

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)162

(Question Serial No. 3139)

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:

Please provide information on the following:

1. the Department's considerations for classifying a location as a hawker blackspot; the specific locations of the 45 hawker blackspots in 2015; the location(s) removed and the blackspot(s) newly identified as compared to the list of 2014;
2. the staff establishment and the actual, revised and estimated expenditure of the Hawker Control Teams for 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16; and
3. the under-utilised public markets to be closed; the utilisation rate adopted as a criterion for determining whether a market is under-utilised; the specific measures implemented to enhance their utilisation rate before making the decision to close them; the expenditure involved in implementing the improvement measures in each of the past three years.

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (Member Question No. 75)

Reply:

1. Hawker blackspots are locations where unlicensed hawkers congregate. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) conducts quarterly surveys to identify and update the list of hawker blackspots. Whether a certain location is classified as a hawker blackspot depends on the number of unlicensed hawkers trading at the location at any one time of the day during the surveys. The Annex gives the locations of the 45 blackspots now on the list.
2. The establishment of hawker control grade staff (HCO) for 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 is 2 209, 2 210 and 2 243 respectively.

The actual, revised and estimated expenditure on hawker management is as follows –

Year	Expenditure
2013-14	\$912.1 million (Actual)
2014-15	\$964.2 million (Revised Estimate)
2015-16	\$1,020.4 million (Estimate)

3. 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, the Department will look into a host of factors, including vacancy rate, prospects for improvement, availability of alternative sources of fresh provision outlets in the vicinity, the likely cost-effectiveness of upgrading works and the views of the relevant district councils etc. Where a market is closed and the premises is no longer required by the Department, the vacated building space will be handled according to established procedures. The Government Property Agency may be requested to assist in identifying other government departments to put the premises to gainful long-term use. If the premises is by itself a stand-alone building, the Planning Department or Lands Department may be involved in exploring the long-term alternative use of the premises.

In the past three years, one market, viz. Bridges Street Market (the Market) was closed due to consistently high vacancy rate. The Market has been included into the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme” under which non-profit-making non-government organizations are invited to submit proposals to revitalize government owned historic buildings. Looking ahead, we shall continue to work with relevant Bureaux/Departments and district councils on identification of public markets that may be closed.

Closure of public markets is only one of the options to deal with under-utilised markets. As an on-going initiative, the Department conducts promotional activities to enhance the patronage of public markets. These include thematic exhibitions and workshops, festive celebration activities, display of multi-language recipes as well as publication of booklets and quarterly newsletters to provide updated market information. In addition, the Department will let out long-standing vacant stalls at reduced upset auction prices and introduce more service trade stalls to enhance the occupancy rate of public markets.

Furthermore, in addition to regular maintenance and daily management of markets, the Department carries out improvement works in relevant markets to enhance their operating environment. The works may include improvement to the drainage, ventilation, lighting, fire services, signage, replacement of floor tiles, refurbishment of toilets and provision of barrier free access.

The expenditure involved in improvement projects completed and market promotional activities pursued in the past three years to enhance the operating environment of public markets is set out as follows -

Year	Expenditure on market improvement projects (\$million)	Expenditure on market promotional activities (\$million)
2012-13	5.1	4
2013-14	22.2	4
2014-15 (Revised estimate)	9.5	4

- End -

Location of Hawker Blackspots

District	Location
Central/Western	1. The vicinity of Statue Square and Former Legislative Council Building
	2. The vicinity of Charter Garden and Murray Road
	3. Footbridge along Connaught Road Central and its vicinity
Wan Chai	4. Wan Chai Road (between Johnston Road and Cross Street), Tai Yuen Street, Cross Street, Stone Nullah Lane (between Johnston Road and Cross Street) and the vicinity
	5. Bowrington Road (between Hennessy Road and Sharp Street West) and Wan Chai Road (between Canal Road West and Tin Lok Lane)
Eastern	6. Area near Chai Wan Market including the open space outside Walton Estate, Yee Shun Street, Yee Tai Street, Yee Fung Street and the lane in front of Winner Centre
	7. Kam Wa Street area including Mong Lung Street and Tai Tak Street
	8. Marble Road area including North Point MTR Exits, Kam Hong Street, Shu Kuk Street, a section of King's Road between Kam Hong Street and Tin Chiu Street as well as the vicinity of Java Road Market
	9. Chun Yeung Street area including North Point Road, Tong Shui Road, a section of King's Road around Kam Hong Street, and Fortress Hill MTR Exits
	10. Siu Sai Wan area along Siu Sai Wan Road from Bus Terminus up to Fullview Garden
	11. Kut Shing Street and Chai Wan Footbridge outside Chai Wan MTR Station
Southern	13. Pavement between Aberdeen West Typhoon Shelter and Aberdeen Promenade
Islands	14. The areas in the vicinity of Cheung Chau Ferry Pier and Praya Street, Cheung Chau
	15. The areas at the junction of Yat Tung Street and Chung Yan Road, Tung Chung, Lantau Island
Yau Tsim Mong	16. Nathan Road section between Argyle Street and Dundas Street
	17. Sai Yeung Choi Street South section between Argyle Street and Dundas Street

District	Location
	18. The vicinity of FEHD Mong Kok Market bounded by Nelson Street, Canton Road, Argyle Street and Tong Mi Road
	19. Fa Yuen Street section between Nullah Road and Dundas Street
	20. Sai Yee Street section between Argyle Street and Soy Street
	21. Portland Street section between Argyle Street and Dundas Street
Sham Shui Po	22. Tung Chau Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)
	23. Pei Ho Street (between Un Chau Street and Lai Chi Kok Road)
	24. Kweilin Street (between Apliu Street and Yu Chau Street)
Kowloon City	25. Bulkeley Street (between Gillies Ave South and Dock Street)
Wong Tai Sin	26. Tai Shing Street, Tai Tung Street and its vicinity
	27. Ngau Chi Wan Village and its vicinity
	28. Lung Cheung Road Shatin Pass Road
	29. Lok Fu MTR Station area near Wang Tau Hom East Road and its vicinity
	30. Ching Tak Street and its vicinity
Kwun Tong	31. Tai Yau Street and its vicinity in San Po Kong Industrial Area
	32. Tsun Yip Street/ How Ming Street / Hip Wo Street / Shui Wo Street / Hoi Yuen Road
	33. Footbridges of Telford Plaza linking Kowloon Bay MTR / Ngau Tau Kok Road of Amoy Plaza / Wang Hoi Road
	34. Lam Tin Estate passage way between Tak Tin Street & Ping Tin Street at side of Lam Tin Estate Bus Terminus
Kwai Tsing	35. On Wah Street / On Tak Road / Jordan Valley Road North / Ngau Tau Kok Road adjacent to Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate, Kwun Tong
Kwai Tsing	36. Sheung Ko Tan Street, Chung Mei Village, Tsing Yi
	37. The vicinity of Sam Shing Estate
	38. Kai Man Path
Tuen Mun	39. Mei Lok Lane
Yuen Long	40. Hop Choi Street
North	41. Sheung Shui MTR Station & its vicinity (including surrounding footbridges, Choi Yuen Road and San Wan Road)
	42. Fanling MTR Station & its vicinity (including Fanling Station Road and from adjoining footbridge to Pak Wo Road and Yat Ming Road)

District	Location
Sha Tin	43. Under flyover between Lung Hang Estate & Sun Chui Estate
	44. Near Fun City, Lek Yuen Street
	45. Mei Tin Road