

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)252

(Question Serial No. 6546)

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 advise whether the Department will re-issue hawker licences in 2015-16; if yes, please also advise on the details and expenditure in this respect.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 359)

Reply:

A five-year Assistance Scheme for Hawkers in Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas (the Scheme) was launched in June 2013 to provide one-off financial assistance to fixed-pitch hawkers in 43 hawker areas for stall reconstruction and relocation to improve fire safety, covering the materials and design of hawker stall structure and provision of fixed electrical installations, as well as subsidy for relocating stalls away from staircase discharge points of buildings or emergency vehicular access in hawker areas. An ex-gratia payment will be paid to hawkers who opt for voluntary surrender of their hawker licences to the Government. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is monitoring closely the implementation of the relocation plans under the Scheme, including whether there would be a large number of vacant pitches after completion of the relocation programme. The Scheme will end in 2018. While completion of the Scheme by then would be an opportune time to review whether we should issue new licences for on-street hawker pitches, the Department will keep in view the actual progress made in implementing the Scheme for the purpose of deciding when best we should conduct the review.

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