

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

Reply Serial No.

FHB(FE)159

Question Serial No.

2612

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 :

Regarding the food samples taken for testing, the Department estimates that the figure for 2008 will be similar to that for 2007, which are 65 000 and 65 206 respectively. However, in view of the spread of viruses on a global scale, did the Department take any measures to enhance the safety of imported food? If yes, please advise on the details, and the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

A proactive three-tier approach involving routine, targetted and seasonal food surveillance has been adopted since 2007. In planning the food surveillance programme, various factors including the risk of food items, consumption level, past surveillance data, and previous local/overseas food incidents are taken into consideration. In 2008, the Centre for Food Safety will maintain this approach. The estimated expenditure on food surveillance is \$45.4 million. The manpower involved is 96 staff, including health inspectors, administration and supporting staff.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene _____

Date _____ 25.3.2008 _____