

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)125

(Question Serial No. 1015)

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:

Under this programme, it is mentioned that the Department will “take action to close public markets which are under-utilised”. Please provide information on the preliminary work plan, including consultation with the District Councils and market tenants concerned on the possibility of closing the markets, as well as the compensation to be offered to the affected tenants.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (Member Question No. 32)

Reply:

Due to demographic changes, new development/redevelopment projects and competition from other fresh provision outlets, the appeal of some public markets has diminished thus leading to reduced patronage and high vacancy rates. When assessing the viability of such markets and considering whether they are to be closed, we will look into a host of factors, including its vacancy rate, prospects for improvement, availability of alternative sources of fresh provision outlets in the vicinity and the likely cost-effectiveness of upgrading works, etc. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) will consult the relevant District Council(s) and the affected market tenants on the possibility of closing down an under-utilised market if practical revitalisation measure cannot be identified to keep the market on a viable footing. Before a public market is closed down, the Department would draw up exit plans, including any compensation due, for the tenants concerned having regard to established policy and practice in the past.