

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)100

(Question Serial No. 0727)

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:

It is mentioned in the Estimates that the Department will “continue to take forward the assistance scheme for hawker licensees to improve the fire safety and operating environment of fixed-pitch hawker areas”.

As such, please advise on the following:

- (1) the number of hawkers benefited from the scheme, as well as the total amount of grants involved, in the past year; and
- (2) the amount reserved for the scheme this year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kam-lam (Member Question No. 28)

Reply:

- (1) 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 about 4 300 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 the promulgation of the Scheme in June 2013, received 2 907 applications for financial assistance or EGP. From 3 June 2013 to 31 March 2015, 716 applications have been approved, involving an actual expenditure of \$59.6 million. Between 1 April 2015 and 29 February 2016, 1 090 applications have been approved, involving an actual expenditure of \$49.8 million.

- (2) The Department has reserved \$70 million for use under the Scheme in the 2016-17 financial year.

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