

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****EEB(F)106****(Question Serial No. 3165)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Ms Irene YOUNG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

It is mentioned under the Programme that the Department will continue to take stringent enforcement actions against unlicensed food premises and food premises which pose immediate health hazards or with illegal extension of food business areas. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- A) the number of enforcement actions taken against unlicensed food premises and food premises which pose immediate health hazards or have illegal extension of food business areas in the past 3 years; and
- B) the number of unlicensed food premises and food premises which pose immediate health hazards or with illegal extension of food business areas that were prosecuted in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 70)Reply:

- A) In the past 3 years, the respective numbers of inspections to licensed/permitted food premises and investigations of suspected unlicensed food premises conducted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department are tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Number of inspections to licensed/permitted food premises	207 149	206 238	197 778
Number of investigations of suspected unlicensed food premises	28 035	44 758	49 790

The Department does not keep a breakdown of the figures sought.

B) During an inspection to a food premises, staff of the Department will normally check whether the premises has a valid licence and whether there is any irregularity, and institute prosecution based on the evidence collected. In the past 3 years, the respective numbers of prosecutions for operating unlicensed food business, illegal extension of food business areas and obstruction of public places are as follows:

<b>Irregularity</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Operating an unlicensed food business</b>	3 052	4 598	3 775
<b>Illegal extension of food business areas</b>	279	296	304
<b>Obstruction of public places</b>	1 380	1 615	1 680

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