

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)120

(Question Serial No. 1415)

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 wholesale of live pigs, please advise on the following:

- (a) the total number, the average daily number, as well as the highest and the lowest daily wholesale numbers of live pigs supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years (i.e. from 2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (b) the monthly average, the highest and the lowest prices of live pigs supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years (i.e. from 2014-15 to 2016-17);
- (c) the total expenditure and average expenditure per head of pig by the Government in handling live pigs (such as the arrangements for slaughterhouses and quarantine management), as well as the manpower involved; and
- (d) the process of supplying live pigs to Hong Kong.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 24)

Reply:

- (a) Information on the number of live pigs imported in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows –

Calendar Year	Total number of live pigs imported	Daily number of live pigs imported		
		Average	Highest	Lowest
2014	1 624 926	4 452	6 298	2 597
2015	1 583 398	4 338	6 993	2 094
2016	1 439 568	3 933	6 642	1 934

- (b) All imported live pigs are sold through auctions. Information on the auction prices of live pigs imported in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows -

Calendar Year	Auction prices per picul of live pigs imported (HK\$)		
	Average	Highest	Lowest
2014	1,253	1,431	1,122
2015	1,361	1,545	1,252
2016	1,567	1,777	1,463

- (c) The revised estimate of the expenditure on live food animal inspection in slaughterhouses in 2016-17 is \$38.9 million, involving 89 staff posts. The average expenditure during the year on each live food animal slaughtered is about \$25. The live food animals concerned include pigs, cattle and goats. The cost for handling live pigs cannot be separately identified.
- (d) Live pigs from the Mainland must be supplied by farms registered with the Mainland authority. All imported live pigs enter into Hong Kong by land through the Man Kam To Control Point. Each consignment of imported live pigs must be accompanied by an official health certificate and is subject to import inspection at the Man Kam To Animal Inspection Station. Live pigs admitted to slaughterhouse would be sampled for testing for veterinary drug residues before slaughtering and release to the market.

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