

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

FHB(FE)121

Question Serial No.

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

2018

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 :

What is the financial provision earmarked for taking food samples for testing in 2009-10? How is it compared to the provision in the previous year (i.e. 2008-09)? Why does the estimated number of samples to be taken decrease over the previous year (i.e. 2008-09)?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The expenditure on food surveillance at import, wholesale and retail levels is estimated at \$53.8 million for 2009-10, which shows an increase of \$4 million compared with 2008-09.

The number of food samples to be tested under the food surveillance programme in 2008 had been planned to be 65 000. Due to the melamine incident in late 2008, more tests were conducted and a total of 66 726 samples were tested in the event. The estimate of 65 000 samples for 2009 is appropriate for an average year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ W H CHEUK

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 17.3.2009