

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

**FHB(FE)143**

Question Serial No.

1982

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:

Under this programme, it is mentioned that the Department will assist the Food and Health Bureau in taking forward an assistance scheme for improving the fire safety and operating environment of fixed-pitch hawker areas. In this connection, please advise on the details and progress of the scheme as well as the estimated expenditure and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The Finance Committee has approved a financial commitment of \$230 million for launching a five-year assistance scheme for the licensed fixed-pitch hawkers operating in the 43 hawker areas ("the Assistance Scheme"). Under the Assistance Scheme, a one-off grant/ex-gratia payment ("EGP") will be granted to hawkers who reconstruct their stalls at the same location, relocate their stalls to other pitch spaces or choose to surrender their hawker licences. Specifically, the Assistance Scheme will have the following features –

- (a) hawkers who are required by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) to relocate their stalls to new pitch spaces for fire safety reasons may apply for a one-off relocation grant;
- (b) hawkers who are not required to relocate their stalls under (a) may apply for a one-off reconstruction grant to carry out partial or full reconstruction of their stalls in-situ for reducing fire risks; and
- (c) an EGP will be paid to hawkers (except those whose licences are newly issued pursuant to the hawker licensing policy review in 2008-09) who opt for voluntary surrender of their hawker licences to the Government.

The Department has briefed all Hawker Management Consultative Committees and relevant District Councils on the details of the Assistance Scheme and commenced local consultation on the specific relocation proposals.

The amount of grants/EPG under the Assistance Scheme is summarised at Annex.

Regarding manpower, the Department will create 13 civil service posts for five years starting from 2013-14 to implement the Assistance Scheme, and will also employ non-civil service contract staff to assist in the preparatory work and provide other support. The total estimated staff expenditure is about \$33 million for five years.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013

**Amount of Grant/Ex-gratia Payment (EGP) under  
the Assistance Scheme for Hawkers in Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas**

Type	Size	Maximum Grant		EGP for Voluntary Surrender of Licence
		In-situ Reconstruction	Relocation	
“Cabinet-type” Hawker Stalls	Not exceeding 1.1 m <sup>2</sup>	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$120,000
	Exceeding 1.1 m <sup>2</sup> but not exceeding 1.7 m <sup>2</sup>	\$47,000	\$57,000	
	Exceeding 1.7 m <sup>2</sup> but not exceeding 2.2 m <sup>2</sup>	\$54,000	\$64,000	
Hawker Permitted Places Hawker Stalls	Not exceeding 1.1 m <sup>2</sup>	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$120,000
	Exceeding 1.1 m <sup>2</sup> but not exceeding 1.7 m <sup>2</sup>	\$23,500	\$33,500	
	Exceeding 1.7 m <sup>2</sup> but not exceeding 2.2 m <sup>2</sup>	\$27,000	\$37,000	