

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

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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:

In respect of inspections to farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the current number of approved farms, as well as the staff establishment and expenditure required for each inspection in 2012-13; and
- (b) the normal frequency of inspections to these approved farms.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) As at 31 December 2012, there were 510 registered farms in the Mainland eligible to export food animals to Hong Kong. An inspection unit comprising three veterinary officers, eight field officers and one research/fisheries officer is responsible for inspection of food animal farms outside Hong Kong. The estimated expenditure for conducting such farm inspections in 2012-13 is \$7.7 million. The manpower required and expenditure incurred for each visit varies, depending on factors including the distance travelled and the number of farms inspected in each visit, etc.
- (b) A plan for inspecting food animal farms is drawn up every year using a risk-based approach. In 2012, 75 food animal farms in the Mainland were inspected.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

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