

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)144

(Question Serial No. 1165)

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:

In the Report on the Consultancy Study on Ways to Improve the Operating Environment of Public Markets submitted to the Legislative Council Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets earlier, a number of improvements are recommended to be taken forward at six selected markets managed by the Department (i.e. Tsuen Wan Market, Yau Ma Tei Market, Ngau Chi Wan Market, Sheung Fung Street Market, Lockhart Road Market and Wing Fong Street Market). Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2015-16, it is mentioned that 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. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. the expenditure on improving the operating environment of public markets over the past three years and the expenditure on each type of projects;
2. whether the financial provision in this respect will increase for the next three years; if yes, the rate of the increase; and
3. as the Government has indicated that consultations will be conducted before finalisation of the improvement measures, the expected timetable for conducting consultations on the above consultancy study, as well as launching and finalising the improvement plans.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (Member Question No. 20)

Reply:

- (1) The expenditure involved in improvement projects completed in the past three years to enhance the operating environment of public markets is set out below -

Year	Expenditure on market improvement projects (\$million)
2012-13	5.1
2013-14	22.2
2014-15 (Revised estimate)	9.5

The works include improvements to the drainage, ventilation, lighting, fire services equipment, and signage, as well as the replacement of floor tiles, refurbishment of toilets and provision of barrier free access. As resources for market improvement projects are allocated on a venue basis, there is no cost breakdown of individual type of improvement works.

- (2) Under the existing arrangements, resources for market improvement works are earmarked for the coming financial year only. For 2015-16, the estimated total cost for market improvement projects is \$58.6 million.
- (3) In December 2013, the Food and Health Bureau 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 further proposed could serve as prototypes for improvement options for other markets. In January 2015, the Food and Health Bureau, 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 physical 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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