

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)261

(Question Serial No. 4699)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

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 I Page 257 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 108):

Regarding the engagement of “outsourced workers”, please provide the following information:

	2013-14 (the latest position)
Number of outsourced service contracts	()
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers	()
Length of service contract for each outsourced service provider	()
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	()
Positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing, information technology etc.)	
Monthly salary range of outsourced 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 outsourced workers	
• over 15 years	()
• 10 - 15 years	()
• 5 - 10 years	()
• 3 - 5 years	()
• 1 - 3 years	()
• less than 1 year	()
Percentage of outsourced workers in the total number of staff in the Department	()
Percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers in the total departmental staff cost	()

Number of workers who received severance payments / long service payments / contract gratuities	()
Amount of severance payments / long service payments / contract gratuities paid	()
Number of workers with severance payments / long service payments offset by or contract gratuities calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to the employer's contributions to MPF	()
Amount of severance payments / long service payments offset by or contract gratuities calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to the employer's contributions to MPF	()
Number of outsourced workers with paid meal breaks	()
Number of outsourced workers without paid meal breaks	()
Number of outsourced workers working 5 days a week	()
Number of outsourced workers working 6 days a week	()

Figures in () denote percentage of change as compared with the same period in 2012-13

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

	2013-14 (as at 31.12.2013)
Number of outsourced service contracts	148 (+15.6%)
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers	\$1,642.5 million (estimate) ^{Note 1} (+8.9%)
Length of service contract for each outsourced service provider	Please see Table below
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	12 121 (+2.2%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing, information technology etc.) 	Outsourced workers provide various types of services including cleansing, public toilet management, pest control, security, etc.
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$30,001 or above \$16,001 - \$30,000 \$8,001 - \$16,000 \$6,501 - \$8,000 \$6,240 - \$6,500 below \$6,240 	0 (±0%) 2 (±0%) 3 136 (+115.1%) 8 983 (-13.6%) 0 (±0%) 0 (±0%)
Length of service of outsourced workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> over 15 years 10 - 15 years 5 - 10 years 3 - 5 years 1 - 3 years less than 1 year 	Note 2

Percentage of outsourced workers in the total number of staff in the Department	The ratio of the number of contractor staff to the number of staff of the Department 105.9% (+2.3 percentage points)
Percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers in the total departmental staff cost	The ratio of amount paid to outsourced service providers to the amount of departmental staff expenses 55.8% (+3.2 percentage points)
Number of workers who received severance payments / long service payments/ contract gratuities	Note 3
Amount of severance payments / long service payments / contract gratuities paid	Note 3
Number of workers with severance payments / long service payments offset by or contract gratuities calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to the employer's contributions to MPF	Note 3
Amount of severance payments / long service payments offset by or contract gratuities calculated from the accrued benefits attributable to the employer's contributions to MPF	Note 3
Number of outsourced workers with paid meal breaks Number of outsourced workers without paid meal breaks	Note 3
Number of outsourced workers working 5 days a week Number of outsourced workers working 6 days a week	Note 3

Figures in () denote percentage of change as compared with the same period in 2012-13

Table: Length of service contracts

	2013 – 14 (No. as at 31.12.2013)	2012 – 13 (No. as at 31.12.2012)
Below 1 year	2	3
1 year	1	1
2 years	125	104
3 years	2	3
5 years	18	17
Total no. of contracts:	148	128

Note 1: Estimate for the whole financial year.

Note 2: The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not keep information on the length of service of outsourced workers. As long as the contract requirements are complied with, the contractor may arrange any qualified staff to provide the services.

Note 3: The Department does not keep the information being sought.