

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

**FHB(FE)216**

Question Serial No.

4134

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 indicator for "licensed hawkers", the number of fixed pitch hawkers and itinerant hawkers will drop from 6 269 and 470 in 2012 (Actual) to 6 100 and 460 in 2013 (Estimate) respectively. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the reason(s) for the estimated decrease in numbers;
- (b) given that 169 Fixed-Pitch Hawker Licences and ten Itinerant Hawker Licences will be surrendered, whether the Department will consider according priority to the assistants of the licensees concerned to take up these licences or making them available for application by the public; if yes, the details of the arrangement; if not, the reason(s); and
- (c) whether the Department received any application for a hawker licence in respect of vacant stalls in the past ten years (i.e. from 2002 to 2012); if yes, the number of such applications received each year.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows -

- (a) The number of licensed fixed-pitch and itinerant hawkers is estimated to decrease in 2013 mainly due to projected natural attrition and the projected number of licences that may be voluntarily surrendered under the Assistance Scheme for Hawkers in Fixed-pitch Areas (the Assistance Scheme).
- (b) The voluntary surrender arrangement under the Assistance Scheme aims to help expedite the release of vacant pitches for facilitating the relocation of stalls which pose higher fire risks in 43 hawker areas. The Scheme will last for five years. After the Assistance Scheme has been implemented for a period of time, the Government will consider the case for issuing new hawker licences to fill vacant pitches, taking into account the circumstances of each hawker area, including the business environment, fire safety and environmental hygiene considerations and the views of District Councils and local residents.

The Administration currently has no plan to issue new itinerant hawker licences.

- (c) The Government reviewed its hawker licensing policy in 2008 and 2009 and consulted the Legislative Council, District Councils, hawker associations and relevant stakeholders. As a result of the review, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department issued a limited number of hawker licences, including 218 licences for vacant fixed hawker pitches and 61 licences for new itinerant

(frozen confectionery) hawkers and received 9 510 and 3 743 applications in 2009 and 2010 respectively.

Name in block letters: Clement LEUNG

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