

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

**FHB(FE)158**

Question Serial No.

0236

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the engagement of "agency workers", please provide the following information:

	2012-13 (the latest position)
Number of contracts engaging employment agencies (EAs)	( )
Contract sum paid to each EA	( )
Total amount of commission paid to each EA	( )
Length of service contract for each EA	( )
Number of agency workers	( )
Positions held 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	( )
• \$6,240 - \$ 6,500	( )
• below \$6,240	( )
Length of service of agency workers	
• over 15 years	( )
• 10 - 15 years	( )
• 5 - 10 years	( )
• 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 workers with paid meal breaks	( )
Number of workers without paid meal breaks	( )
Number of workers working 5 days a week	( )
Number of workers working 6 days a week	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote percentage of change as compared with the same period in 2011-12*

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

	2012-13 (as at 30.9.2012)
Number of contracts engaging employment agencies (EAs)	15 (-17%)
Contract sum paid to each EA	\$81,000 to \$438,000
Total amount of commission paid to each EA	Note 1
Length of service contract for each EA	2.5 to 9 months
Number of agency workers	27 (-27%)
Positions held 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>• \$6,240 - \$ 6,500</li> <li>• below \$6,240</li> </ul>	Note 2
Length of service of agency workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• over 15 years</li> <li>• 10 - 15 years</li> <li>• 5 - 10 years</li> <li>• 3 - 5 years</li> <li>• 1 - 3 years</li> <li>• less than 1 year</li> </ul>	Note 3

Percentage of agency workers in the total number of staff in the Department (Note 4)	0.2% (-0.1 percentage point)
Percentage of amount paid to EAs in the total departmental staff cost	0.07% (-0.03 percentage point)
Number of workers with paid meal breaks	Note 5
Number of workers without paid meal breaks	
Number of workers working 5 days a week	27 (-27%)
Number of workers working 6 days a week	0 (±0%)

*Figures in ( ) denote change as compared with the same period in 2011-12*

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

Note 2: 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. With the implementation of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) effective from 1 May 2011, we have specified in the contracts that, for the whole duration of the concerned service contracts, the employment agencies must ensure that the salaries of the agency workers comply with the SMW Ordinance.

Note 3: 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 4: 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 5: The Department does not keep information on the number of agency workers with/without paid meal break.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

Post Title: Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date: 28.3.2013