

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)139**

**(Question Serial No. 1148)**

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 food surveillance, please provide information on:

- (a) the financial provision and manpower for food surveillance by the Centre for Food Safety in 2019-20; and
- (b) the total number of food samples taken for testing in various projects under the Food Surveillance Programme in 2018-19 (including routine food surveillance, targeted food surveillance and seasonal food surveillance) and the satisfactory rates.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

(a) The Food Import and Export Section and the Food Surveillance and Complaint Section of the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department are responsible for carrying out food surveillance work, including collection of samples for testing at the import, wholesale and retail levels. The two Sections have an estimated establishment of 405 staff members and an estimated expenditure of about \$302.5 million in 2019-20. As these sections are also tasked with other duties, CFS does not have breakdown on the resources used for food surveillance specifically.

(b) CFS keeps statistics on food surveillance on a calendar year basis. In 2018, about 66 000 food samples were taken for testing under various surveillance projects, including 58 300 for routine checks, 6 500 for targeted checks and 1 200 for seasonal checks. The overall satisfactory rate was 99.8%.

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