

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

FHB(FE)031

Question Serial No.

0535

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

With regard to the target of dealing with complaints on wasps/bees infestation within 6 working days, please advise on:

- (a) the total number of complaints received in 2008;
- (b) whether the response time of 6 working days will be shortened;
- (c) the way in which the complaints are handled; and
- (d) the number of days taken to eliminate these infestations in general.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) A total of 4 418 wasp/bee infestation-related complaints were received in 2008.
- (b) Cases of wasp/bee infestation-related complaints will be dealt with as soon as manpower permits. During peak seasons, the number of cases pending action may exceed the maximum caseload that a pest control team could handle in a day. As such, some cases might have to be handled later. In the light of our current level of manpower and the caseload in previous years (especially during peak seasons), we consider the current target response time of six working days reasonable and have no plans to revise the target.

- (c) During an infestation control operation, insecticide will be applied to the wasp/bee nests before the nests are removed.
- (d) In general, infestation control operations will be conducted within one to six days of receiving a wasp/bee infestation-related complaint.

Signature _____

Name in block letters W H CHEUK

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 17.3.2009