

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****EEB(F)093****(Question Serial No. 0822)**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:

With respect to the work of “ensuring prepackaged food for sale is properly labelled”, please provide the number of directly investigated cases, the number of reported cases investigated and the number of incriminated vendors in the past 3 years. With regard to the above investigated cases, what were the number of prosecutions instituted and the number of convictions? Against which type(s) of cases were prosecution mostly instituted? Please set out the staff establishment for the above work and the expenditure involved in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department adopts a risk-based approach in the checking of food labels of prepackaged food products. From 2020 to 2022, the Food Labelling Unit of CFS checked 165 786 labels of prepackaged food products, of which 164 781 labels were checked on CFS's own initiative and 1 005 labels were checked upon receipt of reports. The information sought, broken down by year, is tabulated as follows:

	<b>Number of cases</b>			
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Total</b>
Prepackaged food product labels checked on CFS's own initiative	55 107	54 788	54 886	164 781
Prepackaged food product labels checked upon receipt of reports	291	408	306	1 005
<b>Total</b>	<b>55 398</b>	<b>55 196</b>	<b>55 192</b>	<b>165 786</b>

From 2020 to 2022, CFS instituted 325 prosecutions against non-compliant cases of food labelling (including nutrition labelling), and the number of convictions was 253. The information sought, broken down by year, is tabulated as follows:

	<b>Number of cases</b>			
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number of prosecutions	81	85	159*	325
Number of convictions	80	85	88	253

\* 71 prosecution cases are yet to be concluded.

The staff establishment and expenditure of the Food Labelling Unit in the past 3 years are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Staff establishment (number of staff)</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2020-21	26	18.21
2021-22	26	16.38
2022-23	26	18.54 (revised estimate)

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