

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)232**

**(Question Serial No. 3721)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses  
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 253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 222):

A stallholder operating in a market managed by the Department told me that his stall had seen a significant drop in business volume and loss of business as a result of the works carried out in the market. However, the Department only agreed to grant him a 50% rental reduction during the works period. The experience of the above stallholder reflected that the rental waiver mechanism may not be able to adequately address stallholders' loss caused by market works and their costs of rebuilding clientele. In this connection, please advise whether the Department will consider reviewing and revising the rental waiver mechanism in 2014-15. If yes, please give the specific plan and timetable of the work as well as the staff establishment and estimated expenditure to be involved; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The letting and operation of market stalls are commercial activities. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department takes into account all relevant factors including the duration of the improvement works and tenants' potential operational difficulties that might arise from the works in determining full or partial rental concessions for the market stall tenants being affected. We have no plan to review the existing mechanism.