

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 6685)

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:

With regard to the public consultation on regulation of nutrition claims and health claims for formula products and prepackaged food for infants and young children under the age of 36 months, please advise on the details, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 383)

Reply:

In order to better protect the health of infants and young children (IYC) under the age of 36 months, and to facilitate effective regulatory control over nutrition and health claims of formula products and IYC foods, the Government has proposed to establish a regulatory framework to enhance the regulation of nutrition and health claims on formula products and IYC foods. For this purpose, a public consultation exercise was launched in January 2015. The Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene was briefed on the consultation document in February 2015. The Centre for Food Safety has arranged two public consultation forums, various meetings and briefings for members of the trade, health care professionals, pro-breastfeeding groups, consumer groups and Consulates General, before the consultation period ended in April 2015. The results of the consultation were reported to the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene in July 2015.

The Government is in the course of formulating specific regulatory proposals, taking into account the views of different stakeholders. The manpower and expenditure required for conducting the public consultation were absorbed from within existing resources.

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