

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

**FHB(FE)119**

Head: 49 Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

0492

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

On engaging "agency workers", please provide the following information:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of contracts engaging employment agencies (EAs)	( )	( )	( )
Contract sum paid to each EA	( )	( )	( )
Total amount of commission paid to each EA	( )	( )	( )
Length of contract for each EA	( )	( )	( )
Number of agency workers	( )	( )	( )
Distribution of posts taken up by agency workers			
Monthly salary range of agency workers	( )	( )	( )
• \$30,001 or above	( )	( )	( )
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	( )	( )	( )
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	( )	( )	( )
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,000 or below	( )	( )	( )
• number of workers with a monthly salary below \$5,824	( )	( )	( )
• number of workers with a monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	( )	( )	( )
Length of service of agency workers			
• 5 years or longer	( )	( )	( )
• 3 - 5 years	( )	( )	( )
• 1 - 3 years	( )	( )	( )
• less than 1 year	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of agency workers in the total number of staff in the Department	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of amount paid to EAs in the total departmental staff cost	( )	( )	( )
Number of agency workers with paid meal breaks	( )	( )	( )
Number of agency workers without paid meal breaks	( )	( )	( )

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of agency workers working 5 days a week	( )	( )	( )
Number of agency workers working 6 days a week	( )	( )	( )

Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

	2012-13	2011-12 (as at 30.9.2011)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.2011)
Number of contracts engaging employment agencies (EAs)	Note 1	18 (-22%)	23
Contract sum paid to each EA		\$84,000 to \$438,000	\$59,000 to \$1 million
Total amount of commission paid to each EA		Note 2	
Length of contract for each EA		0.6 to 9 months	2.5 to 18 months
Number of agency workers		37 (±0%)	37
Distribution of posts taken up by agency workers		Agency workers mainly undertake general office support duties.	
Monthly salary range of agency workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● \$30,001 or above</li> <li>● \$16,001 - \$30,000</li> <li>● \$8,001 - \$16,000</li> <li>● \$6,501 - \$8,000</li> <li>● \$5,001 - \$6,500</li> <li>● \$5,000 or below</li> <li>● number of workers with a monthly salary below \$5,824</li> <li>● number of workers with a monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500</li> </ul>		Note 3	
Length of service of agency workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 5 years or longer</li> <li>● 3 - 5 years</li> <li>● 1 - 3 years</li> <li>● less than 1 year</li> </ul>		Note 4	
Percentage of agency workers in the total number of staff in the Department (Note 5)		0.3% (±0%)	0.3%

	2012-13	2011-12 (as at 30.9.2011)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.2011)
Percentage of amount paid to EAs in the total departmental staff cost		0.1% (-0.2%)	0.3%
Number of agency workers with paid meal breaks		Note 6	
Number of agency workers without paid meal breaks			
Number of agency workers working 5 days a week		37 (+48%)	25
Number of agency workers working 6 days a week		0 (-100%)	12

( ) denotes year-on-year change

The above excludes the procurement of services for supply of T-contract staff providing information technology service under a term contract centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

Note 1: Figures for 2012-13 are not yet available as the number of agency workers varies over time in the light of changing service and operational needs.

Note 2: Commission is not included in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department)'s service contracts entered into with employment agencies.

Note 3: The wage levels were agreed upon between the agency workers and their employment agencies when they entered into employment contracts. The Department does not keep detailed records of the actual wage level of agency workers. Hence, we are unable to provide the information requested.

Note 4: The Department does not keep information on the years of service of agency workers. As long as the contract requirements are complied with, the employment agencies may arrange any qualified staff to provide the services.

Note 5: The percentage of agency workers as compared with total staff is for the specific date only and is not representative of the situation for the financial year concerned.

Note 6: The Department does not keep information on the number of agency workers with/without meal break.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Clement LEUNG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 1.3.2012

**Session 18 FHB(FE)**

