

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)327

(Question Serial No. 3939)

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:

1. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department indicated in LC Paper No. CB(2)337/16-17(107) that the Central Investigation Team (CIT) had been set up to follow up complaints against contractors' non-compliance with employment requirements. Please advise on the number of staff of the CIT, their ranks and duties, as well as the expenditure required.
2. Further to the above question, please provide the following with regard to the CIT in 2017: i) the number of inspections conducted; ii) the number of workplaces inspected; iii) the number of complaints received against contractors' non-compliance with employment requirements (with a breakdown by the type of complaint); iv) the number of substantiated complaints; v) the number of cases in which contractors were penalised due to substantiation of their complaints and the penalties imposed.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 2529)

Reply:

1. The Central Investigation Team (CIT) of the 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 staff cost of the CIT is \$2.9 million in 2017-18.

2. In 2017, 269 inspections were conducted by the CIT. Instead of physical inspection of the workplaces, the CIT conducted audit and employment-related inspections to check the relevant documents including Standard Employment Contracts, wage records, attendance records, etc. and to interview the contractors' staff concerned to see if there were any breaches of the contract requirements and/or the relevant labour legislation. There is thus no record on the number of workplaces inspected. Details of the complaints received by the CIT are as follows –

Year	Type of Complaints				Total No. of Complaints	No. of Substantiated Cases
	Under-payment	Exceeding maximum working hours	Failure to grant severance / long service payment	Others^		
2017	6	1	3	6	16	1

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

For the complaint substantiated, 1 default notice was issued with deduction from contract payment and 1 demerit point registered.

- End -