

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

FHB(FE)064

Question Serial No.

1474

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Regarding the indicator for “licensed hawkers”, the numbers of “fixed pitch hawkers” and “itinerant hawkers” will be reduced from 6 636 and 600 in 2007 to 6 400 and 540 in 2008 respectively. Please advise on:

- a. the reasons for the decrease;
- b. whether a decision has been made not to issue new hawker licences.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The number of licensed fixed pitch and itinerant hawkers is estimated to decrease in 2008, having regard to the past trend of voluntary non-renewal of fixed pitch hawker licences by the licensees themselves and voluntary surrender of itinerant hawker licences.

Because of the obstruction and nuisances caused by on-street hawking activities, the Administration has not issued new hawker licences under normal circumstances since 1970 with a view to gradually reducing on-street hawking activities. We are now conducting a hawker licensing policy review which will address various issues of hawker licensing, including the issue of new hawker licences.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **W H CHEUK** _____

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene _____

Date _____ 20.3.2008 _____