

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

**FHB(FE)108**

Question Serial No.

0212

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:

How many non-local food production farms and food processing plants (apart from those in the Mainland) were inspected by the Department in 2011 and 2012 respectively? What were the staff establishment required and expenditure involved in each of the above two years?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2011, a total of 11 farms and 10 processing plants in Mexico, Germany and Sweden were inspected.

In 2012, a total of 15 farms and 16 processing plants in Chile, Italy, France, Hungary and Ireland were inspected.

An inspection unit comprising three veterinary officers, eight field officers and one research / fisheries officer is responsible for inspection of food animal farms (including fish farms) outside Hong Kong. The actual expenditure on farm inspections was \$6.6 million in 2011-12 and the related estimated expenditure was \$7.7 million in 2012-13. \$8.6 million has been earmarked for farm inspections in 2013-14.

The inspection of vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong is carried out by an agricultural officer, while an inspection unit comprising five health inspectors is responsible for inspecting food processing plants outside Hong Kong. These officers are also tasked with other duties. Separate breakdown on the manpower resources spent on inspection of food processing plants is not readily available.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013