

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)352**

**(Question Serial No. 3449)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme: Not Specified

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Financial Secretary mentioned in paragraph 148 of his 2015-16 Budget Speech, "I asked all policy bureaux ... to achieve more efficient use of resources through re-engineering and re-prioritising. I have also launched the '0-1-1' envelope savings programme to reduce operating expenditure by a total of two per cent over the next three financial years. Resources saved will be re-allocated for new services." Please advise this Committee on details of the implementation of the "0-1-1" envelope savings programme by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the services thus affected and the expenditure in this respect in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 135)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has been taking measures to reduce operating expenses through re-engineering and re-prioritisation with a view to achieving the savings target set for it. For example, the Department has changed the mode of supply of uniforms mainly through changing from 'make-to-measure' to 'standard stock sizes' in the production of uniforms for staff; and making reference to samples in lieu of arranging trial wear by staff when placing orders for new uniform designs to cope with operational needs. This measure aims at reducing recurrent expenditure on the supply of uniforms.

On the other hand, the Department is tasked to roll out a number of new initiatives starting from 2016-17, including implementing the new licensing scheme under the Private Columbaria Bill (to be enacted) and sustaining the cleansing efforts delivered under the "Keep Clean 2015 @ Hong Kong: Our Home" Campaign. To cope with the new tasks, the Department is allocated with additional resources in 2016-17. Hence, the estimate for recurrent expenditure for 2016-17 increases by about \$189 million (3.2%) as compared with the revised estimate for 2015-16.