

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)106

(Question Serial No. 2978)

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 Diane WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise this Committee of the number of Mainland farms or processing plants supplying live, chilled and frozen chicken to Hong Kong, the quantities of live, chilled and frozen chicken imported from the Mainland into Hong Kong, their respective share and average import price in each of the past 3 years (i.e. from 2018 to 2020). Besides, please provide the number of inspections to these farms or processing plants, as well as the manpower and expenditure required, in each of these years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

The import of live poultry from the Mainland into Hong Kong has ceased since mid-February 2017.

There were 16, 17 and 16 Mainland processing plants eligible for supplying chilled chicken to Hong Kong in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively. The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department inspected 17, 16 and 7* Mainland chilled chicken processing plants in the respective years. There were 92, 87 and 87 Mainland processing plants eligible for supplying frozen chicken to Hong Kong in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively. The CFS inspected 1, 4 and 5* Mainland frozen chicken processing plants in the respective years. Moreover, the CFS inspected 16, 18 and 18* Mainland live poultry farms supplying chilled/frozen poultry to Hong Kong in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively.

* Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the visits in 2020 were conducted by means of questionnaire surveys after discussions with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China.

According to the information of the Census and Statistics Department, the quantities of chilled and frozen chicken imported from the Mainland into Hong Kong in 2018, 2019 and 2020 are as follows:

	Chilled chicken			Frozen chicken		
	Quantity (kg)	%	Average import price (\$/kg)	Quantity (kg)	%	Average import price (\$/kg)
2018	61 174 000	53.22	20.5	53 770 000	46.78	17.3
2019	69 765 000	57.04	19.4	52 536 000	42.96	19.6
2020	69 884 000	56.84	21.2	53 066 000	43.16	16.5

Inspections of live poultry farms outside Hong Kong are undertaken by an inspection unit of the CFS comprising 11 officers. The actual expenditure was \$6.30 million in 2018-19 and \$6.60 million in 2019-20. The revised estimate of expenditure for 2020-21 was \$6.70 million. Inspections of food processing plants outside Hong Kong are undertaken by the Food Import and Export Section of the CFS. The actual expenditure was \$2.10 million in 2018-19 and \$2.16 million in 2019-20. The revised estimate of expenditure for 2020-21 was \$2.18 million.

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department does not keep a separate breakdown on the resources involved in conducting inspections of Mainland live poultry farms, chilled chicken and frozen chicken processing plants.

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