

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)086**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1941

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) In 2009, there was an increase in the number of applications for restaurant licences, other food-related licences and food business licences. However, the estimated number of inspections to food premises in 2010 does not reflect a corresponding increase. What are the reasons for that?
- (b) In 2009, the number of prosecutions taken against licensed and unlicensed food premises increased by 9% and 14% respectively. What are the reasons for the rise? Will the Department increase the staff establishment in this respect in 2010-11?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

- (a) The estimated number of inspections to food premises is projected with reference to the total number of licensed food premises. As the estimated number of food premises in 2010 is similar to previous years, we estimate the total number of inspections to food premises to be about the same as in 2009.
- (b) For licensed food premises, the increase in prosecutions was due to the rise in the number of breaches relating to unauthorised extension of food business beyond the licensed area and obstruction in public place. For unlicensed food premises, the increase in prosecutions was mainly due to more cases of business commencing operation before the grant of licence. There is no plan to increase staff establishment in 2010-11 in this respect.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

W H CHEUK

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date \_\_\_\_\_

15.3.2010