

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

Reply Serial No.

**FHB(FE)156**

Question Serial No.

2602

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

The actual number of prosecutions taken by the Department against food premises in 2007 increased significantly by 44% over 2006, and the figure for 2008 is expected to remain at the same high level as 2007. What is the reason for that? Apart from prosecution actions, are there any other initiatives to facilitate compliance with the law by food premises? What are the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The number of prosecutions in respect of food business is determined largely by breaches of statutory provisions committed by offenders. Compared with 2006, there was an increase in 2007 in the number of prosecutions against unlicensed food premises; unauthorized extension of food business beyond the licensed area; improper storage of open food; and use of open space for food business activities. The number of prosecutions in 2008 is an estimation based on the 2007 figure with rounding off.

To promote and facilitate compliance with statutory provisions, we conduct seminars for, and disseminate health education information to, food handlers and food business licensees. We will also continue to streamline licence application procedures to make the licensing regime more business-friendly without compromising food safety and environmental hygiene.

Enforcement against food business-related offences is undertaken by some 290 Health Inspectors in 19 District Environmental Hygiene Offices as part of their environmental hygiene duties. There is no separate breakdown of the expenditure and manpower involved in the work mentioned above.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters W H CHEUK

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 20.3.2008