

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

**FHB(FE)141**

Question Serial No.

1980

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:

Under this programme, it is mentioned that the Department will assist the Food and Health Bureau in preparing legislation to govern formula products and foods for infants and young children. In this connection, please advise on the details and progress of the work, as well as the estimated expenditure and manpower to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

To protect the health of infants and young children, the Food and Health Bureau and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) have put forward a package of legislative proposals relating to formula products and foods intended for infants and young children under the age of 36 months. We propose to prescribe in the law the nutritional composition requirement for infant formula and nutrition labelling requirement for infant formula, follow-up formula and foods intended for infants and young children under the age of 36 months.

The legislative proposals were discussed at a joint meeting of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene and Panel on Health Services on 20 November 2012. A two-month public consultation exercise was launched on the same day. In general, traders and members of the public welcomed the Codex-based approach and supported the legislative proposals. The views and comments received during the public consultation were reported to the LegCo Panel of Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on 12 March 2013. We are drafting the legislation for tabling in LegCo in 2013.

The additional work related to the preparation of the legislation is absorbed within existing resources.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 5.4.2013