

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)124

(Question Serial No. 0963)

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:

The work of market management and hawker control involves controlling and containing on-street hawking activities and obstruction; managing licensed hawker pitches, hawker permitted places and hawker bazaars; and taking enforcement actions. Please advise on the estimated expenditure and manpower in this respect. Please also advise whether there is any plan to discuss assigning specific hawking permitted places and hawker bazaars in the Lunar New Year period with District Councils and hawker representatives, so as to facilitate management and control; if yes, the details, including the estimated expenditure and manpower in this respect; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai (Member Question No. 15)

Reply:

The Hawker Control Team of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), which consists of 2 243 staff, is responsible for hawker management and control. The estimated expenditure in 2016-17 is \$1,073 million.

The Government is committed to implementing a hawker policy which can strike an optimal balance between allowing licensed hawking business to thrive on the one hand and meeting other legitimate concerns such as avoiding unreasonable nuisance to the local community in addition to ensuring food safety, environmental hygiene and public security on the other hand. We keep an open mind towards proposals for developing the hawker trade or the establishment of open-air bazaars or night markets with local characteristics, so long as food safety and environmental hygiene are not compromised, public passageways are not obstructed and local community support is obtained. If suitable sites are identified and support from the relevant district councils has been obtained and provided that food safety and environmental hygiene are not compromised, the Department stands ready to facilitate liaison with relevant government departments. Existing resources will continue to be deployed to carry out the said facilitation work.