

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

FHB(FE)137

Question Serial No.

2618

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:

Please provide information on the following:

- (a) the expenditure on subsidising public market management from 2009-10 to 2011-12;
- (b) the number of vacant stalls in public markets and the vacancy rate as at 31 March 2011; 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 2011) 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) the number of contractors engaged, the manpower they deploy, the types of services they provide and the expenditure involved in the various aspects of market management.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) For 2009-10 and 2010-11, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department recorded deficits of \$213.0 million and \$158.0 million respectively in market management. The deficit in market management for 2011-12 is estimated to be \$181.2 million.
- (b) As at 31 December 2011, 1 792 stalls out of a total of 14 452 stalls in public markets were vacant due to various reasons including stalls being frozen for market improvement works or pending market closure, or stalls being set aside for resiting purpose. The gross vacancy rate was 12.4%. 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 2011, 253 in-house staff were involved in market management.
- (d) As at 31 December 2011, a total of 15 contractors and about 1 500 contractors' staff were engaged in market management, including market cleansing, pest control and security guard services. The estimated total expenditure involved for 2011-12 is about \$183 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **Clement LEUNG** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene** _____

Date _____ **29.2.2012** _____

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