

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)430

(Question Serial No. 3402)

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:

It is stated that the Department will continue to re-engineer workflow, overhaul and develop new information technology systems for the Centre for Food Safety for more effective management of data in food import and food safety incidents. Please advise on the progress of the work in 2018, as well as the specific work plan and timetable, and the estimated manpower and resources required in 2019.

Asked by: Hon LEE Kok-long, Joseph (LegCo internal reference no.: 75)

Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department put in place a dedicated team in end 2017 to look closely at its operational workflow, revamp its information technology (IT) systems for higher efficiency, and enhance its mode of operation through IT to support the work of its frontline staff and reinforce its capability in food import control, surveillance, incident management, risk assessment and traceability. Phased improvements to the IT systems of CFS will start from end 2019. Specifically, a Food Trader Portal will be set up to provide a platform for electronic communication between CFS and food traders. The existing Food Import Control System will be replaced by a new IT system which will support the streamlined workflow and procedures on import control and the issuance of food export certification. There will be a newly developed Food Incident Management System to strengthen the management of food safety incidents. The above systems will interface with each other to provide a well-connected network of information in support of risk profiling and risk-based inspection to enhance food safety control.

The dedicated team in charge of the above work will have 74 staff at an estimated staffing expenditure of about \$58 million in 2019-20.

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