

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

Reply Serial No.

**HWFB(FE)17  
3**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

2530

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

There has been a continuous decline in the number of inspections to food premises in recent years. The 2005 figure was 10% less than the that of 2004 and the 2006 figure was 6% less than that of 2005. There will be a further drop of 2% in the 2007 estimated figure. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

Under the Risk-based Inspection System, licensed food premises are classified into Type I (low risk), Type II (medium risk) and Type III (high risk) for the determination of inspection frequency by health inspectors. The frequency of inspection of low risk and medium risk food premises has been reduced, resulting in a lower number of inspections in total since 2005 in order to better target the Department's resources at high risk food premises, including those food premises which have operated without a licence. The number of inspections for 2007 at 235 000 is an estimated number based on the actual number of inspections in 2006 rounded off to the nearest thousand.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **EDDY CHAN** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15.3.2007 \_\_\_\_\_