

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)185

(Question Serial No. 2630)

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 stated that the Department will “continue to enhance the viability of public markets by improving management, upgrading facilities, providing a more flexible mix of trade, and carrying out promotional activities”. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

1. details of the work on providing “a more flexible” mix of trade, and of the promotional activities carried out by the Department in the past year;
2. given the Government’s reply to my enquiry dated 24 February 2016 that “we plan to increase the Department’s manpower to enhance the management of markets”, details of the manpower for market management and its change in each of the past three years and in the coming year; and
3. whether the Department has reviewed the current average staffing expenses for managing markets of different sizes; whether there is any plan to enhance the efficiency of management.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 70)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

1. To provide “a more flexible” mix of trade, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) introduced a greater variety of service trade stalls to enhance the occupancy rates of public markets. In 2015-16, we successfully let out stalls for conducting service trades such as Chinese medicine practitioners / bone-setters’ clinics, computer-related services, beauty / manicure / massage parlours, laundry delivery services, etc. in a number of public markets. In parallel, the Department continued with promotional activities to enhance the patronage of public

markets. These include thematic exhibitions and workshops, festive celebration activities, display of multi-language recipes as well as publication of booklets and quarterly newsletters to provide updated market information.

2. Information on the manpower deployed for market management in the past three years is given below:

| Manpower | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Civil Servant | 115 | 115 | 115 |
| Non-civil Service Contract Staff | 81 | 81 | 81 |
| Contractors' Staff | 187 | 188 | 180 |
| Total | 383 | 384 | 376 |

The Department plans to create an additional 13 civil service foreman posts in 2016-17 to strengthen the existing manpower in market management.

3. Deployment of market staff is district-based. In determining the number of management and cleansing staff in each district, the Department will consider factors including the number and size of markets, number of market stalls, facilities available in the markets and market conditions. We have been monitoring the expenditure for managing markets closely, and will continue to explore possible ways to further enhance efficiency.

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