

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

FHB(FE)096

Question Serial No.

0044

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:

It is stated by the Department that the actual number of hawker blackspots in 2010 and 2011 was 45 and the estimated number for 2012 will remain at 45. Please inform this Committee of:

- (a) the specific definition of hawker blackspots;
- (b) the reason(s) why the number of hawker blackspots remains unchanged for many years; and
- (c) the specific measures taken by the Department to eliminate hawker blackspots in the past two years.

Asked by: Hon. IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) & (b) Hawker blackspots are locations where unlicensed hawkers congregate. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) conducts quarterly surveys to identify and update hawker blackspots. Whether a certain location is classified as a hawker blackspot depends on the number of unlicensed hawkers trading at the location at any one time of the day during the surveys.
- (c) The Department has adopted the strategies of mobile patrol and raiding to deter unlicensed hawking. Hawker Control Team (HCT) staff regularly patrol blackspots to disrupt illegal hawking activities and to prevent unlicensed hawkers from taking root at these locations. If these hawkers persist in trading and do not disperse, arrest action would follow. HCT staff also mount raiding operations at blackspots to arrest unlicensed hawkers and seize their goods and equipment to increase deterrent effect.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 29.2.2012

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