

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

FHB(FE)017

Question Serial No.

1255

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:

With regard to the preparation for implementation of the Food Safety Bill, please provide details, including the financial provision required and manpower arrangement.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) has a detailed preparatory plan to ensure the successful implementation of the Food Safety Bill (the Bill).

CFS has already set up an office and is developing a computer system to handle the registration of food importers and food distributors under the Bill. To facilitate the registration process, CFS is consulting the trade on a set of guidelines on registration. CFS has already completed consultation with the trade on the record keeping requirement under the Bill and is finalizing a Code of Practice on the duration of keeping records for different types of food. In response to possible enquiries on the Bill, CFS will set up a hotline and a dedicated webpage to provide the necessary information about the Bill.

Upon the enactment of the Bill, CFS will launch an extensive publicity campaign to promote public awareness of the Bill's requirements. The campaign will include briefing sessions to be staged in 18 districts to explain the requirements of the Bill. Food traders such as primary producers, public market tenants and wholesale market tenants, will be particularly targeted at these sessions. Apart from this, the campaign will encompass advertisements in newspapers, magazines and on public transport, television and radio announcements in the public interest, roving exhibitions in shopping arcades and public markets as well as pamphlets, booklets and souvenirs.

In 2011-12, about \$3 million has been allocated to employ ten contract staff and six civil servants to prepare for the implementation of the Bill.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 18.3.2011