

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)098

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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 2014 to 2016? Please advise on the staff establishment required and expenditure involved in each of the above three years.

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

Reply:

In 2014, a total of 6 food production farms and 14 food processing plants in the United States, Ireland, France, India, Japan and the Netherlands were inspected.

In 2015, a total of 4 food production farms and 6 food processing plants in the United Kingdom, Australia and Korea were inspected.

In 2016, a total of 8 food production farms and 11 food processing plants in Namibia, Thailand, Greece and Malaysia were inspected.

The inspection of food animal and fish farms outside Hong Kong is carried out by an inspection unit in the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. That unit comprises 3 veterinary officers, 8 field officers and 1 fisheries officer, and the actual expenditure was \$8.5 million in 2014-15 and \$9.4 million in 2015-2016. The revised estimate of expenditure in 2016-17 is \$10.4 million.

The inspection of vegetable farms, orchards and food processing plants outside Hong Kong is carried out by another unit in CFS which is tasked with other duties as well. That unit comprises an agricultural officer and 5 health inspectors. CFS does not have breakdown on the resources used specifically for conducting inspection of vegetable farms, orchards and food processing plants outside Hong Kong.