

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)135****(Question Serial No. 0026)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise on the number of Mainland farms or processing plants supplying live, chilled and frozen chickens to Hong Kong, the quantities of live, chilled and frozen chickens imported from the Mainland into Hong Kong, their respective share and average import price in each of the past three years (i.e. from 2015 to 2017). Besides, please advise on the number of inspections to those farms or processing plants, as well as the manpower and expenditure required, in each of these years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 20)Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

	Live Chicken			Chilled Chicken			Frozen Chicken		
	Quantity (kg)*	%	Average Import Price (\$/kg)*#	Quantity (kg)@	%	Average Import Price (\$/kg)#	Quantity (kg)@	%	Average Import Price (\$/kg)#
2015	115 000 [^]	0.11	12.5	48 456 000	44.99	17.6	59 125 000	54.90	16.7
2016	55 000 [~]	0.05	11.3	57 418 000	52.16	19.7	52 606 000	47.79	17.3
2017	N.A. [~]	N.A.	N.A.	61 996 000	51.87	20.9	57 532 000	48.13	16.1

* The information is provided by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. The import data on live chickens as given in the trade declarations is on a per chicken basis. To facilitate comparison, the quantity and the price are presented in terms of kg by a conversion factor of 1.88 kg per chicken in 2015 and 1.72 kg per chicken in 2016.

@ This is based on information from the Hong Kong Merchandise Trade Statistics.

The information is provided by the Census and Statistics Department, based on trader's import declarations to the Customs and Excise Department.

^ Import of live chickens from the Mainland was last suspended as from 31 December 2014 due to the temporary closure of the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market (CSWTWPM) after the detection of a H7 avian influenza positive consignment of imported live poultry. Trading of live poultry at CSWTWPM resumed on 22 January 2015. However, there was no import of live poultry until 10 February 2015 and the import quantity has since been significantly reduced compared to the average in the past.

~ There has been no import of live chickens from the Mainland since 17 February 2016.

The number of Mainland registered poultry farms eligible for supplying live poultry to Hong Kong in 2015, 2016 and 2017 was 34, 34 and 28 respectively. The number of Mainland registered poultry farms inspected by the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department was 22, 25 and 25 respectively.

The number of Mainland processing plants eligible for supplying chilled chickens to Hong Kong in 2015, 2016 and 2017 was 15, 15 and 16 respectively. The number of inspection was 11, 16 and 14 respectively.

Currently, there are 90 Mainland processing plants eligible for supplying frozen chickens to Hong Kong. The number of inspection to Mainland frozen chicken processing plants in 2015, 2016 and 2017 was 2, 4 and 2 respectively.

The inspection work of live poultry farms outside Hong Kong is covered by an inspection unit in CFS comprising 11 officers. The actual expenditure was \$5.7 million in 2015-16 and \$6.3 million in 2016-17. The revised estimate of expenditure in 2017-18 is \$7 million.

The Food Import and Export Section of the CFS is responsible for control of imported food and conducting inspections to food processing plants outside Hong Kong. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower for conducting inspections to the Mainland chilled and frozen chicken processing plants. The actual expenditure was \$2.55 million in 2015-16 and \$2.55 million in 2016-17. The revised estimate of expenditure in 2017-18 is \$2.38 million.

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