

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)117

(Question Serial No. 0884)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control
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 I Page 252 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 22):

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

- (a) the expenditure on subsidising public market management from 2011-12 to 2013-14;
- (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 2013-14 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 2011-12 and 2012-13, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department recorded deficits of \$167.9 million and \$220.1 million respectively in the management of public markets. The deficit in this regard for 2013-14 is estimated to be \$236.4 million.
- (b) As at 31 December 2013, 1 384 stalls out of a total of 14 445 stalls in public markets were vacant. The vacancy rate was 9.6%. 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 is not readily available. Besides, there is no information on the estimated rental receivable from vacant stalls and thus comparison with the expenditure on subsidizing public market management cannot be made.
- (c) As at 31 December 2013, 253 in-house staff were involved in the management of public markets.
- (d) As at 31 December 2013, a total of 12 contractors and about 1 700 contractors' staff were engaged in the management of public markets, including venue management, cleansing, pest control and security guard services. The estimated total expenditure involved for 2013-14 is about \$220 million.