

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

**FHB(FE)053**

Question Serial No.

0213

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:

With regard to public markets, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the expenditure on subsidising public market management over the past three years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2010-11);
- (b) the number of vacant stalls in public markets and the vacancy rate at present; the average and longest vacancy period; the total rental receivable (in terms of open market rental) from all vacant stalls last year (i.e. in 2010-11) as compared with the expenditure on subsidising public market management;
- (c) the number of in-house staff involved in the management of public markets; and
- (d) whether contractors are engaged in the various aspects of market management; if yes, the number of contractors engaged, the types of services they provide and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

- (a) For 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department recorded deficits of \$171.9 million, \$213.0 million and \$156.3 million respectively in market management.
- (b) As at 31 December 2010, 2 314 stalls out of a total of 14 581 stalls in public markets were vacant due to various reasons including stalls frozen for market improvement works, pending market closure or being set aside for resiting purpose. The gross vacancy rate was 15.9%. Information on the average and longest period of vacancy of such stalls and the related rental estimate is not readily available.
- (c) As at 31 December 2010, 260 in-house staff were involved in market management.
- (d) As at 31 December 2010, a total of 16 contractors were engaged in market management, including market cleansing, pest control and security guard services. The total annual expenditure involved is about \$133 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011