

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

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Question Serial No.

1973

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 management of public markets, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the expenditure on subsidising public market management from 2010-11 to 2012-13;
- (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 in 2012-13 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. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) For 2010-11 and 2011-12, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department recorded deficits of \$158.0 million and \$167.9 million respectively in the management of public markets. The deficit in this regard for 2012-13 is estimated to be \$227.9 million.
- (b) As at 31 December 2012, 1 511 stalls out of a total of 14 443 stalls in public markets were vacant. The vacancy rate was 10.5%. The figure has included those stalls being frozen for various purposes, such as for market improvement works. Information on the average and longest period of vacancy and the related rental estimate is not readily available.
- (c) As at 31 December 2012, 253 in-house staff were involved in the management of public markets.
- (d) As at 31 December 2012, a total of 12 contractors and about 1 700 contractors' staff were engaged in the management of public markets, including market cleansing, pest control and security guard services. The estimated total expenditure involved for 2012-13 is about \$201 million.

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