

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)024**

Question Serial No.

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

0403

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

In 2008, a total of 236 food business licences were suspended/cancelled, representing a substantial increase of more than 40% over 2007. What are the reasons for the increase? What is the respective number of food business licences suspended and cancelled?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The increase in licence suspensions and cancellations in 2008 was due to a larger number of convictions in that year for breaching the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) and its subsidiary legislation, relating to improper storage of open food; use of open space for preparation of food/storage or washing of utensils; and unauthorized extension of food business beyond the licensed area. Such convictions will lead to the registration of demerit points against the licences. Accumulation of sufficient demerit points will in turn lead to licence suspensions or even cancellations. Among the 236 cases in 2008, 219 were related to licence suspension and the remaining 17 were related to licence cancellation.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ W H CHEUK

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17.3.2009