

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-FHB(FE)10

(Question Serial No. S0087)

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:

Please provide information on the manpower of the "Intelligence Unit" of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, as well as the detection of vegetable and freshwater fish smuggling activities and the mechanism employed.

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No.)

Reply:

The Intelligence Unit (IU) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has 57 staff. It is headed by a Chief Health Inspector and comprises four Intelligence-cum-Raiding Teams (IRT) & four Anti-littering Enforcement Teams (AET). The IRT is tasked, among others, to handle complaints of sale of frozen/chilled meat as fresh meat, sale of meat from dubious sources and illegal slaughtering. The AET is tasked to take enforcement actions against littering offences in plain clothes. The IU also provides intelligence support services to other units of the Department (including the Centre for Food Safety (CFS)) in dealing with complicated cases.

Upon receipt of information about vegetable or freshwater fish smuggling activities, the IU will conduct preliminary investigation into the cases. Where there is prima-facie evidence, the IU will render assistance in mounting joint operations with CFS and, if necessary, the Customs & Excise Department to curb the smuggling activities.

- End -