

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0016)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (-) Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume - Page - (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 23):

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that fees and charges, including the charges relating to environmental hygiene services, will be reviewed. In this connection, please advise on the fee items concerned as well as their current fee levels in monetary terms and as a percentage of their respective costs.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department provides a wide range of services and undertakes regulatory work for the purpose of ensuring environmental hygiene and food safety. There are about 140 fee items relating to the following categories of licences and/or services –

- (a) Food business and trade licences/permits
- (b) Hawker licences and allocation of fixed pitches
- (c) Cemeteries and crematoria services
- (d) Slaughterhouse licences and inspection services
- (e) Liquor licences
- (f) Food safety related services
- (g) Places of public entertainment licences
- (h) Karaoke establishment permits

For food safety related fees and charges, they are near full cost recovery at the 2013-14 price level. The rest of the fees are in general below their full cost (with an overall cost recovery rate of about 47% at the 2013-14 price level) as almost all the rates of these fees have remained unchanged since 2000 or revised downward after fee alignment.