

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)311**

**(Question Serial No. 5874)**

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 designate new hawker areas at suitable locations in the territory in 2016-17; if yes, the details and expenditure in this respect.

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 83)

Reply:

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, support from the relevant district councils has been obtained and food safety and environmental hygiene are not compromised, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department stands ready to facilitate liaison with relevant government departments. Existing resources will continue to be deployed to carry out the said facilitation work.

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