

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2567)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to the number of staff of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department by programme, please advise on the following:

- (a) the staff establishment and strength of the Department at present, as well as the expenditure involved, with a breakdown by grades and ranks;
- (b) given the incident that a hawker control officer was killed when he was performing duties alone last year, whether the Department will consider implementing a system for its staff to perform patrol duties in pairs; if yes, the details and the estimated expenditure in this respect; if not, the reason(s); and
- (c) the number of staff in the Department currently working on five-day week, with a breakdown by grades and ranks; whether the Department will consider implementing the five-day work week for staff of all grades; if yes, the details and the estimated expenditure in this respect; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (Member Question No. 36)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) As at 1 March 2016, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has an establishment of 11 186 posts, with a strength of 10 027.

The establishment comprises 15 directorate posts and 11 171 non-directorate posts in different departmental grades and ranks (including Assistant Director of Municipal Services; Health Inspector; Hawker Control Officer; Pest Control Assistant and Pest

Control Officer) as well as general and common grades (including Accounting Officer; Administrative Officer; Agricultural Officer; Analyst/Programmer; Artisan; Calligraphist; Chemist; Clerical Assistant; Clerical Officer; Computer Operator; Confidential Assistant; Consultant; Controller, Centre for Food Safety; Data Processor; Driving Instructor; Executive Officer; Field Assistant; Field Officer; Fisheries Officer; Foreman; Government Transport Manager; Information Officer; Laboratory Attendant; Management Services Officer; Mechanical Inspector; Medical and Health Officer; Motor Driver; Occupational Safety Officer; Office Assistant; Official Languages Officer; Personal Secretary; Photographer; Projectionist; Registered Nurse; Science Laboratory Technician; Scientific Officer (Medical); Senior Artisan; Special Driver; Statistical Officer; Statistician; Supplies Assistant; Supplies Officer; Supplies Supervisor; Technical Officer (Cultural Services); Training Officer; Transport Services Officer; Treasury Accountant; Typist; Veterinary Officer; and Works Supervisor; Ganger; Property Attendant; Supplies Attendant; Workman I; and Workman II).

In 2015-16, the revised estimate of personal emoluments and personnel related expenses is around \$3,206 million.

- (b) To ensure that hawker management operations are effectively carried out, the Department has issued operational guidelines covering issues such as staff deployment, safety considerations during raiding operations, and arrest and prosecution procedures. The guidelines state clearly that the safety of hawkers, passers-by and hawker control officers is of primary importance. They are reviewed from time to time in the light of changes in operational requirements and feedback from staff. To further enhance the efficacy of field operations, a review on the existing radio communication system is in progress. In addition, a series of new training programmes including self defence course and self-learning videos have been provided to better equip staff with skills in handling difficult situations.
- (c) At present, about 4 700 (47%) of the civil servants in the Department are working on a five-day week, comprising 1 300 staff in departmental grades and 3 400 staff in general and common grades.

Without detracting from service to the community, the Department will continue to explore options for migrating more civil servants to the five-day week work mode, subject to compliance with the relevant governing principles applicable to the civil service as a whole (i.e. no additional staffing resources would be entailed; no reduction in the conditioned hours of service of individual staff; no reduction in emergency services; and continued provision of some essential counter services on Saturdays).

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