15	15	15
	Large Stall	22	22	19	22
	Mini Stall	116	114	111	112
Queen Street Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	11	11	9	10
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	0	0	0	0
Aberdeen Market	Cooked Food Stall	10	10	9	9
	Large Stall	45	45	44	45
	Mini Stall	280	280	271	272
Nam Long Shan Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	27	27	26	24
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	1	1	1	1
Tin Wan Market	Cooked Food Stall	10	10	7	10
	Large Stall	22	31	22	25
	Mini Stall	139	139	137	139
Yue Kwong Road Market	Cooked Food Stall	16	16	16	16
	Large Stall	28	33	28	28
	Mini Stall	148	148	148	145

Market	Stall type	Number of stalls available for letting (as at 31 December)		Number of let stalls (as at 31 December)	
		2012	2013	2012	2013
Apleichau Market	Cooked Food Stall	6	6	6	6
	Large Stall	29	33	29	28
	Mini Stall	24	24	24	24
Stanley Waterfront Mart	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	2	2	2	2
	Mini Stall	18	18	18	16
Tai O Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	21	21	17	20
	Mini Stall	5	5	5	5
Peng Chau Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	17	17	15	15
	Mini Stall	1	1	1	1
Mui Wo Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	14	14	13	14
	Mini Stall	19	19	18	18
Cheung Chau Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	93	93	93	92
	Mini Stall	144	144	141	140
Mui Wo Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	16	16	14	16
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	4	4	4	4
Cheung Chau Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	16	16	16	16
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	1	1	1	1
Ngau Tau Kok Market	Cooked Food Stall	21	21	20	20
	Large Stall	50	50	42	41
	Mini Stall	395	395	330	346
Shui Wo Street Market	Cooked Food Stall	20	20	20	20
	Large Stall	17	17	17	16
	Mini Stall	265	265	244	259
Yee On Street Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	19	19	12	13
	Mini Stall	46	46	42	44
Tsun Yip Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	56	56	55	56
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	0	0	0	0
Kwun Tong Ferry Concourse Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	29	29	29	29
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	0	0	0	0

Market	Stall type	Number of stalls available for letting (as at 31 December)		Number of let stalls (as at 31 December)	
		2012	2013	2012	2013
Sze Shan Street Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	17	17	17	17
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	0	0	0	0
Tung Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	8	8	8	8
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	0	0	0	0
Lei Yue Mun Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	9	9	6	6
	Mini Stall	11	11	11	10
To Kwa Wan Market	Cooked Food Stall	8	8	8	8
	Large Stall	44	44	44	44
	Mini Stall	215	215	210	214
Kowloon City Market	Cooked Food Stall	10	10	10	10
	Large Stall	77	77	77	77
	Mini Stall	494	494	477	485
Hung Hom Market	Cooked Food Stall	18	18	18	18
	Large Stall	59	59	59	58
	Mini Stall	147	147	141	145
On Ching Road Flower Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	13	13	13	13
Ngau Chi Wan Market	Cooked Food Stall	15	15	14	15
	Large Stall	77	77	73	71
	Mini Stall	311	310	285	292
Choi Hung Road Market	Cooked Food Stall	19	19	16	14
	Large Stall	19	19	19	18
	Mini Stall	78	78	70	60
Tai Shing Street Market	Cooked Food Stall	11	11	11	10
	Large Stall	97	97	95	92
	Mini Stall	338	338	328	322
Sheung Fung Street Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	17	17	17	17
	Mini Stall	54	54	53	54
Fa Yuen Street Market	Cooked Food Stall	15	15	15	15
	Large Stall	34	34	34	34
	Mini Stall	131	131	131	129
Mong Kok Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	14	14	14	14
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	0	0	0	0

Market	Stall type	Number of stalls available for letting (as at 31 December)		Number of let stalls (as at 31 December)	
		2012	2013	2012	2013
Tai Kok Tsui Market	Cooked Food Stall	12	12	12	12
	Large Stall	27	27	26	27
	Mini Stall	96	96	96	96
Po On Road Market	Cooked Food Stall	19	19	16	17
	Large Stall	55	55	52	52
	Mini Stall	375	375	318	334
Pei Ho Street Market	Cooked Food Stall	20	20	20	20
	Large Stall	46	46	46	46
	Mini Stall	161	161	161	160
Tung Chau Street Temporary Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	29	30	14	14
	Mini Stall	329	329	168	167
Lai Wan Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	12	12	11	12
	Mini Stall	30	30	30	29
Cheung Sha Wan Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	28	28	12	12
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	0	0	0	0
Haiphong Road Temporary Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	33	33	19	19
	Mini Stall	55	55	39	39
Kwun Chung Market	Cooked Food Stall	19	19	18	19
	Large Stall	60	60	57	58
	Mini Stall	139	139	137	136
Yau Ma Tei Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	103	103	89	92
	Mini Stall	41	41	40	39
Wing Fong Street Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	22	22	22	22
	Mini Stall	90	90	86	81
Ka Ting Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	17	17	17	15
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	0	0	0	0
Tai Yuen Street Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	18	18	18	17
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	2	2	2	1
Wo Yi Hop Road Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	14	14	14	12
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	4	4	4	4

Market	Stall type	Number of stalls available for letting (as at 31 December)		Number of let stalls (as at 31 December)	
		2012	2013	2012	2013
North Kwai Chung Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	30	30	29	28
	Mini Stall	192	192	159	177
Cheung Tat Road Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	12	12	12	12
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	0	0	0	0
Kwai Shun Street Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	12	12	12	12
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	0	0	0	0
Tsing Yi Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	20	22	20	22
	Mini Stall	54	54	46	50
Yeung Uk Road Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	117	116	116	116
	Mini Stall	202	202	200	202
Heung Che Street Market	Cooked Food Stall	40	40	39	40
	Large Stall	39	39	34	38
	Mini Stall	144	144	134	143
Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	32	32	31	32
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	0	0	0	0
Tsuen Wan Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	46	46	41	42
	Mini Stall	335	335	319	317
Sham Tseng Temporary Market	Cooked Food Stall	8	8	5	5
	Large Stall	6	6	5	5
	Mini Stall	15	15	12	12
Tsuen King Circuit Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	38	38	7	7
	Mini Stall	203	203	74	67
Lam Tei Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	6	6	5	6
	Mini Stall	1	1	1	1
Hung Cheung Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	11	11	11	11
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	0	0	0	0
Kin Wing Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	20	20	16	16
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	0	0	0	0

Market	Stall type	Number of stalls available for letting (as at 31 December)		Number of let stalls (as at 31 December)	
		2012	2013	2012	2013
San Hui Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	67	67	67	67
	Mini Stall	257	257	250	249
Yan Oi Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	28	28	28	28
	Mini Stall	80	80	77	79
Tsing Yeung Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	16	16	16	16
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	2	2	2	2
Kam Tin Market	Cooked Food Stall	5	5	5	5
	Large Stall	36	36	36	36
	Mini Stall	0	0	0	0
Lau Fau Shan Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	25	25	22	22
	Mini Stall	0	0	0	0
Kik Yeung Road Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	12	12	12	12
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	2	2	2	2
Tai Kiu Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	87	87	86	87
	Mini Stall	292	292	282	276
Tai Tong Road Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	16	16	16	16
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	2	2	2	2
Kin Yip Street Cooked Food Market	Cooked Food Stall	12	12	12	12
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	2	2	2	2
Hung Shui Kiu Temporary Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	63	63	31	29
	Mini Stall	152	152	56	55
Tung Yick Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	137	137	88	88
	Mini Stall	309	309	103	103
Sha Tau Kok Market	Cooked Food Stall	8	8	8	8
	Large Stall	34	34	29	30
	Mini Stall	24	24	24	24
Shek Wu Hui Market	Cooked Food Stall	28	28	28	28
	Large Stall	87	87	87	87
	Mini Stall	277	277	275	276

Market	Stall type	Number of stalls available for letting (as at 31 December)		Number of let stalls (as at 31 December)	
		2012	2013	2012	2013
Kwu Tung Market Shopping Centre	Cooked Food Stall	12	12	12	12
	Large Stall	18	18	18	18
	Mini Stall	68	68	68	68
Luen Wo Hui Market	Cooked Food Stall	22	22	21	19
	Large Stall	111	111	86	100
	Mini Stall	205	205	203	205
Tai Po Hui Market	Cooked Food Stall	40	40	39	39
	Large Stall	123	123	122	123
	Mini Stall	150	150	150	150
Plover Cove Road Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	40	40	38	40
	Mini Stall	204	204	202	201
Sai Kung Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	68	68	66	68
	Mini Stall	141	141	140	139
Tui Min Hoi Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	9	9	9	9
	Mini Stall	25	25	23	25
Sha Tin Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	50	50	50	50
	Mini Stall	123	123	122	123
Tai Wai Market	Cooked Food Stall	0	0	0	0
	Large Stall	56	56	52	52
	Mini Stall	139	139	126	123
Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (East)	Cooked Food Stall	24	24	24	23
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	0	0	0	0
Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (West)	Cooked Food Stall	15	15	15	15
	Large Stall	0	0	0	0
	Mini Stall	0	0	0	0

Remark:

Large Stall including fish stalls, meat stalls, poultry stalls, service trade stalls, etc.

Mini Stall including vegetable stalls, fruit stalls, dry goods stalls, etc.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)268

(Question Serial No. 5034)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 250 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 89):

Regarding the utilisation of facilities under the control of the Department, please advise this Committee on the following:

- 1) the facilities (e.g. slaughterhouses, pigeon farms and markets) under the control of the Department disused in each of the past five years, with information set out in the table below including i) the name, ii) the location, iii) the site area, iv) the date of disuse and v) whether the facility has been handed over to other government departments (e.g. the Development Bureau, the Planning Department and the Government Property Agency) for other uses and the details:

Year	i)	ii)	iii)	iv)	v)

- 2) the facilities (e.g. slaughterhouses, pigeon farms, markets and composting plants) under the control of the Department left idle for more than five years, with information set out in the table below including i) the name, ii) the location, iii) the site area, iv) the date of disuse and v) whether there is any plan to hand over the facility to other government departments (e.g. the Development Bureau, the Planning Department and the Government Property Agency) for other uses and the details:

i)	ii)	iii)	iv)	v)

- 3) the annual expenditure on the management of the above idle facilities in the years from 2011 to 2014.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

The information sought for (1) - (3) is provided at Annexes 1 - 3.

Facilities Disused in Past Five Years

Year	i) Name	ii) Location	iii) Site area	iv) Date of disuse	iv) Whether the facility has been handed over to other government departments (e.g. the Development Bureau, the Planning Department and the Government Property Agency) for other uses
2009-10	Kimberley Street Market	Ground floor (Level 4) and Basement (Level 3), 28 Kimberley Street, Tsim Sha Tsui	About 3 750m ²	April 2009	The facility has been handed over to Immigration Department in November 2012.
2009-10	Kansu Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar	Kansu Street, Yau Ma Tei	About 200m ²	June 2009	The facility has been handed over to Lands Department in January 2010.
2009-10	Wui Cheung Road Public Toilet	Wui Cheung Road, Yau Ma Tei	195m ²	December 2009	The facility has been handed over to Lands Department in December 2009.
2009-10	Mong Kok Market	1047 Canton Road, Mong Kok	About 1 240m ²	March 2010	The lot has been included in the Second Half of 2014-15 Land Sale Programme by Lands Department and the lot together with the facility will be handed over to successful tenderer in due course.
2010-11	Tang Lung Chau Market	59 Jardine's Bazaar, Causeway Bay	About 500m ² (major portion of first floor only, the total floor area of first floor is 656m ²)	June 2010	The facility has been reserved to accommodate those fixed-pitch hawker stalls at Jardine's Crescent, which are located directly in front of staircase discharge points of buildings and have to be relocated in order to reduce fire risks under the Hawker Assistance Scheme.
2010-11	Witty Street Public Toilet	Junction of Queen's Road West and Witty Street, Shek Tong Tsui	About 40m ²	October 2010	The facility has been handed over to Mass Transit Railway Corporation.

Year	i) Name	ii) Location	iii) Site area	iv) Date of disuse	iv) Whether the facility has been handed over to other government departments (e.g. the Development Bureau, the Planning Department and the Government Property Agency) for other uses
2010-11	Centre Street Public Toilet	Ground floor, Centre Street Market (West Block), Sheung Wan	102m ²	October 2010	The facility has been handed over to Mass Transit Railway Corporation.
2010-11	Kwun Chung Street Public Toilet	7 Kwun Chung Street, Yau Ma Tei	269m ²	December 2010	The facility has been handed over to Lands Department in September 2011.
2010-11	Peng Chau Market	2 Po Peng Street, Peng Chau	692m ² (First floor of the market building only)	January 2011	Registration and Electoral Office will take up part of the vacant first floor and Social Welfare Department is considering taking up the rest of the vacant first floor.
2011-12	Kwong Choi Market	2 Tsing Min Path, Tuen Mun	About 1 710m ²	April 2011	The lot has been included in the January-March 2014 Land Sale Programme by Lands Department and the lot together with the facility will be handed over to successful tenderer in due course.
2011-12	Eastern Street Public Toilet	Eastern Street (at side of David Trench Rehabilitation Centre), Sheung Wan	27m ²	May 2011	The facility has been handed over to Mass Transit Railway Corporation.
2012-13	Tsuen Wan Transport Complex Public Toilet (North)	Tsuen Wan Transport Complex, 7 Hoi Kwai Road, Tsuen Wan	19m ²	April 2012	The facility has been handed over to Lands Department in April 2012.

Year	i) Name	ii) Location	iii) Site area	iv) Date of disuse	iv) Whether the facility has been handed over to other government departments (e.g. the Development Bureau, the Planning Department and the Government Property Agency) for other uses
2012-13	Tsuen Wan Transport Complex Public Toilet (South)	Tsuen Wan Transport Complex, 7 Hoi Kwai Road, Tsuen Wan	19m ²	April 2012	The facility has been handed over to Lands Department in April 2012.
2012-13	Ko Long Village Aqua Privy	Ko Long Village, Yung Shue Wan, Lamma Island	45m ²	August 2012	The facility is pending demolition before returning to Lands Department.
2012-13	Ap Lei Chau Praya Road Temporary Refuse Collection Point	GLA-THK-1184 at Ap Lei Chau Praya Road, Apleichau, Southern District	625m ²	October 2012	The facility has been handed over to Lands Department in August 2013.
2013-14	Bridges Street Market	2 Bridges Street, Central	848m ²	October 2013	The facility is pending hand over to Development Bureau.

Facilities Left Idle for More Than Five Years

i) Name	ii) Location	iii) Site area	iv) Date of disuse	v) Whether there is any plan to hand over the facility to other government departments (e.g. the Development Bureau, the Planning Department and the Government Property Agency) for other uses
Tung Tau Tsuen Road Public Toilet/Bathhouse	Tung Tau Tsuen Road, Wong Tai Sin	About 500 m ²	November 2003	The facility is pending hand over to Lands Department.

Annual Expenditure on the Management of Idle Facilities

Name of facility	2011-12 (Actual)	2012-13 (Actual)	2013-14 (Revised estimate)
Tung Tau Tsuen Road Public Toilet/Bathhouse	\$0	\$71,200 (Being the cost for providing one-off site fencing and annual tree maintenance.)	\$15,266 (Being the annual cost for tree maintenance.)

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)269****(Question Serial No. 5089)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 259 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 157):

Regarding Item 818 Assistance Scheme for Hawkers in Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas under this Subhead, please advise this Committee on the details of the expenditure of \$38 million in 2013-14, including the number of hawkers benefitted and the details of the grants provided.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

The Finance Committee approved in March 2013 a financial commitment of \$230 million for launching a five-year assistance scheme for some 4 300 licensed fixed-pitch hawkers operating in 43 hawker areas (the Assistance Scheme). The Assistance Scheme, which commenced on 3 June 2013, aims to provide one-off financial assistance to hawkers in the hawker areas for stall reconstruction and relocation in order to expedite the work of reducing fire risks in those areas. Besides, an ex-gratia payment (EGP) is offered under the Assistance Scheme for voluntary surrender of hawker licences. The estimated expenditure of \$38 million is a rough estimate of the cash flow requirement for payment of stall reconstruction and relocation grants and EGP in 2013-14.

As at 28 February 2014, the number of applications for grants or EGP and the expenditure involved are provided as follows -

Item	Number of hawkers who have applied	Number of applications approved for payment	Amount of grant involved (\$)
Voluntary surrender of hawker licences	261	215	25,800,000
Relocation of stalls	112	3#	156,900
In-situ reconstruction of stalls	93	1#	15,000

Payment for relocation or in-situ reconstruction grant is subject to compliance of all stall construction specifications and clearance of existing stall structure.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)270

(Question Serial No. 5090)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 248 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 158):

Regarding the provision of departmental staff quarters, please advise this Committee on the following –

- (1) whether any departmental quarters have been left idle in the past five years; if yes, the information about each of these quarters, including the name, location, site area, number of units and planned future use, etc.;
- (2) whether any quarters have been left idle for more than five years; if yes, the information about each of these quarters, including the name, location, site area, number of units and the date when it was left idle, and whether the Government Property Agency has been notified to take over the quarters; and
- (3) whether additional government land has been allocated for provision of departmental quarters in the past three years; if yes, the information about the new quarters to be provided, including the name, location, site area, number of units, etc.

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (1) There are no departmental quarters which have been left idle in the past five years.
- (2) There are no quarters having been left idle for over five years.
- (3) There has not been any additional allocation of government land for the provision of departmental quarters in the past three years.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 4777)

Head: (703) Capital Works Reserve Fund: Buildings

Subhead (No. & title): (3012NT) Conversion of aqua privies into flushing toilets – phase 6
(3013NT) Conversion of aqua privies into flushing toilets – phase 7

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Architectural Services (K K LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 2 Page 26

Question (Member Question No. 178):

Regarding the two projects, namely “3012NT Conversion of aqua privies into flushing toilets – phase 6” and “3013NT Conversion of aqua privies into flushing toilets – phase 7”, please advise on the following:

- (1) the latest progress of each project;
- (2) the number of aqua privies currently covered by these projects which have yet to be converted; and the expected date of completing the conversion;
- (3) the number of aqua privies currently not covered by these projects; the way the Administration will deal with such aqua privies;
- (4) whether the Administration will examine, apart from aqua privies, the mobile toilets in the countryside of the New Territories and the outlying islands and convert those toilets with high usage rate and potential for conversion into flushing toilets.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (1) The conversion of all the 90 aqua privies (APs) under Phase 6 has been completed. Of & the 145 APs under Phase 7, 112 have been converted into flushing toilets. The
- (2) conversion works for the remaining 13 APs will be completed by December 2014. 20 APs cannot be converted into flushing toilets because of site constraints, failure to obtain local support, request for demolition or other reasons. Of these 20 APs, 11 have already been refurbished in-situ and one has been demolished. We will continue to carry out in-situ refurbishment or demolition works for the rest of the APs after reaching consensus with relevant stakeholders.

- (3) According to the advice from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), there are 53 APs which have not been included in the conversion programme. Eight APs have already been demolished, one has been converted into flushing toilet and four have been refurbished in-situ. 40 of them will require more time for follow-up action. FEHD has been actively exploring suitable options including conversion of individual APs into flushing toilets, in-situ refurbishment, demolition and reprovisioning. FEHD will consult the local community and government departments concerned with a view to implementing the above options as soon as possible.
- (4) According to the advice from FEHD, various factors including the availability of alternative toilet facilities nearby will be taken into consideration when planning the provision of public toilets. While toilets provided in rural areas in the early days were often constructed to serve the nearby villagers, the more recent ones are usually built in the vicinity of public transport facilities to optimise their use. In the event that provision of public toilet is not justified or not feasible due to site constraint, portable toilets may be provided as an alternative.