

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)174**

**(Question Serial No. 0904)**

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:

- (1) The estimates for 2016-17 will increase substantially by 8.7% as compared with 2015-16. According to the analysis of financial provision, this is due to an increase of 39 posts and the increased expenditure under the Assistance Scheme for fixed pitch hawkers in the year. In this connection, please provide information on the posts to be added and the salaries involved. Regarding the provision of assistance to fixed pitch hawkers, please advise on the number of hawkers who received assistance in 2015 and the amount of grants and ex-gratia payments involved; the number of stalls receiving grants for beautification work and licences surrendered; and the duration of the Assistance Scheme.
- (2) Regarding the number of licensed hawkers, the number of fixed pitch hawkers dropped by 202 in 2015 as compared with 2014. It is estimated that the number will further drop by 103 in 2016. Is the drop due to the surrender of hawker licences or other reasons? Will the Department re-issue the surrendered fixed pitch hawker licences, or reduce the total number of hawker licences by natural attrition? In connection with the surrender of hawker licences, what major streets are involved? Is there a need to renew the planning of these streets because of the surrender?
- (3) The number of raids conducted by Hawker Control Teams remains high. Although there is a decrease in the number in 2016, it is still over 110 000. Please advise on the details and results of the raiding operations concerned, the quantity and value of the goods forfeited, as well as the number of prosecutions instituted and the amount of fines involved.
- (4) Given that the number of hawker blackspots has been standing at 45, please advise on the locations of these blackspots, and whether any measures are in place to reduce the number of these blackspots.

Asked by: Hon Vincent FANG Kang (Member Question No. 12)

Reply:

- (1) The 8.7% increase in the estimates of expenditure in 2016-17 over 2015-16 was mainly due to filling of vacancies, creation of new posts, increased operating and capital expenditure for market management, as well as increased expenditure under the five-year Assistance Scheme for Hawkers in Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas (the Assistance Scheme). There will be an increase of 39 posts including two Senior Hawker Control Officer, four Hawker Control Officer, 16 Assistant Hawker Control Officer, four Workman I and 13 Foreman posts involving estimated annual salaries of \$10.062 million.

The Assistance Scheme, which commenced on 3 June 2013, would continue until 2 June 2018. The requested information on the implementation and progress of the Assistance Scheme is provided at Annex I.

- (2) The reduction in the number of licensed fixed-pitch hawkers may be due to factors such as natural attrition and surrender of licences through the Assistance Scheme. The top three hawker areas with the largest number of hawker licences surrendered up to 31 December 2015 in return for ex-gratia payment (EGP) under the Assistance Scheme are Tung Choi Street, Reclamation Street and Canton Road.

The Assistance Scheme 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 [Assistance 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 Assistance Scheme 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 Assistance Scheme. 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.

- (3) The number of raids against illegal hawking is determined by the number of complaints received and the actual situation at individual hawker blackspots. Raiding operations are planned by Hawker Control Teams (HCTs) having regard to the prevailing situation in the districts, for the purpose of keeping the streets and main thoroughfares unobstructed and free from illegal hawkers as far as possible. The Department does not keep separate statistics on the quantity and value of the

seized goods. In 2015, a total of 27 547 prosecutions were taken out and the amount of fines involved was \$14,965,312.

- (4) Hawker blackspots are locations where unlicensed hawkers congregate. The Department conducts surveys quarterly to identify and update the list of hawker blackspots. Whether a certain location is classified as a hawker blackspot or not depends on the number of unlicensed hawkers trading at the location at any one time of the day during the surveys. The Department will continue to adopt the strategies of mobile patrol and raiding to deter illegal hawking activities and to prevent unlicensed hawkers from taking root at these locations. If the hawkers persist in trading and do not disperse, arrest action would follow. To enhance deterrence, HCTs also mount raiding operations at blackspots to arrest unlicensed hawkers and seize their goods and equipment. Annex II sets out the locations of the existing 45 blackspots.

- End -

**Number of Applications Approved and Amount of Funding Involved  
(1.1.2015 - 31.12.2015)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Number of applications approved</b>	<b>Expenditure required</b>
Voluntary surrender of hawker licences	125	\$15 million
Relocation of stalls	192#	\$8.857 million
In-situ reconstruction of stalls	701#	\$25.142 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 018</b>	<b>\$48.999 million</b>

# Payment for relocation or in-situ reconstruction grant is subject to compliance with all stall construction specifications and clearance of existing stall structure.

**Location of Hawker Blackspots**

<b>District</b>	<b>Location</b>
Central and Western	1. The vicinity of Statue Square and Former Legislative Council Building
	2. The vicinity of Charter Garden and Murray Road
	3. Footbridge along Connaught Road Central and its vicinity
Wan Chai	4. Wan Chai Road (between Johnston Road and Cross Street), Tai Yuen Street, Cross Street, Stone Nullah Lane (between Johnston Road and Cross Street) and the vicinity
	5. Bowrington Road (between Hennessy Road and Sharp Street West) and Wan Chai Road (between Canal Road West and Tin Lok Lane)
Eastern	6. Area near Chai Wan Market including the open space outside Walton Estate, Yee Shun Street, Yee Tai Street, Yee Fung Street and the lane in front of Winner Centre
	7. Kam Wa Street area including Mong Lung Street and Tai Tak Street
	8. Marble Road area including North Point MTR Exits, Kam Hong Street, Shu Kuk Street, a section of King's Road between Kam Hong Street and Tin Chiu Street as well as the vicinity of Java Road Market
	9. Chun Yeung Street area including North Point Road, Tong Shui Road, a section of King's Road around Kam Hong Street, and Fortress Hill MTR Exits
	10. Siu Sai Wan area along Siu Sai Wan Road from Bus Terminus up to Fullview Garden
	11. Kut Shing Street and Chai Wan Footbridge outside Chai Wan MTR Station
	12. The streets around Sai Wan Ho Market including Tai On Street and section of Shau Kei Wan Road in front of Tai On Building, the vicinity of Quarry Bay Market including Quarry Bay Footbridge, a section of King's Road between Finnie Street and Hong On Street and outside Aeon area
Southern	13. Pavement between Aberdeen West Typhoon Shelter and Aberdeen Promenade
Islands	14. The areas in the vicinity of Cheung Chau Ferry Pier and Praya Street, Cheung Chau
	15. The areas at the junction of Yat Tung Street and Chung Yan Road, Tung Chung, Lantau Island

District	Location
Yau Tsim Mong	16. Nathan Road section between Argyle Street and Dundas Street
	17. Sai Yeung Choi Street South section between Argyle Street and Dundas Street
	18. The vicinity of FEHD Mong Kok Market bounded by Nelson Street, Canton Road, Argyle Street and Tong Mi Road
	19. Fa Yuen Street section between Nullah Road and Dundas Street
	20. Sai Yee Street section between Argyle Street and Soy Street
	21. Portland Street section between Argyle Street and Dundas Street
Sham Shui Po	22. Tung Chau Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)
	23. Pei Ho Street (between Un Chau Street and Lai Chi Kok Road)
	24. Kweilin Street (between Apliu Street and Yu Chau Street)
Kowloon City	25. Bulkeley Street (between Gillies Ave South and Dock Street)
Wong Tai Sin	26. Tai Shing Street, Tai Tung Street and its vicinity
	27. Ngau Chi Wan Village and its vicinity
	28. Lung Cheung Road Shatin Pass Road
	29. Lok Fu MTR Station area near Wang Tau Hom East Road and its vicinity
	30. Ching Tak Street and its vicinity
	31. Tai Yau Street and its vicinity in San Po Kong Industrial Area
Kwun Tong	32. Tsun Yip Street/ How Ming Street / Hip Wo Street / Shui Wo Street / Hoi Yuen Road
	33. Footbridges of Telford Plaza linking Kowloon Bay MTR / Ngau Tau Kok Road of Amoy Plaza / Wang Hoi Road
	34. Lam Tin Estate passage way between Tak Tin Street and Ping Tin Street at side of Lam Tin Estate Bus Terminus
	35. On Wah Street / On Tak Road / Jordan Valley Road North / Ngau Tau Kok Road adjacent to Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate, Kwun Tong
Kwai Tsing	36. Sheung Ko Tan Street, Chung Mei Village, Tsing Yi

<b>District</b>	<b>Location</b>
Tuen Mun	37. The vicinity of Sam Shing Estate
	38. Kai Man Path
	39. Mei Lok Lane
Yuen Long	40. Hop Choi Street
North	41. Sheung Shui MTR Station and its vicinity (including surrounding footbridges, Choi Yuen Road and San Wan Road)
	42. Fanling MTR Station and its vicinity (including Fanling Station Road and from adjoining footbridge to Pak Wo Road and Yat Ming Road)
Sha Tin	43. Under flyover between Lung Hang Estate and Sun Chui Estate
	44. Near Fun City, Lek Yuen Street
	45. Mei Tin Road