

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)099

(Question Serial No. 0026)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 21):

Please advise on the manpower and expenditure involved in conducting avian influenza testing on live poultry imported into Hong Kong from the Mainland in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2011 to 2013) and the estimated manpower and expenditure required for 2014.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is responsible for verifying and collecting animal health certificates that accompany the live poultry imported from the Mainland, inspecting the health status of these birds and collecting from them samples for laboratory testing of avian influenza (AI). Samples taken by CFS at the Man Kam To Animal Inspection Station are sent to the Veterinary Laboratory under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for testing. The expenditure incurred by CFS to carry out the abovementioned AI surveillance on live poultry imported from the Mainland in 2011-12 and 2012-13 was \$7.4 million and \$7.3 million respectively, and the revised estimate in 2013-14 is \$7.2 million. A financial provision of \$8 million for the same purpose has been earmarked for 2014-15.

The number of CFS staff engaged in carrying out the above work was 42 in each of the three financial years ending 2013-14. In 2014-15, the same number of staff has been provided for carrying out the relevant work.