

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)425**

**(Question Serial No. 3397)**

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 remained high. In this connection, please advise whether sufficient resources, including manpower, have been earmarked to meet the demand in 2019-20. If yes, please provide details including the manpower and resources required; if no, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (LegCo internal reference no.: 70)

Reply:

Food complaints are handled by the 300 or so Health Inspectors of the relevant district environmental hygiene offices (DEHOs) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) first, and then followed up by the Food Complaint Unit of the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Department for detailed investigations upon referral by DEHOs. We do not have breakdown on the manpower and expenditure on handling food complaints in DEHOs. The Food Complaint Unit of CFS has an estimated establishment of 25 staff members in 2019-20, representing an increase of 2 staff as compared to 2018-19. The estimated expenditure of this Unit in 2019-20 is about \$14.5 million. CFS will keep in view its workload and resource requirements.

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