

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)287

(Question Serial No. 4301)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

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:

The Department provides assistance to hawkers in fixed-pitch hawker areas in order to improve the fire safety and operating environment of the areas. In this connection, please advise on the actual expenditure involved and the number of licensed hawkers benefitted last year, as well as the target for the current year.

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 86)

Reply:

The five-year Assistance Scheme for Hawkers in Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas (the Scheme), which commenced on 3 June 2013, aims to provide one-off financial assistance to 4 335 hawkers in 43 hawker areas for stall reconstruction and relocation in order to improve fire safety. Besides, an ex-gratia payment (EGP) is offered under the Scheme for voluntary surrender of hawker licences to the Government.

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has, since promulgation of the Scheme in June 2013, received 1 459 applications for financial aid or EGP. As at 31 March 2014, 282 applications have been approved, which involves an actual expenditure of \$33.5 million. In the current financial year up to 28 February 2015, 407 applications have been approved, which involves an actual expenditure of \$23.5 million. We are committed to completing the rest of the applications as soon as practicable. The Department has not set any annual performance indicator for the Scheme.

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