

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2410)

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:

Regarding the indicators for various types of hawkers, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of fixed pitch hawkers, itinerant hawkers and registered hawker assistants, as well as the estimated number of unlicensed hawkers, in the past three years (i.e. 2013, 2014 and 2015), with a breakdown by district and trade category;
- (b) the number of hawker licences surrendered under the assistance scheme for hawker licensees since the implementation of the scheme in June 2013 and the expenditure involved; and
- (c) given that the five-year assistance scheme has already been implemented for two and a half years, and that, when seeking funding approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, the Department promised to consider re-issuing the surrendered hawker licences for application by interested parties, whether it will commence the preparation work in advance by conducting a mid-term review of the assistance scheme; if yes, the details, if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuen-han (Member Question No. 43)

Reply:

- (a) The information sought is provided at Annex.
- (b) As at 29 February 2016, we have, under the five-year Assistance Scheme for Hawkers in Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas (HAS), approved 497 applications for ex-gratia payment in return for voluntary surrender of fixed-pitch hawker licence. The ex-gratia payment (EGP) involved was \$59.6 million.
- (c) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) reported progress of the HAS to the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene in December 2015.

The HAS seeks to provide the hawkers concerned with financial incentives to further reduce fire risks posed by on-street hawking activities in the hawker areas. We have made good progress in implementing the scheme since it was launched in June 2013. All 496 hawker stalls located directly in front of staircase discharge points of adjacent building, or obstructing the operation of fire engines or other emergency vehicular access have been acted on by December 2015, namely 429 have completed the relocation exercise and another 67 have voluntarily surrendered their licences and vacated the pitches. The Department would continue to follow up with the remaining hawker stalls and encourage hawkers to reconstruct their stall structures to meet the fire-resisting specifications. Eligible hawkers who have not yet exercised their option to surrender their licence (in return for an EGP) or apply for a grant to reconstruct their stalls may do so before the HAS expires in June 2018.

Going forward, the Department would endeavor to identify areas which could bring about enhancement to the hawking environment in the course of administering the HAS. This may include rationalising the overall layout of hawker stalls where circumstances permit. On whether to re-issue new hawker licences to fill any vacant pitches in the relevant hawker areas, the Department would carefully consider the case at a suitable time, taking into account the circumstances of individual hawker areas, including their fire safety and environmental hygiene situations, the business environment, comments of relevant departments, as well as the views of the relevant District Council and local residents.

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No. of Licensed Fixed Pitch and Itinerant Hawkers, Registered Assistant and Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers
(Position as at 31.12.2013)

		Hong Kong Island & Kowloon									New Territories & Islands									Total
		Central & Western	Wan Chai	Eastern	Southern	Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Kowlo on City	Wong Tai Sin	Kwun Tong	Kwai Tsing	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	North	Tai Po	Sha Tin	Sai Kung	Islands	
Fixed Pitch Hawker Licence	Barber	2	3	2	1	13	9	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34
	Bootblack	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
	Cooked Food/Light Refreshment	10	3	0	3	33	28	6	11	24	21	20	10	0	4	7	30	0	1	211
	Newspaper	72	50	44	4	123	26	25	16	42	14	20	8	17	7	7	2	3	1	481
	Tradesman	86	15	16	0	55	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	180
	Wall Stall	29	15	18	14	139	59	29	2	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	325
	Other Classes	426	368	340	32	2 443	984	53	0	0*	0	92	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 741
Itinerant Hawker Licence	Frozen Confectionary	38									32									70
	Mobile Van	9									6									15
	Newspaper	2									0									2
	Other Classes	177									191									368
Registered Hawker Assistant	610	602	397	48	2 261	1 032	61	42	227	26	124	23	24	17	16	33	3	3	5 549	
Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers	148	36	131	44	256	248	62	21	119	75	18	50	27	78	20	57	13	20	1 463 [#] (1 423+40)	

* Excluding 112 temporary hawker licenses at Hip Wo Street Hawker Bazaar and Mut Wah Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar, where the hawkers will be resited to Tung Yan Street Interim Hawker Bazaar.

[#] The figure includes 40 unlicensed hawkers in housing estates as provided by Housing Department.

No. of Licensed Fixed Pitch and Itinerant Hawkers, Registered Assistant and Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers
(Position as at 31.12.2014)

		Hong Kong Island & Kowloon									New Territories & Islands									Total
		Central & Western	Wan Chai	Eastern	Southern	Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Kowloon City	Wong Tai Sin	Kwun Tong	Kwai Tsing	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	North	Tai Po	Sha Tin	Sai Kung	Islands	
Fixed Pitch Hawker Licence	Barber	2	3	1	1	12	8	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31
	Bootblack	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Cooked Food/Light Refreshment	10	3	0	2	33	25	6	7	24	20	20	10	0	4	7	26	0	1	198
	Newspaper	68	48	41	4	116	25	24	14	40	14	20	8	16	7	7	1	3	1	457
	Tradesman	87	14	16	0	53	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	176
	Wall Stall	29	15	18	14	137	58	28	2	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	321
	Other Classes	410	359	320	31	2 363	960	53	0	125	0	92	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 716
Itinerant Hawker Licence	Frozen Confectionary	38									31									69
	Mobile Van	9									6									15
	Newspaper	2									0									2
	Other Classes	170									186									356
Registered Hawker Assistant		568	517	365	46	2 141	1 042	102	36	190	21	134	23	23	17	14	30	3	3	5 275
Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers		148	27	130	41	302	281	63	36	56	69	9	54	40	79	33	47	10	15	1 480 [#] (1 440+40)

[#]The figure includes 40 unlicensed hawkers in housing estates as provided by Housing Department.

No. of Licensed Fixed Pitch and Itinerant Hawkers, Registered Assistant and Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers
(Position as at 31.12.2015)

		Hong Kong Island & Kowloon									New Territories & Islands									Total
		Central & Western	Wan Chai	Eastern	Southern	Yau Tsim Mong	Sham Shui Po	Kowlo on City	Wong Tai Sin	Kwun Tong	Kwai Tsing	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Yuen Long	North	Tai Po	Sha Tin	Sai Kung	Islands	
Fixed Pitch Hawker Licence	Barber	2	3	1	1	11	8	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
	Bootblack	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Cooked Food/Light Refreshment	10	3	0	2	32	24	6	7	24	13	18	10	0	3	7	22	0	1	182
	Newspaper	65	45	39	4	109	23	23	15	37	13	20	8	15	7	6	1	3	1	434
	Tradesman	85	14	15	0	52	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	172
	Wall Stall	29	15	17	14	134	54	28	2	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	313
	Other Classes	402	350	304	30	2 279	930	51	0	125	0	93	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 567
Itinerant Hawker Licence	Frozen Confectionary	36									30									66
	Mobile Van	9									6									15
	Newspaper	2									0									2
	Other Classes	165									182									347
Registered Hawker Assistant	548	492	368	50	2 064	1 050	101	31	199	22	119	25	19	14	12	24	1	3	5 142	
Estimated No. of Unlicensed Hawkers	143	26	55	49	281	411	64	35	100	68	7	51	26	72	35	42	8	15	1 594 [#] (1 488+106)	

[#]The figure includes 106 unlicensed hawkers in housing estates as provided by Housing Department.