

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)268

(Question Serial No. 7186)

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:

With regard to the efforts against illegal hawking of unlicensed hawkers in the vicinity of Langham Place in Mong Kok, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of warnings issued and prosecutions instituted against illegal hawking of unlicensed hawkers in 2015-16;
- (b) whether new measures will be put in place or additional manpower or resources be allocated to deal with illegal hawking; and
- (c) whether new measures will be put in place or additional manpower or resources be allocated to deal with illegal hawking during festive periods (e.g. Chinese New Year) when unlicensed hawkers are active.

Asked by: Hon Albert HO Chun-yan (Member Question No. 47)

Reply:

- (a) In 2015, there were 23 054 prosecutions against illegal hawking activities across the territory, including street obstruction, illegal hawking and sale of cooked food/restricted food. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) does not keep separate statistics on the number of warnings issued.
- (b) Being itinerant, unlicensed hawking is best deterred by mobile patrolling and raiding through strategic planning. In 2016-17, the Department will continue to do so through flexible deployment of its existing manpower resources. In addition, the Department's Hawker Control Team (HCT) staff will continue to regularly patrol blackspots 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, HCT staff also mount raiding operations at blackspots to arrest unlicensed hawkers and seize their goods and equipment.

- (c) To deter the illegal activities of cooked food hawkers during festive periods, the Department will consider enhancing publicity at strategic locations through mounting of roadside banners and handing out notices in the run up to festive periods. The Department will take into account the actual situations on the ground and flexibly deploy existing manpower resources to tackle the illegal hawking problem during the festive periods.

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