

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

**FHB(FE)121**

Question Serial No.

2958

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:

The indicator for "food complaints handled" increased from 3 737 in 2010 (Actual) to 4 265 in 2011 (Actual). Please advise on:

- (a) the reason(s) for the increase in number;
- (b) whether the complaints were categorised; if yes, the number of complaints in each category for the past three years;
- (c) the expenditure involved in increasing the indicator; and
- (d) whether additional manpower will be deployed to achieve the enhanced indicator of 4 200 in 2012 (Estimate); if yes, the expenditure to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The increase in the number of food complaints in 2011 was attributed to the occurrence of a number of food incidents in 2011, including the contamination of German eggs by dioxin in January; radiation contamination of imported food from Japan due to the Fukushima Nuclear Plant incident in March; plasticiser contamination in Taiwanese food in May and reports of faked egg/faked beef in January/May.
- (b) The number of food complaints handled by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department from 2009 to 2011 with breakdown by nature is provided as follows -

<b>Nature of Complaints</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Unwholesome food	2 115	2 059	2 152
Foreign substances in food	1 127	1 018	1 017
Chemicals in food	558	393	647
Labelling issues	227	176	208
Fake/counterfeit food	160	53	167
Others	40	38	74
<b>Total number of cases</b>	<b>4 227</b>	<b>3 737</b>	<b>4 265</b>

(c) and (d)

As the estimated number of food complaints in 2012 is similar to the number of food complaints in 2011, the manpower and expenditure provided for handling food complaints will remain the same.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 29.2.2012 \_\_\_\_\_