

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)254

(Question Serial No. 6548)

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 conduct studies on building new public markets at suitable locations in the territory 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. 363)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) manages 101 public markets, including 76 public markets which mainly sell fresh provisions and other dry and wet goods, as well as 25 free-standing cooked food markets. The Link Real Estate Investment Trust and the Housing Authority each manages 90 and 20 market venues respectively. Other than these, there is a good number of private markets, supermarkets and fresh provision shops run by private operators. In addition to the some 2 600 stalls in public markets selling fresh provisions such as fish, meat and poultry, there are currently around 2 700 licensed fresh provision shops (including those in supermarkets) which offer choices to consumers.

According to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, apart from the population of the area in question, the Government would take into consideration other relevant factors in planning for any new public markets. These include the demographic mix, community needs, the provision of public and private market facilities nearby, the number of fresh provision retail outlets in the vicinity, and the public sentiment towards the preservation of hawker areas. The Planning Department will consult the relevant policy bureaux and government departments, including FEHD, when preparing or reviewing town plans to ascertain whether there is a need to reserve land for public markets.

FEHD has no plan in 2015-16 to conduct studies on building new public market in the territory.

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