

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

FHB(FE)138

Question Serial No.

2619

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 number of inspections conducted by the Department in respect of illegal sale of chilled meat (including sale of chilled meat and chilled poultry without permission or sale of chilled meat as fresh meat) in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively, as well as the number of illegal cases detected and the penalty imposed.

Asked by: Hon. Wong Yung-kan

Reply:

Licensed food premises selling chilled meat/poultry are inspected once every four, ten and 20 weeks according to their risk types under the "Risk-based Inspection System" whereas stalls in public markets with permission to sell chilled meat/poultry are inspected once every eight weeks. In addition, there are inspections to follow up on complaints. Actions will be taken if any irregularities are found during such inspections. There are no separate statistics on inspections concerning illegal sale of chilled meat/poultry.

In 2009, 2010 and 2011, nine, five and 18 prosecutions were taken respectively against licensed food premises and stalls in public markets for selling chilled meat/poultry without permission and the penalties imposed for each case ranged from \$500 to \$10,000, with an average of \$3,800. As regards cases concerning selling chilled/frozen meat/poultry as fresh meat/poultry, there were one cancellation of licence of food premises and two terminations of tenancy agreement of market stall in 2009, one cancellation of licence of food premises in 2010 and two terminations of tenancy agreement of market stall in 2011.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Clement LEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 29.2.2012