

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

FHB(FE)155

Question Serial No.

2601

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

What is the establishment of staff responsible for inspecting imported vegetables at Man Kam To? In this connection, what is the financial provision earmarked for 2008-09? How is it compared to the provision in 2007-08? What are the plans in 2008-09 to ensure vegetables imported to Hong Kong are safe for consumption and also the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2008-09, 17 Health Inspectorate Officers will work at the Man Kam To Food Control Office. To ensure the safety of imported vegetables, the Department will continue to inspect inbound vegetable vehicles at Man Kam To Border Control Point, check the relevant import documents and take random samples for pesticides.

The estimated expenditure for the work on import control is \$86.1 million in 2008-09, representing a rise of \$13.6 million (18.8%) from the revised estimate of 2007-08. Separate breakdown on resources and manpower provided for inspection of vehicles conveying vegetables from the Mainland is not readily available.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **W H CHEUK** _____

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene _____

Date _____ 25.3.2008 _____

