

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)074****(Question Serial No. 0784)**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.: 18)Reply:

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department adopts a risk-based approach to the checking of food labels of prepackaged food products. From 2021 to 2023, the Food Labelling Unit of CFS checked 165 596 labels of prepackaged food products, of which 164 581 labels were checked on CFS's own initiative and 1 015 labels were checked upon receipt of reports. The information sought, broken down by year, is tabulated as follows:

	Number of cases			
	2021	2022	2023	Total
Prepackaged food product labels checked on CFS's own initiative	54 788	54 886	54 907	164 581
Prepackaged food product labels checked upon receipt of reports	408	306	301	1 015
Total	55 196	55 192	55 208	165 596

From 2021 to 2023, CFS instituted 406 prosecutions against non-compliant cases of food labelling (including nutrition labelling). As at 15 March 2024, the defendants of all cases other than the 55 prosecution cases yet to be concluded had been convicted. The information sought, broken down by year, is tabulated as follows:

	Number of cases			
	2021	2022	2023	Total
Number of prosecutions	85	159	162*	406
Number of convictions	85	159	107	351

* 55 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:

Year	Staff establishment (number of staff)	Expenditure (\$ million)
2021-22	26	16.38
2022-23	26	18.42
2023-24	26	18.00 (revised estimate)

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