

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

FHB(FE)038

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0156

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is stated that the Department will "follow up on the outcome of the review of hawker licensing policy". In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the details of the follow-up action to be taken;
- (b) the estimated expenditure involved; and
- (c) the annual expenditure and number of licences involved each year since the implementation of the Voluntary Surrender Scheme in 2002 by using the table below.

Year	Expenditure involved in the Voluntary Surrender Scheme	Number of "Dai Pai Tong" licences voluntarily surrendered	Total number of "Dai Pai Tong" licences	Number of Itinerant Hawker Licences voluntarily surrendered	Total number of Itinerant Hawker Licences
2002					
2003					
2004					
2005					
2006					
2007					
2008					
2009					
2010					

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

- (a) Details of follow up actions on the outcome of the review of hawker licensing policy are as follows:

- (i) The review concluded that a total of 61 new Itinerant (Frozen Confectionery) Hawker Licences should be issued. As at 31 December 2010, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) had issued 48 new licences. FEHD aims to issue the remainder in 2011.
 - (ii) As at 31 December 2010, 654 vacant pitches in the back row had been taken up by adjacent fixed pitch hawkers in the front row. After consultation with the relevant District Councils (DCs), a total of 218 vacant fixed hawker pitches have been made available for application by eligible registered assistants of licensed hawkers and members of the public. As at 31 December 2010, 215 such pitches had been allocated. FEHD aims to allocate the remaining pitches in 2011.
 - (iii) With the support of the relevant DC, FEHD relaxed the restrictions on the transfer of licence in respect of 10 Fixed Pitch (Cooked Food / Light Refreshment) Hawker Licences (commonly known as Dai Pai Tongs) in Central & Western District by expanding it to include “immediate family members” in addition to the spouse of the licensee and on the setting of two tables and eight stools for each Dai Pai Tong. FEHD also coordinated the efforts of various government departments and a utility company to upgrade the environmental hygiene conditions of those Dai Pai Tongs. Improvement works included laying of underground drainage, repaving of pavement / road surface, provision of gas supply, installation of metal hoods and grease filters over cooking stoves.
- (b) The expenditure incurred in following up on the outcome of the review have been absorbed by various government departments. Cost breakdown is not available.
- (c) The information sought is provided at Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 17.3.2011

Annex

Year	Expenditure involved in the Voluntary Surrender Scheme	Number of “Dai Pai Tong” licences voluntarily surrendered (see note (i))	Total number of “Dai Pai Tong” licences	Number of Itinerant Hawker Licences voluntarily surrendered	Total number of Itinerant Hawker Licences
2002	\$0	0	161	0	1006
2003	\$3,960,000	5	153	138	858
2004	\$2,370,000	13	135	62	787
2005	\$1,620,000	8	119	47	726
2006	\$1,470,000	5	113	48	673
2007	\$1,890,000	6	107	71	600
2008	\$810,000	N/A	105	47	546
2009	\$480,000	N/A	104 ^{Note (ii)}	30	535
2010	\$690,000	N/A	105	28	522

Note:

- (i) Voluntary Surrender Scheme for Fixed Pitch (Cooked Food/Light Refreshment) Hawker Licences was effective for five years from 1 December 2002 to 30 November 2007.
- (ii) There was a cancellation of one licence due to the death of a licensee in 2009 but the licence was succeeded by the spouse of the deceased licensee in the following year.