

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)157****(Question Serial No. 3787)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Donald NG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

With regard to the wholesale of live cattle, please advise this Committee of:

- (a) the total number, the average daily number, as well as the highest and the lowest daily wholesale numbers of live cattle supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years (i.e. from 2022-23 to 2024-25);
- (b) the monthly average, the highest and the lowest prices of live cattle supplied to Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years (i.e. from 2022-23 to 2024-25); and
- (c) the total expenditure on handling live cattle (such as arrangement for slaughterhouses and quarantine management) by the Government and the average expenditure per head of cattle, as well as the manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 77)Reply:

- (a) The numbers of live cattle imported in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Total number of live cattle imported	Daily number of live cattle imported		
		Average	Highest	Lowest
2022	11 906	33	77	13
2023	10 968	30	69	9
2024	9 142	25	69	8

- (b) The wholesale prices of live cattle imported in the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Wholesale price per picul of live cattle imported (\$)					
	Marbled meat cattle			Beef cattle		
	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest
2022	5,710	5,710	5,710	4,970	4,970	4,970
2023	5,710	5,710	5,710	4,970	4,970	4,970
2024	5,710	5,710	5,710	4,775	4,970	4,620

- (c) The revised estimate of the expenditure on inspection of live food animals in slaughterhouses in 2024-25 was \$50.2 million, which included the expenditure on 90 posts in the Centre for Food Safety of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. In the year, the average expenditure on inspection of each live food animal (including pigs, cattle and goats) slaughtered was about \$44. The manpower and expenditure for handling live cattle cannot be separately quantified.

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