

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

**FHB(FE)094**

Question Serial No.

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

1048

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 :

Under this programme, the number of blood samples to be taken from poultry for testing of avian influenza H5 antibodies in 2009 is 41 000, representing a decrease of 27 894 over the actual number in 2008. Please advise on the reasons for the decrease.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The estimated number of blood samples for 2009 is contingent on the estimated number of live poultry to be supplied from the Mainland. The usual daily import limit on live chickens came down from 20 000 in January 2008 to the current 7 000 chickens. This in turn reduces the number of blood samples that needs to be taken.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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