

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)310**

**(Question Serial No. 5873)**

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:

Please advise whether the Department will re-issue hawker licences in 2016-17; if yes, the details and expenditure in this respect.

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 82)

Reply:

The five-year Assistance Scheme for Hawkers in Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas (HAS), which commenced on 3 June 2013, aims to provide one-off financial assistance to about 4 300 hawkers in 43 hawker areas for stall reconstruction and relocation in order to improve fire safety. Besides, an ex-gratia payment (EGP) is offered under the Scheme for voluntary surrender of hawker licences to the Government. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has made good progress in implementing the scheme. 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 HAS expires in June 2018.

Going forward, the Department would, in the course of administering the HAS, endeavor to identify areas which could bring about enhancement to the hawking environment. 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.

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