

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)379****(Question Serial No. 3557)**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:

With regard to the wholesale of live pigs, please advise on:

- (a) the total number, the average daily number, as well as the highest and the lowest daily wholesale numbers of live pigs supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years (i.e. from 2016-17 to 2018-19);
- (b) the monthly average, the highest and the lowest prices of live pigs supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years (i.e. from 2016-17 to 2018-19); and
- (c) the total expenditure and average expenditure per head of pig by the Government in handling live pigs (such as the arrangements for slaughterhouses and quarantine management), as well as the manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 76)Reply:

- (a) Information on the number of live pigs imported in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows –

Calendar Year	Total number of live pigs imported	Daily number of live pigs imported		
		Average	Highest	Lowest
2016	1 439 568	3 933	6 642	1 934
2017	1 455 379	3 987	5 747	1 930
2018	1 468 150	4 022	7 049	1 188

(b) All imported live pigs are sold through auctions. Information on the auction prices of live pigs imported in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows -

Calendar Year	Auction prices per picul of imported live pigs (HK\$)		
	Average	Highest	Lowest
2016	1,567	1,777	1,463
2017	1,302	1,534	1,166
2018	1,211	1,571	1,053

(c) The revised estimate of the expenditure on live food animal inspection in slaughterhouses in 2018-19 is \$42.9 million, involving 91 staff posts from the Centre for Food Safety. The average expenditure during the year on each live food animal slaughtered is about \$26.9. Such live food animals include pigs, cattle and goats. The cost for handling live pigs cannot be separately quantified.

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