

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

Reply Serial No.

FHB(FE)161

Question Serial No.

2677

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 :

Please advise on whether an assessment has been made to see if the occupancy rate of public markets will continue to decrease in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, the measures to be taken to enhance the competitiveness of public markets and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The total occupancy rate for markets remained fairly stable at around 76% for the past two years. However, changes in shopping habits and increasing competition from private retail outlets will continue to affect the occupancy rate of public markets.

In 2008-09, the Administration will continue to carry out general improvement works in 13 markets, and plans to implement improvement works in four other markets at an estimated cost of about \$78 million with a view to enhancing their competitiveness. Other measures to improve the trading environment and attraction of markets include maintaining a high standard of cleanliness in the markets and the enforcement of monthly market cleansing day, conducting promotional activities (such as lucky draws, talks and exhibitions) and distributing regular market newsletters to attract customers.

Signature _____

Name in block letters W H CHEUK

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 20.3.2008

