

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

FHB(FE)122

Question Serial No.

2959

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 the Department's plan to "enhance law enforcement at hawker areas with fixed pitches to ensure compliance and to contain obstruction and fire safety risk", please advise on:

- (a) the estimated expenditure involved and whether additional manpower will be required;
- (b) the details of such plans; and
- (c) whether the Department has taken into account the potential impact of enhanced enforcement on the operation of the stalls and the livelihood of the stall owners, and whether the Department will strike a balance between ensuring public safety and protecting the livelihood of the stall owners so as to avoid being too stringent in taking enforcement actions.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

- (a) The enhanced law enforcement actions are undertaken through existing staff resources.
- (b) In the wake of the fire at the hawker stalls at Fa Yuen Street on 30 November last year, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has strengthened law enforcement actions against non-compliance with the relevant legislation and licensing conditions in hawker areas with a large number of hawker stalls. Such actions are targeted at the following irregularities to reduce fire risks posed by hawker stalls:
 - (1) stall canopies made of or covered with combustible materials;
 - (2) overnight storage of goods outside the approved stall areas;
 - (3) obstruction of passageways; and
 - (4) stall sub-letting.

- (c) The stall hawkers are obliged to comply with the law and licensing conditions. The primary objectives of the Department's enforcement actions are to ensure environmental hygiene and to reduce fire safety risks. The Department maintains regular dialogue with hawker associations and stall hawkers to address their concerns.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Clement LEUNG

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 1.3.2012