

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

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(FE)18
6

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

2635

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 :

Is there any assessment of any tendency of reducing occupancy rate of market stalls? Any measures to enhance the competitiveness of public market and how much expenditure will be involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

We expect that changes in shopping habits of the community and increasing competition from private retail outlets will continue to adversely affect the occupancy rate of public markets.

To enhance the competitiveness of public markets, the Department has been carrying out general improvement works (including upgrading of drainage, lighting, ventilation, signage and fire services provision) in the markets. In 2007-08, improvement works will be carried out in 10 markets at a cost of about \$103 million. To improve the shopping environment and atmosphere in public markets, the Department will continue to implement the following measures:

- (a) maintaining a high standard of cleanliness in markets and the enforcement of the monthly market cleansing day;
- (b) maintaining flexibility in determining and changing the trade of individual stalls, and where feasible, the stall size;
- (c) merging of selected vacant small stalls to form larger stalls and lowering, in selected markets, the upset auction prices of long-standing vacant stalls to attract potential bidders; and

- (d) conducting promotional activities (such as lucky draws, talks and exhibitions) and distributing regular market newsletters to attract customers.

The resources required for the above measures will be absorbed within the Department's allocation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ EDDY CHAN

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date _____ 15.3.2007