

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

Reply Serial No.

**FHB(FE)163**

Question Serial No.

2679

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 :

Please advise on the following:

- a) whether detector dogs have been deployed at border control points to deter people from bringing illicit meat into Hong Kong? If yes, please state the results achieved;
- b) whether discretionary enforcement action is taken against people bringing a small amount of meat into Hong Kong for self-consumption. Please provide the details;
- c) the number of cases in which people bringing illicit meat into Hong Kong detected by the Department in 2007-08 and the ways in which these cases were handled in general.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

Since February 2008, the Centre for Food Safety, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has employed two detector dog teams to work at the major land control points in Hong Kong. The dogs are trained to detect raw and partially cooked meat, poultry and game. As at 12.3.08, seven interceptions have been made. All offenders were served warning letters.

Offenders are generally liable to prosecution. However, a first time offender who brings a small amount in his personal luggage may be served a warning letter instead. In all cases, the meat or poultry intercepted will be disposed of.

In 2007, there were some 3 100 interceptions against illegal importation of meat/poultry, with 114 offenders prosecuted.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **W H CHEUK** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 20.3.2008 \_\_\_\_\_

