

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)065****(Question Serial No. 1800)**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:

Regarding online sale of food, please provide:

- I. the number of tests conducted on food sold online by the Department in each of the past 3 years;
- II. a breakdown of the number of cases with unsatisfactory test results, the number of prosecutions instituted and the number of convictions recorded in the past 3 years;
- III. a breakdown by establishment of the manpower deployed for the above work in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)Reply:

- I. The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department takes samples of locally produced and imported food sold online for testing through purchasing directly from various websites and online platforms in accordance with a risk-based principle under its Food Surveillance Programme. The total number of food samples purchased online from 2017 to 2019 was 13 136. The breakdown by year is as follows:

Year	2017	2018	2019	Total
Number of food samples purchased online	4 091	4 164	4 881	13 136

- II. The testing results of all, except 16, of the aforementioned food samples were satisfactory. Among the unsatisfactory samples, 9 were aquatic products, 5 were vegetable, fruit or cereal grain products, 1 was a meat product and 1 was a honey sample. The samples were detected with metallic contaminants, pesticide residues or preservatives. CFS has taken appropriate follow-up actions regarding the unsatisfactory testing results, including instructing vendors to stop selling the

implicated batch of foods, requesting importers/distributors to recall the food items as needed and instituting prosecutions, etc. CFS conducted prosecution on 1 case in this regard with conviction secured.

- III. The Health Inspectors of the Food Surveillance Unit and the Food Labelling Unit of CFS are responsible for collecting samples from foods available for sale online. The two units are also tasked with other duties. There was an establishment of 40 staff members for the above work in the past 3 years.

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