

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

Reply Serial No.

**HWFB(FE)19
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Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

2642

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 :

Despite the establishment of the Centre for Food Safety in 2006-07 and the 13.7% increase in the provision for food safety and public health for 2007-08 over 2006-07, the target for "food surveillance through testing of food samples" is not enhanced with the planned figure similar to the 2006 actual figure. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The original estimated number of food samples to be taken for testing under the routine food surveillance programme in 2006 was 63 000. In response to the occurrence of various food related incidents in 2006, about 2 000 additional samples were taken for testing during the year. The 2007-08 Estimate, which is based on the actual number of samples taken in 2006, has already provided for an increase of 2 000 additional food samples under the regular food surveillance programme, as compared with that as shown in the 2006-07 Estimate (i.e. 63 000 samples). Furthermore, additional samples will also be taken during the year in response to food complaints and food incidents.

The increase in financial provision for food safety in the 2007-08 Estimate is for enhancing import control, strengthening veterinary input in local slaughterhouses as well as enhancing risk communication capabilities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

EDDY CHAN

Post Title _____

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____

15.3.2007