

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)070****(Question Serial No. 1844)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Ms Irene YOUNG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

During the outbreak of COVID-19 in Hong Kong, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department was responsible for conducting inspections to restaurants, catering and other premises to check their compliance with anti-epidemic requirements and taking law enforcement actions against premises found with irregularities. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the respective numbers of inspections conducted by the Department to restaurants or catering premises to check their compliance with anti-epidemic requirements and the number of prosecutions instituted in each of the past 3 years; and
2. the number of premises subject to an order for closure or suspension of dine-in service for a specified period due to non-compliance with anti-epidemic requirements in each of the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yau (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)Reply:

1. In the past 3 years, the numbers of inspections conducted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to check catering premises' compliance with anti-epidemic requirements and the numbers of enforcement actions taken are as follows:

Year	2020	2021	2022
Number of inspections	494 978	627 041	566 184
Number of prosecutions	1 005	868	806
Number of fixed penalty notices issued	115	229	372

2. In the past 3 years, the respective numbers of catering premises and other premises required to take corresponding measures (including suspension of evening dine-in service and closure of the premises) for reducing the risk of transmission due to non-compliance with anti-epidemic requirements are as follows:

Year	2020 (Note 1)	2021	2022
Number of cases in which catering premises were required to take corresponding measures for reducing the risk of transmission	Not applicable	694	775
Number of cases in which other premises (Note 2) were required to take corresponding measures for reducing the risk of transmission	Not applicable	5	2

Note 1: The relevant regulation came into operation with effect from February 2021.

Note 2: Scheduled premises where the regulation was enforced by the Department included bathhouses, places of public entertainment, night establishments or night clubs, karaoke establishments and swimming pools.

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