

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(FE)15

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Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

1109

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Under this programme, provision for 2007-08 is \$85.10 million (13.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2006-07. The work targets include conducting food surveillance at various points of the food chain, as well as investigating and managing food incidents. In 2006-07, the Administration failed to respond swiftly to Mainland food safety incidents. It was slow in source-tracing, investigation, and affirmation of food problems. The media identified the problems before the Administration and even tracked down the smuggling channel and proces. In this regard, please advise on how the increased provision will be allocated to carry out source-tracing as well as investigation and disclosure of food incidents in order to improve food surveillance and the related work as well as expedite the investigation process.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

A financial provision of \$37.2 million has been included in the 2007-08 Estimate for the creation of 75 posts and related departmental expenses, including Veterinary Officers, Field Officers, Scientific Officers, Health Inspectors and administrative support staff for enhancing food import control, strengthening veterinary input in the management of local slaughterhouses as well as enhancing food safety risk communication capabilities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

EDDY CHAN

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

15.3.2007