

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)090

(Question Serial No. 2617)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Donald NG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the expenditure on and effectiveness of the food safety regulatory work undertaken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Centre for Food Safety, please advise this Committee:

- (a) of the Government's actual expenditures on "import and export inspection of food", "market surveillance for testing" and "managing food incidents" respectively and the staff establishment involved in the past 3 years;
- (b) whether provision has been set aside in the 2026-27 Estimates for introducing innovative technologies; if yes, the details; if no, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

- (a) Staff of different sections of the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department undertake the work related to "import and export inspection of food", "market surveillance for testing" and "managing food incidents". As the staff are also tasked with other duties, CFS does not keep a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved in the relevant work.
- (b) CFS places great emphasis on the application of information technology and has consistently introduced IT systems to optimise its work. It has been making on-going efforts to develop IT systems, for examples, the digitisation of health certificates and alignment with the "cloud issuance" of the Mainland. The associated operational expenses are covered by existing resources, and CFS does not keep a breakdown of the figures.

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