

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)134**

**(Question Serial No. 1024)**

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

Question:

Under this programme, it is stated that the Department will “assist the Food and Health Bureau in conducting public consultation on regulation of safety of edible oils and the recycling of waste cooking oil”. Please advise on the details of the plan(s) concerned, as well as the expenditure and manpower to be involved.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 41)

Reply:

As a result of the Taiwan substandard lard incident in September 2014, the public expressed deep concern about the safety of edible oil. To address the public concern, the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and the Environment Bureau have decided to step up regulation of the safety of edible oil and the recycling of waste cooking oil in Hong Kong to safeguard food safety and Hong Kong's reputation. The Government intends to launch a public consultation on the legislative proposals in the first half of 2015.

The additional work related to formulation of the legislative framework, and the launching of the public consultation will be absorbed from within existing resources. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.

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