

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**HWFB(FE)17
6**

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

2536

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

How many public markets and stalls are there to date and how many of them have their management contracted out? Are there any comparisons between markets managed by the Department and those contracted out in terms of the stall let-out rate and customer flow? What is the number of markets planned for contracting out management in 2007-08 and how many stalls are involved? What is the current stall let-out rate of these markets? What is the estimated savings achieved by the contracting out? Is there a long-term policy for contracting out market management?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

Currently, the Department operates a total of 104 public markets/cooked food centres (CFC) with 14 960 stalls. The management of 12 of these markets/CFC in three districts with a total of 2 625 stalls has been contracted out. The occupancy rate of public markets/CFC managed by the Department is 75.8% while that of the 12 markets/CFC with management contracted out is 78.8%. We do not have any statistics on the customer flow of the individual markets/CFC.

The Department plans to extend the contracting-out scheme to Southern and Tuen Mun districts in 2007-08, involving 13 public markets/CFC with 1 387 stalls. The current stall let-out rate of the markets/CFC in these two districts is 78.3%. We will award the service contracts by open tender. We expect manpower savings of around 43 staff. Information on actual expenditure and savings will only be

available after completion of the tendering exercise. In the light of experience gained, the Department will consider whether the scheme should be further extended to public markets/CFC in other districts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ EDDY CHAN _____

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene _____

Date _____ 15.3.2007 _____