

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

FHB(FE)132

Question Serial No.

1971

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 provide information on the following in respect of the inspections to food production farms outside Hong Kong:

- (a) the number of food production farms and food processing plants outside Hong Kong inspected by the Department in 2012, as well as the major regions / places for inspections; and
- (b) the estimated staff establishment and expenditure to be involved in the inspection of food production farms and food processing plants outside Hong Kong in 2013-14.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) In 2012, a total of 88 registered food production farms (including farms which export live food animals, live aquatic products, fish and vegetables to Hong Kong) and 42 food processing plants in the Mainland were inspected. Another 15 farms and 16 processing plants in Chile, Italy, France, Hungary and Ireland were also inspected.
- (b) An inspection unit comprising three veterinary officers, eight field officers and one research/fisheries officer is responsible for the inspection of food animal farms (including fish farms) outside Hong Kong. \$8.6 million has been earmarked for the work 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 vegetable farms, orchards and 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