

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)204

(Question Serial No. 0924)

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:

There has been no import of live chickens from the Mainland into Hong Kong since early 2016. What are the implications on the staff establishment and expenditure of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is responsible for inspecting imported poultry at the Man Kam To Animal Inspection Station and carrying out routine Avian Influenza (AI) surveillance at the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market (CSWTWPM). While the team has not been in full strength and there have been no imports of live poultry from the Mainland since February 2017, the remaining staff need to maintain the AI surveillance programme at CSWTWPM as well as discharging other duties such as border inspections on livestock and live aquatic products, radiation monitoring on food animal consignments, daily maintenance of the site, record keeping and other administration work, etc.

The actual expenditure involved in handling import of live poultry for AI surveillance was \$7.4 million in 2017-18. CFS's revised estimate in 2018-19 and the provision earmarked for 2019-20 for the same task are \$1.7 million and \$2.0 million respectively.

- End -