

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)148

(Question Serial No. 0252)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the inspections to food premises by the Department in the past three years (i.e. from 2013-14 to 2015-16), please advise on the number of inspections conducted, the number and nature of cases of irregularities detected, the types of premises involved and the districts in which these premises were located, as well as the number of warnings issued and prosecutions instituted.

Asked by: Hon Steven HO Chun-yin (Member Question No. 19)

Reply:

The required statistics, provided on a calendar-year basis, are given below –

	2013	2014	2015
(a) Number of inspections to licensed food premises	203 007	208 380	204 349
(b) Number of prosecutions instituted against licensed food premises	3 687	2 599	2 313
(c) Number of warnings issued under the licensing regime for breach of licensing requirements/conditions	1 211	1 223	1 376

The breakdown by nature of irregularities is at Annex. There are no separate statistics on the types and locations of premises involved.

**Prosecutions Instituted against Licensed Food Premises
in 2013, 2014 and 2015**

Nature of Irregularities	No. of Prosecutions		
	2013	2014	2015
Dirty food premises / presence of vermins, live birds or animals	15	6	13
Dirty equipment and utensils	27	13	23
Food not protected from risk of contamination	7	3	7
Sub-standard fish tank water	3	0	3
Improper storage of open food	132	93	121
Use of open space for scullery / food preparation / storage of food utensils	171	144	150
Dirty food room / improper repair of food room	56	38	61
Dirty toilet	0	0	3
Alteration of premises or fittings	12	4	12
Alteration to the approved layout of the premises	136	207	157
Sale of restricted food without permission	17	10	8
Operating other types of unlicensed food business	7	24	34
Extension of food business beyond licensed area	1 044	610	495
Obstruction of public places	2 048	1 410	1 171
Other irregularities such as smoking in food room; sale of fresh and chilled meat at the same premises; sale of food unfit for human consumption; sale of food which was not of the nature, substance or quality demanded by the purchaser; and fresh meat containing preservative etc.	12	37	55
Total	3 687	2 599	2 313

Note: The number of prosecutions against licensed food premises dropped from 3 687 in 2013 to 2 313 in 2015. This was attributable mainly to the significant drop in the number of cases involving illegal extension of food business area and obstruction of public places by licensed food premises in 2014 and 2015, relative to 2013.