

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)155**

**(Question Serial No. 0166)**

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 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has set up a Central Investigation Team (CIT) to follow up on complaints against outsourced service contractors' non-compliance with employment requirements. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. the number of CIT staff, their ranks and duties, as well as the annual expenditure required;
2. the number of inspections conducted in each year since the setting up of CIT;
3. the number of complaints against outsourced service contractors' non-compliance with employment requirements received (with a breakdown by the types of complaints), the number of substantiated complaints, and the number of cases in which outsourced service contractors were penalised due to substantiation of their complaints and the penalties thus imposed, in each year since the setting up of CIT.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (Member Question No. 6)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (1) The Central Investigation Team (CIT) of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) was established in September 2005 and tasked with the functions of investigating into complaints on employment-related matters concerning the Department's outsourced service contractors, as well as carrying out audit and employment-related inspections. The CIT is staffed by 6 officers comprising 1 Senior Health Inspector, 3 Health Inspectors I/II, 1 Executive Officer II and 1 Motor Driver. The annual expenditure incurred by the CIT is around \$2.803 million in 2016-17.

(2) The number of inspections performed by the CIT is given below -

Year	No. of Inspections
2005 (September – December)	48
2006	256
2007	292
2008	301
2009	378
2010	420
2011	388
2012	282
2013	257
2014	260
2015	263
2016	280

(3) The number of employment-related complaints received by the CIT is as follows -

Year	Types of Complaints						Total No. of Complaints	No. of Substantiated Cases
	Under-payment	No signing of Standard Employment Contract	Exceeding maximum working hours	Payment not made by autopay	Failure to grant severance / long service payment	Others^		
2005 (Sept-Dec)	(No breakdown by type of complaints was kept.)						52	2
2006							127	27
2007							55	7
2008							28	2
2009							19	3
2010							16	1
2011							26	7
2012	5	1	1	0	3	6	16	4
2013	10	2	2	0	5	4	23	3
2014	13	2	2	0	1	1	19	2
2015	14	0	1	0	3	4	22	1
2016	5	1	4	0	2	0	12	3

^ Including forced dismissal, late payment of wages, failure to make contribution to Mandatory Provident Fund, etc.

For substantiated cases, default notice and/or warning letters were issued to the contractors concerned and/or deduction from relevant contract payments was made as appropriate. In particular, substantiated cases in breach of certain contractual obligations will result in demerit points being recorded, which might affect the contractors' bidding of similar Government contracts in the future.

- End -