

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)168

(Question Serial No. 0015)

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:

How many non-local food production farms and food processing plants (apart from those on the Mainland) were inspected by the Department in each of the years from 2013 to 2015? Please advise on the staff establishment required and expenditure involved in each of the above three years.

Asked by: Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan (Member Question No. 15)

Reply:

In 2013, a total of nine farms and ten food processing plants in Spain, Vietnam and Iceland were inspected.

In 2014, a total of six farms and 14 food processing plants in the United States, Ireland, France, India, Japan and the Netherlands were inspected.

In 2015, a total of four farms and six food processing plants in the United Kingdom, Australia and Korea were inspected.

An inspection unit in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), comprising three veterinary officers, eight field officers and one fisheries officer, is responsible for inspection of food animal farms (including fish farms) outside Hong Kong, involving an actual expenditure of \$8.5 million each in 2013-14 and 2014-15. The revised estimate in 2015-16 is \$10 million, and the estimated expenditure in 2016-17 is \$11.4 million. We do not keep separate breakdown on the resources used for inspection in the Mainland and overseas.

The inspection of vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong is carried out by another team in the Department led by an agricultural officer, with an inspection unit comprising five health inspectors responsible for inspecting food processing plants outside Hong Kong. These officers are also tasked with other duties. We do not have separate breakdown of expenses incurred for conducting inspection in the Mainland and overseas, or the resources

used for inspection of vegetable farms, orchards and food processing plants outside Hong Kong.

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