

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

Reply Serial No.

FHB(FE)119

Question Serial No.

2292

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:

The estimated let-out rate of stalls in public markets is 76% in 2008. What is the rental loss incurred by stalls being left vacant? After 30 June 2008, will there be an extension for rental freeze or even a rental reduction for public market stalls, particularly those in markets with low patronage and viability problem?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

Excluding stalls that are not for leasing due to re-development, impending renovation works and resiting commitment etc, the vacant stalls could bring maximum rental earnings of about \$ 6.3 million per month if they are leased out at the current open market rental.

We have received several requests from public market tenants for further extension of the current rental freeze which will expire on 30 June 2008. We are considering these requests carefully.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene _____

Date _____ 25.3.2008 _____

