

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)176

(Question Serial No. 3432)

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:

The number of food complaints handled has kept on rising. In this connection, please advise whether sufficient resources, including manpower, have been earmarked to meet the demand in 2018-19. If yes, please provide details including the manpower and resources required; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 63)

Reply:

Food complaints are handled by a dedicated team of staff in the Centre for Food Safety of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), the establishment of which has increased by two to 23 staff members since 2016-17. In addition, about 318 Health Inspectors in the Department are deployed to 19 district environmental hygiene offices (DEHOs) across the territory to handle various environmental hygiene issues in the district, including initial investigation of food complaints. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved in handling food complaints in DEHOs. The Department will ensure that there will continue to be sufficient manpower to handle food complaints.

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