

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0020)

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

Question:

During 2015-16, the Department will assist the Food and Health Bureau in developing proposals for improving the operating environment of public markets, taking into account the recommendations of the consultancy study conducted in 2014. In this connection, please provide details, including the specific measures, the timetable of work, and the manpower and expenditure required.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 20)

Reply:

In December 2013, the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) commissioned a consultant for developing proposals to improve the operating environment of public markets thereby enabling them to fulfil the functions expected of them. The consultant has developed a set of criteria on the basis of which six markets have been selected for study. It has proposed improvement measures for these six markets which it has further proposed could serve as prototypes for improvement options for other markets. In January 2015, FHB, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the consultant briefed the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets (under the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene) on the key findings of the consultancy study and the Government's preliminary thinking. The consultant is finalising the report with regard to the views and comments received.

The Government will further study the consultant's improvement options in consultation with the Architectural Services Department and other relevant government departments. In developing concrete proposals for individual markets, we will consult the relevant Market Management Consultative Committees as appropriate and take into account tenants' views and any technical and operational constraints.

In 2015, we plan to put forward improvement proposals for a number of markets, which may provide reference for improvements to other public markets in future.

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